Update on EQAR Activities

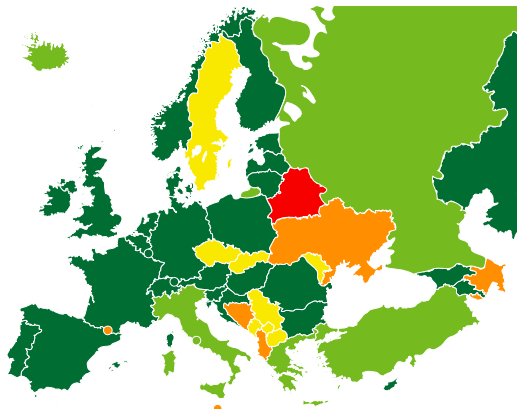## for the 4/5 March 2020 BFUG meeting

Contents

1. Register and EHEA Key Commitment

Currently, 48 agencies are registered on EQAR, demonstrating their substantial compliance with the ESG. As a result, **28 EHEA countries fully implement the key commitment on external quality assurance**, ensuring that all higher education in the country is regularly reviewed in line with the ESG, by an EQAR-registered agency.

In 6 countries, ESG compliance of such regular external QA has not (yet) been evidenced through EQAR registration of (all) agencies. 7 countries ensure external QA in line with the ESG, but not regularly or not for all HEIs. Another 7 countries have not yet established systems of external QA in line with the ESG.

An up-to-date map and overview of detailed information per country can be found in EQAR's knowledge base of EHEA legal frameworks for QA at:

https://www.eqar.eu/kb/country-information/

The EQAR Register Committee did not convene since the last BFUG meeting. Hence, no agencies were admitted to the Register or had their registration renewed. The Committee, however, took note of a number of substantive change reports, which can be found under the following link:

https://www.eqar.eu/register/decisions/

The Register Committee is currently revising its Policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG, based on feedback gathered from registered agencies, external review coordinators and expert panel members, as well as its own reflections.

2. Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

The Database for External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR) continues to grow and develop. The latest DEQAR statistics as of 26/2/2020:

- 46 964 reports on 2 187 higher education institutions from 44 EHEA countries, and 384 reports on 85 non-EHEA institutions.

- Comprehensive coverage[1] achieved in: Belgium (Flemish community), Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Slovenia.
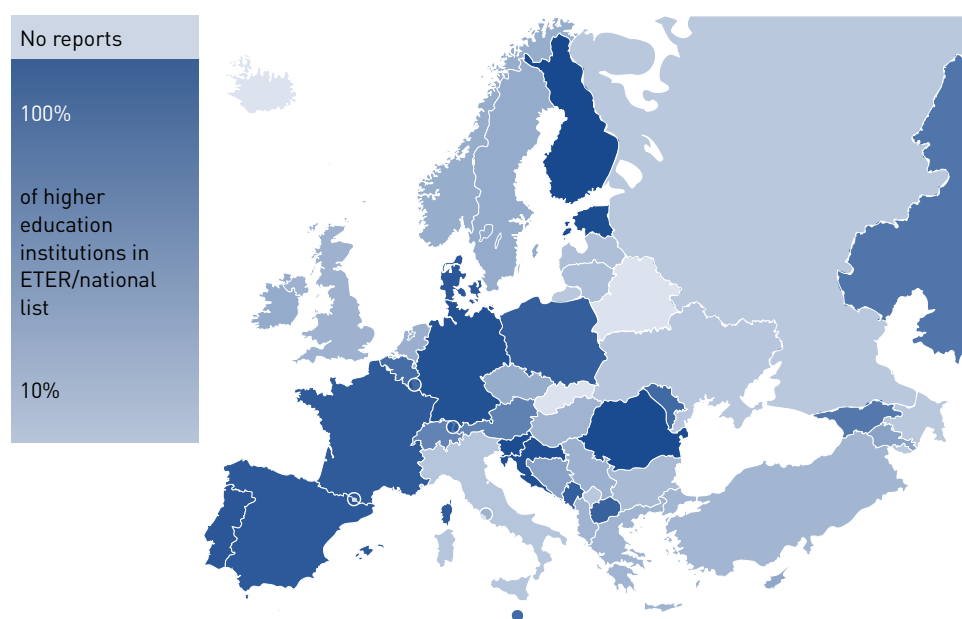

Figure 1: DEQAR coverage (percentage of HEIs with QA reports)

Further information on the latest DEQAR activities in 2019 can be found at:

https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/deqar-project/deqar-conference/

https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/deqar-video/

https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/infographics/

3. DEQAR CONNECT: Enhancing the Coverage and Connectivity

EQAR made a successful application under the Erasmus+ (KA3) call for proposals to support the implementation of the EHEA reforms. The DEQAR CONNECT project focuses on two of the EHEA key commitments, supporting quality assurance and recognition inside the EHEA.

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[1] In these systems DEQAR includes reports on at least 50% of the institutions listed in the European Tertiary Education Register, ETER, https://www.eter-project.com/.

DEQAR CONNECT consists of two strands:

1. The project will **expand coverage** to EHEA countries currently under-represented in DEQAR, by supporting the participation of agencies that could not join DEQAR in the first stage. This includes several agencies that became registered on EQAR recently.

   We expect to significantly enhance DEQAR's coverage in Armenia, Austria, Belgium (French Community), Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Russia.

2. The DEQAR CONNECT project will **enhance connectivity** by exploiting existing synergies and exploring new opportunities to use DEQAR data directly in the recognition workflow, digital credentialing (incl. Europass Digital Credentials) and elsewhere.

Transversal to both strands, additional activities will boost the visibility of DEQAR and feed relevant information and analysis into the work of the future Bologna peer-support group dealing with QA.

https://www.eqar.eu/kb/projects/deqar-connect/
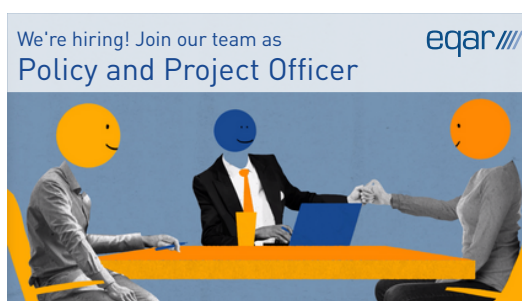
4. European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

In September 2019, the tenth joint programme was accredited based on the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programme. Thanks to a number of accreditation procedures facilitated by the ImpEA project and being completed during 2019, the European Approach has by now been thoroughly tested in a range of countries and subject areas.

The list of joint programmes that were accredited/evaluated with the European Approach is now fully included in DEQAR. Consequently, also the special page listing those examples was redesigned and is now searchable in the same way as DEQAR pages.

https://www.eqar.eu/kb/joint-programmes/european-approach-cases/

5. Job Opportunity: Policy and Project Officer

We are looking for a new colleague to join our team and support the various activities planned within the DEQAR CONNECT project. In the future, s/he will also be working with applications for registration from agencies.

We're hiring! Join our team as
Policy and Project Officer

We are looking for an individual with a keen interest in higher education policy who also enjoys working with IT and managing databases.

More info at: https://www.eqar.eu/were-hiring-policy-and-project-officer/