



*Do countries review their QA procedures  
and methodologies along with the  
development of the European alliances?*

AEQES

French-speaking BELGIUM

IMINQA  
WG on QA of  
European  
Universities

Brussels  
17 January  
2023

## AEQES in a nutshell

- established in Nov. 2022, revised in Feb. 2008 (+ amendements in Dec. 2017)
- ENQA reviewed in 2011, 2016 and 2021:  
ENQA member and EQAR registered since 2012  
> *next review (targeted review in 2026)*
- 2019-2023: Pilot phase institutional review  
> *take stock and propose a new decree*
- for all the EQA procedures: enhancement-led approach (no accreditation required and focus on quality culture)
- all programmatic reviews are cluster-based

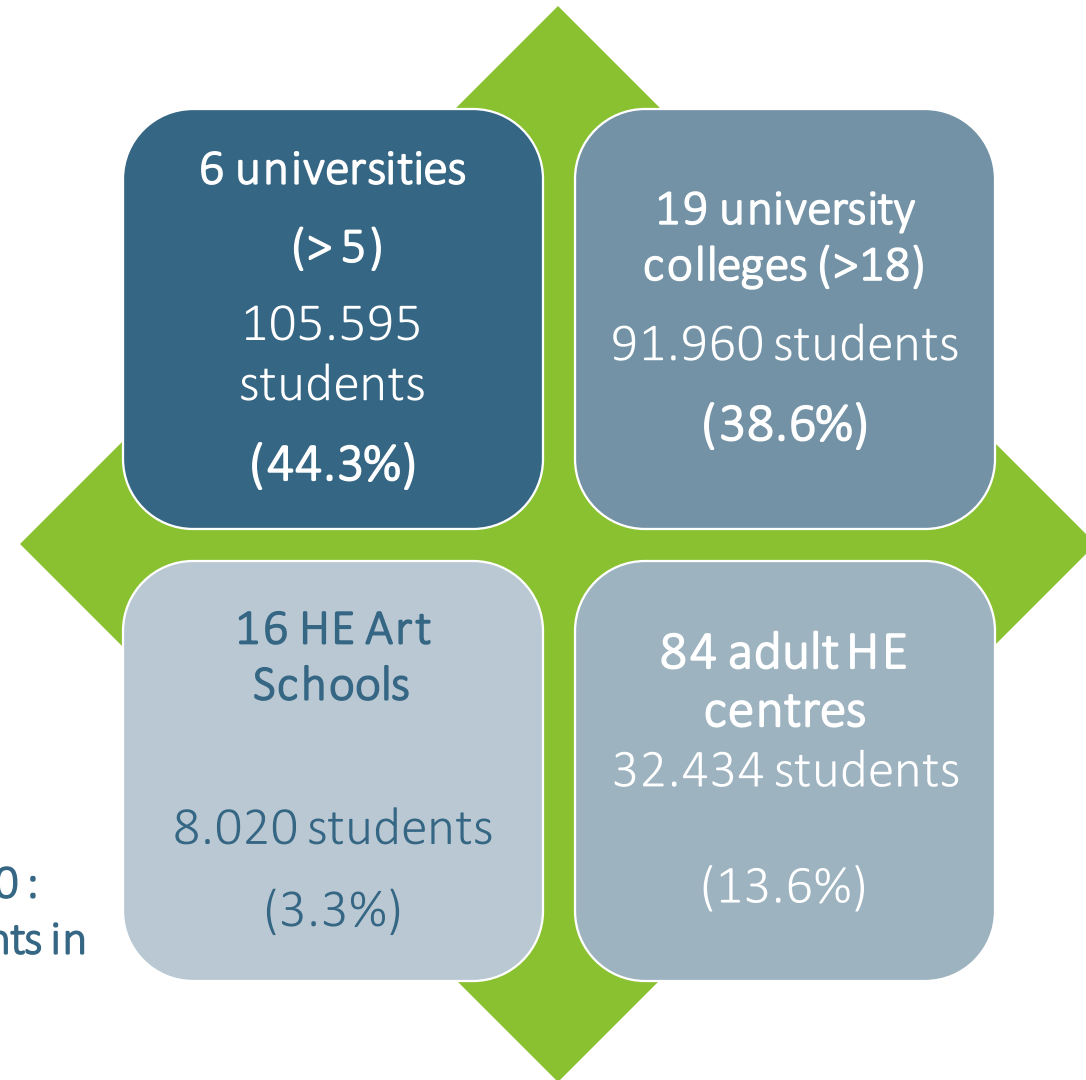
See [https://www.aeqes.be/english\\_quality\\_at\\_aeqes.cfm](https://www.aeqes.be/english_quality_at_aeqes.cfm)

