Quality Assurance in the Bologna Process Implementation Report 2020 - 2024

David Crosier

European Education and Culture Executive Agency

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2020 BPIR

- 20 years of Bologna Process, focusing on achievements, and (implicitly) what needs to be done

- Information collected in 2019 with reference year 2018/19

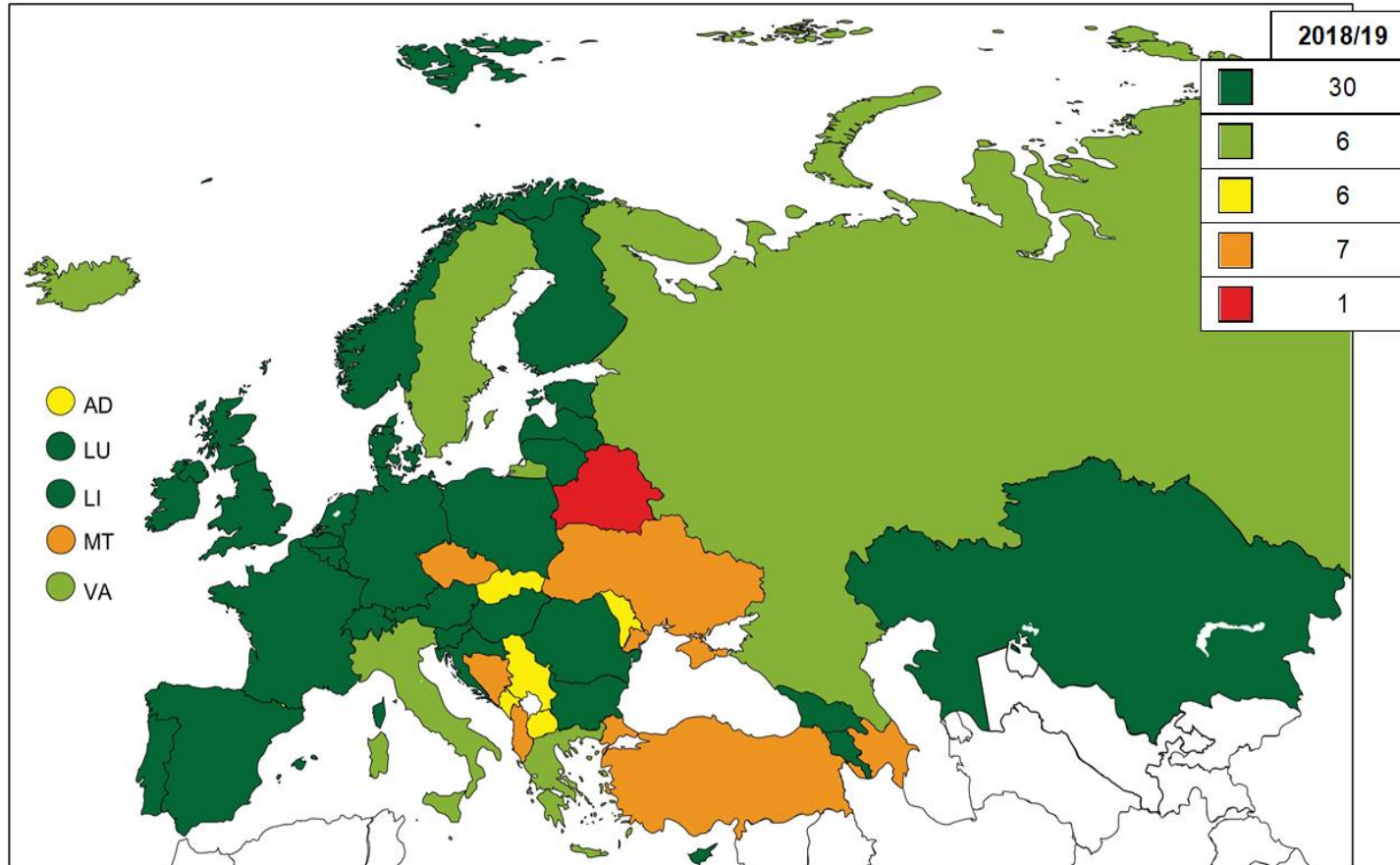- Impact of TPGs not yet visible

- [Report link](#)

