



EUnIQ

DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR COMPREHENSIVE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

In the EUnIQ project QA agencies, ministries, European Universities and European stakeholder organisations cooperate to develop and trial an assessment approach for QA agencies which allows to assess and enhance quality at European Universities. The objectives of the project are to test an approach to assess the quality of European Universities, to develop a needs analysis and to demonstrate the feasibility of organising assessments of European Universities, to develop an assessment methodology that takes into account supra-institutional policies, to undertake four pilot assessments of European Universities, and to, as a result, produce an assessment approach for QA agencies. In other words, it will lead to a European Framework for Comprehensive QA of European Universities.



What are European Universities?

European Universities are transnational alliances of higher education institutions from across the EU that share a long-term strategy and promote European values and identity.

The initiative is designed to significantly strengthen mobility of students and staff, and foster the quality, inclusiveness and competitiveness of European higher education.

The selection of European Universities includes a broad range of higher education institutions from across the EU, from universities of applied sciences, technical universities and universities of fine arts to comprehensive and research-intensive universities.

WHY A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES?

During the Education Council of 15 February 2018, Ministers showed support for the European Universities initiative, noting that it should be aiming at quality and excellence while at the same time securing geographical balance across the EU and involving universities from all Member States. They underlined the link between education and research as an important principle. From this perspective, the European Universities initiative is a game changer for national authorities and QA agencies. The call for proposals for European Universities was published on 24 October 2018 (2019-EAC/A03/2018). The programme guide states: 'Quality assurance must be an embedded component to ensure that European Universities successfully deliver the expected results and achieve an impact going far beyond the impact an individual partner organisation could achieve.'

EU Grant provided by: Erasmus+: Support to the implementation of European Higher Education Area (EHEA) Reforms
Maximum EU Grant: € 195.269,60
Start: 18 May 2019
End: 17 May 2021

Contact person & project manager:
Mark Frederiks
E-mail address:
euniqu@nvao.net
Project website:
<https://www.nvao.net/en/euniqu-project>

WHO IS INVOLVED?

The National Authority that applied for this project is the Flemish Ministry for Education and Training. The NVAO acts as the affiliated entity responsible for the management of the project.

The EUniQ partnership includes eight QA agencies, six HE ministries, and three European stakeholders associations.

Flemish Community
 Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)
 Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth
 Ministry of Education and Science
 High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcerés)(representing Ministry)
 Ministry of Education and Science
 Ministry of National Education
 National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation (ANQA)
 Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ)
 Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS)
 Quality Agency for Higher Education (AIC)
 Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ)
 National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (NEAQA)
 Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR)
 European University Association (EUA)
 European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
 European Students Union (ESU)

Belgium
 Flanders - The Netherlands
 Albania
 Bulgaria
 France
 Georgia
 Romania
 Armenia
 Switzerland
 Slovenia
 Latvia
 Sweden
 Serbia
 Italy
 Belgium
 Belgium
 Belgium

PROJECT BENEFITS

For European Universities:

- The deliverable 'European Framework for Comprehensive QA of European Universities' will help alliances to both define and self-assess their quality in the future.
- QA agencies will be able to use this 'European Framework for Comprehensive QA of European Universities' to fully assess European Universities in the future.

For quality assurance agencies:

- The project strengthens the coherence of QA in Europe and prepares all QA agencies in the EHEA for the further development of European Universities across Europe.
- The project helps QA agencies in developing cross-border cooperation and appropriate cross-border approaches.
- The project will open up a dialogue between QA agencies and European Universities.

For national authorities:

- The project will support the further development of QA in the respective countries of the partners.
- The project is implemented via Bologna's Peer Support Group on QA. This facilitates peer support beyond the project partnership and ensures peer support across the whole EHEA.

For European stakeholder organisations:

- They are engaged in the policy discussions related to European Universities and see this project as a means of combining these discussions with actual hands-on experience in the field.
- They will be able to position their policy perspective on the facts on the ground and help guide the way in which this policy development takes root across Europe.

Project overview



Action line	Relevant partners	Objective	Deliverable
1. Roadmap Group	Lead partner: NVAO Other partners: QA agencies, ENQA, ESU, EUA	To generally manage the project, the attainment of the schedule and the production of deliverables.	Progress report (May 2020) - Report on results & development of deliverables Final report (April 2021) - Report on realisations & achieved outcomes
2. Resonance Group	Lead partner: Flanders Other partners: Ministries	To guide, monitor and evaluate the work of the Roadmap Group, to reflect on methodologies and pertinent legal issues, to involve other stakeholders.	Analysis of the proposed methodology (Dec. 2019) - Analysis, feedback and ways forward European Universities, legal frameworks and the ESG (Jan. 2021)
3. Methodological development	Partners: All partners	To develop a draft assessment methodology for (European) University Networks.	Pilot assessment framework (Dec. 2019) - what will be assessed, how will this be organised and which information will be used.
4. Pilot procedures	Partners: QA agencies	To pilot the developed draft assessment methodology.	Training day for experts and networks (Jan. 2020) Panel report template (Feb. 2020) Assessment reports (Sep. 2020)
5. Enhancement & valorisation	Partners: All partners	To convert the lessons learnt into a development roadmap for QA and the piloted methodology into a final methodology.	QA Development Roadmap (Nov. 2020) European Approach for Comprehensive QA of (European) University Networks (Jan. 2021)
6. Peer Support	Partners: All partners	To maintain the focus on peer support, to reach out to all the stakeholders	Project website (May 2019) ▲ Peer Support newsletter (Jun., Sep., Dec. 2019; Mar., Sep., Dec. 2020; Apr. 2021) Peer Support & Kick-off Event (Oct. 2019) Peer Support & Feedback Event (May 2020) Peer Support & Dissemination Event (Mar. 2021)