

# ***ACCREDITATION OF JOINT PROGRAMMES***

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March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 , Novi Sad**

**High diversity of JPs**

**QA of JPS**

**ENQA recommendations to ministers**

**Criteria for evaluation of joint master's programmes**

**Accreditation procedure in Serbia, Standards**

# High diversity of JPs

## Degree of integration and commitment of the cooperation

### Study Abroad

- only outgoing
- based on agreement
- based on academic cooperation
- preapproved

### Exchange

- mutual exchange
- based on agreements
- based on academic cooperation
- preapproved

## **Joint study programmes**

Main partner:

- owns the degree and programme and has the academic responsibility for content and quality
- the study programme must be approved/accredited
- must have an agreement with the cooperating institutions

Supporting partner:

- provides elements of the programme, i.e. courses, supervision, etc.

## **Joint study programmes**

- developed and managed jointly, but each institution "owns" their own students
- all partners own the programme, but award diplomas only to their own students
- the study programme must be approved/accredited
- the cooperation must be regulated by an agreement



## **Joint degrees**

- cooperation between two or more institutions about a joint study programme that leads to a joint degree
- can be documented by awarding a joint diploma, a joint diploma and institutional diplomas, or only institutional diplomas
- the cooperating institutions are jointly responsible for the programme, this includes development and quality assurance, admission, management and awarding of degree
- the study programme must be approved/accredited
- the cooperation must be regulated by an agreement

## QA of JPS

- All involved parties should also be familiar with the ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) standards for quality assurance in higher education (<http://www.enqa.eu/>).
- It is an advantage if the partner institutions adopt a plan for a quality assurance system before the programme starts.
- The partners should prepare their own (proposals for) course descriptions for the courses for which they are responsible. Each partner must assure the quality of the part that is included in the joint degree in the same way as for ordinary courses in accordance with relevant quality assurance requirements.
- Courses should be approved/recognised by all the partners according to a system decided by the partners.

## QA of JPS

- Quality assurance procedures for all joint processes (such as admission, diploma design) should be decided jointly.
- Each institution should be familiar with the other institutions' procedures for quality assurance of local processes.
- The study programme must be coherent. A system and procedures for regular evaluation of the programme as a whole and its constituent elements must be prepared jointly.
- The programme should be assessed both halfway through and on completion. It is important to get both the students' and teaching staff's views on the programme at an early stage, so that it is possible to make adjustments if necessary. Both the academic content and the administrative implementation of the programme must be evaluated.



## QA of JPS

- Who 'cancels' the joint degree if the evaluations uncover serious problems relating to the programme or the collaboration?
- The collaborating institutions should establish a governing body that is in charge of the development and quality assurance of the study programme. The institutions can choose the organisation model they themselves find most suitable. This means that the supreme body of the study programme can be a programme board, a steering committee or another type of arrangement. The body should consist of at least one representative from each collaborating institution. The form and mandate of the governing body should be clearly described in the agreement entered into by the parties.



# ENQA recommendations to ministers

Based on experience, ENQA recommends to ministers responsible for higher education in the European Higher Education Area to allow/authorise/enable a specific European accreditation approach for Joint programmes which should be applied to all those Joint programmes that are subject to compulsory programme accreditation at national level.

## **The European accreditation approach for Joint programmes should be designed based on the following principles:**

- Accreditation of Joint programmes should be based on a commonly accepted definition of a Joint programme. This definition should emphasise the 'jointness' as specific feature of such a programme.
- Deduced from that definition, a specific set of criteria for accrediting Joint programmes should be developed. This set would be based on the proper application of the Qualifications Framework of the EHEA, ECTS, DS and internal quality assurance in accordance with part I of the ESG. In addition, criteria regarding the specific nature of Joint programmes, namely joint responsibility, joint development and joint provision of the programme would be applied.

- Additional national criteria should only be applied if they are related to the quality of the programme. Formal national criteria as the most important obstacle to implementing Joint programmes should not be applied.
- The procedural regulations regarding the new approach should be based solely on part two of the ESG and guarantee especially the restriction to only one procedure with only one expert panel including international members and to only site visit.
- Agencies should apply these criteria and these regulations instead of national formal, but not quality related, specifications (in case accreditation is mandatory) which means that Joint programmes that have been accredited with the European approach would not need to be accredited for a second time at national level.



# Criteria for evaluation of joint master 's programmes

## 1. Aims of the programme

Aims of the programme are clearly defined in terms of learning outcomes and in line with the EQF.

## 2. Criteria for jointness

There is a formal agreement between the participating institutions; mechanisms and responsibilities of cooperation spelled out and defined; support of managements; added value of programme; sustainable funding strategy; language policy; adequate resources (both infra and staff); mobility secured; students' rights secured also in other institutions; contacts between teachers across institutional/national boundaries; relevance and accessibility of information about programme to students and external stakeholders etc.

