

## Update on EQAR Activities

for the 16/17 November 2023 BFUG meeting

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### 1. Register

**At the June 2023 meeting, the EQAR Register Committee** concluded that the following agencies demonstrated their substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG).

Approved applications:

- [ECTE](#) – European Council for Theological Education (initial application)
- [HAKA](#) – Estonian Quality Agency for Education (renewal)
- [NOKUT](#) – Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (renewal)

**At the October 2023 meeting, the EQAR Register Committee** approved the following applications for inclusion/renewal of registration on the Register:

- [EAEVE](#) – European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (renewal)
- [KAZSEE](#) – Kazakhstan Association of Modern (Elite) Education (initial application)
- [NEEA](#) – National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (Bulgaria) (renewal)
- [QAA](#) – Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (UK) (renewal)
- [SQAA](#) – Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (Slovenia) (renewal)

See also:

- Full list of the [Register Committee decisions](#)
- [Database of precedents](#), featuring various search/filter options and including relevant excerpts of RC decisions.

- [Key statistics](#) on the application process and ESG compliance (make sure to scroll down to view all the different charts).

## **2. EQAR new President**

The mandate of the EQAR President, Karl Dittrich (who served for two consecutive terms, the maximum time permitted by the EQAR Statutes) came to an end on 30 June 2023.

At the 19th General Assembly (GA) of EQAR, Stéphane Lauwick (France) has been elected as EQAR's new President.

The President presides over the Register Committee, the General Assembly and the Executive Board, represents EQAR at international conferences and events and additionally has numerous bilateral meetings with stakeholders and members.

Stéphane Lauwick started his term as EQAR president on 1 July 2023.

## **3. EQAR Extraordinary General Assembly**

EQAR held an on-line Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) on 21 September 2023. This EGA was to be devoted to the statutory revision and to the revision of the Rules of Procedure. Unfortunately, the quorum for a statutory revision was not reached. The EGA was thus postponed to 13 October with the same agenda. On that day, a quorum was not necessary and EQAR was able to proceed with the EGA and the revision of the statutes.

The statutory revision had already been discussed (and voted on) during the GA on 10 May, but had not yet been fully finalised.

The reasons for the revision of the statutes were threefold:

- To improve stakeholder involvement (e.g. nominate two governmental members as observers to the EQAR Board).
- To align them with the new Companies and Associations Code (CAC), before 2024.
- Clarification purposes (e.g. better and more precise description of the Board's actual role).

The Rules of Procedure have been revised in so far it was necessary to reflect the statutory changes (so that Rules of Procedure are congruent with the new statutes). Furthermore, the option to invite countries, international organisations and other partners relevant to higher education and who are not members of EQAR, is included in the revised Rules of Procedure.

Both the statutory revision and the revision of the Rules of Procedure were adopted at the EGA on 13 October 2023.

#### 4. Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

##### Key Statistics (November 2023)

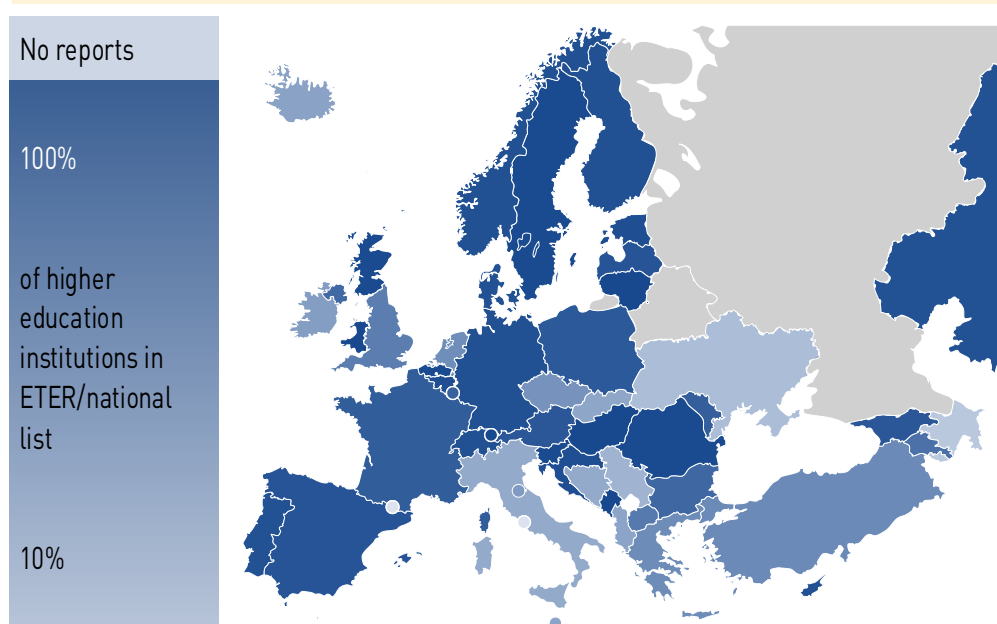
The DEQAR Website continues to attract ca. 3000 page views monthly, making up over a third of the total traffic to EQAR's website.

