Thematic Peer Group C Quality Assurance

BFUG, 25 June 2020

Set up of Thematic Peer Group C on QA

- Chaired by 3 co-chairs: Belgium/Flemish Community, Cyprus and Georgia
- 37 countries, 8 stakeholder organisations
- Mix of participants: opportunity and challenge
- 3 overall meetings of full peer group (Georgia, Cyprus and Belgium)

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Working methods within Bologna Peer Support Group C on QA

- First overall meeting:
    - Take into account the needs of the member countries as indicated in the implementation scorecard and the survey
    - Create work plan, the working methods, timeline of activities and the expected outcomes

- Second overall meeting:
    - Main aim: setup cooperation based on action plans
    - Matching for staff mobility project/small projects
    - PLA on European Approach for QA of joint programmes

- Third overall meeting:
    - Share outcomes of the work so far of the Bologna peer group
    - Report on the related EU-projects
    - Define further needs for the future

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Subthemes Bologna Peer Support Group C on QA

- legislative framework in line with the ESG
- ensuring effectiveness of internal quality assurance arrangements, including the use of QA results in the decision-making process and quality culture as well as links to learning and teaching
- external quality assurance
- the role and engagement of stakeholders in QA (students, teachers, employers)
- cross-border QA
- European Approach to accreditation of joint programmes.

KA3 projects within Bologna Peer Support Group C on QA

2 Overall projects to support the full peer group

1. **Bologna Peer Group on QA: organisation**

   - Project partners:
     - ✓ 3 co-chairs of the peer group
   - Work packages:
     - ✓ 3 peer group meetings (Georgia - 2 days – Dec 2018, Cyprus – 3 days – May/June 2019, Belgium - 2 days – January 2020)
     - ✓ Second meeting combined with PLA

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2. Bologna Peer Group on QA: staff mobility project

Overall aim

- Support the professional development of staff by offering a work placement at another QA agency/ministry/organization
- Project partners: 3 co-chairs of the peer group
- Work packages:
    - ✓ 3 Matchmaking committee meetings (Georgia - 3 days - Sept 2019, Belgium – Jan 2020, Cyprus – 3 days - spring 2021)
    - ✓ QA staff mobility (Oct 2019 - May 2020 -> extended Nov 2020)

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2. Bologna Peer Group on QA: staff mobility project

- Call 1
    - ✓ Deadline 31st August 2019
    - ✓ 47 applications from 26 countries/organisations
    - ✓ 8-10th September 2019: Matchmaking Committee Meeting Georgia
- Call 2
    - ✓ Deadline 29th of November 2019
    - ✓ 34 applications from 18 countries/organisations
    - ✓ 15th January 2020: Matchmaking Committee Meeting Belgium

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2. Bologna Peer Group on QA: staff mobility project

Overall results of the calls:

- ✓ 15 countries/org applied only in one round
- ✓ 14 countries/org applied in call 1 as well as in call 2
- ✓ 10 member countries and 3 international organisations did not apply for staff mobility
- ✓ First call: most on inst.&prog. accreditation, legal framework & ESG, internal QA
- ✓ Second call: most on inst.&prog accreditation, stakeholder eng., legal framework & ESG
- ✓ Developing countries: QA & ministry apply together -> nice progress together

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2. Bologna Peer Group on QA: staff mobility project

- ✓ Mix of countries applying: range from red to dark green
- ✓ Host countries: range from orange to dark green
- ✓ Content is about the key commitments, but also about enhancement
- ✓ Link with action plan: good for applicants + stimulates to enhance the AP
- ✓ A lot of matches were made beforehand
- ✓ Average duration of 5 days
- ✓ Some good practice examples:
  - small group works together on same topic
  - twin exchange
  - complimentary learning in similar QA systems

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KA3 projects within Bologna Peer Support Group C on QA

Developing a European Approach for Comprehensive QA of (European) University Networks

