

How to deal with European funding programme criteria?

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PLA on the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

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A VIEW FROM THE EMJMD CONSORTIUM PERSPECTIVE

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 - Active in Erasmus Mundus from the start in 2003/2004 onwards
 - Participant in the JOQAR Pilot Project
- Member of the Executive Committee of ProDeJIP
- Member of ECA Working Group 1 ('mutual recognition and joint programmes') & ECA Expert on the European Approach

The advantages of the European Approach

- One single accreditation procedure
- One Self-Evaluation Report
- One site visit
- The result is to be accepted in all EHEA countries
- The duration of the positive accreditation decision is 6 years

The European Approach itself:

- Approved by the EHEA Ministers, in Jerevan, May 2015

The obstacles (1)

- The national regulations still ‘ignore’ the special needs of Joint Programmes
- The solution by the European Approach is almost neglected
- The administrators at the university (HEI) level apparently are not aware of the European Approach, or – even worse – prefer the national accreditation procedure above the European Approach

The obstacles (2)

- Starting the national accreditation procedure, making use of MULTRA, will result in recognition of the accreditation decision in other countries as well, but is more complicated than using the European Approach from the start onwards
- The national accreditation decision, even based on the single accreditation procedure, is taken at different moments and still has differences in duration, which makes that the end of duration per country varies

The obstacles (3)

- The coordinators at the Joint Programme (EMJMD) level and/or at the level of the individual partners apparently are not aware of the European Approach
- If those involved in a Joint Programme are aware, for sure they will NOT prefer the national accreditation procedure above the European Approach
- Apparently, the European Approach still is not allowed / not implemented in national legislation in quite a lot of EU/EHEA countries

The obstacles in the EMJMD procedure

- Proof of accreditation for the EMJMD Consortium
 - at the national level
 - for all individual partners
 - at the moment of application
- This raises the question of timing
 - EMJMD Application February Year t_0
 - accreditation per partner should be arranged in Year $t-1$
 - teaching is running already (in Year $t-1$), or teaching will start later on (Year t_0 or $t+1$); either for all or for some partners

Recommendations (1)

- Raise the awareness of the European Approach
 - among the administrators of the universities (HEI)
 - among the EMJMD coordinators
- Make it very clear where to start the single accreditation procedure, being the European Approach
 - The best start would be at the ECA, next the JP Consortium should be directed to a suitable EQAR-registered QA Agency

Recommendations (2)

- Provide a strong recommendation to the potential EMJMD applicants to make use of the European Approach
 - in the call documents
 - at the EACEA's EMJMD website
 - in the information for the application
 - in the programme guide / project handbook
- Ask both the QA Agencies and the Erasmus+ National Agencies to play an active role to promote the European Approach

Recommendations (3)

- The proof of accreditation at the moment of application for EMJMD:
 - should be simplified by replacing the required proof of national accreditation for all individual partners by a single proof for those Consortia that have the accreditation by the European Approach
 - should be postponed to a later moment to avoid that the Consortium is unable to apply in time for EMJMD because of this, while the teaching will start only later; of course, accreditation for all partners should be proved at the moment the teaching starts

Finally

- Thanks a lot for your attention
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