

Q-FORTE Project
November 8th, 2021

***A national framework for accreditation: the
case study of Spain***

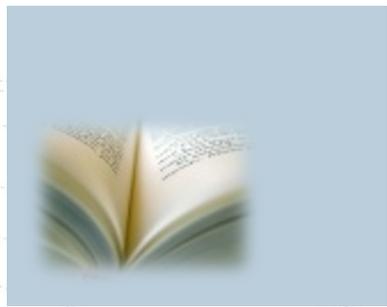
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- 1- **The higher education system in Spain:
the quality assurance framework**
- 2- **The evaluation activities of ANECA:**
- 3- **Programmes, centres/institutions**
- 4- **Evaluation/Accreditation of academic
staff (career positions, researching,
teaching, & community outreach) on
individual and voluntary bases**

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1- **The higher education system in Spain:
the quality assurance framework**



The QA framework in Spain

Education in Spain follows a **decentralised model**.

In the case of higher education, jurisdiction is distributed between:

1. The State (national level)
2. The regional governments and
3. The Universities.



The Spanish HE evaluation System: public bodies involved

HE Governance: State – Regional Governments (17)



General Conference for University Policy:

- Defines the cooperation terms between the Ministry and the regional governments and the mutual recognition agreements amongst their Agencies.
- Approves the coordination criteria concerning the evaluation and accreditation activities of the Agencies.
- It is chaired by the Minister of Education, and all the regional ministers for higher education are represented

University Council

- It is the cooperation body between the Ministry and the Rectors' Conference.
- It is chaired by the Minister of Education. All regional HE ministers and rectors -of both public and private universities- are present.
- It is the decision-making body of the accreditation procedures based on the reports issued by the Agency.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES

■ National level



■ Regional level



The Spanish HE evaluation System: public bodies involved (2)

Coordination of evaluation procedures in Spain

Network of QA Agencies in Spain (REACU):

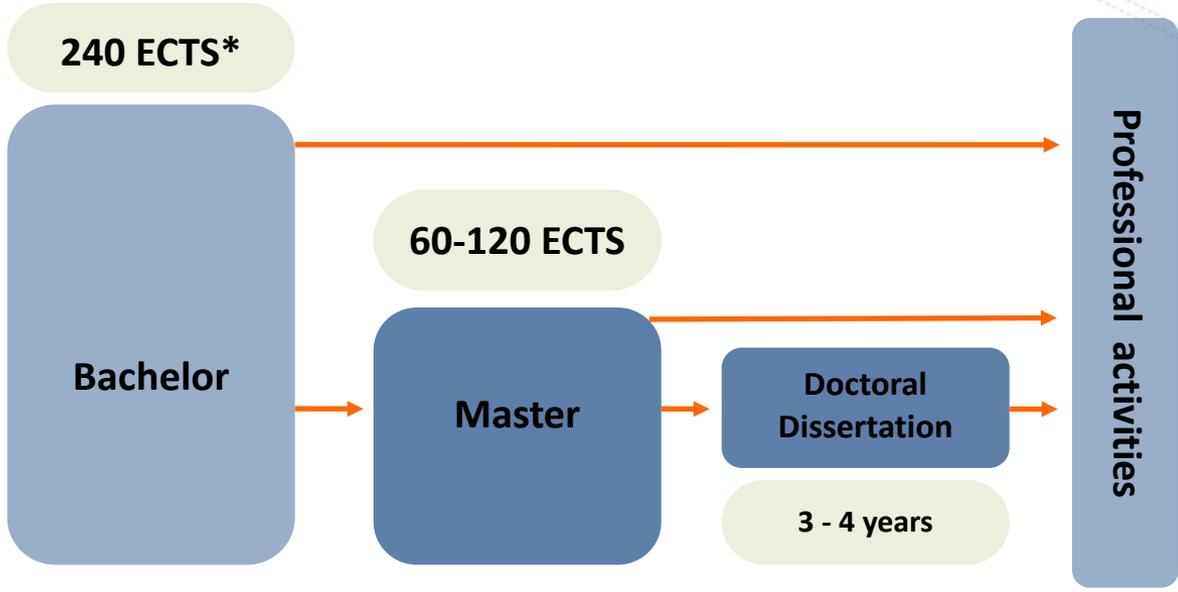
- It includes ANECA and the 10 evaluation agencies of the regional governments
- Technical organisation: it coordinates evaluation criteria and guidelines
- The chair of REACU rotates annually (among agencies).



