

Update on EQAR Activities

for the 12/13 November 2019 BFUG meeting

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1. Register Updates

Register Committee Decisions

The EQAR Register Committee convened twice since the last BFUG meeting.

Three agencies were newly admitted to the Register:

- **CYQAA** – Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education
- **HAC** – Hungarian Accreditation Committee
- **NCEQE** – National Center for Education Quality Enhancement (Georgia)

One agency was re-admitted to the Register following a focused review:

- **QANU** – Quality Assurance Netherlands Universities

Furthermore, it renewed registration of five agencies:

- **A3ES** – Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (Portugal)
- **ARACIS** – Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- **AQ Austria** – Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria
- **CTI** – Engineering Degree Commission (France)
- **evalag** – Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- **IEP** – EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme
- **PKA** – Polish Accreditation Committee
- **QAA** – Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (UK)
- **QQI** – Quality and Qualifications Ireland

- **SQAA** – Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
- **Unibasq** – Agency for the Quality of the Basque University System

The Register Committee also took note of a number of substantive change reports, which can be found under the link below.

The Register Committee is currently revising its Policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG, based on feedback gathered from registered agencies, external review coordinators and expert panel members, as well as its own reflections.

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

EHEA Key Commitment

As a result of the countries' national agencies now being registered on EQAR, Cyprus, Georgia and Hungary have now fully realised the EHEA key commitment on quality assurance. The map below shows the current level of implementation of the EHEA key commitment, following the 5-colour scale of the EHEA Implementation Report.

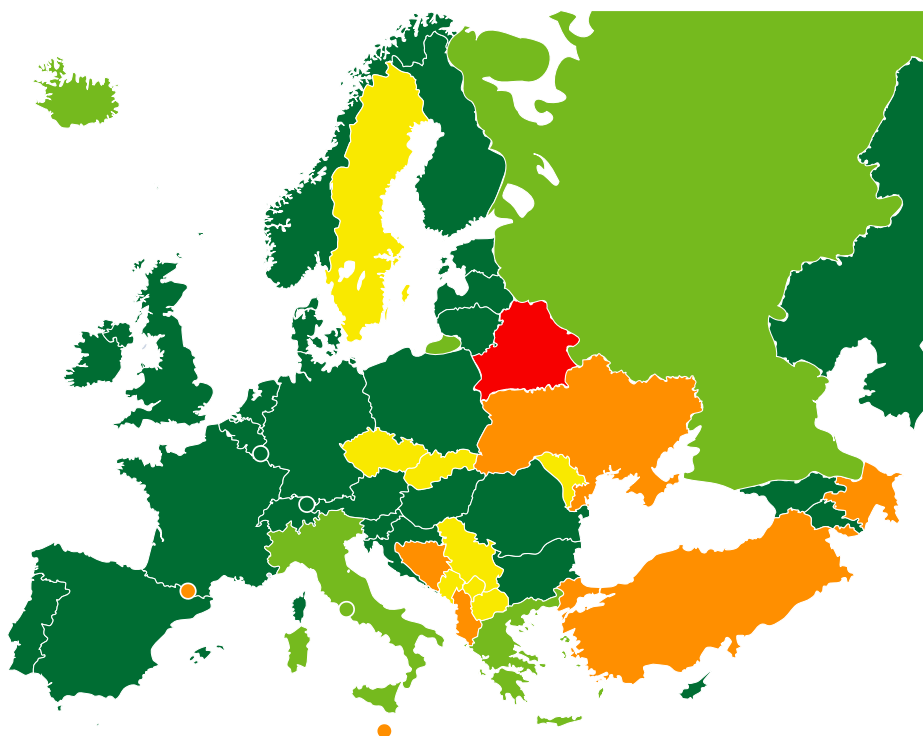


Figure 1: EHEA Key Commitment: External Quality Assurance

An up-to-date map and overview of detailed information per country can be found in EQAR's knowledge base of EHEA legal frameworks for QA at:

<https://www.eqar.eu/kb/country-information/>

2. 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.

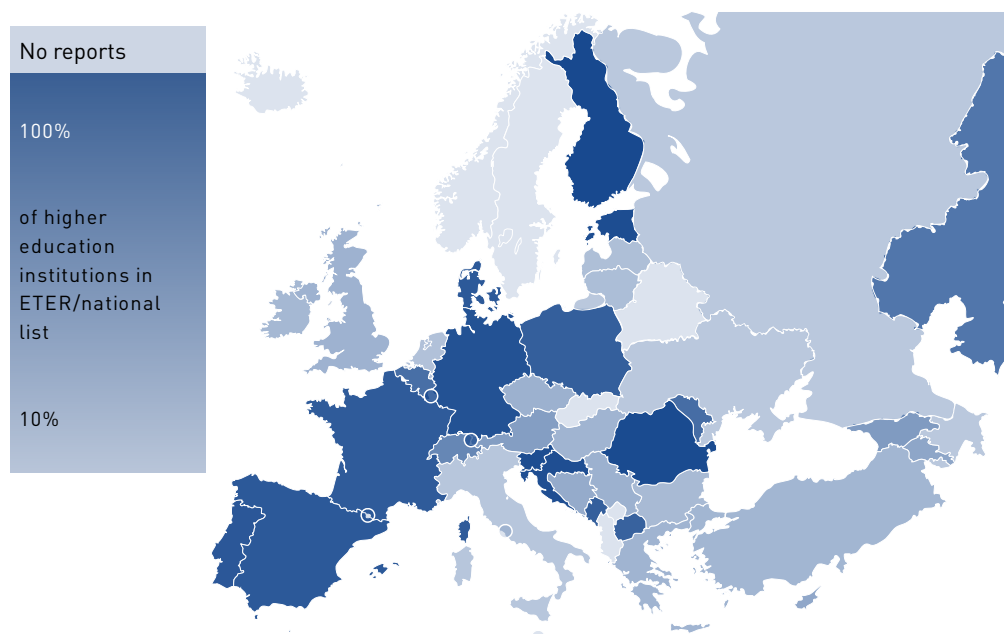


Figure 2: DEQAR coverage (percentage of HEIs with QA reports)

The latest DEQAR statistics as of 11/11/2019:

- 46 564 reports on 2 117 higher education institutions from 39 EHEA countries, and 340 reports across 25 non-EHEA countries.
- Comprehensive coverage¹ achieved in: Belgium (Flemish community), Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Slovenia.
- Growing number of web site visits per month, reaching up to 2 000 unique visitors to DEQAR pages with over 6 000 unique page views, accounting for nearly half of the total traffic to EQAR's website. Visits to the EQAR site have more than doubled from ca. 2 000/month before to ca. 5 000/month now.

DEQAR Conference and EQAR Members' Dialogue 2019

The DEQAR Conference and EQAR Members' Dialogue was held on 7/8 October 2019 in Madrid and marked the conclusion of the initial DEQAR project.

The conferences attracted over 100 participants from EQAR governmental and stakeholder members, as well as from DEQAR project partners,

¹ 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/>.

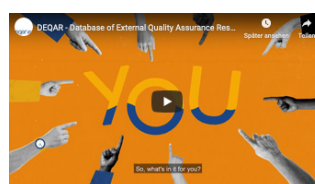
registered QA agencies and a range of other organisations representing important DEQAR user groups.

The event featured plenary presentations, parallel sessions, two world café sessions on current policy developments and the use of DEQAR, as well as research papers and posters based on DEQAR data. The programme, presentations, posters, papers and photos from the event can be found at the following link:

<https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/deqar-project/deqar-conference/>

Video

A new explainer video was created to explain and promote DEQAR in an easy to understand, engaging way. While we have already written a lot about what DEQAR is and for whom it might be interesting, the new video can be used as a more entertaining and easily accessible way to tell about DEQAR.

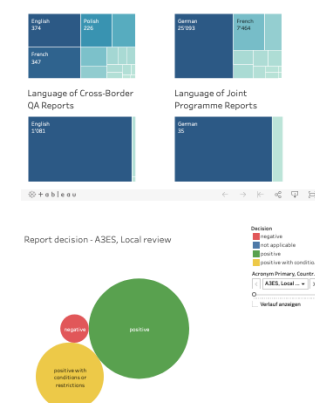


<https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/deqar-video/>

Infographics

A first set of infographics are now available, providing some key insights based on DEQAR data. The aim of the infographics is to allow anyone to easily tap into the wealth of information on external quality assurance of higher education in Europe, which is generated by DEQAR.

We are still looking for ideas and suggestions for further infographics, so please let us know if you have topics or specific statistics in mind that you would find interesting and relevant.



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

Future Perspectives

EQAR will continue to work on expanding coverage to more EHEA countries, by supporting the participation of agencies that could not join DEQAR in the first stage.

Secondly, EQAR aims to enhance connectivity by exploiting existing synergies and exploring new opportunities to use DEQAR data directly in the recognition workflow, digital credentialing and elsewhere.

To support these goals we have submitted a project application under the Erasmus+ call to support EHEA reforms, under the title DEQAR CONNECT.

Meanwhile, 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.