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ESG 2015: *Enhancing quality of programmes – connecting IQA and EQA*


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What are the ESG?



The ESG are a set of standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance in higher education.



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Any system of standards and guidelines...

- Common framework
- Assurance and improvement
- Trust
- Information
- A basis for a joint programme of work

A disadvantage associated with any system of standards is a reduction in diversity and innovation.



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2015 ESG Agency and Providers

The very existence of a new version of ESG is an impetus in itself

Communications

Improvement and progression

Joint programmes of work



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ESG, Ireland, Internal QA and External QA

Enhancement projects

- Student engagement
- Third party engagement
- Publication
- Use of information and data

Joint work on procedures

ESG as a common reference tool (Review of Reviews, development of policy)



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Homogeneity versus diversity

*Broader access to higher education is an opportunity for higher education institutions to make use of increasingly **diverse individual experiences**. Responding to diversity and growing expectations for higher education requires a fundamental shift in its provision; it requires a **more student-centred approach** to learning and teaching, embracing **flexible learning paths** and recognising **competences gained outside formal curricula**. Higher education institutions themselves also become more **diverse in their missions, mode of educational provision and cooperation**, including growth of internationalisation, digital learning and new forms of delivery.*

(extract from Setting the Context, ESG 2015)

The 2015 ESG help to capture the kind of diversity that needs to be supported but using an approach of standards and guidelines to support diversity and innovation is a challenge



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First and subsequent cycles of reviews

Emphasis on internal QA and external QA is dynamic

First time ESG compliance is at the core

Subsequently the centrality of ESG diminishes, even with new ESG

Not really captured by ESG at present



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Other challenges

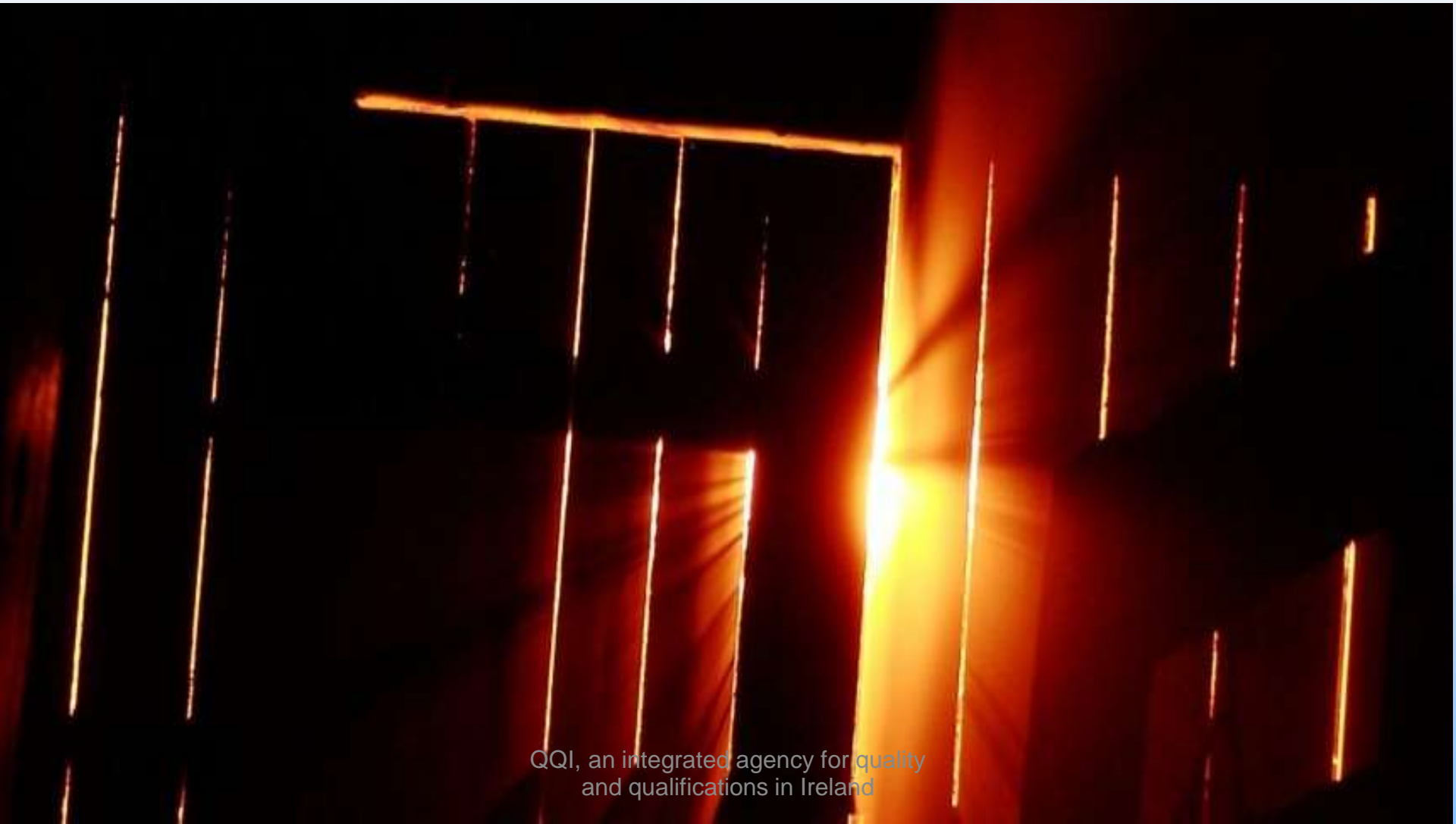
- Ambiguous terms and concepts
- Difference in interpretation of scale
- Programme versus institutional QA and reviews
- Things that are not in the ESG
 - E.g. Local (national) QA that is not in the ESG
- Additional agendas (international, political, funding, agency, institutional)



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Forget your perfect offering there is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in...



QQI, an integrated agency for quality
and qualifications in Ireland