



# HIGH COUNCIL FOR THE EVALUATION OF RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION (HCÉRES)

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**BFUG – TPG C**

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Department for European and International Affairs

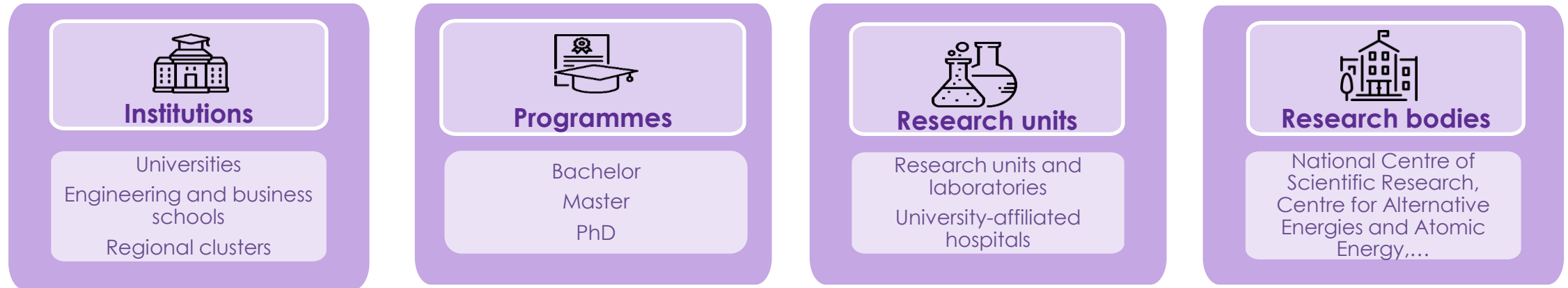
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# HCÉRES, A COMPREHENSIVE AGENCY

## MISSIONS

- **Evaluating** all institutions under contract with the French State (accreditation at the national level is the responsibility of the Ministry)



- **Developing quantitative analyses**
  - Science and Technology Observatory works in close liaison with the institutions and produces analyses and indicators on the state of research in France
- **Driving research integrity**
  - French Office for Research Integrity: provides expertise in defining standards, national research integrity policy and promotes the work of the network of Research Integrity Officers in HEIs and research institutions.
- **Sharing its expertise internationally**
  - Department for European and International Affairs

# CROSS BORDER QA AT HCÉRES

**THE AGENCY HAS A CLEAR MANDATE TO CONDUCT QA ACTIVITIES OF CROSS BORDER TERTIARY EDUCATION (ISG. 1.1)**

“It may also participate, in the framework of European or international cooperation programmes or at the request of the competent authorities, in the evaluation of foreign or international research and higher education organisations.”



*« Il peut également participer, dans le cadre de programmes de coopération européens ou internationaux ou à la demande des autorités compétentes, à l'évaluation d'organismes étrangers ou internationaux de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur. »*

**The mandate is not as clear for transnational education !**

# WHAT DO WE DO INTERNATIONALLY?

## HCÉRES CROSS BORDER QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

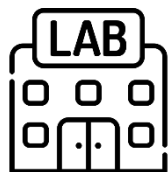
### Evaluation & accreditation



+20 HEIs



+ 100 Programs  
L-M-D



Research units & Research  
bofies (2023)

