European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

eqar

# Input for the Tirana Communiqué

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# How is a Communiqué developed?

- Drafting Committee composition:

  - ✗ Co-chairs of the last three semesters before the Ministerial Conference (Sweden, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Spain, Georgia, Belgium and Holy See)

  - ✗ the BFUG Vice Chair (Albania)

  - ✗ representative of the BFUG consultative members (ESU)

- DC prepares draft texts that are discussed at the BFUG board and BFUG meetings

# What is taken up in draft 0 on QA?

- ...we are committed to a **Quality** Culture in Higher education, fostered by fit for purpose **Quality assurance** processes and the responsible bodies for Quality Assurance.

- ...tackling disinformation and promoting critical thinking in a **Quality** European higher education system...

- ...we reaffirm academic freedom as a distinct, fundamental democratic right ... linked with the freedom of thought, opinion and expression, that is indispensable in enabling the academic community to fulfil its various roles with regard to **quality** learning, teaching and research

# What is taken up in draft O?

- …we support and respect institutional autonomy as a precondition for academic freedom and a prerequisite for higher education institutions to fulfil both their democratic and third missions and to provide **quality** and innovative learning, teaching and research.

- …student and staff participation in governance is indispensable …, enhances the sense of ownership, of community and of common responsibility, and it is a crucial precondition for the development of high **quality**, socially responsible higher education

- …students need to be delivered with high-**quality**, learner-centred and innovative teaching and learning, a cornerstone of EHEA policy

# What is taken up in draft O?

- Teaching should be as valued as 122 research and its recognition can be manifested through promotions based on teaching **quality**...

- ...BFUG to develop a transversal approach to internationalised education, that takes into account the transversal character of existing and developing transnational initiatives, such as alliances of universities or joint degrees, bridging all dimensions of higher education, recognition, **quality assurance**, or learning, teaching and research.

- ...the European Standards and Guidelines for **Quality Assurance** (ESG 2015) have been one of the most successful initiatives of the Bologna Process...

# What is taken up in draft O?

- ...serving as a basis for the accountability of higher education towards the public and the enhancement of **quality** through **quality assurance** processes across EHEA

- ...we invite the organisations and associations concerned with the elaboration of the **ESG**... to propose a revised version by 2026, together with a revised version of the **European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**. While keeping already established practices, the revised ESG should promote increased support to international cooperation in higher education, put a stronger emphasis on the links with the social dimension and the fundamental values, and highlight innovative practices and emerging trends such as digitalisation and lifelong learning.

# What is taken up in draft O?

- Considering ethics in digitalization and AI adoption in teaching and learning, we commit to regulate the use of AI in order to enhance educational **quality**...

## Observation =>

- EQAR, nor DEQAR, are mentioned in the text so far...

# Input from Bologna TPG C

- Adapting national legal frameworks to enable quality assurance procedures and quality assurance agencies functioning according to the ESGs, as well as the use of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint programs
- Promote quality assurance instruments to enable transnational cooperation in higher education, as the Comprehensive Framework for Quality Assurance of European Alliance of Universities developed within EUNIQ

# Input from Bologna TPG C

- Assure the fitness for purpose of transnational quality assurance procedures and methodologies by cooperating with national-level relevant entities and stakeholders
- Develop quality assurance procedures to enable flexible learning and lifelong learning programs as the micro-credentials, as well as to support the fast changing pace of developments in HE
- Start the process of ESG revision to answer to the current needs of HE and QA systems, looking in particular to (TBD) part and embedding (TBD) areas