

EUniQ

Implications for the Framework for QA of European Universities

Webinar “Outcomes of the EUniQ pilots and Implications for the Framework for QA of European Universities”

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Purpose of the QA Framework

- Now starting phase, setting up internal QA, possibilities to experiment
- At some point joint provision is likely to be subject to external QA (e.g. accreditation of joint programmes, institutional reviews)
- Multiple, potentially contradictory, less suitable external QA procedures could become problematic
- **Ultimate aim** is that alliances can be evaluated with 1 European QA Framework and 1 QA procedure



Input on the Framework from alliances and project partners

- Survey on internal/external QA perspectives of first 17 alliances
- Workshop Rome, 23-24 Oct 2019
- Comments on Draft QA Framework by alliances, Resonance Group
- Finalisation by EUniQ Roadmap Group



Evaluation principles of the Framework

- **Criteria** describe what is expected from a fully developed European University
- **Reference points** indicate for each criterion relevant elements of the European Universities Initiative call
- Evaluation of the **stage of development** allows to adapt expectations to reality of current early stage

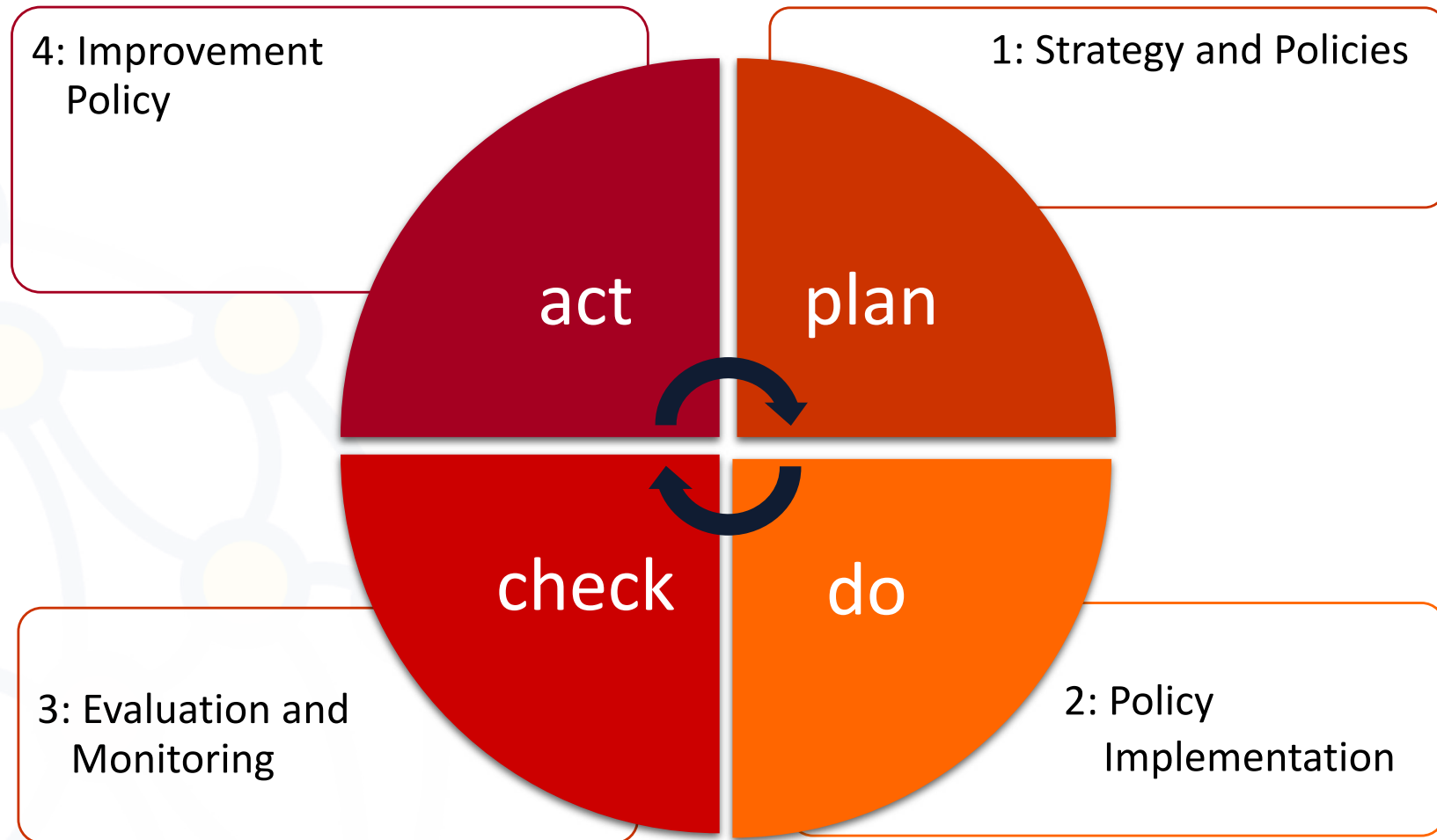


Criteria based on evaluation questions

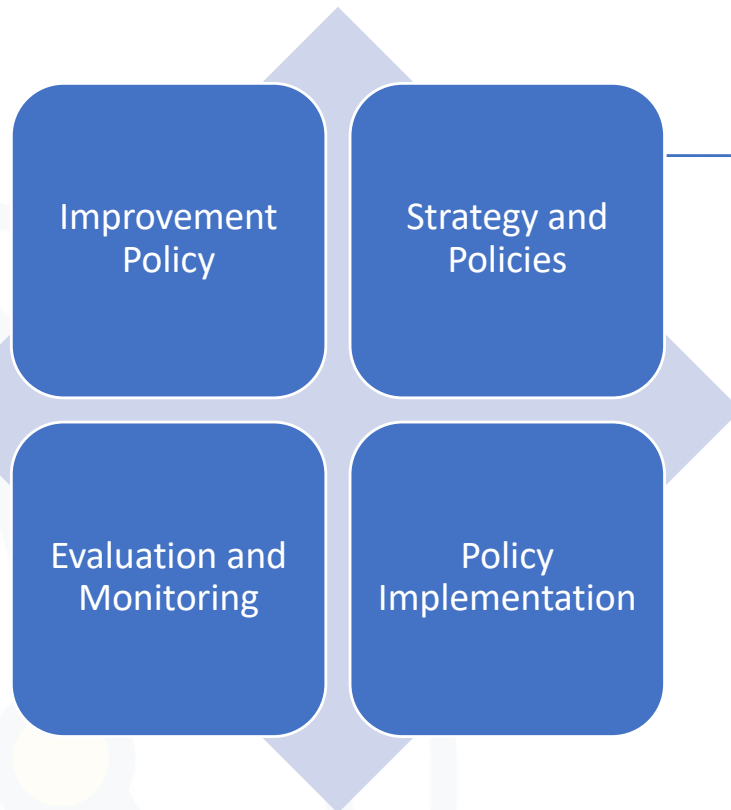
- What is the European University's **vision** on the quality of its education and, where possible, the links to research, innovation and service to society?
- How will the European University **realise** its vision?
- How does the European University **monitor** to what extent its vision is actually realised?
- How is the European University working on **improvement**?
- How is the quality of the European University's provision assured in an internationally accepted manner (**ESG**)?



Criteria follow PDCA cycle



Criteria and reference points



4 reference points for each criterion, e.g. for Strategy and Policies:

The European University's strategy and policies enable the realisation of an inter-university 'campus' which assures, in close collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, the quality of a joint provision that responds to societal challenges.

