

Promotion of Quality Culture in International Cooperation with Special Focus on Joint Programmes

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Quality Culture Project Round III: Network 6



“Programme Evaluations: Joint Degrees”

Development of Joint Programmes in the Context of Globalization in Higher Education

Partners:

- **University Duisburg-Essen (UDE), Germany (Co-ordinator)**
- **Heriot-Watt University (HWU), United Kingdom**
- **Zuyd University (ZU), Netherlands**
- **Stockholm University (SU), Sweden**

Framework: Definitions and Key Aspects

“Joint Degree” is specified as

- 1 degree, 1 curriculum defined and executed by 2 or more institutions,
- degree is provided by own power of the partners,
- one single document of graduation is issued.

“Double Degree” is specified as

- 2 or more separate degrees, 1 curriculum defined and executed by 2 or more institutions,
- number of degrees can differ from the number of institutions.

Framework: Definitions and Key Aspects

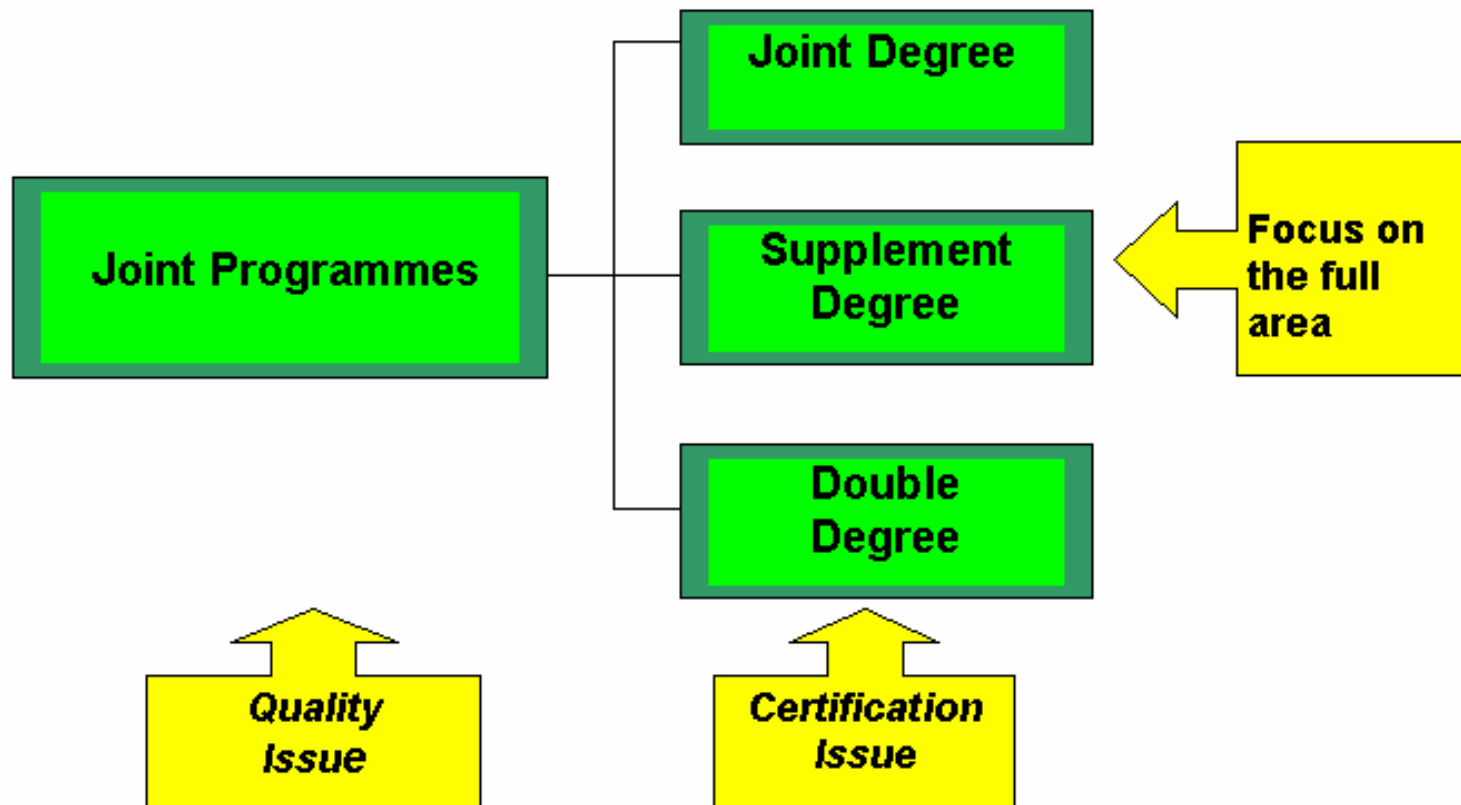
“**Joint Programme**” is specified as

- overall term for a Joint or Double Degree course as study programme based on a **common curriculum** agreed upon by the partners,
- **graduation as Joint or Double Degree** and studies carried out by student mobility between partners based on Credit Transfer and Diploma Supplement.

Joint Programmes share following **characteristics**:

- Joint Programmes are developed cooperatively by the partners
- students are obliged to spend part of their studies at two or more partners
- courses and exams are recognised by all partners

Framework: Curricular aspects and Certification Issues



Framework: Regional Issues of Joint Programmes

Regional issues	
Region/ Countries	Aims/ Achievements/ Context
