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Assessing the Quality of Internationalisation: Experiences with the ECA Certificate

The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA) has developed the Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation as a service for HEIs in Europe and beyond. The aim of the Certificate is to assess, enhance and reward internationalisation at programme or institutional level. Some thirty programmes as well as a few institutions have been awarded the Certificate as a confirmation that a programme or institution has successfully incorporated an international and intercultural dimension into the purpose, function and delivery of its education. The assessment frameworks and methodology used were tested in a EU funded project (CeQuInt). The assessment is carried out by independent and esteemed experts under the coordination of one of ECA's member agencies. At least one of these experts has received training by ECA. Additional assurance is being provided by the ECA Certification Group which checks the methodological soundness of each assessment procedure before awarding the ECA Certificate. The ECA Certificate is an useful tool for enhancing internationalisation, for promotion and branding, and for attracting foreign students and building partnerships with institutions abroad.