

Quality systems albeit in a number of different forms (quality assurance, accreditation, licensing, etc.) are today an intrusive reality of every national higher education system and will remain an important regulation and steering tool for many governments. And it is possible to detect that trust in institutions has not been restored, as there is an apparent movement from quality assessment as a tool for improvement to accreditation as a tool for customer protection and accountability.

The Council of Europe needs to remain attentive to developments taking place in European higher education and to use its moral and legitimate power to ensure that the European Higher Education Area will become an example to the world by preserving the core values of universities.