Quality Assurance (QA): first decade

- QA has seen dramatic developments over the past 2 decades

- 1999: only a handful of countries had a recognisable QA system

- Between 2000 - 2010, 22 countries created external QA agencies

- QA recognised as primary responsibility of HEIs (Berlin 2003)

- European Standards and Guidelines were developed (adopted 2005)

- EQAR was created (2008)

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Quality Assurance: second decade

- Widening and deepening of European concepts of QA

- Thanks mainly to EUA, Quality Culture became an established idea

- Tendency for enhancement oriented QA to supersede compliance

- Many countries combine institutional and programme level QA/accreditation

- Trend more towards institutional evaluation

- Revised ESG (2015) and adoption of European Approach to QA of Joint Programmes

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Quality Assurance, 2018/19

2018/19	
■ (dark green)	30
■ (light green)	6
■ (yellow)	6
■ (orange)	7
■ (red)	1

Legend:
- ○ AD (yellow)
- ● LU (dark green)
- ● LI (dark green)
- ● MT (orange)
- ● VA (light green)

MAIN INDICATOR FOR QA

Compared to 2016/17:

6 countries moved to dark green
4 countries from orange to yellow or light green
1 country from red to orange
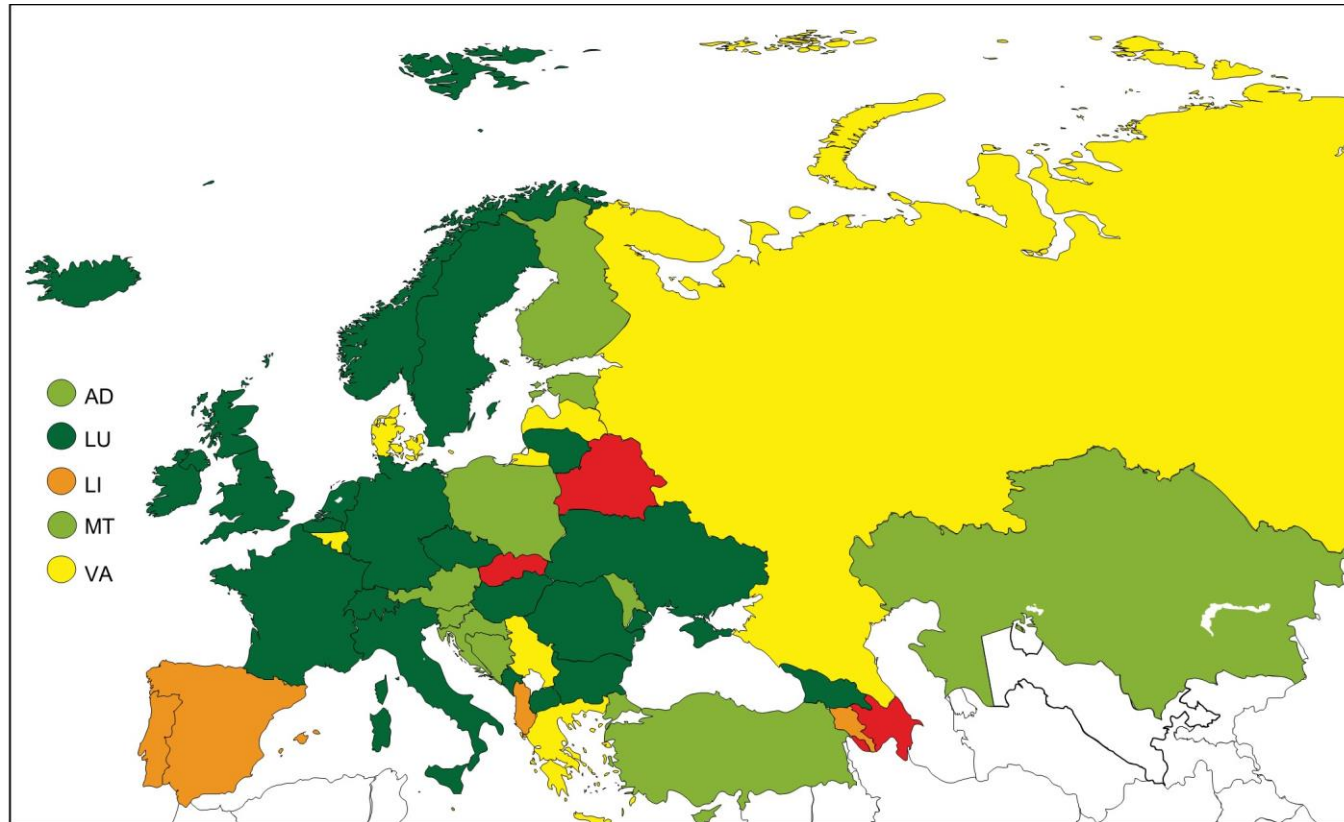
Progress continues…

Dark Green = EQAR registered agency
Light Green = ESG-aligned but not EQAR
Yellow = EQAR agencies in some cases

Orange: QA system not yet aligned to ESG
Red: QA system not established

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So what is left to do?

