European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

# Updates to the EQAR's Knowledge Base

Register Committee meeting 52/TPG C

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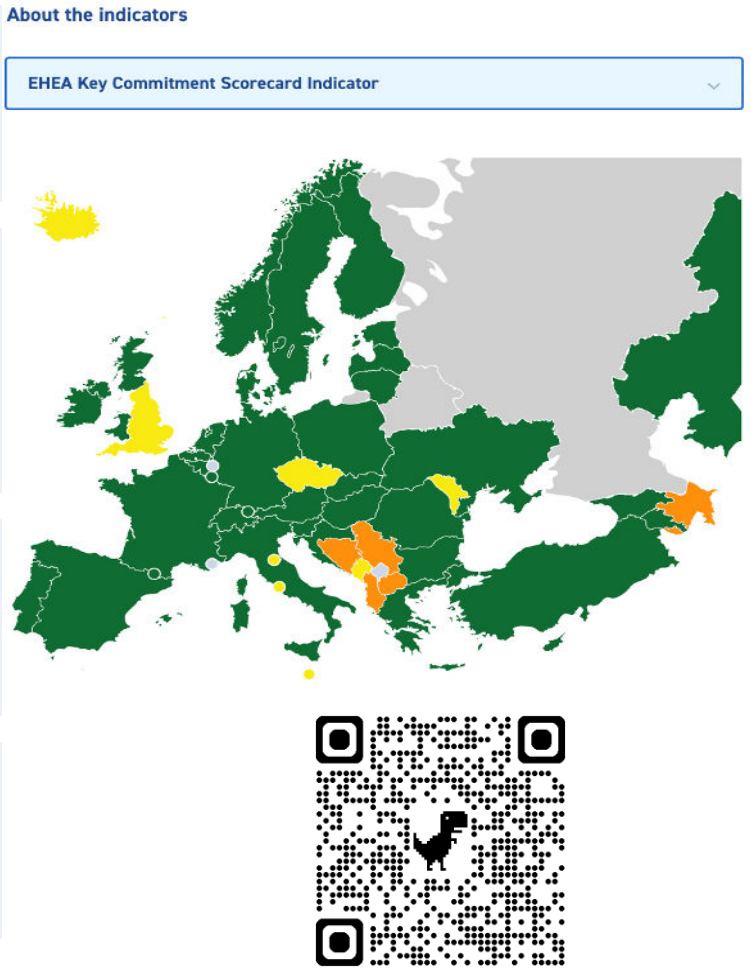
# EQAR Knowledge Base

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**



# 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

# Why update the Knowledge Base?

To address the diversity of information, **common protocols for presenting data**

**Higher quality and clearer information on national requirements**

**Support for policy monitoring and policy learning**

**More structured data and better interoperability with other European databases**

**Contextualisation of DEQAR data**

* Supported by the **SIQA project**

# Main changes: Updating existing information

Today: **20 free text data fields**
Update: **90% of them to become pre-defined lists of options**, allowing either one answer or multiple answers

Options are **drawn from the** information currently in the **country profiles** and from consultations with stakeholders

**Definitions and methodology to be explained in handbook**

EQAR will make no changes to the BIPR indicator

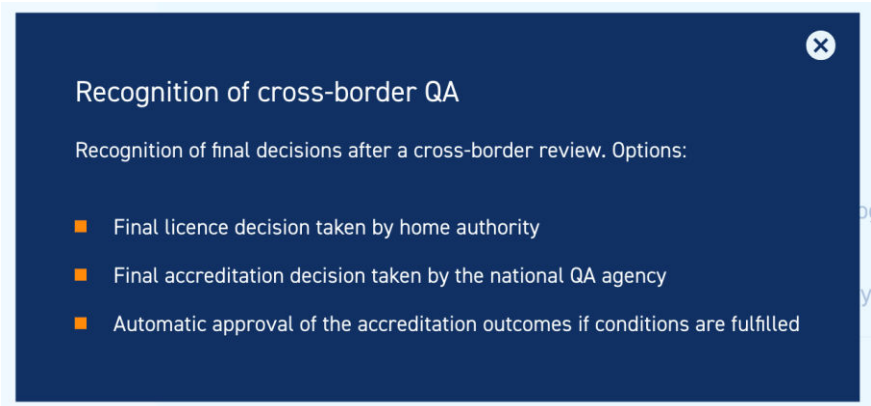
# First test version

## 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



# Test case: Slovakia

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.<br>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**<br>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

# New approach (view)

## QA criteria per type of HE provider

### What information will it provide?

→ What type of QA is each type of HE provider expected to undergo, and how often?