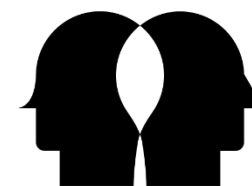
### Other international activities



Training



Technical assistance

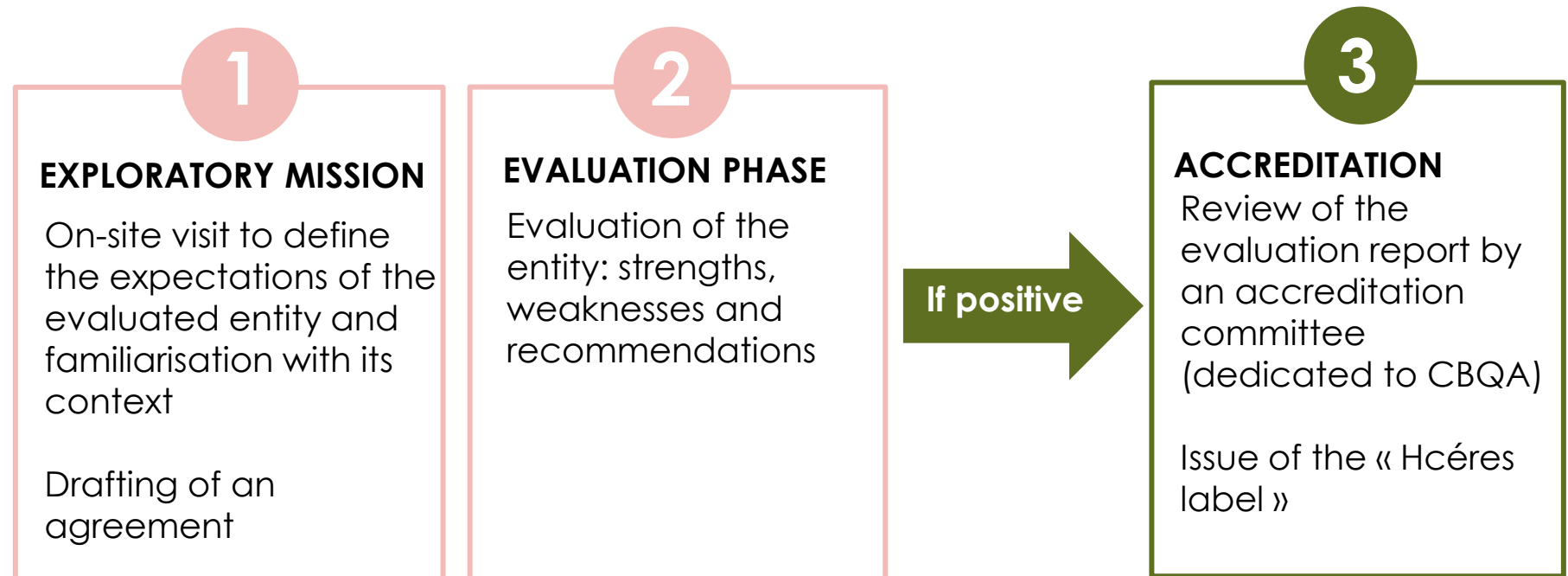


Twinning

+ participation to call for projects (Erasmus +, World Bank Agence Française du Développement, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, etc.)

# CROSS BORDER QA AT HCÉRES

THE AGENCY HAS CLEARLY SPECIFIED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELEVANT FOR CBQA.  
(ISG. 2.1)



The international procedure requires additional steps than the national procedure, and dedicated bodies (accreditation committee)

# CROSS BORDER QA AT HCERES

**AGENCY STANDARDS PROMOTE EQUIVALENT LEVEL IN THE QUALITY OF CBQA PROVISIONS.(ISG.3.1)**

**& TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION LOCAL CONTEXTS AND CULTURE (ISG 3.2)**

**THE AGENCY ENSURES THE OUTCOMES OF ITS REVIEWS ARE RECOGNIZED IN THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THEY OPERATE AND INTERNATIONALLY (ISG 4.1)**

- ⇒ Same standards as the frameworks used in France, without specific mentions to the French context
- ⇒ 1 local expert
- ⇒ Cooperation with local partners (agency, embassies, ministries...) to better understand the local context and facilitate recognition.