University Committee for the Regulation of the Follow-up and Programm Accreditation Procedures (CURSA):

- Created in 2010 to ensure the coordination of the implementation of the programmes at the national level (follow-up and reaccreditation procedures)
- It is chaired by the D-G for University Policies and gathers 4 heads of the regional education departments, 5 rectors, ANECA and 4 regional agencies, and 2 universities.

Structure of the Spanish University System

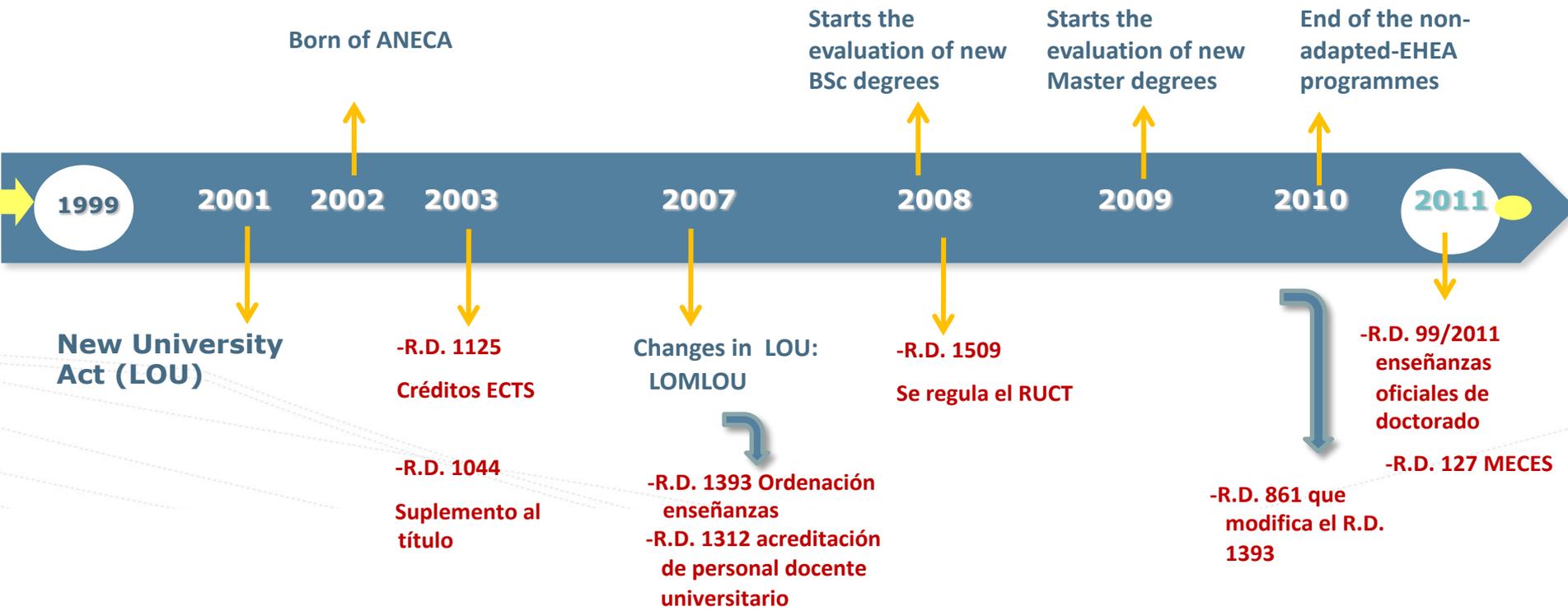


***ECTS:** European Credit Transfer System
1 ECTS= is equivalent to 25 hs of student work for a subject (study time, attend the class, practicals, works and examinations)

