

European Quality Assurance Register for  
Higher Education



## Alternative providers and micro credentials in DEQAR

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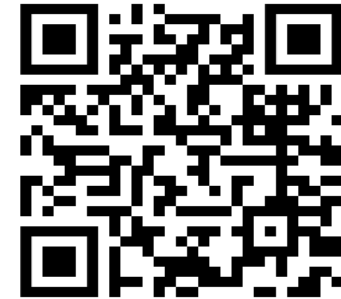
IMINQA Project Work group on Micro Credentials, 14/09/2023



DEQAR:

"quality at your fingertips"

<https://www.deqar.eu/>



- Created in 2018
- Easy access to external quality assurance (QA) reports (i.e. **accreditations and evaluations**) and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies
- **Status quo in September 2023:** approx. 92 000 QA reports, 3840 HEIs
- **Uploads done by EQAR registered agencies** using API, semi – automatic (CSV files) and manual methods of upload

## What have we been doing since February 23'

- **Presented the data model and gathered additional feedback from stakeholders** (MC Summit by European Digital Education Hub meeting in Barcelona in 05/23; European Commission, 06/23; individual experts, various months)
- **Changed the status or logic of some fields** (e.g. ECTS credits -> Workload expressed in ECTS)

## Clarified the definition of alternative providers

- **Higher education institution:**

an entity that has formal recognition as any sort of higher education provider in at least one HE system.

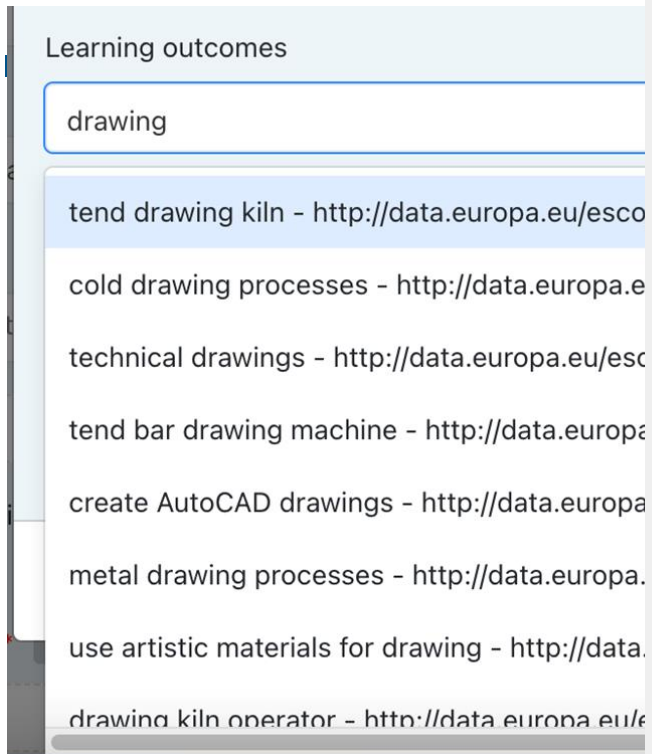
- **Alternative provider:** any entity that is not a formally recognised HE provider according to existing national/sub-national schemes, while the learning opportunities are at HE level in terms of their learning outcomes

- **Higher education institution:** an entity that has full degree awarding powers recognised by at least one national authority

- **Alternative provider:** an entity that provides learning opportunities at HE level, but does not have full degree awarding powers

# Testing the new system

- Updated DEQAR handbook to accommodate the new additions
- Updated uploading
- Programming/changes



Field of study (ISCED-F)

accounting and taxation - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>,

agriculture - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

agriculture not elsewhere classified - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

agriculture not further defined - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not elsewhere classified - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

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agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not elsewhere classified - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

