

Considerations on the European Higher Education Area and possible ways forward

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Content of my speech

1. Hail to Bologna and the EHEA
2. But now: forward again!
3. What about universities?
4. And what about QA itself?
5. And what about values?
6. And what about us, ENQA and EQAR?
7. Conclusions

Hail to Bologna and the EHEA!

- First a shock
- Then taking the opportunities
- Impressive results
- A successful “European” project
- True supporter
- Quality assurance has been a success

But now: forward again!

- A lot of work needs to be done
- Signatures count!
- Bologna has become overloaded
- Back to the key commitments
- Be honest in describing the state of affairs
- Threat for “splendid isolation”

But now: forward again!

- “Education” belongs to national authorities
- “European universities” might be an answer
- QA should facilitate
- But divides should become smaller
- Brain gain is also brain drain
- Go for steady alliances
- QA should contribute to honesty and realism

What about universities?

- Universities have to be realistic and honest
- Rankings are dangerous and one-sided
- Teaching quality not measured
- Universities are diverse! Show it!
- Student population more diverse than ever
- New providers are more lean and agile
- And IT helps...

What about QA itself?

- Diversity of systems
- Trend towards external QA on institutional level
- But: program evaluation is still the heart
- Danger of for-profit HE

What about QA itself?

- QA has brought fear
- Loss of prestige is great
- Internal systems become more control-oriented
- Risk- and innovation-aversion
- Too much accountability?
- Risk-free means more regulations and control

What about QA itself?

- QA becomes overloaded
- Stick or carrot?
- Preference for the carrot
- But kick the rascals out!
- QA \neq quality culture
- Data have to be interpreted

What about values?

- Teaching and research need “freedom”
- Institutional autonomy is key
- Independency of agencies
- Topic for QA?

What about us?

- EQAR and ENQA have different roles
- We are complementary
- One opinion on compliance?
- But two separate decisions
- Support QA and internationalisation
- Bring governments and agencies together

Conclusions and thanks