

The Impact of QA: an introduction to the ENQA Working Group.

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Annual ENQA Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Seminar "Assessing impact –
Using external reviews and evaluations for internal learning"

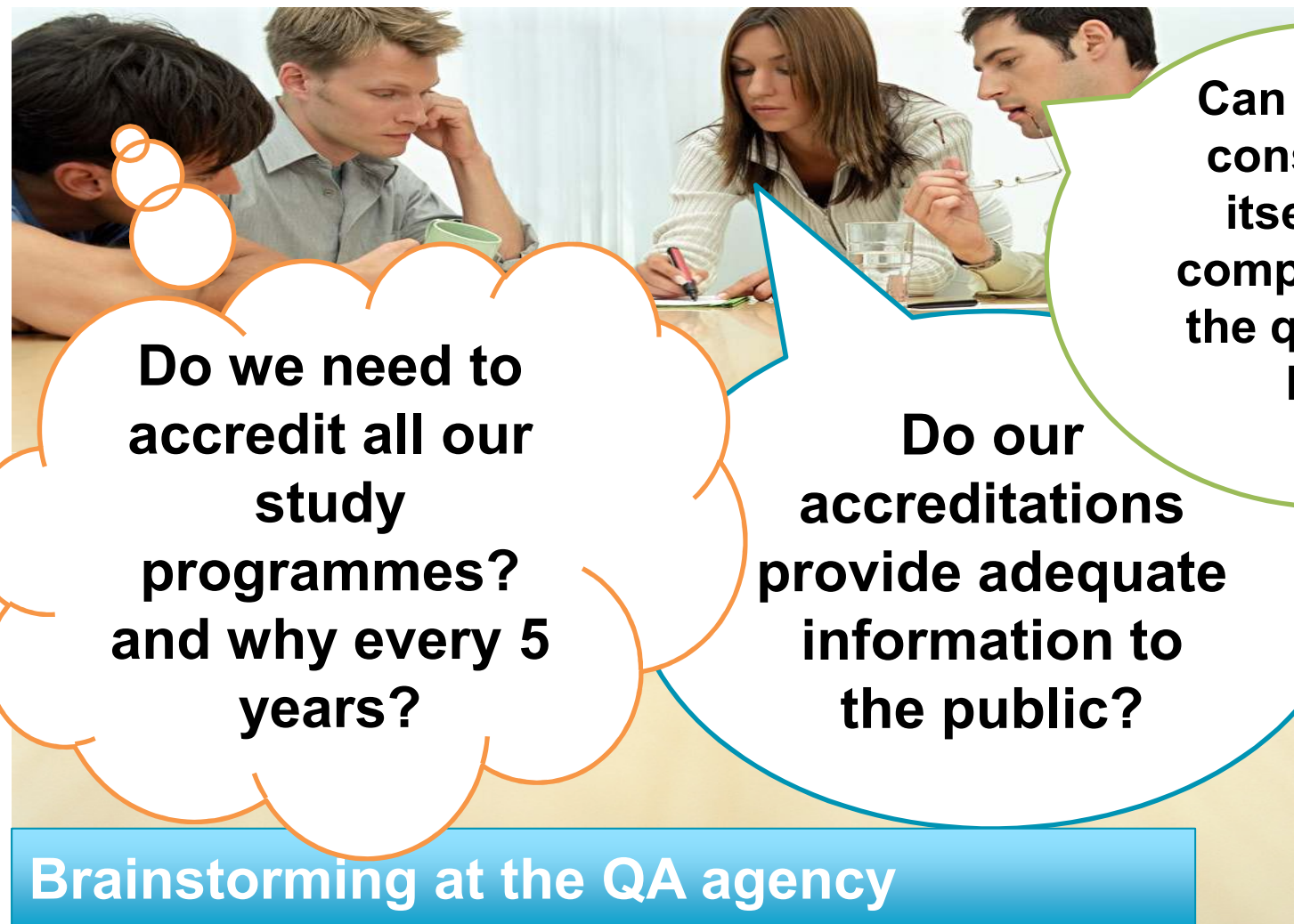
Valladolid, June 2012

Debate at the QA agency

**Are we using
the best EQA
strategy?**

**Is the
current EQA
taking up
much time?**

**Is our national
EQA compatible
with growing
competition and
globalisation in
HE?**




**Do we need to
accredit all our
study
programmes?
and why every 5
years?**

**Do our
accreditations
provide adequate
information to
the public?**

**Can EQA be
considered
itself as a
component of
the quality of
HE?**

Brainstorming at the QA agency



Do we have expected impacts for EQA?

