



Agència
per a la Qualitat
del Sistema Universitari
de Catalunya

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Active involvement of stakeholders in QA for Study Abroad programmes

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- AQU Catalunya
 - National context
 - European context
 - Internationally active
- STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME
 - Methodological approach
 - External review panel
 - Meta-evaluation
- AQU - QUIP



AQU Catalunya: National context



The purpose of AQU Catalunya is **the assessment, accreditation and certification of quality in the sphere of the universities and higher education centers of Catalunya.**

The Bologna Process - European Higher Education Area

Why?

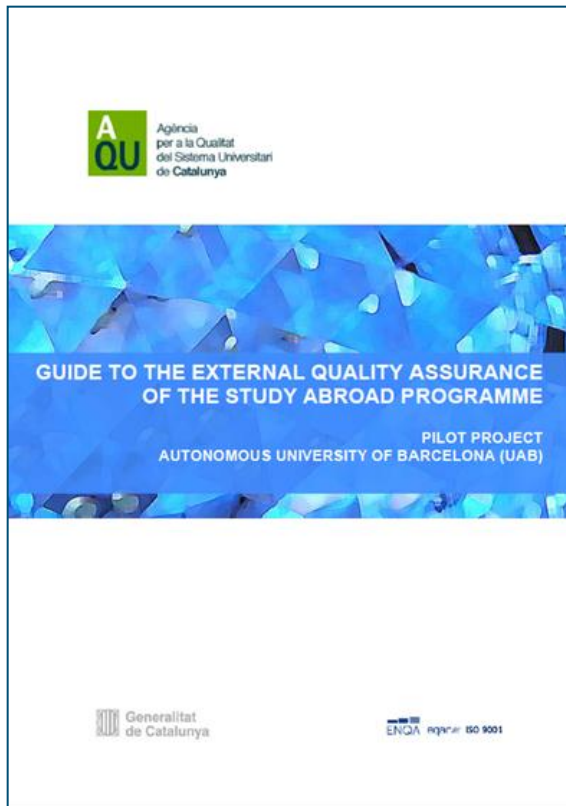
- To facilitate mobility of students/professionals over Europe
- To share educational structure: bachelor, master and PhD
- To have a new and common language: ECTS
- To support the **creation of trust** between agencies and HEIs

How?

- Quality Assurance
- Sharing good practice, fostering cooperation (ENQA)

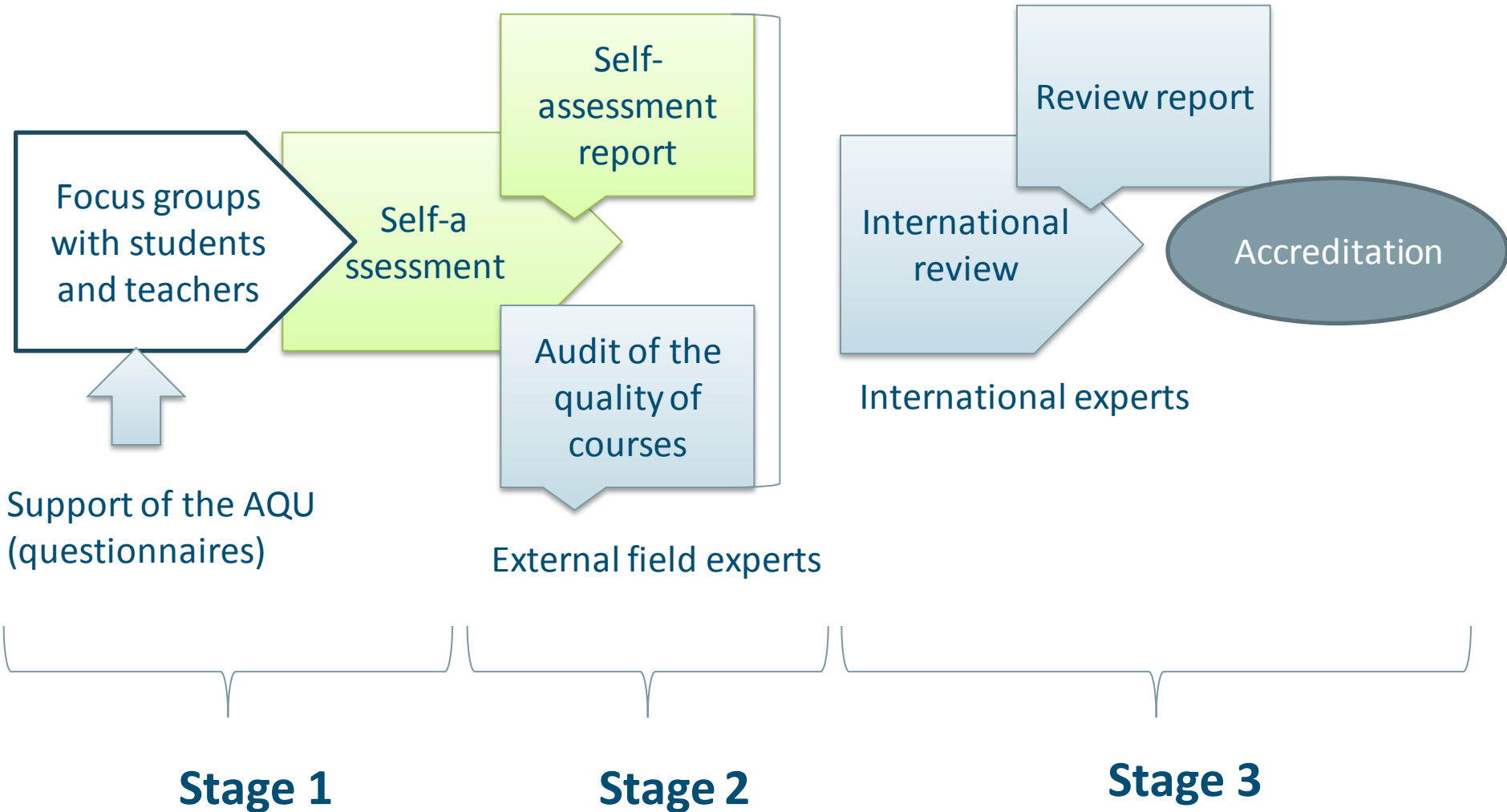
- ENQA: external review
- ESG: compliance
- ISO 9001
- Recognised in Europe (ENQA- EQAR) according European Standards for QA in HE
- Member of the European Consortium for accreditation, INQAHEE, EU funded projects