	April 2023	November 2023
<b>Reports</b>	86 349	92 657
<b>Institutions</b>	3 540	3 617
<b>Agencies*</b>	47	50
<b>Coverage**</b>	27	31

\*Number of agencies that have at some point uploaded reports in DEQAR

\*\* EHEA systems where DEQAR includes reports on at least 50% of the institutions listed in the European Tertiary Education

Register ([ETER](#)), except where this does not represent a substantial part of the HE system:



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

Updates from DEQAR:

- The number of systems covered as a result of EQAR agencies upload of external QA reports rose from 27 to 31: Austria, Belgium (Flemish Community), Belgium (French Community), Bulgaria, Denmark, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Northern Ireland (UK) Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland (UK), Spain, Slovenia, Sweden Switzerland, and Wales (UK).
- the **ENIC-NARIC** centres are now working on **integrating information on QA from DEQAR into their workflows**, with a view to speeding up the

recognition process for qualifications from those HEIs present in DEQAR.

- Since March 2023, institutional data in DEQAR is automatically synchronised from the Register of Public Sector Organisations (OrgReg), a sister project of the European Tertiary Education Register (ETER) which maintains basic data on higher education institutions.
- EQAR and DG EMPL agreed that all DEQAR data would be uploaded to the European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC) by default, without a need for prior individual action by country (countries may, however, opt out if needed). As a result, all HEIs covered in DEQAR would immediately be in a position to issue accredited digital credentials in EDC.

Further general information on DEQAR can be found at:

<https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/infographics/>

## 5. Projects where EQAR is involved

### IMINQA

#### **The Implementation and Innovation in QA through Peer Learning (IMINQA)**

project is a three year ERASMUS+ co-funded project (May 2022 – April 2023) led by the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training in partnership with ENQA, ARACIS (on behalf of Romania) and EQAR.

**IMINQA's third PLA** on the **European Approach for the QA of Joint Programmes** was held in Brussels on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023, hosted by the Flemish Government. EQAR has set the agenda, contacted speakers and drafted a preparatory analysis on the PLA topic.

At the IMINQA meeting of the **WG on micro credentials** on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, EQAR introduced the section on **alternative providers and micro-credentials in DEQAR** and presented the first results.

### QA FIT

The **QA FIT project** is led by ENQA having as partners EUA, EURASHE, ESU, EQAR, FINEEC, Irish University Association, ANOSR (NUS from Romania) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (associate partner). The projects activities include a desk research, four surveys on the ESG implementation, four reports and four focus groups including one with national ministries (led by EQAR), a final report, a final webinar and then a final policy event. EQAR was in charge of drafting the survey for the national ministries. All surveys have one common, almost identical part for all stakeholders, followed by specialised questions for each group.

The survey to national ministries was launched in November 2022, together with three other surveys targeting each stakeholder group (higher education institutions, national student unions and quality assurance agencies). The ministry survey collected a total of 36 valid responses representing a good share of the total possible answers (78%) from EHEA members.

EQAR and the project partners have each published a paper resulting from the analysis of the four surveys. The draft papers have been reviewed by the QA Steering Committee, the QA FIT Expert Board and results have been further further discussed with relevant stakeholders. The paper coming out of the ministry survey results has been present to EQAR members at the last General Assembly in Stockholm. The **published paper and the presentation** of the paper can be found [here](#).

At the moment the stakeholders are working on finalisation of two papers focused on the cross-cutting topics resulting from all four surveys. During the upcoming EQAR Members' Dialogue QA-FIT Focus Group will be organised for EQAR's members where the findings from the surveys and initial findings by the cross-cutting papers will be discussed further

### **TPG LRC CORE**

The project is led by the Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA) and aims to **support the work of the TPG B**. Other project partners include: HARNO, FEI, Nuffic, UHR, EUA, ESU and the Prime Minister Office – Albania. Main activities involve panel discussions and peer learning activities on common challenges (i.e. recognition of knowledge gained through alternative pathways, micro credentials, digitalisation of recognition workflows, European Degree etc.) and research that will further enable the peer learning.

EQAR is leading the work group on digitalisation of recognition tools. The group is organising **3 peer learning webinars** in autumn 2023 – each focusing on one of the phases of the recognition process. The first webinar focused on the input phase of the recognition process and included presentations by the ENIC NARIC Netherlands (Nuffic), ENIC NARIC Norway (NOKUT) and ENIC NARIC Italy (CIMEA). The second webinar was organised by EQAR and focused on the throughput phase, with a presentation of the ENIC-NARIC Poland (NAWA) focussing on their new system and the integration of DEQAR data in their recognition workflow, as well as a presentation from the side of EQAR on the new features in DEQAR on Micro-credentials and alternative providers. A third webinar is still to be organised.