Proposals for the Scorecard on QA

Introduction

This document proposes an update/revision of two of the scorecard indicators to be used for the Quality Assurance section of the Key Commitments chapter, plus a new scorecard indicator on the implementation of the European Approach for quality assurance of joint programmes. The proposals have been developed by EQAR (Melinda Szabo) and discussed with Eurydice.

1. Scorecard: Key Commitment on QA (changes for a more accurate representation of country's implementation)

Illustrates the stage of implementation of the key commitment on external quality assurance across the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Dark Green: A fully functioning quality assurance system is in operation nationwide, in which at least 70% of all higher education institutions ~~are~~ have been subject to a valid ~~regula~~r external quality assurance recognised as part of the system's official external QA framework[1] by an agency that has successfully demonstrated compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG) through registration on EQAR.

Light Green: A fully functioning quality assurance system is in operation nationwide, in which 50 to 70% of all higher education institutions have been ~~are~~ subject to a valid ~~regular~~ external quality assurance recognised as part of the system's official external QA framework by an agency that has successfully demonstrated compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG) through registration on EQAR.

Yellow: A fully functioning quality assurance system is in operation ~~nationwide~~, in which 10 to 50% of ~~only some~~ higher education institutions have been ~~are~~ subject to a valid ~~regular~~ external quality assurance as part of the system's official external QA framework by an agency that has successfully demonstrated compliance with the ESG through registration on EQAR.

Orange: A quality assurance system is ~~in operation nationwide, but has not~~ not (yet) ~~been~~ fully aligned with the ESG or less than 10% of HEIs have been subject to an official or voluntary external QA against the ESG.

Red: No quality assurance system is in operation

EXPLANATORY NOTE: The source for the scoring in each of the scorecard category will be based on DEQAR data. DEQAR shows the live coverage of higher education institutions subject to external QA in compliance with the ESG based on reports being uploaded by EQAR-registered QA agencies. This allows for a real time tracking of EHEA members country's alignment with the Key Commitment on QA. The time period to be considered for the validity of external QA is collected from each agency. For agencies that do not have a validity date, a '6 year' average is automatically applied.

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[1]fulfilling a statutory function or recognised as part of the regular external QA exercise

In the case of countries were DEQAR data is not yet fully available (as some EQAR-registered agencies have not yet uploaded into DEQAR2) the map would remain blank (greyed out) with a note explaining that "data is not (yet) available".

2. Scorecard: Openness to Cross-border QA (changes for more clarity)

Illustrates to what extent, EHEA member countries allow their higher education institutions to choose an EQAR-registered agency to fulfil a statutory function or recognised as part of the regular external QA exercise.

Dark Green: All institutions and programmes can choose to be evaluated by a suitable quality assurance agency from outside the country to fulfil their obligations for external quality assurance, ~~while complying with national requirements~~. EQAR registration ~~always serves~~ is a mandatory criterion for agencies to be allowed to carry out cross-border evaluation/accreditation /audit.

Light Green: All institutions and programmes can choose to be evaluated by a suitable quality assurance agency from outside the country to fulfil their obligations for external quality assurance, ~~while complying with national requirements~~. EQAR registration ~~does not always serve as~~ is a sufficient, but not mandatory criterion for agencies to be allowed to carry out cross-border evaluation /accreditation /audit.

Yellow: In some cases, institutions and/or programmes can choose to be evaluated by a quality assurance agency from outside the country to fulfil their obligations for external quality assurance, ~~while complying with national requirements~~. EQAR registration ~~always serves as~~ is a mandatory criterion for agencies to be allowed to carry out cross-border evaluation /accreditation /audit.

Orange: Discussions are on-going or plans have been made to establish a legal framework allowing EQAR-registered agencies to operate in the country.

Red: Institutions and programmes cannot be evaluated by quality assurance agencies from outside the country to fulfil their obligations for external quality assurance, and no plans are being discussed.

3. Scorecard Indicator: European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes (EA) (new proposal)

Illustrates to what extent, EHEA member countries have taken action to facilitate the use of the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes.

Dark Green: EA permitted by legislation with no restrictions for ALL higher education institutions and at least one joint programme has been evaluated using the EA and the procedure is recognised as part of the system's official external QA framework.

Light Green: EA permitted by legislation with no restrictions but only for SOME higher education institutions and at least one joint programme has been evaluated as part of the system's official external QA framework.

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[2]Currently only a handful of national QA agencies have not yet uploaded their reports into DEQAR (NEAA for BG, CYQAA for CY, NVAO for NL, QAA for UK and QQI for Ireland), but almost all are in process of setting up a system to ensure an (automatic) upload of their data into DEQAR.

Yellow: EA permitted by legislation for SOME higher education institutions but the implementation is restricted or no joint programmes has been evaluated as part of the system's official external QA framework.

Orange: EA not (yet) permitted by legislation but at least one joint programme has been evaluated as part of the system's official external QA framework based on an exception/ad-hoc agreement or similar.

Red: EA not permitted by legislation and not used for any JP procedure.