European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

eqar ////

Introduction to the DEQAR CONNECT project, DEQAR and the Web API

Kick-off Webinar for ENIC-NARICs

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DEQAR CONNECT

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

Background to Project

- Idea for DEQAR has existed ever since EQAR founded in 2008, but gained traction with automatic recognition policy goal

- Decision to go ahead by EQAR GA in 2017, launch in 2018 (Paris Ministerial Conference)

- 1st Erasmus+ DEQAR Project 2017-2019 https://www.eqar.eu/kb/projects/deqar-project/

- **DEQAR CONNECT:** widen coverage and enhance connectivity

  - Erasmus+ funding to support the EHEA key commitments

  - Project lifetime: March 2020 – February 2022

  - https://www.eqar.eu/kb/projects/deqar-connect/

Specific Goals & Objectives

- **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 explore 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

- **NARIC partners:** CIMEA (Italy, lead), CNRED (Romania), CIEP (France), Nuffic (Netherlands)

- **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)

- **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

- Preparation of DEQAR experts to act as multipliers

- QA agency on-site peer counselling by DEQAR experts
  Milestone: completed by Feb 2021

- 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

WP leader: CIMEA   **Time**: Apr 2020 – Dec 2021

- Integrate QA information in ENIC-NARIC workflows

  Milestones: at least two integrations by Feb 2021, all four finished by May 2021

  Covid-19: workshop postponed, additional webinar today

- 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

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

Communication tools

- Project Trello board
  https://trello.com/b/ADhRNeK3/deqar-connect
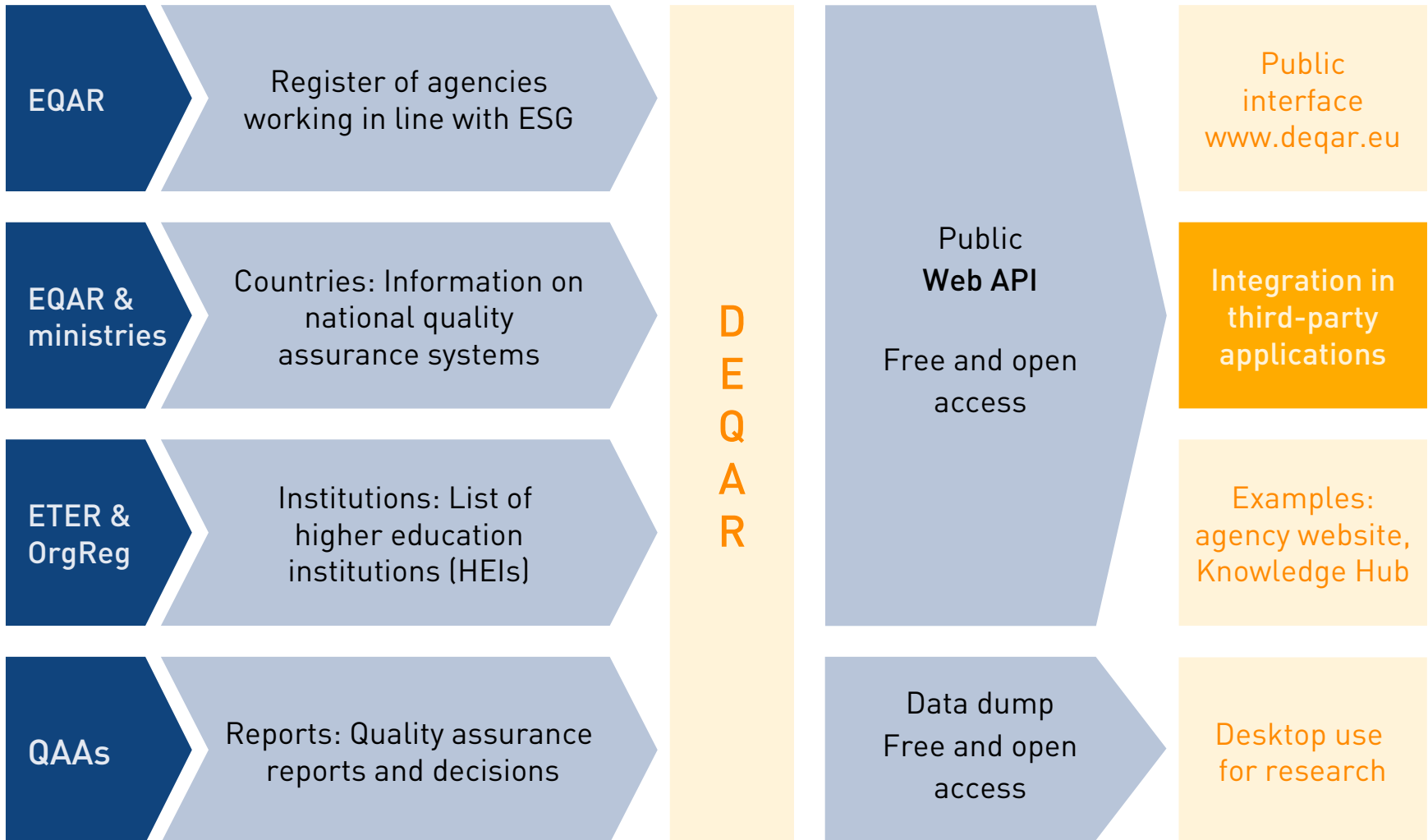
- Event and online dissemination tool