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National education policy, especially strategy for internationalisation
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bologna Process - “Brand” of education - Easy/ easier by proximity of distance and culture
Specific countries outside the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History: e.g. relations grown already in the past - Culture: e.g. language, educational system - Stability: e.g. economic situation, clear laws and regulations obeyed in business - Political: e.g. willingness to open the national educational system for foreign institutions of higher education
Global	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size of market (€, ?, \$,...) - Number of potential additional students - Spread of know-how and contribution to academic development

Implementation: Strategies of Student Recruitment

Student recruitment	Goal	Risk
a) as many as possible	High income	Students might not all be good enough
→ regulate recruitment, define clear criteria		
b) small is beautiful	Excellence by niche topic	Limited income, does not cover the additional costs related to Joint Programmes
c) best only	Excellence by elite	

Implementation: Double Degree

General “3+1” Idea

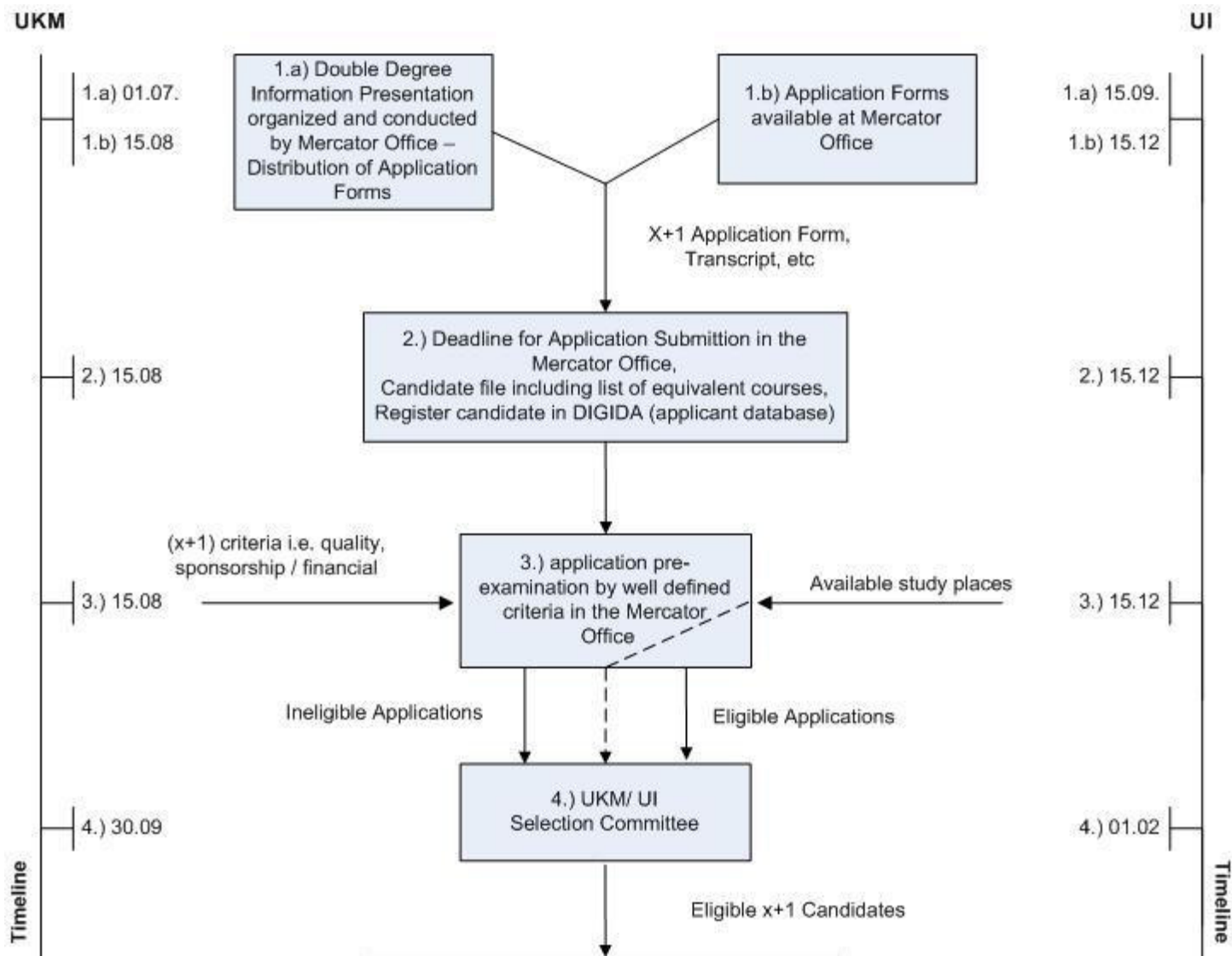
4th Year	8th Sem	<u>final year</u> at one of the partner universities (equivalent lectures in content and exams)
	7th Sem	
3rd Year	6th Sem	<u>during 3rd year:</u> preparation and orientation courses for final year
	5th Sem	
2nd Year	4th Sem	<u>during 2nd year:</u> orientation and selection of partner university for final year (for students at University of Duisburg-Essen, 1st year of studies)
	3rd Sem	
1st Year	2nd Sem	<u>start of study</u> phase at home university at UDE, UI, UKM
	1st Sem	

