European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education



Quality Assurance of Higher Education in the EHEA and the Role of the ESG

Western Balkan Ministerial Conference – Skopje

26 September 2023 Magalie Soenen



The European Higher Education Area (EHEA)



The Bologna Process

- 1) launched with the Bologna Declaration of 1999
- 2) one of the main voluntary processes at European level
- 3) implemented in 49 countries (≠ EU)
- 4) define and harmonise the European Higher Education Area

Membership of EHEA

- 1) Member: countries and European Commission
- Consultative member: Council of Europe, UNESCO, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, ENQA, EI and BUSINESS EUROPE. EQAR has a similar status to the consultative members.
- 3) Partner: organisations that wish to be associated with the Bologna Process

How does the EHEA work?



Ministerial Conferences

- 1) every two or three years
- 2) next Ministerial Conference: Albania in May/June 2024
- 3) a communiqué outlines decisions taken by the Ministers
- 4) last communiqué Rome 2020

Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG)

- executive structure supporting the Bologna Process in-between the Ministerial Conferences
- 2) working structures: working groups, task forces, etc.
- 3) supported by BFUG secretariat

EHEA Key Commitments



- 1) A Three-Cycle System compatible with the QF-EHEA and scaled by ECTS
- 2) Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)
- 3) Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

EHEA Key Commitment QA



Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

- 1) Role of institutions
- 2) Role of QA agencies
- 3) EQAR

Scope and concepts of the ESG



- Set of standards and guidelines for internal and external QA in HE
- Not prescriptions for quality, but provide guidance
- ESG are imbedded in broader context. incl. QF's, ECTS, DS
- Focus on learning and teaching
- Apply to all HE offered in EHEA, regardless of the mode of study or place of delivery
- QA activities: twin purpose of accountability and enhancement \rightarrow trust & quality culture

ESG 2015







Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

EHEA Key Commitment: stage of implementation



Green countries **fully realise** the key commitment

Remaining countries:

Yellow: only some HEIs with

external QA by an EQAR-registered

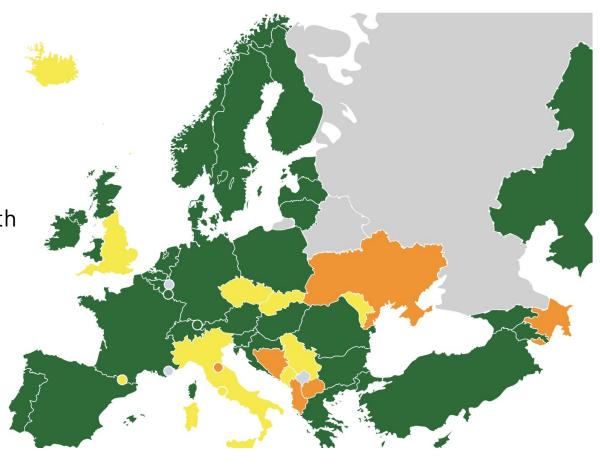
agency

Orange: national QA

agencies

not fully aligned

with ESG yet



Quality framework of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)



QF-EHEA & ECTS

qualifications framework with learning outcomes and ECTS credit ranges

ESG

common standards for internal and external quality assurance (QA)

European Approach specific standards and procedures for single, integrated external QA of joint programmes

EQAR

official register of agencies that substantially comply with ESG

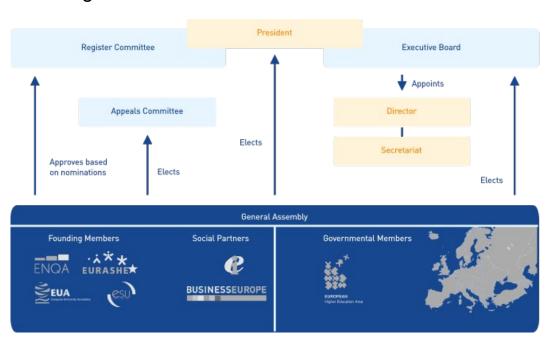
DEQAR

higher education institutions & programmes quality-assured in line with ESG

EQAR: Mission and Role

eqar////

- Enhance transparency and trust, promote international recognition
- EHEA's official register of quality assurance agencies that comply with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG)
- Established by E4 (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE), jointly governed with ministries of higher education
- Non-profit and independent
- Acting in the public interest



