European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ENQA report to the BFUG
5-6 November 2026, Dublin

Highlights of ENQA's activities since March 2026

ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) is the designated stakeholder organisation for quality assurance in the EHEA. ENQA represents quality assurance agencies 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. ENQA is a consultative member of the Bologna Process, a co-author of the ESG, and contributes to policy making at the EU level and internationally, for example in dialogue with the OECD, UNESCO, ASEM, and other quality assurance networks around the world.

1. ENQA MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

ENQA's full membership currently stands at 63 agencies in 34 countries in the EHEA, as well as 42 affiliates in 25 countries worldwide. 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). Members are agencies that have demonstrated compliance with the ESG through an independent peer review. Most recently, the ENQA Board approved the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA, Ukraine) as an ENQA member in October 2026.

ENQA's 2026 General Assembly took place on 22-23 October 2026 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain). Members present elected Péter Levente Lakatos (MAB, Hungary) as President, after renewing his membership on the Board for a second full three-year term. Two new Board members were also elected: Varduhi Gyulazyan (ANQA, Armenia) and Ronny Heintze (AQAS, Germany) were elected for their first terms of three years. Board members Kristin Vinje (NOKUT, Norway) and Patrick Van den Bosch (VLUHR-QA, Belgium) continue their terms as Vice-Presidents.

The General Assembly expressed their appreciation for outgoing President, Cristina Ghițulică (ARACIS, Romania) for her eight years of service on the ENQA Board, including as President and Vice-President and to Doris Herrmann (AQAS, Germany) for her six years of service, including as Vice-President.

2. LATEST ENQA ACTIVITIES

Quality assurance of transnational education
In November 2026, ENQA will publish a report on the quality assurance of transnational education. The report will present the findings of the surveys to QA agencies and to ministries on frameworks and policies for the quality assurance of TNE. The results will also be discussed at a webinar on 23 November 2026, which is open to all interested stakeholders.

The activities are conducted within the ROQA-TNE project, which aims to support the commitment made in the Tirana Communiqué for robust and ESG-aligned external quality assurance of TNE. In the next phase of the project, a working group of QA agencies will update the previously developed toolkit for QA of TNE and prepare a self-assessment tool for agencies to reflect on their own practices.

Working group on cross-border quality assurance
ENQA is coordinating a new working group on cross-border quality assurance (CBQA). The group is for members of the Bologna Process TPG C on quality assurance, and is supported by the SIQA project. The group is updating the Key Considerations for CBQA (published by the E4 and EQAR in 2017) and developing a code of conduct for quality assurance agencies engaging in CBQA. The final outputs will be published in early 2027.

ENQA-UNECE report on quality assurance and learning for sustainability
ENQA and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) have published a report on the activities of QA agencies in supporting learning for sustainability. The report presents the results of a survey for agencies conducted by ENQA and the UNECE Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). It explores how quality assurance agencies perceive sustainability, the extent to which it is embedded in their external quality assurance activities, and their views on future development in this area.

The results reveal wide conceptual variation in how QA agencies understand and engage with sustainability and learning for sustainability. While a small number of agencies demonstrate structured and innovative approaches, most respondents reported limited or no direct experience in this area. Common barriers identified include the absence of explicit legal mandates, limited operational guidance, and the lack of agreed conceptual or methodological frameworks for embedding sustainability within QA systems.

New project support implementation of Joint European Degree Label
ENQA has been awarded Erasmus+ funding for a two-year project to support quality assurance agencies in providing assessments for the Joint European Degree Label. The project consortium will offer a series of workshops to facilitate peer learning between agencies and support a shared understanding and consistency for Label assessments. This will include integration of Label assessments into existing agency processes, links with European Approach accreditations, and addressing open questions and challenges emerging from the first experiences.

The project will also explore the need and feasibility of launching a mechanism for the external review of agencies to verify how they conduct Label assessments in compliance with the label criteria and in line with the operational guide.

Reflections from ENQA on the key elements of the operational guide and implications for QA agencies are available in this briefing note from June 2026.

3. ENQA AGENCY REVIEWS

In 2026, ENQA is coordinating 19 external reviews of QA agencies, including four agencies that are not currently ENQA members or registered on EQAR and one agency outside the EHEA. 17 reviews are expected in 2027, including three agencies that are not currently ENQA members or registered on EQAR. Agencies that are due to start their review process after the adoption of the ESG 2027 in May 2027 are eligible to request a postponement of their review and extension of their ENQA membership and EQAR listing in order to adapt to the new standards. Further information is available in the ENQA ESG transition policy.

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. The review report may be used by the agency to apply for ENQA membership

and EQAR listing. All validated review reports and information about upcoming reviews are available in the ENQA review database.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ENQA webinar on QA of TNE: Insights from the ROQA-TNE Mapping will take place on 23 November 2026, 10.00-11.30 CET. The webinar is open to all interested stakeholders. Further information and the registration link are available here.

ENQA Members' Forum 2027 will take place on 22-23 April 2027 in Warsaw, Poland.

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