

# Student Participation in QA Activities

5th foundation anniversary of the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC)



# Who are we?



**Patrick Niebergall**

- Steering Committee of the German Student Accreditation Pool
- Member of the European Students' Union Quality Assurance Student Experts' Pool
- Former Committee Member for Study Reform and International Affairs of the National Union of Students Germany

**Liv Teresa Muth**

- Steering Committee of the German Student Accreditation Pool (co-opted member)
- Steering Committee of the European Students' Union Quality Assurance Student Experts' Pool



# Who are you?

Which stakeholder group are you representing?



# Introduction European and German Student QA Pool

## ESU QA Student Experts' Pool

- Founded in 2009
- ~50 reviews per year
- 90 students from 27 European countries
- Independent Steering Committee from European Students' Union
- Connected through Executive Committee and presidency member

## German Student Accreditation Pool

- Founded in 2000
- ~750 reviews per year
- Independent from the National Union of Students (NUS)
- Based on democratical structures (NUS, General students committees for each of the 16 states of Germany and Subject-related student bodies<sup>1</sup>)

Student-run + administration employee/s

<sup>1</sup>For more detailed information about the organization see [Thomas Bach \(2015\): 15 Years Student Accreditation Pool in Germany: Achievements, Failures and Future Challenges. Paper presented during European Quality Assurance Forum 2015.](#)



# Challenges about Student Participation in QA



Short student life cycle



Work (59% of students are working beside)<sup>1</sup>



Inflexible curriculum (32% of student reviewers in Germany)<sup>2</sup>



Lack of information



Lack of impact and “taken seriously/being equal member”

<sup>1</sup> The social dimension of student life in the European Higher Education Area in 2019: Selected indicators from EUROSTUDENT VII

<sup>2</sup> Liv Teresa Muth und Patrick Niebergall (2020): Diversity of student reviewers: Characteristics, experiences and implications for quality assurance. Study presented at the European Quality Assurance Forum 2020 (Online).



# Success factors for student participation in QA



# Have a say!



Equal voice + position within the expert panels



Knowledge-based contributions:

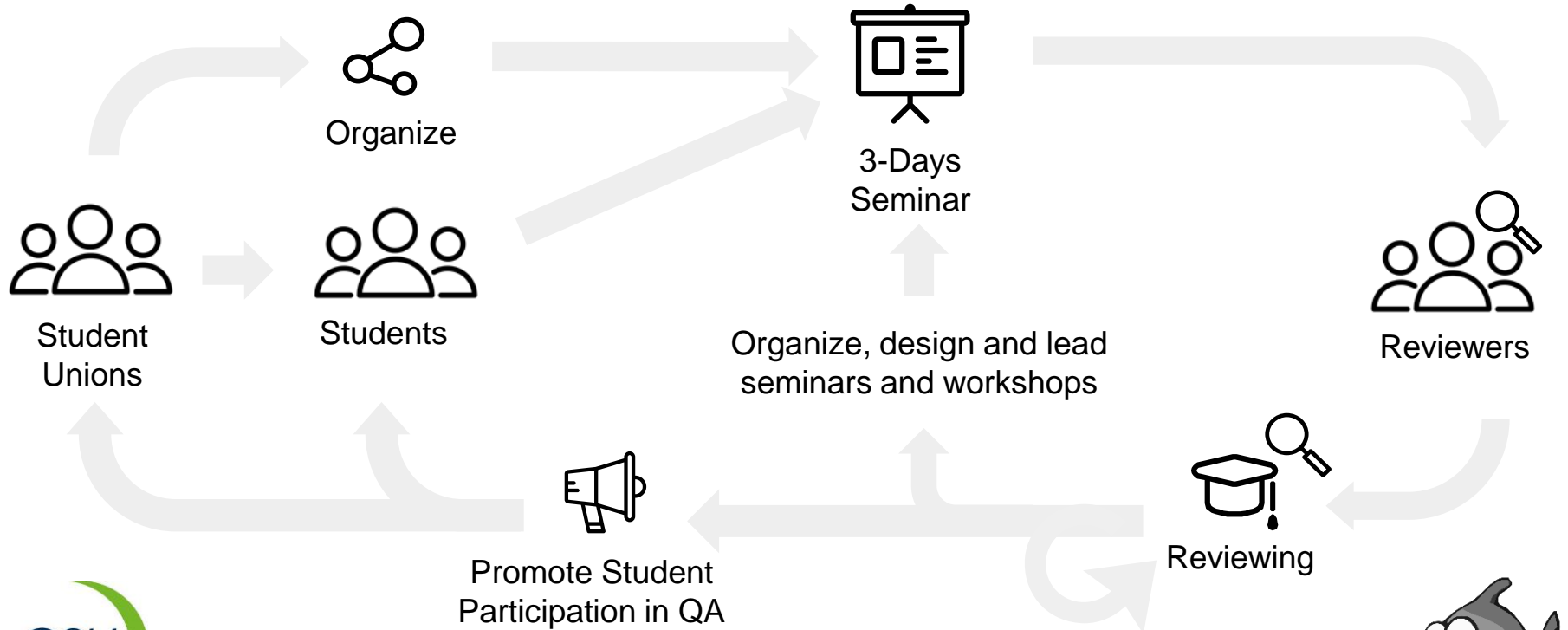
- Student representative experience
- Qualification and further education of student reviewer



Independent networking/exchange platforms for student experts



# Capacity Building





# Active Citizenship

Students participating in QA can be seen as kind of active citizenship

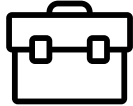
Therefore some requirements for that:



Remuneration for their work<sup>1</sup>



Especially since 59% of students are working besides their study program according to eurostudent.eu



Transparent procedures, outreach and media representation to reach every student



**Be as inclusive as possible**, identify and resolve barriers

<sup>1</sup> For more detailed information about remuneration of student experts in German-speaking countries see Anna Klampfer (Austria) and Liv Teresa Muth (Germany), research poster, DEQAR conference Madrid, 2019: "[Student as expert in review panel members](#)"



# Participation throughout all levels



Information and outreach to student representatives



Meaningful participation on multiple levels

- Creation of ownership and student representative network integration



Engagement and participation from the beginning



Involvement in QA-related activities:

- Policy-making
- Committees in HEI and Quality Assurance Agencies
- Projects
- Conferences



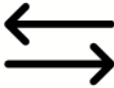
# Take aways



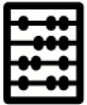
Student experts as equal partners towards an effective QA system



Unique perspectives from the student point of view



From review panels over project work to governance



Allocation of resources for student experts and their networks



Support students and student representative bodies in independent capacity-building and creating a sustainable system



# Literature

[Anna Klampfer and Liv Teresa Muth \(2019\), research poster, DEQAR conference Madrid: “Student as expert in review panel members”.](#)

[EUROSTUDENT VII \(2019\): Selected indicators - The social dimension of student life in the European Higher Education Area.](#)

[Liv Teresa Muth und Patrick Niebergall \(2020\): Diversity of student reviewers: Characteristics, experiences and implications for quality assurance. Study presented at the European Quality Assurance Forum 2020 \(Online\).](#)

[Thomas Bach \(2015\): “15 Years Student Accreditation Pool in Germany: Achievements, Failures and Future Challenges.” Paper presented during European Quality Assurance Forum 2015.](#)





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