

Overview and Introduction of EQANIE

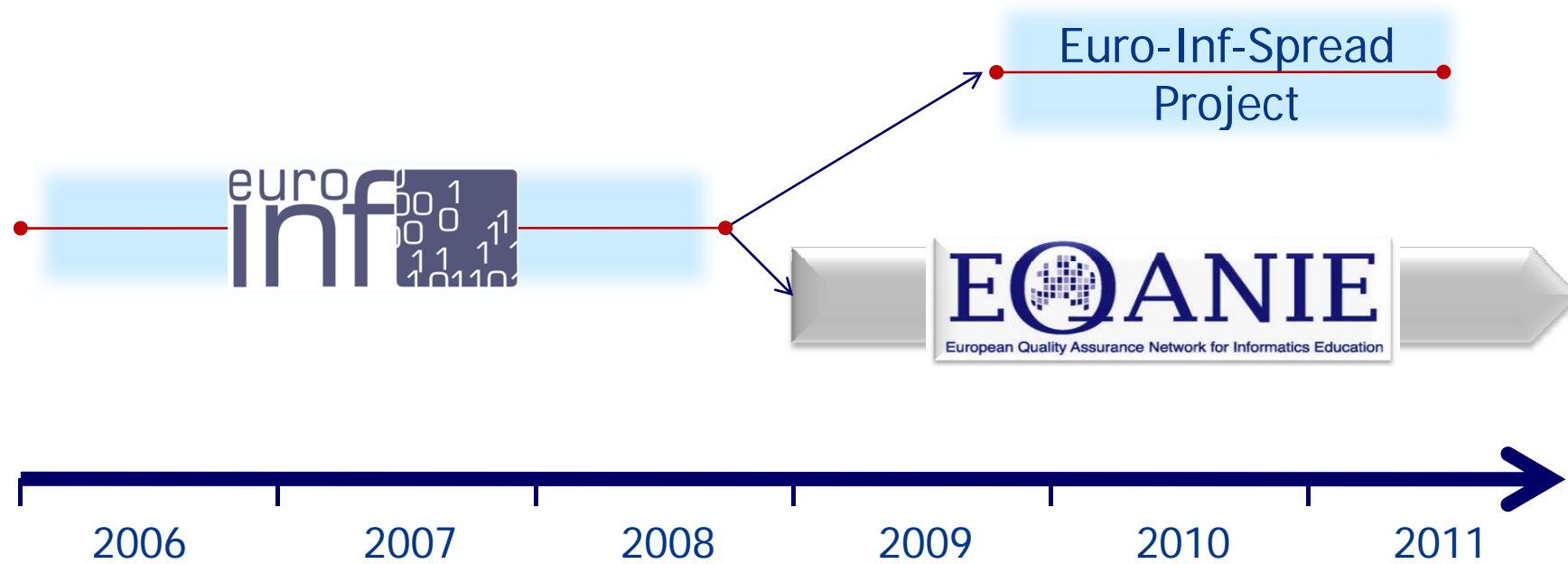
Hans-Ulrich Heiss
EQANIE

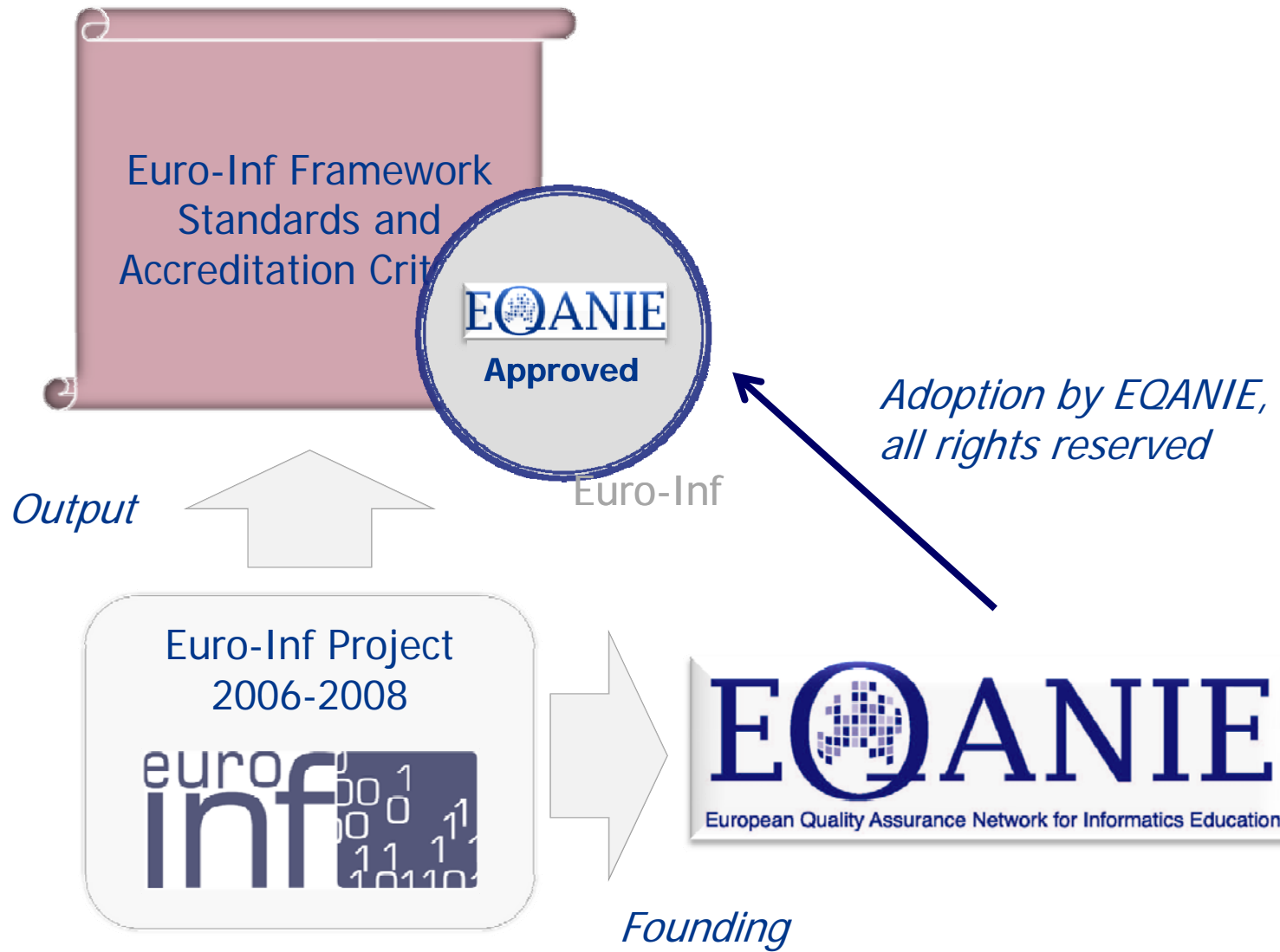


Overview

- ▶ **When? A short history**
- ▶ Why? Aims of EQANIE
- ▶ Who? Members of EQANIE
- ▶ How? Structure of EQANIE
- ▶ What? Framework Standards
- ▶ What? The Euro-Inf Label
- ▶ Why? Benefits

Founding of EQANIE





Overview

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- ▶ **Why?** **Aims of EQANIE**
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Purpose

