

eqar 

ANNUAL
REPORT
2015



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) aisbl/ivzw

Oudergemselaan 36 Avenue d'Auderghem

1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 234 39 11

Fax: +32 2 230 33 47

E-Mail: info@eqar.eu

Web: www.eqar.eu



www.facebook.com/eqar.he



[@eqar_he](https://twitter.com/eqar_he)



linkedin.eqar.eu

Copyright © 2016 by EQAR aisbl/ivzw

Photos copyright: Armenian Ministry of Education and Science (pages 13, 14, 15),
David Riera (page 20), European Students' Union (page 20), EQAR (remaining)

Concept and Design www.die-hoffnungstraeger.de

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

06	Foreword
07	1. Report of the Register Committee
07	Decisions on Inclusion and Renewal of Registration
08	Monitoring of Registered Agencies
11	Transition to the ESG 2015
13	2. Contribution to Policy Developments in the EHEA
13	Yerevan Ministerial Conference
13	Bologna Follow-Up Group and Working Groups
13	Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG 2015)
14	European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
15	Legal Frameworks for Cross-Border Quality Assurance
16	Ad-Hoc Group on Cross-Border Quality Assurance
16	Annual Monitoring of Registered Agencies' Activities
19	3. Communication
19	Publications
19	Newsletter
19	Website and Social Media
20	Representation and Relations with Partners
21	4. Organisational Development
21	EQAR Self-evaluation
21	Membership
22	Statutory Bodies and Staff
22	Finances
23	5. List of Registered Quality Assurance Agencies
26	Annex
26	www.eqar.eu/2015/

/// Foreword

Dear members and partners,

In May 2015, ministers adopted a new version of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Serving as criteria for inclusion of quality assurance agencies on the Register, the ESG are the foundation of EQAR's work. The adoption of the ESG 2015 was thus an important milestone, also for EQAR.

Very soon after the adoption of the ESG, EQAR published a policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG 2015, adopted by the EQAR Register Committee after consultation of members. The policy aims to ensure ex ante transparency of the expectations for quality assurance agencies and those undertaking the external review of agencies.

The first reviews of quality assurance agencies against the ESG 2015 are expected to conclude in 2016. EQAR introduced a new eligibility check before every external review, so as to ensure that the reviews fully cover the agency's external QA activities.

With the last agencies still admitted on the basis of the ESG 2005, the Register included 42 quality assurance agencies by the end of 2015. Eleven of those will have to renew their registration by the end of 2016, based on the ESG 2015.



Maria Kelo
President, Executive Board

At their Yerevan Conference, ministers also adopted the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes. This should pave the way to realise the ministers' commitment to recognise quality assurance decisions by EQAR-registered agencies on joint programmes.

We were honoured to welcome six new Governmental Members in 2015. With now 37 of the 48 EHEA countries on board, the support and involvement of European governments has become more manifest. We also encourage the remaining EHEA countries to consider participating in the governance of EQAR.

Last but not least, 2015 was an important year for EQAR's organisational development. Initiated by a number of surveys and extremely productive discussions at the EQAR Members' Dialogue 2015, EQAR launched its second self-evaluation. The exercise will conclude with a self-evaluation report, which will be published in early 2016.

We wish to thank all members and partners for the excellent cooperation throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our common journey towards a coherent quality assurance framework in the EHEA.



Eric Froment
Chair, Register Committee

/// Report of the Register Committee

This section of the Annual Report relates to the work of the EQAR Register Committee. The Register Committee independently considers and decides upon applications by quality assurance agencies for inclusion on the Register.

1.1 Decisions on Inclusion and Renewal of Registration

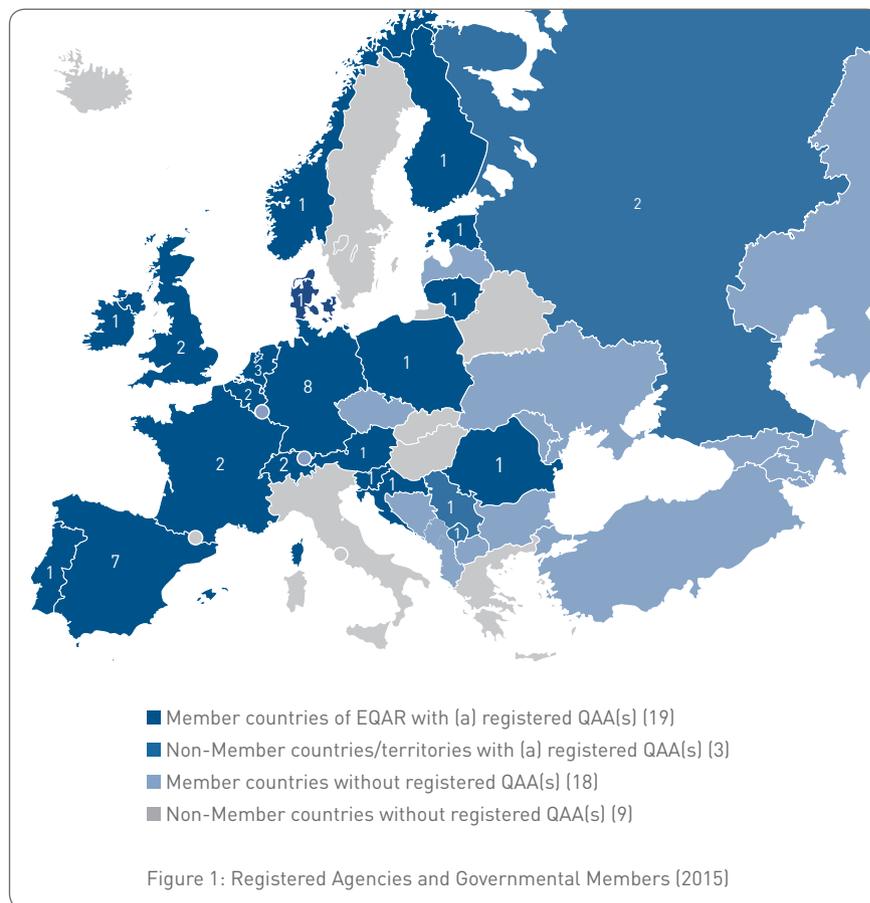
Following the adoption of the 2015 version of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015), EQAR accepted applications for inclusion on the Register based on the ESG 2005 until 15 March 2015. Consequently, there was only one application round in 2015.

