



Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de **Catalunya**

Results

How new study programmes are assessed and recognised in the European Higher Education Area

Barcelona, 21 May 2007

Summary

Introduction.....	3
Results.....	4
1. In your geographical area/country, do new study programmes have to pass an <i>ex ante</i> assessment?.....	4
2. Taking into consideration that all proposals for new study programmes (EHEA) have to be internally assessed by the universities, which external body have the responsibility of assessing or accrediting proposals <i>ex ante</i> ?.....	6
3. Which of the listed elements are included in the <i>ex ante</i> assessments?	8
4. How much time is required to carry out an <i>ex ante</i> assessment?	10
5. Participation and profile of external experts in <i>ex ante</i> assessments of new degrees:.....	11
6. Are the results of the <i>ex ante</i> assessment made public?	15
7. Is the Quality Assurance Agency monitoring the implementation of new degrees?	18
8. Is there any <i>ex post</i> assessment in place?.....	19
9. If so, which bodies are responsible for conducting the <i>ex post</i> assessment of study programmes?	20
10. According to the legal framework, which body is ultimately responsible for making public the quality (recognition) of the study programme?	22
Annex 1: Agencies consulted.....	31
Full members	31
Candidate members	33

Introduction

AQU Catalunya carried out an analysis of assessment mechanisms being implemented in Europe to assure the quality of university programmes. The questionnaire was sent to full and candidate members of ENQA.

We received 27 answers, that represent 20 countries:

Austria: AAC, FHR, AQA*

Belgium: VLIR, AEQES*

Bulgaria: NEAA*

Cyprus: CEEA

Czech Republic: ACGCR

Denmark: EVA

Estonia: EHEQAC

Finland: FINEEC

France: CTI, IGAENR*

Germany: AC, ACQUIN

Hungary: HAC

Ireland: HEA

Italy: CNVSU

The Netherlands: NVAO

Norway: NOKUT

Russia: NAA*

Spain: ANECA, AQU Catalunya, AGAE

Sweden: NAHE

Switzerland: OAQ

United Kingdom: QAA

NOTE: the agencies with * mark, are ENQA candidate members

Results

1. In your geographical area/country, do new study programmes have to pass an ex ante assessment?

A. Results

1. Do new study programmes have to pass an ex ante assessment?

Country	Agency	Yes	No
Austria	AAC	X	
	FHR	X	
	AQA*		X
Belgium	VLIR	X	
	AEQES*	X	
Bulgaria	NEAA*	X	
Cyprus	CEEA	X	
Czech Republic	ACGCR	X	
Denmark	EVA		X
Estonia	EHEQAC	X	
Finland	FINHEEC	X	
France	CTI	X	
	IGAENR*	X	
Germany	AC	X	X
	ACQUIN	X	
Hungary	HAC	X	
Ireland	HEA		X
Italy	CNVSU	X	
Norway	NOKUT	X	
Russia	NAA*	X	
Spain	ANECA	X	
	AQU Catalunya	X	
	AGAE	X	
Sweden	NAHE	X	
Switzerland	OAQ		X
The Netherlands	NVAO	X	
United Kingdom	QAA		X
		22	6

B. Comments

Germany, AC:

If ex ante assessment is obligatory or not depends on the higher education act of the relevant federal state ("Land"). In some "Länder" a study programme can only start after accreditation (ex ante accreditation obligatory), in other "Länder" state approval of the programme is given before accreditation on condition that accreditation is carried out in a certain time limit.

Switzerland, OAQ:

It is not obligatory for new programmes to pass an external ex ante assessment. The launch of new programmes resides within the responsibility of the institution itself. The institution, however, must be legally recognised. Legal recognition implies in some cases an external evaluation, which might result in an ex ante OAQ accreditation for new private institution.

2. Taking into consideration that all proposals for new study programmes (EHEA) have to be internally assessed by the universities, which external body have the responsibility of assessing or accrediting proposals ex ante?