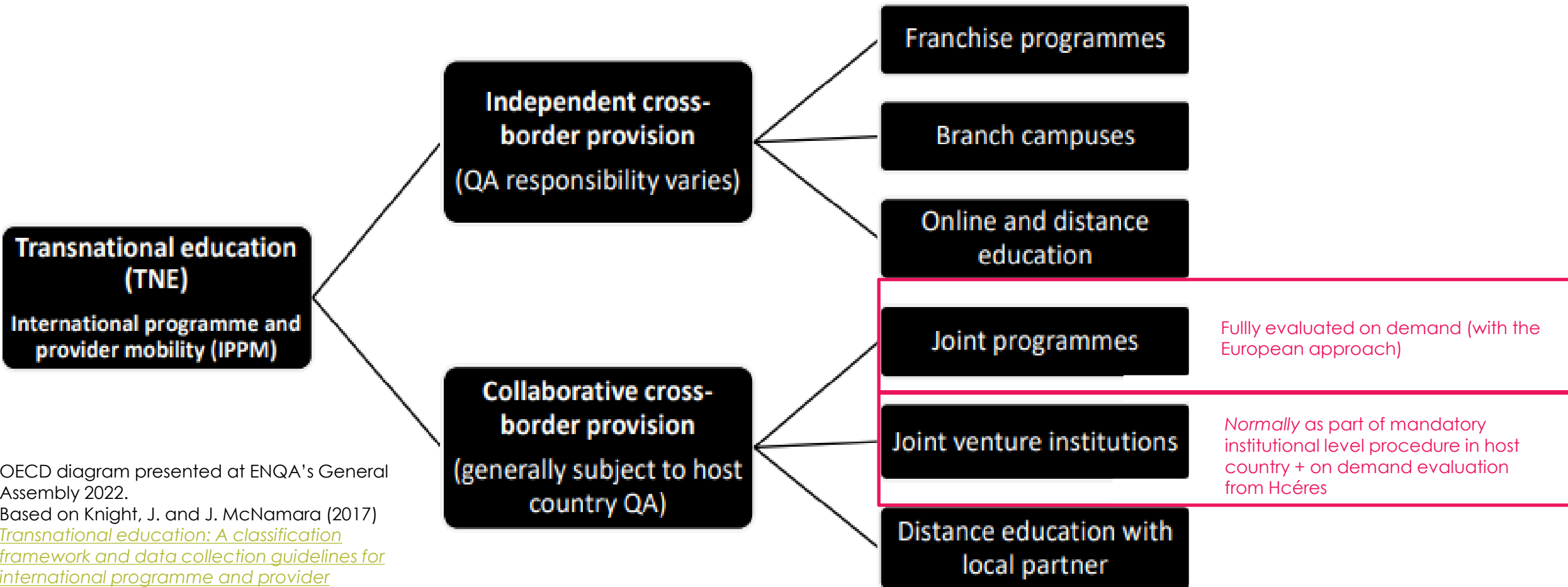
## External factors impacting CBQA

- In practice, recognition is not automatic and often requires additional procedures.
- HE systems are not directly comparable to the French system
- Procedures need to be adapted when dealing with risk countries

## Internal factors impacting CBQA

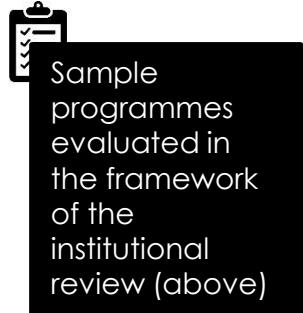
- Higher costs (travel expenses for on-site visits etc...)
- Procedures are more complex and time consuming
- Difficulty to find experts
- Language barriers

# TNE: A COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT



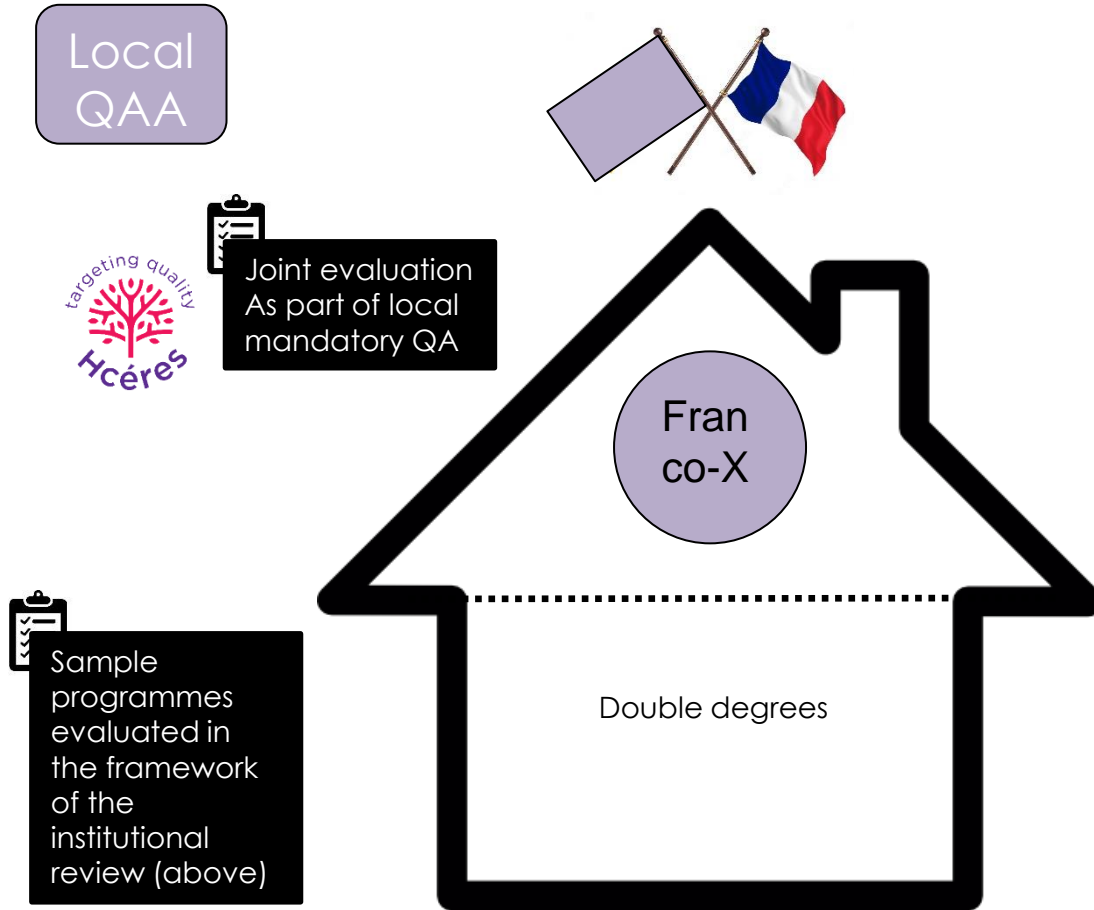
OECD diagram presented at ENQA's General Assembly 2022.  
Based on Knight, J. and J. McNamara (2017) *Transnational education: A classification framework and data collection guidelines for international programme and provider mobility (IPPM)*, British Council and DAAD