The Register Committee considered and decided on six applications for inclusion on the Register and four applications for renewal of registration (see Table 1 and Annex 6 for details). At the end of 2015 the Register included 42 quality assurance agencies (see section 5) from 22 European countries/territories.

The Register Committee flagged issues for future attention in cases where the Committee was of the view that an applicant needed to pay particular attention to its compliance with specific aspects of the ESG.

Table 2 provides an overview of the number of times issues relating to a particular standard were flagged in the Committee's decisions made in 2015. Since there are differences in the types and levels of concern around ESG compliance in cases where issues were flagged for attention, the figures only provide a general indication of the areas of concern. Full details are available in the Register Committee's published decisions.

The practice of flagging was discontinued following the 2015 revision of the Procedures for Applications, see section 1.3 below.



In the course of its work in 2015, the Register Committee encountered a number of specific situations and questions which required a more thorough analysis of how the ESG should be applied and interpreted:

/ Thematic reviews, focusing on specific aspects of a higher education institution's work, and the application of ESG standard 2.1 and Part 1 in this case;

/ Follow-up (or other parts of the external quality assurance process) being implemented by a different organisation than the registered agency;

/ Recognition of other Quality Assurance Agencies' Results or Decisions, or using them as a basis for the registered agency's own decisions;

/ Interviews of different stakeholders during site-visits as part of reviews of agencies.

These issues were addressed as part of the cases to which they were related. The principles agreed then became part of the Policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG (see section 1.3 below).

Full decisions: see <https://eqar.eu/publications/decisions.html>

Table 1: Overview Applications in 2015

A	Initial Applications	6
B	Approved	6
C	Withdrawn	0
D	Rejected	0
E	Pending 2nd consideration	0
F	Renewal Applications (every 5 years)	4
G	Approved	4
H	Withdrawn	0
I	Rejected	0
J	Pending 2nd consideration	0
K	Appeals	1
L	Successful	0
M	Unsuccessful	1
N	Registration ended or expired (see http://www.eqar.eu/register/former-entries.html)	0

1.2 Monitoring of Registered Agencies

The Register Committee continued to increase its focus on monitoring registered agencies' work and compliance with the ESG between the periodic applications for renewal of registration.

Substantive Change Reports

According to the Procedures for Applications, registered agencies are requested to inform EQAR of substantive changes. Substantive changes include any type of change that may impact on the registered agency's ability to comply substantially with the ESG. Typically, such changes relate to the organisational structure or the external quality assurance activities of the agency.

The Register Committee considered five substantive change reports in 2015. Table 3 indicates the type of change reported by the agency and the action taken by the Register Committee. Reports made since the publication of the 2015 version of the Procedures for Applications were published together with the Register Committee's decision on the report (see <https://eqar.eu/publications/decisions.html>).



EQAR Register Committee in Dublin, hosted by St. Patrick's College

Table 2: Issues Flagged in Applications (2015)

ESG	Initial	Renew	ESG	Initial	Renew
2.1 Use of Part 1		1	3.1 Use of Part 2		1
2.2 Development of Processes	1		3.2 Official Status		
2.3 Criteria for Decisions	1	1	3.3 Activities		
2.4 Processes Fit for Purpose			3.4 Resources	1	1
2.5 Reporting	2	2	3.5 Mission Statement		
2.6 Follow-Up Procedures	3	2	3.6 Independence	2	
2.7 Periodic Reviews			3.7 External QA Procedures ^A	4	2
2.8 System-wide Analyses	3	1	3.8 Accountability Procedures	1	

Where several issues related to the same standard were flagged for one agency, this is counted only once. Where a flag can be attributed to two standards, it is accounted for in relation to the standard that addresses the issue most specifically or directly.

^A Only flags related to issues that are not addressed more specifically in part 2; flags under 3.7 relate to students on expert groups, the use of site visits and appeals procedures.

Table 3: Substantive Change Reports

HCERES - High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education	
Type of change:	Change of legal basis and organisational structure, including change of name (previously Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education, AERES)
Action:	Took note of the report
AEQES - Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur	
Type of change:	Change of standards, enhancement of follow-up and student participation
Action:	Took note of the report
AAQ – Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance	
Type of change:	Change of legal basis, scope of activities and organisational structure, including change of name (previously Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education, OAQ)
Action:	Took note of the report (decision)
VLUHR QAU – Quality Assurance Unit of the Flemish University and University Colleges Council	
Type of change:	Change of legal framework and scope of activities
Action:	Took note of the report (decision)
KAA - Kosovo Accreditation Agency	
Type of change:	Charges against agency officials
Action:	Took note of the report (decision)

Complaints

In the past, there have been several cases where individuals or organisations informally addressed concerns about the work of a registered agency to the EQAR Secretariat or to individual Register Committee members, but refrained from making a formal complaint due to the risk of their identity being revealed or leaked.

The Register Committee consequently revised the Complaints Policy in order to allow complaints to be made anonymously. A special web form has been available since 2015.