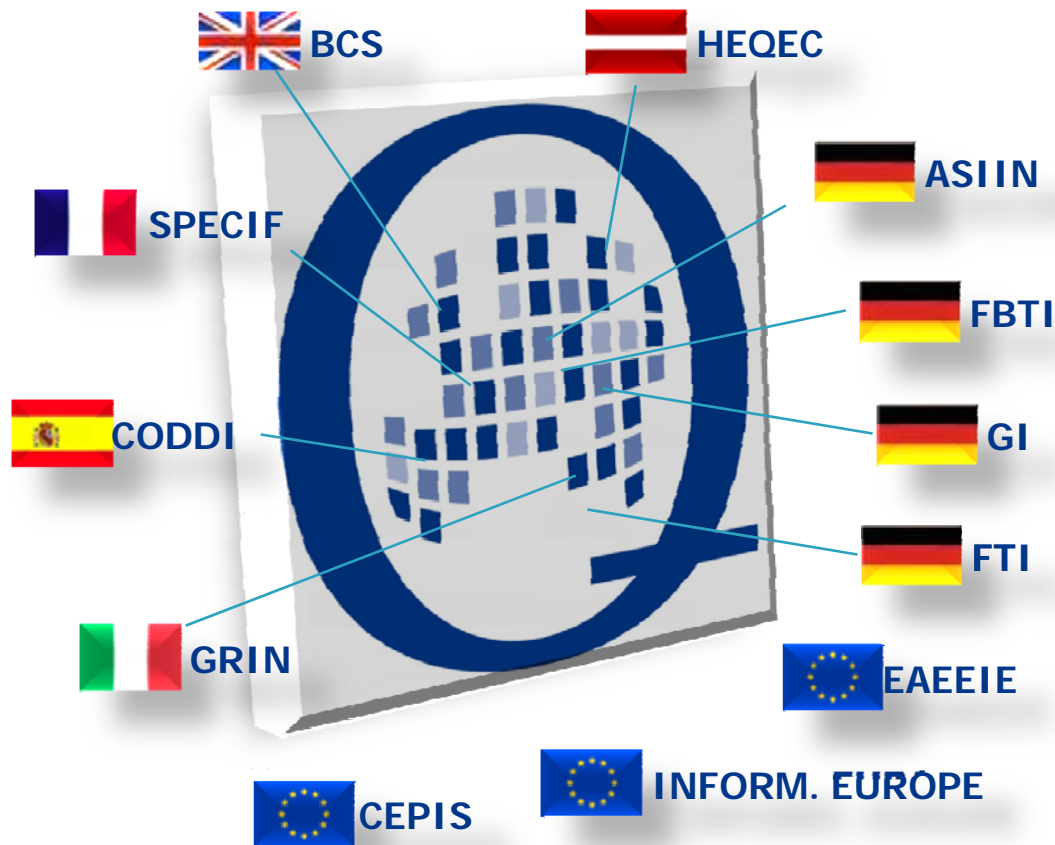
- The enhancement of evaluation and quality assurance of informatics study programmes and education in Europe.
- (Not-for-profit)

Activities

- ▶ Development of criteria and procedures for QA in informatics (higher) education.
- ▶ Development and maintenance of a system for the award of a European quality-seal for informatics degree programmes
- ▶ Provision of information.
- ▶ Maintenance of contacts and relations to other European or non-European organisations important for the goals of the Association.
- ▶ Promotion of the development of national and regional accreditation bodies.
- ▶ Organisation of events, seminars, workshops and conferences in the field of its activities.

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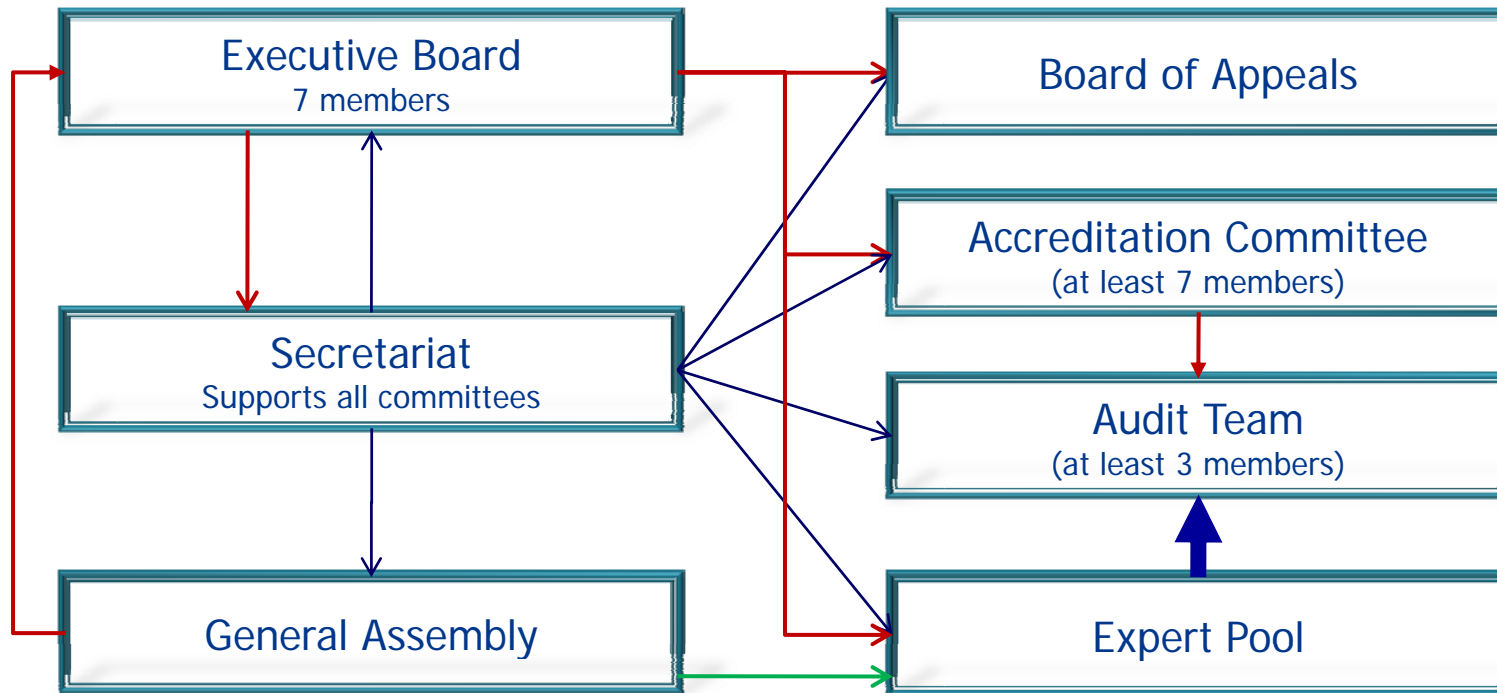
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- 12 members, thereof
 - 9 national associations/institutions /professional societies
 - from 6 different countries
 - and 3 European umbrella organisations
- In total represented in more than 30 different countries