## First test (July – September 2023)

**4 agencies participate in the test phase:**

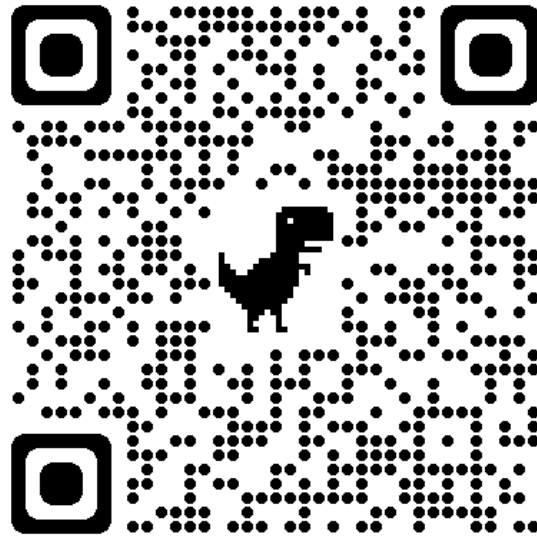
\* **ACQUIN** - Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (DE)

\* **IAAR** - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (KZ)

\* **ECTE** - European Council for Theological Education e.V. (DE)

\* **ZEVA** - Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (DE)

[www.testzone.eqar.eu](http://www.testzone.eqar.eu)



The results are in test version. The preview is not public yet.  
The current version may go through changes following the outcomes of the WG meeting

# Welcome page

- Integrated list and search feature
- Changed terminology

## Database

### Search

— By  
organisation/provider

— By report

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

eqar.eu > Database > Search

## Database of External Quality Assurance Results

🔍 Provider name, city, country or ETER ID

search

Currently available: **90 364** reports on **3 850** institutions

PUBLIC PREVIEW





## Question for discussion: Terminology on entities


**a) What generic term should be used to describe all entities (HEIs&APs) in DEQAR?**

Currently all entities in DEQAR i.e. HEIs&AP are named under the term "organisations". However, this terminology may be misleading as an organisation could also be a QA agency.


What other terms could be considered?

# Search by type of entity

Database 


**Refine your search** 


Search term


Provider name, city, coun 


**Category**


- Higher education institution (3838)
- Alternative provider (20)

Country 

QF-EHEA levels 

Status 

Cross-border review 

Report level 

eqar.eu > Database > Search > **By organisation/provider**

Sort by

Alphabetic 

1 - 20 of 3858 institutions

<< < 1 > >>

Results per page

10 20 50 100

 "1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia >  
Universitatea "1 Decembrie 1918" din Alba Iulia  
Alba Iulia (Romania)

 Aachen University >  
WTH Aachen  
Aachen (Germany)

 Aachen University of Applied Sciences >  
Fachhochschule Aachen  
Aachen (Germany)

 Aalborg University >  
Aalborg Universitet  
Aalborg (Denmark)

 Aalen University >  
Hochschule Aalen - Technik und Wirtschaft  
Aalen (Germany)

## Visuals

### Higher education institution

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Aachen University

RWTH Aachen

Aachen (Germany)

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### Alternative provider

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Almaty Bible College

Almaty (Kazakhstan)

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# Information on alternative provider

Search

— By  
organisation/provider

— By report

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

## TRAIN Academy: Translational Alliance in Lower Saxony

TRAIN Akademie: Translationsallianz in Niedersachsen (TRAIN)

### Basic information

Identifiers

DEQARINST7793

EU-VAT: DE263940886

Category

Alternative Provider

Type of organisation

private company

Legal seat(s)

Hannover, Germany

Website

[https://www.translationsallianz.de/?no\\_cache=1](https://www.translationsallianz.de/?no_cache=1)

QF-EHEA levels

third cycle

Data source

(Name of agency to be presented)

Permalink

<https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-institution/institution/?id=7793>

# Organizations in DEQAR (HEIs&APs)

Information on the HEIs in DEQAR primarily comes from the European Tertiary Education Register

## Existent elements

- Name
- Location/Legal seat
- Website
- DEQAR ID
- Other identifier
- \_\_\_\_\_

## New/additional elements

- **Identifier source** (for AP)
- Type of organization (for AP)
- **Source of information about the provider (for AP)**\_\_\_\_\_

## **Main challenges re. Data on alternative providers**

### **1. Providing valid identifier from a public trusted database**

Current preference for EU VAT number (for EU based providers), however ID is not always publicly available (good examples: Germany, Switzerland, Kazakhstan)

