

ENQA report to the BFUG 15-16 December 2025, Denmark

Highlights of ENQA's activities since February 2025

ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) is the designated stakeholder organisation of quality assurance agencies in the EHEA. ENQA represents their interests internationally, supports them nationally and provides them with comprehensive services and networking opportunities. Under ENQA's umbrella, the community of agencies drives innovation in quality assurance and refines quality assurance processes.

In 2025 ENQA celebrates its [25th anniversary](#). The occasion was marked with an anniversary event in Brussels in October 2025 and a series of video messages recorded by ENQA members and affiliates.

1. ENQA GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Elections for ENQA's governing Board took place at the General Assembly meeting on 23-25 October 2025 in Brussels. Three Board members were elected: Marilena Maniaci (ANVUR, Italy) was elected for a first full three-year term after serving a replacement term; Bryan Maguire (QQI, Ireland) was elected for a first term of three years; and Federico Morán (madri+d, Spain) was elected for a first term of three years.

The event marked the end of Douglas Blackstock's mandate as ENQA President. Board member Cristina Ghițulică (ARACIS, Romania) was elected as ENQA's new President, and Board members Kristin Vinje (NOKUT, Norway) and Patrick Van den Bosch (VLUHR-QA, Belgium) were elected as Vice-Presidents.

ENQA's full membership currently stands at 62 agencies in 33 countries in the EHEA, as well as 42 affiliates in 26 countries worldwide. Full members are agencies that have demonstrated compliance with the ESG through an independent peer review. There are ENQA members and/or affiliates in 44 out of the 47 EHEA countries (excluding Russia and Belarus where members and affiliates are currently suspended).

2. LATEST ENQA ACTIVITIES

Conclusion of the SEQA-ESG 2 project

After three years of activity, the Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG project ([SEQA-ESG 2](#)) has reached its conclusion. The project worked with quality assurance agencies from Azerbaijan (TKTA), Bosnia and Herzegovina (HEA and AHERS), Serbia (NEAQA), and Ukraine (NAQA) to strengthen their quality assurance systems through peer-learning workshops, system-wide consultations, and staff exchanges. To maintain the momentum generated by the project, the participating agencies have prepared action plans for their eventual external review against the ESG. ENQA will also continue its commitment to supporting its affiliates in moving closer to compliance with the ESG.

Launch of new projects

This autumn ENQA is involved in the launch of five new projects funded under the Erasmus+ programme. As a project coordinator, ENQA will run a 3-year initiative titled Robust Quality

Assurance of Transnational Education (ROQA-TNE) to support good practice and transparency in the quality assurance of transnational education. Project activities will include a mapping exercise, peer-learning, an update of the 2015 [QACHE toolkit](#) and the development of a self-assessment tool for agencies to use in reflecting and improving their own processes.

ENQA will also contribute as a partner to four further projects:

- Support for the enhancement-oriented implementation of the quality assurance key commitment (SIQA), through which ENQA will coordinate a working group on cross-border quality assurance and prepare thematic analyses on key issues for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). This project is coordinated by ARACIS (Romania) and supports the work of the Bologna Thematic Peer Group on Quality Assurance.
- Stakeholder Perspectives on Implementation of Commitments in the EHEA (SPICE), in which ENQA will collaborate with the European University Association (EUA) to conduct a mapping and analysis of external and internal QA activities (as a follow-up to the [QA-FIT](#) project). This project is coordinated by the European Student Union (ESU).
- Digital Tools and Quality Assurance for Automatic Recognition (DIGI-REQA): This project aims to address gaps in implementation of automatic recognition, emphasising practical digital tools and links with quality assurance to support students, employers, and higher education institutions as the end users of automatic recognition. The project is coordinated by SKVC (Lithuania).
- Combatting Fraud through a Holistic Approach and Data Collection (Fraud-Act): This project aims to promote academic integrity and address fraud at the admission stage of higher education. ENQA will contribute to the project by exploring the role of quality assurance agencies in addressing this topic. The project is coordinated by CIMEA (Italy).

SIACES comparative analysis

Two reports have been published as outcomes of a cooperation project between ENQA and SIACES (Ibero-American System of Quality Assurance of Higher Education), which examine correspondences and differences between the ESG and the Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the Ibero-American Knowledge Area (PBP). The [first report](#) is a comparative analysis between the two frameworks, while the [second report](#) provides suggestions for potential further alignment between them. The publications consider the contextual differences, priorities, and institutional cultures that shape each system, while suggesting ways to enhance compatibility and support trust and recognition across regions.

Report on external QA of research in higher education institutions

ENQA published a [report](#) on the external QA of research in higher education institutions, an output of a working group of 16 agencies exploring the topic. The working group was co-chaired by Hcéres (France) and UKÄ (Sweden). The report presents the major trends related to external QA of research that were identified through the analysis of a survey and interview results and provides agencies with some reflective questions for developing or implementing EQA of research activities.

Workshop on responsible use of academic integrity in external quality assurance

ENQA held a workshop on the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in quality assurance on 11-12 June 2025. The workshop supported QA agencies in exploring the topic and building a shared understanding of how they can use AI in a way that maintains the integrity, fairness, and effectiveness of their work. The discussions covered challenges and emerging good practices on the topic, as well as working sessions to draft principles that could guide QA agencies in integrating AI responsibly into their work. A report from the workshop as well as a set of guidelines for QA agencies will be published later this month.

3. ENQA AGENCY REVIEWS

In 2025, ENQA coordinated seven external peer reviews of quality assurance agencies. The review process assesses the compliance of agencies with the ESG, in line with the Bologna Process key commitment on quality assurance, and also provides recommendations to the agencies for their further development. In 2026, ENQA will coordinate 22 reviews. Early next year, ENQA will publish an ESG transition policy for agencies who are due to have an external review in 2027 following the expected adoption of the new version of the ESG.

This year ENQA has also worked to follow up on the recommendations of the external review of its Agency Review service, which were presented in a [final report](#). This is an important exercise for the transparency and improvement of the Agency Reviews, ensuring that ENQA is held to the same high standards that are expected of quality assurance agencies in the EHEA. The review confirms ENQA's role as the preferred provider of QA agency reviews, with its structured, professional and transparent approach contributing significantly to the higher education quality assurance ecosystem in the EHEA as well as to the development of individual agencies.

Recommendations included exploring further added value in the review process for agencies that have had multiple successful reviews, considering broader stakeholder involvement in its work, ensuring relevant and specific skills and expertise among the pool of experts, revisiting the compliance scale, further improving the alignment between ENQA and EQAR processes, and taking a more strategic approach to using the review outcomes (including commendations) both for thematic analyses and for sharing of practice. Following discussion of these recommendations, updated Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews will be published at the end of the year.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

ENQA Members' Forum 2026 will take place on 23-25 April in Budapest, Hungary.

ENQA General Assembly 2026 will take place on 22-23 October in Gran Canaria, Spain.

European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) 2026 will take place on 18-20 November in Yerevan, Armenia (co-organised by ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU)

To stay updated on all ENQA's activities, subscribe to the quarterly news Bulletin through the link on ENQA's website [here](#).