

Mutual recognition initiatives in Europe - the ECA approach

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european consortium for accreditation

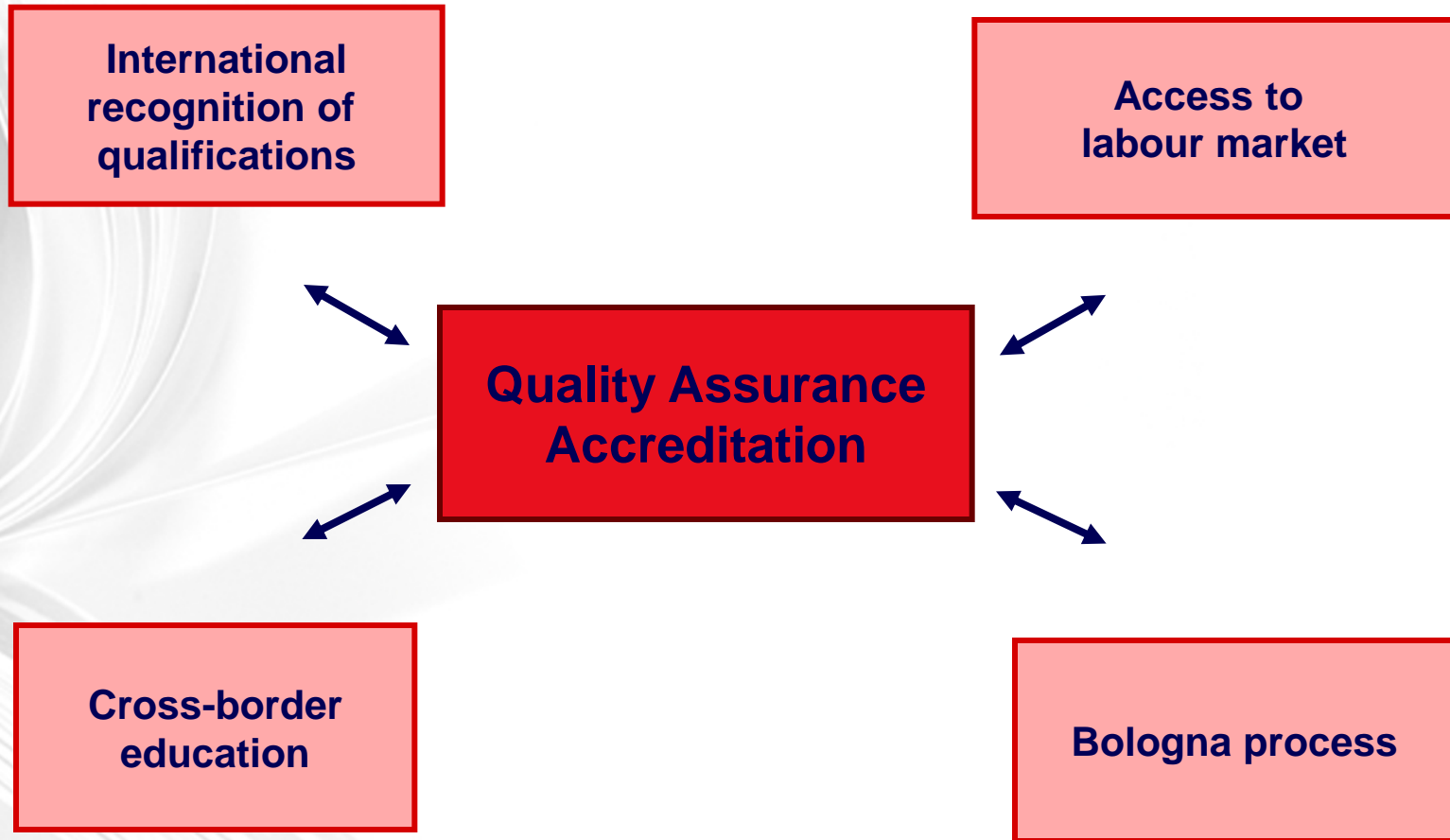
Presentation Rolf Heusser

1. International/European Dimension of QA
2. ECA approach to mutual recognition of accreditation decisions
3. Application of MR agreements in domain of JPs
4. A look to the future and conclusions