EQAR did not receive any complaints about registered agencies in 2015.

Annual Monitoring

In addition to reporting substantive changes as they occur, all registered agencies are requested to provide an annual update on the number of reviews carried out, broken down by country.

Especially in relation to reviews carried out by agencies across borders, EQAR encountered frequent questions and concerns regarding the publication of full accreditation/evaluation/audit reports. Also the RIQAA project identified the publication of reports as a problem area, noting that agencies tend to be less strict in the publication of reports for cross-border reviews than for national reviews.

Consequently, EQAR followed up the annual updates (for reviews in 2014) to verify whether corresponding reports were published and available on the agency's website.

The result of this exercise was that for about half (10) of those registered agencies that carried out cross-border reviews in 2014 (19) some or all of the corresponding reports could not be easily found on their website.

Following requests for clarification to the agencies concerned, the matter could be resolved in all cases and the Register Committee did not take any further action.

1.3 Transition to the ESG 2015

Following the adoption of the 2015 version of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (European Standards and Guidelines, ESG), the Register Committee adopted a new, general policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG, an update of the Policy on Transition to the Revised ESG, as well as an amended version of the EQAR Procedures for Applications. The Guide for Applicants and the application forms and templates were updated accordingly.

Use and Interpretation of the ESG

The policy "Use and Interpretation of the ESG for the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies" provides ex ante transparency of the official EQAR interpretation of the ESG to all concerned. The policy also aims to ensure the consistency of the Register Committee's decisions and facilitate their understanding. The new policy replaces the document on "Practices and Interpretations" published in 2013.

Agencies demonstrate substantial compliance with the ESG through an external review by a panel of independent experts, coordinated by another organisation than EQAR. In order to ensure that these reviews provide a sufficient and robust basis



EQAR Register Committee in Brussels

for the Register Committee's decisions, the Policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG was designed to ensure that the coordinators and panels undertaking those reviews are aware of EQAR's expectations and can thus take them into account.

» **Use and Interpretation of the ESG (June 2015)**,
www.eqar.eu/2015/policy.pdf

New Application Process

The EQAR Procedures for Applications were changed so that agencies now have to apply for inclusion on the Register (or renewal of registration, respectively) before undergoing an external review against the ESG.

The eligibility of the application is verified immediately and the agency receives a confirmation which of its activities are within the scope of the ESG and should be reviewed. This allows EQAR to ensure that the external review of applicant agencies covers all relevant activities of the agency and thus constitutes a thorough basis for the Register Committee's consideration and decision-making.

The amendments to the Procedures brought along a number of further changes aimed at enhancing transparency and clarity:



EQAR Register Committee in Dublin, hosted by St. Patrick's College

/ In addition to the final decision to approve or reject an application, the full application documents are published on-line, that is, including any clarification requests and responses that influenced the decision;

/ Substantive change reports, following clarification requests and responses, as well as the decisions on substantive change reports are published in full;

/ The practice of "flagging" issues for attention at the following review was discontinued given that the status of a "flag" was difficult to understand in practice;

/ The possible result of a complaint in a formal warning to the agency concerned was added.

» Letter to quality assurance agencies (June 2015, further explanations of the changes), www.eqar.eu/2015/letter.pdf

Policy on Transition to the Revised ESG

The EQAR Policy on Transition to the Revised ESG was first published in October 2014 and was updated in June 2015 so as to reflect the adoption of the ESG 2015, as well as to address questions related to substantive changes and third-party complaints. The Policy ensures that all registered agencies will have been reviewed against the ESG 2015 until 2020 the latest.

The update clarified that reports on substantive changes implemented by registered agencies after May 2015 are analysed in light of the 2015 version of the ESG. This follows the assumption that any changes implemented after the adoption of the ESG 2015 will be designed with a view to that version, rather than the 2005 version.

The update is further based on the presumption that agencies will implement the changes that become necessary with the ESG 2015 by the end of 2015. Third-party complaints are therefore considered based on the ESG 2015 as from 1/1/2016.

» Policy on Transition to the Revised ESG (June 2015)
www.eqar.eu/2015/transition.pdf



EQAR Members' Dialogue in Sofia, hosted by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science

/// Contribution to Policy Developments in the EHEA

2.1 Yerevan Ministerial Conference

At their meeting in Yerevan (May 2015), Ministers committed to strengthen the quality of teaching and learning and underpinned the role of quality assurance in consolidating the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) framework. To this end they adopted a revised version of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes.

In line with the previous communiqué (Bucharest, 2012), ministers reiterated their commitment to allow higher education institutions to choose a suitable EQAR registered agency for the external quality assurance process, while respecting the national arrangements for the decision making on QA outcomes.

EQAR published a Message to the Yerevan Ministerial Conference, highlighting its key activities and developments in the preceding three years and addressing a number of recommendations to ministers. EQAR contributed actively to the sessions of the Yerevan Ministerial Conference and Bologna Policy Forum. » **Message to the Yerevan Ministerial Conference (April 2015)**
www.eqar.eu/2015/yerevan.pdf



Yerevan Ministerial Conference (Armenia)

2.2 Bologna Follow-Up Group and Working Groups

With a view to the next Ministerial Meeting (2018) in Paris, the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) agreed to a new work plan, featuring a number of working groups and advisory groups tasked to take forward the agenda set in Yerevan.

EQAR joined the working groups on Monitoring (WG 1) and Implementation of agreed reforms (WG 2), and the advisory group on Non-Implementation (AG 3). By participating in these groups, EQAR will support the key commitments made by EHEA ministers related to quality assurance (e.g. application of the ESG, implementation of the European Approach, opening national systems to ESG-compliant quality assurance agencies, recognition of qualifications).

