

Impact of External Quality Assurance

Students' Perspective

CEENQA Workshop
21st May 2015
Ljubljana, Slovenia

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What is ESU?

What is ESU?

Who we are?



The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 38 countries. Our members are student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles.

ESU's work centres around supporting its members through organising seminars, trainings, campaigns and conferences relevant to students, conducting European-wide research, partnership projects and campaigns, providing information services and producing a variety of publications for both students, policy-makers and higher education professionals.

■ Member countries
■ Candidate countries



www.esu-online.org

Our role



Mission

ESU's mission is to represent, defend and strengthen **students' educational, democratic, political and social rights**. ESU will work for **sustainable, accessible and high quality higher education** in Europe.

Vision

Equal educational and social opportunities in an open and **democratic** Europe where students shape a **sustainable** future.

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ESU involvement in QA...



- **In designing and promoting the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG)**
- **Has performed in 2008 the first QA agency audit (ARACIS) entirely carried out by a student review panel;**
- **Has been involved in the revision of UNESCO/ OECD guidelines for quality provision in cross-border higher education (2005);**
- **Overview of QA implementation in the BP → BWSE and BAFL.**

ESU involvement in QA...



- **EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP)**
- **ENQA quality assurance agencies' evaluations**
- **Institutional evaluations organized by national quality assurance agencies.**
- **LLP funded project 2009-2012 Quest for Quality for Students**
- **LLP funded common project of E4 (MAP- ESG)**
- **ESPAQ Project – Tempus Project (Armenia)**

E4 group (+)



- www.quest.esu-online.org
- All publications and documents that are related with QA can be found on this web-site!!!

ESU work on QA...



- **ESU QA experts pool**

In 2009, **ESU** established a **pool of** committed and well prepared **students** who aim to contribute to improve Higher Education provision in Europe through Quality Assurance procedures.

The establishment of this pool is a way how ESU is **promoting and developing student participation in Quality Assurance** all over Europe.

The pool is renewed once a year and has an **independent Steering Committee**, which launches the calls and selects the applicants based on public criteria.

ESU organises **study sessions, workshops** and other events for pool members where they are trained.

The pool **brings together** students from all parts of Europe, their **experience and knowledge**, and it is an excellent forum for debating, sharing views and learning about Quality Assurance.

These students contribute to **ESU policy making process**, act as **multipliers agents in their respective countries**, collaborate in several **projects, participate in Quality Assurance reviews**, etc.

ESU work on QA...

- **ESU QA experts pool**

Principles of the pool:

- Balanced by region and field of studies
- Student-led
- Cyclical renewal
- Bringing student experience together
- Enhancing the role of students in Quality Assurance
- Acting as multiplier

Currently there are **over 60 students**:

- 28 different European countries
- first, second and third cycle
- with previous experience

Cooperation:

- National Students' Pools
- Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) of EUA
- ENQA - External evaluation of Quality Assurance Agencies
- Quality Assurance Agencies
- Higher Education Institutions

