

Need for stronger European QA

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Observations (1)

- 1. QA has very different purposes:**
- 2. Control by national governments for *accountability reasons* explains largely limited EU dimension in QA**
- 3. However, increasing *global competitive* HE should stimulate governments, institutions, agencies to have stronger EU focus**



Observations (2)

- **Quality is indeed the first responsibility of institutions themselves (see EUA Report)**
- **Good examples of internationally active HEI's with strong quality culture**
- **However, still vast majority of HEI's who do not pay enough attention to the changing international context**



Better guidance needed on the European/international dimension



Conclusions (1)

- **Therefore the Commission thinks extra effort and guidance is needed to strengthen the EU-dimension**
- **Thereby agreeing with EUA that diversity and different national contexts should be taken into account, but it should not be used as false argument hindering progress at EU level**



Conclusions (2)

- **Commission is facilitating**
- **Progress Report on QA in HE (2009):**
 - 1. make QA system more transparent and comparable at national and EU level*
 - 2. make ESG's more coherent with Bologna tools and objectives (mobility)*
 - 3. Clear principles cross-border education, EU quality labels*



Conclusions (3)

- **Revision of ESG's is needed: they are too generic to create European dimension**
- **Most national QA systems lack clear criteria on mobility/internationalisation**
- **ESG's are important tool EQAR for fullfilling its mission**
- **Mapping exercise and evaluation ESG's**



More ambition needed, before EU loses its position and QA will be replaced by rankings: QA one of EU flagships