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- supports
- elects, nominates, appoints
- proposes

Euro-Inf Requests e.g.:

- BA/MA Comp. Science, Reykjavík Univ., IS
- BA/MA Comp. Systems, Technical Univ. of Riga, LV
- BA/Comp. Science, Universitat Polytechnica de Catalunya
- BA Informatics, Univ. degli Studi di Milano



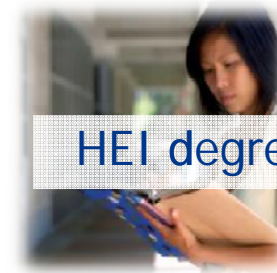
Selection

Request



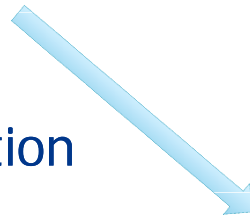
Two Business Models

direct accreditation



HEI degree programmes

authorisation



Accreditation Agency



indirect accreditation

Direct or Indirect Accreditation?

Direct Approach

- ▶ Offers direct field specific accreditation in those countries where this is not available
- ▶ Accommodates the specific existing traditions and methods of informatics education in Europe via the Euro-Inf Framework
- ▶ Feedback from an international audit team (normally one from the institution's home country)

Indirect Approach

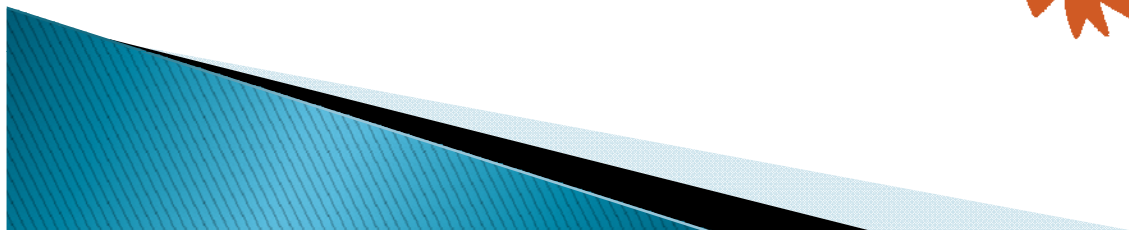
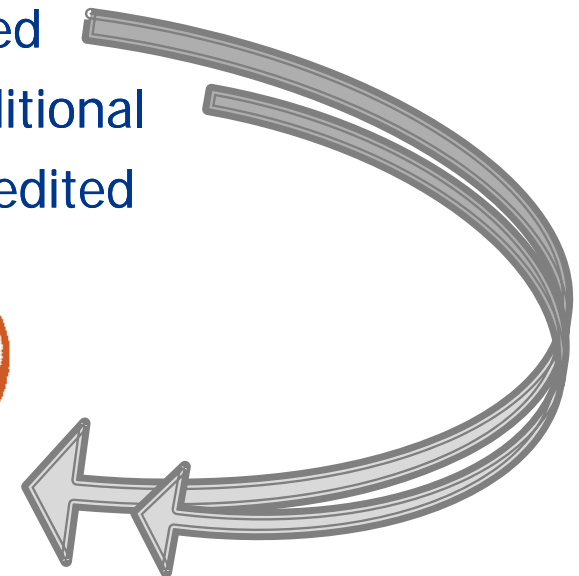
- ▶ Accommodates the specific tradition and methods of informatics education in one country through the work of the local/national agency
- ▶ Get the European Label as an add-on to the national accreditation with little additional cost

Accreditation Decision (direct accr.)



