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European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

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QA of transnational education in EQAR's Knowledge Base

TPG LRC CoRE+ seminar: Higher education beyond borders: recognition of transnational education qualifications
November, 2026; online
Aleksandra Zhivkovikj, EQAR

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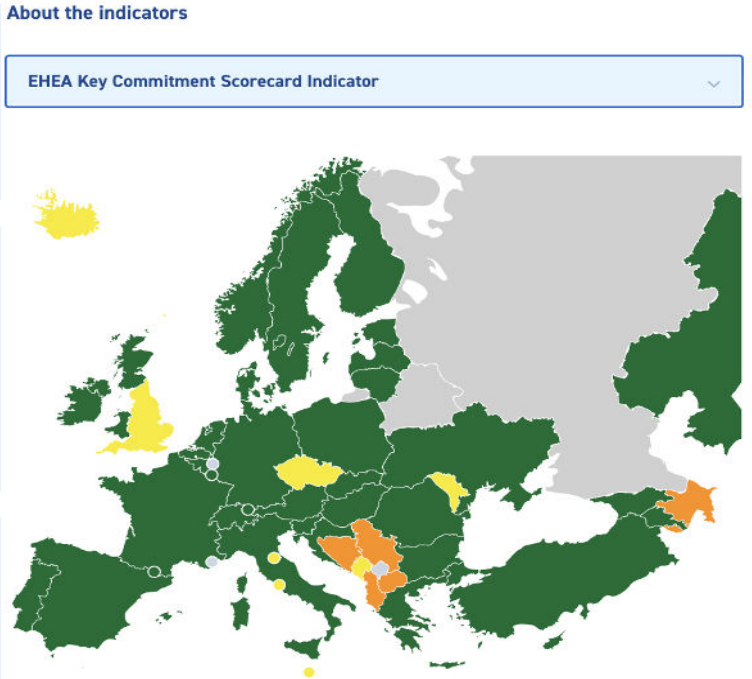
EQAR Knowledge Base

A transparency tool and **information point for policy makers on the QA systems of EHEA countries**

Hosts the Bologna key commitment indicator on QA, which feeds the Bologna Implementation Progress Report (BIPR)

Data gathered mainly by EQAR, with input from governments on request

Open data: available as CSV and through an API



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Definitions in KB

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Cross-border higher education (CBHE)

Any tertiary-level education where **students, teachers, programmes, institutions or course materials** cross national or regional jurisdictional borders.

Transnational education (TNE)

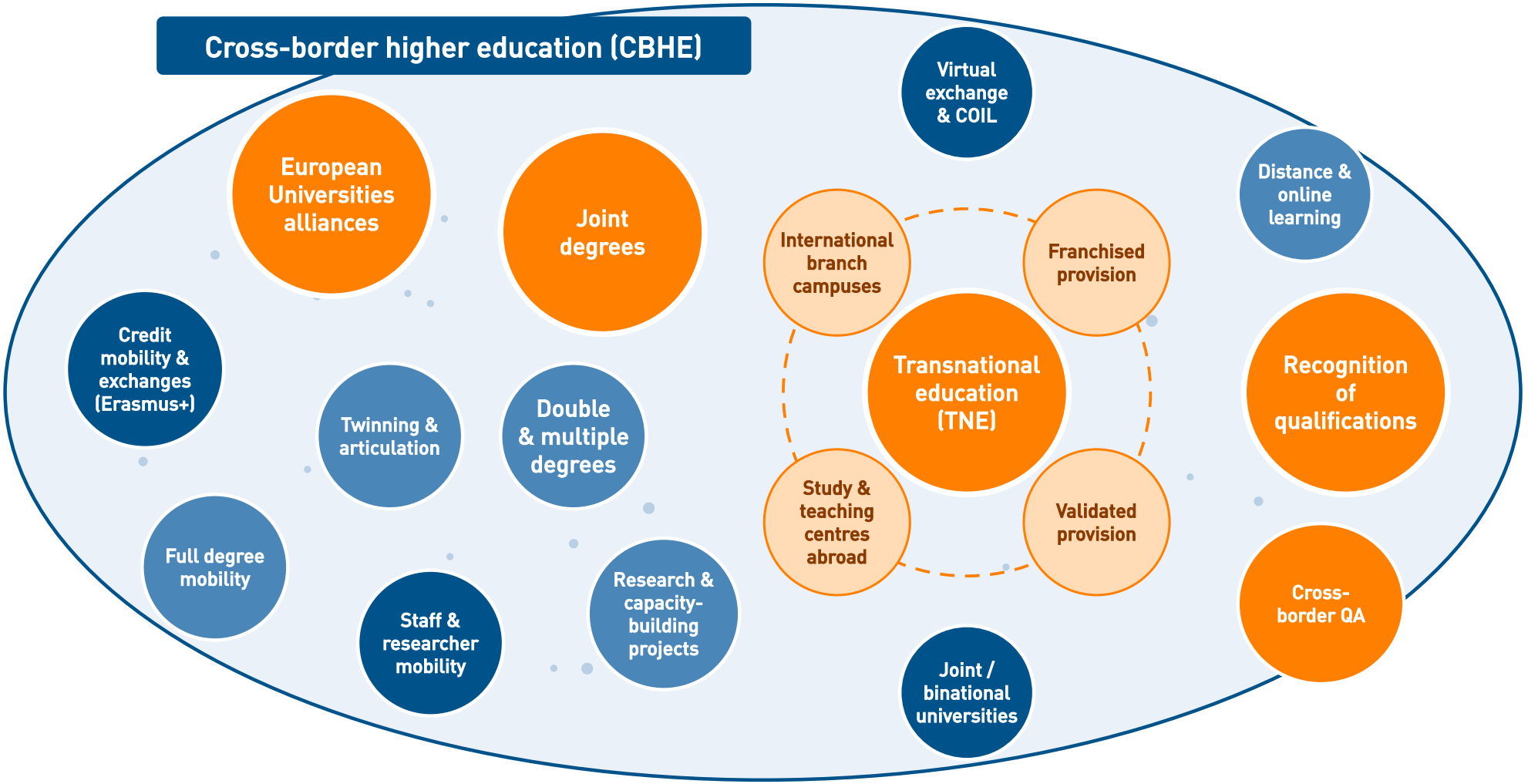
Educational provision offered **in HE system other** than the one where the qualification-awarding HE provider has its official legal seat

