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# Mainstream and the Future of Cooperation between ACQUIN and NCPA

CONFERENCE

“ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND RELEVANCE OF STUDENTS’ LEARNING EXPERIENCE”

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# Cooperation of ACQUIN and NCPA: Outline

1. Reasons for cooperation
2. First case of joint accreditation
3. Future perspective



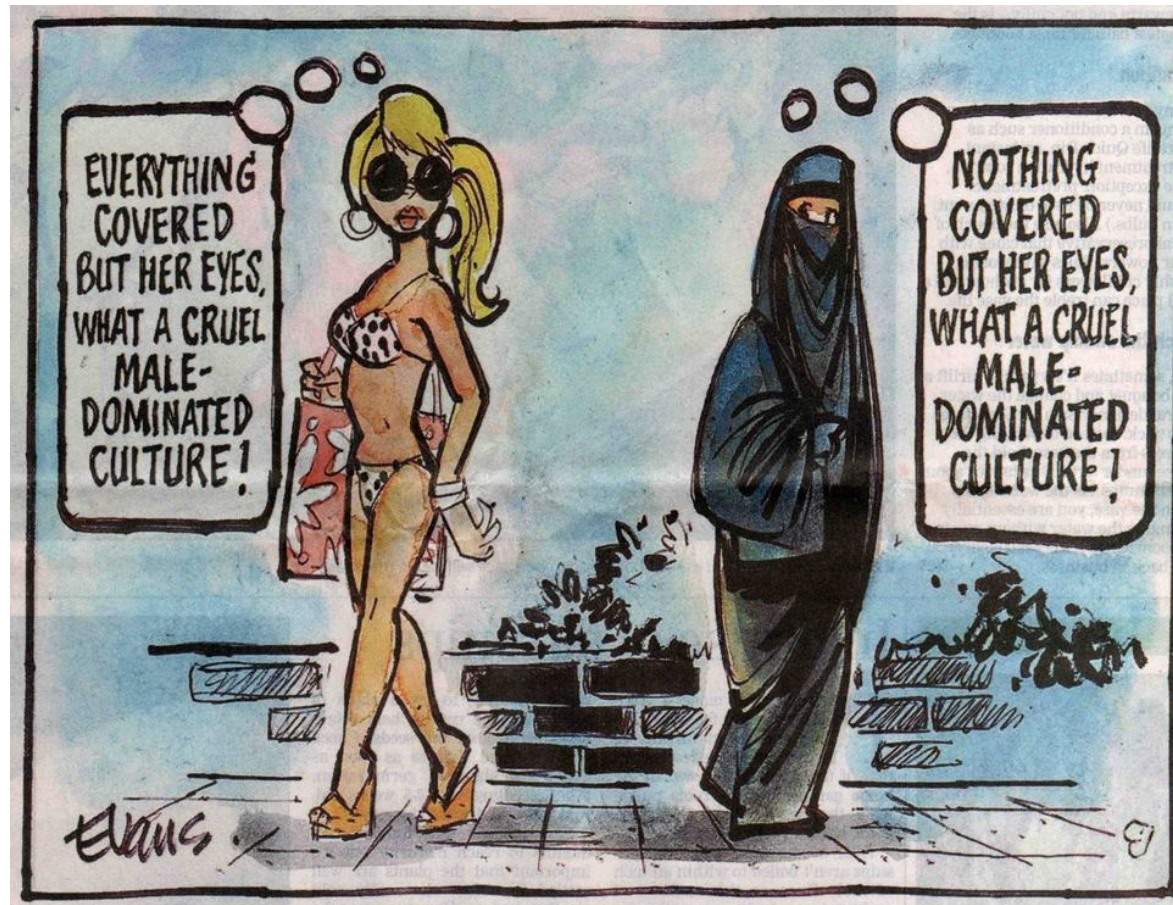
## ACQUIN-NCPA Cooperation

- ACQUIN and NCPA are both members of **CEENQA**
- ACQUIN and NCPA signed a **cooperation agreement** in 2012 to
  - enhance quality in higher education,
  - promote the culture of quality,
  - exchange expertise,
  - provide staff development opportunities,
  - conduct nominations of experts,
  - collaborate in research on quality assurance.

## ACQUIN-NCPA Cooperation

- The cooperation is a
  - substantial contribution to **internationalisation** as a process of “integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension in the purpose, functions, or delivery of postsecondary education” (Knight, 2003).
  - vital **link between** German and Russian higher education systems and the **societies** in both countries.
  - basis for **mutual understanding and learning** in regard to quality assurance, e.g. in joint accreditation procedures.

# Intercultural misunderstandings



Caution when using own values as a reference point!

## Joint accreditation – the general procedural framework

- Same professional and quality standards for both agencies
- Assessment criteria (ESG, Guidelines of Good Practice in QA, national regulations)
- Composition of multi-national review teams: minimum 5 peer reviewers (student representative, representative of the labour market, scientific peers)

## Case: NCPA-ACQUIN Programme Accreditation

- Joint external review of the clusters of the educational programmes
  - "Construction"
  - "Management"
  - "Metallurgy"

held on October 20-22, 2015 in Peter the Great St.  
Petersburg Polytechnic University (Russia)

- Reviewers from Russia and Germany
- Language: English, Russian and German

# Case: NCPA-ACQUIN Programme Accreditation





## Some empirical insights from the cooperation

### **Accreditation agencies have to consider:**

- different terminologies and concepts,
- different social and political contexts,
- different perspectives on quality

**when carrying out joint accreditation procedures.**

# Mutual understanding for social and political contexts

## **Social context**

- Social values, standards and culture (e.g. post-materialism)
- Status and prestige of higher education

## **Political context**

- Influence of governments on standards in higher education, especially national regulation
- Financing of higher education systems

## Mutual understanding for perspectives on quality

### Quality as...

- value for money
- consistency
- excellence
- fitness of/for purpose

**→ Quality cultures might clash!**

## Future perspectives for ACQUIN and NCPA

### Co-operation should focus on

- ✓ Staff development and staff exchange
- ✓ Joint accreditations with harmonised procedures
- ✓ Impact assessment of programme accreditations

Thank you for your attention!

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