A. Results

2. Which external body have the responsibility of assessing or accrediting proposals ex ante?

Country	Agency	QA Agency	Ministry/ government authority	Other body
Austria	AAC	X		
	FHR	X		
Austria	AQA*			
Belgium	VLIR			X
	AEQES*		X	X
Bulgaria	NEAA*	X		
Cyprus	CEEA			X
Czech Republic	ACGCR	X		
Denmark	EVA			
Estonia	EHEQAC		X	
Finland	FINHEEC		X	
France	CTI	X		
	IGAENR*	X		
Germany	AC	X		
	ACQUIN	X		
Hungary	HAC	X		
Ireland	HEA			
Italy	CNVSU		X	
Norway	NOKUT	X		
Russia	NAA*		X	
Spain	ANECA	X	X	
	AQU Catalunya	X	X	
	AGAE	X		
Sweden	NAHE	X		
Switzerland	OAQ			
The Netherlands	NVAO	X		
United Kingdom	QAA			
		15	7	3

B. Comments

Austria, FHR:

The final decision is taken by the FH Council and requires the approval of the Federal Minister for Science and Research. The FH Council's decision can be denied if the decision of the FH Council does not correspond with the goals of the national educational policy. However, the Ministry must not instruct the members of the FH Council to approve a specific program.

Germany, AC:

In most of the "Länder" accreditation is conditional for state approval of the programme, in some "Länder" state approval is no longer necessary.

Ireland, HEA:

Irish universities, being autonomous in law, are responsible for their own awards. As such, there is no universal requirement for EXTERNAL ex ante accreditation of new programmes. Irish universities, similar to the UK, have many of their awards externally accredited, however, by accreditation bodies in the practice professions such as Nursing, Human Medicine, Engineering, Architecture etc. These accreditations are primarily, however, for licensing for practice or for permission to use professional titles etc. or for admission to professional bodies.

Spain, ANECA:

The decision on the matter the Agencies of the Autonomous Community are going to participated in this process is pending.

3. Which of the listed elements are included in the ex ante assessments?

The elements asked were:

- a) Legal requirements
- b) Elements that justify implementation of the proposal
- c) Sustainability of the programme
- d) Formulation of learning outcomes
- e) Academic level of the programme
- f) Procedures and requirements for students selection
- g) Courses and subjects
- h) Teaching and learning methods of the programme
- i) Assessment of student progress
- j) Teaching staff
- k) Management issues
- l) Quality assurance
- m) Student protection

A. Results

3. Elements included in the ex ante assessments

Country	Agency	a) Legal requirements	b) Elements that justify implementation of	c) Sustainability of the programme	d) Formulation of learning outcomes	e) Academic level of the programme	f) Procedures and requirements for students selection	g) Courses and subjects	h) Teaching and learning methods of the programme	i) Assessment of student progress	j) Teaching staff	k) Management issues	l) Quality assurance	m) Student protection
Austria	AAC	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	FHR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	AQA*													
Belgium	VLIR	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	
	AEQES*	X	X	X		X		X						
Bulgaria	NEAA*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cyprus	CEEA	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Czech Republic	ACGCR				X	X		X	X		X			
Denmark	EVA													
Estonia	EHEQAC	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Finland	FINHEEC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	CTI	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
France	IGAENR*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
	AC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Germany	ACQUIN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hungary	HAC	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Ireland	HEA													
Italy	CNVSU	X	X	X			X	X			X			
Norway	NOKUT	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Russia	NAA*	X				X			X		X			
Spain	ANECA	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
	AQU Catalunya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	AGAE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sweden	NAHE	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Switzerland	OAQ													
The Netherlands	NVAO	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
United Kingdom	QAA													
		21	16	16	19	21	16	19	16	14	21	16	17	11

4. How much time is required to carry out an ex ante assessment?

A. Results

4. How much time is required to carry out an ex ante assessment?

Country	Agency	1 month	2 months	3 months	6 months	More than 6 months
Austria	AAC					X
	FHR					X
	AQA*					
Belgium	VLIR				X	
	AEQES*					
Bulgaria	NEAA*			X		
Cyprus	CEEA				X	
Czech Republic	ACGCR			X		
Denmark	EVA					
Estonia	EHEQAC	X			X	
Finland	FINHEEC			X		
France	CTI			X		
	IGAENR*					X
Germany	AC					X
	ACQUIN				X	
Hungary	HAC			X		
Ireland	HEA					
Italy	CNVSU				X	
Norway	NOKUT			X	X	X
Russia	NAA*		X			
Spain	ANECA					X
	AQU Catalunya			X		
	AGAE			X		
Sweden	NAHE				X	
Switzerland	OAQ					
The Netherlands	NVAO			X	X	
United Kingdom	QAA					
		1	1	9	8	6

