European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

eqar ////

New features in DEQAR – Other providers

New features in DEQAR: Other providers and micro credentials

26/02/2024, Zoom platform

Aleksandra Zhivkovikj

Introduction

- The **IMINQA** is the umbrella project to support the work of the Bologna thematic peer group on quality assurance (TPG C).

- **Consortia:**

  * The Flemish Ministry of Education and Training (MINEDU-FC), Belgium

  * The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), Romania

  * The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Belgium

  * The European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), Belgium

- <u>WG on the QA of Micro-credentials</u>, WG on the QA of European Universities and WG on Digitalisation of QA processes

Overview of the landscape of providers

- No comprehensive mapping on all the non traditional providers of HE programmes across the EHEA yet

- **The number of micro credentials**, measured by number of courses at 6 main learning platforms, **rose for more than 200% between 2018 and 2022** (OECD, 2023)

- Cedefop (2023) shows that **variety of actors** such as public organisations, companies and employment services, offer programmes at higher education level

- Employees surveyed (N=384) had a **stronger preference for micro credentials offered by accredited providers** (62%) and to the ones being **offered as part of the national formal offer** of education and training (48%) (Cedefop, 2023)

Defining "Other providers" in DEQAR

a) Higher education institution: an entity that has **<u>full degree awarding powers</u>** recognised by at least one national authority

b) Other provider: an entity that has provides learning opportunities at HE level, but **<u>does not have full degree awarding powers</u> itself**

Type of information collected on other providers

- **Name of the other provider**
- **Location/Legal seat**
- **Website**
- **Other identifier** (preference for EU-VAT number) **(n)**
- **Identifier source (n)**
- Type of organization (n)
- Source of information about the provider (the agency that provided the information) (a)

Providing identifiers

Type of information collected on the certification of the other providers

- **Agency that uploads the report**
- **Activity**
- **Status of decision** (obligatory or voluntary)
- **Valid from**
- Valid to
- Link to the report on agency's website
- **PDF file of the report**
- Report language

eqar////

4 agencies participated in the test phase:

*_ACQUIN_ - Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (DE)

* _IAAR_ - Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (KZ)

* _ECTE_ - European Council for Theological Education e.V. (DE)

* _ZEvA_ - Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (DE)

https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results
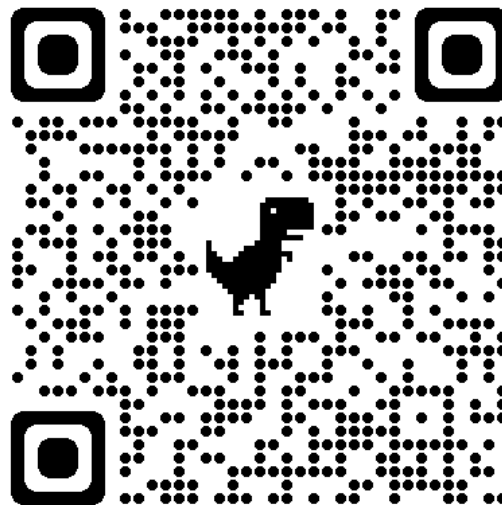
The results are in test version. The preview
is not public yet. The current version may go
trough changes

First tests and other providers in DEQAR (info on other providers)

eqar.eu > Database > Search > By provider > Educational Centre "Zerde" Limited Liability Partnership

Database

Search

— **By provider**

— By report

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

Educational Centre "Zerde" Limited Liability Partnership

Товарищество с ограниченной ответственностью "Учебный центр "Зерде"

Basic information

Identifiers	**DEQARINST8167** **KZ-NATIONAL: SERIES 62001 №0028712; 100340017898**
Provider type	other provider
Type of organisation	private company
Legal seat(s)	Astana, Kazakhstan
Website	https://edu-zerde.kz/
Founding year	2010
QF-EHEA levels	second cycle, first cycle
Data source	
Permalink	https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-institution/institution/?id=8167

National External Quality Assurance Requirements

- **Institutional Accreditation**
- **Programme Accreditation**

First information on certification of other providers

Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"

⚖️✅ IAAR: Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education

DEQAR Report ID ❓	93960
Agency	Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)
Type	Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education
Status ❓	voluntary
Formal decision ❓	positive
Date	30/06/2023
Valid until	29/06/2028
Micro-credential(s) covered	no
Report and decision	📄 Decision (Russian)
	📄 Review Report (Russian)
Permalink	https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93960
Institution page	Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"
External link	View record on agency's website

Questions and reflections

Coffee break (10 min)

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

eqar////

New features in DEQAR – Micro credentials and other provisions

New features in DEQAR: Other providers and micro credentials

26/02/2024, Zoom platform

Aleksandra Zhivkovikj&Colin Tuck

Overview of the landscape of micro credentials

- No comprehensive dataset of all micro-credential offers in the EHEA yet

- **Few national registers exist** either as a part of general list of HE provisions or independently (10 EHEA systems) (ENQA, 2023)

