

Strengthening the impact of learning mobility

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Ljubljana, 8 December 2011

The logo for Nuffic, consisting of the word "nuffic" in a white, lowercase, serif font, centered within a solid orange square. The square is positioned at the bottom left of the slide, partially overlapping the red background area.

nuffic

Netherlands organisation
for international cooperation
in higher education

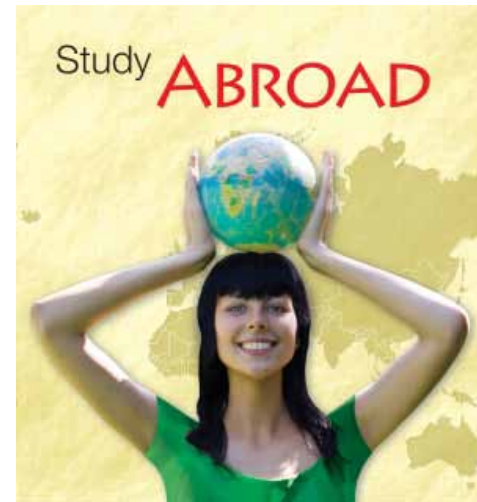
Quality Assurance of a studyperiod abroad

A definition:

The planned and systematic processes that provide confidence to outside stakeholders that a student exchange programme is effective.

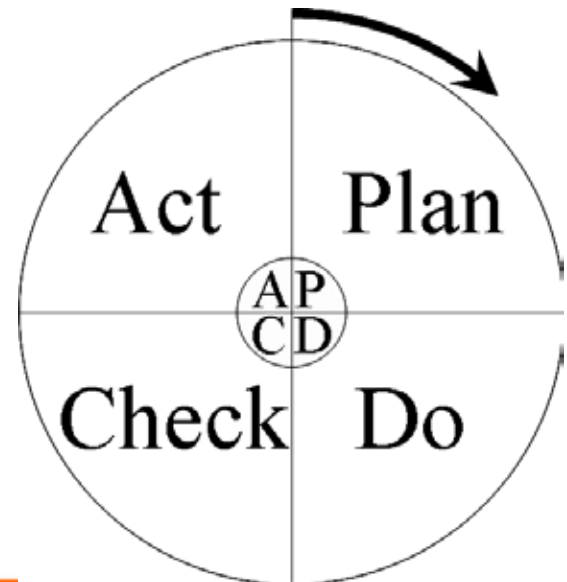
Basic assumption:

Ultimate responsibility for the exchange programme remains at the home institution.



Key questions

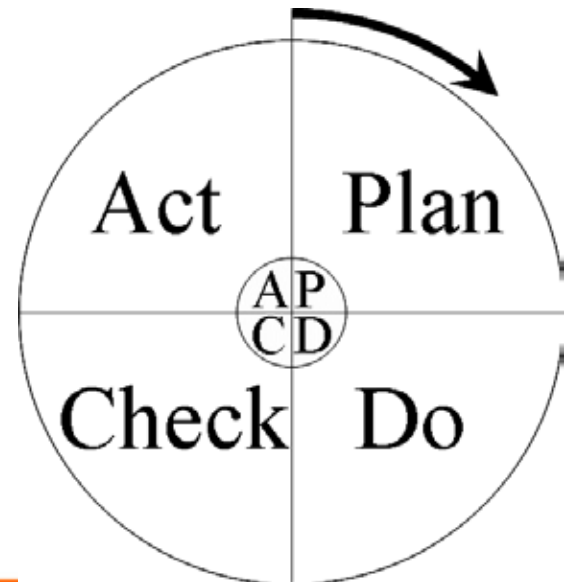
1. When is student exchange effective?
2. What brings you to the conclusion that it is effective?
3. How do you ensure to continue to offer effective (good quality) student exchanges?



