

REVISION OF THE ESG

UPDATE: OCTOBER 2025

ANNA GOVER

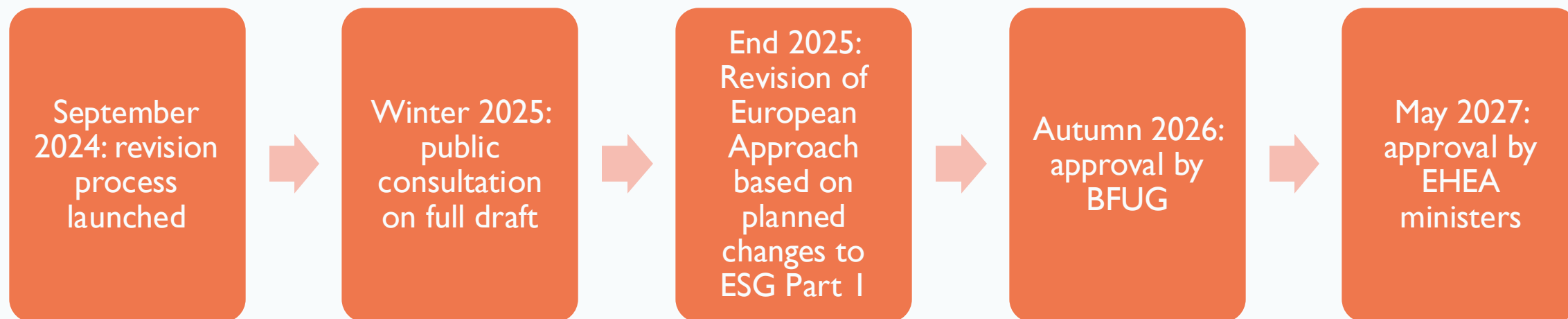
ON BEHALF OF THE ESG STEERING COMMITTEE



enqa 25

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

TIMELINE



STRUCTURES

ESG Steering Committee

- Representatives of ENQA, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, EQAR, Education International & Business Europe
- Coordinate the overall process, including main directions and consultations

ESG Drafting Group

- Representatives of ENQA, EUA, EURASHE & ESU
- Prepare drafts and identify issues for further discussion

STEERING COMMITTEE STARTING POINT

- Don't fix what isn't broken
- Bring up to date (without anchoring it in 2025!)
- Ensure alignment with other Bologna Process policies
- Address areas of unclarity based on application experience

DISCLAIMER: all changes are tentative, as the proposals are still under discussion within the Steering Committee and then will go for broader consultation.

CONTEXT, SCOPE, PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

- Update the context and make the main messages clearer/sharper
- The ESG should support different concepts of quality
- The ESG should remain focused on L&T, but with stronger reference to the links to the research and societal missions of HEIs
- The ESG apply to all higher education (and could be used for other education levels/providers)
- The existing purposes and principles remain valid, but discussion on whether additional ones are needed
- Reflection on whether definitions should be in the text/footnotes or in a separate glossary

PART I PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION (I)

- Standard 1.1 Policy for QA
 - Require the IQA policy to reflect links between L&T and other institutional missions and activities
- Standard 1.3 Student-centred Learning, Teaching and Assessment
 - Updated understanding of student-centred learning and focus on the role of QA in supporting this
- Standard 1.5 Teaching Staff
 - Updated understanding of the role of the teacher + expansion of standard to cover other staff involved in education delivery

PART I PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION (2)

- **Standard 1.6: Learning Resources and Student Support**
Expanded to cover the whole learning environment
- **Standard 1.9 On-going Monitoring and Period Review of Programmes**
Proposal to merge this with 1.2 Design and Approval of Programmes
- **Standard 1.10 Cyclical External Quality Assurance**
Add the need to demonstrate improvements between external QA activities

PART 2 PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION (I)

- Standard 2.1 Consideration of Internal QA
Address internal QA in general and all Part I standards specifically
- Standard 2.3 Implementing Processes
Make clear the room for flexibility and other justified approaches to external QA methodologies
- Standard 2.4 Peer-review Experts
Addition of ensuring the competences, independence and professionalism of experts

PART 2 PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION (2)

- Standard 2.5 Criteria for Outcomes
Change to 'Processes and criteria for outcomes' and address more explicitly decision-making
- Standard 2.7 Complaints and Appeals
Clarify the difference between complaints (process) and appeals (outcomes) + agencies should have processes for both

PART 3 PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION (I)

- Standard 3.1 Activities, Policy and Processes for QA
Involvement of stakeholders should be flexible in terms of category and type of involvement
- Standard 3.2 Official Status
Delete (and address relevant aspects under other standards)
- Standard 3.3 Independence
Make the three dimensions of independence explicit + ensure independence from any single party (internal or external)

PART 3 PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION (2)

- **Standard 3.4 Thematic Analysis**
Broaden to cover enhancement activities more generally
- **Standard 3.6 Internal QA and Professional Conduct**
Proposal to split into two standards – on IQA and on professional conduct
- **Standard 3.7 Cyclical External Review of Agencies**
Requirement for development since previous review

PUBLIC CONSULTATION



17 November 2025 until early January 2026



Full draft text of the ESG (introduction and 3 parts)



Online survey



Open to all interested parties (individual and organisational)



THANK
YOU

enqa.