Do our public funds need to be connected with EQA results? And how?

Is EQA improving the efficacy and efficiency of our HEIs?

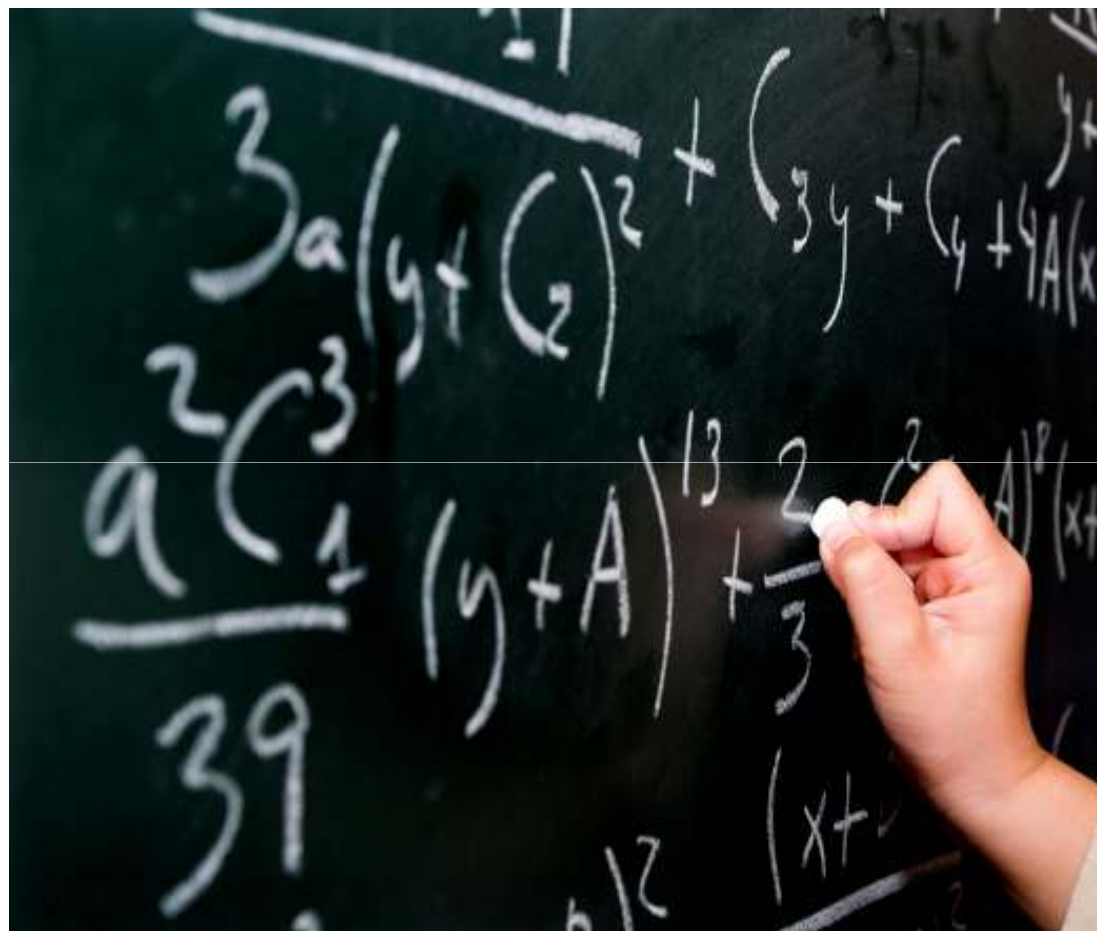
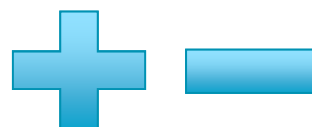
To what extent EQA is facilitating international mobility of students?