Implementation: Double Degree

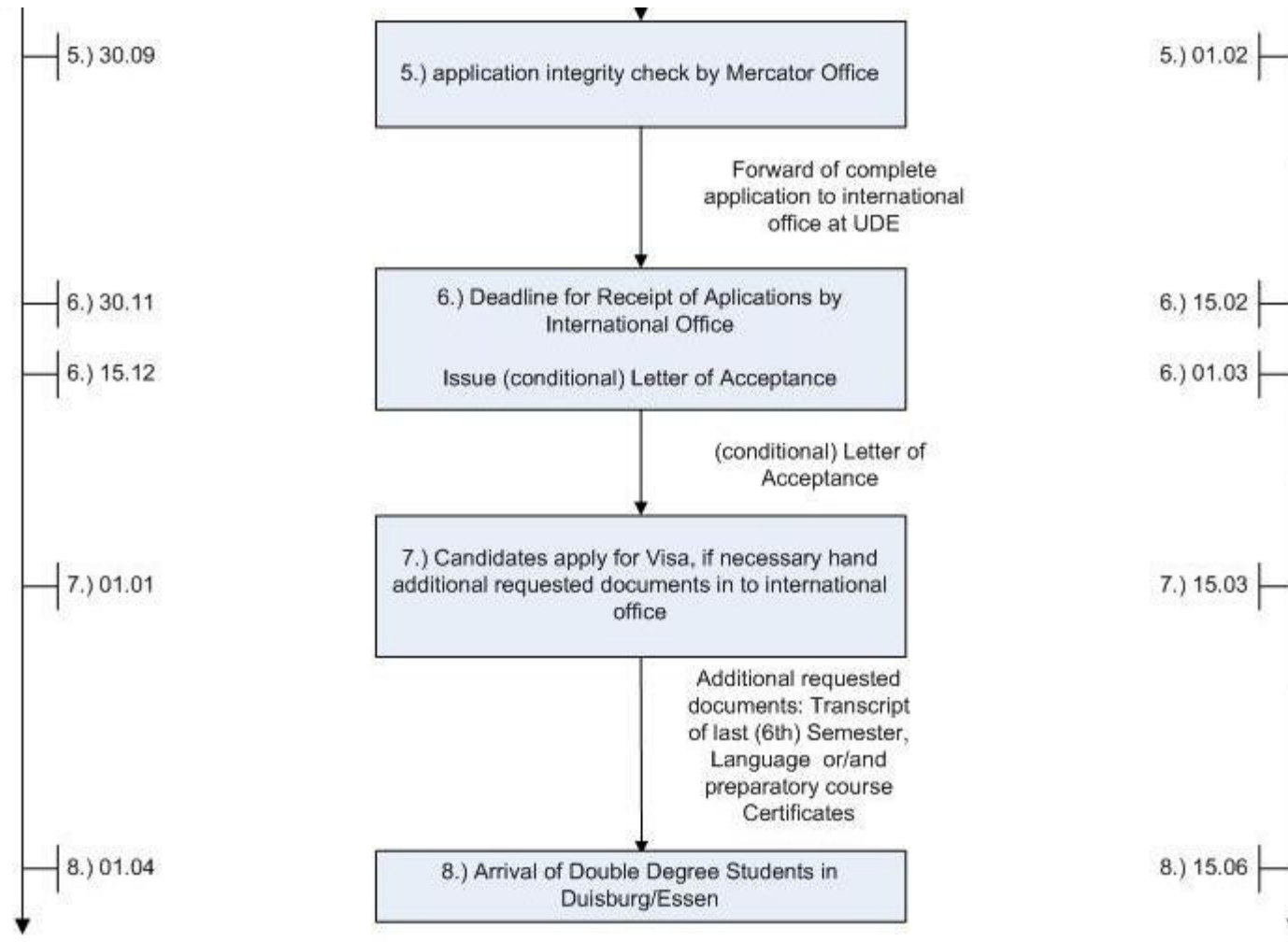
General “1+1” Idea

2nd Year	3rd Sem	Final Year at Partner University (equivalent lectures in content and exams)
	4th Sem	
