



European
QA
Framework

Status of
CBQA

Experience
with a
CBQA

QA of TNE
(CBHE)

European Quality Assurance Framework

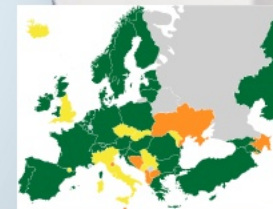
- ESG** (Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA)
- agreed common framework for quality assurance systems

- EQAR** (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education)
- Register of agencies who demonstrate substantial compliance with the ESG
 - Registration is a trusted status, guarantee to the public
 - currently 55 registered agencies from most EHEA



<https://www.eqar.eu/fih/cross-border-qa/key-considerations/>

Towards
CBQA



Stage of implementation of the EHEA key commitment on external QA

Data
source

ESG 2015



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

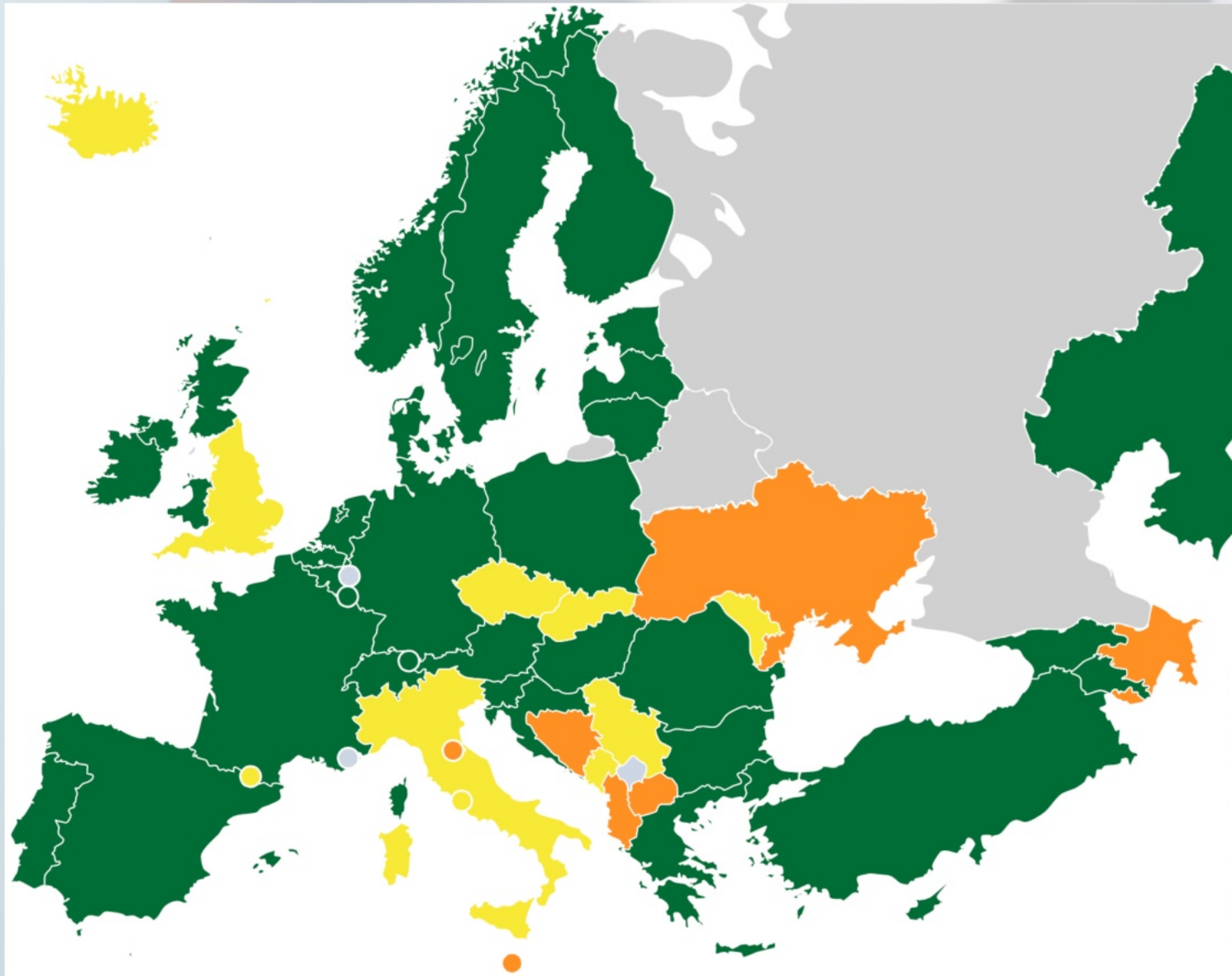


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Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance
in the European Higher Education Area

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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Stage of implementation of the EHEA key commitment on external QA

Towards cross-border QA

- ministers recognise HEI's responsibility for assuring the quality of education (Berlin 2003)
- over 300 types of QA activities aligned with the ESG, successfully employed across the EHEA
- adoption of the ESG (2005, revised version 2015)
- establishment of a Register (London Communique, 2007) and founding of EQAR (2008)
- ministerial commitments for cross-border recognition and possibility for HEIs to choose a suitable EQAR-registered agency (Bucharest 2012, Yerevan 2015 and Paris 2018)

Data sources

Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

- over 88 000 reports of HEIs & programmes
- over 3 600 institutions of HEIs
- DEQAR contributing agencies cover 87% of the EHEA member countries