5. Participation and profile of external experts in ex ante assessments of new degrees:

A. Results

5. Participation and profile of external experts in ex ante assessments of new degrees

Country	Agency	Experts work at individual level				Experts work in teams			
		1 expert	2 experts	3 experts	More than 3 experts	1 expert	2 experts	3 experts	More than 3 experts
Austria	AAC		X						
	FHR								
	AQA*								
Belgium	VLIR								
	AEQES*								
Bulgaria	NEAA*	X						X	
Cyprus	CEEA								X
Czech Republic	ACGCR	X							X
Denmark	EVA								
Estonia	EHEQAC							X	X
Finland	FINHEEC								X
France	CTI						X		
	IGAENR*				X				X
Germany	AC								X
	ACQUIN								X
Hungary	HAC				X				X
Ireland	HEA								
Italy	CNVSU								
Norway	NOKUT						X	X	
Russia	NAA*				X				
Spain	ANECA								X
	AQU Catalunya							X	
	AGAE							X	
Sweden	NAHE			X				X	
Switzerland	OAQ								
The Netherlands	NVAO							X	X
United Kingdom	QAA								
		2	1	1	3	0	2	7	10

B. Profile of experts

Austria, AAC:

AAC selects the experts according to the ECA Principles for the Selection of Experts (Dublin, June 2, 2005)

<http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/ECA%20Principles%20for%20the%20Selection%20of%20Experts.pdf>

Furthermore the AAC has to apply the rules of the General Administrative Procedures Act (AVG).

Austria, FHR:

In the course of initial accreditation there is no site-visit by an expert panel. The applications for initial-accreditation are examined by the members and the office of the FH Council. If there is no expertise in the FH Council written expert opinions are asked for. The decision on initial accreditation is carried out by the members of the FH Council themselves; they are expected to be experts in a broad variety of fields of studies. The accreditation procedure ends with a positive or negative decision, including a likely request by the FH Council to take certain measures to improve the quality of the programme.

Each re-accreditation requires a new application and the submission of an evaluation report. The evaluation procedures are carried out according to the evaluation regulations of the FH Council. The evaluation in the Austrian FH sector consists of an internal evaluation by the institution to be evaluated (self-evaluation), an external evaluation by a review team, a comment of the course-providing body on the review team's evaluation report, the acceptance and appraisal of the evaluation reports by the FH Council, follow-up procedure, the publication of the evaluation results (summary report).

The FH Council comprises X6 members, half of them comes from the university field and must be academically qualified and the other half of the members comes from business / industry

Bulgaria, NEAA*:

The team of experts is usually composed of lecturers from other universities. The students are also involved in the process of evaluation and prepare an independent report. International experts are occasionally involved.

Cyprus, CEEA:

Professors or Associate Professors that hold at least one phd and with evidence of extended experience in the field of study he/she is called upon to evaluate.

Czech Republic, ACGCR:

Professors from HEI, scientists from Academy of Science, representative of industry and foreign experts

Estonia, EHEQAC:

Depending on the field of studies.

Finland, FINHEEC:

Specialist civil servants..

France, CTI:

Members of the CTI, academic and professional.

France, IGAENR*:

Professors from other HEI appointed for this task.

Germany, AC:

Academic expertise, experience in accreditation procedures if possible

Germany, ACQUIN:

Representatives of Higher Education Institutions, labour Market and Students

Hungary, HAC:

2-3 external evaluators, discussion in subcommittee overseeing the given discipline, final vote at plenary.

Italy, CNVSU:

Ex ante evaluation is only based on quantitative requirements, hence an expert judgement is not required.

The Netherlands and Flanders, NVAO:

Academic subject-/disciplinary-specific expert(s), educational/pedagogical expert(s) and expert(s) from the professional field.

Norway, NOKUT:

Academics with background and experience from relevant subject field, and level. Beyond accreditation at BA-level, an expert committee will consist of minimum one member picked from a foreign institution of HE.