The QA framework in Spain



Evolution of the Bologna Process in Spain



The QA framework in Spain



EHEA



Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance



Spanish legal framework



University Act, Modified in 2007
 Royal Decrees: 2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2011



Evaluation Procedures of ANECA

P PEP	A ACADEMIA	AU AUDIT	D DOCENCIA	M MONITOR	✓ VERIFICA	Ac ACREDITA	Ai ACREDITACIÓN institucional
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The QA framework in Spain

	PRE-EHEA	AFTER EHEA
FOCUS	Contents	Competences
AUTONOMY	Less	More
WHO DESIGNS PROGRAMMES	Government	University
PROGRAMME REFERENCE	Catalogue	Register
NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES	Finite	Undetermined
INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE	Emerging	Key aspect
EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE	Voluntary	Compulsory

Adapting the Spanish HE system to the Bologna Process

Traum...



...oder Trauma

2- **The evaluation activities of ANECA**

**QA & Accreditation of programmes,
centres/institutions**

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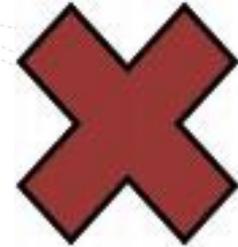
What do we externally assess?

- a) Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes/degrees
- b) Higher-Education Academic Staff (different levels)
- c) Internal Quality Assurance systems of HEIs
- d) Internal Assessment procedures of HEIs for the teaching activity
- e) Other programs



■ In Spain:

Accreditation of institutions



Accreditation of programmes



Compulsory for all official programmes (public & private universities)

Programme Accreditation in Spain

■ The sum of three processes:



PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

Definition of intended Learning Outcomes

Progress of the study programme

Assessment of the achieved Learning Outcomes



Assures the quality of the educational proposal

Assures the validity of the project once it has been implemented

Assures quality of learning (competency and qualification)

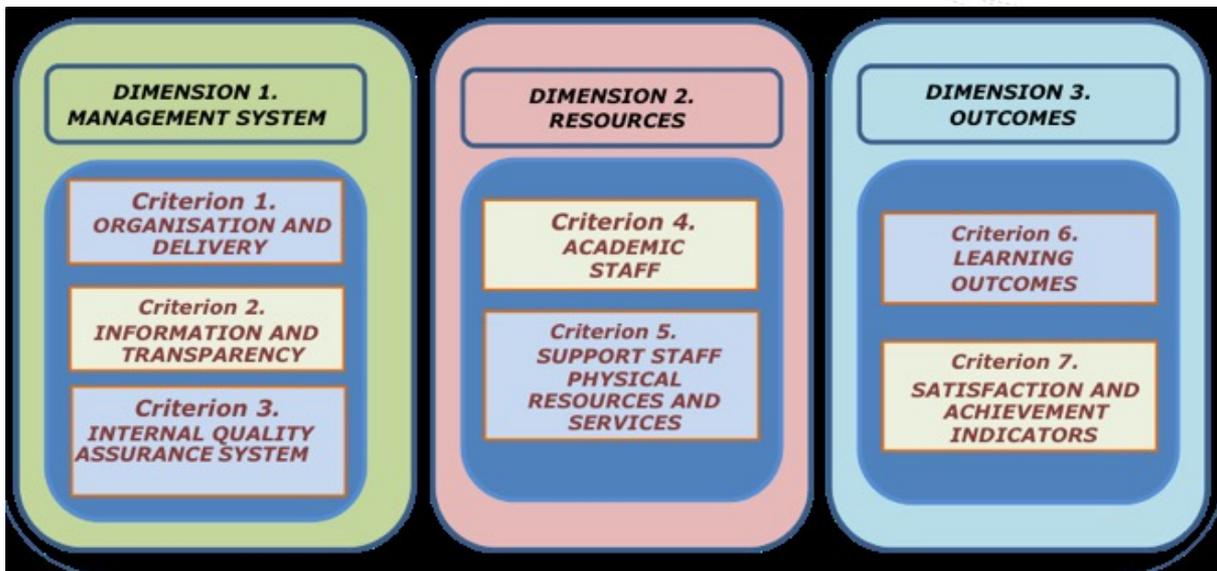
EX - ANTE

Follow-up

EX - POST



Assessment Framework for programme accreditation (Acredita program):



Is the programme being implemented according to the project proposal commitment (verifica document)?