- ✓ 3 times / year
- ✓ Decision:
 - accredited
 - /w. conditional
 - not accredited

- ✓ Award of the Euro-Inf Quality Label
- ✓ Publication



Euro-Inf Quality Label: Framework Standards

Field-specific:

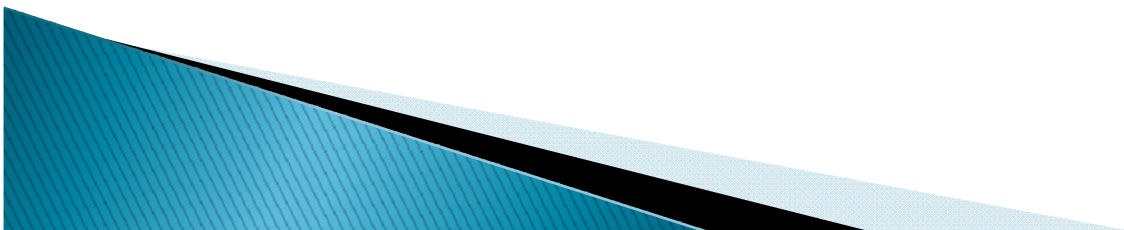
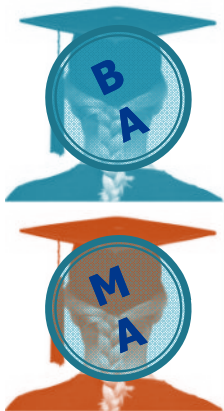
Outcome
statements

- allow for:
- autonomy
 - variation,
 - new ideas

Generic:

5 areas of
assessment

- Needs, objectives
- Educational process
- Resources
- Assessment
- Management



Field-Specific Requirements

Four Categories of learning outcomes

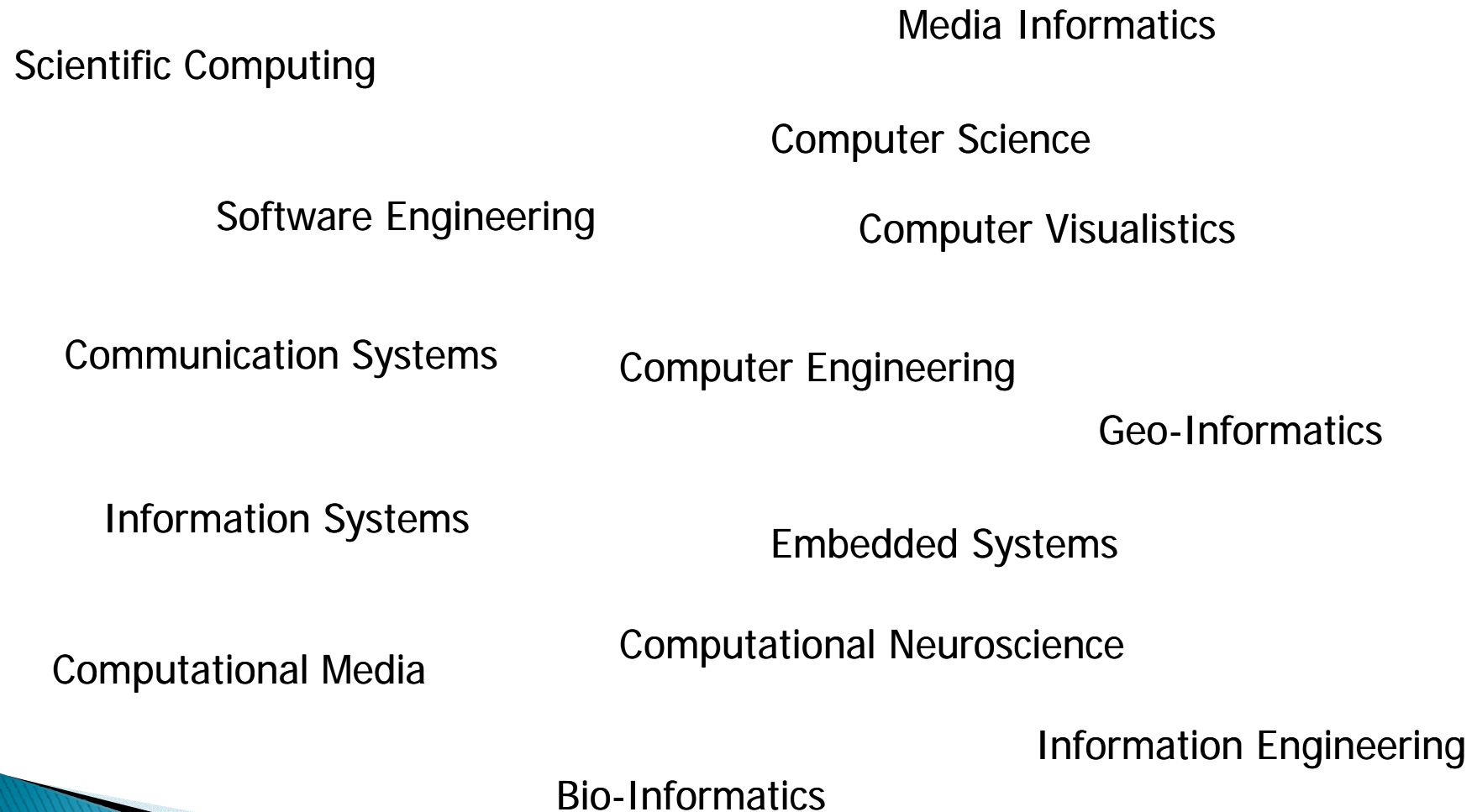
- ▶ Underlying Conceptual Basis for Informatics
- ▶ Analysis, Design and Implementation
- ▶ Technological, Methodological and Transferable Skills
- ▶ Other Professional Competences

