

The quality assurance of transnational education: challenges and solutions

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Transnational education (TNE)

“....where the learners are located in a country different from the one where the awarding institution is based.”

Source: UNESCO and Council of Europe 2005

Quality Assurance: the view in the European Higher Education Area

“Transnational education should be governed by the European Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance as applicable within the European Higher Education Area and be in line with the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education. “

Paragraph 17 of the Leuven Communiqué, April 2009



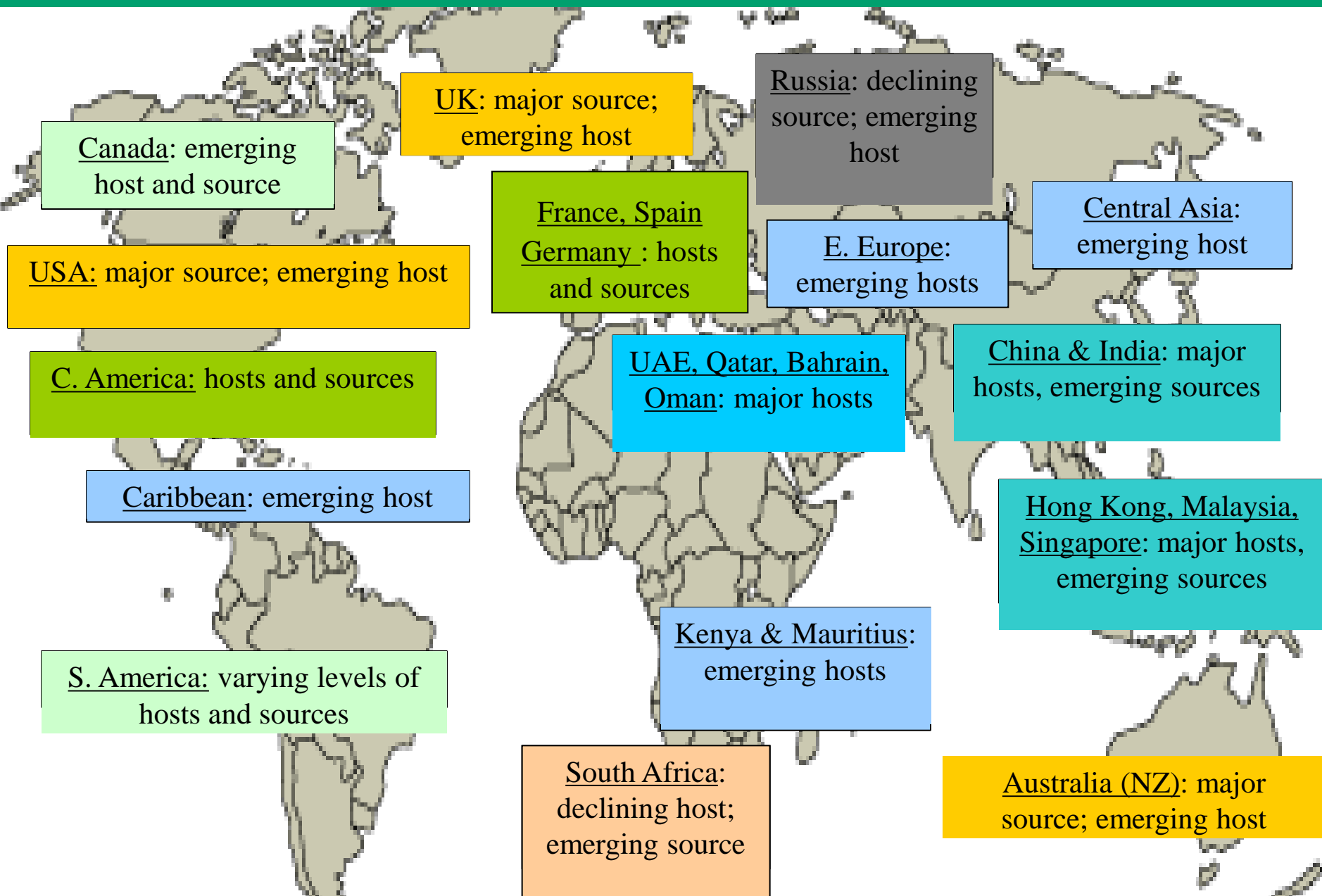
The quality assurance of TNE: challenges

- Reputational risks
- Sustainability
- Relevance
- Cost
- Data and impact analyses

TNE: drivers at institutional level

- Enhancing student and staff experience
- Promoting diversification and partnership
- Diversifying income streams and markets
- Benchmarking performance
- Enhancing international reputation

Emerging Hosts & Source Countries



International students in UK higher education at home and abroad

In 2008-2009

- 368,970 international students were studying in higher education in the UK
- 388,135 students were studying for UK higher education qualifications **outside** the UK through TNE modes
 - Distance and online learning
 - Campuses abroad
 - Collaborative arrangements – partnerships.

QAA Overseas audit destinations

Top locations for students studying for UK awards overseas	QAA overseas audit destinations
SAR Hong Kong	Singapore (2011)
Singapore	Malaysia (2010)
Malaysia	India (2009)
PR China	Greece and Cyprus (2008)
Greece	Russia (2007)
Russia	SAR Hong Kong (2007)
Ireland	PR China (2006)
Trinidad and Tobago	Oman (2005)
Oman	Sri Lanka (2004)
Germany	Italy (2003)
India	

The quality assurance of UK TNE and HE partnerships

- The overarching responsibility of UK higher education institutions (HEIs)
- QAA (compliant with ESG)
 - Section 2 of the Code of Practice
 - overseas audit process
 - publication of overview reports
 - participation in international networks
 - MoUs and cooperation agreements.



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Quality assuring TNE: lessons for HEIs from 10 years of QAA overseas audit

- Be strategic (and realistic)
- Recognise and manage complexity
 - due diligence, risk assessment and management
 - address legal and other regulatory frameworks
 - clarify roles and responsibilities
 - identify and remedy deficits in expertise
- QA processes 'fit for purpose'
- Communicate well and often
- Protect the interests of students

The QA of TNE: the roles of national quality assurance agencies

- Develop and monitor implementation of principles and guidance eg Section 2 QAA Code of Practice <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/code/OfPractice/section2/default.asp>
- Address international guidelines as appropriate
- Understand different regulatory frameworks
- Collaborate through networks and bilateral cooperation agreements and frameworks
- Keep the interests of students at the centre of what we do.

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