FAIR project.
Recognition & ESG 1.4

EQUIP Workshop

15 March 2016

VU, Amsterdam

Content

1. ESG 1.4
2. The FAIR Project
3. Outcomes Trials & for QA procedures

Recognition as part of QA not new

Mentioned ao in:
- EUA Trends 2010
- Bologna Implementation Report 2012
- Bucharest Communiqué 2012
- EAR HEI manual 2014
- ….

ESG Standard 1.4

"Student admission, progression, recognition and certification"

■ **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:** Appropriate recognition procedures rely on:
✓ institutional practice for recognition being in line with the LRC
✓ cooperation with other institutions, QA agencies and the national ENIC/NARIC centre to ensure coherent recognition across the country.

Challenge

- How to make recognition part of internal and external QA?
  - ✓ Examples of good practice?
  - ✓ Only very few countries where recognition part of external QA

FAIR Project (1)

Aim: Improve recognition practices HEIs by implementing elements of automatic recognition.

Objectives
- Identify essentials in recognition procedures of HEIs, to develop practical guidelines and to provide consultancy in streamlining these procedures;
- Perform a baseline assessment of the recognition procedures and measure the results of implementation of good practice;
- Gain commitment at policy level to effectuate the implementation of forms of automatic recognition in each participating country.

-> Input how to practically apply with ESG 1.4

FAIR Project (2)

Partners

Three types of actors in the recognition process for each country:

- Ministry of Education;

- ENIC-NARIC centre (or alternatively the national association of HEIs);

- 22 HEIs from 6 countries: Croatia, Belgium (Flanders), Italy, Spain, Germany and The Netherlands.
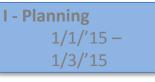
FAIR Project (3)

Project coordinator
✓ Ministry of Education (NL)
      (supported by EP-Nuffic)
Evaluation body
✓ European University Association (EUA)
Accreditation experts
✓ European Council of Accreditation (ECA)
Independent peer review
✓ Danish ENIC/NARIC

FAIR Project (4)

I - Planning
    1/1/'15 –
    1/3/'16

1 - Experimentation Protocol
2 - Legal arrangements
3 - Kick-off meeting

II – Field Trials
    1/3/'15 –
    1/10/'16

4 - Field trial 1: Baseline assessment recognition procedures
5 - Analysis Baseline assessment
6 - Project team meeting
7 - Implementation improved recognition procedures
8 - Field trial 2: Impact analysis

III – Evaluation
    1/09/'16 –
    1/1/'17

9 - Analysis of field trials & Recommendations

IV – Dissemination
    1/1/'15 –
    30/4/'17

10 – Dissemination of project results

FAIR Main outcomes Trial 1 (1)

General observations recognition procedures:
- European Recognition Area is highly diversified;
- Use of relevant terminolgy is not consistent across institutions and countries;
- There is no predictable pattern for the role of external bodies in recognition and admission activities;
- Centralised vs decentralised models;
- Binarism and regionalism further complicate the European landscape;
- Lack of familiarity with the Lisbon Recognition Convention;
- No evidence that recognition and admission practices are anywhere subject to systematic quality assurance, either internal or in external accreditation.

Main outcomes Trial 1 (2)

Recognition Procedure:
- lack of comprehensive public information;
- no provision for refugees;
- inadequacy of internal quality assurance;
- lack of (integrated) database/archive;
- Absence of (public information on) the appeals procedure;
- Absence, or inaccuracy, of public information regarding average processing time;
- Absence of procedure for RPL.

Outcomes FAIR Meeting 19 January 2016

WG question: are practices in line with ESG 1.4?

- Different procedures for recognition and admission 1st and 2nd cycle, indicates purpose is taken into consideration (1)
- RPL: Flemish and Dutch. Usually after admissions (4)
- Publicizing information: important but no overload (5)
- External QA in Croatia and Spain (6);
- Generally not part of internal QA procedure, but often are checks and balances in place (6);
- Advise to discuss outcomes country reports with national accreditation agencies;

Conclusions

How can the ESG 1.4 be included in External and Internal QA?

- Diverse 'recognition infrastructures' in the EHEA?
- Different use of terminology
- Currently no known examples of good practice for internal nor external QA (or advantage)?
- …..

-> European Consortium of Accreditation Working Group 1
-> FAIR outcomes expected winter 2016/2017

Questions?

Please contact
Ms Jenneke Lokhoff
(jlokhoff@epnuffic.nl)