

# Introduction and Key Issues Arising from the Surveys

EQAR Members' Dialogue  
14/15 January 2021  
Karl Dittrich & Colin Tück

# History



2008	founding of EQAR
2010/2011	external evaluation, organised by CHEA
2015/2016	internal self-evaluation
2020/2021	external evaluation, based on Self Evaluation Report

# Timeline



- Select and agree with coordinator:  
December 2020 (done)
- Self-Evaluation process
  - Report drafts: SEG  
February/March 2021
  - Adoption report: GA  
April 2021
- External evaluation
  - Panel appointed:  
March 2021
  - Site visit:  
June/July 2021
  - Draft report:  
September 2021
  - Final report:  
November 2021

# Composition of the Self-Evaluation Group



- 2 Executive Board members:
  - Tia Loukkola
  - Michal Karpisek
- 2 Register Committee members:
  - Beate Treml
  - Steffen Westergård
- 2 governmental members:
  - Ivana Radonova (Bulgaria)
  - Daniel Miescher (Liechtenstein)
- EQAR Director: Colin Tück
- EQAR President: Karl Dittrich

# Main questions



- **Overarching question:**

Are EQAR's organisational structure and the activities implemented by EQAR fit for purpose and effective in light of EQAR's mission and objectives?

- **Specific questions:**

- Are the processes related to the Register fit for purpose and do they comply with those ESG standards that are pertinent for and can be applied to EQAR correspondingly?
- How has EQAR performed against the indicators defined in the Strategic Plan 2018-2022?
- What is EQAR's contribution to the wider policy goals enshrined in its mission and objectives, and the vision of the EHEA?

# External Evaluation Coordinator



**Yehuda Elkana Center for Higher Education (YECHE) at the Central European University (CEU, Vienna & Budapest)**

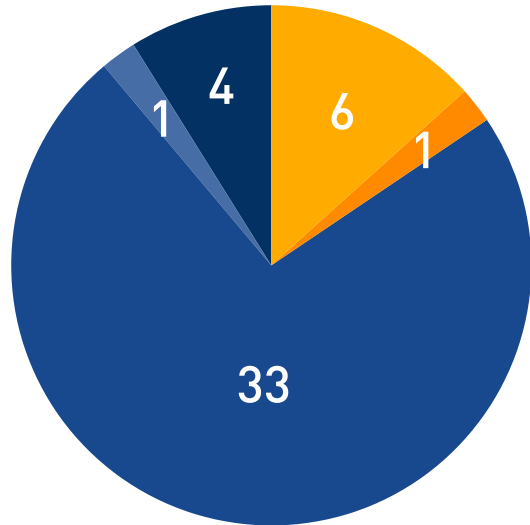
- applied policy research, consultancy and professional training in higher education
- established in 2009 building on more than two decades prior experience at CEU
- expertise across different EHEA policies
- YECHE showed the best combination of experience and suitable approach from amongst the four eligible bids

# Self-evaluation sources

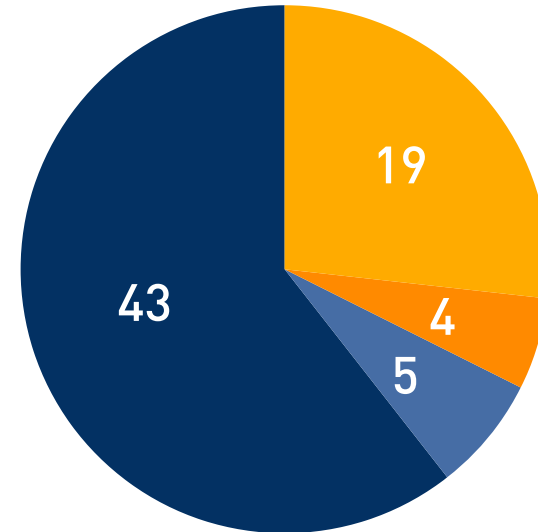


- Surveyed in Nov/Dec 2020:
  - member and potential members (45 responses)
  - QA agencies (71 responses)
  - national associations of HEIs (7 responses)
- Reflections by SEG
- Ongoing feedback survey of applicants
- Website statistics
- Other information, e.g. knowledge base, ...