As part of the work programme for WG2, EQAR proposed to initiate a discussion group with interested governments to exchange good practice and draft possible recommendations for national legal frameworks for the recognition of foreign agencies' results and decisions.

2.3 Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG 2015)

Immediately after adoption of the ESG 2015 by ministers, EQAR published its new policy on the Use and Interpretation of the ESG for the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies (see section 1.3 above). EQAR was invited to talk about the changes brought about by the revision in several meetings and events.

As part of a consortium led by EURASHE and together with six other organisations (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EI, University of Oslo and

Portuguese Polytechnics Coordinating Councils), EQAR supports the implementation and promotion of the newly adopted ESG 2015 within the EU-funded project “Enhancing Quality through innovative Policy & Practice (EQUIP)”, launched in November 2015. The EQUIP project targets higher education institutions’ leadership, management, students, teaching and support staff, quality assurance agencies, policy-makers, national authorities and world of work representatives.

A printed publication of the ESG 2015 was produced as part of the project and distributed to all relevant stakeholders. A number of seminars, webinars, focus groups and other activities are set to be organised in 2016 and 2017.

2.4 European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

Following the adoption of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes by ministers in Yerevan, EQAR was invited to present the European Approach and envisaged consequences and benefits in a number of national and European seminars. EQAR also included the implementation of the European Approach in its ongoing monitoring of national frameworks for the recognition of registered agencies’ decisions and results.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in cooperation with EQAR organised the seminar “Quality assurance in international study programmes – a new panacea?”. The event aimed to inform higher education institutions, stakeholders and policy makers about the European Approach and encouraged them to discuss benefits and challenges in its implementation.



Yerevan Ministerial Conference (Armenia)

EQAR’s monitoring of legal frameworks showed that only a few countries made specific decisions to enable the use of the European Approach already in 2015. The German Accreditation Council (GAC) adopted a decision that enables German higher education institutions to opt for programme accreditation of joint degrees by an agency listed in EQAR using the European Approach. The Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) clarified that the European Approach can be used by higher education institutions.

In a few other countries (see Map 2), the European Approach can be used either based on existing regulations for the recognition of EQAR-registered agencies’ decision on joint programmes, or by higher education institutions that are “self-accrediting” their programmes and may thus choose to use the European Approach in their internal QA.

The conclusions of a peer-learning activity organised by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport (MECD), in cooperation with ESU, ENQA and Spanish stakeholders, underlined the need to support a single evaluation procedure for joint programmes that leads to an internationally-recognised outcome within and beyond the EHEA. The conclusions recommend that Ministries take the necessary steps to facilitate and allow the implementation of the European Approach.

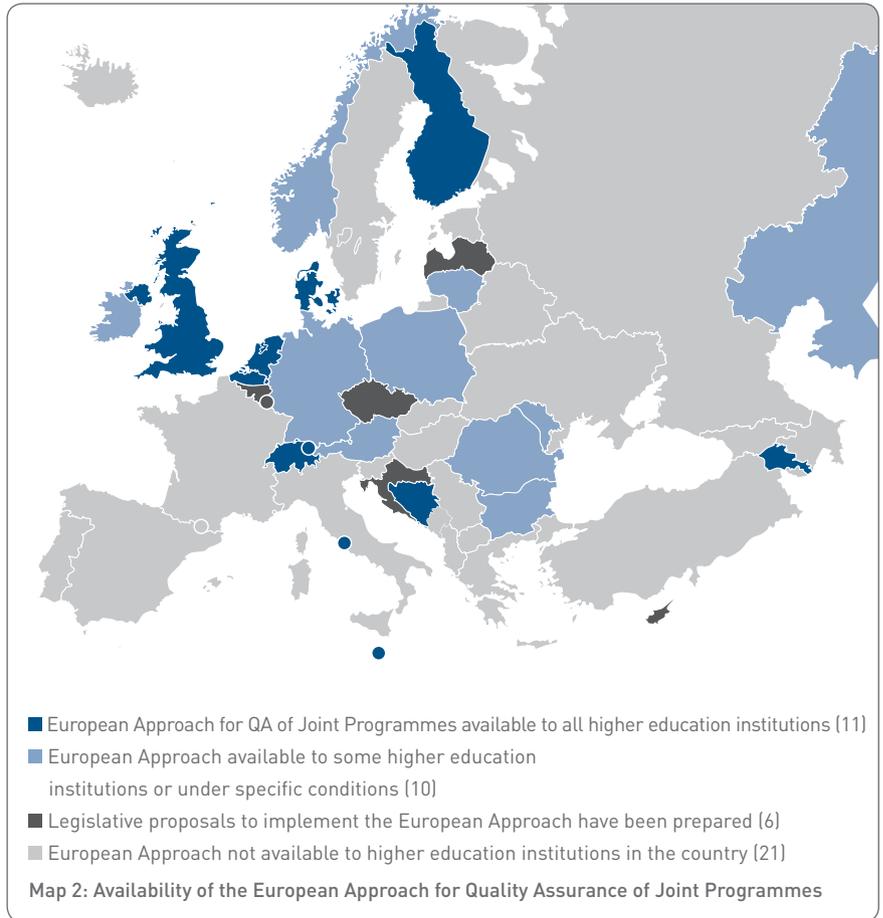


Yerevan Ministerial Conference (Armenia)

2.5 Legal Frameworks for Cross-Border Quality Assurance

EQAR continued to monitor developments in European countries' legal frameworks with regard to the recognition of EQAR-registered quality assurance agencies and their results/decisions. In 2015, two countries (Moldova and Switzerland) introduced legal provisions that allow higher education institutions to fulfil their external QA obligations using a suitable EQAR-registered agency from abroad.

