

UNIQUE

European University Quality in eLearning

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Education and Culture

Socrates

UNIQUE

Institutional accreditation for traditional HE institutions

eLearning Quality label

UNIQUE aims to enhance the reform process of European higher
education institutions

by creating, testing and launching

an eLearning quality label for ICT use in higher education.

Support HE institutions to measure how successful they are in
technology-enhanced learning & how to improve

Rationale of the project

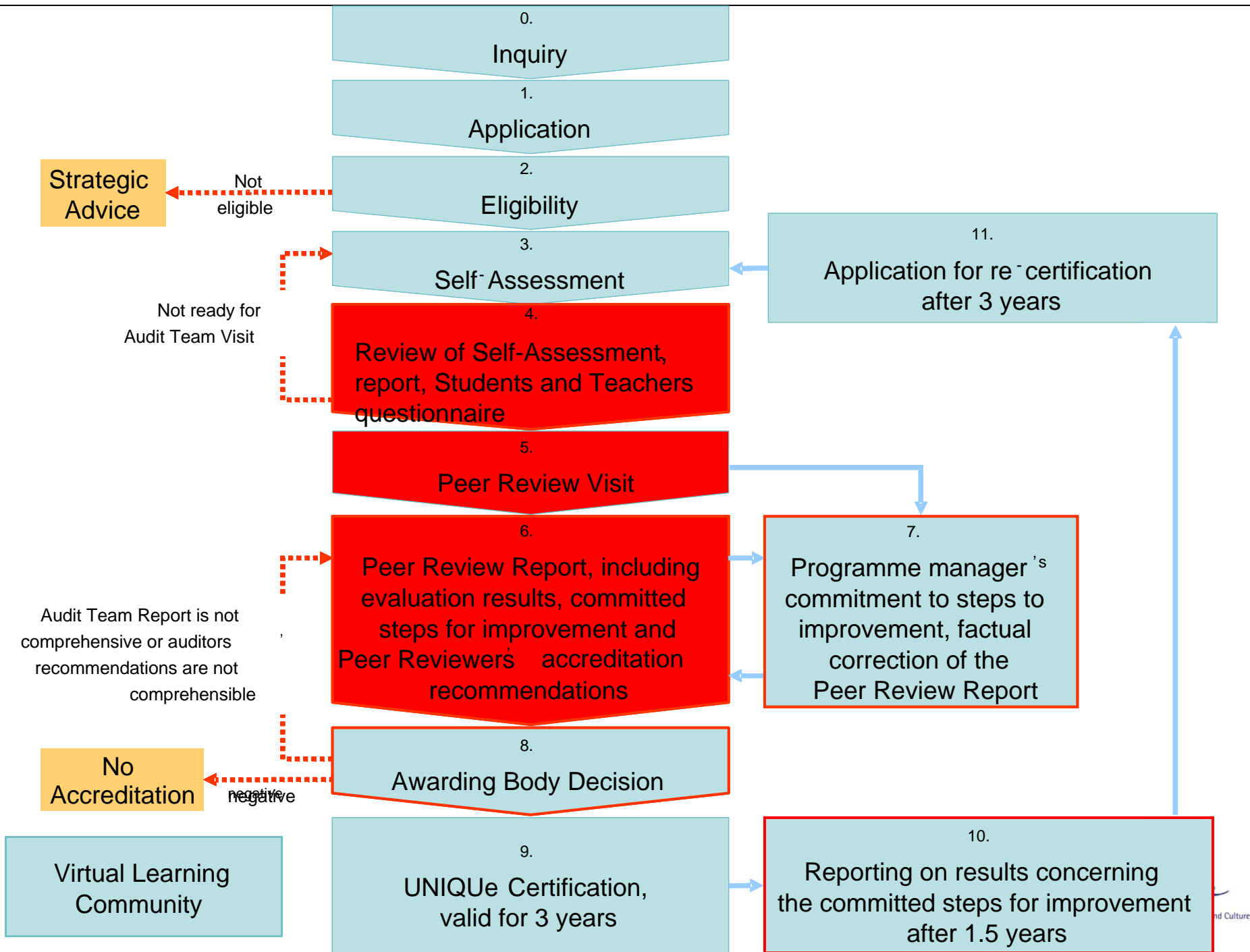
- Reform process of European HE area can be enhanced through an improved integration of ICT
- Weak culture of quality in eLearning: focus on didactics and not on general impact at management, funding, international collaboration level
- Lack of common concept of quality /quality improvement

- Focus:
 - Quality improvement
 - Support best practices
 - Criteria driven
- Aim: raise the standard of technology-enhanced learning programmes in Europe
- Target: European HE institutions
- Process: 6 stages, incl. SAR & Peer Review
- Result: accreditation 3 years and continuous quality improvement
- 3 Areas - criteria: Learning/institutional context, Learning Resources, Learning Processes