Do the achieved results justify the re-accreditation of the programme?

The procedure

Self-evaluation

Visit by experts panel

Evaluation for Accreditation

- In addition ANECA has **THREE VOLUNTARY** procedures:

Assessment of IQAS of
HEIs



Assessment for European
Labels



Institutional
Accreditation



Complementary to programme accreditation!

Assessment of IQAS of HEIs

The logo for AN AUDIT, featuring the letters 'AN' in a stylized orange font above the word 'AUDIT' in white capital letters, all set against a purple rectangular background.

Goal: To provide guidance in design and certifying internal quality assurance systems integrating all the activities related to degree programmes quality assurance of each HEI

Milestones



1. To orientate in the design of the Internal Quality Assurance Systems (IQAS) of Universities



2. Assessment of the designs of the IQAS

3. Certification of the Implemented IQAS



Framework for internal quality assurance system Assessment:

1.0. How the HEI defines its quality **policy and goals**.

1.1. How the HEI ensures the **quality of its programmes**.

1.2. How the HEI orientates its programmes towards the **students**.

1.3. How the HEI assures and enhances the quality of its **academic staff**.

1.4. How the HEI manages and improves its physical **resources and services**

1.5. How the HEI analyses and takes into consideration the **outcomes**.

1.6. How the HEI publishes **information** on degree programmes.



Framework for internal quality assurance system Assessment:

1.0. How the HEI defines its quality policy and goals.

The HEI should:

- 1.0.1. Make a public statement in writing that sets out its quality policy, together with its scope and goals.
- 1.0.2. State the interest groups involved in defining the quality policy.
- 1.0.3. Integrate different elements (bodies, procedures, processes, etc.) to establish a system whereby this quality policy can be implemented.
- 1.0.4. Establish actions to define, approve, review and improve the quality policy and goals.
- 1.0.5. Determine the accountability procedure (how, who, when) with the interest groups in relation to compliance with the quality policy and fulfilment of the quality goals.

Assessment for European/International Labels



Goal: **INTERNATIONALITATION!** To offer (for some disciplines) the possibility to obtain an international label, simultaneously with the compulsory process for ex-post national accreditation.

Currently in place for two disciplines

Engineering

Informatics





OBJECTIVE



To allow to Spanish Universities the opportunity to obtain a recognised **international label in certain specific scientific fields**, at the programme level, together with the national **accreditation**



ADVANTAGES

1. **Take a step forward** in the degrees' accreditation.
2. **To avoid the multiplication** of processes in order to obtain the national accreditation and the international labels.
3. **"For a bit more"**, aiming for national accreditation AND for an international quality label.

Once an engineering/informatics programme asks for re-accreditation, **two options** are provided:

a) Ask for compulsory **national accreditation**, or

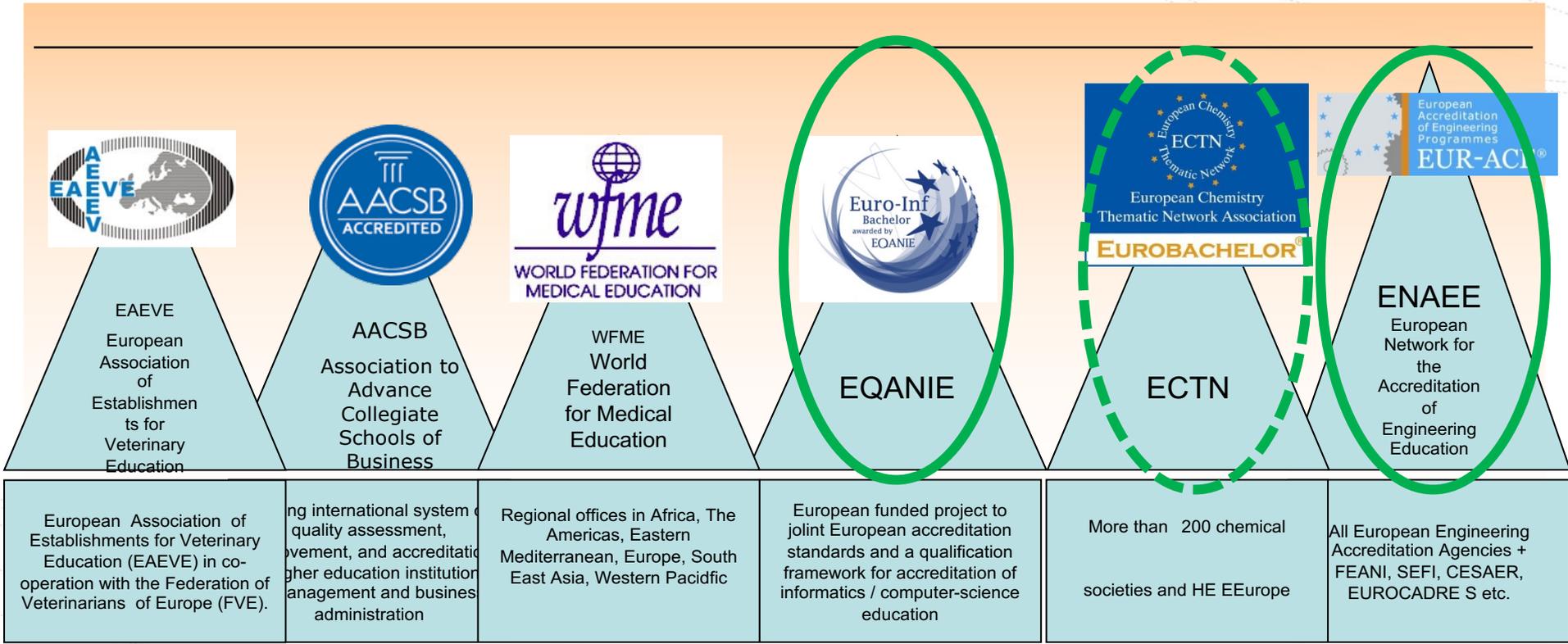


a) Ask for compulsory **national accreditation** together with the EUR-ACE/EURO-INF label request



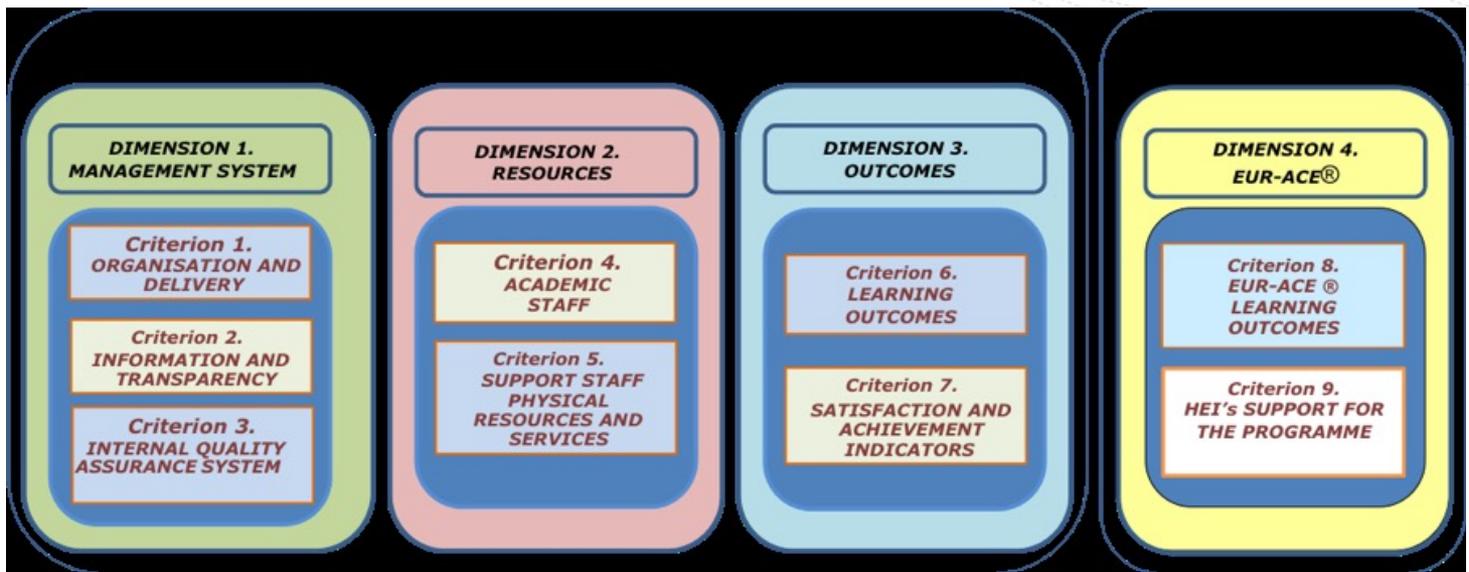
If this is the option, then...