1st Year	1st Sem	1st year at home university
	2nd Sem	

Implementation: Mercator Office – Draft of a Flowchart (1/2)



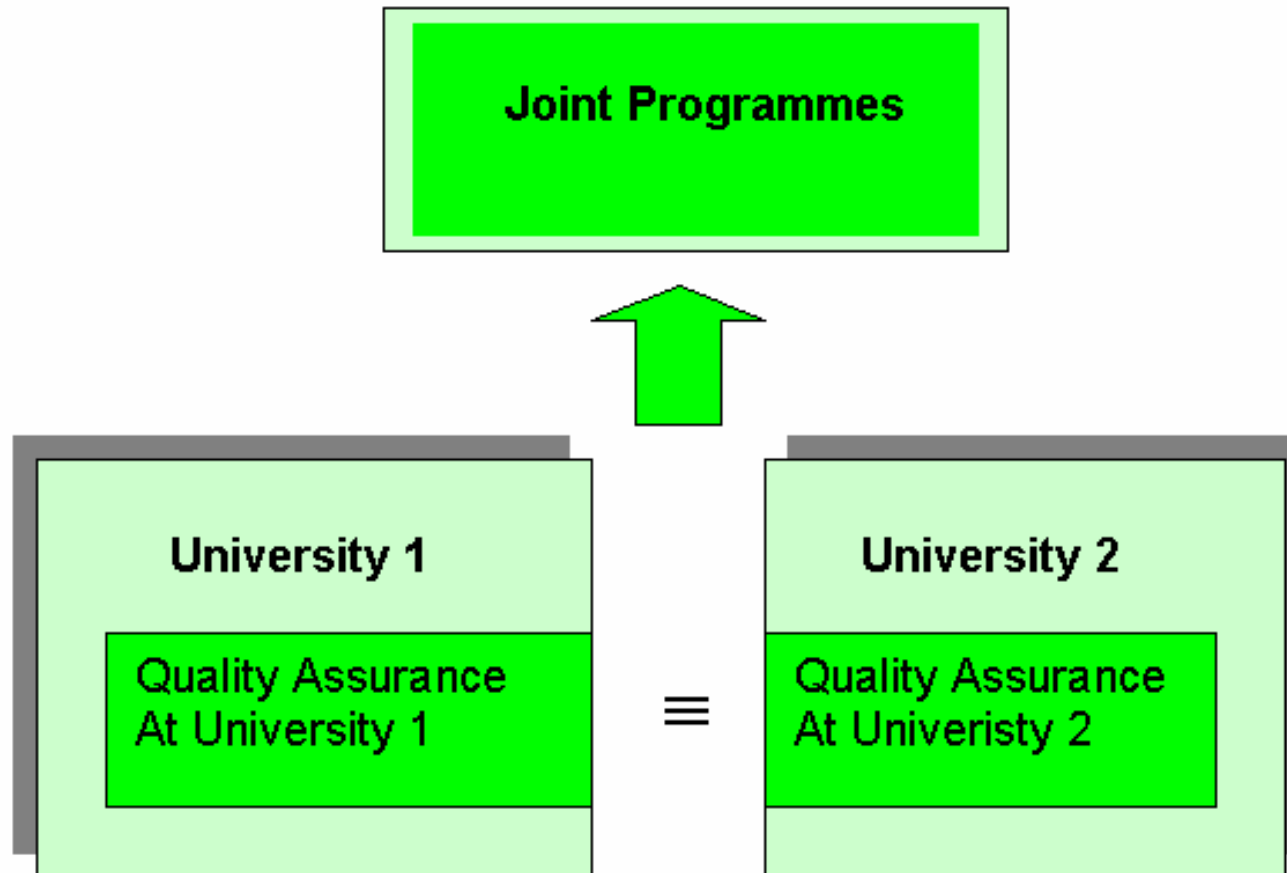
Implementation: Mercator Office – Draft of a Flowchart (2/2)



