

Challenges and Barriers to Assessing and Recognising Excellence in (Professional) Higher Education

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Presented on Saturday 21 November 2015, 10.30 am by Alexandre Wipf (EURASHE) and Lars Ebert (The European League of Institutes of the Arts), chaired by Tia Loukkola (EQAF Steering Committee)

- Background
- (Professional) Higher Education?
- Excellence?
- Assessing and Recognising?
- Challenges and Barriers?
- A proposal
- Questions

- EURASHE, AEC, ELIA, SPACE, FINE/The University of Nottingham, Jagiellonian University, KIC
- PHExcel: Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence
 - Research
 - Develop
 - Test & Validate
 - Propose

more information on the project at <http://phexcel.eurashe.eu>

(Professional) Higher Education?

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- Is there a difference between higher education and professional higher education?
- What is the fundamental characteristic of this approach?
- How is it addressed at the moment?

Excellence?

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- Why are we addressing excellence?
- What is excellence?
- What (kind of) excellence are we addressing?

Excellence?

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- What is excellence?
- What (kind of) excellence are we addressing?

Excellence is the exceptional capacity of an organisation and its members to add relevant value to input within a given context, surpassing set standards of quality

Excellence?

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- What is excellence?
- What (kind of) excellence are we addressing?

Excelling in this domain [integrating higher education with the world of work] means using in an outstanding manner (taking into account the national and international field) the systematic and circular relationship between education, research and professional practice

Assessing and Recognising?

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- Internal processes
- External quality assurance
- Accreditation
- Labels
- Organisations
- Rankings
- Funding
- Marketing

Assessing and Recognising?

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Quality framework with 3 domains

4 pilots:

- V. A. Graiciunas School of Management, Lithuania
- Escola Superior de Enfermagem de Lisboa (ESEL), Lisbon School of Nursing, Portugal
- Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD), Ireland
- Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław, Poland

Challenges and Barriers?

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- Challenges
 - Contextual
 - Subject area
 - Format
 - Recognition
- Barriers
 - Cost
 - Evaluation fatigue
 - Added value

Challenges and Barriers?

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It is difficult (impossible?) to assess excellence with threshold criteria

What is the composition of the team conducting the assessment?

Avoid falling into accreditation modus

Can a label be awarded in this context?

Challenges and Barriers?

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Institutions have to invest time for excellence

Is an evaluation the best format for excellence?

Another label amongst the forest of labels?

A proposal

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- 2 years of research, development, testing and validating
- Representatives of higher education institutions & institutions
- Expertise in policy, research, services, quality

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Project question: Is a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence Feasible?

- Yes
- But no

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- Representatives of higher education institutions & institutions
- Expertise in policy, research, services, quality

The PHExcel process for the promotion of excellence in higher education

- Consultancy, enhancement, support
- Striving to be excellent
- 3 stages
- Team of coaches
- Excellent practices

www.phexcel.org

- Do you work with excellence?
- What is excellence for you?
- Is there an opposition with quality?
- What about labels?

Thank you!

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