EQANIE GOALS & ACTIVITIES.
THE EURO-INF QUALITY LABEL

EDUARDO VENDRELL VIDAL
EQANIE PRESIDENT
WHY ACCREDITATION?

WHY INFORMATICS ACCREDITATION?

THE EURO-INF QUALITY LABEL

EUROPEAN INITIATIVES AROUND INFORMATICS

HOW TO BE ENGAGED?
WHY ACCREDITATION?

THE PROFESSIONAL PROBLEM

‣ applicants to a job position with different academic profiles,
‣ coming from all over the world,
‣ how to ensure that they meet professional qualifications?
WHY ACCREDITATION?

THE ACADEMIC PROBLEM

- applicants to a master’s programme holding different degrees,
- coming from all over the world,
- how to ensure that they meet entrance requirements?
WHY ACCREDITATION?

THE DEGREE CONTEXT IN EUROPE
ACCREDITATION

“official certification that a school or course has met standards set by external regulators”
**WHY ACCREDITATION?**

**NATIONAL ACCREDITATION**

- Most countries have defined accreditation procedures through quality assurance agencies.

- These procedures could vary depending on degree’s type or academic/professional context.

- Not every country has clearly defined standards/regulations for every degree.
WHY ACCREDITATION?

THE BASIC PROCEDURE

▸ Ensure that competences/outcomes are well defined, taught and assessed

▸ Ensure resources and support of the degree

▸ Check related information and basic parameters (enrolment, performance, satisfaction…)

▸ Check facilities and premises
WHY ACCREDITATION?

STANDARD FRAMEWORK BASED PROCEDURE

▸ Basic procedure check, plus...

▸ Ensure that syllabus meet with standard academic/professional framework by checking...
  ▸ Global aim and philosophy
  ▸ List of competences/outcomes
  ▸ Other requirements (professional profiles, research fields...
WHY ACCREDITATION?

QUALITY LABELS

▸ Provide transparency and openness to HEIs and their degrees
▸ Provide a reference framework based on student outcomes
▸ Certify degrees through a set of standards linked to quality of teaching, resources and management
▸ Ensure that students meet requirements
WHY ACCREDITATION?

- **accreditation** ensures that degrees are organised according to basic principles
- **frameworks** provide transparent reference profiles for syllabi deployment (and future quality label award)
- **quality labels** help to certify quality of degrees and HEIs
WHY ACCREDITATION?

BEST PRACTICE

standard framework → syllabus → quality label framework

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WHY INFORMATICS ACCREDITATION?

THE MANY FACES OF INFORMATICS
WHY INFORMATICS ACCREDITATION?

THE MANY FACES OF INFORMATICS

- Informatics is a relatively young discipline that is in constant definition
- There are many different academic approaches to this discipline, leading to different professional profiles
- Informatics is transversal, and it is growing and appearing in many different contexts (health, entertainment, industry…)
- It comes with many different names and appellations (informatics, computing, computer science…)
WHY INFORMATICS ACCREDITATION?

THE MANY FACES OF INFORMATICS
WHY INFORMATICS ACCREDITATION?

THE MANY FACES OF INFORMATICS > NEED FOR A QUALITY LABEL
INFORMATICS ‘UMBRELLA’ QUALITY LABEL

- Common framework with basic/transversal competences
- Field specific approach based on student’s outcomes
- Considering professional practice and competences, and ethic and legal aspects
- Open to different informatics approaches
The European Quality Assurance Network for Informatics Education promotes the implementation of quality assessment practice for informatics education systems in Europe and beyond.

In particular, EQANIE helps to build confidence in systems of accreditation of informatics degree programmes within Europe.

Partnering with HEIs, professional and academic associations in assessing quality for informatics degrees.
THE EURO-INF QUALITY LABEL

EQANIE

- 12 members:
  - 10 national associations/agencies/professional bodies
  - from 6 different countries
  - and 2 pan-European organisations
- Present in more than 30 countries
THE EURO-INF FRAMEWORK

6 CATEGORIES:

- Underlying Conceptual Basis for Informatics
- Analysis
- Design and Implementation
- Economic, Legal, Social, Ethical and Environmental Context
- Informatics Practice
- Other Professional Competences
EURO-INF ACCREDITATIONS SO FAR

[as of 29.03.2016]
WHY CHOOSING EURO-INF?

