The Guidelines for Planning and QA of Joint Programmes

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EUA's Work in QA

- Institutional Evaluation Programme since 1994
- Policy work:
  - ✓ E4 co-operation with ESU, ENQA and EURASHE since 2001
    - ESG (European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in HE)
    - EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register in HE)
- Projects:
  - ✓ Quality Culture, 2002 – 2006
  - ✓ Creativity project, 2006 – 2007
  - ✓ Quality Assurance for the Higher Education Change Agenda (QAHECA), 2008 – 2009
  - ✓ Examining Quality Culture in European Higher Education Institutions, 2009 – 2011
- European Quality Assurance Forum, 2006 –

Principles for QA of Joint Programmes

- Same principles as for regular provision
  - ✓ Main responsibility lies within HEI(s)
  - ✓ European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) apply
  - ✓ Primary goal of QA processes should be to enhance quality

- But some additional challenges do exist

Joint Programme:
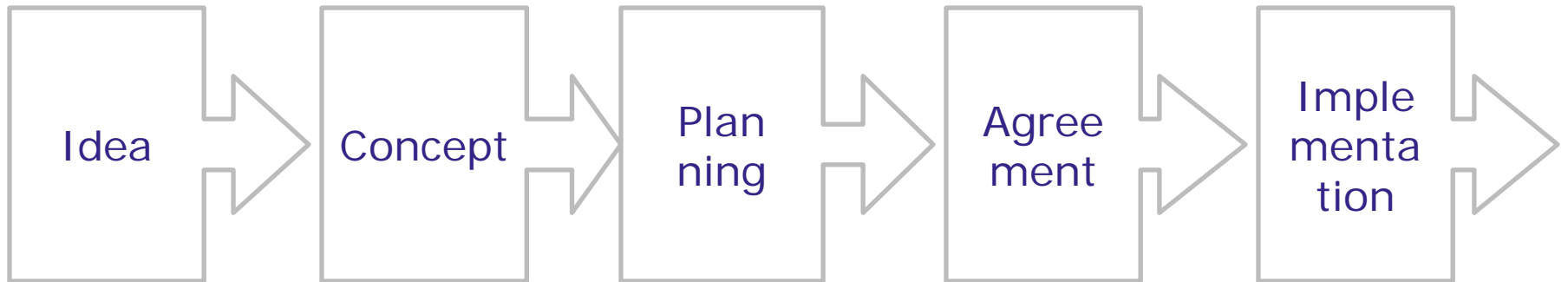# From Planning to Action (1)

- **Shared understanding**
  - ✓ Careful selection of partners: full institutional support
  - ✓ What are we doing? Developing well-defined programme goals and student-learning outcomes with partners
  - ✓ Why are we doing this? Why a new programme and a joint programme in particular?
  - ✓ Ensuring sufficient academic and administrative resources
  - ✓ Ensuring sustainability of the programme
- **Organising Communication**
  - ✓ Information accessible for students
  - ✓ Communication and coordination between partners, incl. meetings
  - ✓ Language policy

Joint Programme:
From Planning to Action (2)

- **Decision-making and levels of responsibility**
  - ✓ What is decided at the level of network
  - ✓ What at the level of subject
  - ✓ What at the level of each institution
  - ✓ What at national level

- **Quality Assurance and Recognition**
  - ✓ Need to be planned in advance
  - ✓ Quality assurance consists of two components: internal and external
  - ✓ Regulatory frameworks for external QA and recognition vary

Setting up a New Joint Programme

Idea	Concept	Plan ning	Agree ment	Imple menta tion

Internal QA of a Joint Programme

| Com-mit-ment | → | Outline Aims Concept | → | Self-eva luation | → | Joint Ana lysis | → | Impro ving | → |

Quality Related Questions for Self-evaluation (1)

- **Programme aims and objectives**
  - ✓ Perspective of individual HEI and the network

- **Concept**
  - ✓ Target groups/Admission requirements
  - ✓ Course structure
  - ✓ Learning outcomes, ECTS, modular structure
  - ✓ Assessment and examination practices
  - ✓ Learning context
  - ✓ Transparency

Quality Related Questions for Self-evaluation (2)

- **Programme Implementation: Tools**
  - ✓ Decision-Making Processes
  - ✓ Organisation
  - ✓ Resources
  - ✓ Staff
  - ✓ Financial resources
  - ✓ Administration
  - ✓ Organisation of admissions and transitions
- **Quality assessment**
  - ✓ How is the achievement of programme objectives assessed systematically at all levels involved?
- **Programme Sustainability**

To conclude

- **Key success factors:**
  - ✓ Careful planning in co-operation with the partners
  - ✓ Open communication between partners

- **EUA publications and further information available at www.eua.be**