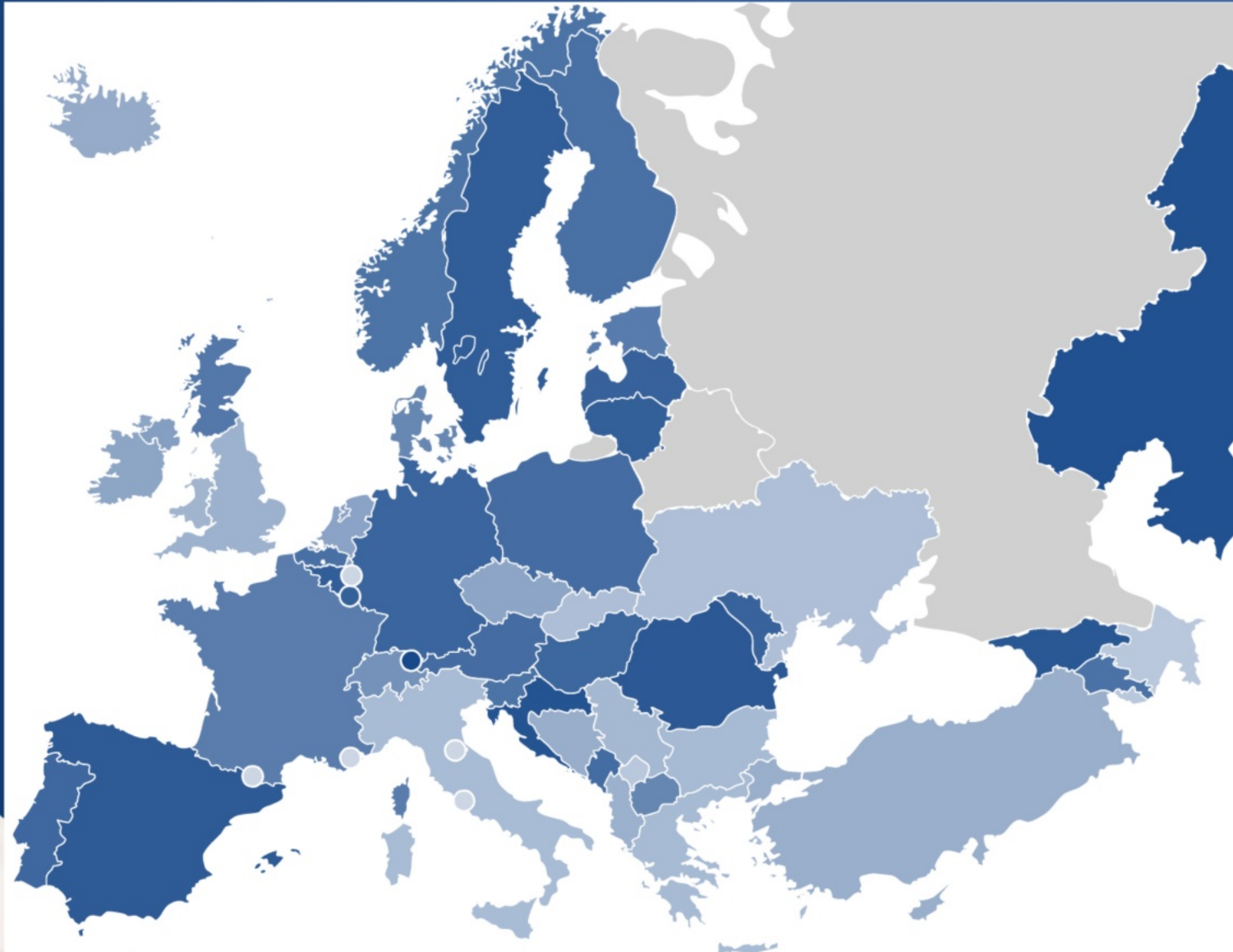
DEQAR coverage (HEIs with QA reports), May 2023

EQAR's Knowledge Base (47 EHEA countries)

EQAR's Policy Paper on CBQA (2020)

RIQAA project report (2014)

UNESCO-OECD guidelines for quality provision in CBHE (2022)