EQAR: Mission and Role



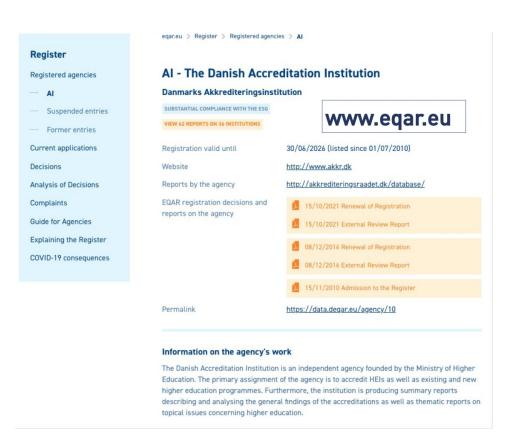


EQAR 47 Governmental Members (June 2023)

Offered by EQAR



- Easy access to information on QA agencies working in line with the ESG, country requirements, QA reports and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies
- Enhance transparency and visibility at the European level
- Facilitates trust and automatic recognition, based on robust quality assurance in line with ESG
- Responds to information needs of various stakeholders, in particular ENIC-NARICs and admission officers

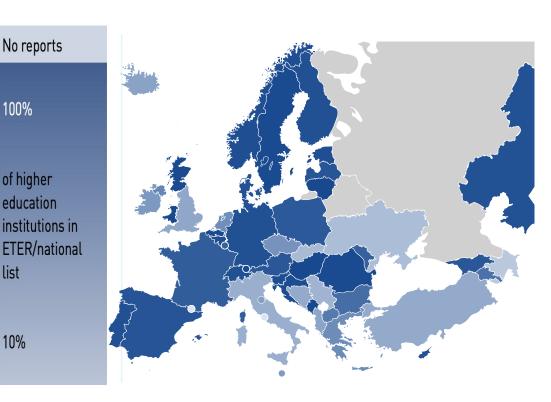


DEQAR - data



Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

- launched in 2018
- 28 EHEA countries comprehensive coverage (≥ 50% of HEIs)
- public access to the assessments made by the QA agencies listed on EQAR
- integration by ENIC-NARICs, with European Digital Credentials for learning (EDC) and European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI)



EQAR-registered agencies coverage of EHEA (June 2023)

Map Legend:

Dark blue: 50-100% coverage Medium blue: 10-50% coverage Light blue: 5-10% coverage Grey area: non-EHEA

DEQAR - data



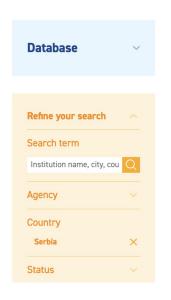
Key Statistics

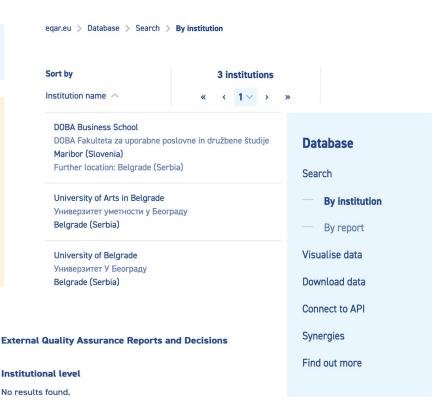
The DEQAR Website continues to attract ca. 3000 page views monthly, making up over a third of the total traffic to EQAR's website.

	February 2023	September 2023
Reports	83 593	92 951
Institutions	3454	3843
Agencies*	47	50

^{*}Number of agencies that have at some point uploaded reports in DEQAR

Serbia in DEQAR









third cycle, second cycle, first cycle

Programme level

1 2

③ ★② Doctoral Academic Studies in Veterinary Medicine, third cycle

★② Information Systems and Technologies, first cycle

★② Information Systems and Technologies, first cycle

★② Information Systems and Technologies - Distance Learning, first cycle

1 - 10 of 19 reports

www.deqar.eu

QF-EHEA levels

Registration and monitoring



Currently there are 55 registered agencies in EQAR





Thank you for your attention!

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