

# Workshop „Joint programmes“ INQAAHE Conference Madrid 2011

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# Presentation Rolf Heusser

1. Joint programmes in Europe: Status quo and problems
2. ECA approach towards simplified accreditation of joint programmes
3. The way forward in Europe - A proposition

## Joint Programmes - Definition and Rationale

- „A programme offered jointly by different higher education institutions irrespective of the degree awarded“ (joint, multiple and double degrees)
- In optimal cases:  $1 + 1 = 3$
- Institutional objectives: integrate international aspects into teaching and learning; pool capacities to answer new needs, enhance visibility and competitiveness, etc.
- Important objective of the Bologna process (stimulate mobility of students and staff)

## Joint Programmes (JP) in the EHEA

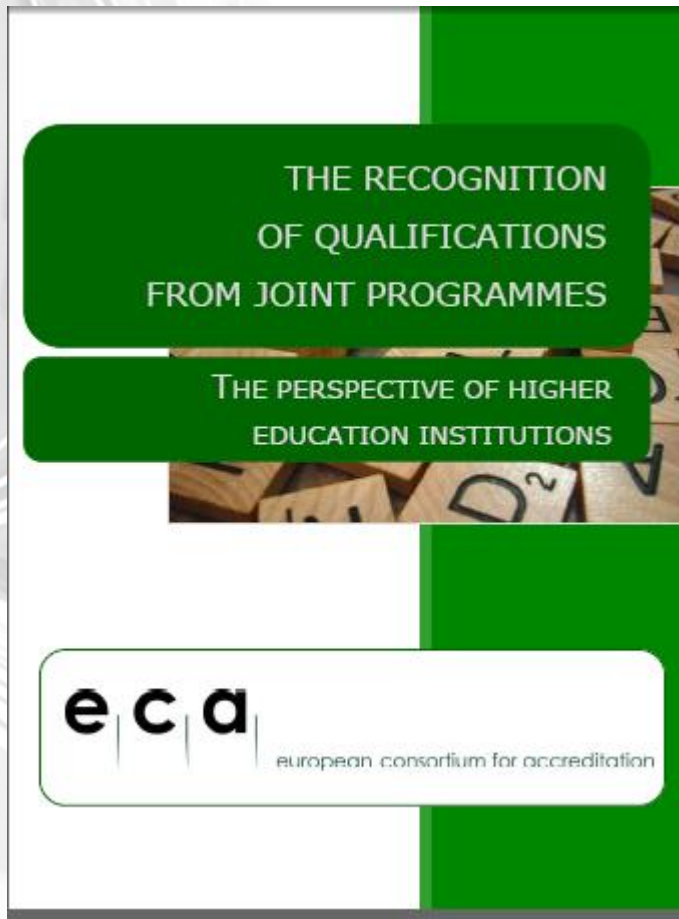
- JPs are on top of the European HE-agenda
- > 150 Erasmus Mundus master programmes
- Estimated total number of JPs: 2500
- Obstacles for HEIs in organizing JPs
- Multiple problems with recognition of qualifications awarded by JPs
- Challenges in the Accreditation/QA of JPs

## Obstacles - Organization and Administration of JPs

- Legal obstacles (esp. joint degrees)
- Heterogenous employment policies
- Visa requirements
- High costs / financing
- Unequal partners / lack of trust
- Different QA regimes in different countries
- Etc.

Source: Joiman project; Intern. seminar on joint degrees, Vilnius, October 2010.

# Problems with Recognition of JPs



## Headlines:

- legal aspects are a serious obstacle to recognition
- *some JPs 'escape' national legislation*
- Diploma Supplement does not have sufficient information specifically for Joint Programmes

# Challenges in Accreditation of Joint Programmes

- Joint programmes are confronted with different national QA regimes
- There is no single QA/accreditation procedure
- Decisions may only have an influence on national system

Source: ENIC/NARIC workshop on joint degrees, Warshaw, March 2010

## A short History of JP Quality Assurance in Europe

- TEEP II project of ENQA (2006): Practices of Erasmus Mundus JPs and some principles
- EUA „golden rules“ (2006): Issues to be addressed by internal QA
- ECA: Principles for accreditation of JPs (2006)
- TEAM II – an ECA project on Erasmus Mundus (2010): testing principles, single accreditation procedure

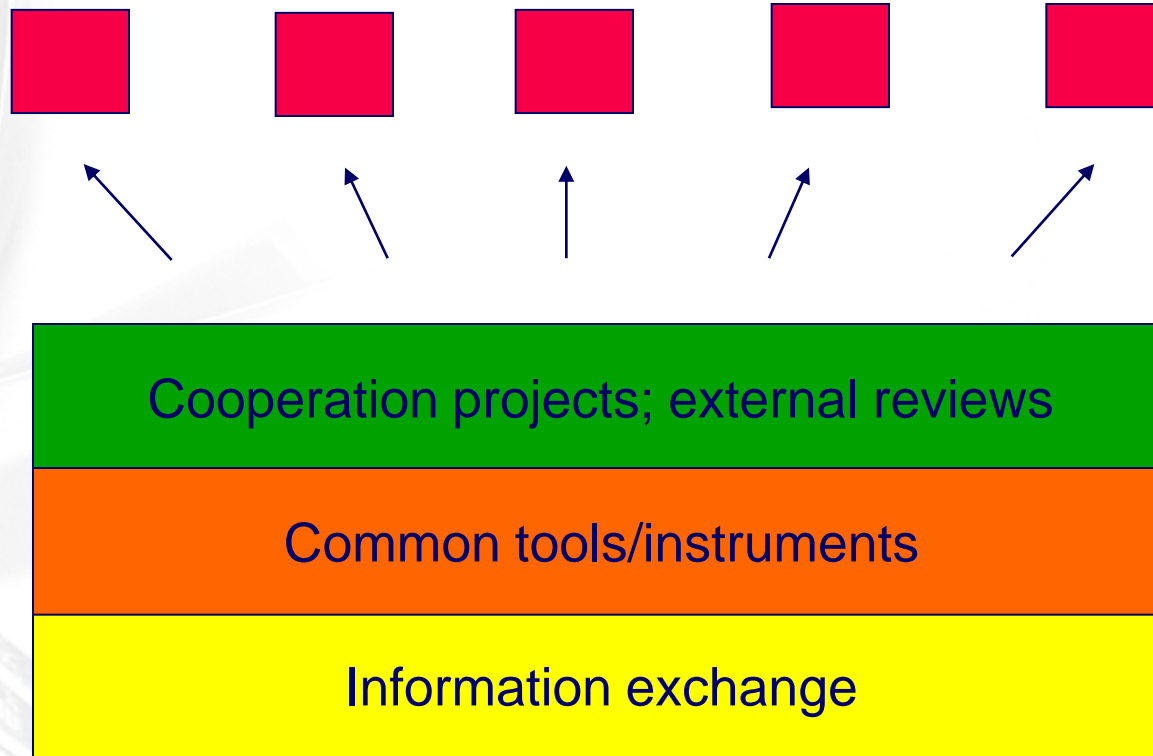


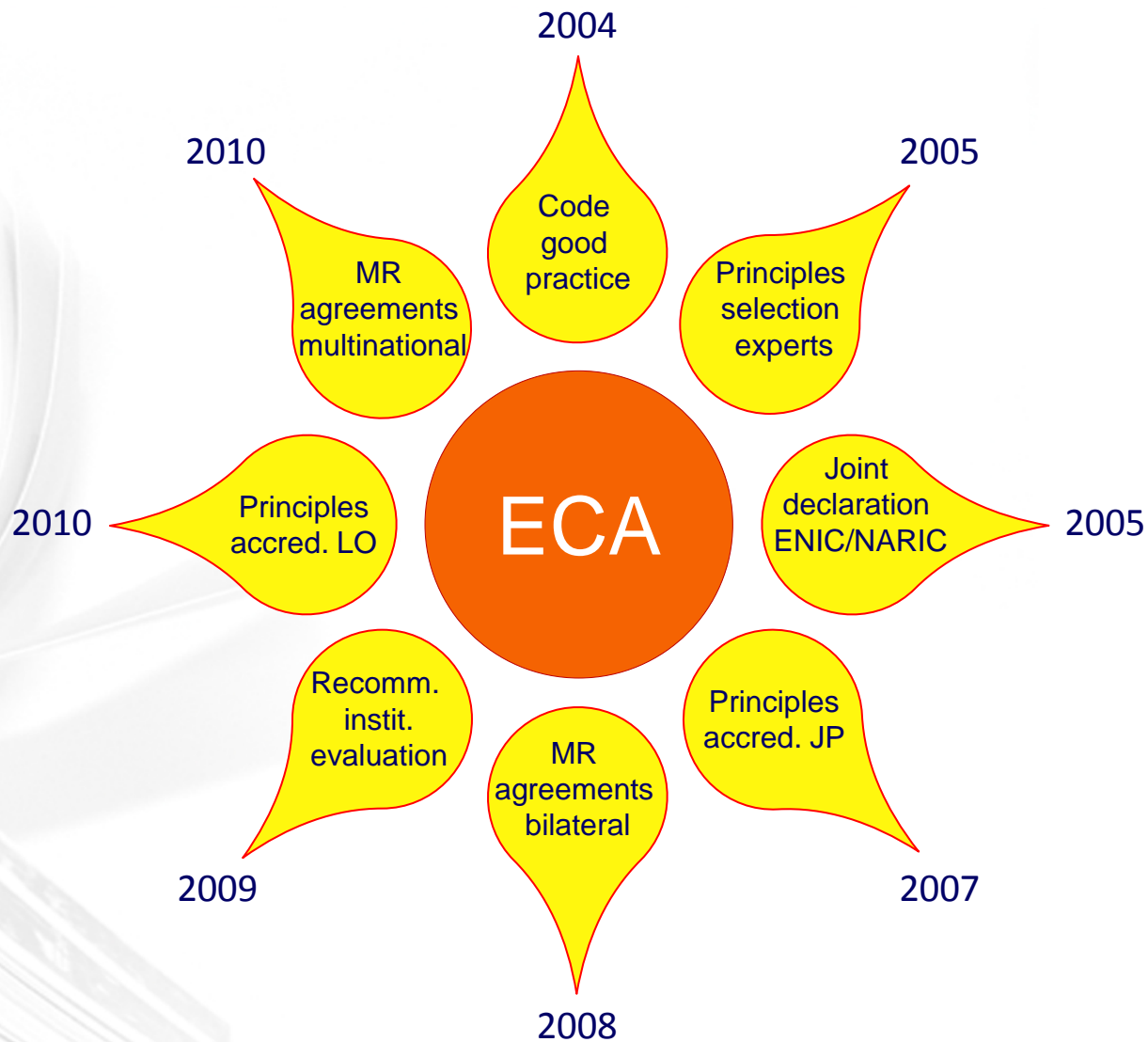
## ECA – Foundation and Aim

- Established in November 2003 as project organization
- Consortium of national accreditation agencies
- 16 member organisations from 11 European countries: all regions involved
- Aims: mutual recognition of accreditation decisions; providing transparent information on quality; supporting internationalisation of institutions and students

## ECA – Trust building process

### Bilateral Mutual Recognition Agreements





## Team II - Project of ECA (2008-2010)

- Develop an European method for simplified accreditation of joint programmes (JP)
- Test if QAAs can share one method, come to common judgements and/or accept another's judgement
- Explore the crossborder recognition of qualifications awarded by JPs