Russia, NAA*:

The representatives from (X) Ministry/government authorities, (2) educational institutions, (3) scientific institution, and also (4) certificated experts.

Spain, ANECA:

You can see the profile of experts in http://www.aneca.es/modal_eval/docs/posgrado_manual_0702X5.pdf (page X0).



Spain, AQU Catalunya:

Professors with academic experience in the same field of the proposals to be assessed, having also experience in managing and quality assurance methods. About 25% of the appointed experts in 2006 came from other University Systems. Teams report about the quality of the proposals to 5 different Commissions (Humanities, Social Sciences, Experimental Sciences, Health Sciences, and Technologies). Those Commissions composed by the leaders of each team address reports that are finally approved by the Quality Assessment Committee of AQU.

Spain, AGAE:

Professors of recognized prestige of the knowledge area. An external expert to the independent community. An internal expert to the community. Expert of the quality assurance agency (coordinator).

Sweden, NAHE

Subject experts

6. Are the results of the *ex ante* assessment made public?

A. Results

6. Are the results of the *ex ante* assessment made public?

Country	Agency	Yes	No
Austria	AAC	X	
	FHR	X	
	AQA*		
Belgium	VLIR		X
	AEQES*		X
Bulgaria	NEAA	X	
Cyprus	CEEA	X	X
Czech Republic	ACGCR	X	
Denmark	EVA		
Estonia	EHEQAC		X
Finland	FINHEEC	X	
France	CTI	X	
	IGAENR*		X
Germany	AC	X	
	ACQUIN	X	
Hungary	HAC	X	
Ireland	HEA		
Italy	CNVSU	X	
Norway	NOKUT	X	
Russia	NAA*		X
Spain	ANECA	X	
	AQU Catalunya	X	
	AGAE		X
Sweden	NAHE	X	
Switzerland	OAQ		
The Netherlands	NVAO	X	
United Kingdom	QAA		
		16	7

B. Comments

Austria: AAC

All initial accreditation procedures of the AAC are an ex ante accreditation and a list of all accredited private universities can be found at the website:

<http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/cont/en/privatuni.aspx>

Austria: FHR

There is a list of all the programmes who are sufficient on our website.

Bulgaria: NEAA*

All the results of the evaluation are made public through the web page of the Agency and also through the NEAA bulletin

Cyprus: CEEA

If they are positive they are published in the government newspaper (gazette)

Czech Republic: ACGCR

Report from session of Accreditation Commission - accessible at AC websites

Finland: FINHEEC

The Ministry of Education publishes the list of the recognised Master's programmes as an Decree on the Master's Programmes (X359/2006).

France: CTI

Monthly press release (AEF) of all decisions, negative and positive, Annual publication of all accreditations in validity.

Germany: AC

All accreditation results plus a summarizing assessment have to be published by the accreditation agencies.

Germany: ACQUIN

<http://www.acquin.org> and <http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de>

Hungary: HAC

All HAC decisions are published on website and gazette

Italy: CNVSU

As a result of ex ante assessment, university programmes acquire a label, indicated in the public BOFF database (Banca dati dell'offerta formativa).



The Netherlands: NVAO

The panel report, the initial accreditation report & decision and individual data are published on our website.

Norway: NOKUT

Please see enclosed Report from the Evaluation Committee on Master of Science in Political Economy at Handelshøyskolen BI.

Spain: ANECA

The Ministry made public the positive results of the assessment.

Spain: ANECA, AQU Catalunya

AQU reports (in its website) about the results of the ex ante evaluation (A list of those proposals getting a positive statement and the % of positive statements by university ,and academic area).

Sweden: NAHE

In a public decision by the Agency.