Reflections of decision-makers

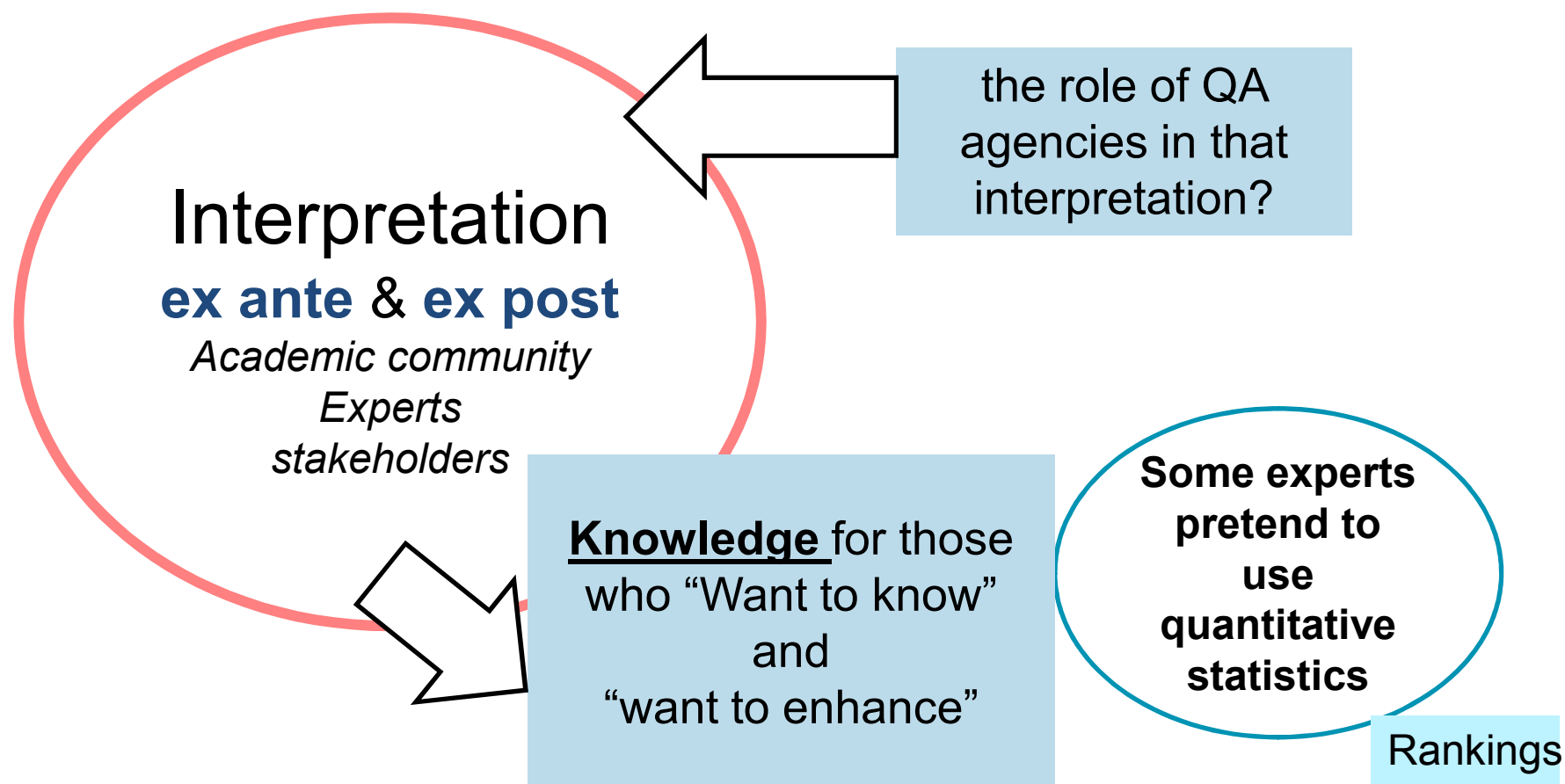
The essence behind all those questions



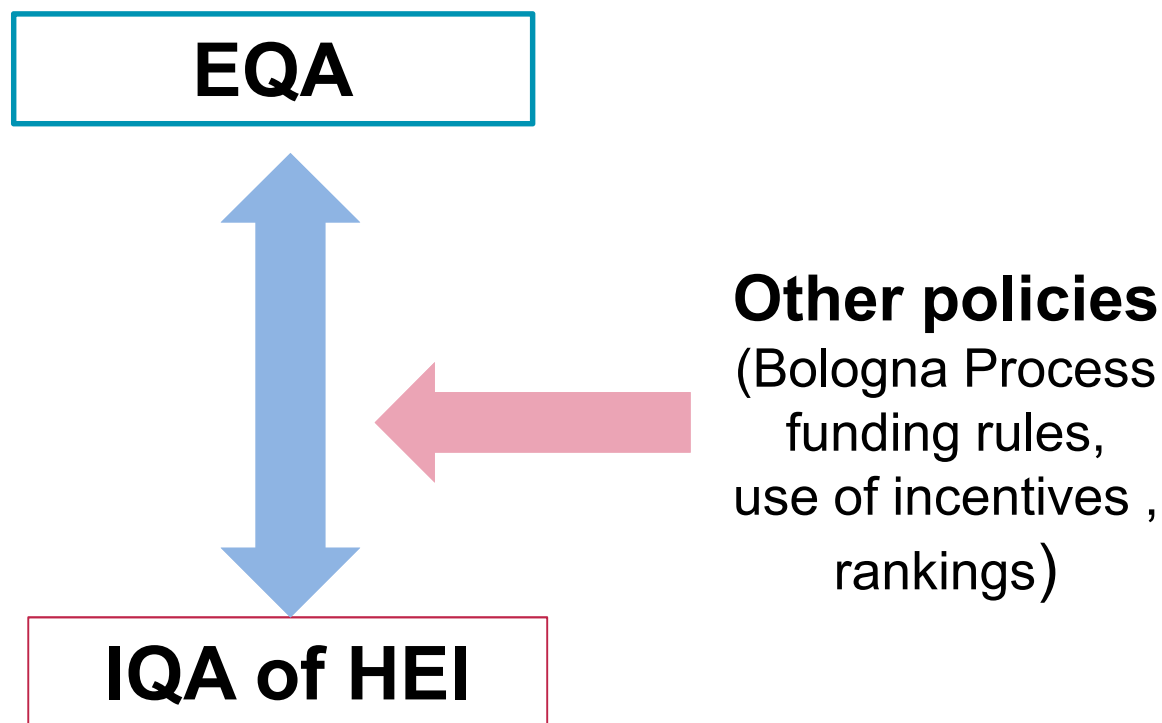
Impact of QA?.... on the quality of HE



Interpreting the concept of quality?



Generators of impact



What EQA's carry out?

- Checking units operating above threshold standards,
- Preventing inadequate institutions (gatekeeper)
- Helping institutions to improve (capacity building)
- Holding institutions to be accountable (achieving mission)
- Accountable for the use of funds
- Advice to the government
- Programmes that satisfy national specifications
- Establishing international relations

(D. Woodhouse, 2011)

Cost-benefit analysis: Investment



Resources

- Expertise (staff & reviewers)
- Methodologies
- Financial resources
- Contributions from HE institutions (implementation of QA)

Cost-benefit analysis: production



Production

- EQA operations (number, type, frequency)
- Promotion of IQA operations
- Training activities
- Recommendations and commendations in the reports
- International links

