

Update on EQAR Activities

for the 11/12 May 2023 BFUG meeting

Contents

1. Register.....	1
2. EQAR new President and EQAR new Director.....	2
4. EQAR Annual Report 2022.....	2
5. Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR).....	3
.....	3
Figure 1: DEQAR coverage (percentage of HEIs with QA reports).....	3
6. Projects where EQAR is involved.....	4
IMINQA.....	4
QA FIT.....	5
TPG LRC CORE.....	5

1. Register

At the March 2023 meeting, the EQAR Register Committee concluded that the following agencies demonstrated their substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG).

Approved application for initial registration:

- **ACCUEE**- Canarian Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (Spain)
- **AVAP** - Valencian Agency for Assessment and Forecasting (Spain)
- **HAHE** - Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (Greece)
- **THEQC** - Higher Education Quality Council of Turkey (Turkey)- focused review

Renewal applications:

- **ANECA** – National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain
- **NVAO** – Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders
[NVAO REPORTS IN DEQAR](#)

See also:

- Full list of the [Register Committee decisions](#)
- [Database of precedents](#), featuring various search/filter options and including relevant excerpts of RC decisions.

- [Key statistics](#) on the application process and ESG compliance (make sure to scroll down to view all the different charts).

2. EQAR new President and EQAR new Director

The mandate of the current EQAR President, **Karl Dittrich** (who served for two consecutive terms, the maximum time permitted by the EQAR Statutes) comes to an end on 1 July 2023.

The Selection Committee for the next EQAR President was set up to consider application for this position. After careful consideration, the Selection Committee concluded that two individuals equally meet in an outstanding manner the requirement of the call for EQAR President, and therefore agreed to propose both of them for the vote of the General Assembly (GA). EQAR members will convene in Stockholm before the BFUG meeting, for their **19th General Assembly** (GA), where they will elect Blaženka Divjak (Croatia) or Stéphane Lauwick (France) as EQAR's new President.

The President presides over the Register Committee, the General Assembly and the Executive Board, represents EQAR at international conferences and events and additionally has numerous bilateral meetings with stakeholders and members.

Colin Tück, EQAR's Director announced in autumn 2022, that he would leave after 15 years working for EQAR. The Selection Committee for the Director interviewed several suitable candidates and proposed **Magalie Soenen**. Magalie worked as Higher Education Policy Advisor for the Ministry of Education and Training of the Flemish Community of Belgium and was co-chair of the Thematic Peer Group on Quality Assurance as well as the Bologna Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue.

The Director leads the EQAR Secretariat, prepares the policies and projects, and is the main advisor to the General Assembly, the Board and the Register Committee.

Magalie will take over from Colin Tück as **new EQAR Director on 1 May 2023**.

During EQAR's 15 year Anniversary and Farewell Reception that took place on 4 April 2023 in Brussels, EQAR thanked Colin for developing, promoting and driving the visibility of EQAR and securing its international reputation and wished him all the best in his new professional path.

3. EQAR Annual Report 2022

The **Annual Report 2022** was published on the **EQAR website**. It contains an overview of last year's activities & finances, a comprehensive report on the management of the Register and cross-cutting observations based on the Register Committee's decisions:

<https://www.eqar.eu/about/annual-reports/2022-2/>

4. Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

Key Statistics (April 2023)

The DEQAR Website continues to attract ca. 3000 page views monthly, making up over a third of the total traffic to EQAR's website.

	September 2022	April 2023
Reports	77 432	86 349
Institutions	3 307	3 540
Agencies*	44	47
Coverage**	24	28

*Number of agencies that have at some point uploaded reports in DEQAR

** EHEA systems where DEQAR includes reports on at least 50% of the institutions listed in the European Tertiary Education Register (ETER), except where this does not represent a substantial part of the HE system:

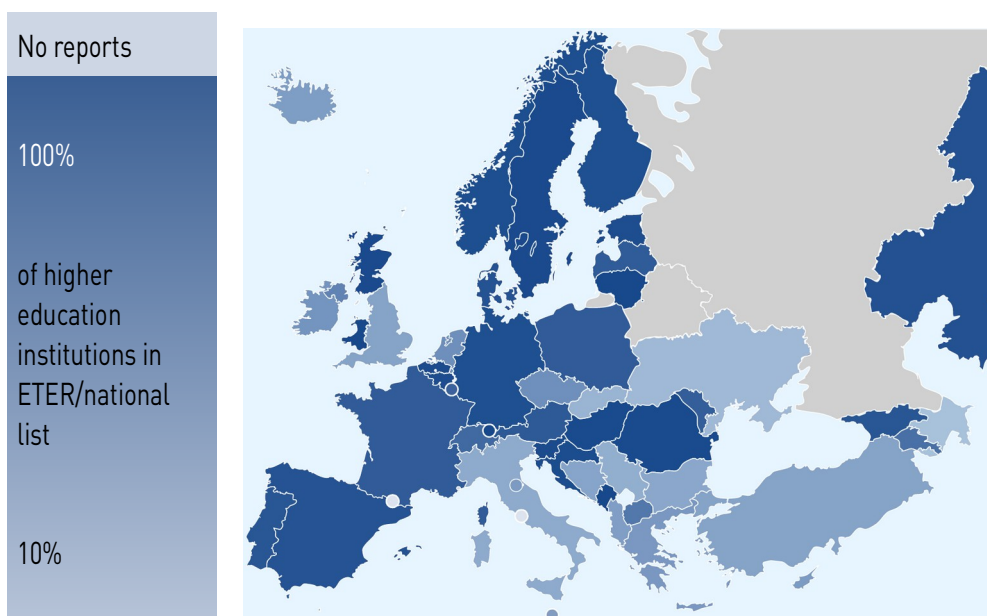


Figure 1: DEQAR coverage (percentage of HEIs with QA reports)