7. Is the Quality Assurance Agency monitoring the implementation of new degrees?

A. Results

7. Is the Quality Assurance Agency monitoring the implementation of new degrees

Country	Agency	Yes	No
Austria	AAC	X	
	FHR	X	
	AQA*		
Belgium	VLIR		X
	AEQES*		X
Bulgaria	NEAA*	X	
Cyprus	CEEA	X	
Czech Republic	ACGCR	X	
Denmark	EVA		
Estonia	EHEQAC		X
Finland	FINHEEC		X
France	CTI		X
	IGAENR*		X
Germany	AC		X
	ACQUIN		X
Hungary	HAC	X	
Ireland	HEA		
Italy	CNVSU	X	
Norway	NOKUT		X
Russia	NAA*	X	
Spain	ANECA		X
	AQU Catalunya		X
	AGAE		X
Sweden	NAHE	X	
Switzerland	OAQ		
The Netherlands	NVAO		
United Kingdom	QAA		
		9	12

8. Is there any ex post assessment in place?

A. Results

8. Is there any ex post assessment in place

Country	Agency	Yes	No
Austria	AAC	X	
	FHR	X	
	AQA*	X	
Belgium	VLIR	X	
	AEQES*	X	
Bulgaria	NEAA*	X	
Cyprus	CEEA	X	
Czech Republic	ACGCR	X	
Denmark	EVA	X	
Estonia	EHEQAC	X	
Finland	FINHEEC	X	
France	CTI	X	
	IGAENR*	X	
Germany	AC	X	
	ACQUIN	X	
Hungary	HAC	X	
Ireland	HEA	X	
Italy	CNVSU		X
Norway	NOKUT	X	
Russia	NAA*	X	
Spain	ANECA	(1)	
	AQU Catalunya	(1)	
	AGAE	(1)	
Sweden	NAHE	X	
Switzerland	OAQ	X	
The Netherlands	NVAO	X	
United Kingdom	QAA	X	
		23	1

(1) It is pending to know which agent will do it.

9. If so, which bodies are responsible for conducting the ex post assessment of study programmes?

A. Results

9. If so, which bodies are responsible for conducting the ex post assessment of study programmes?

Country	Agency	The university itself	The QA agency	Ministry/ government authority	Other bodies
Austria	AAC		X		
	FHR		X		
	AQA*	X	X		
Belgium	VLIR		X		
	AEQES*		X		
Bulgaria	NEAA*		X		
Cyprus	CEEA				X
Czech Republic	ACGCR		X		
Denmark	EVA	X		X	
Estonia	EHEQAC	X	X	X	
Finland	FINHEEC	X			
France	CTI		X		
	IGAENR*		X		
Germany	AC		X		
	ACQUIN		X		
Hungary	HAC		X		
Ireland	HEA	X			
Italy	CNVSU				
Norway	NOKUT	X	X		
Russia	NAA*	X	X	X	
Spain	ANECA		(1)		
	AQU Catalunya		(1)		
	AGAE		(1)		
Sweden	NAHE		X		
Switzerland	OAQ	X	X	X	
The Netherlands	NVAO	X	X		
United Kingdom	QAA	X			
			10	18	4
					1

(1) It is pending to know which agent will do it.

B. Comments

Norway: NOKUT

The institution through its QASystem, NOKUT by the method of revision of accreditation, and indirect through cyclical audits.

Spain: AQU Catalunya

Legal framework requires an ex-post assessment for the new BaMA programmes. In principle QA agency might be a key agent on that.

Switzerland: OAQ

According to the kind of programme/discipline and to the method of assessment applied, different bodies can be responsible or involved. In principle, the external assessment of study programmes is not mandatory in Switzerland.

10. According to the legal framework, which body is ultimately responsible for making public the quality (recognition) of the study programme?

A. Results

10. Which body is ultimately responsible for making public the quality (recognition) of the study programme

Country	Agency	The university itself	The QA agency	Ministry/ government authority	Other bodies
Austria	AAC		X		
	FHR		X		
	AQA*	X			
Belgium	VLIR		X		
	AEQES*	X			
Bulgaria	NEAA*		X		
Cyprus	CEEA			X	
Czech Republic	ACGCR			X	
Denmark	EVA	X			
Estonia	EHEQAC		X	X	
Finland	FINHEEC	X			
France	CTI				
	IGAENR*	X			
Germany	AC		X		
	ACQUIN		X		X
Hungary	HAC		X		
Ireland	HEA	X			
Italy	CNVSU			X	
Norway	NOKUT	X	X		
Russia	NAA*	X		X	
Spain	ANECA			X	
	AQU Catalunya			X	
	AGAE			X	
Sweden	NAHE		X		
Switzerland	OAQ	X			
The Netherlands	NVAO		X		
United Kingdom	QAA	X			
		10	11	8	1

B. Comments

Germany: AC

The accreditation agencies have to publish the accreditation decisions

Hungary: HAC

HAC publishes quality decisions, the Ministry's Registration Centre registers, without which the programme cannot operate, and new programmes must be listed in the University Entrance Catalogue, overseen by the Ministry, to be open for enrollment.