# **Criteria for evaluation of joint master 's programmes**

**3. Links between programme contents, teaching and current up-to-date research**

**4. Relevance for future professional careers**

**5. Depth and progression**

**6. Quality assurance**

# *System of Quality Assurance in Serbia*

**According to the Law, quality assurance is based on:**

- **standards for self-assessment of institutions,**
- **standards for external quality assessment of institutions,**
- **standards for accreditation of the higher education institutions and study programs.**

**Proposed by CAQA, approved by NCHE in October 2006.**

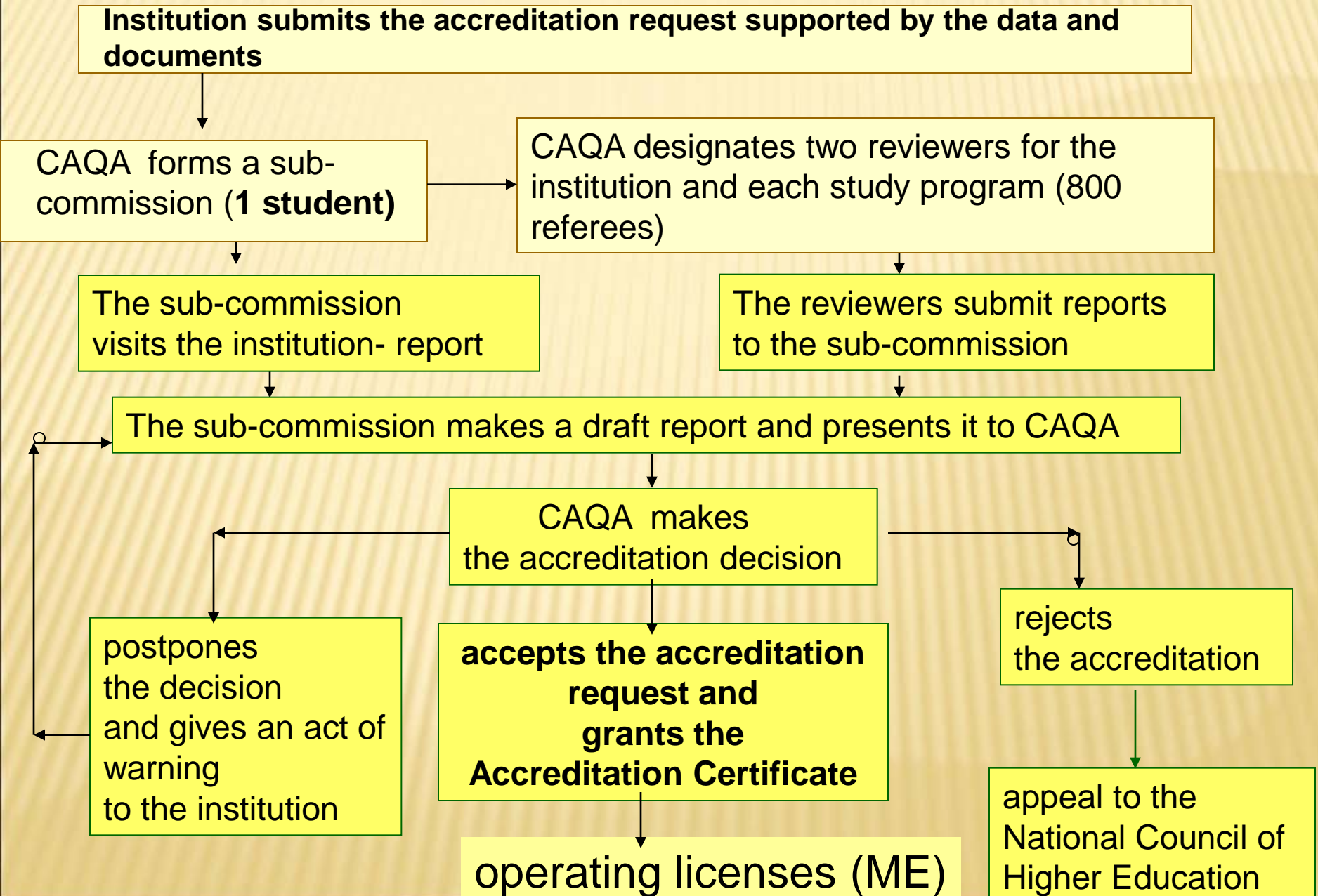
**HEIs: - Self-assessment (3 years)**

**CAQA: - Accreditation of HEIs and study programs (5 years)  
- External quality assessment of HEIs (5 years,  
between two accreditations)**

**NCHE: - Decides upon appeals on negative decisions in the  
accreditation procedure  
- Gives a grade of fulfillment of HE institution's quality  
assurance obligations on the basis of CAQA's report**



# The Accreditation Procedure



# **Standards for accreditation of the study programs of I and II level of studies**

**Standard 1: Structure of the study program**

**Standard 2: Purpose of the study program**

**Standard 3: Aims of the study program**

**Standard 4: Competences of graduate students**

**Standard 5: Curriculum**

**Standard 6: Quality, up-to-datedness, and international co-ordination of the study program**

**Standard 7: Student admission**

**Standard 8: Student assessment and progress**

**Standard 9: Teachers**

**Standard 10: Organization and material resources**

**Standard 11: Quality control**

**Standard 12: Distance studies**