

Nordic Quality Assurance - NOQA

Karin Järplid Linde

kjl@hsv.se

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Nordic Quality Assurance Network in Higher Education – NOQA

- The Nordic Quality Assurance Agencies have convened annually since 1992
- In 2003 the network was officially formalised as NOQA
- Annual meetings
- Rotating chairmanship
- Joint projects

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Joint Projects

- Benchmarking
- Similar cultural background
- Shared values on quality assurance
- Differences exist
- Reports on joint projects available on www.noqa.no

Joint Master's programmes – joint evaluations. A Nordic Challenge

The Nordic Council of Ministers financed:

- The development of six Joint Nordic Master Programmes.
- A joint evaluation project of these programmes.

Two programmes were selected for a pilot study

Joint Master's programmes – joint evaluations. A Nordic Challenge

- The project involved QA Agencies in the Nordic countries
- The aim was to develop a methodology for joint evaluation of joint programmes
- Report will be published at www.noqa.no

Main types of external QA in the Nordic countries

Denmark – programme accreditation

Finland – audit

Iceland – audit, programme evaluation and accreditation

Norway – audit, accreditation

Sweden – programme evaluation and accreditation

Are national systems for external QA converging?

- Common overall methodology - Yes
- European standards and guidelines
- Common targets and goals - No (control vs enhancement, funding)
- Sweden and Denmark vs. Norway and Finland

Can other Agencies conduct reviews?

- EQAR – but ...
- Denmark accepts – but ...
- Doubtful whether any of the other Nordic countries accept as yet

Final remarks

- Successful pilot evaluations, based on common criteria
- Report with an analysis of the problems encountered.
- Project aims met, but...
- Different approaches to evaluation of quality
- Different authorisation from governments

Does the network improve co-operation?

- Easy access to knowledge sharing
 - Annual meetings, informal contacts
- Facilitates benchmarking
 - Joint projects

What could be aspects of a shared culture?

- Common language
- Geographical aspects
- Shared history
- Shared values

How far can efforts in quality development be promoted by working in networks?

- Internal: Enhancement of quality procedures
- External: United we are strong