- Web portals tend to provide limited information as to how specific credentials are linked to occupational fields. In addition, it is not always clear whether micro-credentials are a pathway to a qualification at a higher level (Cedefop, 2023)

- **Accreditation and certification as crucial elements** in trusting the MC; More trusted when related to national formal offer (Cedefop, 2023)

Defining a micro – credential

A study programme:

a) Related to **EQF/ISCED level (5), 6, 7 or 8** OR **QF EHEA level short, first, second, third cycle**

b) Does **not** lead to a **full (recognised) degree**

c) Consisted by a **workload expressed in ECTS** in the range of **1 and 59 ECTS credits**

Type of information collected on QA of micro credentials and other provisions

eqar ////

- **Name of the programme**
- Programme qualification
- Programme NQF
- **Programme QF EHEA level (n)**
- **Degree outcome (n/a)** (always "No full (recognised degree")
- **Workload expressed in ECTS Credits (n)**
- Assessment and certification (n)
- Learning outcomes (n)
- Description of LO (n)
- Field (n)

Connection to European Commission's ESCO taxonomy

Learning outcomes

drawing

- tend drawing kiln - http://data.europa.eu/e
- cold drawing processes - http://data.euro
- technical drawings - http://data.europa.eu
- tend bar drawing machine - http://data.eu
- create AutoCAD drawings - http://data.eu
- metal drawing processes - http://data.eur
- use artistic materials for drawing - http://c
- drawing kiln operator - http://data.europa

Field of study (ISCED-F)

- accounting and taxation - http://data.europa.eu/esco
- agriculture - http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081
- agriculture not elsewhere classified - http://data.euro
- agriculture not further defined - http://data.europa.eu
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary - http://c
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not else
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not else
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not furth

First tests and practical examples – certification of MC

eqar ////

ZEvA: Certification

Programme	Weiterbil... Kindheits... und Päda...
Qualification	
Level	first cycle...
Degree outcome	No full de...
Workload (in ECTS credits)	25
Assessment and certification	Assessm...
Learning outcomes	(informat...
Field of study	(informat...

DEQAR Report ID	93963
Agency	Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (ZEvA)
Type	Certification in tertiary education
Status	voluntary
Formal decision	negative
Date	14/02/2017
Valid until	not applicable
Micro-credential(s) covered	no
Report and decision	(German)
Permalink	https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93963
Institution page	Advent-Kindergarten-Institut
Verifiable Credential	DEQAR format

Third category of programmes

ECTE:

Programmes covered

Programme	Theology
Qualification	
Level ❓	first cycle
Degree outcome	No full degree
Workload (in ECTS credits)	180
Assessment and certification	Assessment based certificate
Learning outcomes	(information not provided)
Field of study	http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/0224

Refine your search ⌃

Search term

Provider name, city, coun 🔍

Provider type ⌄

Agency ⌄

Country ⌄

Report type ⌄

✓ Programme type

Full recognised degree programme (87415)

Micro-credential (5)

Other provisions (13)

ESG activity ⌄

Status ⌄

Cross-border review ⌄

Upload date ⌄⌄

« ‹ 1

North Macedonia

01/09/2023 - 01/09/2027 uploaded 21/09/2023
AAQ INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENTS ABROAD
South East European University - Tetovo
North Macedonia

17/07/2023 - 13/03/2027 uploaded 13/09/2023
ECTE INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION
Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary

3 - 06/03/2028 uploaded 13/09/2023
TITUTIONAL AND PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION
Bible College
Palestine

14/02/2023 - 14/02/2028 uploaded 13/09/2023
ECTE INSTITUTIONAL AND PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION
International School of Theology and Leadership
Albania

Validation rules – required fields

- Newly required **for all programmes** (i.e. except institutional reports):

    - degree outcome

    - qualification level (QF-EHEA/EQF/ISCED)

- Required for **programmes with degree outcome "no"** (= micro-credentials, other provision):

    - Workload expressed in ECTS

    - Details on assessment or certification

Validation rules – constraints

- Reports **not covering any EHEA higher education institution** (e.g. only non-European HEI or other provider):

  - Status must be "voluntary"

- Programme-level reports **covering only other providers**:

  - Degree outcome must be "no" (= cannot lead to a full recognised degree)

Flagging – high level / red

NB: The purpose of flags is to bring a report to EQAR's attention. Do not change the data you entered/uploaded if it is correct, but wait for EQAR Secretariat to have checked the report.

- Status given as "part of obligatory EQA system", but the **agency does not have official status** (according to EQAR's information) in any legal seat country of any higher education covered by the report.