International context for QA in higher education

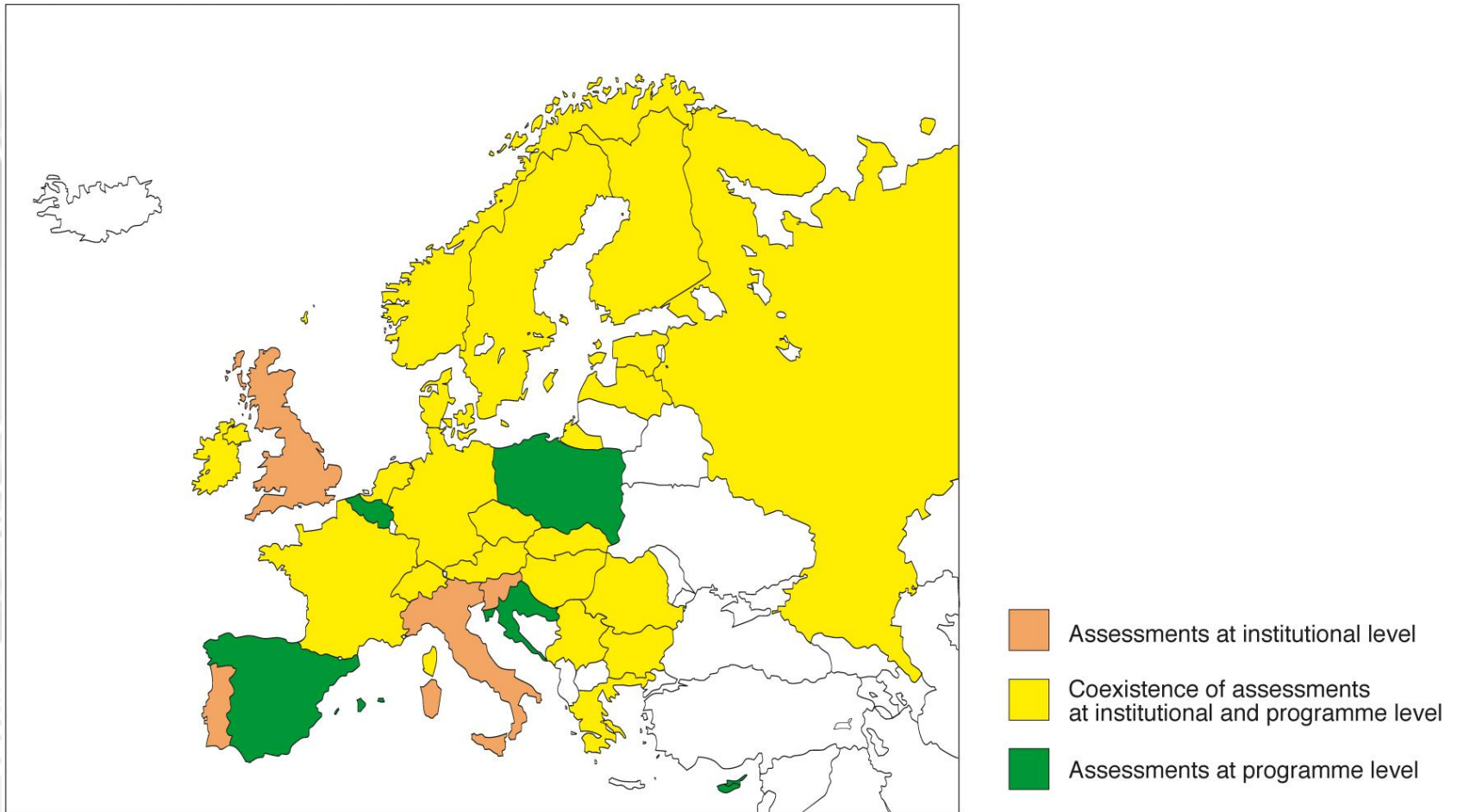
- Internationalisation of education and research
 - Increasing number of providers in HE / new providers
 - Increasing autonomy of HE institutions
- Call for transparency and accountability

International dimension of quality assurance



Programme versus institutional assessments in Europe

A preliminary survey on current practices – 2010



accreditation

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WORKS



ECA - The Abbreviation and the Meaning

- European Candle Association
- European Cat Association
- European Commission for Africa
- European Cheerleader Association
-
- European Consortium for Accreditation in HE

ORIENTATION



ECA: Foundation and Aim

- Established in November 2003 as project organisation
- Consortium of national accreditation/QA agencies
- 17 member organisations from 11 European countries: all regions involved
- Primary aim: Mutual recognition of accreditation decisions

Political basis for MR initiatives in Europe

Bologna Ministers Conference, Bergen 2005:

„We underline the importance of cooperation between nationally recognised agencies with a view to enhancing the mutual recognition of accreditation or quality assurance decisions“.