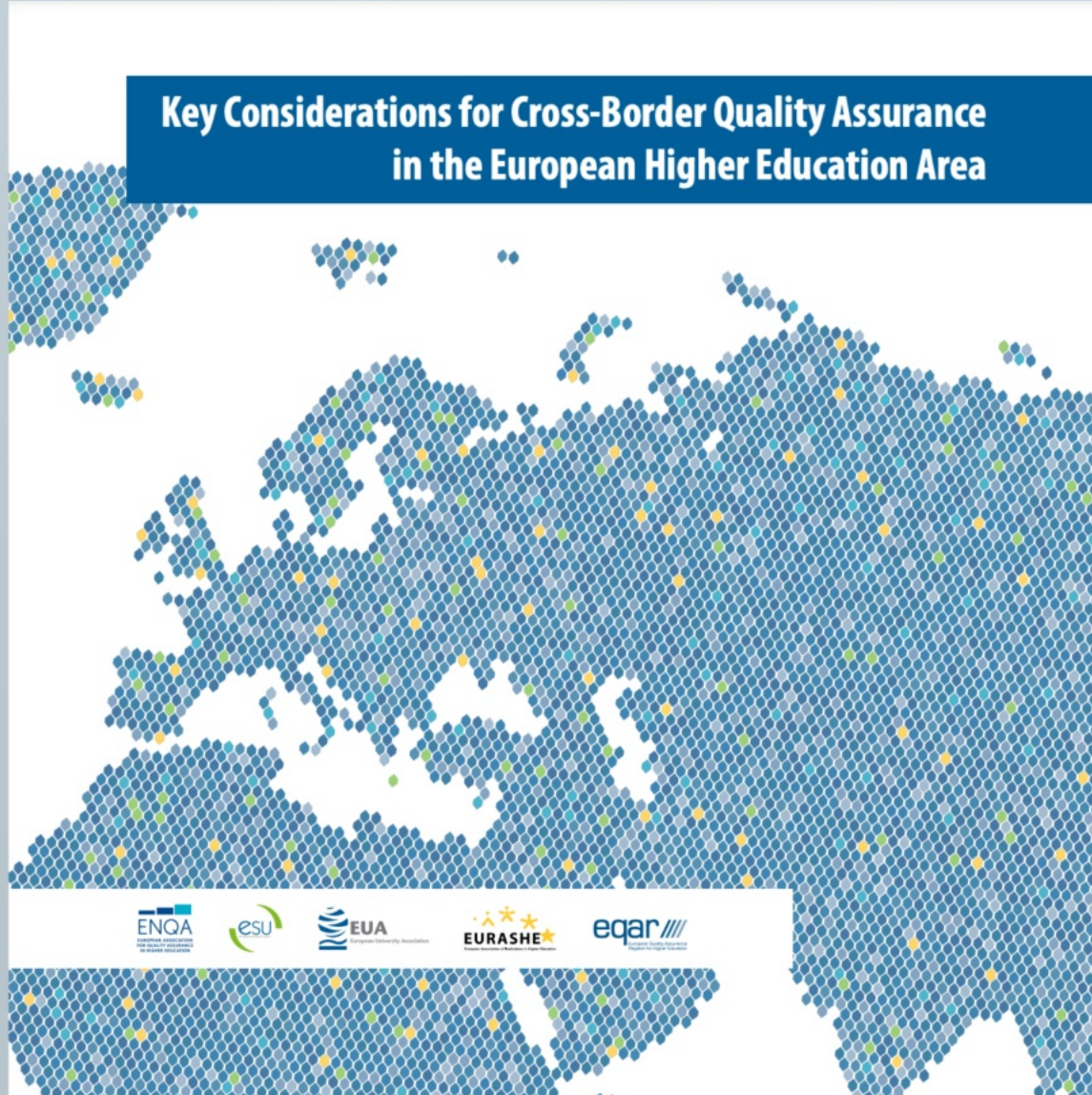
DEQAR coverage (HEIs with QA reports), May 2023

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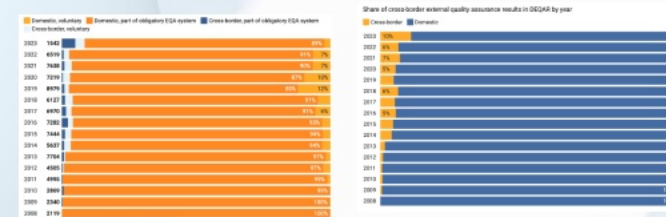
Status of cross-border QA

Facts and Figures

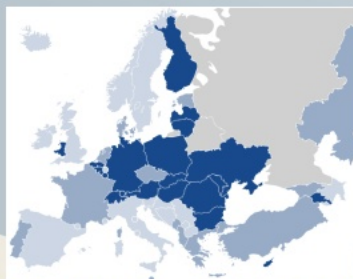
43 countries of the 47 EHEA members had at least one EQA by a foreign EQAR-listed agency (based on data of agencies participating in DEQAR)

The share of cross border QA procedures within EHEA is more common but increasing in recent years for non-EHEA regions.

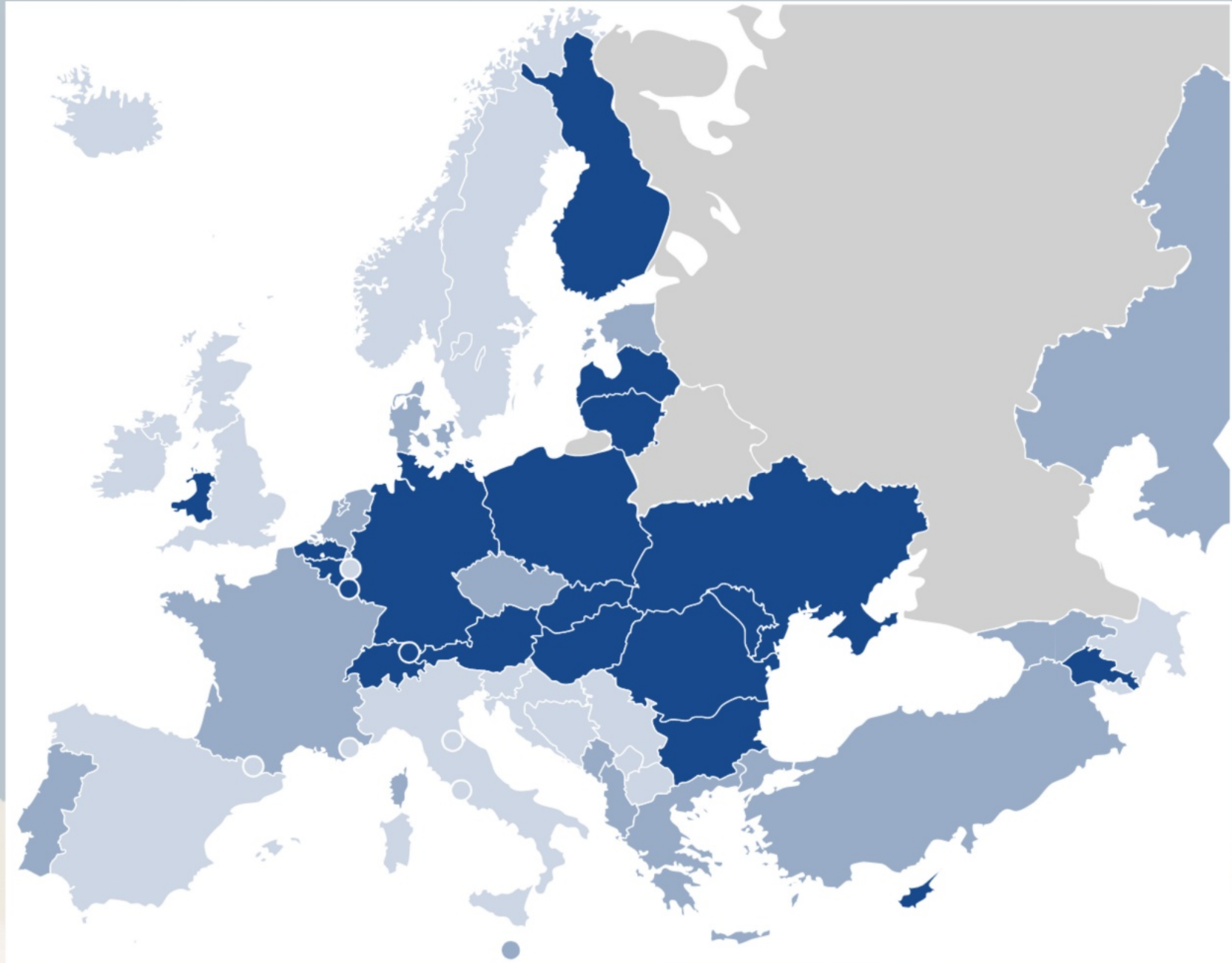
CBQA activities within the EHEA mostly carried out within countries that have a legal framework recognising foreign EQAR-registered agencies, but 'openness' to such CBQA lagging behind.