According to Moldova's new Code of Education, reviews of EQAR-listed QAAs are recognised provided that they apply the national standards for quality assurance. In 2015, two EQAR-registered agencies successfully carried out reviews of programmes and institutions in the country (see section 2.7 and Annex 5). The Code



of Education further stipulates that foreign higher education institutions establishing branches within Moldova are recognised as part of the national higher education system if they have been accredited by a quality assurance agency listed in EQAR.

Following a change of the legal and institutional framework, the Swiss Accreditation Council adopted a new set of guidelines which recognises accreditation procedures carried out in Switzerland by an EQAR-registered agency. The agency is required to either use its own guide for the implementation of accreditation procedures, including an explanation of Quality Standards, or to use the Accreditation Guide of the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ). The agency further has to use the fee regulations of the Accreditation Council.

These changes represent a small increase in the number of countries that recognise reviews by a suitable EQAR-registered agency (see Map 3). At the same time, discussions are ongoing in a few countries about enabling this in their legal frameworks (e.g. Croatia, Luxembourg).

2.6 Ad-Hoc Group on Cross-Border Quality Assurance

Following a proposal by EQAR, resulting from the project on Recognising International Quality Assurance Activities (RIQAA), the E4 organisations set up a joint ad-hoc group to discuss key issues that should be taken into consideration when planning cross-border quality assurance activities. The ad-hoc working group was tasked to support

primarily institutions and QA agencies who are considering or are engaged in cross-border QA reviews. While the ESG remain the main reference for external quality assurance procedures, wherever they are carried out, the group will work to provide practical support on specific issues related to cross-border quality assurance. The group is expected to conclude its work in 2016.

2.7 Annual Monitoring of Registered Agencies' Activities

EQAR conducted its second annual update of the external quality assurance reviews (evaluation, accreditation, audit) carried out by registered agencies within their home based countries and across borders.

In 2015 EQAR-registered QA agencies carried out a total of 9428 external quality assurance activities at programme (89%) and institutional level (11%, see Annex 5). These activities were spread across 33 EHEA member countries and 17 non EHEA countries.

Compared to 2014, the number of reviews by registered agencies increased by 5% in 2015. This increase is a result of the increase in registered QA agencies (5 new agencies registered in 2015). The number of reviews carried out by those agencies registered in 2014 and 2015 have, on the other hand, decreased by 5%. While the

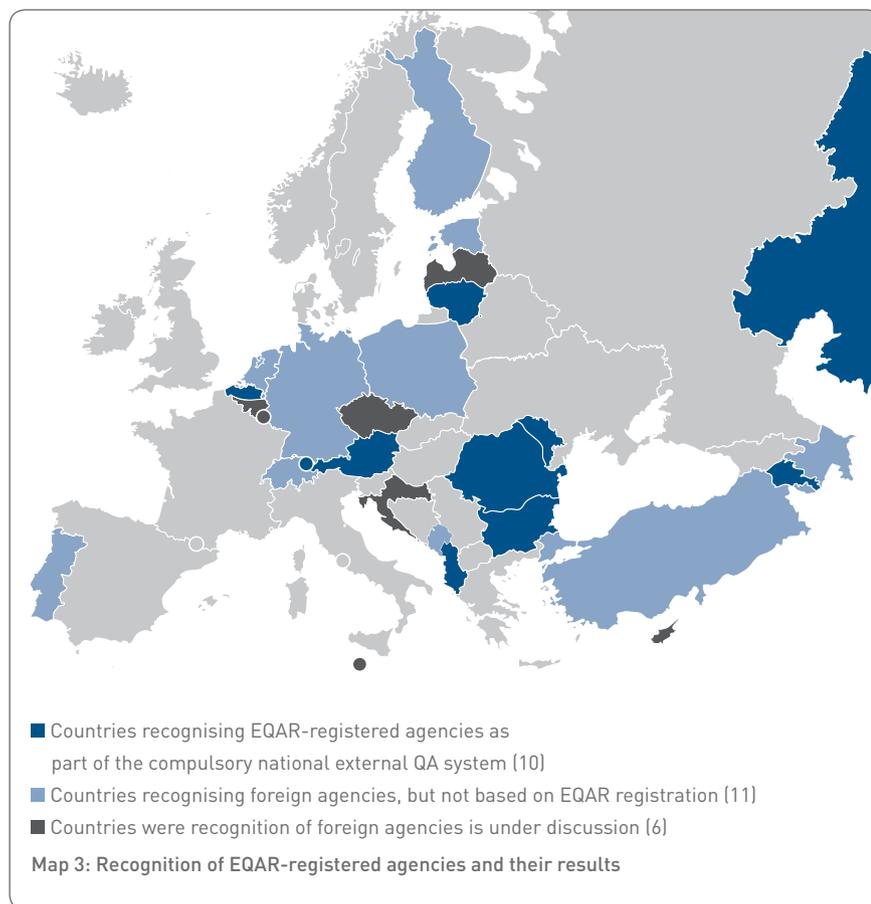
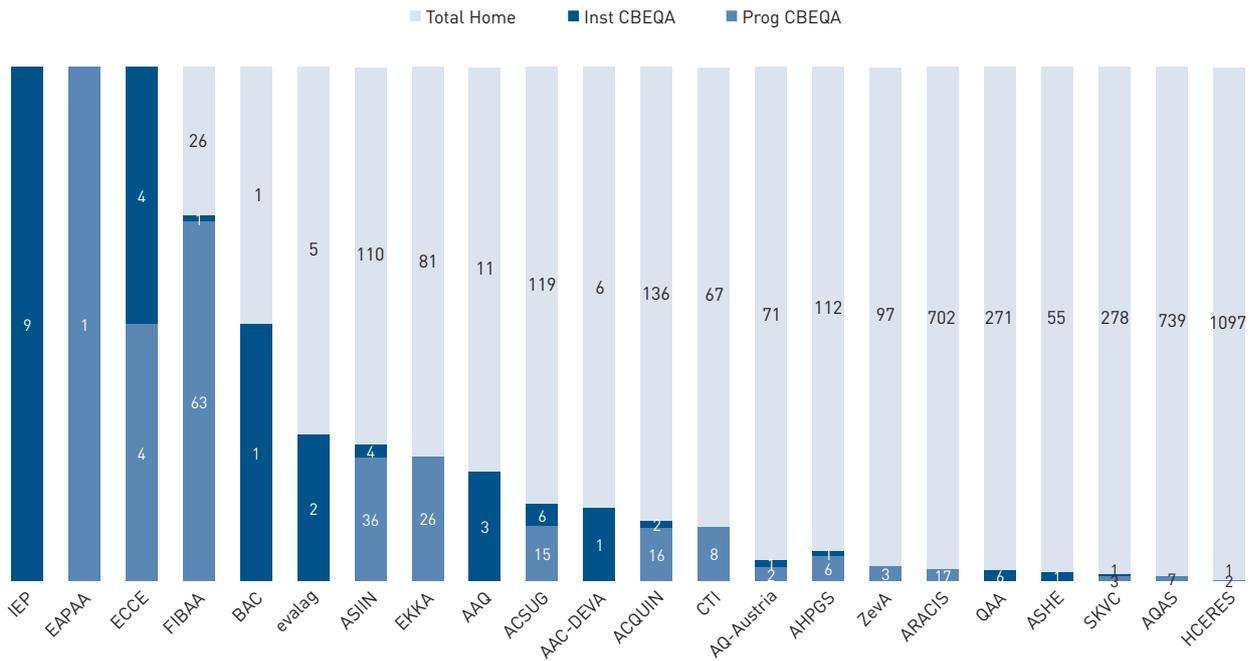


