



EUSKAL UNIBERTSITATE
SISTEMAREN KALITATE
AGENTZIA
AGENCIA DE
CALIDAD DEL SISTEMA
UNIVERSITARIO VASCO



Joint trainings as a bridge for cooperation

INQAAHE Conference 2017, Bahrain



Content

- 1. Starting point: Experiences & requirements**
2. Existing trainings for experts
3. Unibasq & AQAS approach

Unibasq



2004

**Regional agency
Original focus: Basque
University System**

Review activities:

- **Study programmes**
- **IQAS**
- **Academic staff**

**Member of ENQA,
EQAR, ECA and
INQAAHE**

AQAS



Largest agency in Germany
Non-field specific
National and international
procedures

5000+ accredited programmes

Recognized by German
Accreditation
Council

Member of ENQA, EQAR, ECA
and INQAAHE

Context

- Similarities and differences
- Cooperation (networks)
- Memorandum of understanding:
 - Promote quality culture in HE
 - Share skilled experts – collaborate in the field of training experts and staff
 - Exchange information/expertise about HES, QAS and procedures – participate in site visits as observers
 - Promote conferences, seminars and other experts' meetings

Context

Standards and Guidelines for QA in the EHEA (ESG 2015)

2.4 Peer-review experts.

"...In order to ensure the value and consistency of the work of the experts, they are carefully selected; have appropriate skills and are competent to perform their task; are supported by appropriate training and/or briefing.

...

The involvement of international experts in external quality assurance, for example as members of peer panels, is desirable as it adds a further dimension to the development and implementation of processes."

3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance.

"...The expertise in the agency may be increased by including international members in agency committees."

Context

- Composition of expert panels
- Positive experience with foreign experts
- Positive outcome, but challenge to understand role and position
- Language barriers (majority of procedures not in English):
Need of translation/interpreters (RIQAA project)



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Examples of trainings

- **ECA Training academy**

- E-TRAIN:

- “to train and to share a community of knowledgeable and internationally experienced experts in the domain of external QA in higher education”*

- Assessing Joint Programmes

- Assessing Internationalisation

- **ESU student training**

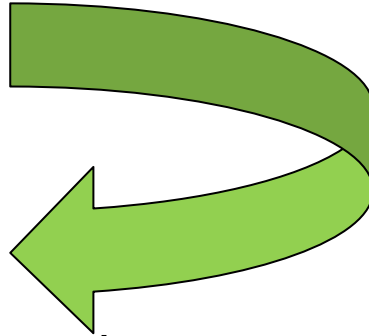


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Unibasq and AQAS approach

- Conclusion: Existing formats do not meet the requirements



- Specific training
- Target groups: academics and students
- Language: Spanish and German

Separate trainings

- 2 pilots:
 - One in German held in the Basque Country
 - One in Spanish held in Germany

10 – 15 people, proficient in the required language

2 day training

Content of the training

- The agency and the specific HES
- Memorandum of understanding of Unibasq and AQAS
- The specific accreditation system
- Review procedure
- Evaluation criteria
- Roles and responsibilities (Experts and coordinator)
- Writing the report
- Outlook and practicalities (ESG 2015)

Hopes and expectations

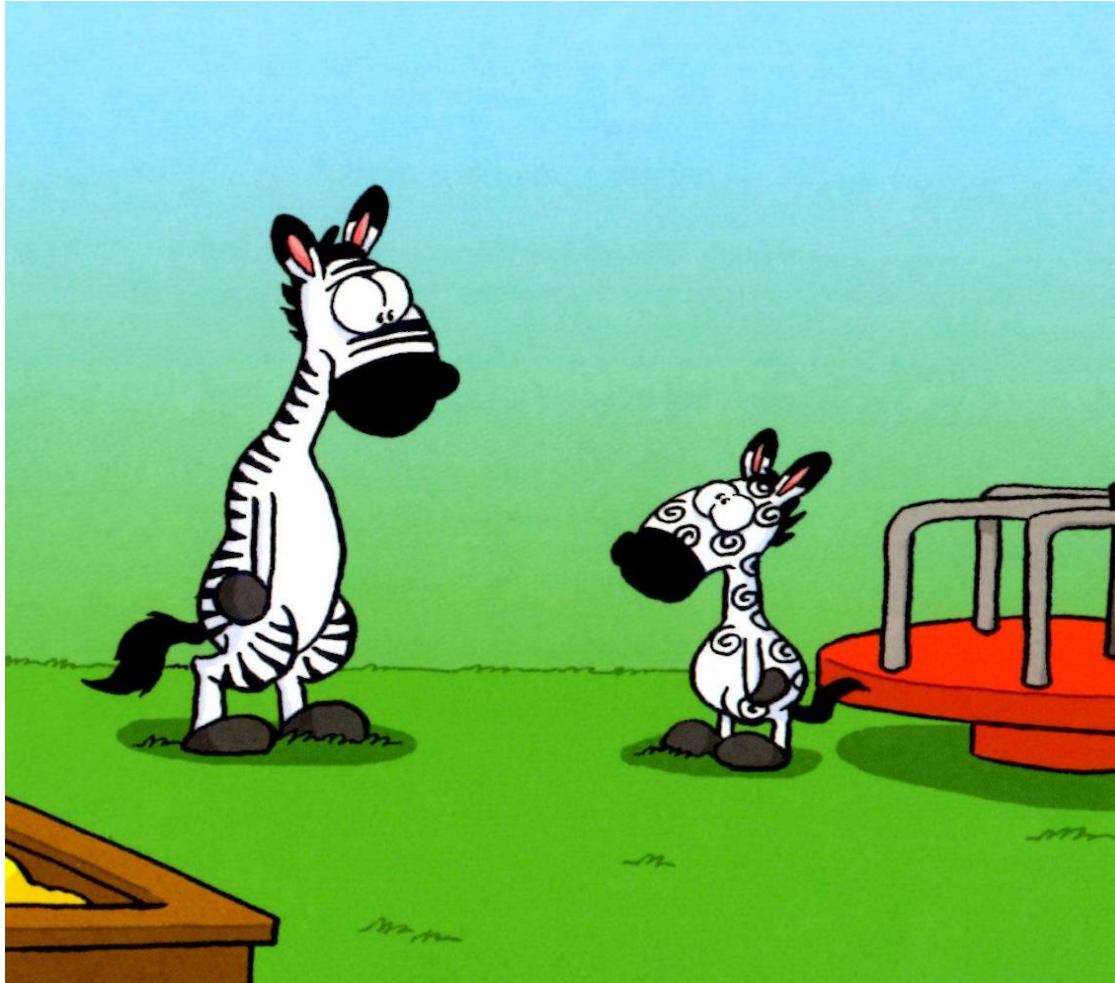
- Increase the number of foreign experts in our regular procedures
- Create the environment for the equal participation of foreign experts
- Create opportunities for collaboration between the two HES

Challenges:

- Budget

...work in progress!

Any questions?



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