  NB for mixed reports: agency must have official status **in one of the higher education institutions' countries**, the status in the other providers' countries is not relevant and will not make this check pass

Flagging – low level / yellow

NB: Flags with a yellow flag appear normally on the public DEQAR website, they are only informative for the EQAR Secretariat to take note of the report.

- Report covers a provider with a legal seat (or programme) in a country **where the agency has not operated before**

- Programme **country does not match any location** country of the provider(s).

- Status is "voluntary" and programme's **qualification level is not listed** as qualification level **for any of the higher education institutions** covered

- PDF **file could not be downloaded** from the URL that was specified, or still has to be uploaded (using the specific API endpoint)

Try out the new system

eqar

https://admin.testzone.eqar.eu/login
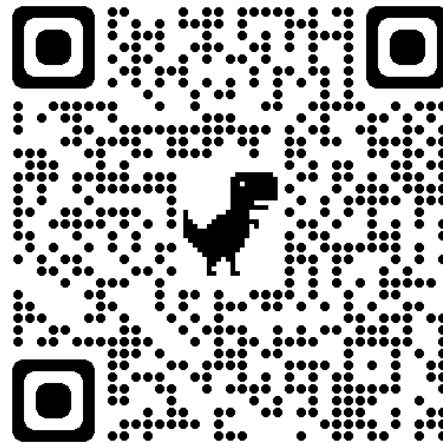
Submission of reports→ Manual submission →
Choose a programme activity→ Try out

Questions and reflections

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

Call for action and next steps

Next steps for QA agencies

1. **Test the system and send us your comments** by **11ᵗʰ March (Monday) 2024**

2. **Send us your comments to the new handbook** by **11ᵗʰ March (Monday) 2024**

3. **Fill in template for adding other providers in DEQAR** and forward the file to us in March 2024 at giorgi.munjishvili@eqar.eu and deqar@eqar.eu

Next steps for EQAR

1. **Last changes following feedback and launching the live system** on **18th March (Monday) 2024** (agencies will be able to do their uploads in the real admin interface)

2. Feasibility study for implementing quality labels (estimated – September 2024)

* Will involve interviews with QA agencies

Feasibility Study for Implementing Quality Assurance Labels

Agency	QA Label
Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (**AAQ**)	Seal of quality
Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (**ACPUA**)	ALCAEUS
Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (**AQU**)	Programme ex-ante accreditation; Accreditation; Additional dimensions in accreditation (Internationalisation, Employment and Research); Short learning programmes (micro-credentials); Certification of the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS); Institutional Accredited Centre; Quality Assurance of Research Department Level; Accreditation of an International Educational Facility for Cooperation and Academic Mobility
ASIIN e.v. (**ASSIN**)	ASIIN-AMSEE label, Certification of continuing education courses, modules and training courses
Enhancing Quality in the Arts (**EQ Arts**)	ETIKETA
Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg (**evalag**)	Institutional Quality Label
Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (**FIBAA**)	FIBAA Quality Seal for Institutional Accreditation; FIBAA Seal (Premium) for certified continuing education courses

Feasibility Study for Implementing Quality Assurance Labels

Agency	QA Label
German Accreditation Council (**GAC**)	System accreditation; Programme Accreditation
Estonian Quality Assurance Agency for Education (**HAKA**)	HAKA Quality Label; Certificate of Assessmmet
Institutional Evaluation Programme (**IEP**)	Evaluated by IEP
Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (**QAA**)	The QAA Quality Mark
Quality and Qualifications Ireland (**QQI**)	International Quality Mark (IEM)
Agency for Quality of the Basque University System (**Unibasq**)	Unibasq Quality Label
Fundación para el Conocimiento Madrimasd (**madri+d**)	Cualificam Programme
Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (**THEQC**)	Accreditation Label
Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (**FINEEC**)	Quality label for excellence

Feasibility Study for Implementing Quality Assurance Labels

Other QA Labels	QA Agencies
EUR-ACE	AAQ, ANECA, ARACIS, ASIIN, CTI, FINEEC, KAZSEE
Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation (CeQuInt)	CTI, NVAO, HCERES, Unibasq, ACSUCYL, AQAS, ACSUG, PKA
Euro-Inf Quality Label	ANECA, ASIIN
Eurolabel Chemistry Quality Label	ANECA, ASIIN
EQAS Food Quality Label	ASIIN
GAC label	AAQ, ACQUIN, AHPGS, AQAS, AQ Austria, AKAST, ASIIN, evalag, FIBAA, MusiQue, ZeVA

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

eqar ////

Last questions, reflections, comments?

Thank you for you participation

Contact:

deqar@eqar.eu

aleksandra.zhivkovikj@eqar.eu

giorgi.munjishvili@eqar.eu