# Who responded?



- Founding Member
- Social Partner Member
- Governmental Member
- Permanent observer
- Non-member government



- Registered agencies
- Currently applying/reviewed
| Prev. rejected/withdrawn | 4 |
| Not (yet) applied | 19 |

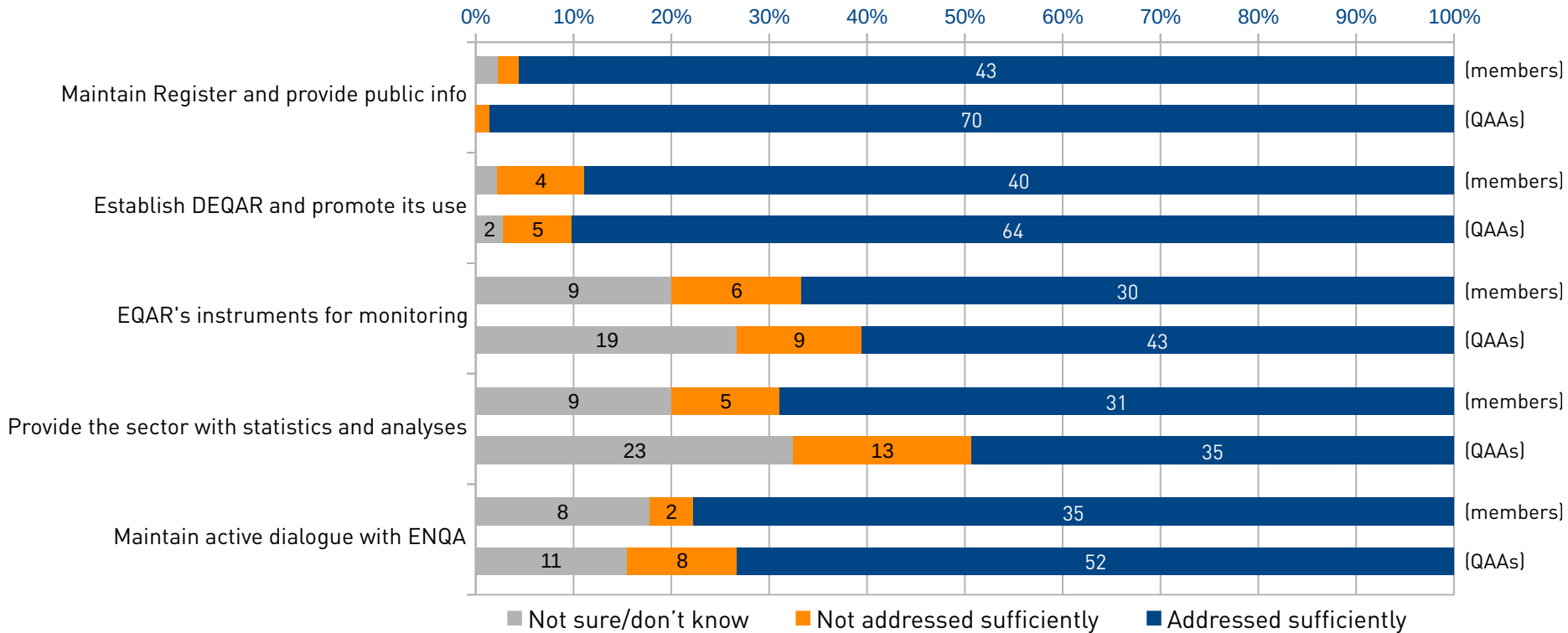


## Governing structure



- Regarded as suitable by clear majority
- Introduction of President widely welcomed, strengthening independence and visibility
- Small number of governments express wish for more involvement
- Role of Executive Board could be better clarified