Ireland: HEA

Under the (Irish) Universities Act (X997), each university is responsible for publishing the statutory periodic evaluations of the university's academic units. The quality of the study programmes for which the specific academic department has primary responsibility is included as part of the evaluations but these evaluations result in recommendations, not judgements and as such, the concept of recognition does not apply. Under section 49 of the act, the HEA may review the quality assurance procedures undertaken in the universities.

All Irish universities have agreed, in accordance with legislation (Qualification Act, X999) to place their (existing and new) awards within the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), a statutory framework based on learning outcomes, which was developed and is maintained by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). The Irish universities have also agreed [as part of the recent (November 2006) process for verification of the (Irish) National Framework of Qualifications with the EHEA (Bologna) Framework] a common framework for quality which ensures that the statutory periodic quality assessment of academic units includes the evaluation of study programmes against the level and learning outcomes of the programme within the NFQ.

Spain: AQU Catalunya

If QA Agency is required to conduct accreditations of the new BaMA programmes, the results of this function will be reported and made public. It is expected that accreditation for a BaMA programme will mean official recognition.

Switzerland: OAQ

One needs to differentiate between quality and recognition. For recognition it is surely the university but for quality it can be other bodies (like the OAQ).

References, documents, or web pages you suggest to consult:

Austria, AAC:

Ex ante process:

www.akkreditierungsrat.at

Ex post process:

www.akkreditierungsrat.at

Austria, FHR:

Ex ante process:

Accreditation Guidelines:

http://www.fhr.ac.at/fhr_inhalt_en/02_quality_assurance/documents.htm

Ex post process:

Evaluation Regulation: http://www.fhr.ac.at/fhr_inhalt_en/02_quality_assurance/documents.htm

Austria, AQA*

Ex ante process:

Please note that ex ante accreditation of programme exists for Fachhochschulen and Private Universities only. The Austrian Fachhochschulrat and the Austrian Accreditation Council for Private Universities are the relevant bodies. Public universities decide on new programmes on the basis of their internal quality assurance systems. They may refer to external evaluation bodies (e.g. AQA), but are not obliged to be assessed on a programme level.

Belgium, VLIR:

Ex ante process:

NVAO-website

Ex post process:

www.VLIR.be

Belgium, AEQES*

Ex post process:

www.aeqes.be

Bulgaria, NEAA*:

Ex ante process:

www.neaa.government.bg

Ex post process:

www.neaa.government.bg

Cyprus, CEEA:

Ex ante process:

for universities www.ecpu.ac.cy

for colleges please send e-mail to ao.sekap@cytanet.com.cy and we will provide you with the legislation and regulations

Ex post process:

Same as above

Czech Republic, ACGCR:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/zapisy-ze-zasedani>

Ex post process:

<http://www.msmt.cz/vzdelavani/hodnoceni-vysokych-skol>

Denmark, EVA:

Ex ante process:

The legislation for a new accreditation system in Denmark is currently being prepared. This legislation deals with both ex ante and ex post assessment/accreditation and will be passed in the Danish Parliament this year. This legislation will change fundamentally how study programmes are assessed and recognized.

Ex post process:

Ibid.

Finland, FINHEEC:

Ex ante process:

The Finnish tertiary education system comprises universities and non-university institutions (polytechnics) which both offer graduate and post-graduate education. The university degrees consist of Bachelor's and Master's degrees and postgraduate degrees, i.e. licentiate and doctoral degrees. Additionally, universities also arrange separate Master's programmes with separate student selection, to which the entry requirement is a Bachelor's level degree or corresponding studies. Persons with Bachelor's degrees may study Master's programmes in other than their Alma Mater and the studies are often multidisciplinary following the Bologna aims. The volume of degrees taken in Master's programmes is ca. 5 % of all Master's degrees taken annually in Finland.

The approval process of new Master's degrees differs from that of new Master's programmes.