→ **All TNE is cross-border, but not all cross-border HE is TNE:** in **TNE the provision moves**, and the learner studies in the host system.

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The cross-border HE universe

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After Knight's typology of cross-border education. Orange = focus areas; light orange = forms of TNE.

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The Knowledge Base today

Main areas covered today

1. Country codes and name(s)
2. **General description of the higher education system**
3. **Description of the QA system**: institutional/programme accreditation, duration of the review cycle, conditions
4. **Key commitment on QA**
5. **Cross-border QA**: permissions and conditions
6. **European Approach for QA of joint programmes**: permissions and conditions

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Updates of the current fields

CB quality assurance

→ Clarity per type of HE provider per EHEA system
→ Who takes the final decision (domestic or foreign QA agency/authority)

Use case relevant for recognition

A credential evaluator **receives a degree from a foreign university's branch campus in country X. The KB shows whether that type of provider may operate there and whose QA decision** (domestic or foreign) to check.

European Approach for JP

→ Clarity if conditions are present

Use case relevant for recognition

A joint degree is accredited via the European Approach by an EQAR-registered agency. The KB shows whether country X accepts it without extra conditions, i.e. whether national accreditation is also needed.

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Introducing new areas

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Reflecting the recent diversification of the higher education landscape and the policies responding to the latest developments

Three new areas:

1. **Micro-credentials**

2. **Transnational education (TNE)**

3. **(Automatic) Recognition**

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New information on transnational education (TNE)

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2. 1. Incoming TNE

What information will it provide?

→ What types of foreign HE providers can offer TNE? Under which conditions? Who is responsible for the QA?

→ Geographic scope: EU, EHEA, beyond

2.2. Outgoing TNE

What information will it provide?

→ Which HEIs can offer TNE abroad? Under which conditions?

→ Which QA framework is applicable?

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New information

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3. (Automatic) recognition

What information will it provide?

System-level preconditions:

Recognition and qualifications frameworks	Lisbon Recognition Convention	signed in November 1999
	QF-EHEA	self-certified in December 2005
	EQF	referenced in January 2008

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First test version

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Please note:

1. The design and order of fields will be improved

2. Only the country profiles of **Slovakia, Germany, Austria and Croatia** are up to date

3. The **pop-up windows** ? currently show the predefined options; in the final version they will give context and explain the definition of each field



Incoming transnational education

Institutions from EU Member States

Possible	Yes, subject to conditions
Approval needed	Evaluation by a sending country QA agency Permission by host country national authority Evaluation by host country QA agency
Quality assurance	Separate QA procedure for TNE provisions aligned with ESG by a host country QA agency

Institutions from Non-EU EHEA members, Non-EHEA countries

Possible	No

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Test case: Slovakia

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Link



eqar.eu > Knowledge base > Country information > Slovakia

Slovakia

EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA - EHEA

VIEW 32 INSTITUTIONS WITH 74 REPORTS

Governmental membership	Slovakia has been a Governmental Member of EQAR since January 2019. Map: EHEA countries by governmental membership	
General information on higher education	Higher education in the Slovak Republic is offered by public higher education institutions, state higher education institutions, private higher education institutions and foreign higher education institutions.	
Recognition and qualifications frameworks	Lisbon Recognition Convention	signed in November 1999
	QF-EHEA	self-certified in December 2005
	EQF	referenced in January 2008
EHEA key commitment	**Fully aligned with the ESG** A fully functioning quality assurance system is in operation nationwide, in which all higher education institutions are subject to regular external quality assurance by an agency that has successfully demonstrated compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG) through registration on EQAR	
	Map: implementation of the EHEA key commitment	