## Question for discussion: Identifiers

**c) Where can the VAT numbers of entities be publicly found and consulted in your national systems?**

**d) What other identifiers (i.e. series of numbers and/or letters unique for the entity) except the VAT, that are publicly available, are used in your national system to mark alternative providers (e.g. national tax number, etc.)?**

# Certificates of providers

Search

— By  
organisation/provider

— **By report**






Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

## Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"

 IAAR: Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education

DEQAR Report ID 	93960
Agency	<a href="#">Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)</a>
Type	Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education
Status 	voluntary
Formal decision 	positive
Date	30/06/2023
Valid until	29/06/2028
Micro-credential(s) covered	no
Report and decision	 <a href="#">Decision (Russian)</a>  <a href="#">Review Report (Russian)</a>
Permalink	<a href="https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93960">https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93960</a>
Institution page	<a href="#">Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"</a>
External link	<a href="#">View record on agency's website</a>





## External quality assurance of organizations (Institutional accreditation & Certification of an alternative provider)

### Existent elements

- Agency that uploads the reports
- Activity
- Status of decision (obligatory or voluntary)
- Valid from
- Valid to
- Link to the report on agency's website
- PDF file of the report
- Report language

### New/additional elements

- **Whether the micro credentials are part of the accreditation (for HEIs)\_\_\_\_\_**

# Certification of a micro credential

## 🕒 ↗️ ZEvA: Certification

Programme	Weiterbil Kindheits und Päd
Qualification	
Level <sup>?</sup>	first cycle
Degree outcome	No full de
Workload (in ECTS credits)	25
Assessment and certification	Assessm
Learning outcomes	(informat
Field of study	(informat

<u>DEQAR Report ID</u> <sup>?</sup>	93963
Agency	<a href="#">Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (ZEvA)</a>
Type	Certification in tertiary education
<u>Status</u> <sup>?</sup>	voluntary
<u>Formal decision</u> <sup>?</sup>	negative
Date	14/02/2017
Valid until	<u>not applicable</u> <sup>?</sup>
Micro-credential(s) covered	no  (Bug)
Report and decision	(German)
Permalink	<a href="https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93963">https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93963</a>
Institution page	<a href="#">Advent-Kindergarten-Institut</a>
<u>Verifiable Credential</u> <sup>?</sup>	DEQAR format

## Question for discussion: Terminology on programmes

**e) What generic term can be used to describe all offers (irrespective of whether or not they lead to a full recognized degree)?**

Currently, all provisions in DEQAR are named “programmes” (including the MCs).

Is this adequate or could be misleading? What other terms can be considered (e.g. “courses”, “modules” etc.)?

# External quality assurance of educational provisions (programme accreditation & Certification of micro credentials)

## Existent elements

- Name
- Programme qualification
- Programme NQF
- Programme QF EHEA level

## New/additional elements

- **Degree outcome**
- **Workload expressed in ECTS Credits**
- Assessment and certification
- Learning outcomes
- Description of LO
- Field

# Main challenges

2.

E



ECTE:

## Programmes covered

Programme

Theology

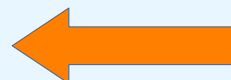
Qualification

Level ?

first cycle

Degree outcome

No full degree



Workload (in ECTS credits)

180



Assessment and certification

Assessment based certificate

Learning outcomes

(information not provided)

Field of study

<http://data.europa.eu/esco/iscd-f/0224>

## **Question for discussion:**

### **ECTS Credits – Recognition of full degrees**

**e) Whether the concept of “micro credential” is applicable in cases when the programmes bear more than 60 ECTS BUT do not lead to a full (recognised) degree?**

**d) What categories could be additionally introduced to accommodate the diversity of educational offers that do not fit in the current main categories: full and MC programmes?**

## Next steps

1. Reflecting on the feedback and applying changes
2. Testing the API upload
3. Opening the real system for uploads  
(by January 2024)
4. Informing the EQAR registered agencies on the novelties and organising an informative webinar (by January 2024)
5. Switching to new API (April 2024)
6. Providing continuous support for agencies throughout the process

**Thank you**

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