



Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de Catalunya

www.aqu.cat

Student involvement in QA in Catalonia

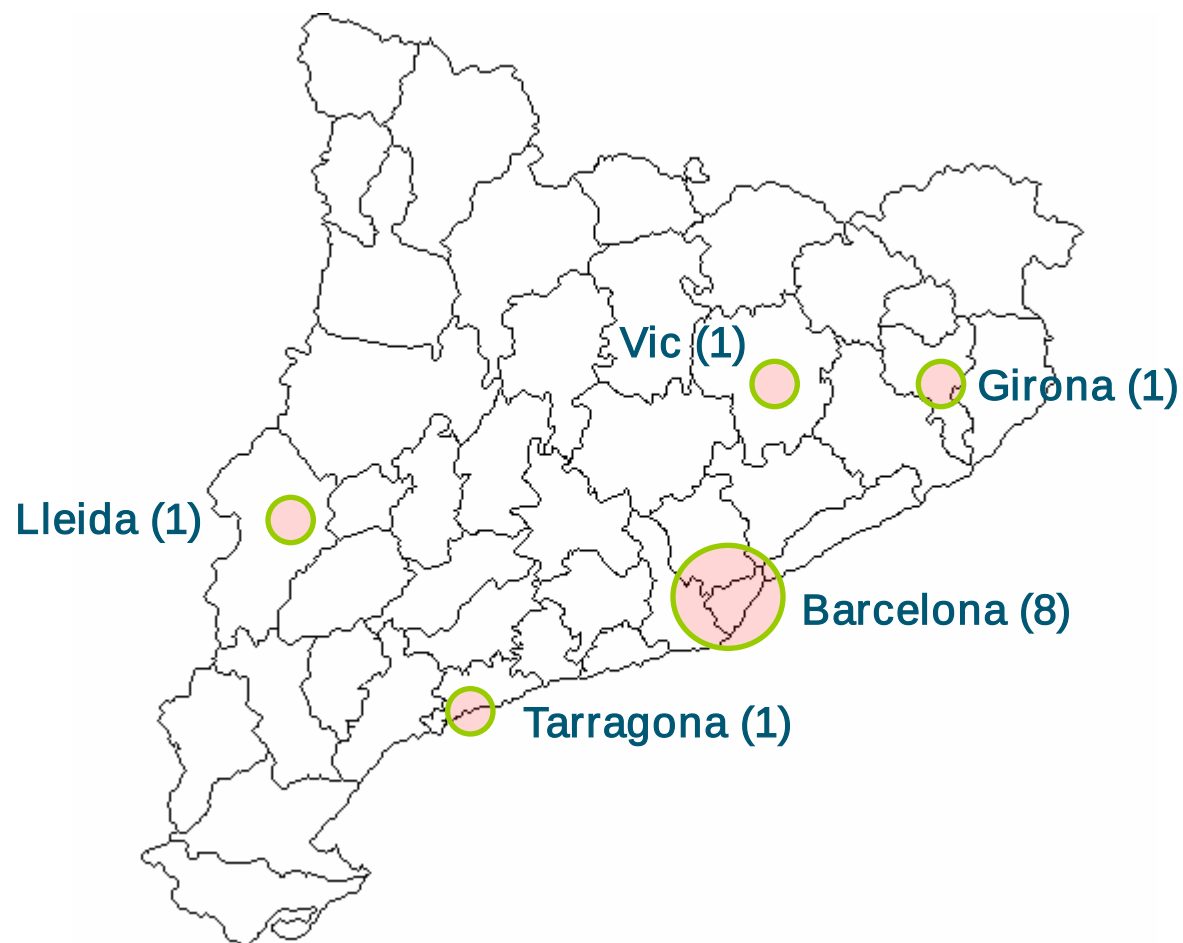
ALBERT BASART. PROJECT MANAGER, AQU CATALUNYA

COPENHAGEN, 20th NOVEMBER 2009



CONTEXT: CATALAN HE SYSTEM

CATALONIA (12 UNIVERSITIES)



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- Catalan Universities Act:
[Law 1/2003, of 19 February, concerning the universities in Catalonia](#)
This expanded on the Government of Catalonia's powers recognised under articles 15 and 9.7 of the Statute of Autonomy for Catalonia, with regard to education and research.

- Spanish Universities Act:
[Law 6/2001, of 21 December, concerning Universities](#)
This set out the basic university regulations structured according to the powers corresponding to the Universities, the regional Autonomous Communities and the Spanish General State Administration.

CONTEXT: CATALAN HE SYSTEM

HOW THE CONTEXT AFFECTS THE PROJECT “STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN QA”

CONTEXT: CATALAN HE SYSTEM

Opportunities:

- The **small number of institutions** allows AQU to maintain a close relation with them
- The **legal framework** supports and encourages students participation in university life

CONTEXT: CATALAN HE SYSTEM

Barriers:

- The current **student representative bodies** are not co-ordinated to have a single voice
- **Critical view of the Bologna Process** adds difficulties in the dialog with the students

CHALLENGE

In 2005: A multidisciplinary group of experts discussed the best way to provide university students with the skills and knowledge to gain maximum benefit from their involvement in the QA processes