- European model of trust and enhancement-based QA has emerged

- But practice of trust can still improve, and implementation of key commitments should be stepped up

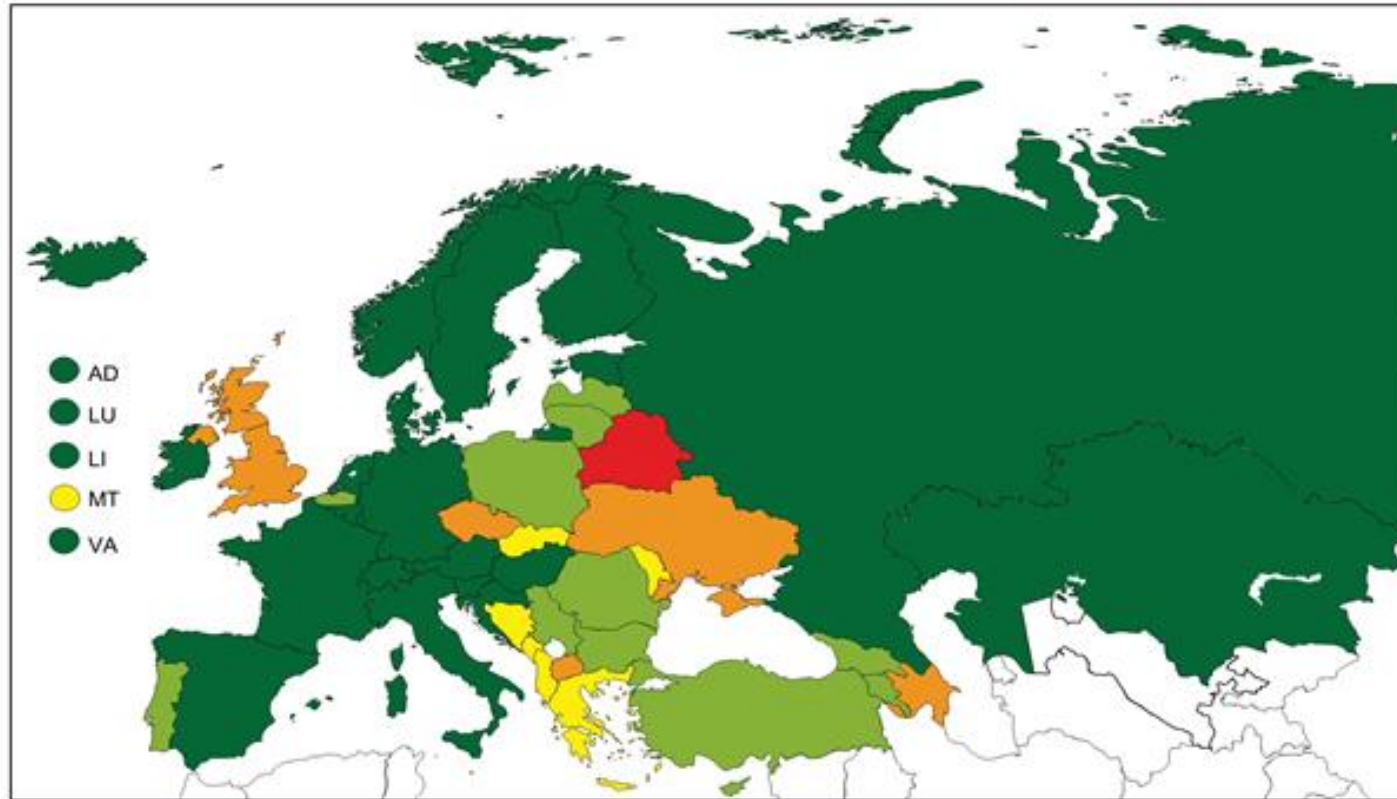- 18 countries (not including Russia and Belarus) still to be covered by EQAR