The Master's degrees are defined in legislation: the Universities Act determines the degrees to be awarded in higher education and the Decree on the System of Higher Education Degrees and the Government Decree on University Degrees stipulate, for example, the objectives and scope of university degrees, their general structure and content, as well as the distribution of educational responsibility between different universities. For example, the decree defines which degrees are offered in the humanities, by which university and at which level. If a university wishes to offer education in other fields than those defined by the decree, they have to apply to the Ministry of Education for changes in education responsibility. Those applications are quite rare.

Instead, the assessment of new Master's programmes is a systematic and annual process based on the predefined criteria defined by the Ministry, the university applications and the assessment and recognition process by the Ministry of Education. The answers given in this form relate to the assessment process of new Master's programmes. (For more information, please contact: birgitta.vuorinen@minedu.fi).

Links:

1. The Education System in Finland:

<http://X94.78.2XX.243/Eurybase/Application/frameset.asp?country=FI&language=EN>

2. Legislation

2.1 The Universities Act (645/X997): <http://www.finlex.fi/en/laki/kaannokset/X997/enX9970645.pdf>

2.2 Universities Decree (XX5/X998): not available in English

2.3 Decree on the System of Higher Education Degrees (464/X998): not available in English

2.3 Government Decree on University Degrees (794/2004):

<http://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/kaannokset/2004/en20040794.pdf>

2.4 The Ministry of Education Decree on the Master's Programmes (X359/2006): not available in English

France, CTI:

Ex ante process:

www.cti-commission.fr

France, IGAENR*:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.sup.adc.education.fr/lmdsuivi/>

<http://edges.sup.adc.education.fr>

www.cti-commission.fr

for engineers courses and various universities websites

Ex post process:

www.cti-commission.fr

www.cne-evaluation.fr/

Germany, AC:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/eng/>

Ex post process:

<http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/eng/>

Germany, ACQUIN:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.acquin.org> and <http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de>

Ex post process:

<http://www.acquin.org> and <http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de>

Hungary, HAC:

Ex ante process:

www.mab.hu, www.om.hu

Ex post process:

www.mab.hu, www.om.hu

Ireland, HEA:

Ex ante process:

Irish universities, as autonomous bodies under the (Irish) Universities Act (X997), are responsible for making their own awards. There is no statutory EXTERNAL ex ante assessment of university programmes. All universities operate INTERNAL ex ante assessment prior to a programme being given approval by the (statutory) university academic council. The process is different in each of the universities.

WEB DOCUMENT: The INTERNAL (but using an EXTERNAL accreditation board) ex ante accreditation process at one of the Irish universities is described at: <http://www.dcu.ie/ovpli/ac.shtml>

All major (and all new) study programmes are developed in accordance with the agreed Irish National Framework for Qualifications (NFQ), based on learning outcomes and levels. The NQAI does not set standards for awards made the Universities. However, the award-type descriptors are the yardstick which has been used to reach agreement between the universities and the NQAI for the accommodation of university awards within the NFQ.

WEB DOCUMENT: National Framework of Qualifications: <http://www.nfq.ie/nfq/en/>

WEB DOCUMENT: The Universities and the NFQ:
http://www.iaa.ie/news_events/documents/RegistrarReport.pdf

Ex post process:

The common framework for implementation of the statutory periodic evaluations of academic units in Irish universities as required by the Universities Act (X997):

WEB DOCUMENT: A Framework for Quality in Irish Universities (2003, will be updated in 2007):
http://www.iuqb.ie/Framework_Document.pdf

All Irish universities (similar to the UK) operate a system of external examiners on each of the university study programmes. This involves an annual evaluation of the programme, by experts from outside the university (usually from abroad) which results in an annual report to the university academic council. At present, the external examiners reports are not made public. While the external examiner system is common to all universities, variations in the process exist in the individual universities

Italy, CNVSU:

Ex ante process:

http://www.miur.it/0002Univer/0053Progra/0850Banca_/index_cf2.htm

http://www.cnvsu.it/_library/downloadfile.asp?id=XX3X5

The Netherlands and Flanders, NVAO:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.nvao.net>

Ex post process:

<http://www.nvao.net>

Norway, NOKUT:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.nokut.no/sw335.asp>

