Guidelines for quality provision in cross-border higher education
UNESCO and OECD
WHY THE GUIDELINES?

- Growth of cross-border higher education: distance education, franchises, branch campuses;

- GATS and Higher Education

- Need to provide an EDUCATIONAL response to maximize opportunities, minimize risks
GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY IN CROSS-BORDER HIGHER EDUCATION

The Process

- Drafting group: 3 meetings 2004-2005
- Multiple stakeholder input: 94 governments, quality assurance agencies, recognition and student bodies, institutions, NGOs
- Written consultations
- Political support: OECD – UNESCO
- Launch end 2005
- Report back 2007

Recommendations to 6 Stakeholders:
- Governments
- Higher Ed. Institutions
- Students Bodies
- QAA Bodies
- Academic Rec. Bodies
- Professional Bodies;
The scope of the Guidelines

- Voluntary and non-binding BUT

- Stamp of two IGOs: UNESCO and the OECD

- Addressing Governments but recognizing the role of NGOs and Student Organizations.
The quality of cross-border higher education is a shared responsibility between importing and exporting countries

- Quality assurance should cover cross-border education in all its forms (academic, programme and institution mobility)
- Stakeholders should collaborate internationally to enhance the transparency about the quality of HE and about HE systems
- Cross-border delivery should have comparable quality as home delivery
GUIDELINES: MAIN IMPLICATIONS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES

- **Quality assurance and Recognition**
  - have a comprehensive quality assurance system, internal or external
  - have fair mechanisms for recognition of qualifications

- **Transparency and accessibility of information**
  - be transparent about what you do and make the relevant information accessible internationally

- **Collaboration**
  - Strengthen your collaboration with other stakeholders nationally, regionally and internationally

**Recommendations to 6 Stakeholders:**
• Governments
• Higher Ed. Institutions
• Students Bodies
• QAA Bodies
• Academic Rec. Bodies
• Professional Bodies;
Governments

- Establish a comprehensive, fair and transparent system of **registration or licensing** for cross-border higher education (CBHE)

- Coordinate among the various competent bodies for **quality assurance and accreditation** both nationally and internationally

- Provide accurate, reliable and easily accessible **information on the criteria and standards for registration, licensure, quality assurance and accreditation** of CBHE
Higher education Institutions

- Comparable quality of programme delivered taking into account cultural and linguistic specificities;

- Quality teaching and research possible if quality of teaching staff and conditions of work;

- Develop IQA systems;

- Provide accurate information on criteria and procedures of EQA and IQA;

- Transparency of financial status of institution/programme delivered
Professional and Student Bodies

Student bodies
• Active partners in developing and monitoring quality
• Awareness raising – potential risks – questions

Professional Bodies
• Contacts, accessible information, mutual recognition agreements for the professions