

Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de
l'Enseignement Supérieur (AEQES)

**Case study: how do AEQES' EQA
procedures try to support HEIs IQA
procedures & quality enhancement ?**

Brussels, EQuAm Round Table
April 19th 2013

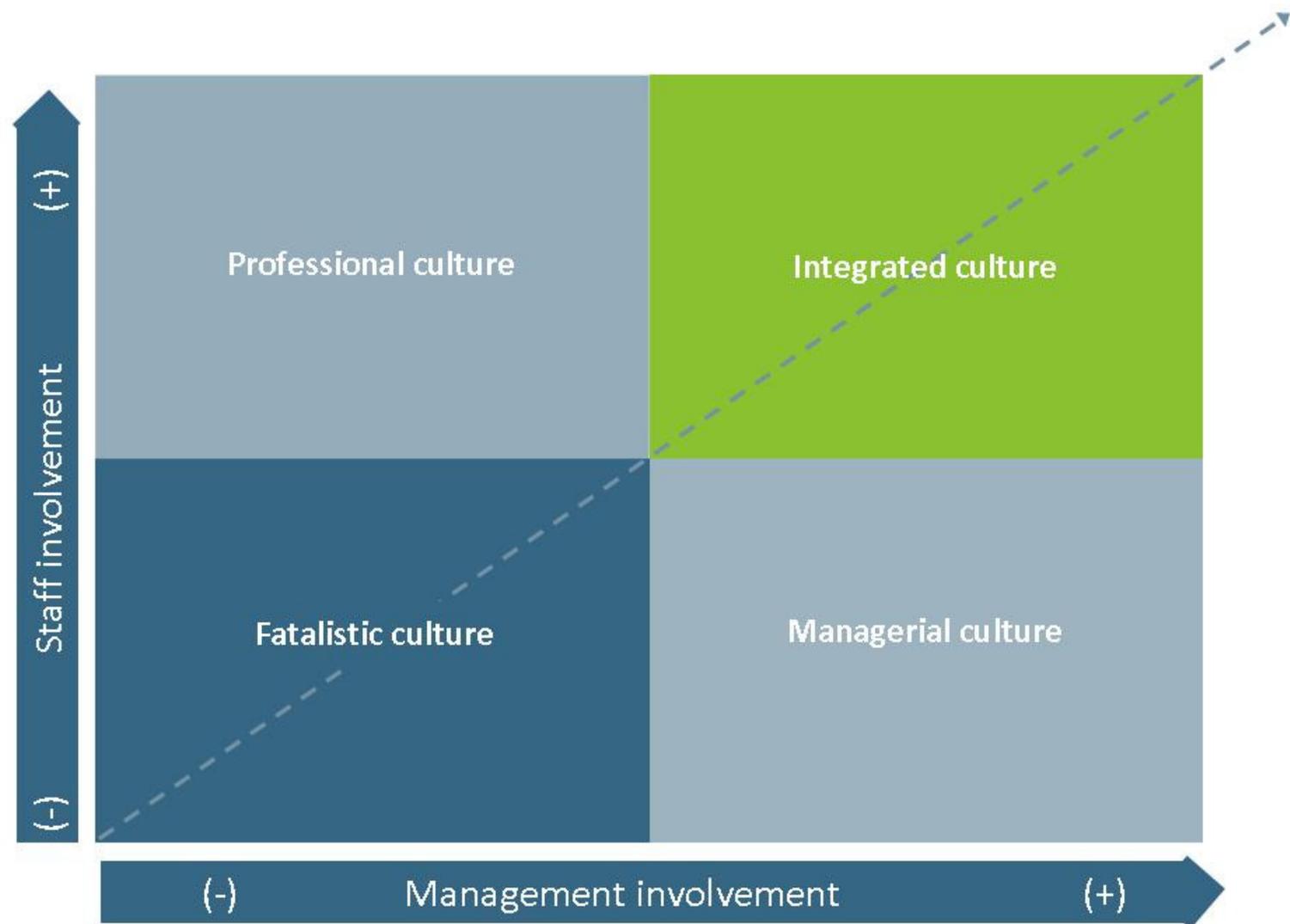


Outline

1. Introduction : background data
2. AEQES brief history and legal framework
3. AEQES missions and key features
4. How AEQES functions
5. AEQES methodology
6. Conclusion



...towards quality culture ?



