

Outcomes of the EQArep project

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Sources & outline

→ Discussions on the project workshops & survey results + project publication

- Goals and aims: what was achieved
- Provisional answers to questions set
- Lessons learned
- Guidelines developed

Project goals: increase comparability and transparency

- Is a European template a step in this direction?
- What have we learned?

The main outcome: deliberation on the reports

- (P. Findlay): completing the report is the **main outcome of the review process** – and the report should be kept in mind throughout
- Do agencies pay sufficient attention to the issues arising in connection to the reports – the intended audience, the purpose and their effectiveness in achieving it, the ownership, etc.?
- Do agencies discuss the use and usability of the reports with the stakeholders?

Consistency – and some comparability

- One aim: **consistency** – of processes across agencies and of presentation of results and the terminology used at the level of a single agency/ review type (although even this might prove to be difficult)
- The minimum information on review results that has to be provided: **summary reports**

...plus some startling insights...

As the main 'product' of the review, reports should be easier to find!

- Virtually all agencies publish their reports, but tend to bury them deep in their websites
- The final and major product of the agencies' processes, they deserve better placement and dissemination: quick links, keywords adapted to search engines, links on websites of HEIs and relevant websites (e.g. Study in...)

Readability

- **Layout and structure** are important for both types of reports, as is the application of the agency's identity to a user-friendly design
- Comprehensive reports cannot be fit into a strict **template** – but summary reports can, at least at the level of one type of review
- „Readable for the indented audience” – which may be HEIs and experts for the comprehensive reports, but for the summary ones it is **the wider, non-specialist public**

Comprehensive reports: some guidelines

- A product of the **deliberation** of each agency (**and stakeholders!**) on each review and report type
- Crucial to provide **clear guidelines** to peers and agency officers producing the reports
- A **glossary of terms** as a way of solving perennial language issues – and keeping consistency
- Full information should be (briefly!) provided **in one place** – on the context, process, participants, related decisions and follow-up reports
- **Crucial information** – e.g. the validity period or the authorship – should not be left out

Summary reports– why produce them?

- Stakeholders express the need for brief and easily accessible information – to be able to find the same type of information on each institution/programme
- Brief outline of the main points of the review – as an introduction to the comprehensive report for those interested
- A ‘product’ of the agency suitable for wider dissemination

Summary reports– how to produce them?

- Only guidelines are provided – each agency can use them to create its own template(s)
- For reasons of consistency and practicality, produced and owned by the agency **but**
- Sent to the panel for approval – also serve as a way of checking if the comprehensive report highlights the points most relevant to the panel

Summary reports– what should they look like?

- A section of the website - in a printable format for dissemination purposes
- Attractive design increasing readability – lists, textboxes etc. all indicated as a plus

Summary reports– what should they contain? The checklist

- Names and websites of the agency and the HEI (where most information relevant to readers should be found), link to the comprehensive report
- The relevant dates
- Information on the institution (and programme, e.g. NQF level), the panel and the type of review
- Relevant conclusions/decisions

Summary reports - language

- English – understood across EHEA
- Also, national languages if considered needed (e.g. to be used by media, students etc.)