# The HE system in Francophone Belgium

17 pilot HEIs

5 universities + 1  
university colleges in  
Alliances

Data 2019-2020 :  
238.009 students in  
+/- 124 HEIs



# AEQES methodology: key features

IQA: By law, « HEIs are required to ensure quality management and assurance of all their activities and to take all measures for effective internal self-evaluation and its follow-up.”

EQA: Institutions of HE must comply with the requirement to have their programmes evaluated by AEQES on a regular basis and undergo an institutional review every 6 years.

3 EQA activities : 2 formats of programmatic evaluation + 1 institutional review

Activity	Object	Scope	Reference framework
INITIAL PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATION	Quality of the study programme	Relevance, coherence, equity and efficacy of the programme + Quality system for improving the programme	5 criteria
CONTINUOUS PROGRAMMATIC EVALUATION	Continuous improvement of the quality of the study programme	Assessment of and action plan for the programme + Quality system and quality culture for improving the HEI's programme	<a href="#">3 criteria</a>
<b>INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW (PILOT PHASE)</b>	<i>How a higher education institution's policies and approaches enable it to attain its strategic objectives for learning and teaching.</i>	<i>Quality assurance relating to learning and teaching (for all programmes organized by the higher education institution, including continuing education and third cycle.</i>	<a href="#">ESG, part 1</a>

Experience in  
QAAs  
collaboration, on  
the  
programmatic  
level...

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES THAT FALL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE AGENCY'S EVALUATION ARE REQUIRED TO BE EVALUATED BY LAW.

HOWEVER...

AEQES allows institutions that wish to do so to **use other evaluation or accreditation bodies for their programmes**, under certain conditions, without having to duplicate the process with the formative evaluation of AEQES.

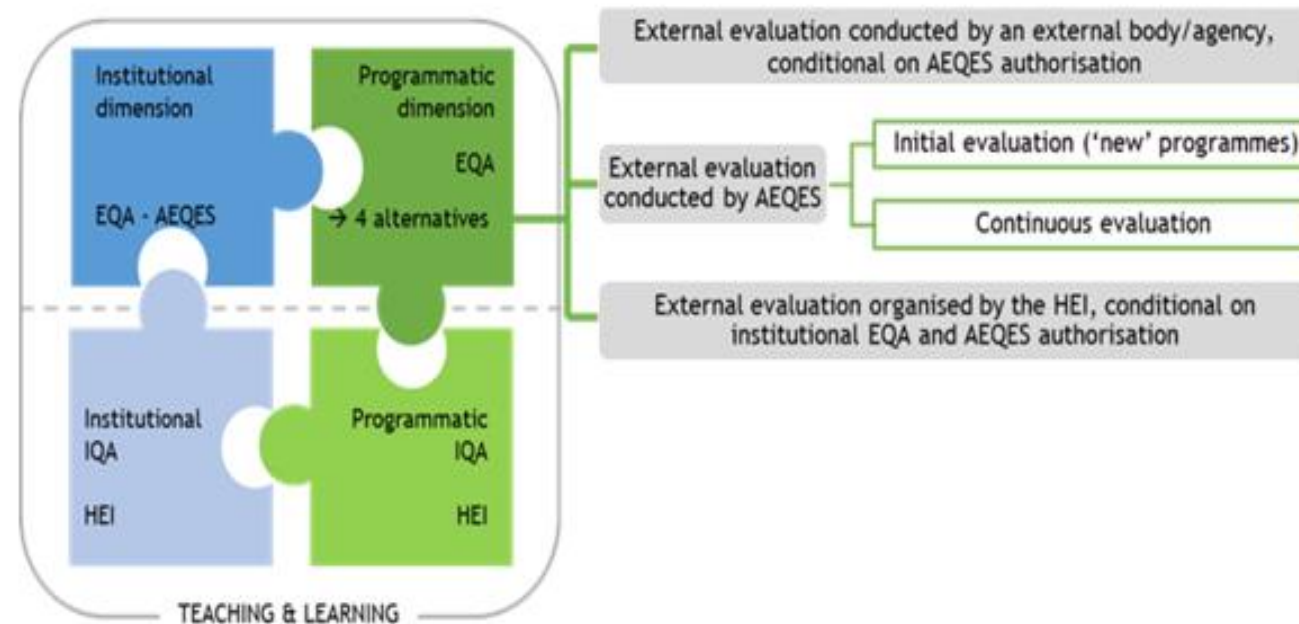
- With this in mind, AEQES initially authorized **joint evaluations in cooperation with QAAs** specializing in a particular subject area. This option led to **experiences of joint evaluation** with the **Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur (CTI)]** or **with Music Quality Enhancement (MusiQuE)**.
- In September 2017, AEQES took a further step by adopting a **procedure for recognizing an evaluation or accreditation process conducted by another body**. This was, for example, requested by the universities for the Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Veterinary Medicine as part of their accreditation process with the **European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)** in 2019.