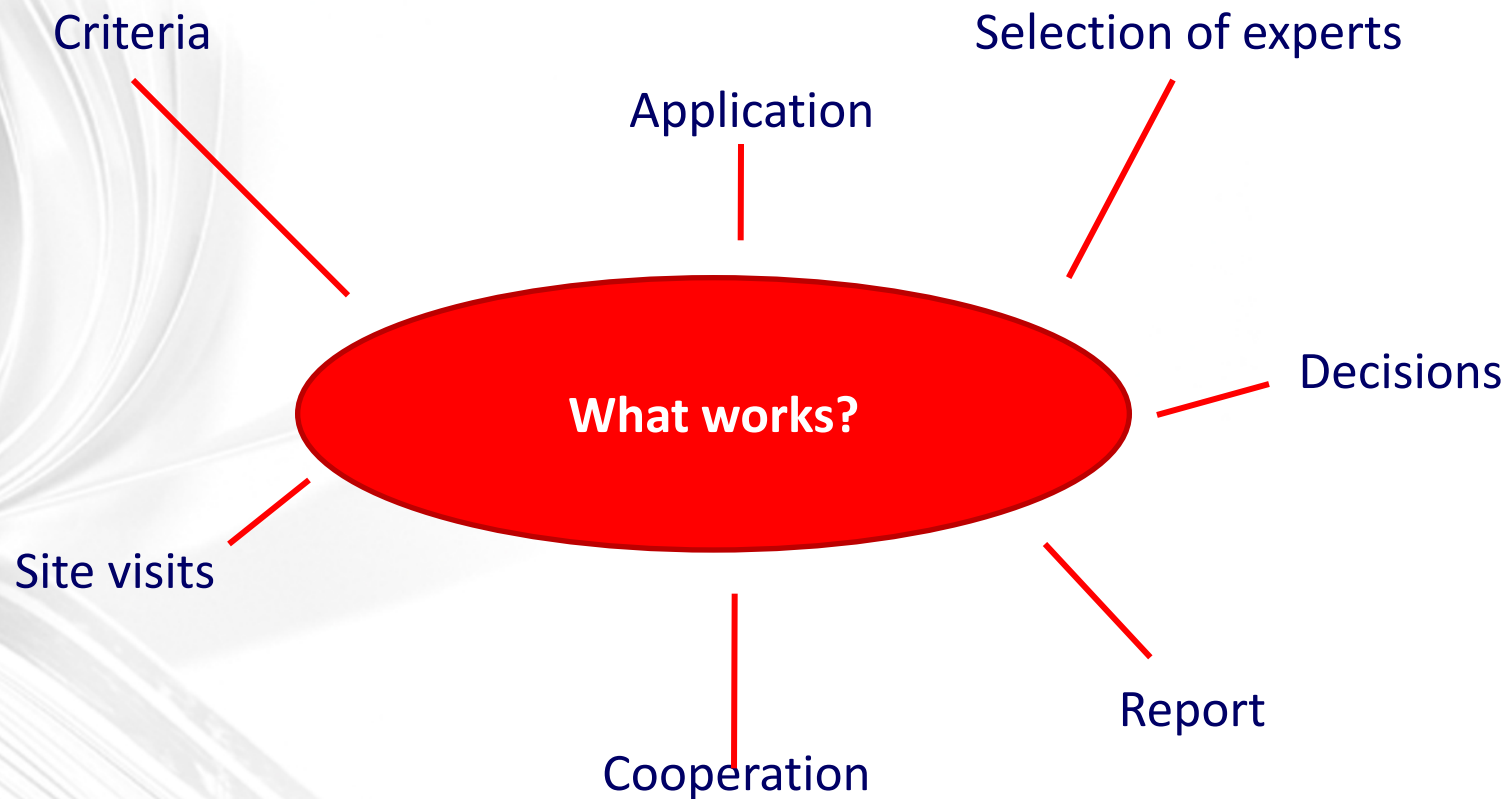
## Team II Project - Single Accreditation Procedures

