

FACTORY FIBAA CONSULT



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The “European Approach” for the Accreditation of Joint Programmes

In order to facilitate the quality assurance of joint programmes, the European Ministers of Education have adopted the [European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#) at the [2015 Ministerial Conference in Yerevan](#). The approach is based on the procedural steps and assessment criteria agreed on in the European Standards and Guidelines ([ESG](#)).

What are joint programmes?

Study programmes that are offered by at least two higher education institutions in different countries are called joint programmes. The study period is therefore always spent in at least two different localities, which qualifies student mobility as a major characteristic of joint programmes. Graduates receive either one degree awarded together by both institutions (joint degree), or they receive two or more degrees (double degree/multiple degree).

Implementation of the “European Approach” by FIBAA

Since the Yerevan Conference in 2015, agencies can apply the “European Approach” in accreditation procedures of joint programmes with a common degree (joint degree). A major change and advantage to the previous proceedings is hereby that specific national regulations take a backseat to the criteria and procedures of the ESG, which form the basis of the accreditation. The “European Approach” defines *“Standards and the Procedure for External Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in the EHEA, that mostly refer to the ESG. Agencies that want to apply the “European Approach” need to be included into the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education”* (egar).

Programme Accreditation of a Joint Programme

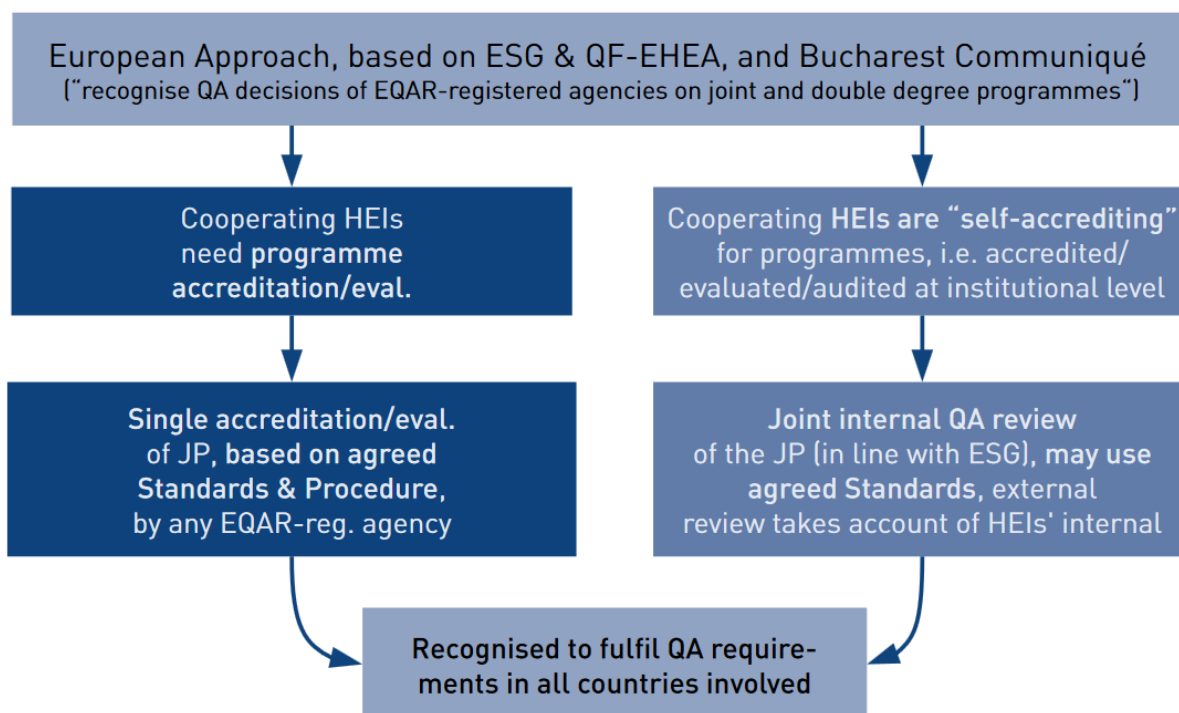
If some of the cooperating higher education institutions require external quality assurance at programme level (e.g. programme accreditation is mandatory), then the cooperating institutions can select FIBAA who is on the list of EQAR-registered agencies.

There are two prerequisites for the European Approach.

1. The national government of the cooperating institutions must have adapted the legal frameworks to the use of the European Approach or accept the decision of an EQAR-registered agency.
2. Institutions that offer a joint programme have to be recognised as higher education institutions by the relevant authorities of their countries. Their respective national legal frameworks should enable them to participate in a joint programme and, if applicable, to award a joint degree. The institutions awarding the degree(s) should ensure that the degree(s) belong to the higher education degree systems of the countries in which they are based.

Graphic Representation

This graph by eqar¹ illustrates the “European Approach.”



The “European Approach” outside Europe

The European Approach may also be used for joint programmes that are offered by higher education institutions from both within and outside the EHEA. Involved institutions from non-EHEA countries are encouraged to inquire whether their national authorities would accept

¹ Tück. Presentation 7 July 2014, ENIC-NARIC Joint Annual Meeting, Rome.

<http://www.slideshare.net/ColinTck/p-140707-enicnariceuropeanapproachjointprogrammes>. last access: 30/06/2016.

the Standards of the European Approach and be able to recognise the decision of an EQAR-registered agency, if applicable.

Support by FIBAA

If you engage FIBAA, our offer may contain that we communicate with your respective ministries/authorities or quality assurance agencies to coordinate and check the way of handling and the necessities for the recognition of the joint programme.

If the European Approach can be applied FIBAA would be pleased to carry out the accreditation. Then FIBAA will use the Standards and the Procedure described in the “European Approach” to carry out a single accreditation of the entire joint programme. The result is to be accepted in all EHEA countries. Dependent on the national legal framework, the external quality assurance decision should come into force or be recognised in all countries in which the programme is offered.

Feel free to contact us, we are happy to advise you!

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