Update on EQAR Activities

(since November 2018)

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EQAR Members' Dialogue in Berlin on 27/28 November 2018

The 2018 Members' Dialogue was hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Lively discussions were held following presentations on:

- Realising the EHEA Goal of Automatic Recognition;

- Taking Stock of the EHEA Key Commitments: compliance with the ESG and limitations found within EHEA national frameworks;

- European policies and national agendas shaping our systems in higher education and QA systems in particular;

- A retrospective on 10 years of EQAR.

Smaller, more intimate sessions evolved around recognition, DEQAR, the need for all QAAs in Europe to align their work to the ESG, student-run QA pools and case studies on both cross-border QA and the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes.

https://www.eqar.eu/kb/presentations/

Register Committee decisions

The EQAR Register Committee convened twice since the last BFUG, on 5/6 December 2018 and 2/3 April 2019.

The Committee admitted two new agencies to the Register:

- **AIC** – Academic Information Centre (Latvia)

- **HAC** – Hungarian Accreditation Committee

Furthermore, it renewed registration of five agencies:

- **ARACIS** – Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

- **IEP** – EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme

- **NOKUT** – Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education
- **QAA** – Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (UK)
- **SQAA** – Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

During a brief joint session of the Executive Board (EB) and the Register Committee (RC), EB and RC members discussed updates to the Code of Conduct and took note of important updates, including on DEQAR and the Bologna peer support mechanism in regard to Quality Assurance.

https://www.eqar.eu/register/decisions/

Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

The Database for External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR) continues to grow and develop and we are happy to report a recent surge in the report uploading by EQAR registered agencies.
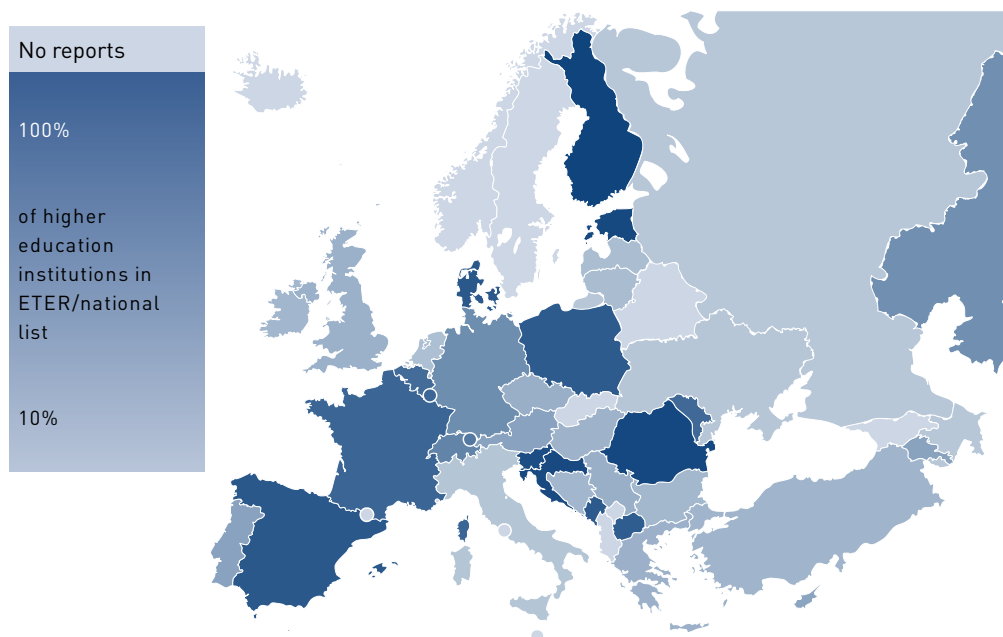

Figure 1: DEQAR coverage (percentage of HEIs with QA reports)

The latest DEQAR statistics as of 20/6/2019:

- 10 672 reports covering 1 643 institutions in 56 countries
- Significant coverage achieved in: Belgium (Flemish community), Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Spain and Slovenia (in these systems DEQAR includes reports on at least 50% of the institutions listed in the European Tertiary Education Register, ETER, https://www.eter-project.com/).
- Growing number of web site visits per month, reaching 1 086 unique visitors in May 2019, with over 2 000 unique page views.

DEQAR pilot study by the University of Ghent

Our DEQAR project partner researchers Jeroen Huisman and Maria Manatos of the Centre for Higher Education Governance Ghent (CHEGG) at the University of Ghent have been using the database as a basis for two pilot pan-European comparative studies into how higher education institutions respond to the needs of students and society, based on thousands of external quality assurance reports being available in DEQAR. The first pilot study has just been published.

The researchers have provided a comprehensive analysis on how quality assurance agencies translate the ESG for external quality assurance. The analysis covered the institutional external quality assurance reports from Croatia, Estonia, Finland and Portugal.

The results show that the influence of the ESG in the institutional external quality assurance reports of agencies is unquestionable, however the degree of implementation and translation differs depending on the focus and the models of institutional external quality assurance.

Read more and download the pilot study (link to news item on website):

https://www.eqar.eu/first-deqar-pilot-study-published/

New feature: data download and API

Our DEQAR Data Dump feature makes it possible to export a full copy of our dataset for individual research purposes. Users can freely download the dataset for spreadsheet software.

In addition, the public Application Programming Interface (API) is based on recent internet standards and allows others to embed live data from DEQAR into their own website, application or workflow.

https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/download-data/

Work in progress

- We are aiming at 20 000 reports this year, and we expect some substantial uploads in the coming weeks which should take us a long way toward our goal.
- We continue to present DEQAR at higher education events and conferences and are happy to work with those interested in showcasing DEQAR at a local or sector-specific event.
- Work continues on the back end of the system to improve the agencies' submission experience. We have also put in place a new indexing system which will make possible enhanced search features.

- The database will be enhanced with infographics — including heat maps, bar charts and tables allowing data to be compared and tracked over time.

http://www.deqar.eu

EQAR General Assembly in Bucharest on 3 April 2019

EQAR's 15th General Assembly (GA) was held at the University Politehnica of Bucharest on 3 April. As is tradition, the meeting was organised in conjunction with the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) meeting.

Apart from the yearly recurring agenda items such as the annual accounts, the budget, the work plan and the annual report, which were reviewed and adopted by the GA, a number of elections were held.

Register Committee: The General Assembly approved the nominations to the Register Committee for a two-year mandate, starting on 1 July 2019. Three new members were nominated: Eltjo Bazen and Patricia Georgieva (by EURASHE) and Jacques Lanares (by EUA). All other Register Committee members were re-nominated.

Executive Board: Gohar Hovhannisyan, ESU Vice-President-elect, was by-elected to the EQAR Executive Board to replace leaving ESU President Adam Gajek.

Appeals Committee: The General Assembly elected a new Chair, Paul Zoontjes, and Deputy Chair, Jiri Nantl. The remaining members and deputy-member were re-elected.

https://www.eqar.eu/eqar-general-assembly-in-bucharest/

Slovakia becomes governmental member of EQAR

We are delighted to announce that EQAR membership grew further: our newest governmental member is Slovakia, whom we warmly welcome. EQAR now counts 41 governmental members who are involved in the overall governance of EQAR.

https://www.eqar.eu/about/eqar-structure/members/

Annual Report 2018

The EQAR Annual Report 2018 has recently been published. The main highlights include EQAR's 10th anniversary, the DEQAR project, new agencies on the Register, and an analysis of the Register Committee's decisions, with important insights into the standards that have proven most challenging.

Read the Annual Report here:

https://www.eqar.eu/about/annual-reports/2018-2/