



Study visit to The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education & Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education

*In house seminar CARDS 2003/ Agency for Science and Higher Education
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Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

- established 1995
- central agency that deals with issues affecting universities and HEIs in Sweden

The Agency conducts quality audits of HE, exercises supervision of the HEIs, reviews and analyses the HE system, evaluates qualifications awarded abroad, supports educational innovation and development and also provides information on HE and encourages student recruitment.

Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

Agency is headed by:

a University Chancellor and an external Board

140 staff
members

- Office of the University Chancellor
- Department of Administration
- Department for Evaluation of Foreign HE
- Department of Statistics and Analysis
- Information department
- Legal department
- Department of Research and Policy Advice
- Department of Evaluation

11 members

Advisory Board

Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

How it operates? Based by instructions and annual directive issued by the Government

Government decides what they should do but not how to do it!

Advisory Board

makes decisions on matters of principle and important regulations and the overall operational directions to be taken (The Agency's budget, Issues of principle, Important regulations for the Swedish National Agency, The general thrust of the Agency's operations...)

11 members - appointed by the gov.

The University Chancellor

makes decisions on other matters and is the operational head of the Agency

Appointed by gov – on Board Proposal (6 + 3 years)

Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

From 1995 – 3 different programmes:

1. **Audit**
2. **Accreditation**
3. **Programme and subject evaluation**

7 year programme (until 2001)
-Based on *peer review* (appointed by Agency)
-Final result – public report

-Since 1990 - cyclical model introduced in 2001 covering all degree programmes in 6 year period

Steps: self assessment; external panel appointed by Agency (on HEIs proposal)- site visit – report submitted to Uni. Chancellor who makes the decision on right to award degree – in a 3 year follow up procedure

Two types of degrees: general (Universities incl. PhD/ Uni. Colleges BSc and spec. MSc) and professional

All HEI must be accredited by Agency for the right to award professional degrees!

-Based on *peer review* (appointed by Agency)

- Panel prepares report with a recommendation – Agency makes accreditation decision / or in the case of university status (uni. college to full university) or “areas of research” advises the Government

Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

National quality assurance system for the period 2007 – 2012

Comprises five different components:

- Audits of the quality assurance procedures at the HEIs,
- Subjects and programmes evaluations,
- Appraisal of entitlement to award degrees and partial or full university status,
- Thematic studies/Thematic evaluations, and
- distinguishing Centres of educational excellence.

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

- Established in 2002 (operational from 2003)

Independent governmental agency whose purpose is to control and develop the quality of Norwegian higher education institutions through the evaluation, accreditation and recognition of quality assurance systems, institutions and education programmes

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

- Organisation: **The Board + Sections + Appeal Board**

50 employees

- overall responsibility for the activity and decisions made by NOKUT
- 8 members with 3 deputy members appointed by the King (in Council)- 4 years (Student 2 years)
- The Ministry of Education and Research appoints the Board's chairperson.
- The Board appoints the director of NOKUT (for a period of 6 years)

- Section for Accreditation
- Section for Quality Systems
- International Recognitions Unit

responsible for NOKUT's day-to-day management according to the overall directives given by the board.

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

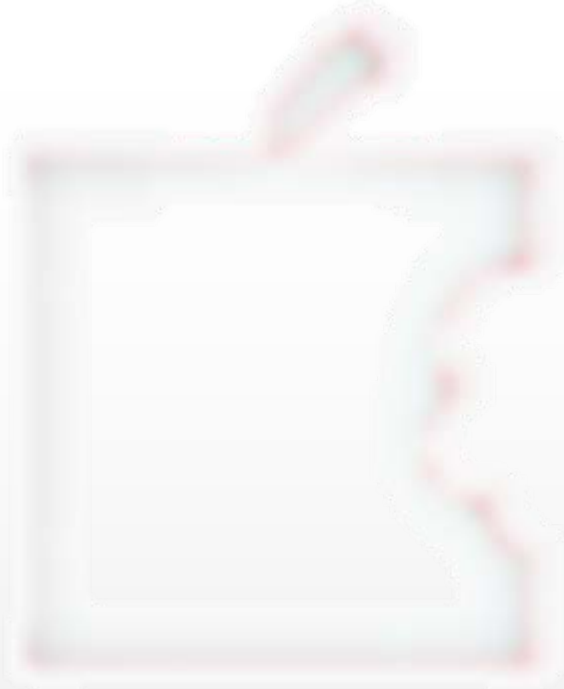
EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE of Norwegian Higher Education:

- **Accreditation** (official and mandatory) - institutional and programme accreditation. – self evaluation, external experts, site visit, recommendation.

All accreditation decisions are made by NOKUT, either in the Board of Governors or as delegated to the Director General

- **Quality Audit** – Mandate - No self-evaluation in the conventional sense!

Final “decision” – Ministry - cannot turn a ‘no’ into a ‘yes’! But...



Thank you!

Tack! (Swedish)

Takk! (Norwegian)

for your attention