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Impact of External QA

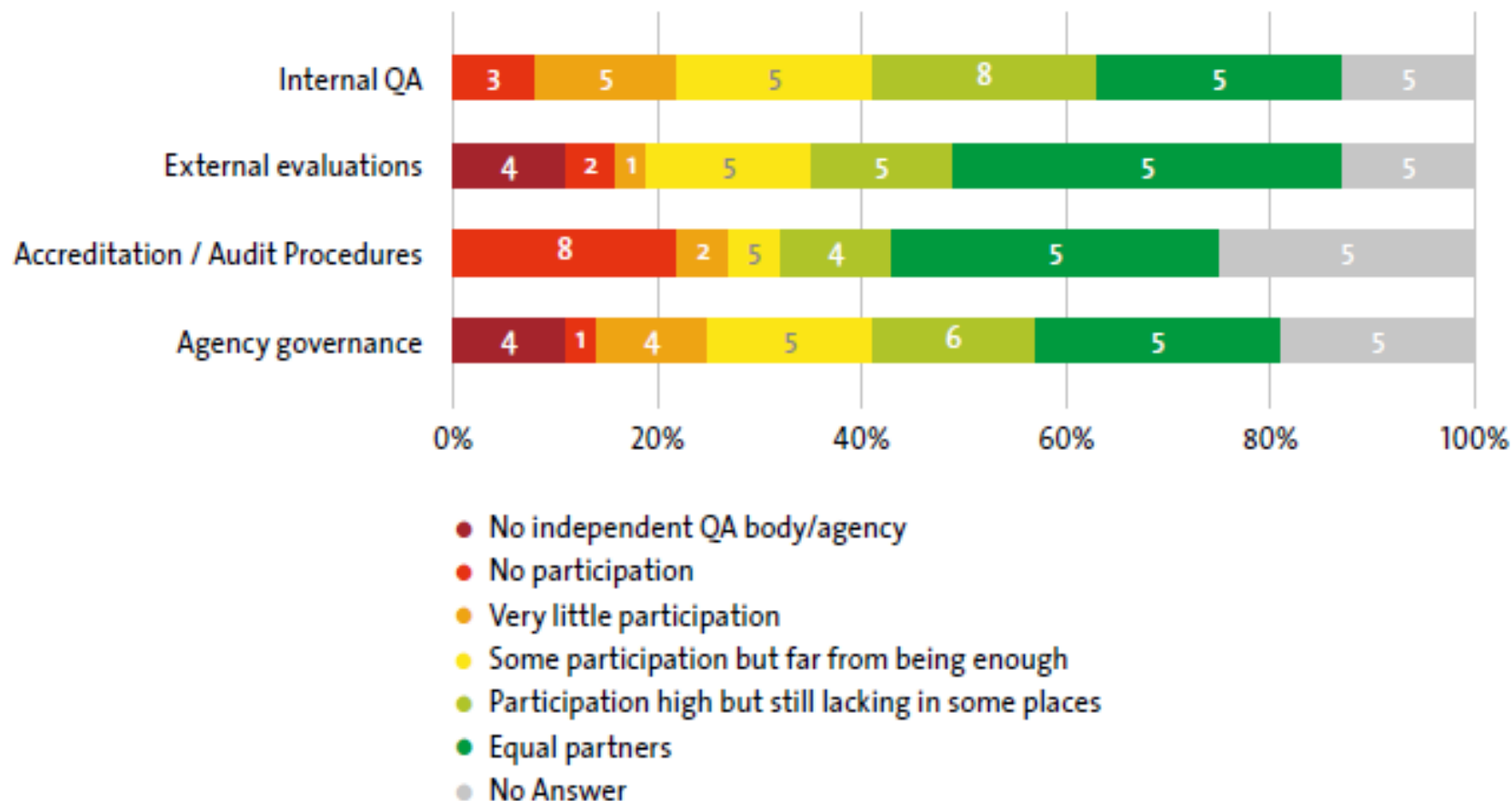
Student Involvement in EQA



- **Two main roles of students:**
 - **provider of information**
 - **as members of the external review panel (where they can have either role as observer or can have full member status)**
- **Involvement of Students provides an improvement of the process (they often provide new solutions, and it is reflected in an enrichment of the evaluation reports)**
- **European Standards and Guidelines**

Student Involvement in EQA

fig. 17 Overview of student participation in quality assurance processes



- **ESU believes that internal quality assurance systems should be supported and complemented by external quality assurance activities. Independent quality assurance bodies or agencies should carry these activities out through peer review evaluation, where students are also fully involved.**
- **Higher education institutions should be willing to undertake external quality assurance activities to support and enhance their internal systems and their education provision.**

- **The external quality assurance systems should focus on a combination of institutional evaluation and programme accreditation, where the latter might operate in a more flexible way if institutions are able to demonstrate the effectiveness of their own internal quality assurance.**
- **External quality assurance bodies or agencies should have an autonomous responsibility for their operations, and the conclusions and recommendations made in their reports must not be influenced by third parties' political agendas.**

- **ESU demands student representation in the relevant governing and decision-making bodies of the quality assurance agencies.**
- **National governments are also responsible in setting up the frameworks for quality assurance in cooperation with students and other relevant stakeholders.**

3 BWSE2015: Main findings & recommendations

recommendations

bwse2015.esu-online.org

Student involvement



- Improved since the last BWSE 2012.
- Students play more important role in QA processes
- Still room for improvement

- **The revised version of the ESG's is rapidly implemented in cooperation with the national stakeholders**
- **Further development of EQAR providing information about quality – assured higher education provision in EHEA, for example having a database of official degrees (study programmes) offered within EHEA**
- **Systems should be based on the principles and values of trust, participation and ownership of stakeholders and drive for real improvement**



Bologna With Student Eyes 2015

LOG IN

Introduction

Main findings

Policy recommendations

Chapters

Black book

Employability

Search

Introduction



This year as you can already tell we decided to take a slightly different approach to the publication. Compared to previous years where every aspect of the Bologna process was analysed from a student perspective we have chosen to highlight some key issues for the future that are important for students. Some of the key areas for the the European Students' Union in this edition are student-centred learning, the social dimension, recognition and the future of the Process as a whole.

We are in a crucial time for the Bologna process. There are many questions hanging in the air. Is the Process still relevant? Has it died? How do we get countries to implement all the reforms they committed to? Will the countries who did implement the reforms stay interested? It is doubtful that the Ministerial Conference in Yerevan will answer all of these questions. However, at the very least we hope that we can set out a path for the future that will lead to the results that students

need.

It is not reasonable that the Bologna Process has been in place since 1999, yet still basic recognition of degrees and

#BWSE2015



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20 May

The European Students' Union

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**Thank you for your
attention!**

attention!

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 European Students' Union



The European Students' Union

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