ECA Road map to mutual recognition



Activities/Tools

Date

Inventory of accreditation systems
In depth comparisons of procedures

2004
2005



Code of good practice
Principles: selection of experts
Principles: accreditation of joint programmes
Common publication format/databank

2004
2005
2006
2007

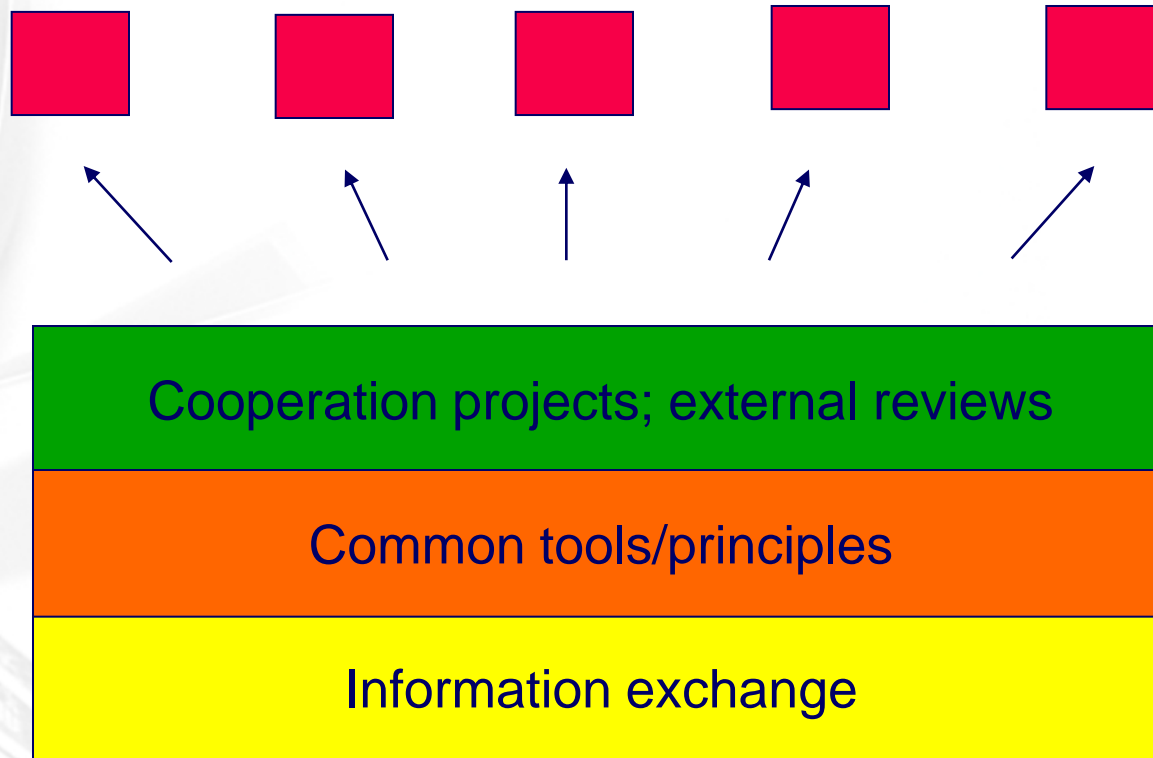


Mutual cooperation projects
Joint declaration ECA – ENIC/NARIC
External review of ECA members
Formal agreements of mutual recognition

2006
2006
2007
2007

Trust-building process

Mutual Recognition Agreements



Agreement on MR of accreditation decisions

“The signing accreditation organisations agree to regard their accreditation procedures, standards and results as free of significant differences and confirm that within their competences they accept the results/decisions of the procedures of the other signing accreditation organisation”