National Requirements for CBQA



Level of official recognition by legal frameworks of cross-border external QA (May 2023)



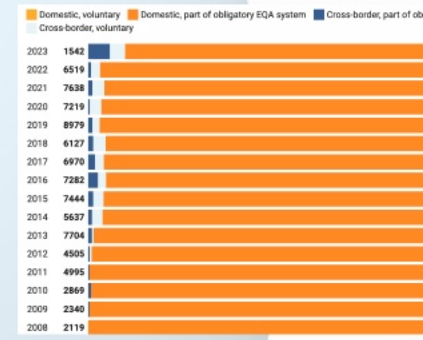
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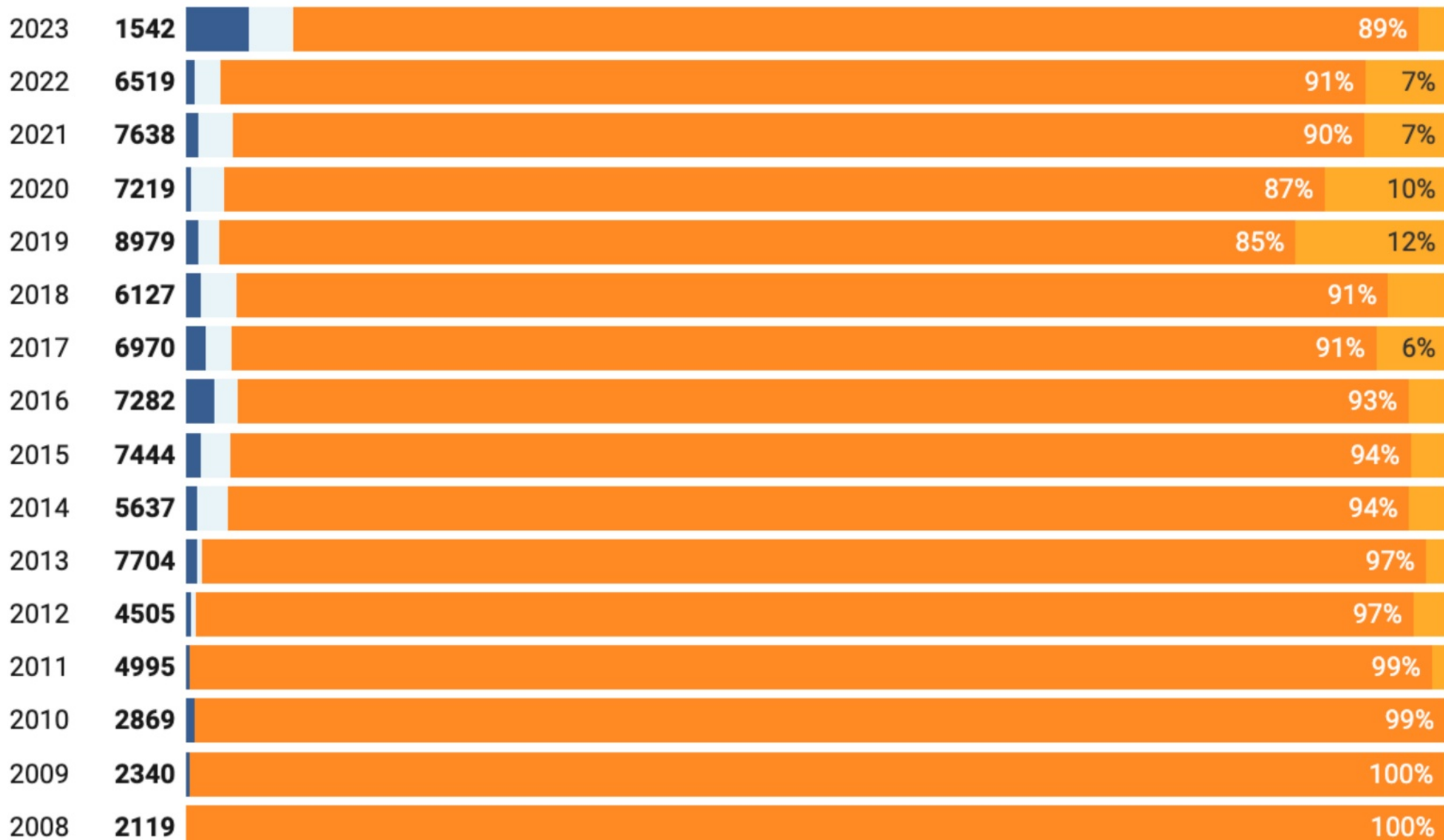
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■ Domestic, voluntary
 ■ Domestic, part of obligatory EQA system
 ■ Cross-border, part of obligatory EQA system
 ■ Cross-border, voluntary