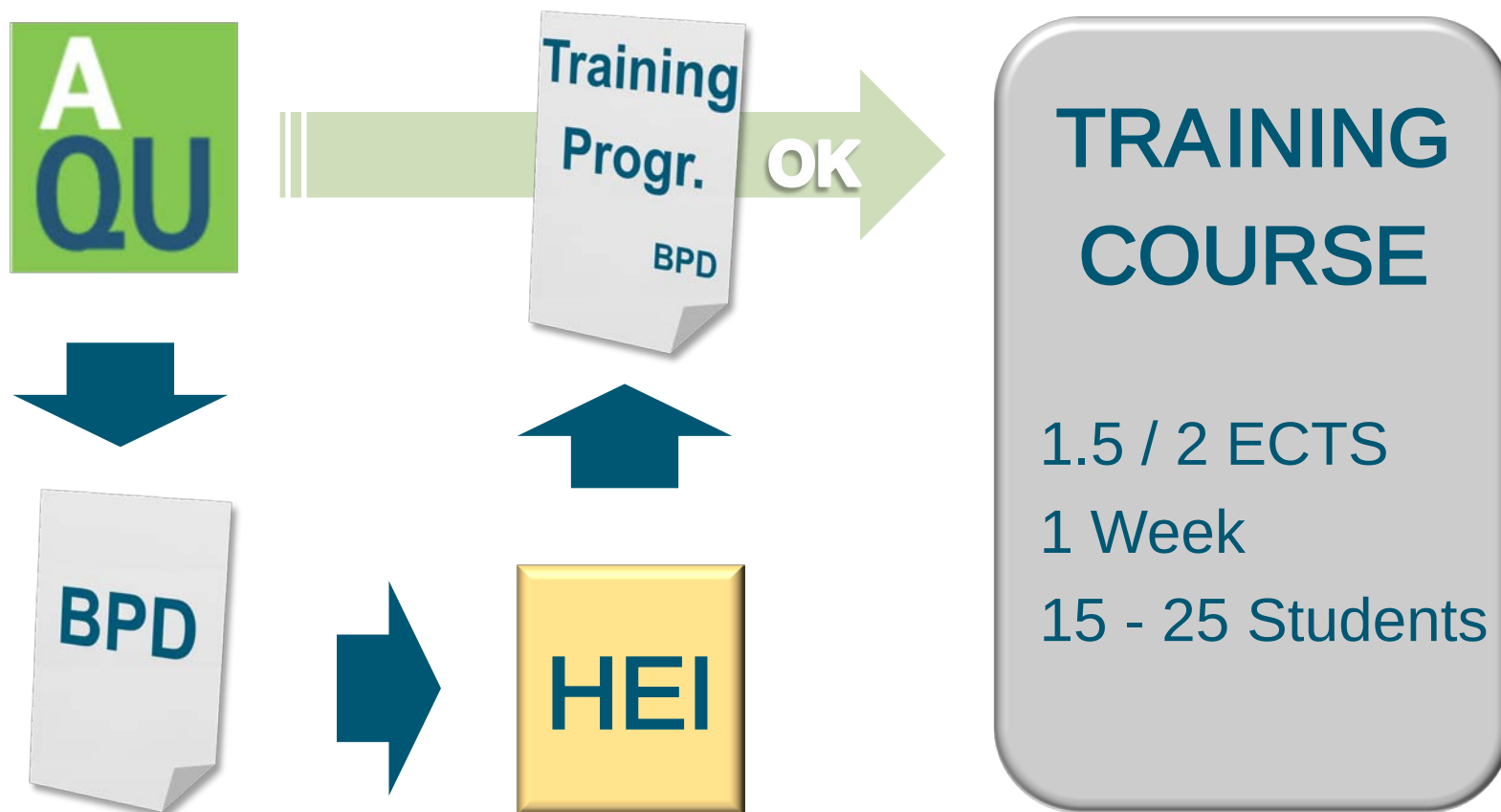
The conclusion was that **having a significant number of students being aware of quality assurance and evaluations is beneficial to the internal and external QA**

CHALLENGE

BUT!

- A previous and specialised training for the students is required, separate from the mandatory formation of experts before any evaluation
- The Agency can not count on adequate infrastructure to offer courses to a significant number of students

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT



AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT

BASIC PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT



Topics:

- The characteristics and implementation of the EHEA
- The methods to evaluate quality in HE
- The external institutional and programme review procedures
- The university's internal quality assurance systems

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT



BASIC PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT

Learning outcomes:

- Capacity to analyse the context.
- Capacity to work within a panel of experts.
- Capacity to make judgements about EHEA developments.

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT

Benefits for Students

- Consolidate their understanding of QA and enable them to participate in a panel of experts
- Obtain 1.5 / 2 ECTS, together with a certificate from the Agency recognizing the training's compliance with the European quality framework

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT

Benefits for the Institutions

- Extension of QA culture within the student community
- Obtain a group of students capable of and interested in participating in internal QA processes

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT

Benefits for AQU Catalunya

- Obtain a pool with a significant number of students who are ready to participate in evaluation processes
- Improves its QA processes by involving stakeholders in quality evaluations

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT

The project, started in 2005, is at the moment a consolidated programme within the AQU Annual Planning of Activities

- In 2009 AQU signed agreements with 5 institutions
- Project numbers 2005 - 2009:
 - 9 editions of the course
 - 5 universities implemented the course
 - 180 students trained

AQU CATALUNYA TRAINING PROJECT

Most important:

- AQU Catalunya have been appointing students in external panels since 2005
- High level of satisfaction among stakeholders



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La qualitat, garantia de millora.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

DEBATE

Key issues still to be discussed:

- What are the best criteria for selecting students for external QA processes?
- How can the role of the student on review committees be empowered?
- How can the students' interest in QA be increased?