

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education



DEQAR CONNECT:
background, activities and adaptations



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Kick-off Webinar for QA Agencies

11 May 2020

Colin Tück

Background

DEQAR Aim & Objectives



- **Aim:** collect all external quality assurance reports and decisions performed by EQAR-registered agencies in line with the ESG in a European one-stop shop.
- **Objectives:**
 - 1) Improve access to information on the external QA
 - 2) Facilitate the recognition of qualifications
 - 3) Map the diversity of external QA frameworks
 - 4) Facilitate exchange of data and links with other tools

How DEQAR Evolved



- Idea has been there ever since EQAR founded in 2008
- ECA's *Grossroads* as a precursor
- Gained traction with automatic recognition policy goal
- Decision by EQAR GA in 2017
- Launch in 2018 (Paris Ministerial Conference)
- 1st Erasmus+ DEQAR Project 2017-2019
<https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/deqar-project/>



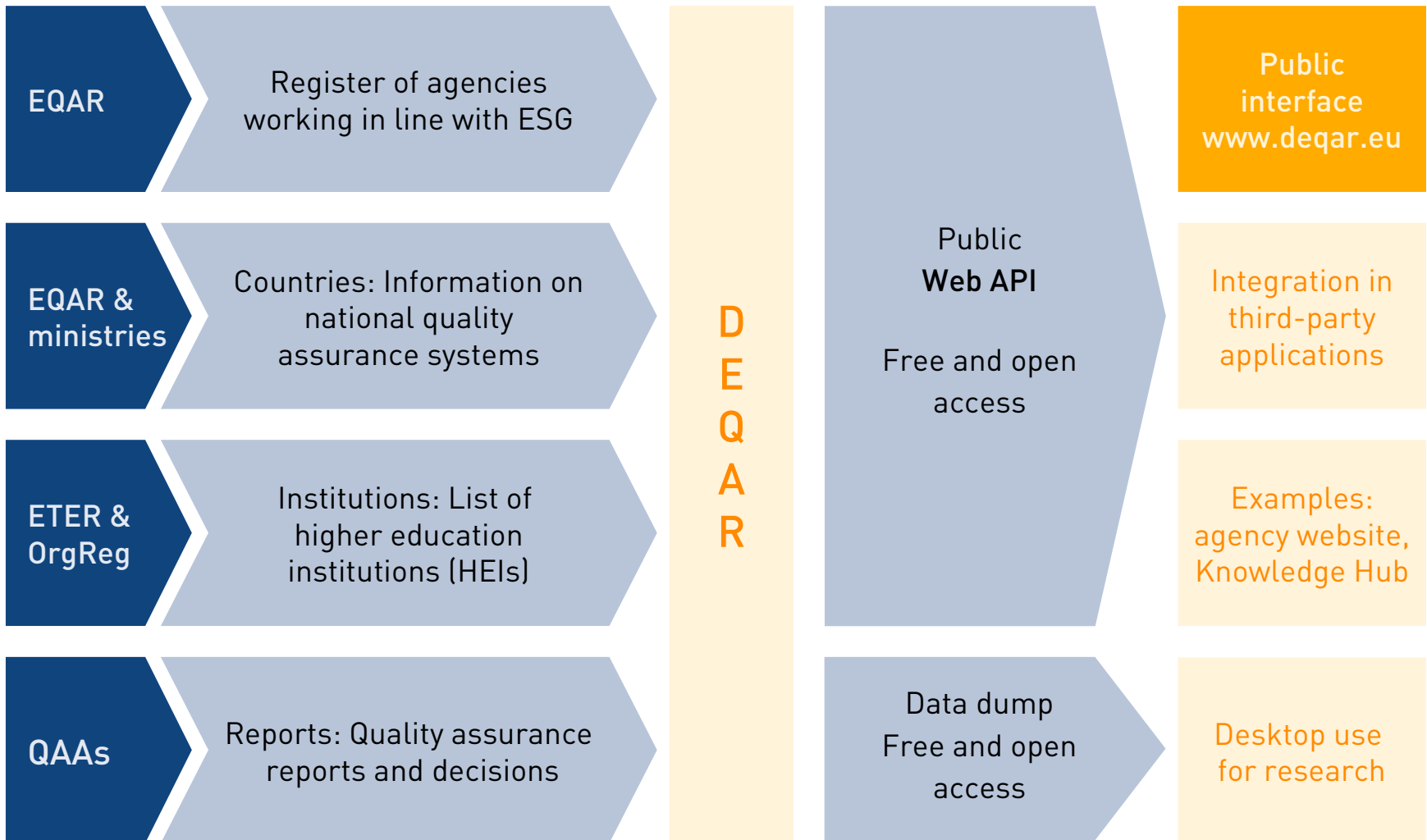
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Design Principles