Study Abroad Programme: methodological approach



- International review (all reviewers)
- Active participation of the stakeholders (students and teaching staff in focus groups).
- Quality of management and contents
- European model (self-evaluation-external review)
- Certification of the quality

Methodological scheme



STUDENTS

- Information about the programme
- Teaching-learning experience
- Social and intercultural experiences
- Support services
- Assurance procedures for student's protection

The most remarkable fact was for these stakeholders to be consulted

TEACHING STAFF

- Objectives of the Study Abroad Programme
- Resources of the Programme
- Sustainability and Programme improvement

Evaluation topics and quantitative indicators (Stage 1 and 3)

1. Their objective and context of the programme
2. The quality of the programme's resources
3. Delivery of the programme
4. The sustainability and progress of the programme
5. The results achieved

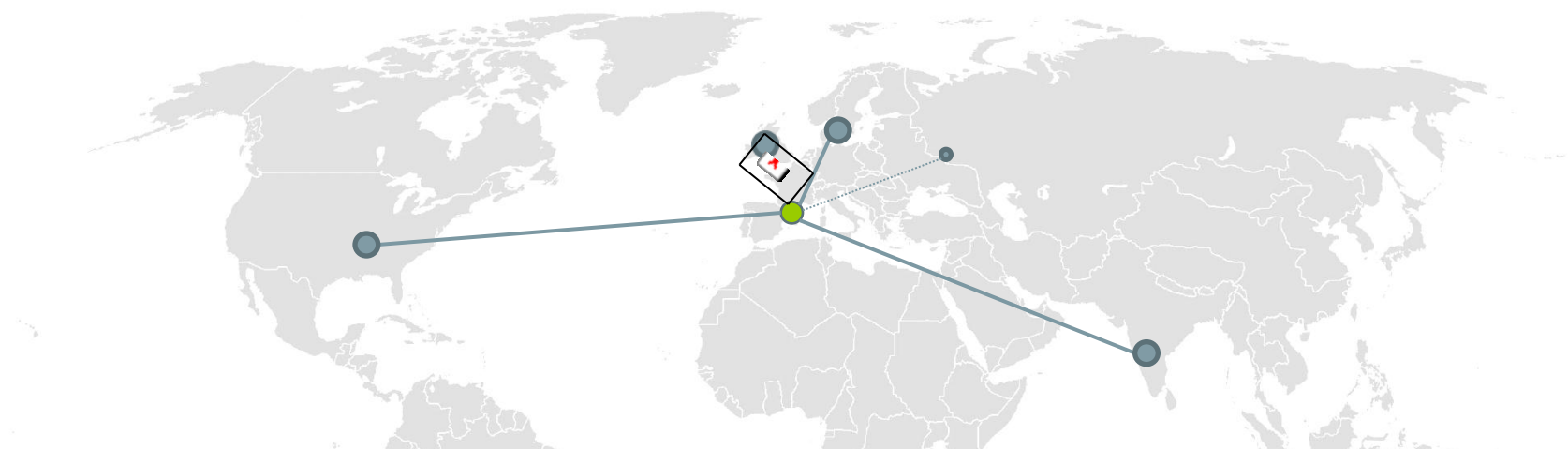
Several data on quantitative indicators:

- Students and teachers profile, academic results, drop out ratio...

- Gaining access to the information on courses from the website
- Presentation and subject contents
- Information on course duration
- Recommendations to students prior starting the course
- Teaching, learning and evaluation methodologies
- References and bibliography



Composition of the review committee



- **Prof. David Timms**, Chair, Higher Education Consultant (UK) Academic
- **Dr. Tine Holm**, QA expert, The Danish Evaluation Institute (Denmark) QA expert
- **Pranava Madhyastha**, Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence candidate, UPC (India) student
- **Larisa Tatge**, QA expert/ secretariat, Consultant (USA) Rapporteur and QA expert

- **Dr. Zhanna Kuzminykh**, external observer, National Centre of Public Accreditation, Russia, Head of the International Relations Department (Russia) QA expert
- **Eva Benito**, external observer, AQU, Management Assistant Advisor

Results and Meta-evaluation



- QA methodology according to international standards
- Not recommended to use scales for self-evaluation
- Include standards for generic learning outcomes on internationalisation.

AQU-ESG

They set a common framework for quality assurance systems at national and institutional level.

They enable the improvement of quality of higher education.

They support mutual trust, thus facilitating recognition within and across national borders.



QUIP-SGP

The standards are meant to be guidelines as much as universal standards.

The development of the *Standards of Good Practice* has deliberately focused on the improvement function.

The two most important specific dimensions are the design, operation, and management of education abroad programs, and the operations of an education abroad office at a sending school in the US.



Focusing on the future, AQU believes that working together ensures that QA responds to the diversity of cross-border HE systems, institutions and programmes.





**Thanks for your attention
We'll wait for you in Barcelona**



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