- Based on ECA principles for accreditation of JPs and on mutual trust building activities
- One coordinating QAA, others are observing
- 1 on-site visit
- 1 report, multiple (but same!) decision
- Five pilot-tests carried out and evaluated (report on ECA website: [www.ecaconsortium.net](http://www.ecaconsortium.net))

## Team II Project - The pilot Projects

- EM Master Journalism and Media within Globalisation (EMMA, five countries, ZEvA and NVAO)
- Bachelor European Teacher Education for Primary Schools (ETEPS, four countries, NVAO and HSV)
- Joint European Master in Comparative Local Development (CoDe, four countries, HAC, GAC and SQAA)
- Joint European Master in International Humanitarian Action (NOHA, seven countries, ANECA, AQAS, HSV and NVAO)
- Research Master Geosciences of Basins and Lithosphere (BASINS, three countries, NVAO, CTI and AAC)

## 5 pilots – 5 outlines



# CRITERIA USED

## joint criteria

- EMMA – GAC, NVAO
- CoDe – GAC, HAC, SQAA

## new criteria

- NOHA- ANECA

## ordinary criteria

- BASINS - NVAO
- ETEPS – NVAO



# SELECTION OF EXPERTS

experts from  
all countries

- ETEPS- student, subject, prof. field (9)
- CoDe- student, subject, prof. field (5)

experts from  
some of the  
countries

- EMMA- student, subject, prof. field (6)
- BASINS- student, subject, prof. field (8)
- NOHA- student, subject (7)

# SITE VISIT

## 1 site visit

- EMMA – Hamburg
- ETEPS- Leeuwarden
- CoDe – Trento
- BASINS- Amsterdam

## 2 site visits

- NOHA- Deusto & Louvain la neuf

# DECISIONS

## joint criteria

- EMMA – GAC, NVAO (2)
- CoDe – GAC, HAC, SQAA (3)

## new criteria

- NOHA- ANECA (0)

## ordinary criteria

- BASINS – NVAO (1)
- ETEPS – NVAO (1)

## Team II project - Results

- Pilot studies worked well, single accreditation is possible
- Programmes welcomed the potential benefits (more focus on co-ordination, less duplication of work)
- Panels were able to reach agreed accreditation judgements
- Agencies could accept these decision but some constrains by national requirements

## Team II project - Challenges

- Political and legal aspects limit the wider recognition of the evaluation outcomes
- Diversity of (national) accreditation requirements
- Agree on aspects that are regarded by all QAAs as quality essentials (core requirements)
- Financing unclear

## Team II project - Conclusions

- It is possible to simplify the accreditation of JP
- One single accreditation procedure, replacing multiple accreditation procedures
- ECA principles for accreditation of JP are applicable
- Evidence based mutual trust between QAAs proved to be basis for success

## Joint programmes – The way forward in Europe

- Create legal provision that facilitate the organization and recognition of joint programmes
- Create guidelines for establishing/offering JPs
- Create training seminars for HEIs (admission officers)
- Refine methodology for single accreditation of JPs
- Create european coordination point and a knowledge base on accreditation of JPs and recognition of awarded degrees
- Continue close cooperation between QAAs, HEIs and ENIC/NARICs

## Look to future: JOQAR project of ECA (2010-2013)

- Aim: facilitate both accreditation and recognition of joint programmes in the EHEA
- Objectives in domain accreditation: promote single accreditation procedures for JP, based on MULTRA; establish European coordination point
- Objectives in domain recognition: agreed principles among ENIC/NARICs; guidelines for HEIs; transparent information provision (Crossroads)
- 14 partner organizations (Accreditation agencies and Recognition centers)



# New ways of accrediting JPs

JOQAR