- **Lean approach:** only what is needed and readily available
- **Standardised:** Institutional level as starting point
- **Comprehensive and up-to-date:** include all currently valid reports/reviews within the scope of the ESG
- **Accessible and understandable:** use of English; contextual information provided to clarify the status of reports and activities
- **Low entry barrier for agencies:** different submission methods to cater for different agencies; all methods/code made public
- **Free and open access to public:** no fees or restrictions on use; available as “open data” through data dump or public search API

DEQAR overview

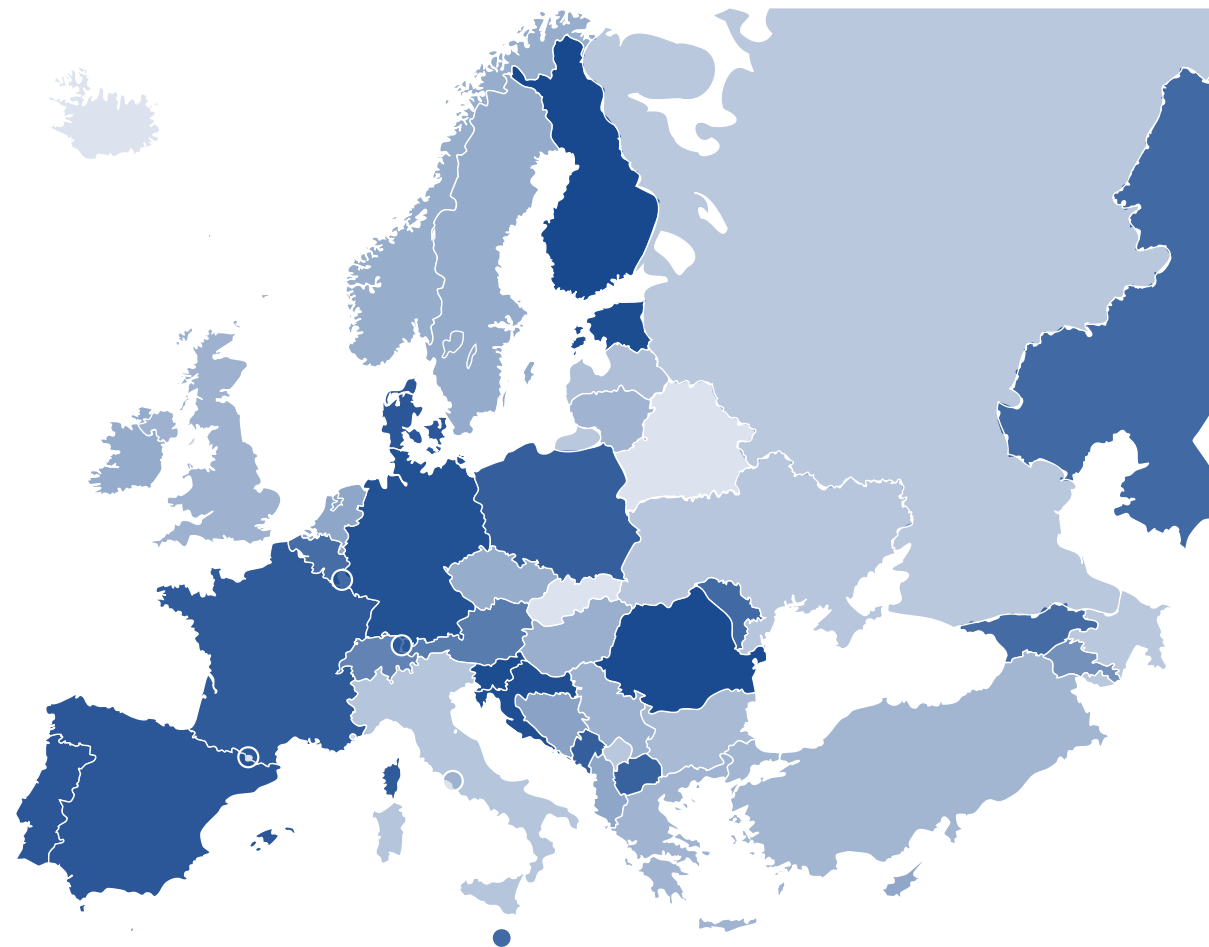
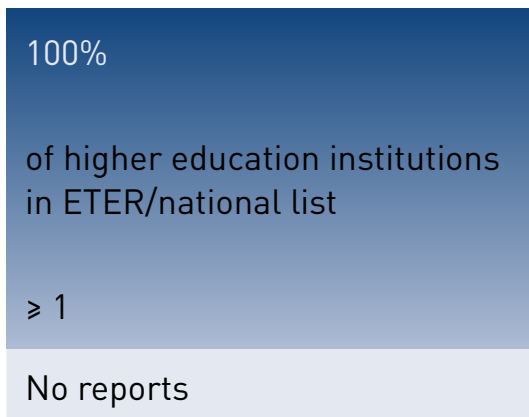
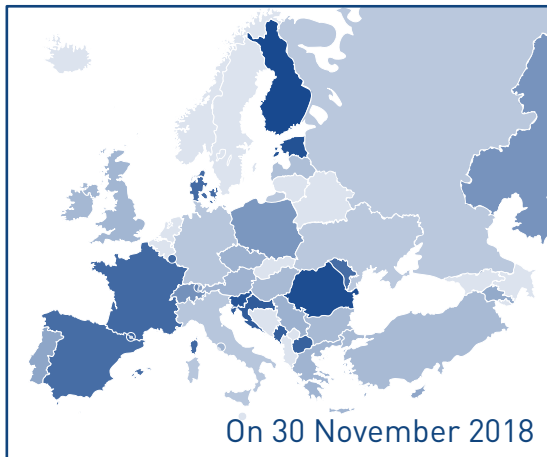