Background on DEQAR

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
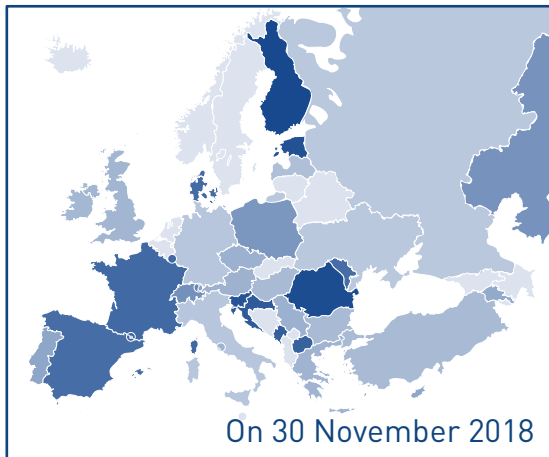
DEQAR overview

EQAR	Register of agencies working in line with ESG		Public interface www.deqar.eu	
EQAR & ministries	Countries: Information on national quality assurance systems	**D E Q A R**	Public **Web API** Free and open access	Integration in third-party applications
ETER & OrgReg	Institutions: List of higher education institutions (HEIs)			Examples: agency website, Knowledge Hub
QAAs	Reports: Quality assurance reports and decisions		Data dump Free and open access	Desktop use for research

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

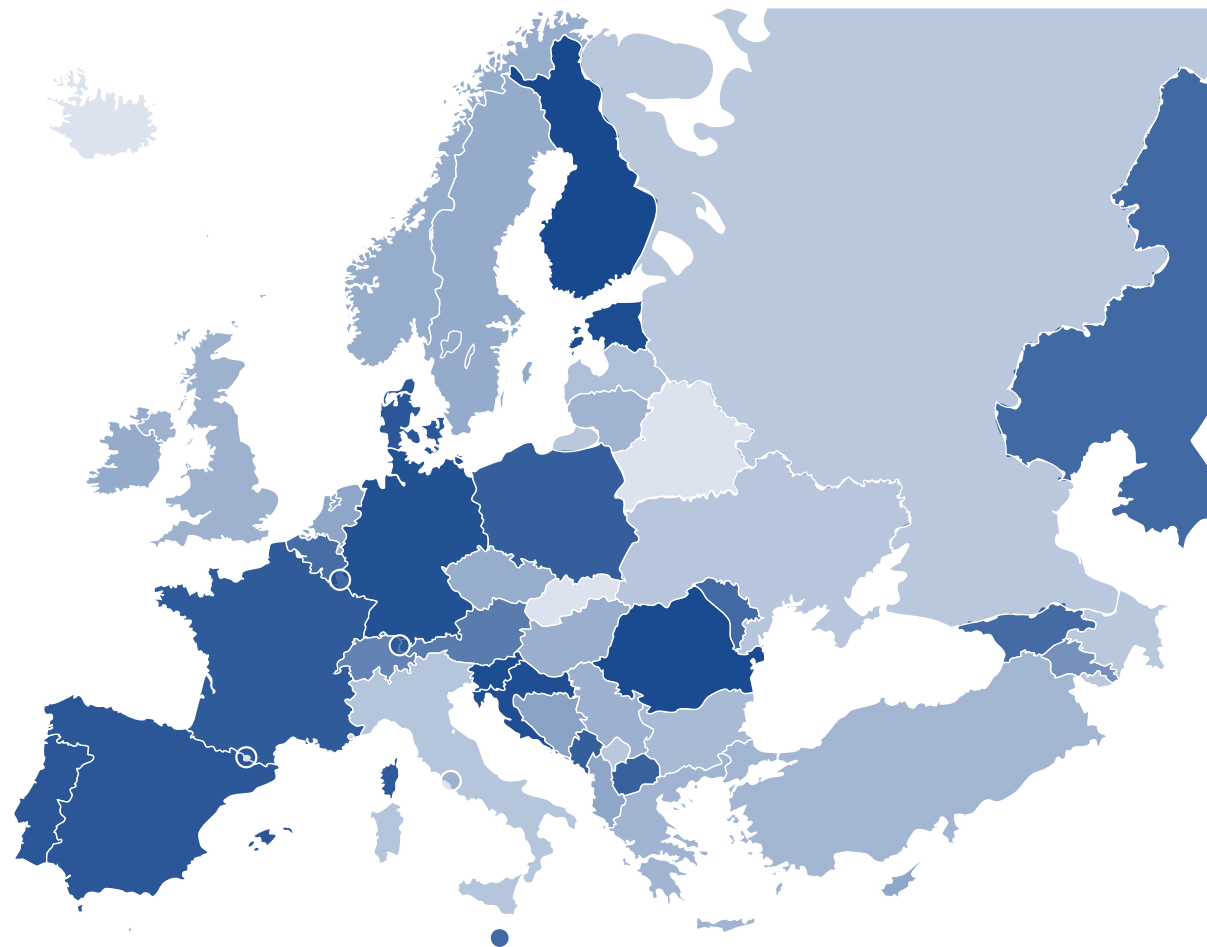On 30 November 2018

100%

of higher education institutions in ETER/national list

≥ 1

No reports

As of 11 May 2020

DEQAR and the Web API

Web frontend

(live demonstration)

DEQAR Web API

- REST API that gives access to all data in DEQAR

  - Institutions

  - QA reports

  - Countries

  - Agencies

- Exact same API as used by public DEQAR web interface

API access

- Available to anyone interested

- Free of charge, but subject to prior registration

    - Granted unless we have reasons to believe that the information might be abused or misrepresented

- Sent your credentials yesterday

- See also:
  https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/terms-and-conditions/

API documentation

- Overview:

  https://docs.deqar.eu/web_api/#web-api

- OpenAPI/Swagger:

  https://backend.deqar.eu/webapi/v2/swagger/

- ReDoc:

  https://backend.deqar.eu/webapi/v2/redoc/

Web API

(live demonstration)

Questions or comments: