

# Joint accreditation

## Erasmus Mundus Master Programme Journalism, Media and Globalisation

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# Timeline Pilot Project

- May 2009 Enquiry of University Hamburg
- June 2009 kick-off meeting and information of the consortium in Den Haag (NVAO)
- July 2009 draft and template of mutual self report for the consortium available
- Sept 2009 searching for experts starts
- Nov 2009 Review of the draft self report (information complete, understandable, consistent?) by ZEvA
- Dec 2009 Last expert found. It took four months, normal are four days
- Self report final version sent to the experts with additional information including procedure
- Jan 2010 site visit with representatives of all Universities involved
- April report sent to the consortium. It took three months, regular are three weeks.
- Mai Response from the consortium
- June decision NVAO
- July decision ZEvA

# Self Evaluation Report

- SER: narrative and statistical components
  - Description (curriculum, objectives, outcomes ...)
  - Data (modul descriptions, cv of teachers ...)
  - Statistic elements (success of programme)
  - Quality assurance (methods, findings, improvements)
  - All accreditation criteria are assessable with the SER

# Matching of Criteria

- Kick-off meeting
- Matching of Criteria (examples)

Chapter 2 Conceptual Integration of the Study Programme in the System of Studies	(Criterion 2.1.1 NVAO) (Criterion 2.1.2 NVAO) (Criterion 2.1.3 NVAO) (Criterion 2.2.4 NVAO) (Criterion 2.2.5 NVAO) (Criterion 2.2.6 NVAO)	(Criterion 2.2 GAC 63/2009)
Chapter 6 Conditions for continuity	(Criterion 2.6.1 NVAO) (Criterion 2.6.2 NVAO) (Criterion 2.6.3 NVAO)	-----
Chapter 10 Gender Justice and Equal Opportunities	-----	(Criterion 2.10, GAC 63/2009)

# Expert panel

- at least two professors and experts of the respective discipline (i.e. journalism), one practitioner and one student
- experience and knowledge of international and joint programmes and quality assurance processes in Europe's HEI
- Independent and impartial

# Site visit at University Hamburg

The day before:

Preliminary discussion of the experts panel,  
accompanied by NVAO and ZEvA project managers

Site visit:

separate discussions with

1. vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor, managing  
director
2. professors and teaching personnel
3. students
4. Interior discussion of expert panel
5. Feedback, no valuation

# Experts Report

- The report follows the self report's structure and gives an assessment to every criterion in the following order:
  - Chapter
  - Criterion
  - Outline of findings
  - Considerations (strengths and concerns)
  - Conclusion (“The criterion is fulfilled, is partly fulfilled, is not fulfilled”)
- Universities response of the report is important
- Publication of the report

# Decision

- Netherlands: only recommendations and yes/no decision
- Germany: recommendations, obligations and suspending possible
- several decisions are not meaningful

# Methodological Problems 1

UK, Austria and others - institutional audits,  
Netherlands and Germany - programme accreditation  
with some added criteria, set by the government

The process oriented European Standards and Guidelines  
(ESG) should be sufficient – lead to institutional audits

Even between Netherlands and Germany  
the matching of criteria sets  
appeared difficult, some of them differ clearly

# Methodological Problems 2

Germany: special (bureaucratic) rules for accreditation of joint programmes:

1. The German structural guidelines and the guidelines of the German Accreditation Council must be effective for the whole programme
2. On-site visits at all locations, except actual evaluation and accreditation results based on ESG are available
3. At least one degree recognised by German law, joint degrees included
4. Site visit with vice-chancellors (heads of the universities) from all partners (!), if possible experts for the panel from all (!) involved countries

etc...

