



KEVÄTPÄIVÄT 2015

Thursday 7th May Parallel session 14:00-15:30

1. Assessing the quality of internationalization: the CeQuInt approach

Chair: Annika Sundbäck-Lindroos, Programme Manager, CIMO

Panelists:

Axel Aerden, CeQuInt Coordinator, ECA (European Consortium for Accreditation)

Arja Majakulma, Director of International Affairs, Laurea University of Applied Sciences

Riitta Pyykkö, Vice-Rector, University of Turku, CeQuInt expert panel member, previous FINHEEC Chair

In the session the CeQuInt (Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation) approach was presented and discussed from institutional and national quality assurance perspectives.

How to define, achieve and measure the quality of internationalization?

- Internationalization and mobility are tools towards higher quality - but several different approaches exist on how to define the quality of internationalization
- In the CeQuInt approach
 - qualitative goes over the quantitative performance when measuring the quality of internationalization
 - In many cases indicators for the institutional strategies defined quantitatively
 - focus on the outcomes; learning: international and intercultural learning outcomes achieved
 - new aspect of the approach, definition challenging
 - criteria used descriptive, not prescriptive
- In addition to and compared with the normal quality assurance mechanisms and regular national quality assurance audits the evaluations of the quality of internationalization by outside actors such as the CeQuInt approach focuses separately on internationalization

Importance of labels and motivation to participate?

- Evaluation criteria can be used in internal quality management of the institutions
- Evaluation as a process raises internationalization on the internal agenda of the institution; supports the further development and provides information on the quality of the activities also for the management
- Labels and rankings play an increasingly important role in student recruitment especially in non-European context, but not that much in intra-European context
 - the results of the evaluation could be made accessible to potential students in an understandable way and used as an asset in global competition
- In the future it might be beneficial to develop the evaluation of the quality of internationalization in the area of research as a separate exercise as well
- The importance of evaluating the quality of internationalization might not be so much on the label as such, but on the process of asking the relevant questions and using the evaluation exercise as development and enhancement tool