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Level of student participation in external QA

Key point: progress is slow…

Dark Green = Students full members/fully involved: in: Governance structures; external review teams; preparation of self-evaluation reports; decision making process for external reviews; Follow-up procedures
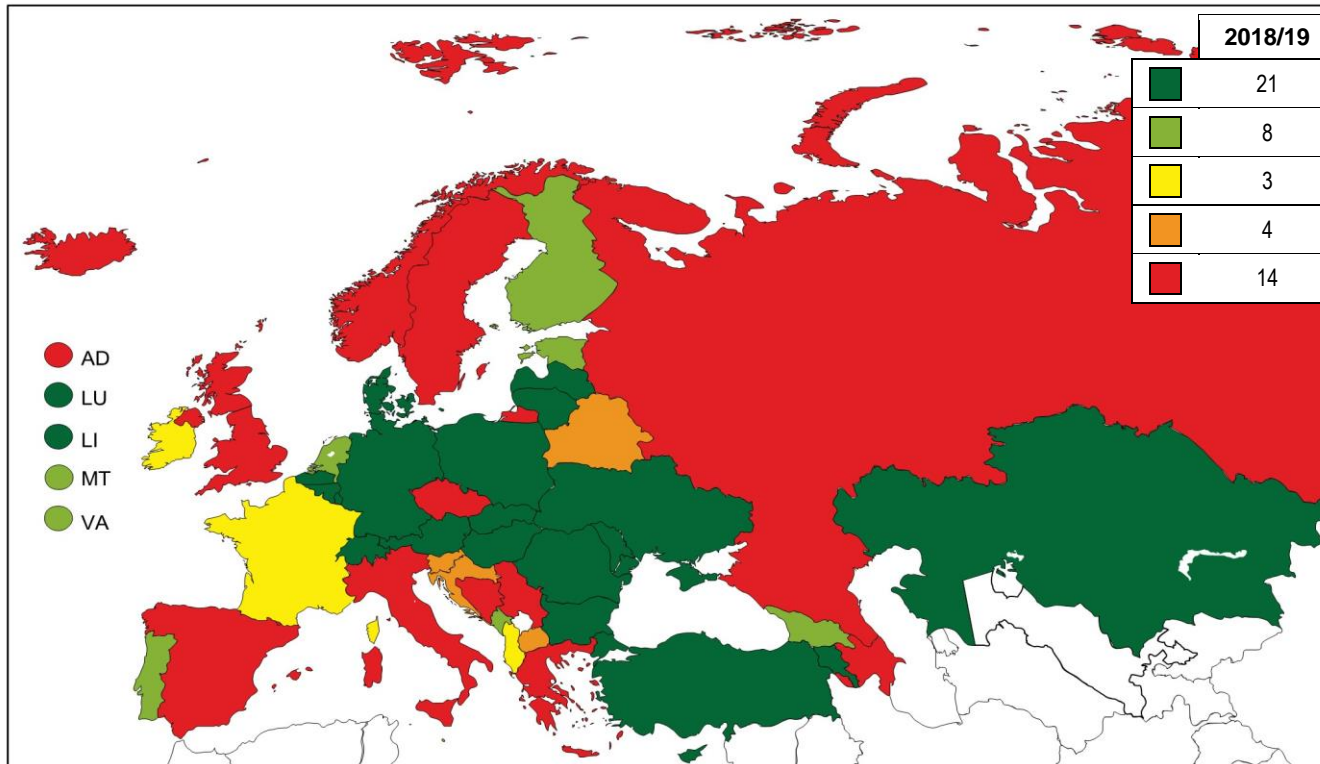
Level of international participation in external QA

