

# Cover note University Council UC

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| Details                                         |  |                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Topic                                           |  | EUR Institutional Policy on Quality Assurance in Education 2025-2029 |
| To be discussed before                          |  | 16 December 2025                                                     |
| Author/Section                                  |  | Betting / AZ                                                         |
| Handled by (to be invited to the Task Force TF) |  | Betting / AZ                                                         |
| Date                                            |  | 7-11-2025                                                            |

Please note: All of the received and sent documents of the Council are public.

If some documents are confidential, please contact the Clerk of the UC. The Council can refuse to accept a document or item on the agenda as confidential.

Public YES      All documents linked to this cover note can be made public.

| Context / Reason                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| <p>This Institutional Quality Assurance Policy has been developed with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explicates EUR's vision on quality assurance and describes how this vision relates to the educational vision and the institutional plan;</li><li>• Establishes the quality assurance responsibilities of various actors and bodies at different levels within the institution;</li><li>• Defines the quality assurance cycle and the coherence between different cycles, and the importance and role of dialogues within them;</li><li>• Specifies the instruments deployed to monitor, evaluate and improve quality, including Accreditation &amp; TOE 2.0;</li><li>• Provides a framework for faculties and programmes to establish their own quality assurance system.</li></ul> |

| Jurisdiction UC / Question to the UC                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <p>Right of consent:</p> <p>Before a decision is taken the Executive Board must request the University Council's consent on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The structure of the quality assurance system;</li></ul> |

| Short Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p>Executive summary / key points 'EUR Institutional Policy on Quality Assurance in Education 2025-2029'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rather than presenting new policy guidelines, the document's key objective is to elaborate existing ways of working on assuring educational quality and facilitating continuous improvement and effective educational innovation, and to present these in a cohesive, integrated manner. It outlines the connection between 'proactive' and 'reflective' instruments, explaining relationships between existing frameworks including the educational vision and strategic educational policy. In addition, it outlines the position</li></ul> |

of the revised midterm instrument 'TOE 2.0' within the broader system of internal quality assurance. Particular attention is paid to providing a clear overview of various roles and responsibilities at the different administrative levels (institutional versus faculty level), including but not limited to the representative bodies, examination boards and external stakeholders. As such, the document comprises a broad scope and integrated perspective on educational quality assurance in education.

- The document makes explicit reference to EUR's profile as an impact-driven, *engaged* university, as well as the recently launched Strategy2030, including its focus on becoming 'One Connected EUR'. It provides stakeholders with guiding principles for navigating faculty autonomy and decentralized ownership on the one hand and interfaculty collaboration and university-wide alignment on the other. The document places a strong emphasis on dialogue and connection, in line with our Erasmian values. It focuses on the question of how our internal quality assurance cannot merely ensure delivery of educational quality that is up to accreditation standards but can also facilitate and incentivize the achievement of our institution's strategic goals and objectives, including our impact ambitions. To that end, it deliberately and explicitly chooses to present an appreciative, development-oriented approach.
- The document's structure follows a progression from the more abstract to the more concrete: from core concepts and principles (H2) via governance and roles and responsibilities (H3-4) to operational implementation in (PDCA) cycles, dialogue structures, and instruments (H5-7), concluding with management information (H8). Each chapter builds on the previous one but can also be read independently.

#### Key message per chapter:

- **H1 Introduction:** Positions the policy within EUR's mission of social impact and emphasizes the transition to a development-oriented approach with more ownership at the decentralized level, shifting the emphasis from 'are we doing things right?' to 'are we doing the right things?'.
- **H2 Key concepts, vision, and principles:** Defines quality along three dimensions (responsiveness, strategic alignment, sound educational design), focusing on synergy between system and culture and creating space for decentralized ownership.
- **H3 Governance:** Describes the governance model of 'one connected EUR' with a focus on the collective leadership of deans and vice-deans, the role of communities and the CLI, and various forms of collaboration with external partners in the context of impact-driven education.
- **H4 Roles and responsibilities:** Specifies the tasks of the CvB, (vice-)deans, programme directors and support staff, representative bodies, examination boards, and external advisory boards, clarifying the division of tasks between first and second line and focusing on strengthening ownership at the programme level.
- **H5 The quality assurance cycle:** Connects internal and external cycles via the PDCA methodology, describing different cycles (strategic, policy, Planning&Control, HOKA/BAO, programme quality). All cycles are described in conjunction with each other, with special attention to the six-year accreditation cycle and midterm/TOE 2.0 in connection with the year cycle at programme level in which various 'small feedback loops' are integrated.
- **H6 Dialogue structures in context:** Distinguishes between vertical, horizontal-collegial, horizontal-functional, and horizontal-learning dialogue structures, with the latter category receiving special attention as a vehicle for the quality culture.

- **H7 Instruments:** Divides instruments into proactive (Plan) and reflective (Check/Learn), distinguishing between central instruments (accreditation, TOE 2.0) and decentralized instruments with a toolbox for various feedback loops.
- **H8 Management information:** Describes the data infrastructure via EUR Dataportal, biloport, faculty dashboards, and the one-pager datasheet at programme level, with explicit attention to the development of process and impact indicators in addition to traditional input and output indicators.

#### Process:

June 6 shared with Education Workshop (Onderwijsatelier)

June 17 presented in Education Workshop → shared with Vice Deans of Education (VDE)

June 23 presented in VDE → positive advice on principles and approach → elaborated concept

June 23 – October 6: feedback collected from faculties and colleagues from AZ, JZ, CLI, Strategy Office

June 24 shared and discussed with University Council - Taskforce QA / ITK

June 27 – Executive Steering Committee ITK/QA

October 1 – Quality Committee - Supervisory Board (KC-RvT)

October 28 – final version discussed with University Council – Taskforce QA / ITK

October 28 – final version presented to Education Workshop

November 3 – final version presented at VDE

UR-cycle: Nov-Dec 2025

CvB-Deans: December 3, 2025

#### Follow-up process

Following the UC's consent, the Executive Board will adopt the policy document.

Next steps:

- Start pilot TOE 2.0 (ESE/ISS)
  - Development of facilitating formats
    - Visualizations & Infographics
    - Instructions for target groups (program directors)
    - Program Development Plan/Annual Program Plan
  - 2nd round of Training Course starts at the end of this year
  - Evaluation of TOE after this year
- Periodic update of Institutional Quality Assurance Policy

#### Specifics

The new toolkit for the Mid-term Programme Evaluation (TOE 2.0) has been developed prior to the new Institutional Quality Assurance Policy in the context of the Master Course in Quality Assurance ('Leergang Meesterschap in Kwaliteitszorg') for quality assurance advisors at the faculty level. In its revised form, the TOE instrument is expected to contribute to more meaningful, effective and efficient mid-term evaluation of programme quality. The complete toolkit has been shared and discussed with the Taskforce QA/ITK and is now in the pilot phase. The toolkit is available on request.

The English version is a provisional translation.

**Documents to be attached**

1. EUR Instellingsbeleid Kwaliteitszorg Onderwijs 2025-2029 Definitief Concept
2. EUR\_QA\_Policy\_2025-2029\_EN\_FULL Definitive Concept (provisional)