# Strategic Goal 1: Transparency & Information

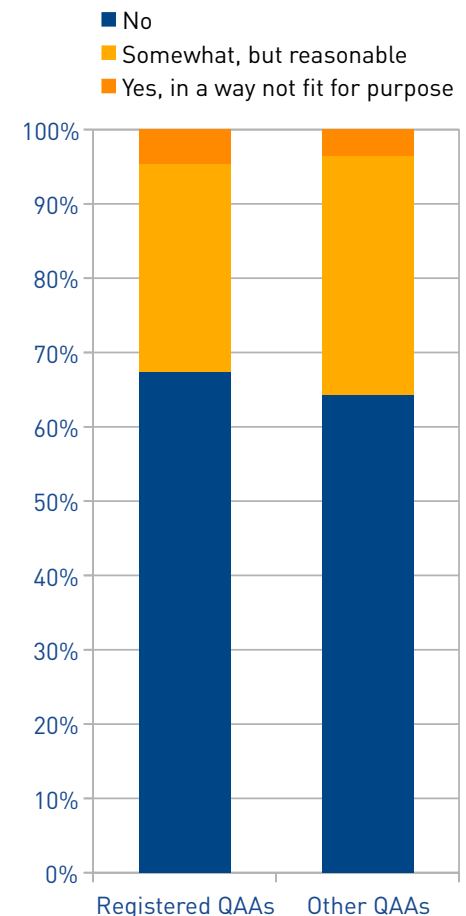


# Register

- Overall positive feedback, process has improved over time (e.g. clarity, coordination with ENQA)
- Registration important for countries & aimed for by virtually all agencies in the EHEA
- Remaining issues:
  - Different expectations/conclusions by EQAR vs review panels
  - ESG interpretation flexible enough?
  - Monitoring of agencies – not sufficiently known
  - Risk of reviews becoming repetitive



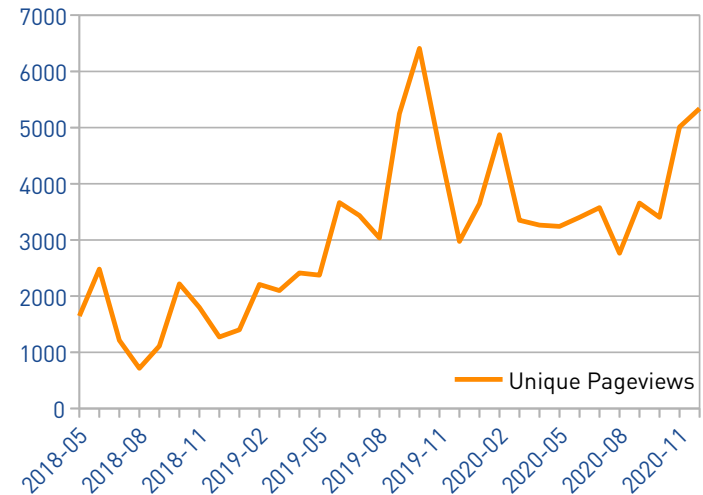
Did QAAs feel constrained by ESG & EQAR?



