

# **SIQA PROJECT - UPDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CBQA**

**4th meeting of the TPG C on QA**

**17 April 2026, online**

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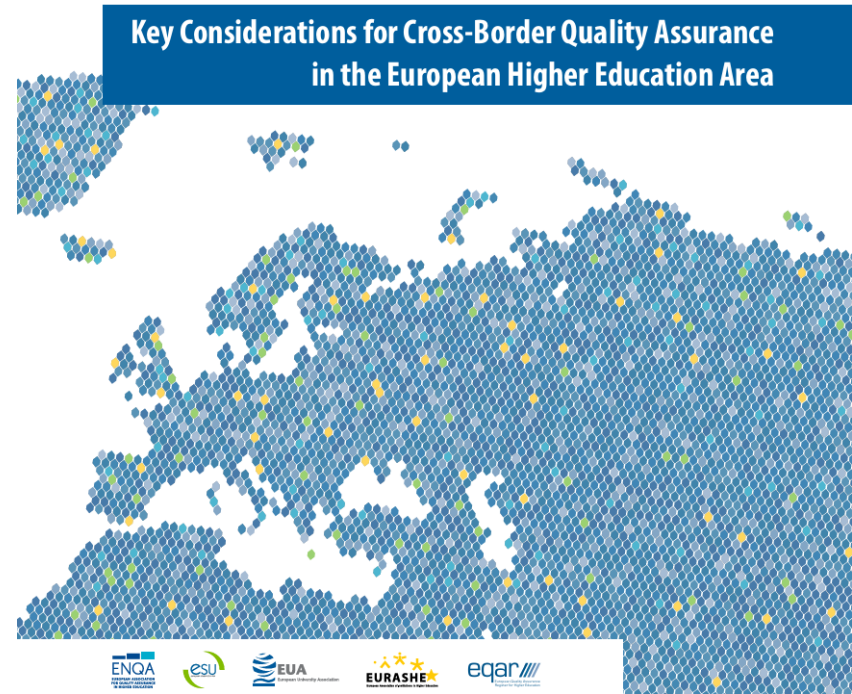
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Support for the enhancement-oriented  
implementation of the quality assurance  
key commitment

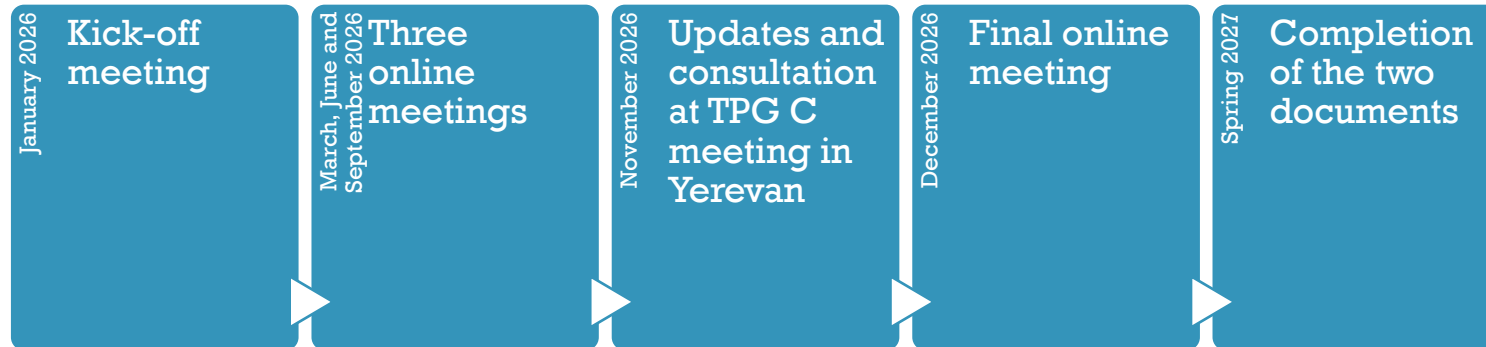
# WHY THE WORKING GROUP ON CBQA?

1. Cross-border quality assurance remains an area of considerable variation, notably in the eligibility conditions and requirements set in countries for institutions and for agencies (**legal frameworks**).
2. Several QA agencies across the EHEA have raised concerns related to the practical implementation of CBQA (**lack of clarity and transparency regarding the conditions**).
3. There is a growing discussion about the implications of the **'marketisation' of external quality assurance**
4. Concerns over **inconsistent practices** of QA agencies when engaging in CBQA



# ORGANISATION OF WORK

- Composition: E4, EQAR, project partners and TPG C members (representing their national authority or consultative member)
- Overall coordination by ENQA, 23 members from 20 countries
- Organisation of work:



- Meetings so far: kick-off meeting (27&28 January), 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (26 March); the next meeting is on 18 June



# MANDATE

- Generally, to support QA agencies and ministries to identify and address the identified challenges and barriers in CBQA and contribute to its long-term improvement and appropriate implementation
- **Update the ‘Key Considerations for CBQA in the EHEA’** to provide further guidance to all stakeholders when engaging in CBQA
- **Produce a Code of Conduct for CBQA** in the EHEA to promote ethical and responsible conduct of **QA agencies** when performing cross-border activities
- Peer learning through practice sharing



# PROGRESS SO FAR ON 'KEY CONSIDERATIONS'

- Agreed points of revision and the 1<sup>st</sup> revision of the:
  - Introduction (better reflect the three key purposes of the document; better referencing to the political context and the ongoing initiatives; re-emphasise ESG compliance and the quality of CBQA)
  - Main part (further work on the practical toolkit; increase relevance for ministries and policy making; a separate chapter on benefits (and risks) related to CBQA)
  - Other: reduce narrative text and streamline the structure; add a glossary of key terms; emphasise the aspects relevant for different stakeholders and the examples of good practice)



# PROGRESS SO FAR ON 'THE CODE OF CONDUCT'

- Agreed points of content and the 1<sup>st</sup> draft:
  - A rather short document focusing on values and behaviours
  - A voluntary document for QA agencies!
  - Agreed key expectations when conducting CBQA (primarily the ethical and responsible conduct to strengthen trust, transparency, consistency and effective implementation of CBQA practices)
  - Five (related) key principles on:
    - Legitimacy and compliance
    - Contextualisation and fitness for purpose
    - Integrity, consistency, and fairness
    - Transparency and clear communication
    - Cooperation and professional conduct
  - The Code of Conduct should closely relate to the key principles that support decision-making for, and preparations on CBQA as elaborated in Key Considerations (while not repeating good practices)
  - Tackle the collaboration between host and incoming agencies
  - Glossary



# KEY QUESTIONS/ONGOING DISCUSSION

- How to increase the relevance of Key Considerations for the ministries?
- Should we address CBQA outside the EHEA?
- What other principles should be covered in the Code of Conduct?
- How will the Code of Conduct be used in practice?
- Overall: how to best address duplications between Key Considerations and the Code of Conduct





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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**



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