International perspectives: Changes in Quality Assurance

Dorte Kristoffersen
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Outline

- Introduction
- Multiple Contexts for Quality Assurance
- Student Learning Outcomes
- Professionalisation of Quality Assurance
- Quality Assurance of External Quality Assurance Agencies
- Concluding Remarks
Multiple contexts for QA

- **Institutional**: eg institution, department, discipline, local or international partnerships
- **National**: government, HEI community, professional bodies
- **Regional**: governmental policy cooperation, trade agreements, quality assurance networks, institutional, eg EUA and AUN
- **Global**: International organisations, eg OECD and Unesco, INQAAHE, international professional accreditation, eg Washington Accord and EQUIS
Multiple contexts for QA con’t

CONSEQUENCES

- Need for adaption to various contexts
- Need for alignment of procedures
- Cooperation in various settings
- International peers
- Emerging market for QA
Traditional QA focus

Input → Process → Outcomes
## Emergence of QFs

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*J. Keevy, South African Qualifications Authority, September 2008*
Outcomes-based QA focus

- Structure and objectives
- Student learning experience and teaching delivery
- Outcomes checked through assessment

Program curriculum
Student Learning Outcomes and QA

CONSEQUENCES

- Paradigm shift
- Rethinking of program planning at national and institutional level
- Re-training of peers and staff in external QA agencies
- Multi-sectoral quality assurance
Professionalisation of QA

- An increasingly complex environment
- Changes in educational policy
- Continuous life cycles of quality assurance approaches
Professionalisation of QA con’t

CONSEQUENCES

- Expanding internal and external QA entities
- Specialised peer concept with need for continuous training
- Specialised division of labour among peers
QA of external quality assurance agencies

- Increasing formal measures for quality assurance of external quality assurance agencies
- Variety of purposes
- US has been at the forefront
- INQAHE Guidelines for Good Practice
- European Standards and Guidelines and the European Quality Assurance Register
Concluding remarks

- More complex contexts for quality assurance
- Continued development in requirements and thus need for development of QA procedures
- Specialization and professionalization of peers and staff of QA agencies
- Demand for more formalised accountability from a varied group of users
- Increasing need for highest quality in quality assurance due to the expansion of education.
Thank you for your attention

d kristoffer sen@me.com