Introduction to European Approach for QA of joint programmes:

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EMJMD kick off, 16 October 2019
Internal QA issues for joint programmes..

• How is coherence ensured on (inter alia):

  programme objectives; curriculum development; use of ECTS; assessment methods; mobility concept and practice; automatic recognition of learning between partners; award of qualifications etc

• Who takes decisions? When? On what basis?
Why is QA challenging for joint programmes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joint Programmes are usually...</th>
<th>Quality Assurance systems are usually...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European/international</td>
<td>National (regional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter cultural</td>
<td>Mono cultural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental and innovational</td>
<td>Focused on norms / standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jointness at the core</td>
<td>Defined criteria (unrelated to jointness) at the core</td>
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Internal QA issues for joint programmes..

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• Who takes decisions? When? On what basis?
External QA issues..

- Different countries have different systems
  programme vs institutional level;
  accreditation vs improvement-oriented

Before European Approach (and when national QA is still used):
- **parts** of joint programmes **accredited** in programme accreditation systems

- joint programmes mostly **ignored** when QA based on institutional audit
European QA: key features

• ESG: Standards and Guidelines for QA in the EHEA
• EQAR: European Quality Assurance Register
• ENQA: European Association for QA in higher education
YEREVAN Ministerial Communiqué 2015

• Recognition in the EHEA that:
  - European joint programmes need European QA...

• **European approach to QA of joint programmes** adopted
• Based on ESG 2015 and utilising strengths of European cooperation
How does the European Approach work?

- One QA agency undertakes comprehensive evaluation
- Agency must be registered on EQAR, and therefore following ESG
- Result of evaluation to be accepted everywhere
- No additional national procedures
Status of European Approach

• Adopted in 2015 by Ministers in Yerevan

• All 48 Bologna countries have agreed to implement the European Approach (at least in theory)

• But it takes time....
European approach permitted?

Permitted in 30 systems

But only pioneer QA agencies currently using European Approach
What will the future bring?

Two alternatives:

1) European Approach used and developed (especially through Erasmus Mundus programmes..)

2) Make joint programmes fit to a system that doesn't take account of their reality and is not appropriate...
Thanks for your attention...