Unite! quality management – goals and current status

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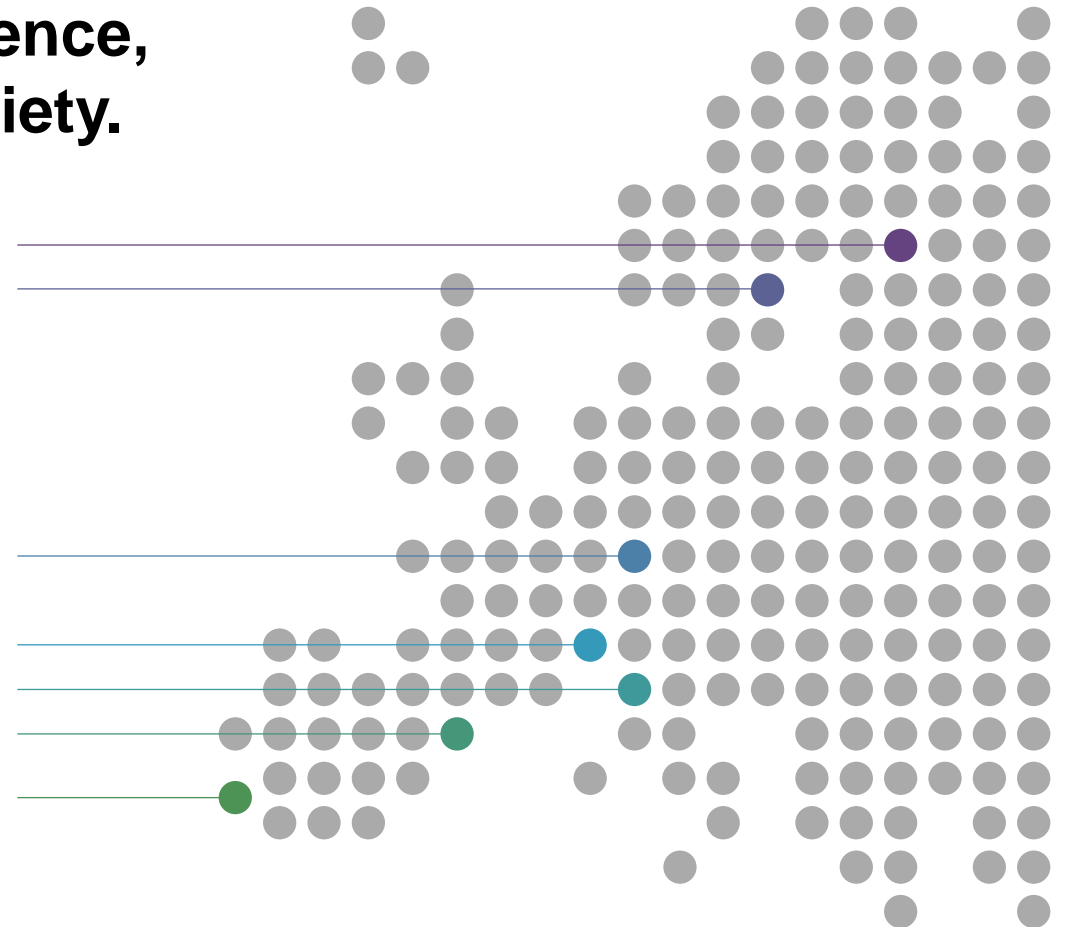**EUniQ dissemination conference 27 September 2021**

The Unite! alliance

Bridging the gaps between engineering, science, technology and the grand challenges of society.

Aalto University, Espoo/Helsinki
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

