

Outcomes online survey

The main difficulties encountered

5 October 2017

Dr Rosa Becker

Senior Researcher

Aims online survey

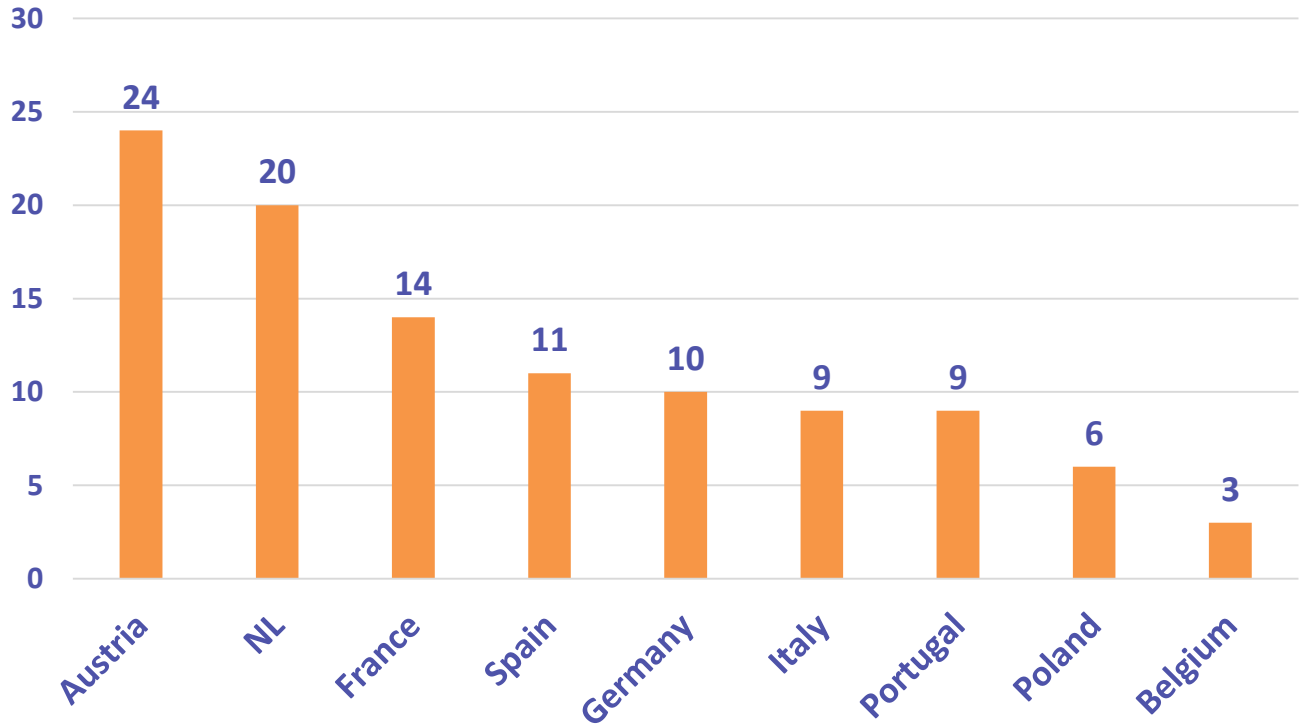
- Identify the most relevant **issues, obstacles and good practices** around the adoption of the new **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**
- Determine the content of this PLA

129 survey responses

From four stakeholders:

106	Higher education institutions
12	QA organisations
6	National ministries of education
5	Erasmus+ national agencies

129 responses from 21 countries, incl:



Awareness & misunderstandings

Not everyone aware of EA & EQAR-registered agency

Misunderstandings:

1. EA comes on top of national accreditation
2. EA requires different QA agencies to cooperate

3 major obstacles to the European Approach



1. How deal with national regulations (78%)
2. Awarding the degree (34%)
3. Information on EA standards / procedure (18%)

Obstacle 1: national regulations (part 1)

1. No national procedures enabling implementation EA
2. Lack of support from higher authorities
3. No alignment consortium partners - national frameworks
4. Contradictory regulations
5. National regulations differ from assessment criteria EA

Obstacle 1: national regulations (part 2)

6. Adhering to national regulations of non-EHEA HEIs
7. National requirements on credit hrs not in line with demands JP
8. Detailed national regulations make accreditation procedures for JPs complex & expensive
9. Master requires 300 ECTS. Lower-ECTS masters difficult to be accepted

Obstacle 2: Awarding the degree

1. Awarding JDs take long negotiations
2. Countries have different rules on degree awarding that are difficult to harmonise
3. Some national regulations do not allow awarding a JD
4. In Germany, only JDs can be accredited with the EA
5. Graduation conditions vary between countries; some HEIs reluctant to accept student results acquired at partner HEI.

Obstacle 3: EA standards / procedures (part 1)

1. Selection of the EQAR-registered agency
2. EQAR not known
3. Some EQAR-registered agencies have no knowledge / procedure / interest in EA
4. Choosing foreign agency means English translations
5. Inter-agency cooperation and responsibilities between HEI consortium and national QA agencies

Obstacle 3: EA standards / procedures (part 2)

6. Complicated and competitive cooperation of QA orgs
7. Ex ante & ex post evaluations & costs constraints
8. Finding suitable international experts
9. Different evaluation schedules & procedures
10. Too much detailed information asked by panel

Obstacle 3: Not much information on assessment criteria EA

1. Definition of JPs (eligibility)
2. Implication of accreditation of a HEI unclear
3. Operationalisation of standards, course duration, conversion of marks & evaluation criteria, student feedback surveys, employability
4. How to relate joint QA to individual mechanisms in HEIs
5. EA does not clarify meanings of standards > risk various QA agencies will interpret them differently
6. Insufficient understanding of national legal frameworks

Obstacle 4: European Approach standards / procedures

1. The cooperation agreement
& selection of partner institutions
2. Preparation self-evaluation report
& timing site visit, report

+ inflexible institutional regulations



**“Low awareness of EA among national authorities,
national laws not adopted to EA,
flexibility to implement EA within existing regulations
depends on will of single persons acting for ministries or
QA agencies,
universities do not have the competences and expertise
to manage this beyond the regular accreditation
business”.**

How do respondents in different countries see the EA?

- EA in your country in near future? Yes 62%; No 38%
- Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Croatia:
foresee EA procedures in near future
- Norway unsure
- U.K.: EA not necessary & seen as additional burden
- France: 3 failed attempts since advance accreditation not accepted in France & timing, sharing costs / resources and coordination problems.
- Portugal & Czech Republic: the necessary (legal or agency) requirements / interests are not in place

And now ?

**3 consortia with experience EA:
identify obstacles
& good practice approaches**

Tomorrow: identify action points