Figure 1: Reviews Across Borders and in Agencies' Home Countries (2015)



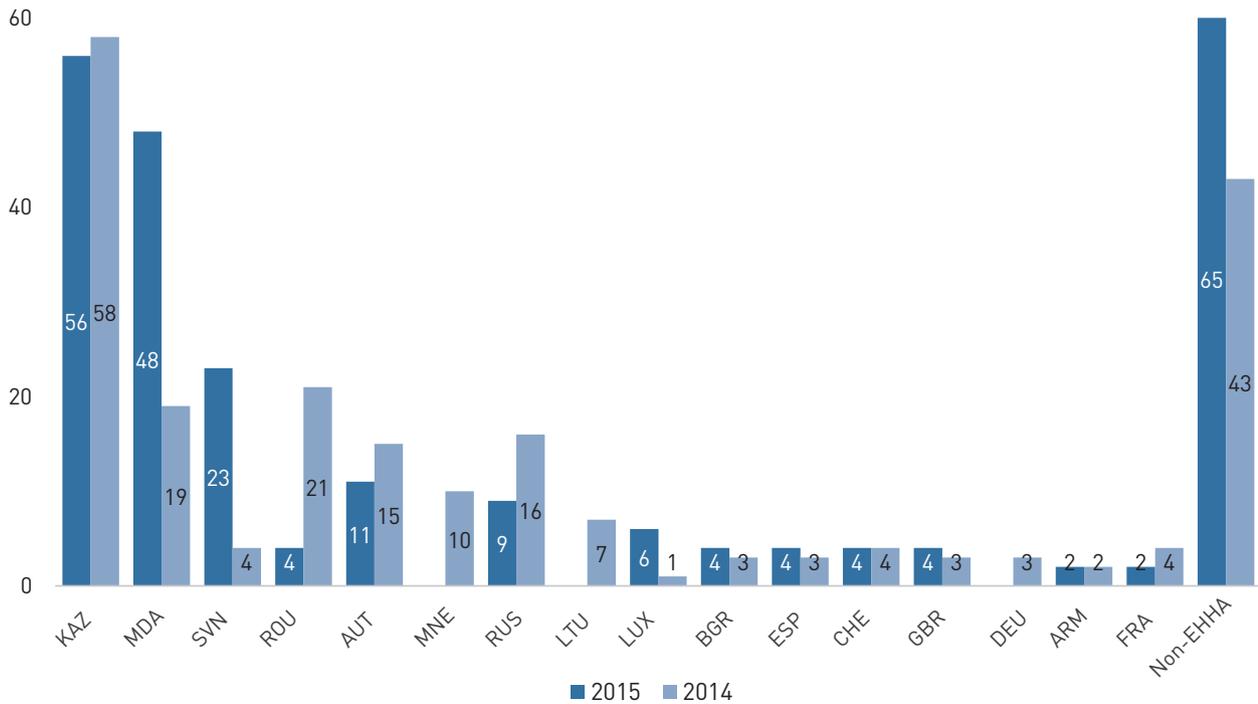
number of reviews dropped noticeably (over 50%) for some agencies, others have doubled (or more) the number of reviews.

Similar to the previous year, more than half of the EQAR-listed agencies carried out at least one cross-border review in 2015. They reviewed in total 209 programmes and 44 higher education institutions in 24 EHEA and 17 non-EHEA countries (see Figure 1). The majority of these cross-border reviews are carried out by QA national or regional agencies. About 7% of the cross-border reviews are carried out by agencies with an entirely international remit (ECCE, EAPAA, IEP).