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Next steps

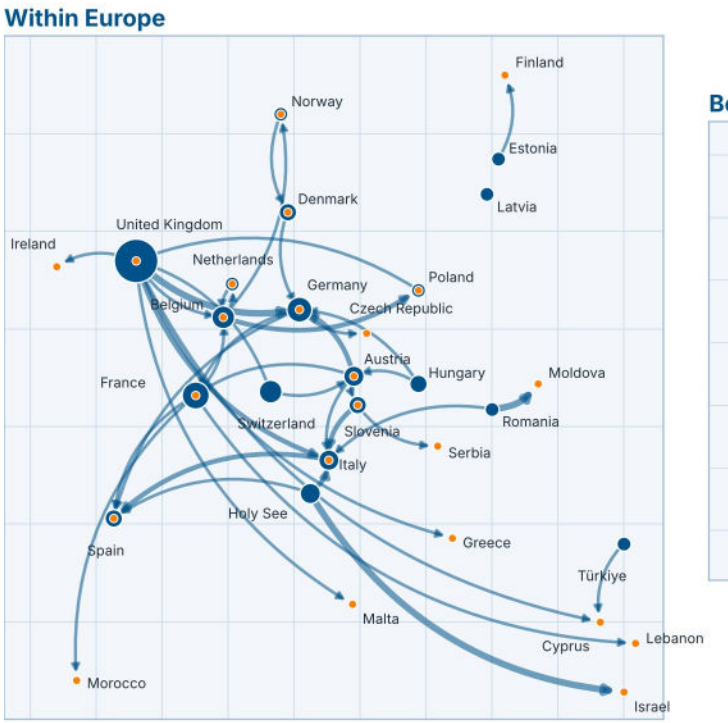
27 November 2026	End of February 2027	March 2027 (est.)
Comments on the **data model** invited	**Launch** of the new Knowledge Base	**Questionnaire** for ministries

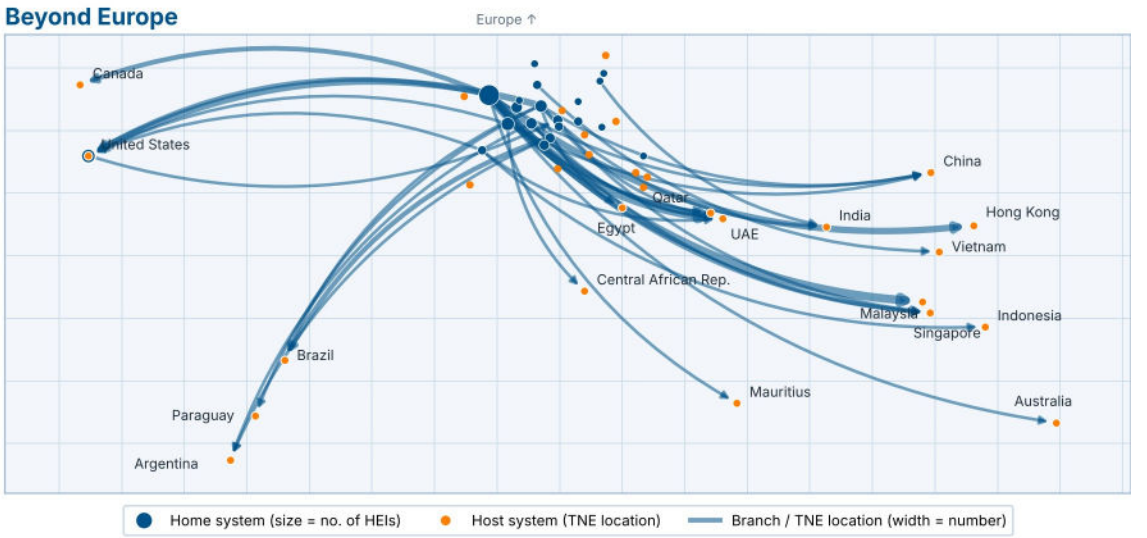
Link

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Other TNE related work

TNE in DEQAR – where do European HEIs operate branches?





Using EHESO data, information such as location, size of institution, study field etc. wider analysis can be made, e.g. *"United Kingdom is leading with 20 institutions having 37 different TNE locations. While Germany exhibits the highest per-institution expansion intensity among in EHEA, where 5 institutions account for 12 total branches."*

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Other CB related work

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SQUAR-ED project

New Erasmus+ project supporting the rollout of the **Joint European Degree Label (EDL)**

EQAR · CIMEA · Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Youth

→ Project page on eqar.eu

a

DEQAR as the EDL repository

One trusted public place to check which joint programmes hold the label. The first two label reports are already in DEQAR.

Link

2 joint master programmes with the label (AQU Catalunya, July 2026)

b

CIMEA guidelines for recognition

How to recognise programmes holding the EDL, and potentially the qualifications themselves.

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Thank you

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