Key point: Also slow progress

Dark Green = Agencies are members of ENQA; international peers/experts participate in governance of national quality assurance bodies; in evaluation teams; in follow-up
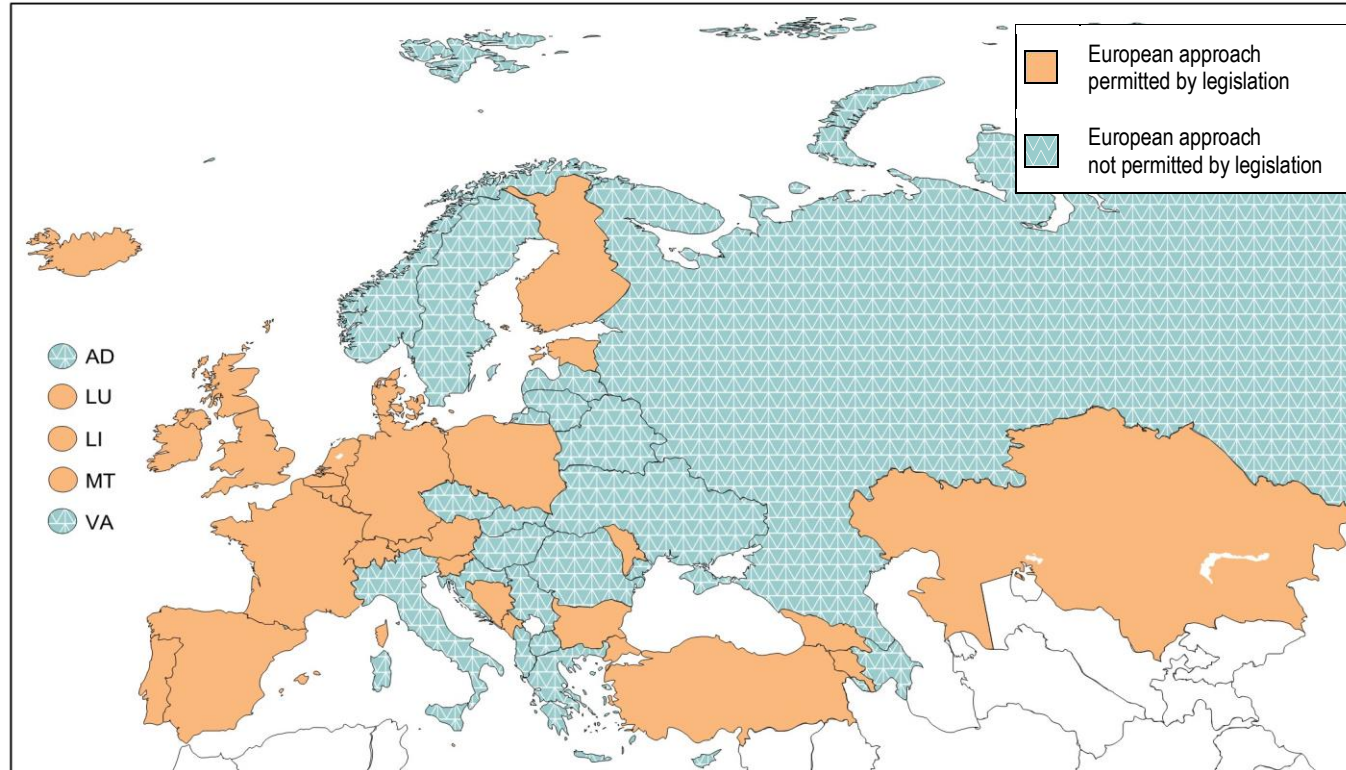
Level of openness to cross border QA of EQAR registered agencies

2018/19	
(dark green)	21
(light green)	8
(yellow)	3
(orange)	4
(red)	14

Legend markers:
- AD
- LU
- LI
- MT
- VA

Key point: Although this indicator appears quite red, it is improving quite rapidly (eg dark green 2013 8 countries, 2016 12 countries, and 2018 21 countries)

Dark Green = **All institutions and programmes + EQAR criterion;** Light green = **All institutions and programmes; EQAR not a criterion;** yellow = **some institutions and programmes + EQAR;** orange = **discussions ongoing;** red = **No openness**

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Other issues: European approach to QA of joint programmes

Legend:
- European approach permitted by legislation
- European approach not permitted by legislation

- AD
- LU
- LI
- MT
- VA

Adoption in 2015, and European Approach is a simple and effective way of improving external quality assurance for joint programmes: one evaluation, following ESG…

Only in 12 countries are all HEIs able to benefit from the European Approach

NB *Map shows only the minimal condition of legislation permitting the European Approach*

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Other issues to tackle

- Dealing with new developments (eg microcredentials)

- Strengthening link with recognition (qualifications from quality assured systems should be automatically recognised…)

Conclusions

- ESG-based QA to be implemented everywhere – this is the basis…

- New areas for debate emerging:

- QA role in upholding values (academic freedom and integrity/institutional autonomy/public responsibility for/of higher education/stakeholder participation)

- QA role in relation to social dimension and sustainable development goals…

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Thank you for your attention !