Home country reviews remain the primary focus for (originally) national or regional QA agencies, with one exception (71% of FIBAA's reviews are carried out outside its home country). Overall, cross-border reviews represent 6% of the total number of QA reviews carried out by those agencies.

The reviews across borders increased by 20% at programme level in 2015 (from 169 to 209) and decreased at institutional level (from 77 total reviews to 44). The analysis, at the same time, revealed that the number of QA agencies carrying out cross-border reviews at institutional level increased (from 10 to 16, see Figure 1).

Figure 2: Comparison of Cross-Border Reviews by Country 2014-2015



With a view to the yearly fluctuation of cross-border reviews within a country the annual update showed that the number of cross-border reviews remained relatively stable for most countries compared to the previous year. A few countries, nevertheless, had a significantly higher number of cross-border reviews (Moldova, Slovenia, Luxembourg) while a few others experienced less

or no cross-border reviews in 2015 (Lithuania, Romania, Russia) (see Figure 2). In some cases, this could be explained by specific programmes or initiatives (Slovenia, for instance, provided institutions with subsidies for cross-border reviews in 2015, resulting in eight EQAR-registered agencies having carried out evaluations in the country).

3.1 Publications

The EQAR Annual Report 2014, including the Report by the Register Committee, was published in April 2015. Hard copies were sent to each member of EQAR, as well as to national affiliates of EQAR's stakeholder members and other partner organisations.

On the occasion of the Yerevan Conference of European Ministers of Higher Education, EQAR published a "Message to Ministers" highlighting the main developments in cross-border quality assurance and EQAR's key activities and calling upon European Ministers to improve recognition of quality assurance outcomes across borders as part of their national system (see also section 2.1 above).

A printed publication of the ESG 2015 was produced and distributed as part of the EQUIP project, of which EQAR is a partner (see section 2.3 above).

3.2 Newsletter

In 2015, EQAR issued three newsletters, reaching more than 700 recipients each. The newsletters included information about new agencies on the Register, relevant policy developments with regard to quality assurance, meetings and upcoming events and updates concerning the use of EQAR in the national quality assurance frameworks of member countries.

3.3 Website and Social Media

The number of visits on the EQAR website has been rising steadily with approximately 16 000 visits per month in 2015 (2014: ca 15 000, 2013: ca 14 000).

The fundamental and most viewed pages of the EQAR website remain the list and map of the registered quality assurance agencies. Since 2013, the decisions of the Register Committee



EQAR General Assembly in Riga



EQAR Members' Dialogue in Sofia, hosted by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science

on applications of quality assurance agencies are also publicly available. The website further features regularly updated news items, general information on EQAR and its workings, guidance for applicant quality assurance agencies and other publications. EQAR maintained an active presence on social media attracting new followers and increasing its visibility on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

3.4 Representation and Relations with Partners

EQAR was represented in 28 major conferences and seminars concerned with quality assurance of higher education, with an active contribution as a speaker or moderator in 19 of them. The most notable conferences include:

- / US Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Annual Conference
- / ASEM Peer-Learning Activity (PLA) on QA
- / ENQA Members' Forum
- / International Network for Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (INQAAHE) Conference
- / Yerevan Ministerial Conference
- / Central and Eastern European Network of QAAs (CEENQA) General Assembly

- / ENIC-NARIC networks annual joint meeting
- / European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA), annual conference
- / ENQA General Assembly
- / PLA on Quality Assurance for Joint Programmes
- / 10th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF)
- / ESU Board Meeting seminar on quality assurance
- / Workshop joint programmes by ECA and the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)

In addition, EQAR had a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings with its members, policy makers, quality assurance agencies and partner organisations.



ESU Board Meeting Seminar in Cluj-Napoca



European Quality Assurance Forum in London

/// Organisational Development

4.1 EQAR Self-evaluation

After the EQAR external evaluation of 2011 and the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2013-2017, EQAR committed to undertake a comprehensive self-evaluation exercise in 2015/2016 in order to assess progress made and to feed into the discussion of its next Strategic Plan.

This self-evaluation process started in 2015, coordinated by a self-evaluation group (SEG) which included representatives of EQAR's main bodies and members. Next to analysis of relevant documents, the SEG gathered data through a number of surveys and events, one of them being the EQAR Members' Dialogue 2015. The final self-evaluation report will be published in 2016.

4.2 Membership

In 2015, EQAR saw an important increase in governmental membership; six new countries became governmental members (in chronological order):

- / Moldova
- / Lithuania
- / "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
- / Azerbaijan
- / Finland
- / Albania

This means that 37 of the 48 EHEA member countries (38 higher education systems) are now governmental members of EQAR.

Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities and Equity	
Fixed assets	1 438,84	Own funds	129 093,68
Guarantees	147,66	Profit/loss previous years	32 454,58
Office equipment	1 291,18	Result per 31/12/2015	-860,90
Liquid assets	171 392,76	Reserves	97 500,00
Receivables up to 1 year	14 772,34	Liabilities	43 737,92
Cash and term accounts	144 550,56	Payables up to 1 year	34 465,92
Adjustment accounts	12 069,86	Adjustment accounts	9 272,00
TOTAL	172 831,60	TOTAL	172 831,60

4.3 Statutory Bodies and Staff

The General Assembly (re-)elected a new Appeals Committee. While the chairperson, Jürgen Kohler, and the one member serving her first term on the Committee, Gemma Rauret, were re-elected, four other members were newly elected. The new Committee members are Jan De Groof (deputy chair), Carolyn Campbell (member), Vanja Ivošević and Janja Komljenovič (deputy members). The General Assembly thanked Ossi V. Lindqvist, Thierry Malan, Stefan Neetens and Geri Bonhof for serving on the Committee.

