



UPDATE FROM EQAR

Updates regarding the Register

1. In its meeting on 19/20 June 2017, the EQAR Register Committee newly admitted three agencies to the Register:

- ANQA - National Centre for Professional Education Quality (Armenia)
- IQAA - Independent Kazakh Agency for Quality Assurance in Education
- IAAR - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (Kazakhstan)

Seven agencies have successfully renewed their registration:

- AEQES - Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur (Belgium)
- ASHE - Agency for Science and Higher Education (Croatia)
- HCERES - High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (France)
- FINEEC - The Finnish Education Evaluation Centre
- ASIIN - Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik (Germany)
- FIBAA - Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (Germany)
- AQAS - Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes (Germany)

2. At its next meeting on 15/16 November taking place in Cologne, the Register Committee (RC) will be considering three new applications and four renewals, and conclude its deliberation on the clear separation between external quality assurance within the scope of the ESG and other activities of registered QA agencies.

www.eqar.eu/documents/decisions.html

EQAR Members' Dialogue

3. The seventh edition of the Members' Dialogue took place in Prague. The event was hosted by the Czech Ministry of Education and Research.

4. This year the Members' Dialogue included a focus group organised by EQAR as part of the EQUIP (Enhancing Quality through Innovative Policy & Practice) project. The focus group featured group discussions on challenges that arise in the implementation of the ESG 2015 and possible ways to address these challenges. The findings will feed into the project's final study.

Other topics of the Members' Dialogue were the discussions on the **EQAR** Strategy 2018-2022 and the Register Committee's approach to external **QA** and other activities by registered agencies.

<https://eqar.eu/documents/presentations.html>

Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

5. The application prepared by EQAR and its partners for a grant under the EU's Erasmus+ programme to support the initial establishment of the database was approved.
6. Through DEQAR's project partners, 28 QA agencies (of the 46 that are registered) are involved in the database, representing ca. 75% of the total external quality assurance activities carried out by EQAR-registered agencies. In addition, the European stakeholder organisations (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, Education International), one ENIC-NARIC centre and the University of Gent are partners of the project in different capacities.
7. The Database will allow users to identify higher education institutions that have been subject to external quality assurance in line with the ESG, by an EQAR-registered agency (at institutional level, or one or more of its programmes) and to easily access the corresponding external QA report(s).

<http://eqar.eu/topics/deqar.html>

Survey Updates on the External Quality Assurance

8. EQAR and EURYDICE have jointly carried out a survey addressed to EHEA member countries on the changes to their legal framework and on the openness to cross-border external quality assurance by a suitable EQAR-registered agency.
9. The responses to the survey will feed into the Bologna Implementation Report 2018 and it will be used to review the existing information presented on the EQAR website on legal frameworks for external QA and the implementation of the EHEA key commitment on quality assurance.

<https://eqar.eu/topics/cross-border-qa/map.html>

New staff in the EQAR Secretariat

10. On 25th October 2017, Karl Viilman joined the EQAR Secretariat as Database Officer. He will be responsible for the setup and maintenance of the database of external quality assurance results.

Karl followed his master studies in Sociology at Tallinn University and complemented his degree with European Studies (University of Tartu, Estonia). Until recently, he worked for the European Commission (DG EAC), where he analysed EU member states educational systems in the framework of the Education and Training 2020 Strategy, and held positions related to analyses and statistics in the field of education and social statistics in Estonia.

<https://eqar.eu/about/eqar-structure/secretariat.html>

Office location

11. EQAR moved its office in Brussels on 1 October 2017. The new office space is on Rue d'Arlon/Aarlenstraat 22, on the corner of Place Luxembourg/Luxemburgplein. EQAR shares the building with, amongst others, the Netherlands House for Education and Research (Neth-ER) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

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1 November 2017