

Quality Assurance: the Flemish Experience

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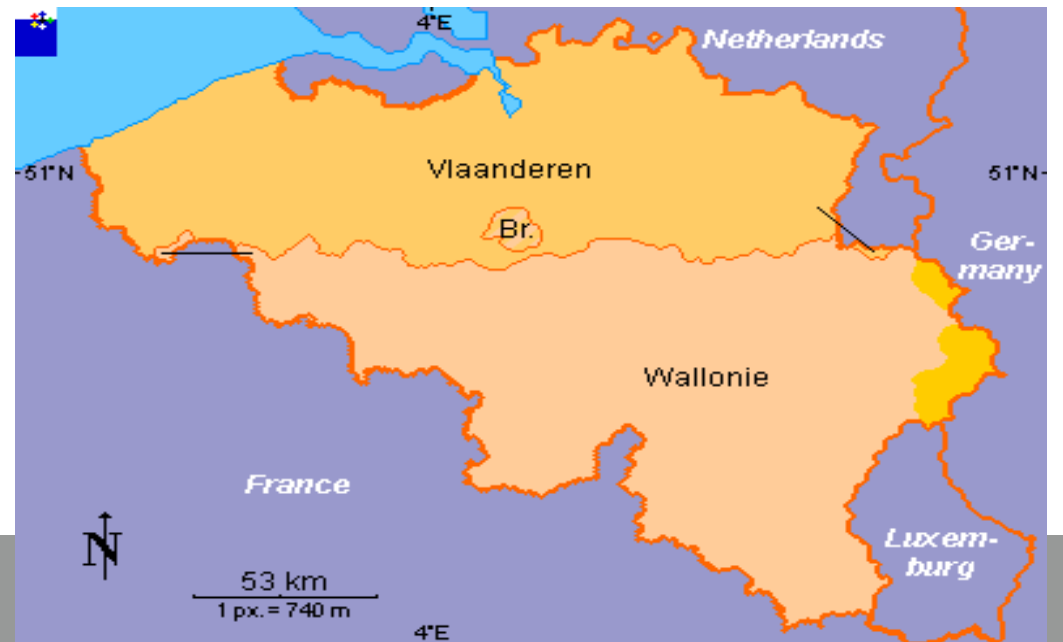
Quality Assurance: the Flemish Experience

Overview

- Introduction to the Flemish community
- Legal framework
- QA in the Flemish community

Belgium- Flemish community

- 1988: Education became an autonomous competence of the three Belgian communities (Flemish community, French speaking community and German speaking community)



Higher education structure in Flanders

- 6 universities and 22 “hogescholen”
- 163.343 students in 2006-2007
 - 2.8% of the population of the Flemish community
 - 53 students of Kazakhstan, 16 students of Kyrgyzstan, 2 students of Tajikistan
- Mix of education and research

Higher education structure in Flanders

- Bachelors degrees
 - Bachelors programme with professional orientation (only hogescholen)
 - Bachelors programme with academic orientation
 - Advanced bachelors programmes

Higher education structure in Flanders

- Master's degrees
 - Master's programme
 - Advances master's programme
- PhD
 - Only universities

Legal framework

- Bologna declaration (1999)
- Dublin descriptors (2004)
- Bergen communiqué (2005)

International

Flemish community

Bologna declaration

New comprehensive
educational laws

Dublin descriptors

Bergen communiqué

introduction ba –ma

⇒ learning outcomes

QA: Accreditation – NVAO

⇒ accreditation framework

Access to HE

Organisation of HE

QA in Flanders

Accreditation of programmes

3 steps:

- 1. internal quality assurance
- 2. external quality assurance
- 3. formal decision: accreditation

1. Internal quality assurance: self evaluations

- Self –evaluation report published by the institution
- Description and evaluation of the programme concerned

2. External quality assurance: external quality assessment

- Assessment panel (peer review)
 - Read the self evaluation report
 - Visit of the institution and the programme (aprox. 3 days)
 - Assessment report → public
- Accreditation framework

Accreditation framework

- Study programmes are assessed in the light of the following topics:
 - aims and objectives of the study programme
 - content and structure of the study programme
 - staff commitment
 - facilities
 - internal quality assurance
 - results

Accreditation framework

- Goals/ aims and objectives
 - Level and orientation
 - Requirements proper to the field
- Programme
 - Professional requirements/academic orientation
 - Relation goals - programme content
 - Coherence programme
 - Student workload



Accreditation framework

- Programme: content and structure
 - Enrolment requirements
 - Scope of the study
 - Tuning form and content
 - Assessment and testing
 - Master project



Accreditation framework

- Staff
 - Requirements professional and academic orientation
 - Quantity
 - Quality



Accreditation framework

- Facilities
 - Material provisions
 - Study guidance
- Quality Assurance
 - Evaluation of results
 - Measures for improvement
 - Involvement of employees, students, alumni, professions



Accreditation framework

- Results
 - Realised level
 - Educational output/efficiency



3. The formal decision/ accreditation

- NVAO: accreditation organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders
- Independently ensures the quality of higher education
- Raising quality awareness in HE
- Advancing the position of HE in the national and international context

3. The formal decision: accreditation

- NVAO receives the assessment report
 - Can take additional measurements
- Generic quality
 - Evaluation criteria in the accreditation framework
 - Overall conclusions
 - Methodology used
- Accreditation report
- Accreditation and recognition of the degrees by the national authority.

QA in Flanders

- Accreditation cycle started in 2004
- First cycle ends 2013

- At this moment:
No non accreditations

QA in Flanders

- Positive effects
 - QA has gained interest
 - Self-evaluations are a policy instrument for institutions
 - Independent organisations
 - Results are accepted
 - transparent

QA in Flanders

- Negative effects
 - Independent organisations means that the government has to thrust
 - Press releases of reports



ranking