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background data

Key features of Belgium

Independence in 1830

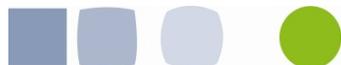
Constitutional parliamentary monarchy

3 communities, 3 regions and a federal government

Population of 11 million inhabitants

Brussels as an European and international capital

[further information : www.belgium.be]



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background data (2)

Higher education in French-speaking Community

Freedom of education guaranteed by Constitution

Communities competences in education, culture, research and people-related affairs

Long academic tradition, great variety of HE providers and study programmes

HE is a public good : social dimension
appr. 200.000 students

79% in Bachelor; 16% in Master and 4% in PhD

Missions of HE : high-level training, personal growth and fulfilment, service to society, fundamental and applied research
(Bologna Act, 31 March 2004)



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AEQES brief history & legal framework

AEQES 1 : Act of November 2002

all components of higher education
evaluation of study programmes
self-assessment reports, peer reviews and
confidential reports

AEQES 2 : Act of February 2008

a more independent agency, evaluation of
programmes based on a 10-year planning, self-
assessment reports, external reviews, publication of
results and follow-up procedures

Agency review every 5 years (ESG compliance)

ENQA full member in 2011, on EQAR 2012



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AEQES

mission statement

*AEQES is an **independent public sector agency**, practising **formative evaluation** based on a dialogue between all stakeholders within the French Community. Fully embedded in the European context, the Agency is responsible for **assessing the quality of higher education** and working for its **continuous improvement**.*
[...]

See http://www.aeqes.be/english_about_us.cfm



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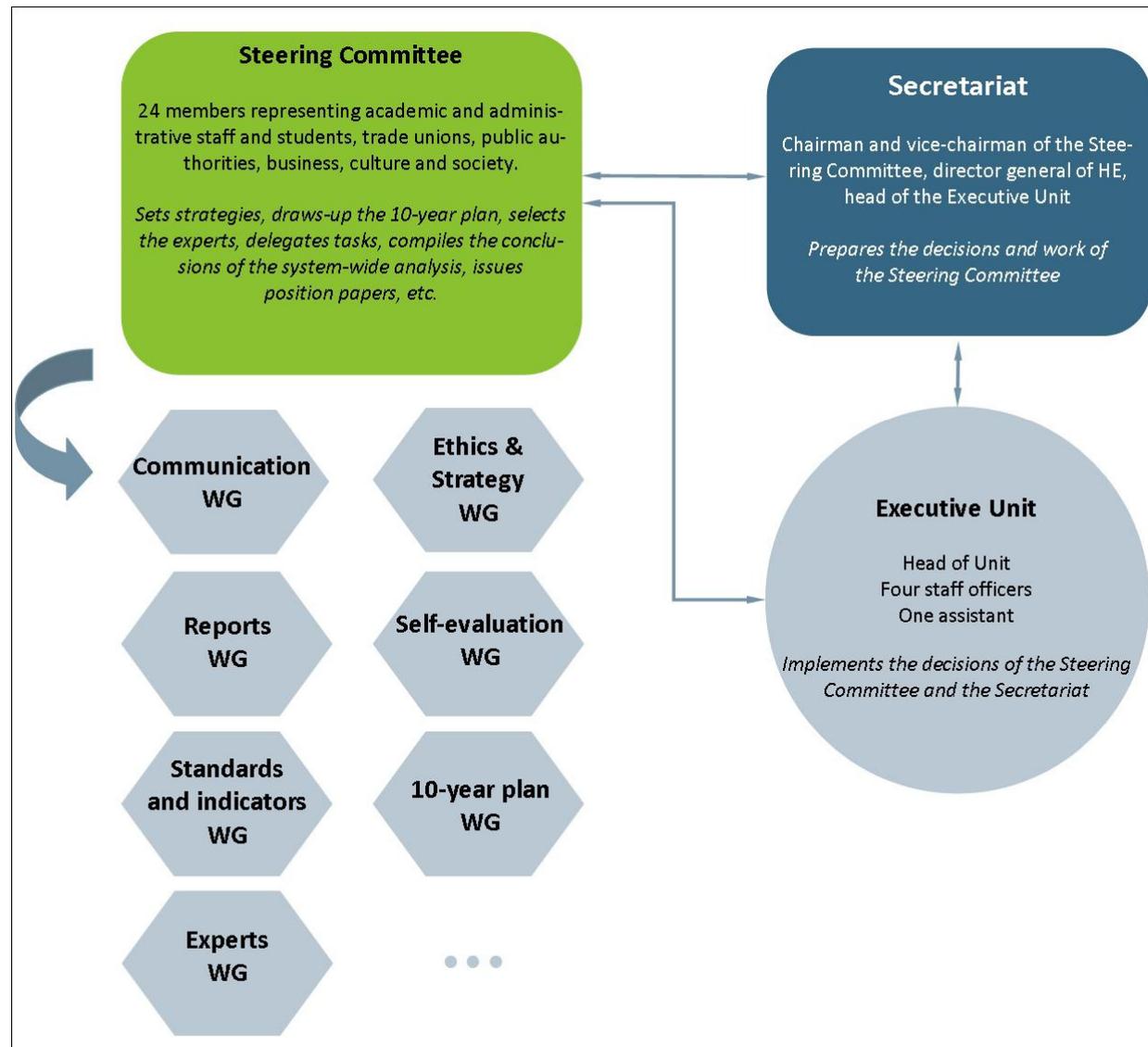
AEQES key features