Share of cross-border external quality assurance results in DEQAR by year

■ Cross-border ■ Domestic



Facts and figures

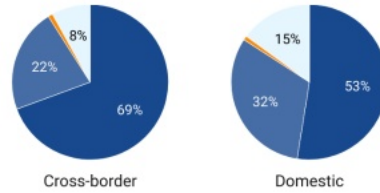
Year	No. Cross-Border Reviews
2016	384
2017	342
2018	370
2019	409
2020	379
2021	313
2022	405

Cross-border external QA by year (May 2023)

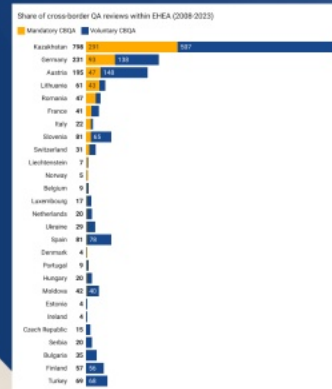
External QA Decisions

Decisions by cross-border vs domestic external quality assurance reports

- positive
- positive with conditions or restrictions
- negative
- not applicable

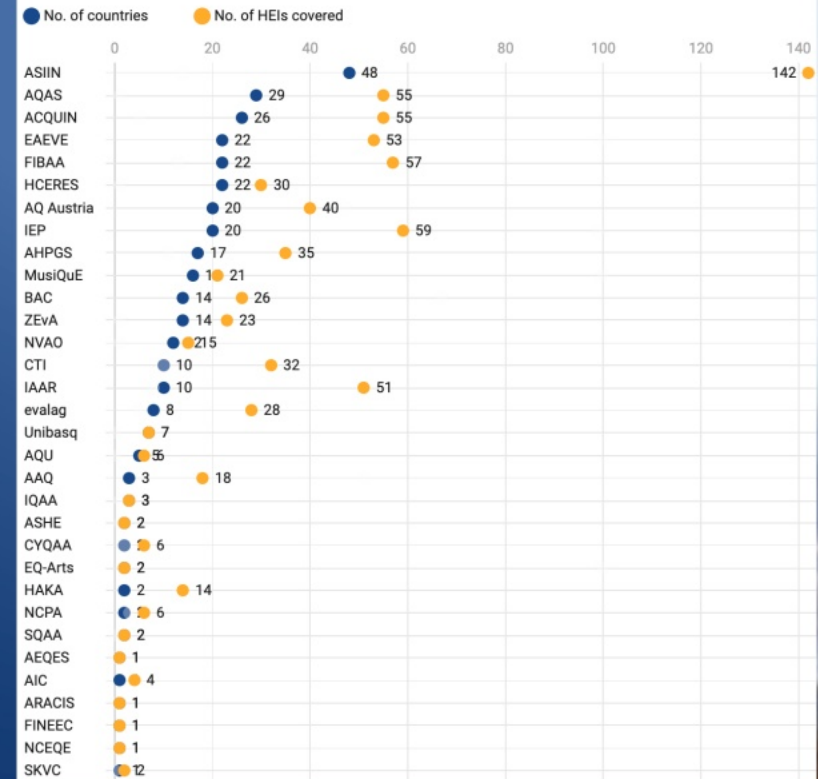


Source: DEQAR - Created with Datawrapper



Main "importers" of cross-border external QA

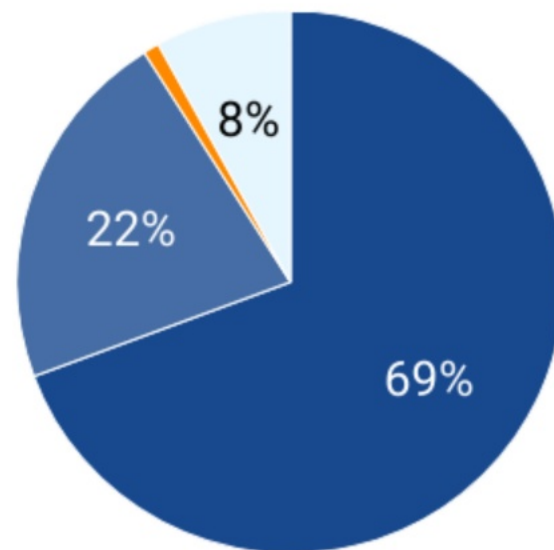
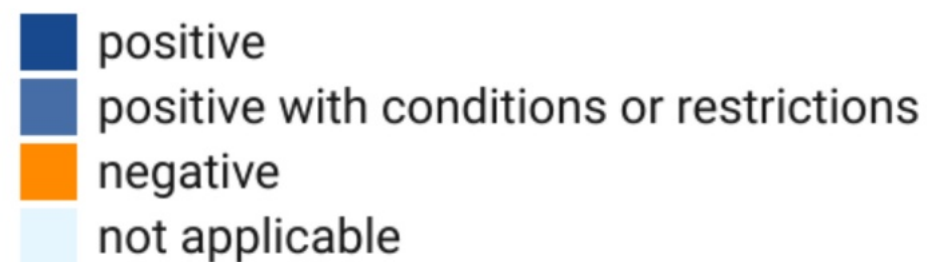
Cross-border external QA by no. of countries & HEIs



