



EUSKAL UNIBERTSITATE  
SISTEMAREN KALITATE  
AGENTZIA  
AGENCIA DE  
CALIDAD DEL SISTEMA  
UNIVERSITARIO VASCO



# Joint trainings as a bridge for cooperation

INQAAHE Conference 2017, Bahrain



# Content

- 1. Starting point: Experiences & requirements**
2. Existing trainings for experts
3. Unibasq & AQAS approach

# Unibasq



**2004**

**Regional agency  
Original focus: Basque  
University System**

**Review activities:**

- **Study programmes**
- **IQAS**
- **Academic staff**

**Member of ENQA,  
EQAR, ECA and  
INQAAHE**

# AQAS



**Largest agency in Germany**  
**Non-field specific**  
**National and international**  
**procedures**

**5000+ accredited programmes**

**Recognized by German**  
**Accreditation**  
**Council**

**Member of ENQA, EQAR, ECA**  
**and INQAAHE**

# Context

- Similarities and differences
- Cooperation (networks)
- Memorandum of understanding:
  - Promote quality culture in HE
  - Share skilled experts – collaborate in the field of training experts and staff
  - Exchange information/expertise about HES, QAS and procedures – participate in site visits as observers
  - Promote conferences, seminars and other experts' meetings

# Context

## Standards and Guidelines for QA in the EHEA (ESG 2015)

### 2.4 Peer-review experts.

*"...In order to ensure the value and consistency of the work of the experts, they are carefully selected; have appropriate skills and are competent to perform their task; are supported by appropriate training and/or briefing.*

...

*The involvement of international experts in external quality assurance, for example as members of peer panels, is desirable as it adds a further dimension to the development and implementation of processes."*

### 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance.

*"...The expertise in the agency may be increased by including international members in agency committees."*

# Context

- Composition of expert panels
- Positive experience with foreign experts
- Positive outcome, but challenge to understand role and position
- Language barriers (majority of procedures not in English):  
Need of translation/interpreters (RIQAA project)



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# Examples of trainings

- **ECA Training academy**

- E-TRAIN:

- “to train and to share a community of knowledgeable and internationally experienced experts in the domain of external QA in higher education”*

- Assessing Joint Programmes

- Assessing Internationalisation

- **ESU student training**

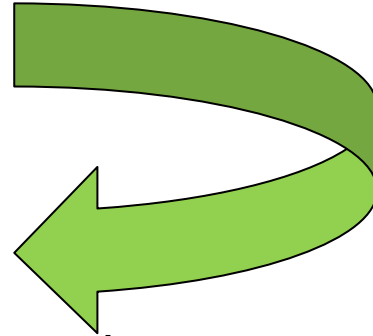


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# Unibasq and AQAS approach

- Conclusion: Existing formats do not meet the requirements



- Specific training
- Target groups: academics and students
- Language: Spanish and German

# Separate trainings

- 2 pilots:
  - One in German held in the Basque Country
  - One in Spanish held in Germany

**10 – 15 people, proficient in the required language**

**2 day training**

# Content of the training

- The agency and the specific HES
- Memorandum of understanding of Unibasq and AQAS
- The specific accreditation system
- Review procedure
- Evaluation criteria
- Roles and responsibilities (Experts and coordinator)
- Writing the report
- Outlook and practicalities (ESG 2015)

# Hopes and expectations

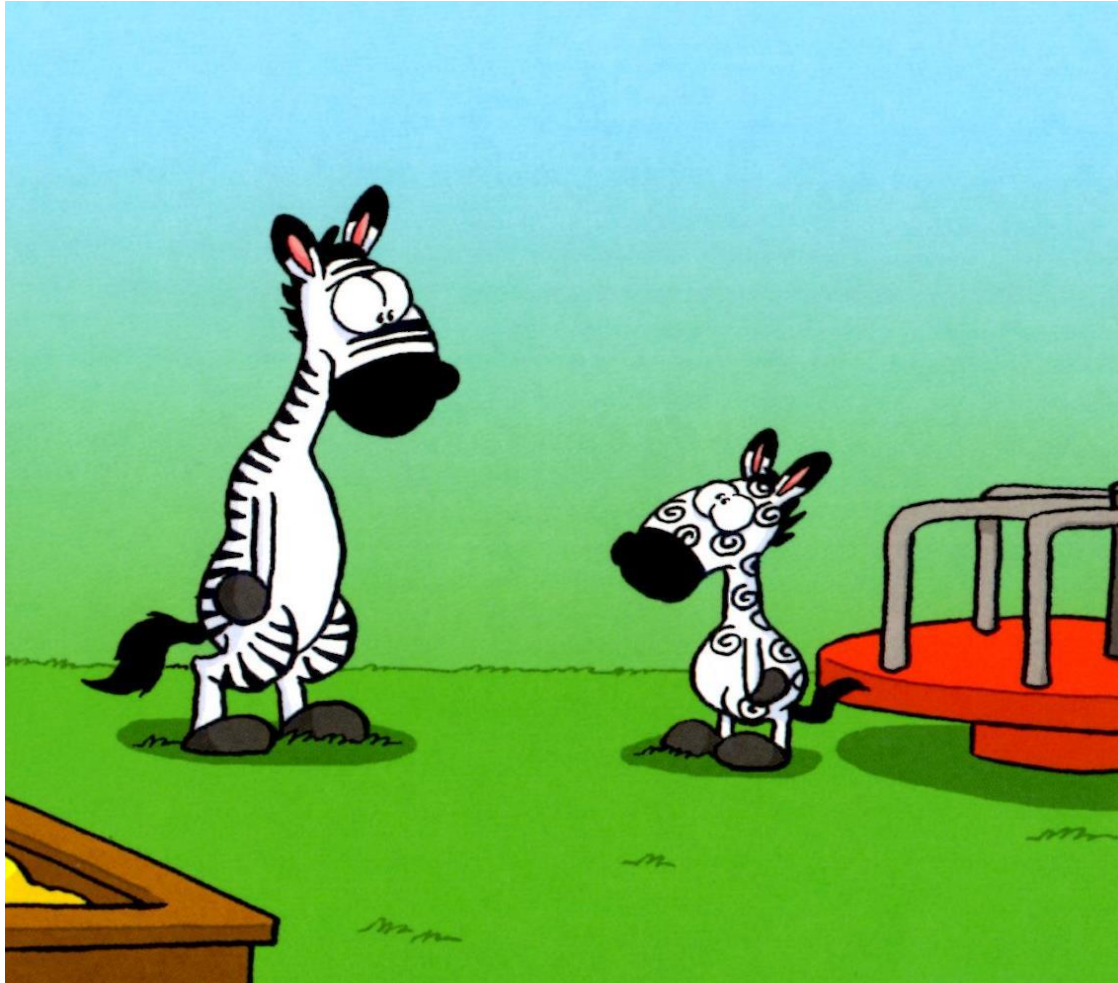
- Increase the number of foreign experts in our regular procedures
- Create the environment for the equal participation of foreign experts
- Create opportunities for collaboration between the two HES

## **Challenges:**

- Budget

**...work in progress!**

Any questions?



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