



EU policy perspective on digitalisation, recognition and quality assurance

*Yann-Maël Bideau, European Commission,
DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture*

Quality assurance and recognition: issues at stake



Current implementation of quality assurance => complexity for transnational cooperation



Processes too lengthy & bureaucratic => challenge in transnational contexts



Bologna tools not implemented everywhere or with additional national requirements => need to do more at EU level.



Recognition not yet automatic => limit to credit and degree mobility within the EU



Digitalisation has a great potential (access to more data, AI-supported document analysis, verification of qualifications, etc). But it should be done right.

Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education – 12 May 2025

“Ensuring quality of higher education is the foundation for mutual trust, which enables recognition, transnational cooperation and seamless learning mobility”

Why?

What?

- **Foundation for mutual trust** between universities
- Crucial for a **European Education Area**
- **Necessary for automatic recognition**



- Facilitate **transnational cooperation & mobility**
- Facilitate the development of **internal quality assurance mechanism** at institutional and interinstitutional levels
- Strengthen links between **quality assurance & automatic recognition**

So what about digitalisation?

We need:

- Common standards
- Infrastructures that use those standards
- To make strategic decisions
- To coordinate among ourselves

To avoid:

- Fragmentation of digital landscape
- Vendor lock-in and commercialisation of data exchange and thus of QA and recognition processes
- Tools dictate strategic decisions

Digitalisation is already reshaping quality assurance and recognition, and its future impact will depend on our ability to create a trustworthy digital ecosystem that serves the public good and supports students and institutions alike.

Relevant initiatives

- [European learning Model](#): a free and open multilingual Data Model for the Interoperability of Learning Opportunities, Qualifications, Accreditation and Credentials in Europe
- [European Digital Credentials](#): a free and open source solution to issue a verifiable, digital version of a credential issued by an organisation
- [Higher Education Interoperability Framework](#): a mapping of requirements for higher education institutions to build interoperable systems
- [European blockchain services infrastructure](#): a blockchain network designed for public services