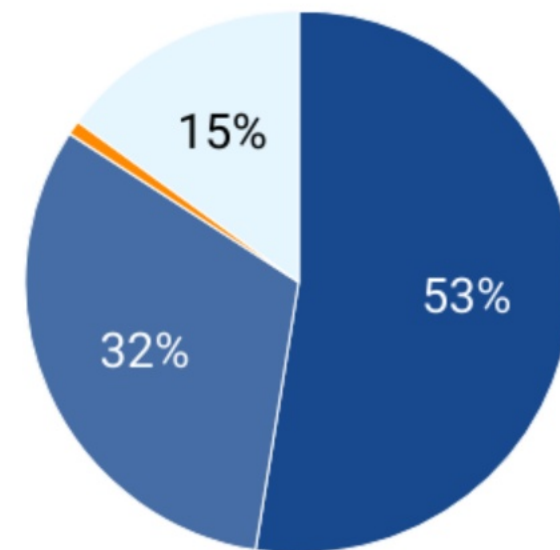
Cross-border QA by no. of countries and HEIs (DEQAR, May 2023)

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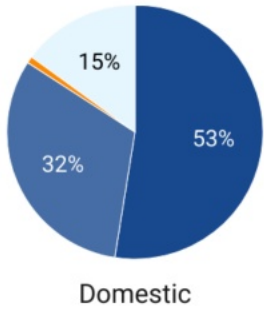
Cross-border



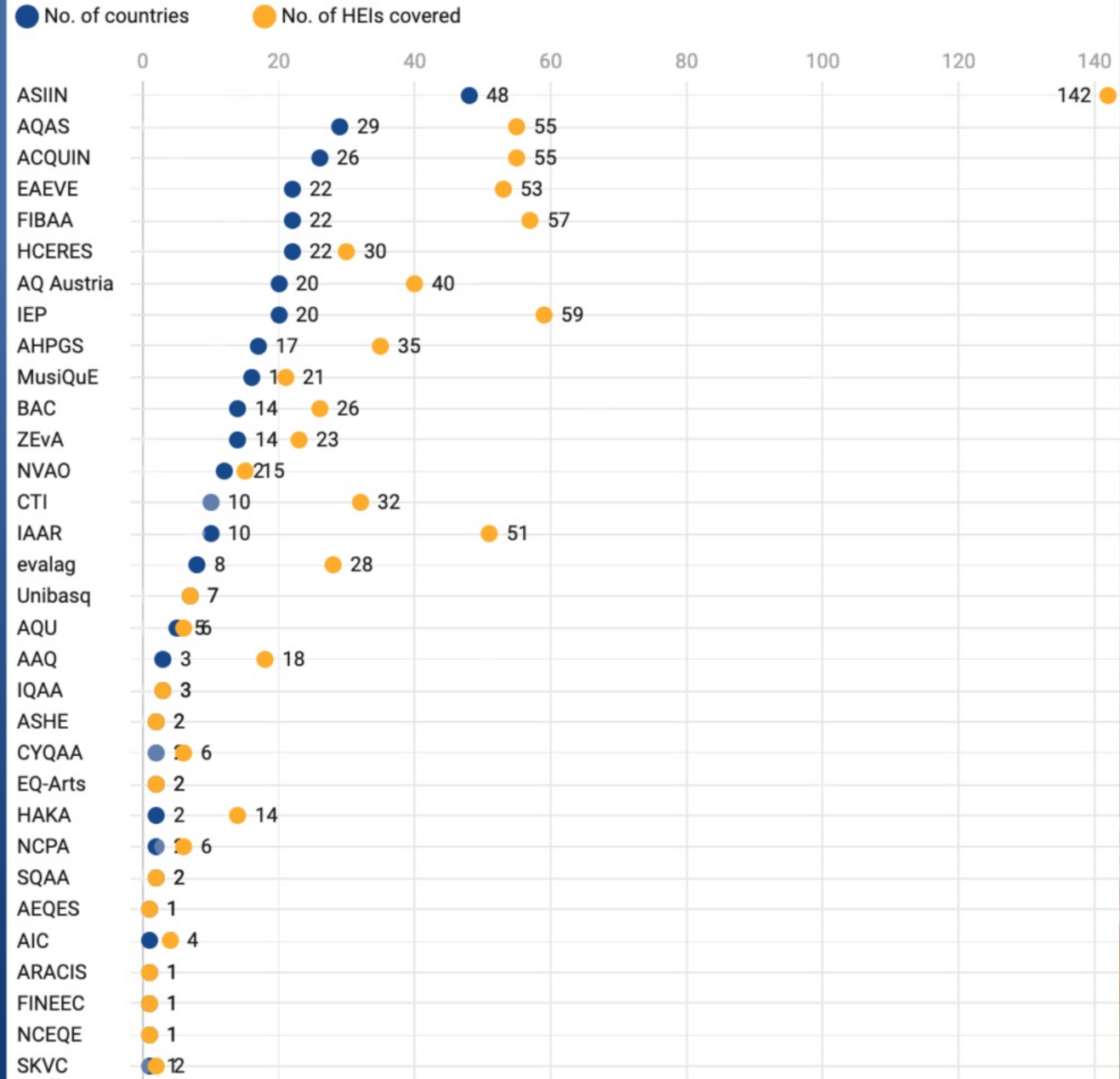
Domestic

Source: DEQAR • Created with Datawrapper

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Cross-border external QA by no. of countries & HEIs

