Is development of quality assurance and quality culture panacea for everything?

Tia Loukkola
22 May 2019
This presentation

- Recognition in the ESG
- QA, but what kind?
Looking back: the revision of the ESG

- The focus of quality assurance
- Many pressures to resolve various challenges
- Who is responsible for what
System level (automatic) recognition for academic purposes, 2016/17

Bologna Implementation Report 2018
The role of HEIs

Figure 4.15: Institution which makes final decisions on recognising foreign qualifications for academic purposes, 2016/17, Bologna Implementation Report 2018
• Responsibility of HEIs

Standard
Institutions should consistently apply pre-defined and published regulations covering all phases of the student “life cycle”, e.g. student admission, progression, recognition and certification.

Guidelines
Fair recognition of higher education qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, are essential components for ensuring the students’ progress in their studies, while promoting mobility. Appropriate recognition procedures rely on
- institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention;
- cooperation with other institutions, quality assurance agencies and the national ENIC/NARIC centre with a view to ensuring coherent recognition across the country.
FAIR project results

- Large variation between, and sometimes within, institutions
- The first time analysing recognition procedures
- Recommendations:
  - Capacity-building/awareness-raising
  - Information management systems
  - Defining key performance indicators and assessing procedures
  - Monitoring student success
  - Communication and transparency
QUALITY CULTURE

Formal quality assurances processes
Tools and processes to define, measure, evaluate, assure, and enhance quality

Quality commitment Cultural element
Individual level: personal commitment to strive for quality
Collective level: individual attitude and awareness add up to culture

Communication Participation Trust
What kind of QA? (1)

Plan

Check

Act

Do
What kind of QA? (2)

Adapted from Kivistö, J. and Pekkola, E., 2017, Quality of Administration in Higher Education (Sveriges universitets- och högskoleförbund (SUHF))
To conclude

- Assuring high quality and well-functioning recognition procedures is crucial
- But let’s not create more bureaucracy
- Let’s think how to do that more efficiently!
Thank you for your attention