Key indicators



	11 May 2020	DEQAR CONNECT target
Reports	49 142	50 000
EHEA systems with comprehensive coverage (≥ 50% of institutions in DEQAR)	17	23
Agencies	34	39
Institutions	2 388	n/a

Coverage



As of 11 May 2020

The DEQAR CONNECT project



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Basics, Goals & Objectives



- **Erasmus+ funding to support the EHEA key commitments**
 - Project lifetime: March 2020 – February 2022
- **Strand 1: Widen coverage to new agencies & countries**
 - create an impetus for QA agencies that have not yet received support through the initial DEQAR project
 - provide peer support and counselling to agencies
 - implement efficient methods for submitting data to DEQAR
- **Strand 2: Enhance connectivity and exploring new opportunities**
 - integrate DEQAR information in the recognition/credential evaluation
 - enable the use of DEQAR data for the Europass Accreditation Database
 - explore further opportunities to connect
- **Transversal:**
 - support the activities of the BFUG Thematic Peer Groups (TPG)
 - enhance DEQAR's visibility and relevance among all stakeholders

Partners



- **Coordinator:** EQAR
- **Experienced QAAs:** ASHE (Croatia, lead), NVAO (Flanders)
- **“Newcomer” QAAs:** ACQUIN (Germany), ACSUCYL (Spain), AEQES (Belgium, French Community), AIC (Latvia), ANQA (Armenia), AQ Austria, CTI (France, engineering), EAEVE (European, veterinary), HAC (Hungary), IAAR (Kazakhstan), IQAA (Kazakhstan), MusiQuE (European, music), NCEQE (Georgia), NCPA (Russia), NVAO (for Netherlands), SKVC (Lithuania)
- **NARIC partners:** CIMEA (Italy, lead), CNRED (Romania), CIEP (France), Nuffic (Netherlands)
- **Experts:** Jozsef Gábor Bóné, Kathryn Máthé (DEQAR developers – QAA support), David Gassiot Andreu (AQU Catalunya – QAA support), Anthony Camilieri (Europass – connectivity), Benedetto Lepori (ETER – connectivity), Karl Dittrich (EQAR – policy)
- **Associate partners:** ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE

Activities – WP1: Project Management



WP leader: EQAR

Time: Mar 2020 – Feb 2022

- Advisory group with stakeholder partners from DEQAR-1, WP leaders and Bologna Peer Groups' co-chairs
- Periodic status reports, internal newsletter
- On-line communication and reporting tools

Activities – WP2: Expand Coverage



WP leader: ASHE

Time: May 2020 – Feb 2022

- Technical kick-off workshop for newcomer QA agencies
Covid-19: workshop postponed, additional webinar today
- Preparation of DEQAR experts to act as multipliers
- QA agency on-site peer counselling by DEQAR experts
Milestone: completed by Feb 2021
Covid-19: timing of on-site visits open, agree bilaterally
- Implementation of Submission API client or CSV export
Milestones: uploads by Aug 2021, completed by Nov 2021
- Pilot use of DEQAR to feed QA agencies' own website

Activities – WP3: Enhance Connectivity



WP leader: CIMEA

Time: Apr 2020 – Dec 2021

- Integrate QA information in ENIC-NARIC workflows
- Implement compatibility layers that will allow the use of DEQAR data for Europass Digital Credentials
- Roundtable with higher education data initiatives to discuss potential for connectivity and interoperability
- Review and enhance DEQAR data model and API to enhance interoperability

Activities – WP4: Dissemination



WP leader: EQAR

Time: Jun 2020 – Feb 2022

- Create a DEQAR label to enhance visibility
Milestone: July 2020
- Analyses of QA policies and practice across Europe, addressing Bologna Peer Group priorities
- Seminar for the Bologna TPGs on QA and Recognition
Milestone: Jan 2022

Questions or comments:



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