Ex post process:

<http://www.nokut.no/sw335.asp>

Russia, NAA*:

Ex post process:

www.nica.ru

Spain, ANECA:

Ex ante process:

http://www.aneca.es/modal_eval/posgrado_present.html

Ex post process:

http://www.aneca.es/modal_eval/pa_modelo_06X2.html

http://www.aneca.es/present/english/eng_accreditation.html

Spain, AQU Catalunya:

Ex ante process:

<http://www.aqu.cat/scripts/web/pagina.asp?cid=cat&id=6429&cat=pag&tit=Procediment+d%27avaluaci%F3+per+al+curs+2007%2D2008&res=XX0&op=29>

Spain, AGAE:

Ex ante process:

www.agae.es

Sweden, NAHE:

Ex ante process:

It has to be pointed out that ex ante procedures apply only to colleges wishing to initiate new masters degrees or professional degrees.

How did things turn out? Annual reports on quality assurance processes

Högskoleverkets rapportserie 2006:33, 2005:30, both to be found at www.hsv.se

Ex post process:

same as above



United Kingdom, QAA:

Ex post process:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/aboutus/heGuide/guide.asp>

Annex 1: Agencies consulted

Full members

Austria

Austrian Accreditation Council, Vienna

FHR - Fachhochschulrat, Vienna

Belgium

Council of Flemish Institutions of Higher Education, Brussels

EUA - European University Association, Brussels

VLIR - Flemish Interuniversity Council, Brussels

Cyprus

CEEA - Council of Educational Evaluation-Accreditation, Nikosia

Czech Republic

Accreditation Commission of the Government of the Czech Republic/Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Prague X

Denmark

EVA - Danish Evaluation Institute, Copenhagen

Estonia

Estonian Higher Education Quality Assessment Council, Tallinn

Finland

FINHEEC - Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council, Helsinki

France

CNE - Comité National d'Évaluation, Paris

CTI - Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur, Ecully

Germany

Accreditation Council, Bonn

ACQUIN - Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute, Bayreuth

ASIIN - Fachakkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik e.V., Düsseldorf

FIBAA - Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation, Bonn

ZEVA - Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency Hannover, Hannover

Germany, Regional

EVALAG - Stiftung Evaluationsagentur Baden-Wuerttemberg, Mannheim

Hungary

HAC - Hungarian Accreditation Committee, Budapest

Ireland

HEA - Higher Education Authority, Dublin 2

HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council, Dublin 2

Italy

CNVSU - Comitato Nazionale per la Valutazione del Sistema Universitario, Rome

Latvia

HEQEC - Higher Education Quality Evaluation Centre, Riga

The Netherlands

Inspectorate of Higher Education, Utrecht

NQA - Netherlands Quality Agency, Utrecht

NVAO - Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders, The Hague

QANU - Quality Assurance Netherlands Universities, Utrecht

Norway

NOKUT - Norwegian Agency of Quality Assurance in Education, Oslo

Portugal

CNAVES - Conselho Nacional de Avaliação do Ensino Superior, Lisbon

Slovak Republic

Accreditation Commission, Bratislava

Spain

ANECA - National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain, Madrid

AQU - Agency for Quality Assurance in the Catalan University System, Barcelona

Agencia Andaluza para la Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación Universitaria - AGAE, Córdoba

Sweden

NAHE - National Agency for Higher Education, Stockholm

Switzerland

OAQ - Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of the Swiss Universities, Bern

UK

QAA - Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, Gloucester

Candidate members

Before becoming a full member of ENQA the applicant agency may be given a candidate status for a maximum of two years.

Austria

AQA - Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance, Wien

Belgium

AEQES - Agence pour l'Évaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur organisé ou subventionné par la Communauté française, Bruxelles

EFMD - European Foundation for Management Development, Brussels

Bulgaria

The National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency - NEAA, Sofia

France

IGAENR - General Inspectorate of Education and Research, Paris

Germany

AHPGS - Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Sciences, Freiburg

AQAS - Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen, Bonn

Ireland

NQAI - National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, Dublin X

Russia

NAA - National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation, Yoshkar-Ola

Spain

Axencia para a Calidade do Sistema Universitario de Galicia (ACSUG), Santiago de Compostela