Outcome & Quality Assurance

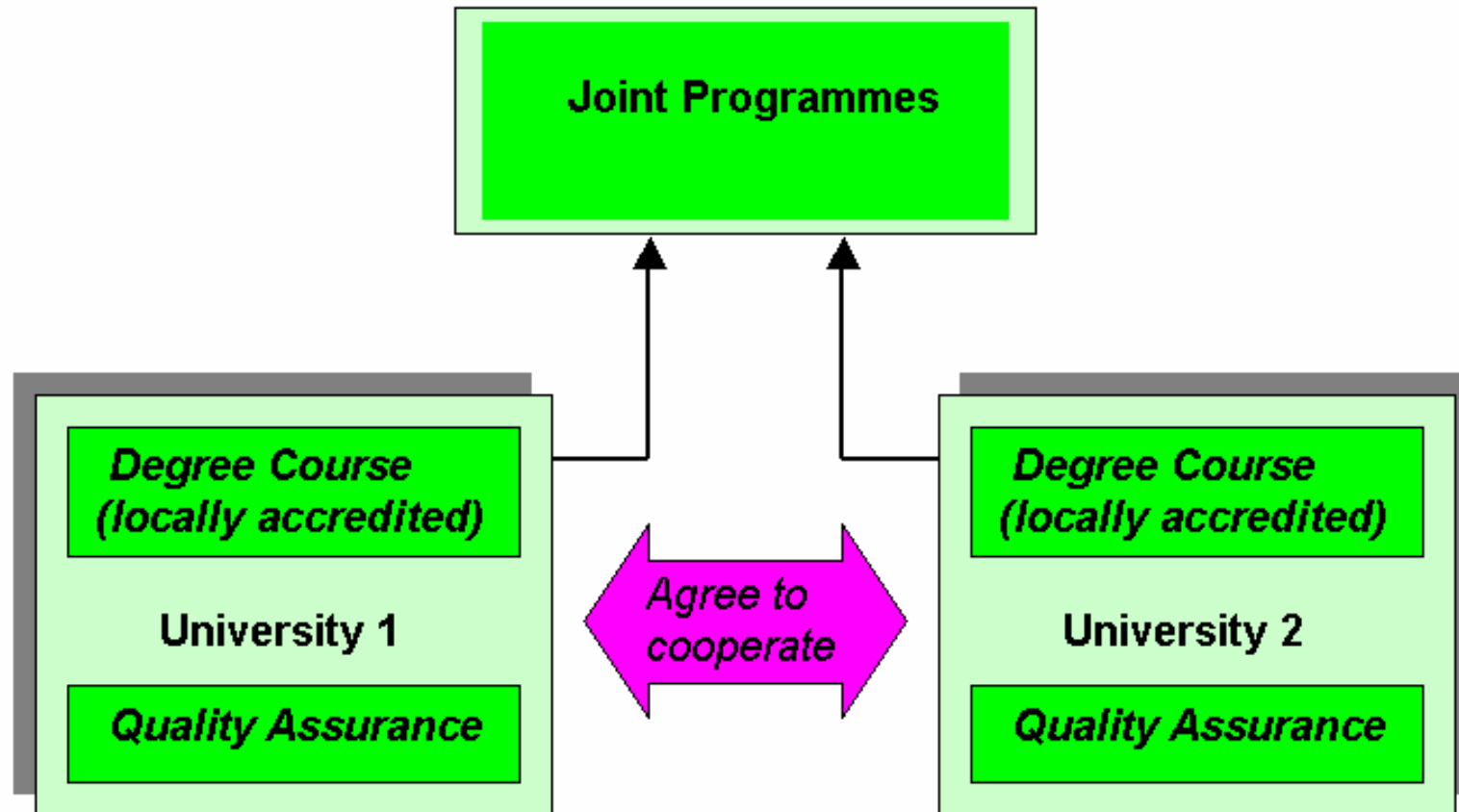
- **Accreditation**
 - Evaluation of national quality standards in engineering education
- **Quality Culture between Partners**
 - Mutual acceptance, identification of commonalities (common goals – indicators – quality measures)
- **Evaluation**
 - Agreement on procedures
 - Comparison of educational goals and understanding of engineering profession