1. Vision on quality of education etc.
2. Involvement of all stakeholders
3. Challenge-based approach
4. QA policies for joint provision aligned with ESG



Stage of development

- Panel evaluates within context of the stage of development of the European University
- Appreciation of choices made, respecting timelines and approaches taken by alliance
- For each criterion what still needs/started to be developed, and partially/already developed
- Contributing to quality enhancement in good spirit of critical friends
- Focus on how strengths and further development of internal QA can contribute to successful realisation of alliance's strategy and sustainability



Evaluation of principles of Framework

Principles	Evaluation of pilots	Proposal for Framework
Criteria	Suitable but early days, especially for evaluation of Improvement Policy	Keep criteria but evaluate only after set-up of internal QA system
Reference points	Partially suitable as these are focused on long-term development; focus of alliance more on current EU project	Clarify long-term perspective; focus on evaluation questions for starting alliances
Stage of development	Starting phase, different timelines (EU project, strategy 2025, 2050,...) can be confusing.	Include first meeting between alliance and panel to clarify development stage of alliance and mutual expectations



Evaluation procedure: information provided to the panel

- Project proposal, partnership agreement, joint work plan
- Mission/strategy/policy/internal QA documents
- Possibility for short appreciative self-evaluation



Evaluation procedure: panel composition

- Selection made by QA agencies (suggestions from alliances possible and right to object)
- 3 panel members: chair, expert, student
- Combination of different types of expertise
- Independence and confidentiality
- 2 agency process coordinators/QA experts (advisory role): writing minutes/draft report
- One-day training workshop with experts and process coordinators



Evaluation procedure: site visit

- One full day at one location
- Discussions with representatives of all (associate) partners: management, staff, students, professional field, other relevant stakeholders
- Template, alliance proposes names/details of interviews



Evaluation procedure: report

- Findings, analysis, conclusions regarding criteria, recommendations
- Confidential report with recommendations for further development
- Public summary

<https://www.nvao.net/en/euniq-pilot-evaluation-reports>



Evaluation of procedure

Aspect of procedure	Evaluation of pilots	Proposal for Framework
Information provided to the panel	Available documents were limited; appreciative self-evaluation in 1 pilot	Appreciative self-evaluation is helpful; not optional (ESG 2.3)
Composition of panel	<p>3 experts in pilot is not sufficient to cover all required expertise, more focus on university network expertise;</p> <p>One-day training workshop including Appreciative Approach positively evaluated; different cultures in agencies (report writing)</p>	<p>At least 5 experts needed to cover complexity of European University;</p> <p>More attention in training to report writing and roles of experts and process coordinators; Consider evaluation by 1 EQAR-registered agency</p>



Evaluation of procedure (cont.)

Aspect of procedure	Evaluation of pilots	Proposal for Framework
Site visit (online because of pandemic)	<p>Online interviews have limitations but possibilities for interim meetings were appreciated;</p> <p>More time for stakeholders, co-creation, reflection, advise needed</p>	<p>Include online preparatory meetings for panel and with alliance to clarify mutual expectations before site visit;</p> <p>Site visit > 1 day, consider different stages (hybrid and creative)</p>
Report	<p>First experience with writing evaluation report for an alliance; not easy. Evaluation often based on plans. Reports useful for alliances at early stage</p>	<p>More attention for report-writing; collegiate advise Beyond starting/pilot phase external QA reports need to be published (ESG 2.6)</p>



Issues for further consideration

- Enhancement focus in Framework vs accountability requirements in national external QA procedures
- Short-term external QA requirements; e.g. using European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes
- Long-term institutionalisation of alliance and connecting of education/research/service to society missions; implications for external QA
- Alignment between internal/external QA and different developmental stages of alliances require flexibility in (application of) Framework



Outlook

- End of the pilots but start of the next project phase:
 - QA Development Roadmap
 - Analysis on European Universities, legal frameworks and ESG
 - Finalisation of European QA Framework
 - Dissemination conference 27-28 September 2021
- All suggestions, comments, questions are welcome:

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Thank you for your attention

More information:

<https://www.nvao.net/en/euniq-project>

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