

The Annual Joint Nordic Project of 2012-13

Learning outcomes in external quality assurance approaches - *Investigating and discussing Nordic practices and developments*

At the 2012 annual NOQA-meeting in Oslo it was decided that the theme for the project should be learning outcomes (LO) as an element of external quality assurance for higher education (HE). The project should draw on the NOQA-report from 2008 'Learning outcomes: Common framework - different approaches to evaluating learning outcomes in the Nordic countries', which focused on the development and implementation of LO and national qualification frameworks. At the time of the first report, most of the agencies were in the implementation phase. Today, most of the agencies work with LO as an integrated part of their external quality assurance processes.

However, there are quite substantial differences between how the agencies work with LO – and thus also a substantial potential for learning. The differences relate to the variety of national approaches to external quality assurance of HE, e.g. audit, accreditation or other evaluation models, but the differences are also to some degree related to national traditions and regulations.

Aim

By collecting and analysing comparable data about the agencies' approaches to LO, the project aims to:

- Explore how LO are applied in external quality assurance approaches of HE in the Nordic countries with a special emphasis on the collection, assessment and use of data.
- Identify strengths and limitations when looking at how LO are applied in external quality assurance approaches in the Nordic countries.

Organisation and activities of the project

The objectives of the joint project are:

- To learn from each other and support developments of methods, criteria and/or documentation
- To mark the NOQA HE area as a professional region in Europe
- To strengthen the Nordic networking.

A project team consisting of representatives from each agency will be responsible for the project. The representative from EVA and ACE will act as project coordinators. The team members will organise and take part in the inter-Nordic meetings.

The project members are:

- Mirella Nordblad, FINHEEC
- Viveka Persson, HSV
- Karl Weigelt, HSV
- Gunn Gallavara, NOKUT
- Julia Salado-Rasmussen, EVA (chair)
- Jonas Bech Hansen, ACE (co-chair)
- Magnús Lyngdal Magnússon, rannis (observer).

The project team prepares a report which is to be distributed to the member agencies and to be published in June 2013.