Outcome & Quality Assurance



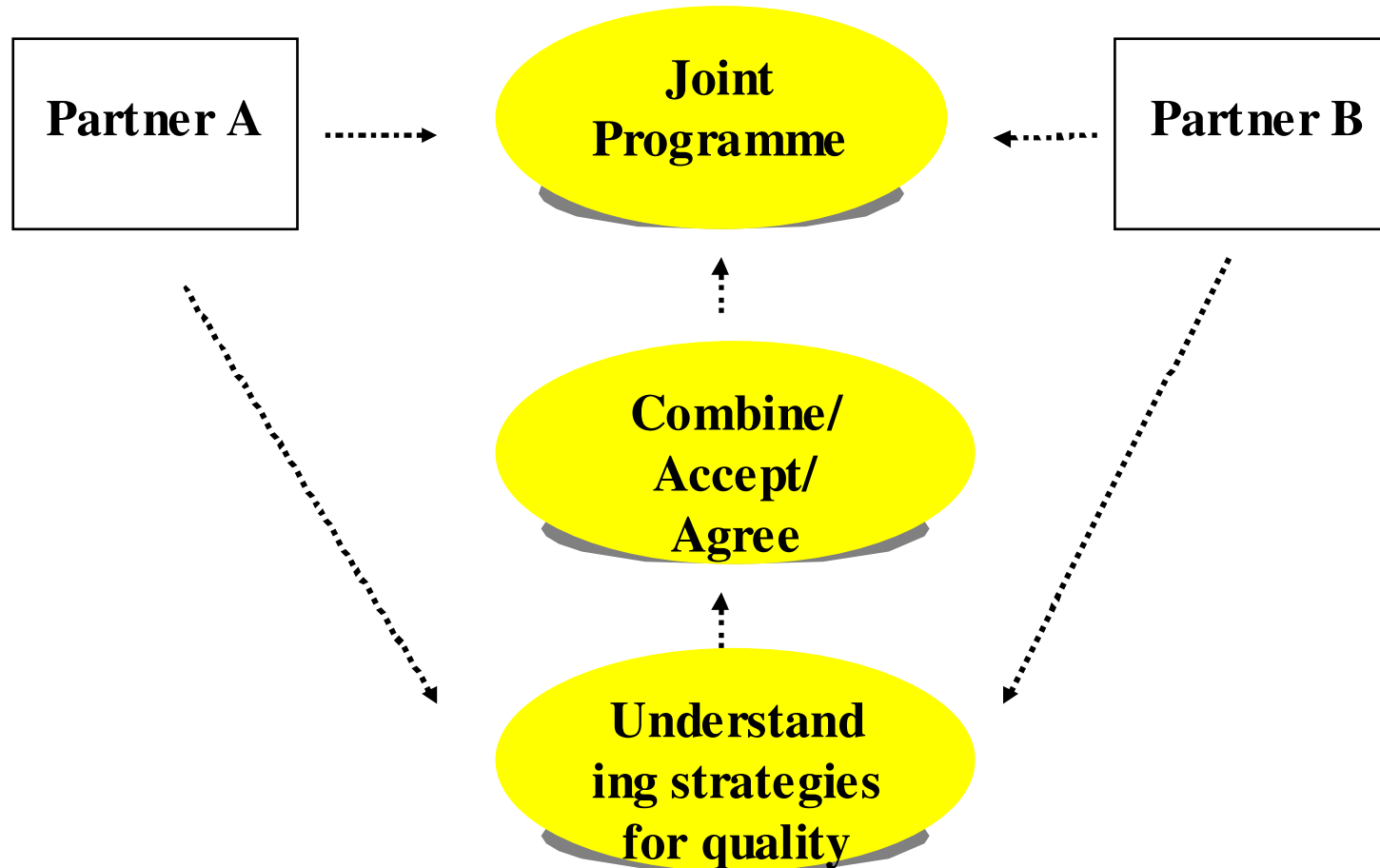
Schematic Procedure by Total Match in Quality Assurance