→ Can a given type of HE provider be accredited by a cross-border QA agency?

→ Which HE providers can use the European Approach for their mandatory QA?

→ Can a given type of HE provider offer micro-credentials?

→ Can a given type of HE provider offer TNE abroad?

# EQA requirements

## 1. Map and connect (national) agency activities registered on DEQAR with national QA requirements whenever possible

e.g. Sweden: national activity “Institutional review of HEIs' quality assurance processes (audit)” = UKA’s activity “Institutional review of HEIs' quality assurance processes (audit)” in DEQAR

## 2. Conditions

Object (**initial/new** HEIs/programmes vs **all/cyclical**)
**Type of HEIs/programmes** subjected to it

## 3. Institutional activities

**Pre-defined list of HEI types for each of the countries. EHESO data** to be used as major list for each of the countries/systems

# EQA requirements (continued)

## 4. Programme activities

→ **Specific study fields expressed in ISCED-F** (connected to ESCO API)

→ **Specific QF-EHEA level** (short, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and other)

→ **Full degrees and/or micro-credentials**

# Cross-border QA

**5. Cross-border QA** – Same conditions as noted above

## 6. Who issues the permission

Prior approval by national authority required, formal agreement with or approval by national QA agency, informing the national QA agency, without approval/agreement needed, none

## 7. Requirements

EQAR registration, inclusion of national expert, sufficient resources/staff, language proficiency of the experts, use of a specific review report template/structure, language of report, other (free text)

## 8. Which criteria should be used

Any ESG-aligned, national QA methodology…

## 9. Who issues the final licence and accreditation

# Main changes: Introducing new areas

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**

# New information (1 of 3)

## Micro-credentials

**Definition:** Short learning provisions (<60 ECTS), NOT leading to a full recognised degree

**Type of info:**

1. Who can award MCs that are linked to QF (5/6-8) and/or ECTS?

2. Number of ECTS

3. At which level is the MC evaluated
a) Part of institutional EQA procedure
b) Part of programme EQA procedure
c) Certification of a single MC

# Questions for the stakeholders

**1. Are MCs in your HE system:**

a) ECTS-bearing
b) QF-referenced
c) Both
d) None

**2. Is the ECTS limit defined by the upper or lower limit?**

# New information (2 of 3)

## Transnational education (TNE)

**Definition: Educational provision offered in a HE system other than the one where the qualification-awarding HE provider has its official legal seat** (the provision travels, the student stays in the host/receiving system)

**Type of info:**

1. **What types of foreign HE providers can offer TNE (home and abroad)?**
2. **Under which conditions?**
3. **Who awards the final permission to operate?**
4. **Which methodologies are expected to be used?**
5. **Geographical scope (EU, EHEA, beyond)**

# Questions for the stakeholders

## 1. Clarity of terminology

a) **Sending country authority/QA agency** = body based in the country where the qualification-awarding HE provider has its official legal seat

b) **Host country authority/QA agency** = body based in the country where the qualification-awarding HE provider is exporting its provision

→ **Any terminology that should be kept in mind?**

# Questions for the stakeholders

## 2. Geographic scope – Is it regulated in your system?

i.e. whether the system from which the HEIs come from is a condition for enabling them establishing TNE in your country?

a) TNE allowed only for EU HE providers
b) TNE allowed only for EHEA HE providers
c) TNE allowed irrespective of the legal seat

**To consider:** **TNE allowed following mutual agreements with particular countries? How often is this the case?**

# General question for TPG C members

In your higher education system, **how often are QA requirements**

For example: the duration of the review cycle, or the conditions fo

# Timeline and next steps

## 30 November 2026

**Feedback on the updated model** (test version)

Link

## End of February 2027

**Final version of the Knowledge Base** set in backend

## March 2027

**Questionnaire for ministries**

- Profiles pre-filled with available information
- Follow-up surveys to be fully pre-filled

# Feedback to the test model

Link

# Thank you

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