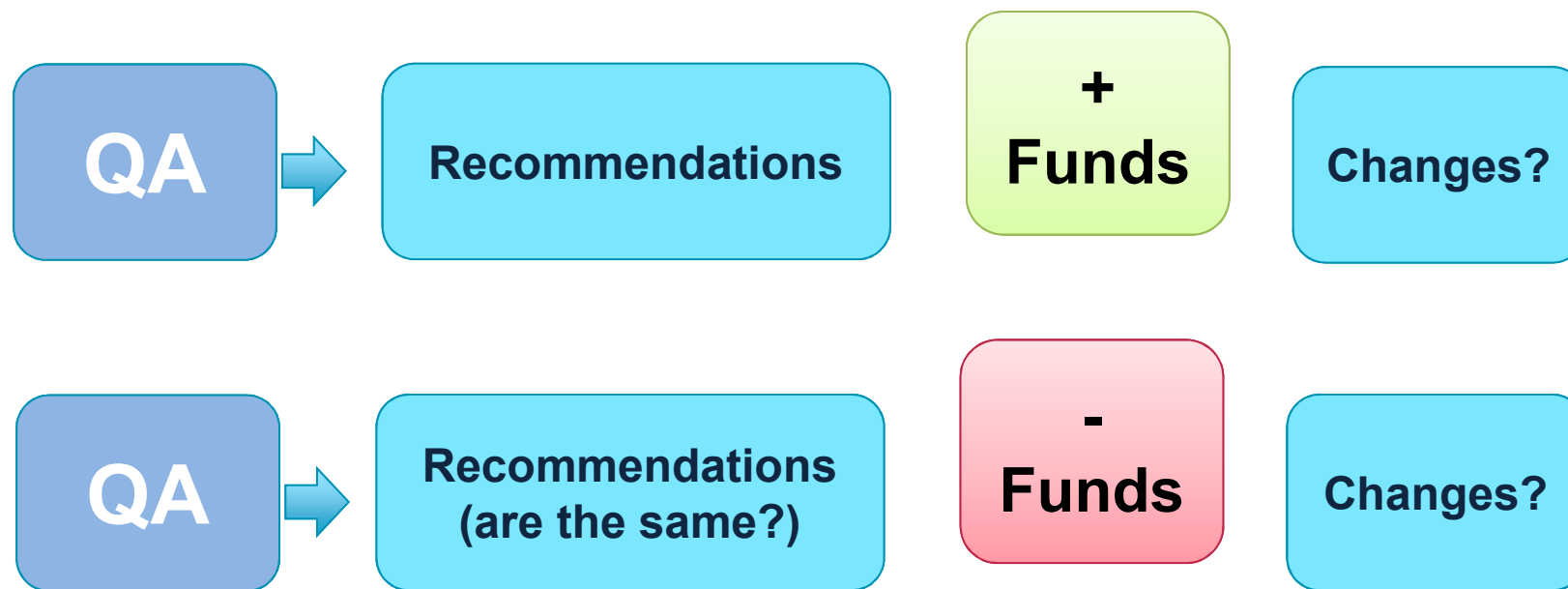
Cost-benefit analysis: results



Examples:

- Readers and users of results of QA?
- Implementation of recommendations
- EQA results and evolution of KPI
- Improving efficacy internal QA in HE
- Satisfaction of users and stakeholders about QA