Outcome & Quality Assurance



Cooperation Based on Mutual Trust on the Level of Quality Assured

Outcome & QA: Negotiation of a Common Quality Culture



Outcome & QA: Quality measures according to goals (1/2)

Goals	Indicators	Quality measures
Attract appropriate students, e.g. top students	Numbers of applicants and students 'Quality' of applicants, new students, and graduates	Regular and formal evaluation and improvement of information policy towards prospective students Surveys to find out about student motivation to apply for degree Surveys on student satisfaction
Increased reputation of institute/ university	Increasing number of applicants Ability to raise funds	Information to internal or external press and periodicals
High-quality education and service/ counselling	Marks of students Low drop-out rates Short study duration Student satisfaction	Human Resource development offered to staff (service and teaching) Surveys on student satisfaction
High quality graduates	Marks of students Student accomplishments (awards, innovative thesis) Employability Additional competences of students developed due to speciality of Joint Programme Novelty of curriculum Curriculum regularly updated Transparency, easy to read and access documentation	Tracer studies Marketing of students to industry Survey on industry's expectations in respect to graduates

Outcome & QA: Quality measures according to goals (2/2)

Goals	Indicators	Quality measures
Implementation, intensification and extension of alliances of institutions of higher education	Number of international projects Overall financial volume of international projects Income earned due to international projects	Evaluation of international activities/ co-operation
International alumni activities	Number of active alumni Results of alumni activity (e.g. new or intensified (international) co-operation)	Alumni surveys Subscription of alumni to offers
Innovation	Novelty and special characteristic of programme Special accomplishments (e.g. awards for innovative work for students and programme) Positive feedback from industry and other parties	Develop support structures for innovation Monitor accomplishments and feedback
Human resource development	New competences earned (e.g. language skills, intercultural competences)	Human resource development offers Monitor specific needs of staff for competence development due to specific demands of a Joint Programme
To share experience	Development of routine strategies (e.g. guidelines) to co-operate with partners from different contexts Increase in co-operation on different levels	Guidelines etc. developed
To share resources	Financial reports	Monitor economic benefit/ financial situation of co-operation

Outcome & QA: Synthesis and project results

1. Become aware of the **specific contexts of the partner institutions**, the resulting benefits but also the obstacles.
2. Partners have to define **clear goals as definition of the benefits** and also as basis for a common Quality Culture for the Joint Programme.
3. **Indicators of success** are defined according to the goals of the programme for defining **quality measures** to implement and monitor the quality of the Joint Programme.

Outcome & QA: Key Factors for Success and Sustainable Development

Balancing positive and negative aspects, not a single one of the following general goals must be deficient as to the added value:

- 1. Academic goals,**
- 2. Vocational goals,**
- 3. Economic goals,**
- 4. Cultural goals.**