

## ENQA report to the BFUG, 16-17 November 2023, Spain

### Highlights of ENQA's activities since May 2023

ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) is the designated stakeholder organisation of quality assurance agencies in the EHEA. ENQA represents their interests internationally, supports them nationally and provides them with comprehensive services and networking opportunities. Under ENQA's umbrella, the community of agencies drives innovation in quality assurance and refines quality assurance processes.

#### 1. ENQA MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

In the past six months, ENQA has welcomed two new members: the Canarian Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ACCUEE, Spain) and the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE). This brings ENQA's membership to 57 agencies in 31 countries in the EHEA, as well as 48 affiliates in 29 countries worldwide. There are ENQA members and/or affiliates in 45 out of the 47 EHEA countries (excluding Russia and Belarus).

At ENQA's General Assembly meeting in October 2023, two new Board members were elected: Marilena Maniaci (ANVUR, Italy) and Kristin Vinje (NOKUT, Norway). Three Board members were re-elected for new terms: Daniela Cristina Ghițulică (ARACIS, Romania), Doris Herrmann (AQAS, Germany) and Péter Levente Lakatos (MAB, Hungary). Daniela Cristina Ghițulică and Doris Herrmann were elected as Vice-Presidents for 2023-24.

#### 2. LATEST ENQA ACTIVITIES

##### **IMINQA project report on micro-credentials**

A [report on micro-credentials](#) has been published by ENQA and the IMINQA project, which supports the work of the Bologna Process TPG C on Quality Assurance. The report provides an overview of the state of play of policy developments and presents latest information on various activities, initiatives and reports related to the quality assurance of micro-credentials in the EHEA. The report specifically explores different national policies, as well as practices by quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions, and positions these within the European policy context.

The results of the research for this report and discussions within the project working group indicate that many countries, quality assurance agencies and institutions are engaged in initiatives to explore the role and regulation of micro-credentials in their national context. However, it is clear that not all countries need to revise their legislation or quality assurance system as the existing mechanisms already accommodate micro-credentials. The report also provides some examples of cooperation between the higher education sector and alternative providers for the quality assurance of micro-credentials.

##### **QA-FIT**

The ENQA-coordinated QA-FIT project (Quality Assurance Fit for the Future) has recently published a series of papers setting out the state of play and perspectives for the future of quality assurance in the EHEA, from the viewpoint of various stakeholder groups. The papers are available [here](#). The project continues with focus groups to explore in more detail questions arising from the research so far, and specifically to gather further evidence to inform the upcoming revision of the ESG.

## **Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education (HAQAA Initiative)**

ENQA is continuing its engagement in Africa as part of the consortium implementing the third phase of the Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education Initiative ([HAQAA3](#)).

HAQAA3 is an ambitious continuation and expansion of the work accomplished under HAQAA1 (2015-18) and HAQAA2 (2019-2022). The five-year Initiative encompasses not only capacity building for internal and external quality assurance, but also support for advancing the African Credit Transfer System, the Pan-African Quality Assurance Agency, continental and regional integration, and data collection to inform policy making in higher education.

ENQA's role in the Initiative is to support the coordination of external reviews and consultancy visits at quality assurance agencies across Africa, building on the experiences of the previous two rounds of activities. The focus in HAQAA3 will be on engaging a greater number of agencies in the exercise, building the capacity for review coordination in the African counterparts, and exploring the mechanisms and consequences for compliance judgements in the context of the proposed Pan-African Quality Assurance Agency. ENQA will also contribute to training for external quality assurance, support policy dialogue between Africa and other world regions (including through the BFUG Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue), and coordinate a review of the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance.

### **3. ENQA AGENCY REVIEWS**

In 2023, ENQA has conducted 19 reviews of quality assurance agencies – a record number in the 12 years in which ENQA has been implementing this activity. The review process assesses the compliance of agencies with the ESG, in line with the Bologna Process key commitment on quality assurance, and also provides recommendations for further development.

In 2024, ENQA will 'take its own medicine' and undergo its own external review to ensure that its processes are also in line with the principles and standards of the ESG, and to reflect on the effectiveness of improvements and new activities introduced in recent years.

### **4. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2023 European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)** co-organised by ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU, will take place on 24-25 November in Aveiro, Portugal. The theme of the event is 'Internationalisation in a changing world. New trends and challenges for QA'.

**2024 ENQA Members' Forum** will take place on 18-19 April in Hannover, Germany.

### **5. LAUNCH OF ENQA BULLETIN**

In September, ENQA launched a new quarterly Bulletin, to share news and information relevant for the external quality assurance community.

You can subscribe to the Bulletin through the link on ENQA's website [here](#).