For each category, outcome criteria for First and Second Cycle programmes' graduates have been established.

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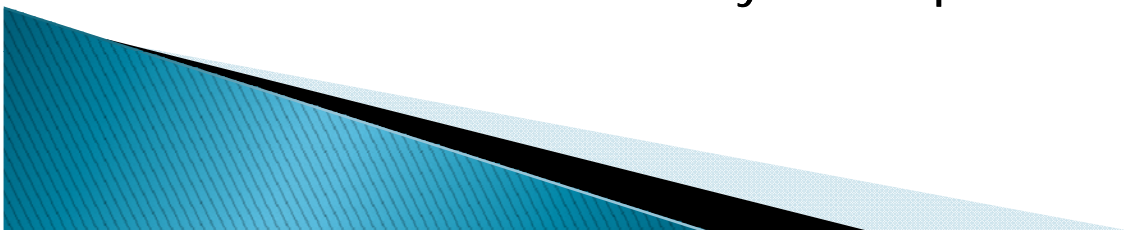
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Problem: Diversity of Programs



Problem: Diversity of Institutions

University of Applied Sciences
University of Technology
College
University
Politecnico
Institute of Technology
Grand école
Fachhochschule
University
Polytechnic
University College
Institute of Technology
University of Cooperative Sciences



Accreditation with EQANIE

- ▶ uses a threshold approach (minimum standard)
- ▶ is based rather on the judgement of experienced auditors than on checklists
- ▶ takes into account the variety of educational approaches

High Standards

Successful application for the Euro-Inf Quality Label requires e.g.:

- ▶ A clear and coherent concept
- ▶ A well functioning quality assurance system
- ▶ (Team-)work of all staff, e.g. each lecturer knows how „his/her“ module contributes to the overall objective
- ▶ Highly qualified academic teaching personnel
- ▶ Sufficient resources
- ▶ An educational offer that reflects academic standards and the demands of the labour market
- ▶ Translation of all relevant documents into English (in case of direct accreditation)

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Benefits for HEIs

- ▶ Additional certificate of qualification
- ▶ Means of promotion: programme meets academic and professional standards
- ▶ Benchmarked against other European programmes
- ▶ Reliable information on quality of FC programme during admission for SC
- ▶ Incentives for students to choose programme

Benefits for students

- ▶ Assurance that programme meets high international standards
- ▶ Easier access to other Euro-Inf Masters
- ▶ Additional quality label recognized by employers Europe-wide
- ▶ Requirement for becoming chartered engineer
- ▶ International recognition of degree as meeting professional standards

Benefits for employers

- ▶ Candidate's knowledge and competences meet international standards
- ▶ Reliable information on quality of degree programme without knowing its details
- ▶ Not only academic standard checked but also relevance for profession
- ▶ Assured competences of graduates
- ▶ Complement to Diploma Supplement

Thank you for your attention



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