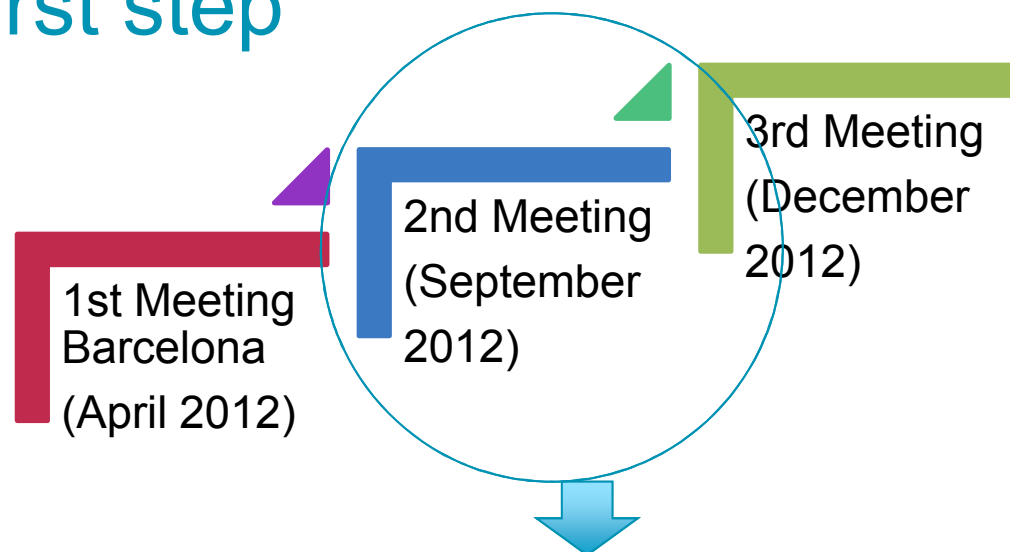
Impact and the context



Areas of impact

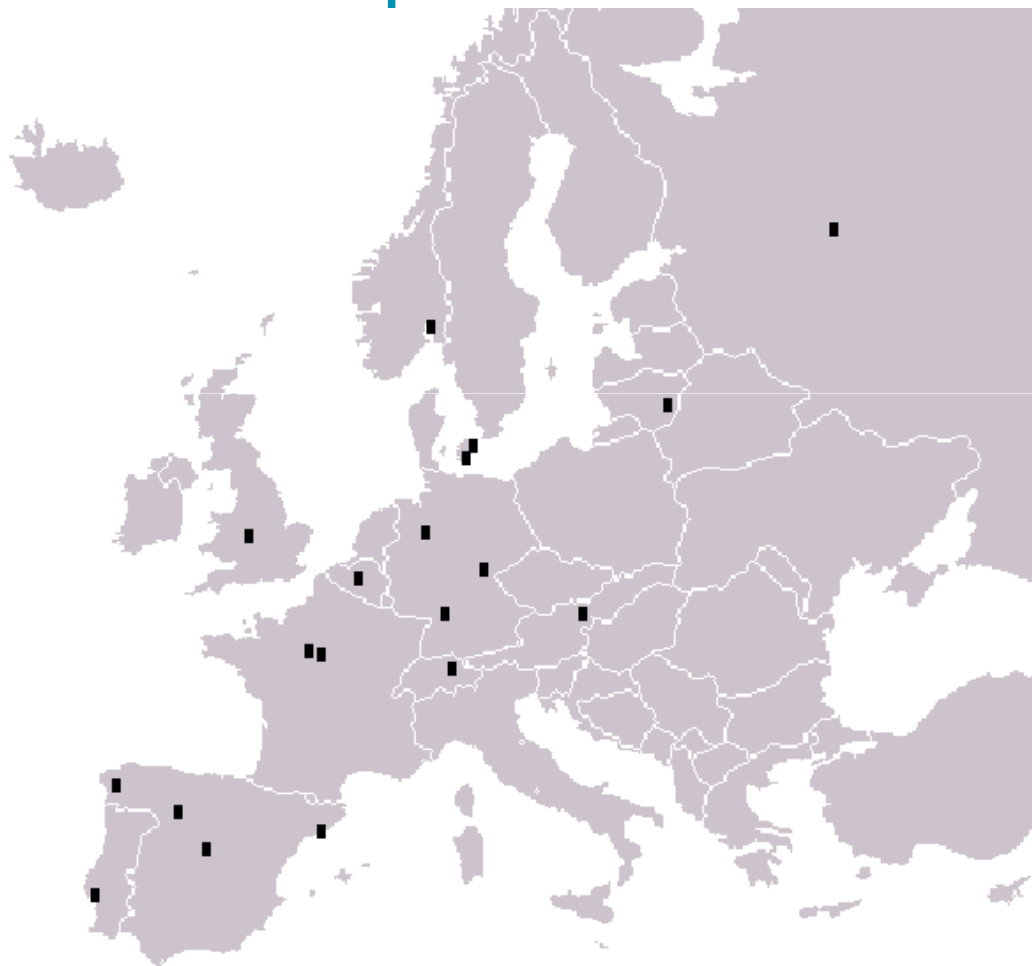
- QA and European dimension of HE?
- QA and improvement of national HE systems?
- QA and better management of HE institutions?
- QA and the quality of educational processes?
- QA and risk management?
(weak “products” are not accepted in the system)
- Information policies of QA and public confidence

First step



1. Inventory of practices to measure impact of EQA
2. Reasons to change/adapt EQA methodology and impact?
3. Possible strategies to measure impact at different levels

The ENQA WG on Impact of QA for HE





Thank you!