Local  
QAA





# ONE CASE STUDY: JOINT VENTURE INSTITUTION



## Joint institutional evaluation

- 1 experts comitee (French and local)
- French framework with additional local standards
- 1 evaluation
- 2 accreditation decisions: one by the local QAA ( inscription in the national registry), one by Hcéres (label).

# STRUCTURING INTERNATIONALISATION AT HCÉRES

## THE AGENCY SHOULD ENSURE RELEVANT EXPERTISE WHILE CONDUCTING CBQA (ISG. 2.2)

### A dedicated Department with two missions

Evaluation & Accreditation of foreign Institutions,  
programs or research bodies

Cooperation



**Director**

Maria Bonnaïfous-Boucher

**Coordinator**

### Cooperation & EU projects

#### 2 Project managers for agency cooperation

- Representation of Hcéres in networks, international working groups & PLAs
- Development of agreements with agencies
- Reception of delegation, training, agency events and diffusion of good practices
- Desk research on QA

#### 1 Project manager for European Affairs

- Managing Erasmus + Projects at Hcéres
- Representation of Hcéres in European institutions

### Evaluation & Accreditation

#### 4 Project managers

- Responsible for organizing the reviews: negotiation, agreement with HEI, budget, logistics;
- Main contact point of HEI and experts
- Ensures the quality of report

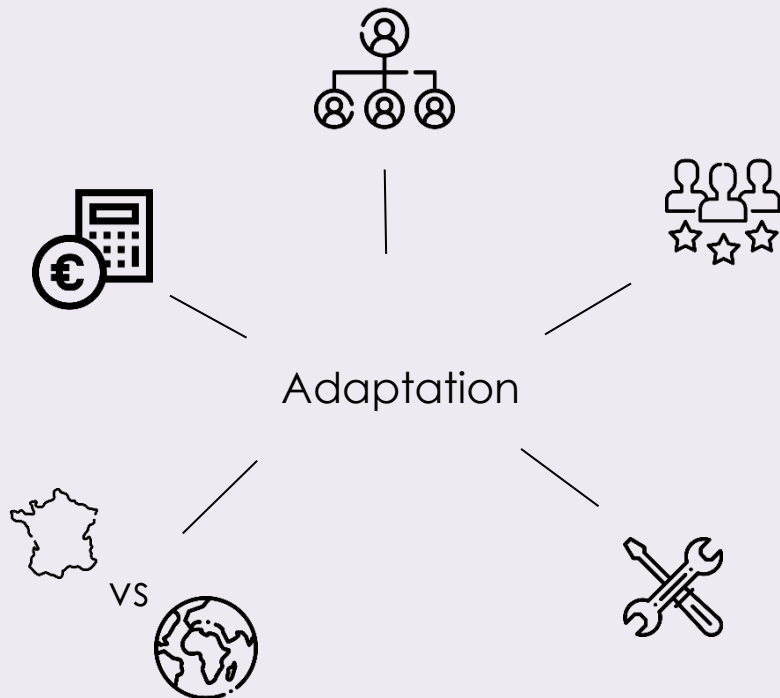
#### 3 Scientific advisors

- Coordination of the evaluations with Project managers (if any)
- Participate to the selection of experts
- Support the expert committee on scientific aspects
- Contribute to methodological discussions

+ a pool of international experts selected by the Department of Europe & International Affairs & an international accreditation committee

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES

## Operating CBQA raises specific organizational challenges



## Structuring international activities in one Department allowed the agency to

- Develop a strong internal expertise in CBQA
- Put CBQA in the agency agenda (board meetings etc.)
- Define its own strategic objectives and processes
- Better monitor CBQAs and ensure accountability
- Lead IT development projects to create support tools that are fit for international activities
- Allocate time and resources to cooperation & research
- Ensure the representation of Hcéres in networks

## But difficulties remain...

- « Agency within the agency » effect
- Dissemination of good practices (FR-Intl/ Intl-FR)
- Unconsistency between priorities set at international level and local level
- Adapting internal decision making processes, procedures and tools



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