Technical University of Darmstadt

Grenoble INP-UGA
Politecnico di Torino
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya · BarcelonaTech
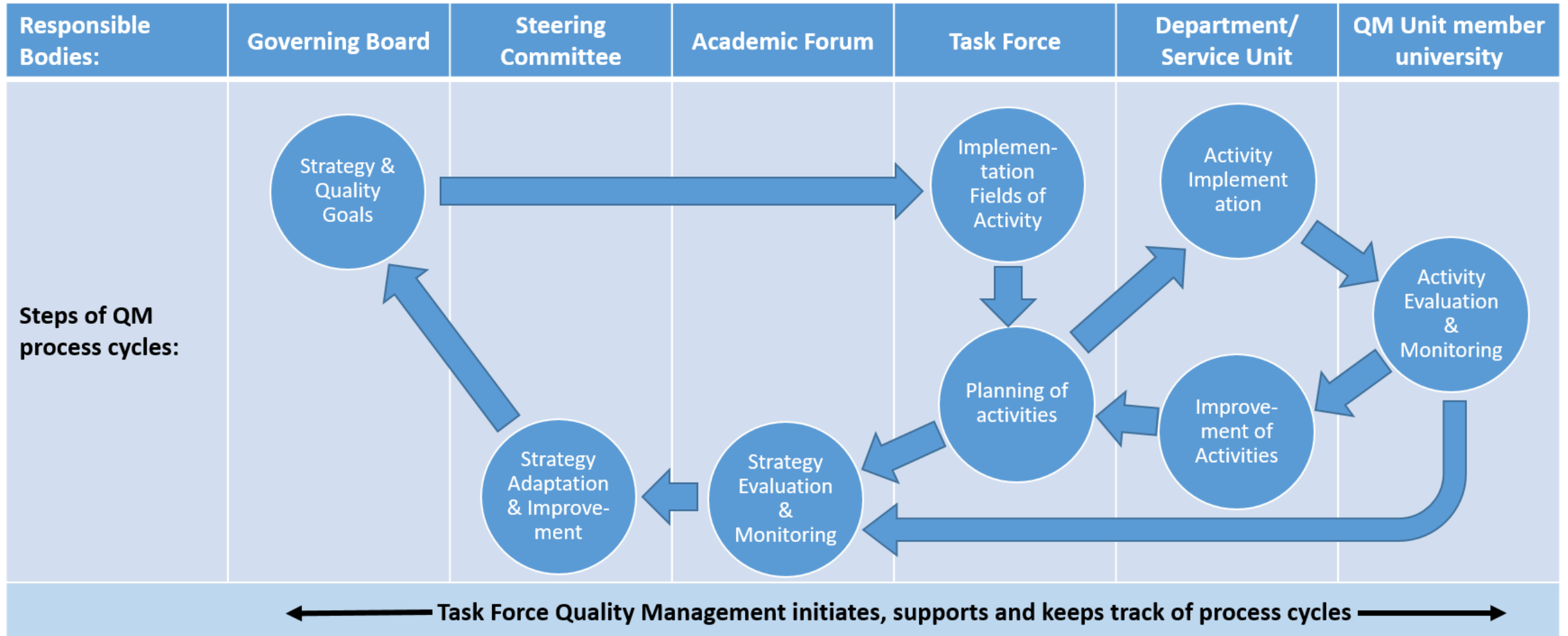Universidade de Lisboa

Challenges and goals (1)

QM supports the transition from a project to an institutionalized alliance:

- Coherent **strategy**

- Consistent **implementation**

- Systematic **adaptation**

➢ Focus on the **alliance-to-be**, not the current (E+/H2020) projects

➢ Establish quality cycles that link systematically **strategy and activities**

➢ **Quality culture:** responsibility, inclusive participation, stakeholders involvement

Unite! QM model process:

Responsible Bodies:	Governing Board	Steering Committee	Academic Forum	Task Force	Department/ Service Unit	QM Unit member university

Steps of QM process cycles:

Strategy & Quality Goals → Implementation Fields of Activity → Activity Implementation → Activity Evaluation & Monitoring → Improvement of Activities → Planning of activities → Strategy Evaluation & Monitoring → Strategy Adaptation & Improvement

← Task Force Quality Management initiates, supports and keeps track of process cycles →

Challenges and goals (2)

Multiple systems and regulations:

- **Established QA systems** at all universities

- Diverging **national regulations**

➢ **Mutual trust**: Representative use of existing QA systems for alliance

➢ **Seek pathways** through national regulations and diverse organizational cultures towards efficient QA standards and procedures

Current status of Unite! QM

1. **Quality Management Manual** is being discussed and disseminated within Unite!, and foreseen for decision-making by the Unite! Governing Platform in November 2021

2. For selected activities, **piloting quality cycles** are being established

Pilot quality cycle: Joint Master Programs

1. **Strategy level:**
    - **Unite! Criteria** for Joint Master Programs (approved)
    - **Decision-making** process for new programs (under development)

2. **Operational level:** (under discussion)
    - Support structures for **development** of Joint Programs
    - Standard process for **accreditation**
    - Ongoing **monitoring and reporting**

→ From ***ad hoc* decision-making** and case-to-case-solution to coherent strategy and **standard processes**

Unite! as a EUniQ pilot

- EUniQ project put quality management **on the agenda** of Unite! from (almost) the start

- Gave the impulse to define **principles and procedures** of Unite! quality management

- We are now starting to **implement quality cycles** - strategic and operative – across our member universities

- This is important to transform Unite! **from a project into an institutionalized alliance**

unite!

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