1. Independent public sector agency
2. formative QA evaluation process, hence no formal effects in terms of institution fundings or autorisation (AEQES is not an accreditation agency)
3. programme-based quality assurance (AEQES standards)
scope : 1st and 2nd cycle degrees of the four sectors (i.e. universities, university colleges, art schools and conservatoires, adult education centres)
all similar programmes are evaluated simultaneously (clusters approach) → system-wide analysis
4. no ranking, no scores



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how AEQES functions



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AEQES methodology

AEQES reference framework (2012)

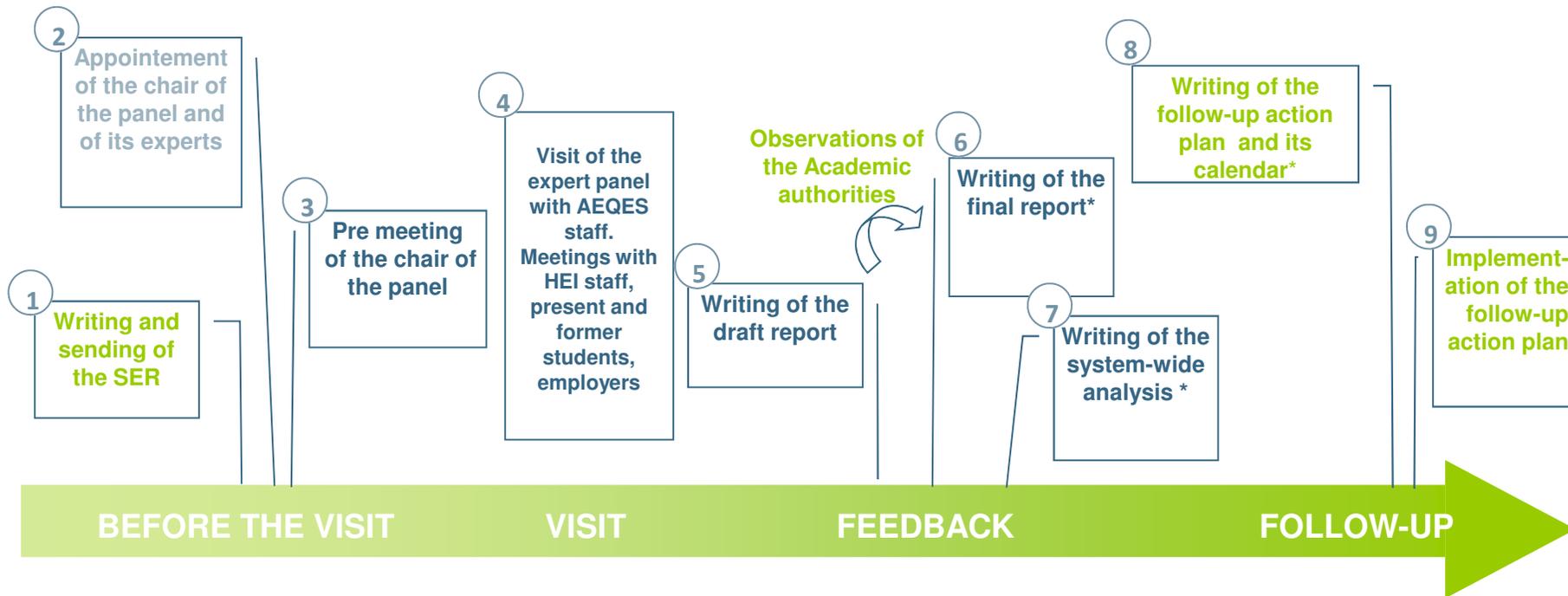
Five criteria + guidelines

1. HEI implements a **policy** for maintaining its programmes quality
2. HEI implements a policy for ensuring the **relevance...**
3. HEI implements a policy for ensuring the **internal coherence...**
4. HEI implements a policy for ensuring the **efficiency & equity...**
... of its study programme
5. HEI comes up with an **action plan** for continuous improvement



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AEQES methodology (2)



* Published on the website www.aeqes.be

- By the HEIs
- By the Agency
- By the experts with the help of AEQES staff



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evaluation timeline and communication actions



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ongoing collaborations

- Agreement with the German-speaking community (**nursing** in 2010/11; **primary teacher** in 2013/2014)
- Joint evaluation/accreditation with Cti (**engineering programmes** in 2012/2013)
- Joint evaluation with EAC (**music** in 2014/2015)

Study : [http://www.aeqes.be/documents/influence-aeqes%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.aeqes.be/documents/influence-aeqes%20(3).pdf)



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Conclusion : AEQES expected impact and challenges

Overall quality enhancement

Development of purposeful QA systems

Collaborative work between HEIs and other stakeholders

Implementation of shared values

Handle diversity across higher education

Communicate (results) in the best manner

Fight bureaucracy and help spread quality culture



Thank you for your attention,
this was my conclusion: is it comparable with
the Jordanian case? How much does it match
with the regional picture?
Let's debate.

caty.duykaerts@aeqes.be
visit our website www.aeqes.be