# Focus on the institutional review and its optional procedure

## Optional Summative Judgement procedure tested during the pilot:

- Eight of the 17 pilot institutions requested this procedure, which makes it possible to **obtain a positive, conditional or negative judgement on their capacity to manage the external evaluation of their programmes autonomously** at the end of the pilot institutional evaluation.
- The **formal consequence of a positive judgement** is that the planning of programmatic evaluations by AEQES is terminated for a period of six years (duration of the programmatic and institutional evaluation cycles).

### EQA articulated model from 1st cycle on



the EuniQ  
project impact:  
QA for the  
European  
Universities

The FRAMEWORK and the METHODOLOGY have been cleverly designed

- focus on the IQA of the Alliances
- in doing so, support and foster the development of strategic partnerships
- back to basics: guiding questions, PDCA and stages of development
- allow and even recommend coordination among QQAs to coordinate EQA

## Our HEIs involved in Alliances [January 2023]

name of the HEI	name of the Alliance	QAAs potentially involved
Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	<b>CIVIS</b> – Europe's Civic University Alliance [11 partners]	<b>AEQES</b> - HCERES - HAHE - ARACIS ANECA - <b>ANVUR</b> - <b>UKÄ</b> – GAC ( <i>tbc</i> ) QAA-Scotland - AQ-Austria – AAQ
UCLouvain	<b>Circle U</b> [9 partners]	<b>AEQES</b> - NOKUT - AI – QAA - HCERES - NEAQA (aff.) - <b>ANVUR</b> - QA Austria
Université de Mons (UMONS)	<b>EUNICE</b> [10 partners]	PKA – GAC ( <i>tbc</i> ) - ANECA ( <i>tbc</i> )- <b>ANVUR</b> - <b>AEQES</b> - HCERES - FINEEC - <b>UKÄ</b> -HAHE - A3ES
Université de Liège (ULiège)	<b>UNIC</b> - (European University of Post-Industrial Cities ) [10 partners]	UNIBASQ - GAC ( <i>tbc</i> ) - QQI -THEQC <b>AEQES</b> - FINEEC - ASHE - NVAO – <b>UKÄ</b> PKA
Université de Namur (Unamur)	<b>UniversEH</b> (European Space University for Earth and Humanity) [7 partners]	HCÉRES - <b>ANVUR</b> - PKA - <b>UKÄ</b> – <b>AEQES</b> – GAC ( <i>tbc</i> ) – NVAO ( <i>tbc</i> )
Haute école de la Province de Liège (HEPL)	<b>UniGreen</b> [7 partners]	AAC-DEVA - Quality Board of Iceland NEAA - HCÉRES - <b>ANVUR</b> – PKA - <b>AEQES</b>



## So, what's next?

- AEQES has informed (June 2022) the identified HEIs about the EUniQ project + updated information to the Steering Committee of AEQES in October 2022
- AEQES is willing to establish collaborations with other agencies
- AEQES is willing to commit itself in implementing the methodology and framework developed by the EuniQ project
- AEQES has some flexibility and a potential to adjust its methodologies

But it's up to the Alliances to jointly choose their EQA provider(s)!

# Thank you

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[www.aeqes.be](http://www.aeqes.be)

<https://aeqes-coconstruction.be>