



# Reflecting on the future of quality assurance

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'The developments in the world of higher education and broader ask for a next step in the development of a common framework and understanding of the system of quality and external quality assurance'

## QA in the 1990ies

- QA as response to problems resulting from massification
- QA as instrument of new public management
- Accreditation as regulatory instrument in transition countries



# QA in the 1990ies

## Methodology: 4-stage-model

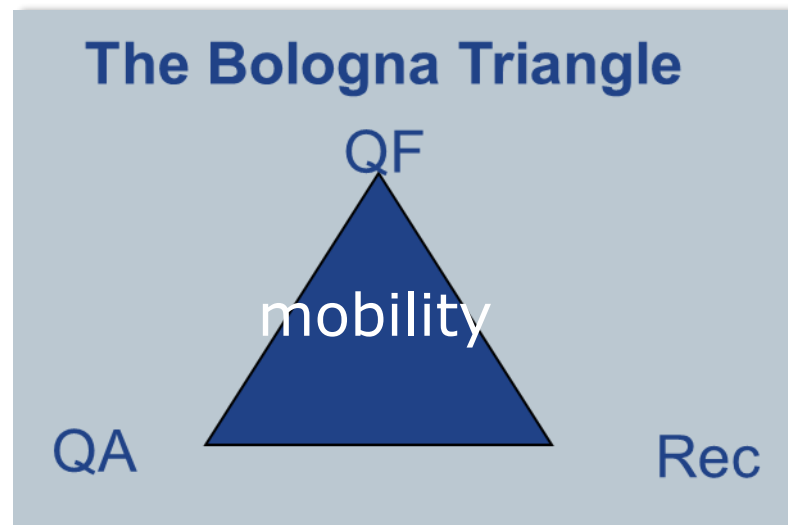
- Autonomy of the evaluation process.
- The self-evaluation: The report illuminates strengths and weaknesses...
- The external review: The visit verifies the content of the self-evaluation report, to give recommendations on areas that could be further developed...
- The evaluation report is published

European Pilot Project for Evaluating Quality  
in Higher Education 1994/95



# QA and the Bologna Process

- QA as pillar of the EHEA
- QA determined by ESG
- ESG with significant impact



## Our world since the 1990ies

- HE has been changing substantially
- HEI have been changing significantly
- HE systems have been changing significantly
- QA has been changing...

## QA 2019: convergence and diversity

- Purpose: Regulation or accountability or development?
- Subject focus: learning and teaching or more/all areas of activities of the HEI?
- Methodology: One methodology or more? Also other instruments and methodologies which are not addressed by the ESG?
- Organisation of the QA system: One agency or more? Other type of actors?

# QA 2019: convergence and diversity

ESG: 'one national agency-one process for QA of L&T'.



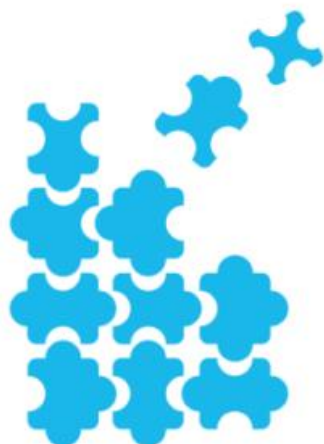


...a careful analysis of the current ESG reveals a philosophy of diversity and flexibility as regards methodologies and provides room for innovation...



# The concept of QA revisited - 1

NB: Also in the future the EHEA needs a common framework for (external) quality assurance



**EUROPEAN**  
Higher Education Area



## The concept of QA revisited - 2

1. Also in the future the EHEA needs a common framework for (external) quality assurance
2. Requirements for a common framework for external quality assurance in the future
  - Differentiation of purpose of external QA
  - Methodological innovation
  - Diversity and Flexibility
  - Common principles (Cyclicity, Independence, Transparency)
  - Quality Assurance Agencies

## The concept of QA revisited - 3

### **Differentiation of purposes of external quality assurance**

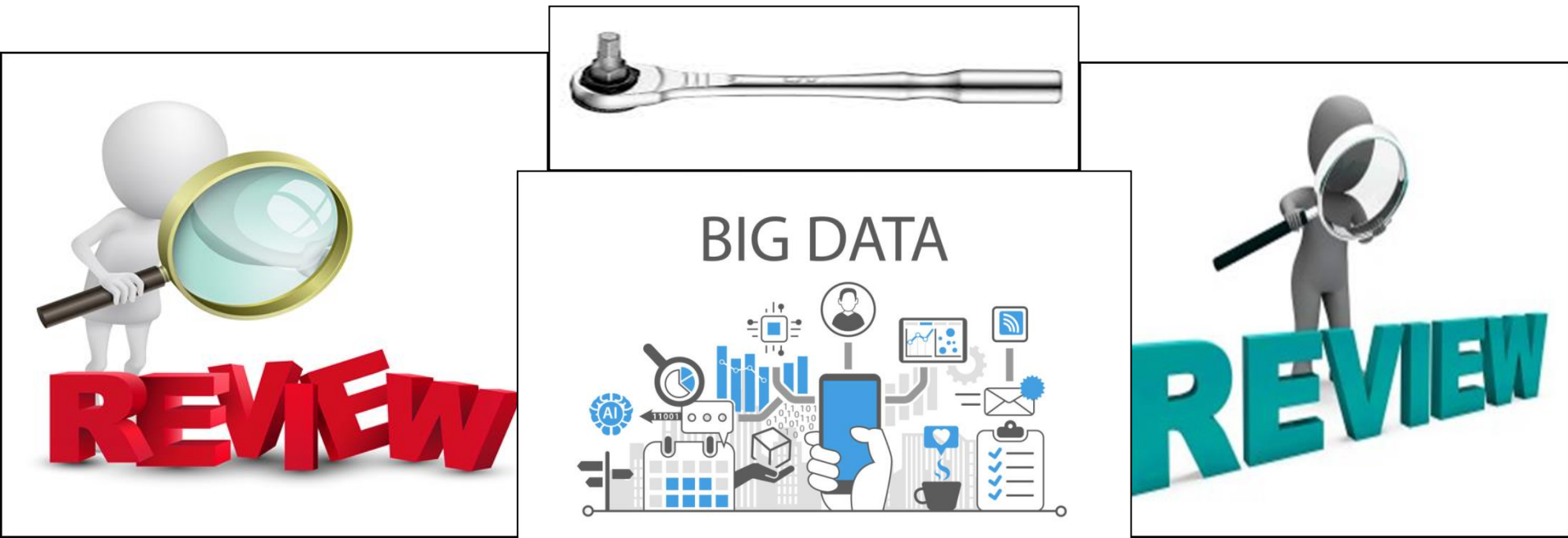
A future framework for external quality assurance has to address explicitly the various purposes of external quality assurance. This might have implications on the methodologies used.



# The concept of QA revisited - 4

## Methodological innovation

A future framework for external quality assurance has to allow for a broader range of methodologies.



# The concept of QA revisited - 5

## Flexibility

A future framework for external quality assurance needs to allow for a flexible conduct of a procedure in order to adapt to the actual framework.



# The concept of QA revisited - 6

## Cyclicity

A future framework for external quality assurance shall maintain cyclicity as a relevant principle of external quality assurance.

Cyclicity does not necessarily mean repetition.



# The concept of QA revisited - 7

## Quality Assurance Agencies

A future framework for external quality assurance shall take into account that quality assurance agencies differ substantially in terms of legal status and range of activities.







Agency for  
Quality Assurance  
and Accreditation  
Austria

**Time to move on!**