Project partners:
- Roadmap group QA agencies: Belgium/Flemish Community, Armenia, Switzerland, Slovenia, Latvia, Sweden, Serbia, Italy
- Resonance group: Belgium/Flemish Community, Albania, Bulgaria, France, Georgia, Romania

Overall aim:

To support QA agencies in addressing evolving methodological challenges by developing supra-institutional QA procedures taking into account:
- the development of cross-border HE
- the policy integration of university networks
- the expanding offer of joint programmes
- the establishment of European Universities

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Role and engagement of stakeholders in internal and external quality assurance

- Project partners:
  - ✓ Romanian Ministry of National Education
  - ✓ 3 European organizations: ENQA, EURASHE and ESU
  - ✓ 5 quality assurance agencies from Romania, France, Bulgaria, Denmark and R. of Moldova

- Activities:
  - ✓ Discussions with various categories of stakeholders
  - ✓ Sharing best practices
  - ✓ A study at EHEA member countries
  - ✓ Peer review activities with workshops
  - ✓ Peer learning activity
  - ✓ Development of a Guideline on involvement of stakeholders, with online PLA

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Discussion on usefulness
of the thematic peer group

- General
  - ✓ Good combination of QA agencies and representatives of ministries
  - ✓ Extremely useful, to be able to engage and discuss with colleagues
  - ✓ Impressive progress in short time
  - ✓ Contribution to the debate on future is enlightning

- Useful methods
  - ✓ Variety of large overall meetings and smaller meetings within projects or (individual) cooperation between (groups) of countries
  - ✓ Staff mobility project, learning about innovative practices, also investigate blended/online cooperation in the future
  - ✓ Fear of heavy workload for the co-chairs, look for opportunity to share responsibilities to make it more sustainable in the future

- Concrete examples of good practice?

  - ✓ Call to report on goals within action plan June 2020
  - ✓ Action plan was gentle push to orient the development of the QA in the country, internal achievements inspired by the peer group

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Discussion on challenges ahead within the current topics

Legal Frameworks:

✓ Ensuring good cooperation between government and QA agencies
✓ Independence of QA agencies
✓ Internal QA mechanisms of QA agencies
✓ …..

European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes:

✓ Legal changes
✓ Procedural aspects that hinder the implementation of EA
✓ …

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Discussion on challenges ahead within the current topics

Stakeholders' engagement:

- ✓ Involvement of students and employers
- ✓ Exploring stakeholders' engagement in cross border evaluations
- ✓ Employees in other industries

Internal QA:

- ✓ Developing a quality culture
- ✓ ....

Discussion on challenges ahead within the current topics

External QA:

- ✓ Combination of programme and institutional approach: overburdening?
- ✓ New study programmes and flexible pathways
- ✓ Design and publication of external QA reports

Cross-border QA:

- ✓ Collecting data on legal challenges to incoming cross-border QA
- ✓ Examples to demonstrate the usefulness of cross-border QA

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Discussion on other future topics within the thematic peer group

Innovative learning and teaching:

- ✓ E-learning (difference in how to react in times of crisis and the new normal/real good online programmes) -> hybrid model
- ✓ E-learning link to legal framework (e.g. some countries have % criteria on how much you can organize online)
- ✓ MOOCs
- ✓ Micro-credentials

COVID-19:

- ✓ Online QA procedures (how can we have blended QA processes)
- ✓ Online courses -> how to deal with this
- ✓ Learning from each other concerning online courses and programmes, added value of European Universities

Other:

- ✓ Provision by non-traditional providers
- ✓ Regional & community engagement
- ✓ Work-based learning
- ✓ Open science & doctoral programmes
- ✓ Have to keep focusing on the basic implementation of the key commitment

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Discussion on other future topics within the thematic peer group

Overall messages:
- ✓ Have to keep focusing on the basic implementation of the key commitment
- ✓ Great success and would like to see it continue

- ✓ Please send in your updated action plan in which you describe if your goals for June 2020 has been reached!

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