- European approach about what it is understood by Informatics
- A pushing framework, well recognised by HEIs
- A coherent ‘tool’ to attract students and link with professional context
- Recognised amongst main quality agencies and academic associations in Europe
EURO-INF BENEFITS > HEIs

- ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY
- MEANS OF PROMOTION: PROGRAMME MEETS ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
- BENCHMARKED AGAINST OTHER EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES
- RELIABLE INFORMATION ON QUALITY OF FIRST CYCLE PROGRAMMES DURING ADMISSION FOR SECOND CYCLE
- INCENTIVES FOR STUDENTS TO CHOOSE PROGRAMMES
EURO-INF BENEFITS > HEIs (ACCREDITATION EXPERIENCE)

- Valuable external feedback from auditors
- Low extra effort for additional certificate
- Added value, especially for international students!
- Diagnosis of existing quality assurance concept and procedures
- Opportunity for improving the quality of the degree
- Defining with more precision the main objectives of the programme
- Discovering lack of conformity between goals of the study programme and several courses
- Confirmation that programme corresponds to similar study programmes in informatics in Europe
- Academic staff started to show more interest about quality issues
- Accreditation stimulates estimating of staff workload at the level of whole programme
EURO-INF BENEFITS > STUDENTS

- Assurance that program meets high international standards
- Easier access to other EURO-INF Master's
- Additional quality label recognised by employers Europe-wide
- Requirement for becoming chartered engineer
- International recognition of degree as meeting professional standards
EURO-INF BENEFITS > EMPLOYERS

‣ Applicant’s knowledge and competences meet international standards
‣ Reliable information about 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
THE E-SKILLS INITIATIVE

- Promoting digital skills and literacy in Europe.
- Monitoring and Benchmarking Policies and Partnerships.
- Related actions:
  - e-Competence Framework
  - e-Leadership
  - the ICT Professionalism framework
  - e-Skills for Jobs
  - Grand Coalition for Digital Jobs
THE E-COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension 1</th>
<th>Dimension 2</th>
<th>Dimension 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 e-CF areas (A–E)</td>
<td>40 e-Competences identified</td>
<td>e-Competence proficiency levels e-1 to e-5, related to EQF levels 3–8</td>
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- European Comission initiative
- The European e-Competence Framework (e-CF) provides a reference of 40 competences as required and applied at the ICT workplace, using a common language for competences, skills and proficiency levels that can be understood across Europe.

- http://www.ecompetences.eu
THE E-LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

- European Comission initiative
- Leadership which both relies on information and communication technologies (ICT) and aims to accomplish goals that involve ICT. (...) where leading edge ICT is driving innovation and delivering value to their organizations.
- It identifies different Curriculum Profiles.
- [http://eskills-lead.eu](http://eskills-lead.eu)
EUROPEAN INITIATIVES AROUND INFORMATICS

THE ICT PROFESSIONALISM FRAMEWORK

Digital Skills for Europe
Towards a European Framework for ICT Professionals

Shortages, gap and mismatches of e-Skills are negatively impacting the growth, competitiveness and drive for innovation in Europe.

With more governments recognizing the need to promote e-Skills, the European Commission and a consortium of partners set up a Framework to enhance ICT professionalism. Support the growth of digital skills in Europe by participating in the initiative.

▶ http://ictprofessionalism.eu
THE ICT PROFESSIONALISM FRAMEWORK

- **Competences**: an understanding of the capability and competency needs of individuals working in various roles is essential for organizations to effectively recruit and develop suitable employees.

- **Foundational ICT Body of knowledge**: a comprehensive and up-to-date knowledge accommodating a common ICT body of knowledge and pertinent specialist knowledge and skills.

- **Education and Training**: certifications, qualifications, non-formal learning and informal learning are mutually supportive components of a professional’s career development.

- **Professional Ethics**: a defining aspect of any profession involves adhering to professional ethical conduct.
HOW TO BE ENGAGED?
1. MAP YOUR DEGREE WITH EURO-INF FRAMEWORK
2. CONTACT EQANIE
HOW TO BE ENGAGED?

CONTACT EQANIE

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