Updates from DEQAR:

- The number of systems covered as a result of EQAR agencies upload of external QA reports rose from 24 to 28: Austria, Belgium (Flemish Community), Belgium (French Community), Denmark, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland (UK), Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, and Northern Ireland.

- the **ENIC-NARIC** centres are now working on **integrating information on QA from DEQAR into their workflows**, with a view to speeding up the recognition process for qualifications from those HEIs present in DEQAR.
- Since March 2023, institutional data in DEQAR is automatically synchronised from the Register of Public Sector Organisations (OrgReg), a sister project of the European Tertiary Education Register (ETER) which maintains basic data on higher education institutions.
- EQAR and DG EMPL agreed that all DEQAR data would be uploaded to the European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC) by default, without a need for prior individual action by country (countries may, however, opt out if needed). As a result, all HEIs covered in DEQAR would immediately be in a position to issue accredited digital credentials in EDC.

Further general information on DEQAR can be found at:

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

5. Projects where EQAR is involved

IMINQA

The Implementation and Innovation in QA through Peer Learning (IMINQA) project is a three year ERASMUS+ co-funded project (May 2022 – April 2023) led by the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training in partnership with ENQA, ARACIS (on behalf of Romania) and EQAR.

IMINQA working group on the QA of European Universities held its second meeting on 17th January 2023 in Brussels. EQAR presented a first draft of the desk research (see [here](#)) analysing the legislative and procedural barriers of EHEA systems related to the use of the European Approach and the openness to cross-border QA. See here further information [here](#).

As part of the IMINQA QA of Micro-credential working group EQAR is tasked with the development of a data model for alternative providers and micro credentials in DEQAR. At the working group meeting, organised on 27 February 2023 in Brussels, EQAR presented a mock-up of such a model and collected feedback from the participants. In taking forward the proposal of the data model, EQAR will ensure a clear distinction between alternative providers and higher education institutions, and the differences between micro credentials, life long learning provisions and degree awarding programmes.

IMINQA's second **Peer Learning Activity on 'Cross-border Quality Assurance (CBQA) and Quality Assurance of Transnational Education (TNE)'** was organised by EQAR with the support of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) at the University Politehnica in Bucharest. EQAR shared a preparatory analysis (see [here](#)) as basis for

discussion and contributed with a presentation on the main topic of the event (see [here](#)) considering the challenges in countries' openness to cross-border QA and key issues that need to be assured by the national higher education system for the QA of outgoing transnational education.

QA FIT

The QA FIT project is led by ENQA having as partners EUA, EURASHE, ESU, EQAR, FINEEC, Irish University Association and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (associate partner). The projects activities include a desk research, four surveys on the ESG implementation, four reports and four focus groups including one with national ministries (led by EQAR), a final report, a final webinar and then a final policy event. EQAR was in charge of drafting the survey for the national ministries. All surveys have one common, almost identical part for all stakeholders, followed by specialised questions for each group.

The survey to national ministries was launched in November 2022, together with three other surveys targeting each stakeholder group (higher education institutions, national student unions and quality assurance agencies). The ministry survey collected a total of 36 valid responses representing a good share of the total possible answers (78%) from EHEA members.

EQAR and the project partners have each drafted a paper resulting from the analysis of the four surveys. The draft papers have been reviewed by the QA Steering Committee, the QA FIT Expert Board and results have been further further discussed with relevant stakeholders (see [here](#) a short presentation on the QA FIT ministry survey results). During its General Assembly, EQAR will further collect feedback from its members to further develop and enrich the analysis.

As next step, the stakeholders will work on two papers focused on the cross-cutting topics resulting from all four surveys.

TPG LRC CORE

The project is led by the Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA) and aims to support the work of the TPG B. Other project partners include: HARNO, FEI, Nuffic, UHR, EUA, ESU and the Prime Minister Office – Albania. Main activities involve panel discussions and peer learning activities on common challenges (i.e. recognition of knowledge gained through alternative pathways, micro credentials, digitalisation of recognition workflows, European Degree etc.) and research that will further enable the peer learning.

EQAR is leading the work group on digitalisation of recognition tools. The group has organised 3 peer learning webinars in autumn 2023 – each focusing on one of the phases of the recognition process (input, throughput and output).

In addition, the working group organizes two workshops on digitalisation of the most wide spread tool for recognition in EHEA – the Diploma

Supplement. At the first workshops – lead by EQAR (in March 2023) participants presented national guidelines for filling in the Diploma Supplement, and explored the options of synchronisation of the documents.