

# The European Dimension of Quality Assurance – Reality or a Figment of the Imagination?



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# Outline presentation

- 1. Introduction: the European policy context (EU, Bologna)**
- 2. Progress on the European dimension so far (follow-up 2009 Report European Commission)**
- 3. Conclusion**



## **European Policy Context**

- **EU Modernisation Agenda for higher education: more quality is needed**
- **Bologna Process: make higher education more comparable, mobile, trustworthy and transparent**
- **Two Recommendations EP and Council (1998 and 2006) on need for stronger European cooperation on QA**



# Progress Report: main developments national and EU level

## 1. Strong growth in QA infrastructure.



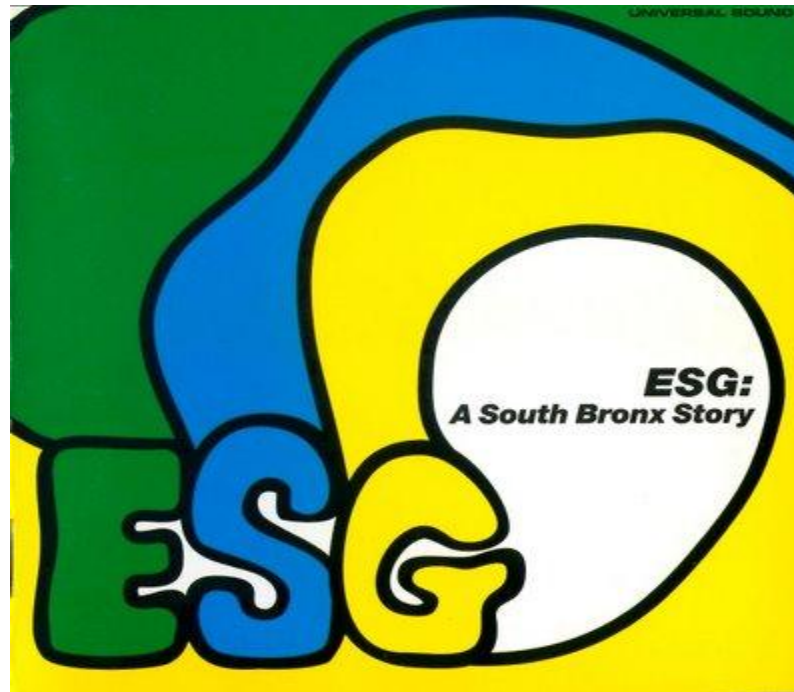
## 2. Increased quality culture



Education and Culture



### 3. Increased awareness European Standards and Guidelines



## 4. Creation of European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)

eqar 



# But: a real European dimension is still missing





## **Suggestion 1 of the Report: Make the QA infrastructure more efficient and transparent for users**



## **Suggestion 2 of the Report: Make ESG's more coherent with the Bologna framework (3-cycles, ECTS)**



## **Suggestion 3 of the Report: Stimulate cross-border QA (e.g by Quality Seals, recognition joint degrees)**



## Work in progress (1)

- **Evaluation EQAR:**
  - **is EQAR fulfilling its purpose as stimulator of EU dimension QA or does it only deliver a marketing label?**
  - **are the ESG's the right instrument for EQAR to meet its objectives?**
  - **are the roles of the different European stakeholders QA transparent enough?**



## Work in progress (2)

- **ESG mapping project E-4: input for a possible revision.**

***NB call for stonger EU dimension seems to be absent in the discussion***

- **Accreditation of joint degrees: several initiatives (TEAM, JOIMAN, EUA Guidelines)**

**But still no common (basic) policy line Bologna Ministers should agree on**



## **Concluding remarks (1)**

- **Considerable progress at both national and EU level has been made: QA infrastructure (organisations, tools) in place.**
- **However, a real European dimension, linked to the goals of Bologna, is still very much absent.**
- **Better use/fine tuning existing instruments (e.g. ESG,) and more political commitment (e.g. on role EQAR, single accreditation joint degrees) within Bologna needed to stimulate European dimension and to meet Bologna goals**



## Concluding remarks (2)

- **Commission can have a facilitating role (funding of organisations, instruments, provision of strategic papers) and will continue its call for a stronger European dimension („frapper toujours“)**



## Concluding remarks (3)

- **But the different stakeholders and governments within the Bologna Context are finally responsible for letting the European dimension really happen (or not). Who takes the lead?**





**Thank you for your attention!**