Labels under the umbrella of



Assessment Framework for expost programme accreditation+EUR-ACE Label:

Site visit required!



Common to the compulsory national accreditation

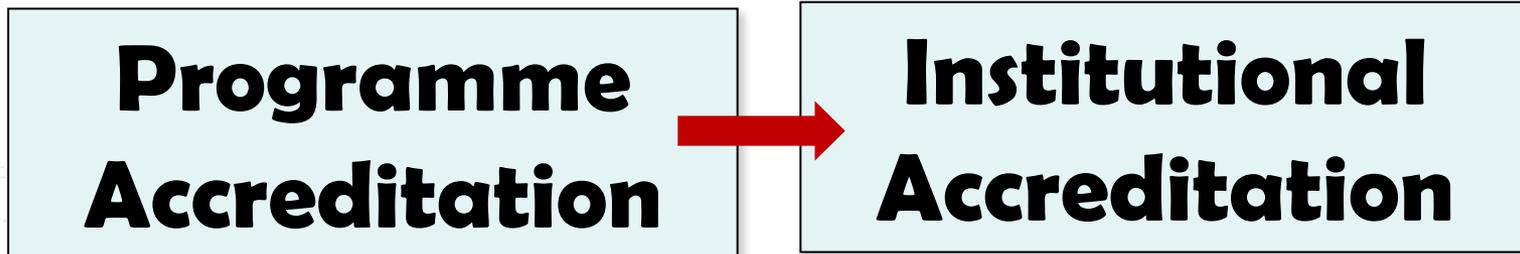
Additional information for the label

Institutional Accreditation



Goal: INCREASE EFFICIENCY! To offer the possibility to achieve institutional accreditation at school level. When obtained, accreditation will be applicable to all programmes under the umbrella of that school.

Moving from...to



Steps required to participate

1. Programme Accreditation

Focus:

Programmes

The assessment follows the path: ex ante accreditation-follow up-ex post accreditation



Compulsory

2. School Institutional Accreditation

Focus:

Schools with:

- 50% of their programmes already accredited.
- IQAS implemented already certified.

The assessment relates to all programmes implemented within that specific school

Voluntary

Institutional Accreditation



2. School Institutional Accreditation

Milestones

Focus:

Schools with:

- 50% of their programmes already accredited.
- IQAS implemented already certified.

Validity: Maximum 5 years

1. Special focus on the Internal Quality Assurance System of the School



2. Assessment of the outcomes of a group of programmes that have not been assessed before

3. If school accreditation is not obtained, all programmes within that school will be subject to programme accreditation the year after.



4-

Evaluation/Accreditation of academic staff (on individual and voluntary bases):

- a. Career positions: according to different production requirements**
- b. Researching: Criteria for each field**
- c. Teaching: Quality criteria...**
- d. Community outreach: activities to transfer academic production to community and society**

Specific programmes by ANECA as a Quality Assurance agency (not that common among QA agencies)



**Thank you for your
attention**

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