Quality Assurance Cycle

PDCA

1. Plan: goals & policyplan
2. Do: execute the plan
3. Check: check outcomes
4. Act: evaluate and improve

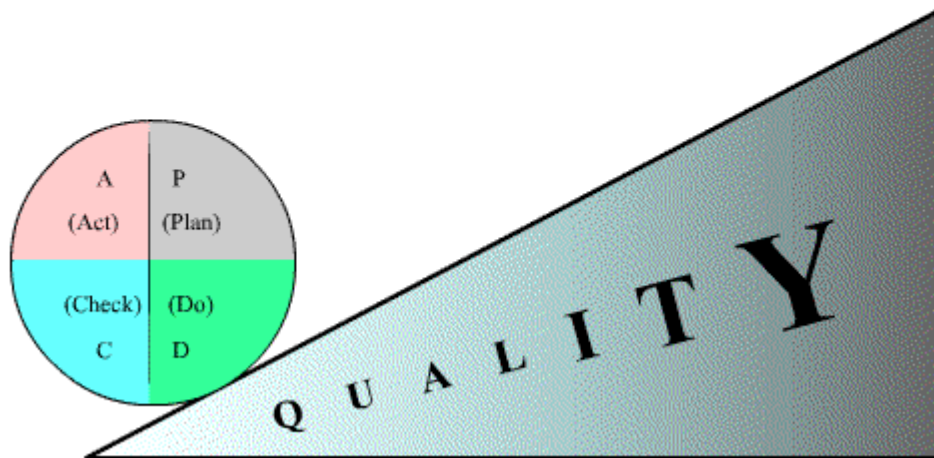


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Quality Assurance Cycle

The Deming (PDCA) Cycle

- ▶ play
- stop
- ▶▶ step
- ◀ rew



Quality Assurance Cycle of internationalisation

Before (plan)	During (do)	After (check and act)
Training and timing	Manual	Self-evaluation
Learning outcomes	Procedures	Student evaluations
Assessing new opportunities	Codes of conduct	Testing
	Indicators	Recognition
		Benchmarking, audit and peer review
		Accreditation

Source: *Internationalisation and Quality Assurance*, Gaalen A. van, editor, EAIE: Amsterdam 2010



Quality Assurance Cycle of internationalisation

Before (plan)

Training and timing

Learning outcomes

Assessing new opportunities

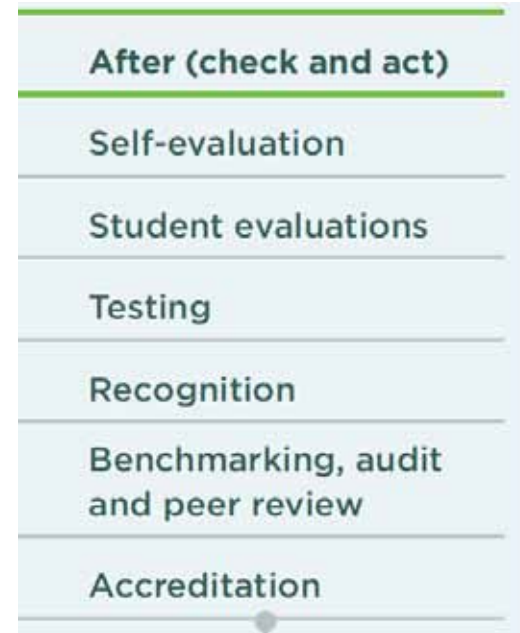
Quality Assurance Cycle of internationalisation

During (do)
Manual
Procedures
Codes of conduct
Indicators

Quality Assurance Cycle of internationalisation

What & how to measure?

- level
- focus
- scope
- moment
- audience
- ...



Quality Assurance Cycle of internationalisation



Tools for Quality Assurance of activities

International activities

- student mobility
- mobility in programmes



Tools for Quality Assurance of student mobility

Concrete measures:

- selection criteria for partners
- manage partner network

- clearly formulated aims
- set up modular curriculum
- information and checklist
- selection criteria for students
 - clear study plan
- guidance
- home institution is responsible
- use student evaluations



Tools for Quality Assurance of student mobility

Student exchanges – recognition of credits

Before	During	After
Partner selection	Guidance by home institution	Student evaluations
Credit point system	Guidance by partner institution	Transcript of records
Conversion table		Conversion table
Course catalogue		Learning outcomes
Learning agreement		
Information and checklist		

Tools for Quality Assurance of student mobility

Student exchanges – additional measures

Involve teaching staff!

Partner selection - checklist

Information about:

1. Organisation

- school / faculty
- references of institution

2. Exchange issues

- exchange organisation
- education
- students' experience
- overall



Tools for quality assurance of joint degrees

Select partner

Contract

- name and length of programme
- jointly develop learning outcomes
- external quality assurance
- examining committee
- finances
- use of languages

- codes conduct
- visa, housing



European Consortium for Accreditation

Tools for quality assurance of joint degrees

Conclusions:

- many tools available
- start planning instead of acting
- learn from acting and start over again

- template for partner selection
 - is important but:
 - trust
- joint programmes
 - trust
 - but also: contract



Burning Questions

Who can describe the internationalisation policy of their institution?

How are the goals linked to the internationalisation activities of the institution?

What tools mentioned in this presentation are most useful for you?

Is it a good idea to involve academic staff in the selection process of exchange students?

Are they available for that task?

How do you monitor the results of a period abroad?