## Methodological Problems 3

- a lack of transparency concerning internal quality assurance
- distances between two agencies and between agency and international experts cause possibly misunderstandings
- in very few cases all of the contributors are fluent English speakers
- Appropriate international experienced experts are possibly not available

# Conclusion 1

**Pool of international experts needed**

**Improvement of language skills (English)**

**Close Co-operation between agencies**

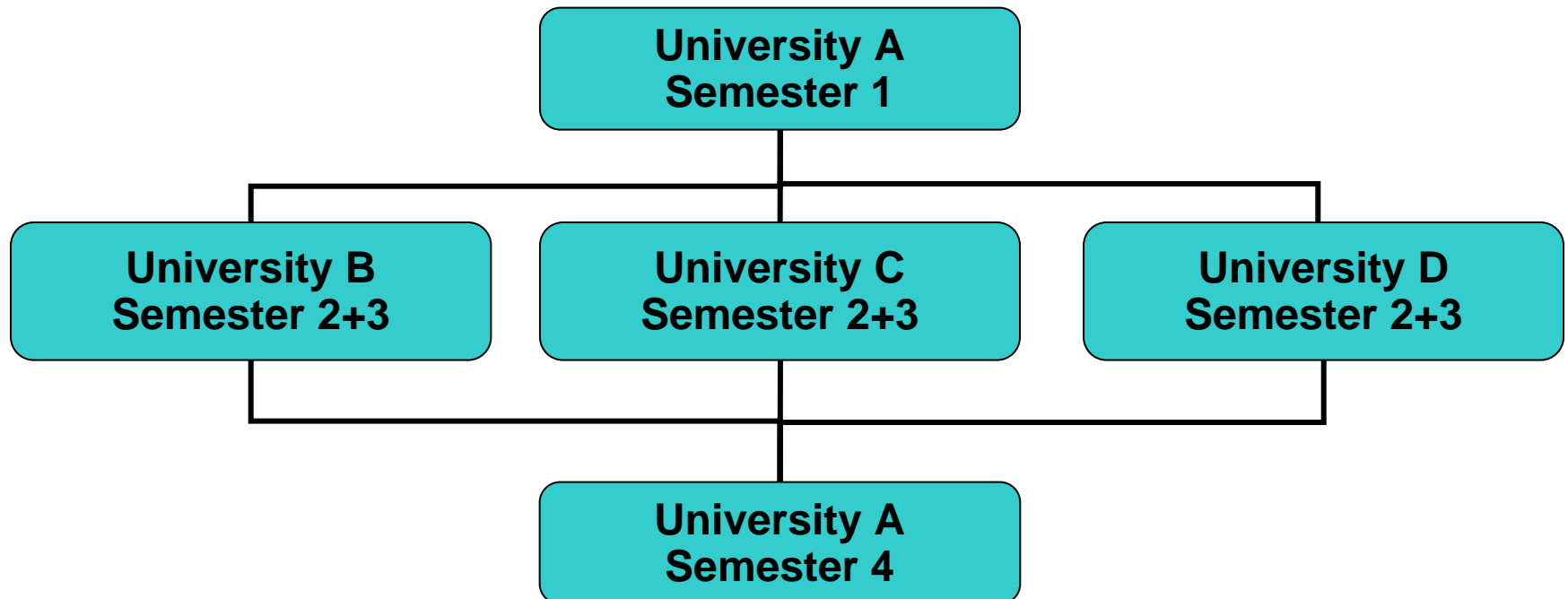
**ESG as direct basis**

**Significant shortening of project duration**

**Agreements on mutual recognition of accreditation decisions are welcome**

# Conclusion 2

**Alternative Models:  
Synchronising versus Rotating  
Mobility windows and recognition**



# Grading Scheme Diagram for Diploma Supplement (see actual ECTS-guide)

	European Master EMMA	DK	NL	UK	GER	Percentage 2008-2010	Number of Graduates 2008-2010
Excellent/ Distinction	A/A+	12	8.1-10	75	1,0	0	0
Very good	A/B	10	7.6-8.0	70	1,3	8,3	8
Good	B/C	7	7.0-7.5	65	1,7-2,3	40,6	39
Satisfactory	D	4	6.1-6.9	55	2,7-3,3	36,5	35
Pass	E	2	5.5-6.0	50	3,7-4	10,4	10
Fail	F/FX	0, -3	≤5.4	45, 35	5-6	4,2	4
						100	96