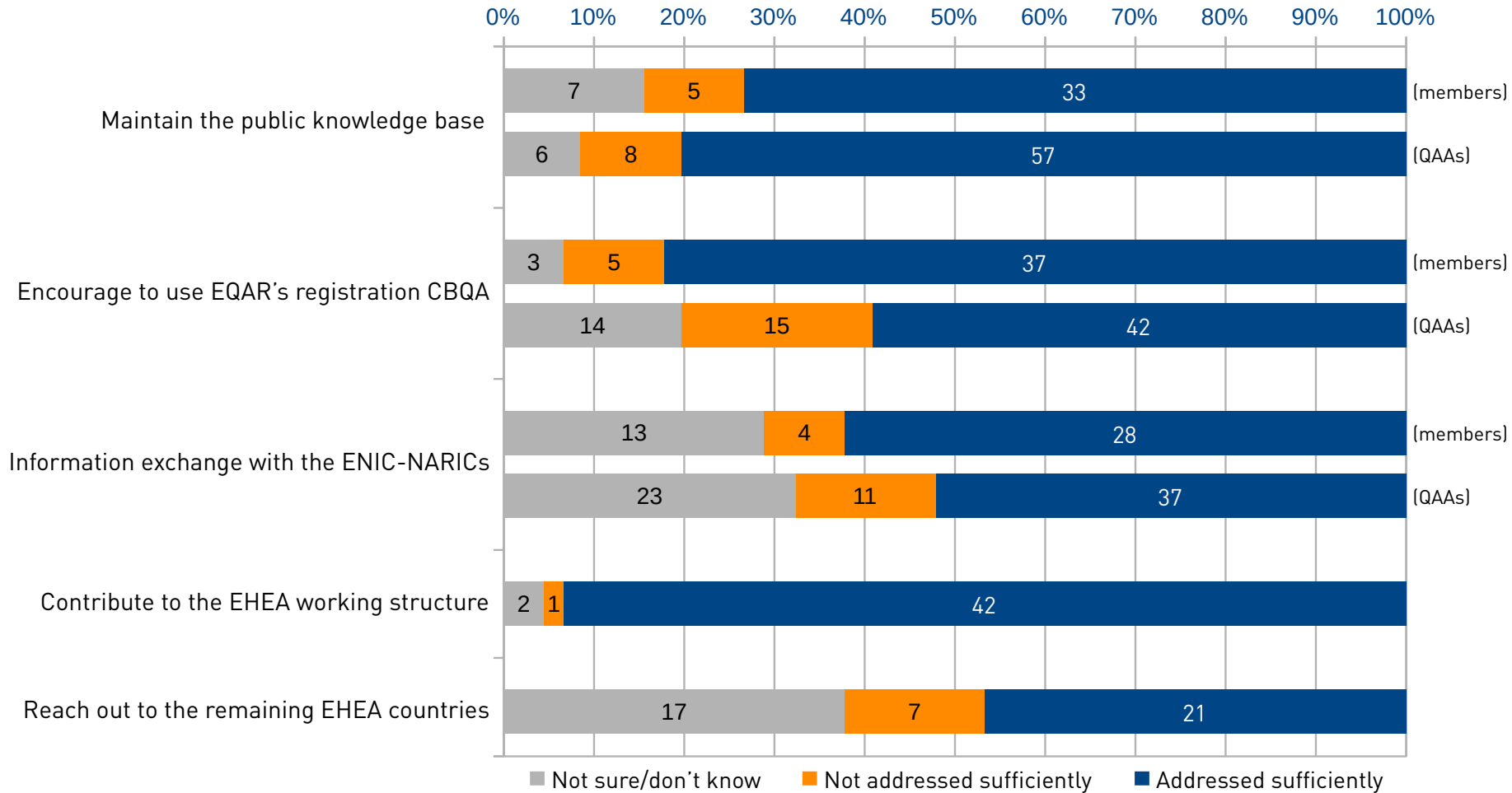
# DEQAR



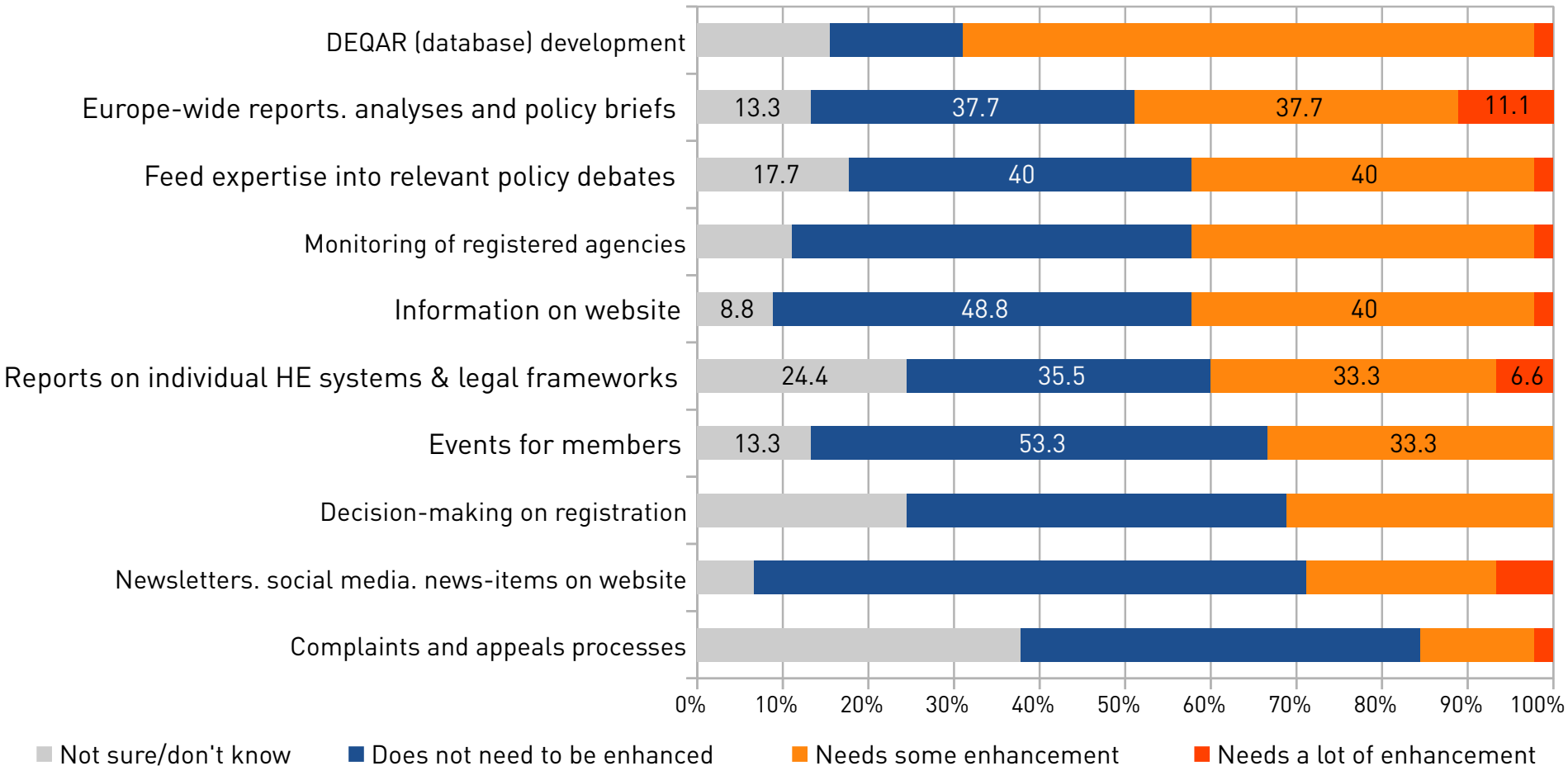
- Very positive feedback
- QAAs: highly relevant for European visibility and recognition of higher education
  - All but two registered agencies intend to take part in DEQAR
- Many see a need for further work
  - Coverage (more countries & reports)
  - Reflect new developments, e.g. micro-credentials
  - Cope with growing amount of data
  - Potential for analyses



# Strategic Goal 2: Trust & Recognition



# Areas for Enhancement



# Areas for Enhancement



- Analyses, policy briefs, etc. on external QA
  - Feed such expertise into policy developments, bearing in mind EQAR's specific public-interest role
- Support EHEA Key Commitments
  - More proactive approach to members on ESG issues
  - QAA: not enough progress in cross-border recognition
  - Work with ENIC-NARIC networks not too well known
  - Not forget other actors in recognition: HEIs, employers
- Address remaining non-member governments