The General Assembly approved Josep Grifoll (nominated by ENQA) as Register Committee member to replace Tibor Szanto, who resigned from the Register Committee in June 2015.

The Executive Board co-opted Johan Cloet (EURASHE) to replace Andreas Orphanides, who resigned from the Board as

from September 2015. The co-option is until the next General Assembly (March 2016), where a new Board will be elected.

The full composition of all EQAR statutory bodies is included in Annex 4. There were no changes in EQAR's staff in 2015, keeping a total of 2,6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff.

4.4 Finances

EQAR relies on a diversified funding base including annual contributions from its members (governments and European stakeholder organisations) and application and listing fees paid by quality assurance agencies. In 2015, EQAR received a small income from the EQUIP project (see section 2.3 above), while the bigger part of the project grant relates to the financial years 2016 – 2018.

The financial year 2015 resulted in small deficit of EUR 860,60.

Profit and Loss Account			
Income		Expenditure	
Membership fees	250 950,00	Meetings and projects	76 219,24
Agency fees	48 848,00	Office and administration	41 621,33
Project grant	2 119,75	Staff	165 343,52
Other income	3 216,55	Other costs	22 982,40
Operational income	305 134,30	Operational expenditure	306 166,49
Operational result	- 1 032,19		
Financial income	259,47	Financial costs and taxes	88,18
Total result	- 860,90		
Withdrawal from reserves	0,00	Allocation to reserves	0,00
Result to be reported	- 860,90		

/// List of Registered Quality Assurance Agencies

The following agencies were included on the register in 2015 (or for part of 2015). Agencies are included for five years counting from the date of their external review. The duration of inclusion is indicated in the table for each agency.

Further information on these agencies and the external review reports on which EQAR's decision are based can be obtained from:
<http://www.eqar.eu/register.html>

Registered Agencies as of 31/12/2015:	Included since:	Inclusion until:
A3ES - Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education (Portugal)	29/11/2014	30/06/2019
AAC-DEVA - Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Department of Evaluation and Accreditation (Spain)	07/10/2009	30/09/2019
AAQ - Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance ¹	08/05/2012	30/09/2016
ACQUIN - Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (Germany)	08/04/2009	31/12/2016
ACSUCYL - Quality Assurance Agency for the University System of Castilla y León (Spain)	18/11/2010	31/12/2019
ACSUG - Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System (Spain)	18/11/2010	31/07/2019
AEQES - Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur (Belgium)	03/12/2012	31/12/2016
AHPGS - Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Sciences AHPGS (Germany)	7/10/2009	27/02/2019
AKKORK - Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development	17/11/2015	31/10/2019
ANECA - National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (Spain)	07/05/2013 05/12/2008	30/11/2017 30/06/2012

AQ Austria - Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria	29/11/2014	31/05/2019
AQAS - Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes (Germany)	25/05/2010	28/02/2017
AQU – Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (Spain)	5/12/2008	31/07/2017
ARACIS – Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education	07/10/2009	30/09/2018
ASHE – Agency for Science and Higher Education (Croatia)	25/11/2011	31/12/2016
ASIIN – Akkreditierungsagentur für Studiengänge der Ingenieurwissenschaften, der Informatik, der Mathematik und der Naturwissenschaften (Germany)	15/04/2009	31/12/2016
BAC - British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education	05/06/2015	31/01/2020
CAQA - Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Serbia)	29/11/2014	31/12/2017
CTI - Engineering Degree Commission (France)	18/11/2010	30/06/2019
EAPAA - European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (the Netherlands)	22/05/2014	31/10/2018
ECCE – European Council on Chiropractic Education (Germany)	05/07/2013	31/12/2016
EKKA – Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (Estonia)	23/10/2013	31/03/2018
Evalag - Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg (Germany)	25/05/2010	31/08/2019
FIBAA – Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (Germany)	15/04/2009	28/02/2017
FINHEEC - Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (KKA)	18/11/2010	31/12/2016
fmid - Fundación para el Conocimiento Madrimasd	05/06/2015	28/02/2019

HCERES - High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (France)	14/05/2011	31/12/2016
IEP – EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme (Switzerland)	15/12/2011	31/01/2019
KAA – Kosovo Accreditation Agency	05/06/2015	30/04/2019
NCPA – National Centre for Public Accreditation (Russia)	17/11/2015	30/06/2019
NOKUT - Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education	22/05/2014	31/05/2018
NVAO – Accreditation Organization of The Netherlands and Flanders	05/12/2008	30/09/2017
PKA – State Accreditation Commission (Poland)	08/04/2009	31/12/2018
QAA – Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (United Kingdom)	23/10/2013	31/07/2018
QANU – Quality Assurance Netherlands Universities	14/05/2011	31/12/2016
QQI – Quality and Qualifications Ireland	05/06/2015	31/07/2019
SKVC – Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (Lithuania)	03/12/2012	30/06/2017
SQAA – Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (Slovenia)	23/10/2013	31/07/2018
The Danish Accreditation Institution	18/11/2010	31/12/2016
Unibasq - Agency for Quality of the Basque University System (Spain)	29/11/2014	30/04/2019
VLUHR QAU – Quality Assurance Unit of the Flemish Council of Universities and University Colleges (Belgium)	05/07/2013	30/09/2019
ZEvA – Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (Germany)	08/04/2009	31/12/2016

Notes:

¹ The agency was named “Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ)” until 31/12/2014.

/// List of Annexes

www.eqar.eu/2015/

1. Mission Statement
2. Organisational Chart
3. List of EQAR members as of 31/12/2015
4. Composition of EQAR Bodies
5. Data on Activities of EQAR Registered-Activities in 2015
6. Overview of Applications and Decisions 2008 – 2015