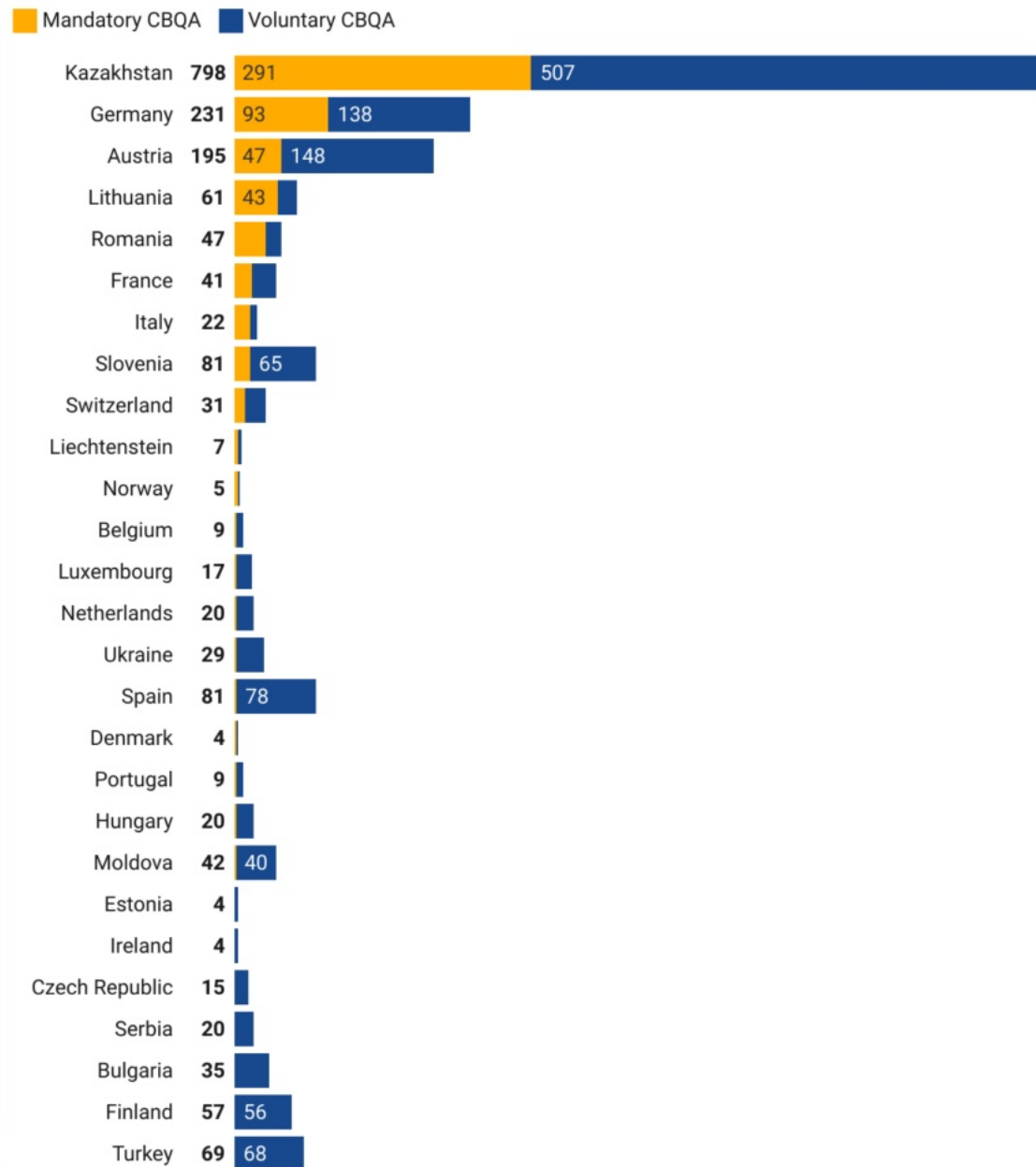


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cross-border external QA

Cross-border QA by no. of countries and HEIs (DEQAR, May 2023)

Share of cross-border QA reviews within EHEA (2008-2023)



Main "importers" of cross-border external QA

Facts and figures

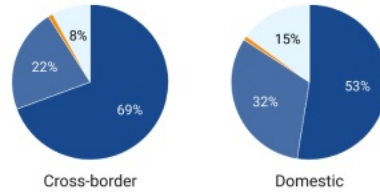
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Cross-border external QA by year (May 2023)