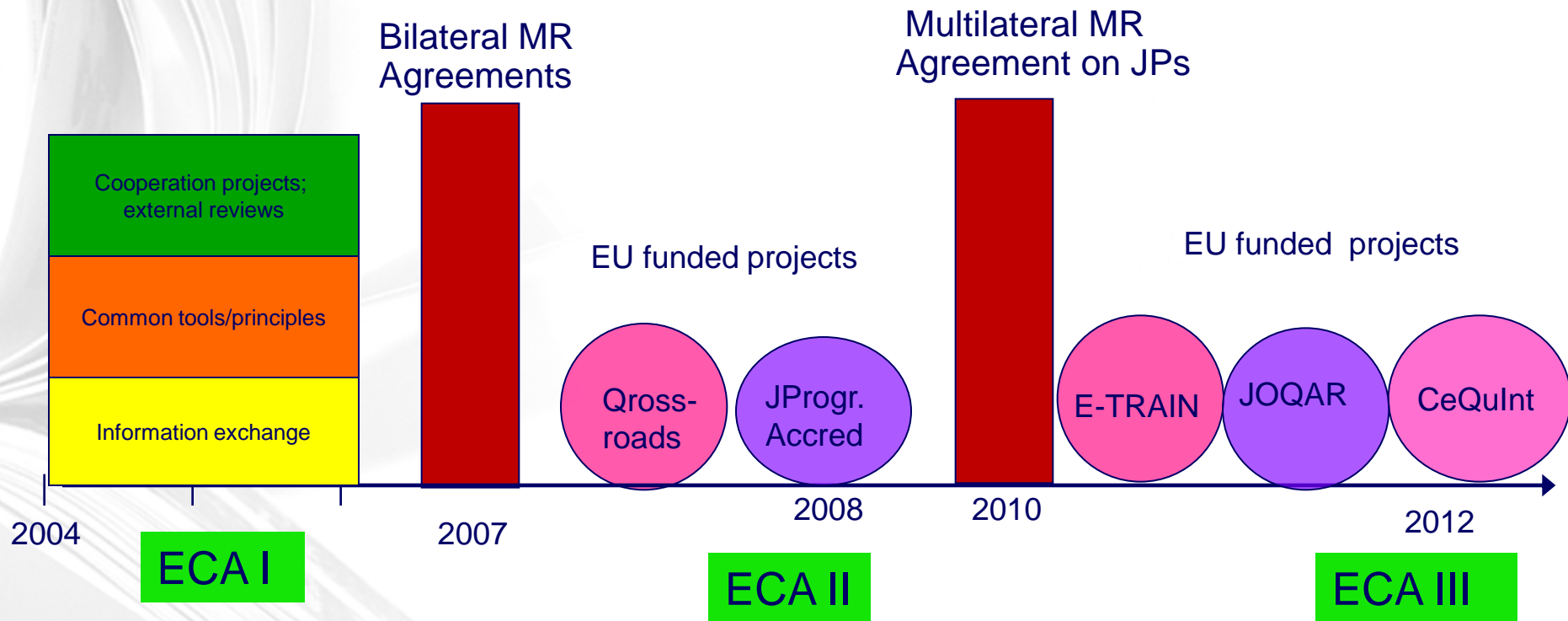
MR agreement, ECA

accreditation





ECA Phases I-III



Joint Programmes (JP) in the EHEA

- JPs are on top of the European HE-agenda
- > 150 Erasmus Mundus master programmes
- Estimated total number of JPs: 2500
- Obstacles for HEIs in organizing JPs
- Multiple problems with recognition of qualifications awarded by JPs
- Challenges in the Accreditation/QA of JPs

Challenges in Accreditation of Joint Programmes

- Joint programmes are confronted with different national QA regimes
- There is no single QA/accreditation procedure
- Multiple visits, multiple panels, multiple decisions
- Decisions may only have an influence on national system

Source: ECA Seminar on joint programmes, Graz June 2011

JOQAR project of ECA (2010-2013)

- Aim: facilitate both accreditation and recognition of joint programmes in the EHEA
- Objectives in domain accreditation: promote single accreditation procedures for JP; establish European coordination point
- Objectives in domain recognition: agreed principles among ENIC/NARICs; guidelines for HEIs;
- 14 partner organizations (Accreditation agencies and Recognition centers)

ECA solution - Single Accreditation Procedures

- One single accreditation procedure, replacing multiple accreditation procedures
- Based on ECA principles for accreditation of JPs and on mutual trust building activities
- One coordinating QAA, others are observing
- 1 on-site visit, 1 report, multiple (but same!) decision
- Five pilot-tests successfully carried out and evaluated (see: www.eacaconsortium.net)

Recognition of Joint Degrees – the Way forward

- Guidelines for awarding joint degrees (aimed at HEIs)
 - >30 recommendations, concerning the awarding institutions, the joint programme, the joint degree, and the diploma supplement
- Recommendation for recognizing joint degrees (aimed at credential evaluators)

→ Final documents will be published in fall 2012

Source: ENIC/NARIC workshop, the Hague, February 2012

Available Reports

Joint programmes:
Too many cooks
in the kitchen?



