

Quality Assurance of Transnational Education

Prof. Vasileios Papazoglou
Secretary of Higher Education
Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and
Religious Affairs
Greece

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Transnational Education definition

- Export Education
- Offshore Education
- Cross-border Education

learners are located in a **country different** from the one where the **awarding institution** is based

UNESCO/COE Code of Good Practice (2007)

Transnational Education since the 80s

MOBILITY of

■ Programmes & Institutions

(the learner spends part of his course time in the country where the awarding body is based in)

■ Students & academic staff

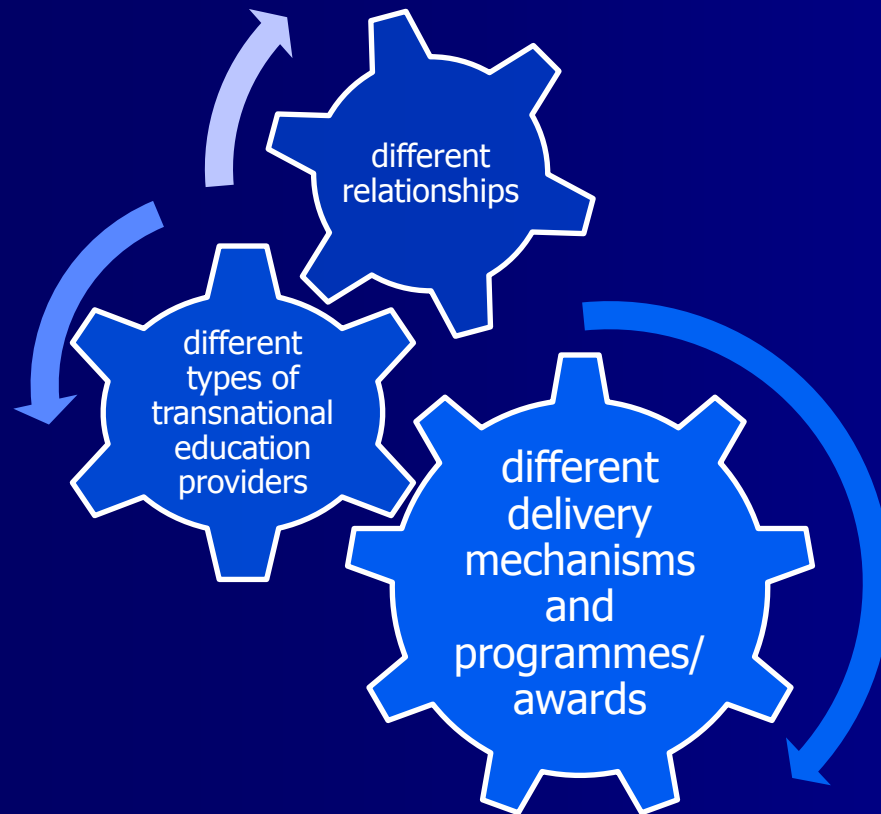
(the learner shares his time between the two institutions providing the course)

Transnational Education complexity

... a constantly mutating phenomenon

instructional modes:

from conventional classrooms to
virtual and distance education



Transnational Education types

1. single provider-awarder (rare)

2. *unequal* partnerships

two agents of **unequal** esteem or power:

partner A = awarding institution

partner B = agent providing the educational service

→ validation and franchising arrangements

3. joint partnerships

agents that **share parity of esteem**

→ joint degree programmes and international research centers

Transnational Education modes

cross-border activities (Trends 2010)

initially regarded as mostly profit driven and even hazardous enterprises

now more widespread acceptance in the academic community within the framework of their international strategy

Greek constitution **restrictions**

Transnational
Education Greece

All higher/tertiary education is provided by **public** institutions

Post-Secondary 'non-formal' private sector

(developed when access to higher education was more limited)

Developments

(Law 3848/2010, art. 45, Law 3748/2009 art. 18, Law 3696/2008)

In 2010 **operating licenses** were granted to 36 Centers of Post-Secondary Education.

The National Center for Certification has been given the remit for **external evaluation** of the operation of these Centers of Post-Secondary Education

Franchises: **Benefits for whom?**

Transnational

Education Greece

- ✓ Students obtain a diploma of another country without ever setting foot in that.
- ✓ Students are taught from local faculty and do not get the benefits from the exposure to another culture.
- ✓ Students are taught often in different if not in poorer facilities than those enjoyed by their peers in the home campus.
- ✓ Faculty of the home campus does not benefit from the exposure to another environment and a different culture.....as indeed their students.

Transnational Education Greece

Limited activity :

- **participation in joint programmes** supported by the European Union (e.g. Erasmus Mundus)
- **international collaborations** the quality of some of which **cannot be assured** by Quality Agencies (ENQA 2010: 30)

The impending reform of higher education

- focuses on **internationalization**
- reflects the **priorities** described in the Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué on the **Bologna Process**



creation of a **European dimension** in the **quality assurance (QA)** of transnational education

Transnational
Education QA

European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

- Development of European guidelines and tools for QA
- Enhancement of comparability and recognition of qualifications
- *2005 UNESCO/OECD Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education*
- *revised 2007 UNESCO/COE Code of Good Practice*
- *second Transnational European Evaluation Project (TEEP II)*
- *2009 third edition of the European Standards and Guidelines*
- *2010 revised Code of Good Practice of the QAA in the UK*

Transnational Education

aims, focused on the
individual

- quality
 - excellence
 - diversity
- } of the EHEA

Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve
Communiqué

- equitable **access** to and **completion** of higher education by underrepresented groups,
- widening participation in **lifelong learning**,
- **flexibility** in learning paths,
- increasing **employability**
- fostering **mobility**

PLUS **new formats** of delivery (virtual universities, e-learning etc.)

Transnational

Education aims
of institutional strategy

- promotion of **research** and **innovation**
- internationalizing activities
for sustainable **development**
and increasing **mobility**




collaboration among
**Higher Education
Institutes
and Quality
Assurance Agencies**

! Collaboration among QA agencies required in order to provide valid information about education programmes that cross borders; a **knowledge of the local context and of the local language is required.**

Transnational Education aims

Common ground on education
(based on **quality** and the **protection of the public**)



national **experts** - able to identify common elements and dangers through discrepant or non-existent guidelines and work towards more common approaches

Thank you