

# Accreditation with regard to aspects of European Co-operation

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# The aims of accreditation



- **examination of compliance with (minimum) quality standards**
  - new structure of studies (BA/MA)
  - new offers of higher education (e.g. new universities)
  - increase of institutional autonomy
  
- **international visibility and trust**
  - promotion of mobility
  - pre-condition for co-operation (e.g. joint programmes/degrees , joint research)
  
- **impetus for internal quality development**

# Types of accreditation



- **Accreditation of study programmes**
- **Accreditation of QM-systems (institutional audits)**

# Quality Aspects of European Co-operation in Programme Accreditation (1)



- Implementation of ECTS and Diploma Supplement
- Reference to EQF/NQF
- Reference to professional/ sectoral standards (e.g. engineering, medicine, music)
- Regulation of access to study programmes
- Provisions for recognition of modules/ degrees from other HEI

## Quality Aspects of European Co-operation in Programme Accreditation (2)



- Promotion of 'international' skills and competences (foreign language learning/ courses)
- Promotion of Mobility (services, grants, loans)
- 'Internationalisation' of teaching staff (mobility, int. recruitment, HRD, language competences, teaching in foreign language, rewards)
- International co-operation in research (projects, acquisition of funds, conferences, publication)

# Quality Aspects of European Co-operation in Institutional Audits (1)



## **1. Strategy for internationalisation**

- Internationalisation as part of the mission statement
- Specific profile (e.g. geographic regions, strategic partnerships, specific groups such as students, scientific staff), specific targets
- Communication of strategies and aims (internal/ external)
- Implementation through steering instruments (e.g. target agreements, budgeting, incentives)

## **2. Responsibilities of the university management**

- Role and responsibilities of top management (specific tasks, responsibilities for international co-operation)
- International representation of top management
- Specific resources/incentives for QM projects (e.g. quality awards, budgeting, incentives, indicators)

# Quality Aspects of European Co-operation in Institutional Audits (2)



## **3. Responsibilities at the various management levels**

- Institutional liabilities (marketing, recruitment of foreign students, liaison persons)
- Targets for internationalisation at faculty level
- Interfaces and access to information between centralised and decentralised levels

## **4. QM support for core processes of internationalisation**

- Internationalisation of teaching and curriculum
- Internationalisation of research
- Internationalisation of scientific staff
- Mobility of students (incoming/ outgoing)

# Quality Aspects of European Co-operation in Institutional Audits (3)



## **5. Monitoring, reporting and feedback**

- Availability of data, monitoring
- Implementation of monitoring schemes

## **6. Involvement of internal/ external stakeholders**

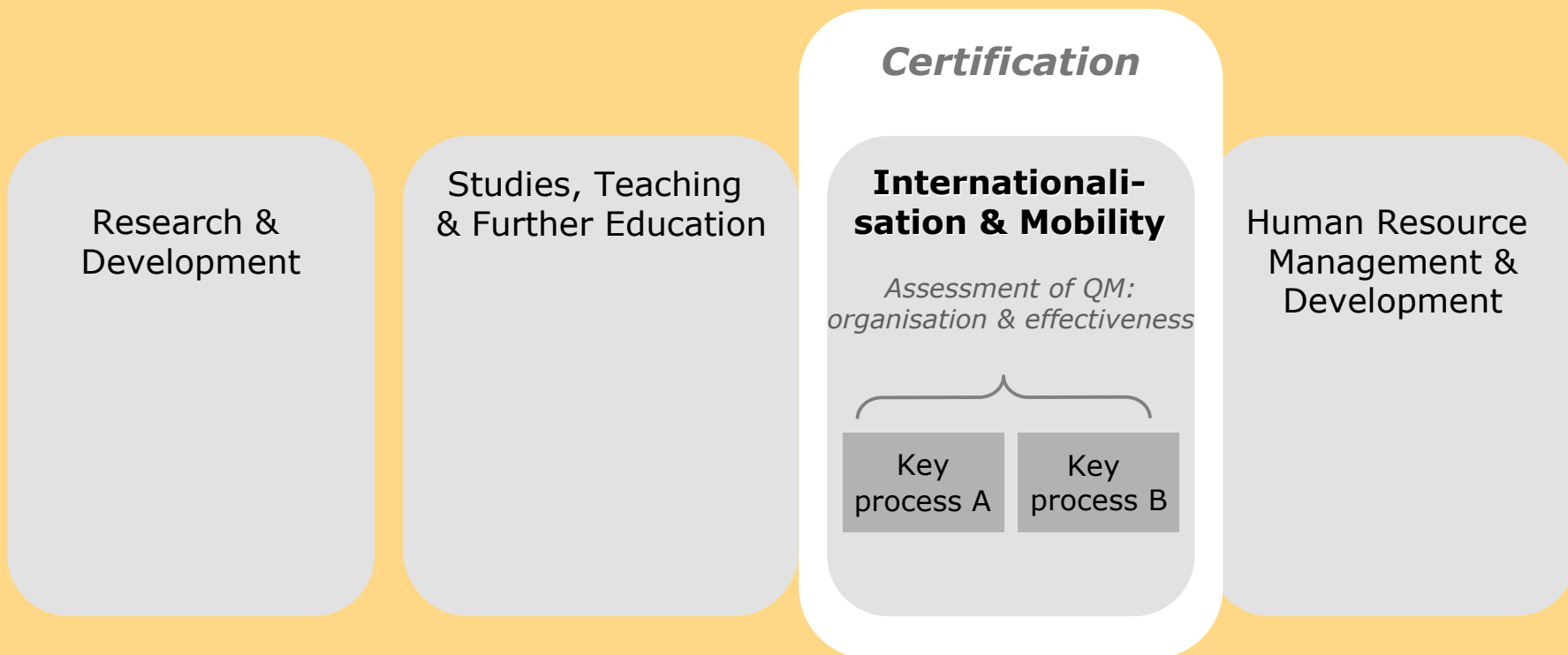
- Periodic feedback of stakeholders
- Information of the universities' QM ambitions

- **International accreditation of study programmes**
  - International quality standards (e.g. WFME, AEC, ...)
  - Co-operation of accreditation agencies (joint accreditation, mutual recognition – e.g. ECA-network)
  
- **Institutional/ system accreditation**
  - Specific focus on internationalisation

# AQA FOCUS Audit on internationalisation



- An AQA **FOCUS Audit** assesses the structure of the quality management system and two relevant key processes in one performance area. The FOCUS Audit certifies the quality management for one selected performance area.



## Contact us



**AQA is an independent agency for quality assurance for the entire sector of higher education. The agency was founded by relevant stakeholders within the Austrian system of higher education.**

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