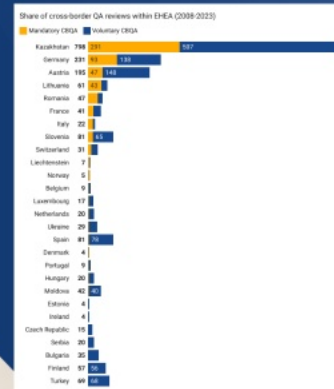
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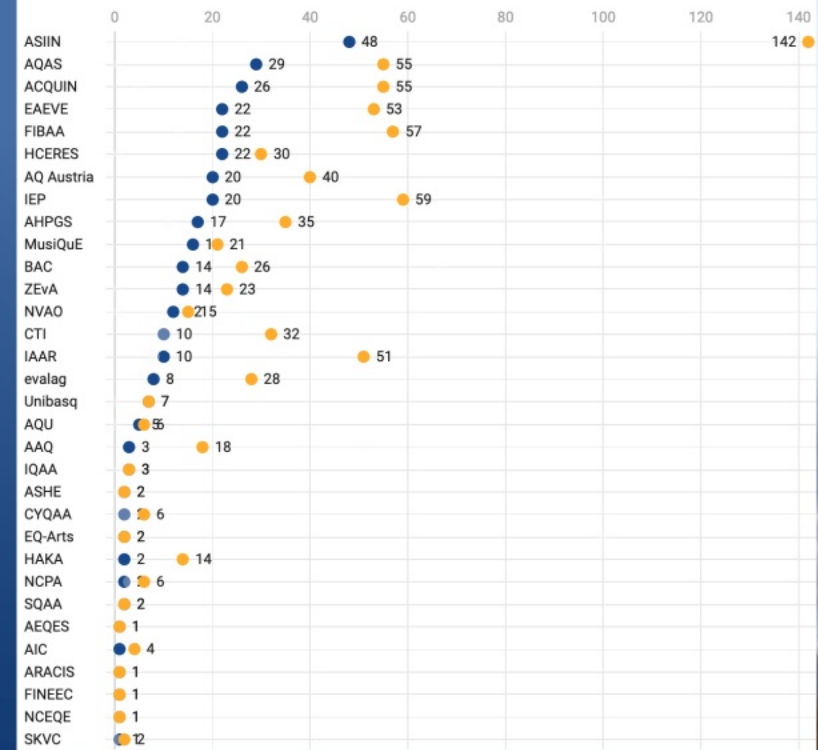
Source: DEQAR - Created with Datawrapper



Main "importers" of cross-border external QA

Cross-border external QA by no. of countries & HEIs

- No. of countries
- No. of HEIs covered



Cross-border QA by no. of countries and HEIs (DEQAR, May 2023)

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Cross-border external QA by year (May 2023)

Requirements for QA agencies to operate in another country

1. **Eligibility requirements** e.g., approval by a competent national body
2. **Conditions for the agency's work** e.g., use the regulations and frameworks of the national higher education system
3. **System level limitations** e.g., only certain HEIs or programmes may use CBOQA
4. **Recognition of reviews** e.g. the approval of the report & decision by a competent national body or the national QA agency



Rationale
for CBQA

Considerati
on for a
CBQA

Experience with a
cross-border QA

Read more:

<https://www.eqar.eu/kb/cross-border-qa/>

<https://www.eqar.eu/about/projects/deqar-connect/conference/>

Rationale for CBOQA

- **Pull factor:** external perspective, broader view and possibility for comparison; offering better market opportunities and higher employment of graduates;
- **Push factor:** Lack of trust in the domestic QA agency, a one size-fits all approach in the national lack of international exposure, narrow pool of reviewers in smaller HE systems.
- QA agencies may also choose to be involved in a cross-border review as part of their strategy for internationalisation, as a way to broaden their horizon, to improve their own processes, motivation of staff, as well as for financial reasons.

Considerations for CBOQA

- Clarify the expectations and ensure that the cross-border QA is beneficial to the local QA and HE system.
- Consider the risk of “agency shopping”, use EQAR's complaints policy if issues re ESG compliance
- Ensure a fair market price -> overview of the pricing for external QA across EHEA
- Follow a transparent and just process, EQAR-registered agency, the involvement or information of the national QA agencies/or other relevant national authority in the review process; know-how of the national HE system;
- Emphasis on good practices: contact the national authority, invite local experts, ensure a balance between national and international standards.



Key Considerations for Cross-Border Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area



ENQA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ESU

EUA
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
ASSOCIATION

EURASHE
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF ASSOCIATIONS
OF AMBA ACCREDITED
UNIVERSITIES

eqar
EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE
REGISTRY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

TNE or CBHE = any learning activity in which the students are based in a different country from the country in which the institution providing the education is located

Rome Communiqué (2020)- national EQA arrangements should cover transnational higher education with equal standards to those used for domestic provision

TNE provision - a steady increase in the number of new TNE programmes being offered and in new forms of delivery
-> at least 30 higher education institutions from 17 different EHEA systems have TNE provision in different higher education systems

Challenges,
benefits,
risks

Key
Considerations
for TNE

Reflections from the PLA (March 2023)

Legal frameworks and TNE:

- Most countries do not have specific legislation regarding TNE
- Some countries HE institutions are legally prohibited to open transnational provision abroad
- EQA approach often different for TNE provider as opposed to the national provision

Challenges, benefits and risks:

- For importing countries of TNE the benefit of an 'education export' is generally the import of knowledge for exporting countries serves internationalisation policies but also different national educational objectives.
- TNE provision may be also used for getting access into the labour market by less reputable providers.
- The high diversity of TNE provision and the lack of a commonly agreed definition often leaves a gap in how to address such provision as part of the regular review of QA agencies

- The 'exporting' HEIs should provide clear, easily accessible information on admission regulations, curriculum, assessment requirements, conditions of study, mentoring, academic fees and the degrees it awards.
- If the TNE courses lead to a recognised degree in the exporting country, the exporting institution should ensure its accreditation according to national standards. If ESG aligned these standards should be easily recognised by the accreditation system of the host country.
- National systems should assure the quality of the exporting TNE while lessening the burden on the incoming cross-border providers if they have been accredited by an EQAR-registered agency.
- Important to gather data for institutions with TNE as well as on the legal framework and QA requirements for such provision. EQAR could expand its Knowledge Base of legal frameworks to consider the QA of TNE provision.

Key considerations from the PLA (March 2023)



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