How to assess
and accredit joint
programmes in Europe



The recognition of
qualifications awarded
by joint programmes



The recognition
of qualifications awarded
by joint programmes

The perspective of higher
education institutions



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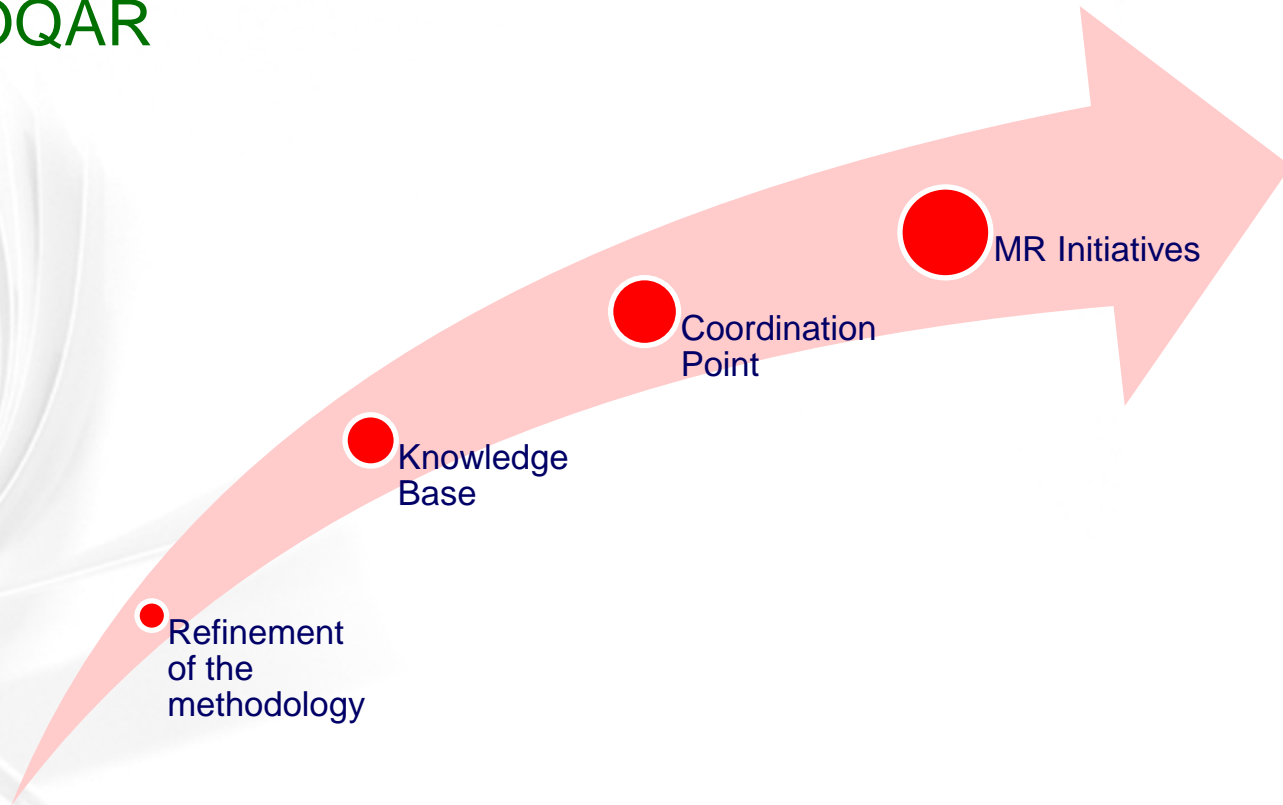
European Consortium for Accreditation

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European Consortium for Accreditation

New ways of accrediting + recognizing JPs

- JOQAR



ECA: Lessons learned

- MR agreements between QAA's can be reached, on the basis of cooperation, evidence and mutual trust
- MR agreements help to simplify the accreditation of joint programmes (single procedure)
- MR agreements have the potential to facilitate transborder recognition of qualifications
- Involvement of national governments, credential evaluators and HEIs is needed

A look into the future and conclusions

- MR initiatives in QA should be encouraged within and outside of the ECA group
- On the basis of MR agreements single accreditation procedures of JPs can be carried out
- MR decisions in QA should be incorporated into the recognition procedures of all degrees/qualifications
- Such a policy will facilitate and enhance international mobility of students and staff



Quelle: www.Coolphotos.de

Thank you for your attention

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