Uniqueness of UNIQUe

- Accelerator: through sector-wide benchmarks enhance implementation speed of Bologna reforms in technology enhanced learning
- Broad institutional approach, not only related to eLearning. Build on broad stakeholder involvement
- Formalised approach for each of the six stages
- Accreditation as a result next to continuous quality improvement mechanisms
- Peer review process
- Diagnostic tool for SAR -> Quality label focus on innovation, continuous improvement

0. Inquiry
1. Application
2. Eligibility
3. Self-assessment
4. Peer review
5. Awarding Body
6. Continuous Quality Improvement



0. Inquiry

- First contact between the HE institution & Unique Executive Office (UEO)
- Information Package

1. Application

- Formalise
- Submission of Application Data Form:
 - Short questionnaire
 - Factual information
 - English
 - Allows preliminary formal assessment of the university's quality in comparison with the unique quality criteria

2. Eligibility

- Eligible =
Formal acceptance of application
Start of process for quality improvement & accreditation
- No guarantee
- Briefing session by phone (UEO)

3. Self-Assessment

- Higher Management makes self-assessment report
- Quality Criteria:
 - Learning resources:
 - Resources for learning
 - Students
 - Faculty
 - Technological equipment
 - Learning processes:
 - Quality of the offer
 - IPR management
 - Personal development/HR development
 - Learning focus:
 - Commitment to innovation
 - Institutional standing
 - Openness



4. Peer-Review

- Pool of independent peer-reviewers: experts in HE, eLearning, Quality, University Management
- Teams of 2
- Activities:
 - Guidebook & tools (open questionnaires,...)
 - Review of SAR and questionnaire results from staff and students & background info
 - Peer review visit (2-3 days): interviews with higher management & other stakeholders (students, tutors,...)
 - Preliminary conclusions & feedback
 - Peer-review report incl.
 - Agreed upon developments – check after 1.5 years
 - Recommendations for improvement
 - Detailed rating



5. Awarding Body Decision

Final decision Accreditation

3 years

(with reporting of progress at 1.5 years)



No accreditation

1 year time for improvement

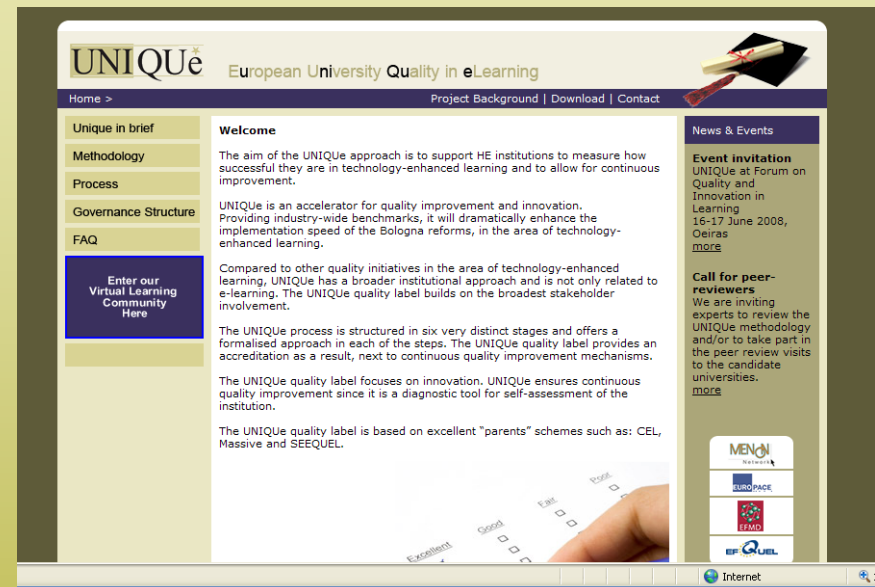
6. Continuous Improvement

Development RoR = Report on Results after
18 months

Based on the steps for improvement the
Peer Review Team had recommended

http://unique.europace.org

- Methodology and Process
- Call for peer-reviewers
- Application Data Form
- Information Package
- FAQ & more ...



The screenshot shows the homepage of the UNIQUe website. The header features the UNIQUe logo and the tagline "European University Quality in eLearning". A navigation bar includes links for "Home", "Project Background", "Download", and "Contact". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Unique in brief**: A vertical menu on the left with sub-items: "Methodology", "Process", "Governance Structure", and "FAQ". A prominent blue button below this menu reads "Enter our Virtual Learning Community Here".
- Welcome**: The main text area, containing several paragraphs about the UNIQUe approach, its goals, and its accreditation process. It mentions that the quality label is based on excellent "parents" schemes such as CEL, Massive, and SEEQUEL.
- News & Events**: A section on the right with a sub-heading "Event invitation UNIQUe at Forum on Quality and Innovation in Learning 16-17 June 2008, Oeiras" and a "Call for peer-reviewers" section. The latter invites experts to review the UNIQUe methodology and/or take part in peer review visits to candidate universities.
- Accreditation Logos**: A vertical stack of logos for MENQI, EUROPACK, EFMD EQUIS, and EFMD EQUIS.

The bottom of the page features a Windows taskbar with the "Internet" browser icon and a system tray showing the time as 1:11.

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Thank you!

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