10 Years of Promoting Trust and Recognition:

some figures, facts & faces

8th EQAR Members' Dialogue
27 November 2018, Berlin

Colin Tück
Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

Institutions granting degrees assure the quality of their programmes leading to degrees within the three-cycle system following the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015).

External quality assurance (be it at programme or institutional level) is performed by Agencies that have demonstrably complied with the standards and guidelines stipulated in the current ESG. This is best ensured where only those agencies registered on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) are allowed to operate in the country.
Celebrating 10 Years
We welcome the principle of a European register of quality assurance agencies based on national review. We ask that the practicalities of implementation be further developed by ENQA in cooperation with EUA, EURASHE and ESIB with a report back to us through the Follow-up Group.
Since Bergen, the E4 Group has battled with the issue of the Register, and to my knowledge, while progress has been made, no decision has yet emerged from this forum. Whether it can be resolved in advance of London remains to be seen.

Ian McKenna (Higher Education and Training Awards Council, HETAC, Ireland)
● promote trust and mobility
● reduce opportunities for accreditation mills to gain credibility
● provide a basis to choose a suitable agency
● improve the quality of quality assurance agencies
● promote mutual trust amongst them
Founding – March 2008
2009: first reporting to GA
2010/11: external evaluation
We, the Ministers responsible for higher education in the 47 countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) have met in Bucharest, on 26 and 27 April 2012, to take stock of the achievements of the Bologna Process and agree on the future priorities of the EHEA.

Innovating in higher education for the future.

Europe is undergoing an economic and financial crisis with damaging societal effects. Within the field of higher education, the crisis is affecting the availability of adequate funding and making graduates’ job prospects more uncertain.

Higher education is an important part of the solution to our current difficulties. Strong and accountable higher education systems provide the foundations for thriving knowledge societies. Higher education should be at the heart of our efforts to overcome the crisis — now more than ever.

With this in mind, we commit to securing the highest possible level of public funding for higher education and drawing on other appropriate sources, as an investment in our future. We will support our institutions in the education of creative, innovative, critically thinking and responsible graduates needed for economic growth and the sustainable development of our democracies. We are dedicated to working together in this way to reduce youth unemployment.

The EHEA yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The Bologna reforms have changed the face of higher education across Europe, thanks to the involvement and dedication of higher education institutions, staff and students.

Higher education structures in Europe are now more compatible and comparable. Quality assurance systems contribute to building trust, higher education qualifications are more recognisable across borders and participation in higher education has widened. Students today benefit from a wider variety of educational opportunities and are increasingly mobile. The vision of an integrated EHEA is within reach.

However, as the report on the implementation of the Bologna Process shows, we must make further efforts to consolidate and build on progress. We will strive for more coherence between our policies, especially in coordinating the transition to the three cycle system, the use of ECTS credits, the issuing of qualifications, the recognition of study credits and the mobility of students.

We, the Ministers, reaffirm our commitment to making the most of our potential, by consolidating the European Higher Education Area and agree to progress, together.

First MD, Strategic Plan, Bucharest Communiqué & 5Y
2014: RIQAA Project
2015: ESG & European Approach
2016: Self-Evaluation no. 2

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT
March 2016
EQAR Strategy 2018 - 2022
adopted by the 14th General Assembly, April 2018

1. EQAR - a pillar of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

Realising the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is the common goal set by the 48 European governments who participate in the Bologna Process, supported by the European Union and the consultative members.

The EHEA aims to promote mobility of students and staff and to facilitate cooperation between countries and higher education institutions, e.g. through bilateral agreements, leagues, joint and double degrees. Mobility and cooperation will catalyse the functioning of a European labour market and further the internationalisation of teaching and learning.

While a broad range of policies have been agreed within the Bologna Process, three key commitments were identified as the main pillars of the EHEA:

1. A harmonised educational landscape through the three-cycle structure based on a common qualifications framework (QF-EHEA)
2. Agreed principles for the recognition of qualifications as set out in the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)
3. Robust internal and external quality assurance in line with agreed Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG)

These instruments are underpinned by the EHEA’s basic values of academic freedom and autonomous institutions.

One of the key commitments, quality assurance (QA) is essential for both quality enhancement and accountability, with a common framework for QA laid down in the ESG adopted by governments.
Observers