

EQAR Policy on Transition to the Revised ESG in 2027

[concerning registration of quality assurance agencies]

1. Introduction

EQAR is responsible for the register of quality assurance agencies that comply substantially with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). Considering that the ESG are to be revised in 2027 and that EQAR continuously receives applications for inclusion on the register or renewal of registration, there is a need to develop provisions for the transition period. This Policy on Transition to the Revised ESG 2027 outlines such provisions.

2. Context and objectives

At the EHEA Ministerial Conference 2024 in Tirana the ministers agreed to another revision of the ESG “*to keep them in line with ongoing developments, challenges and expectations*”. The revision process of the ESG has been taken forward by the E4 Group (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) in cooperation with BUSINESSEUROPE, Education International and EQAR.

Based on the timeline presented in the [briefing note](#) by the Steering Committee responsible for the revision process, the final text of the revised ESG should be approved by the BFUG at the meeting in autumn 2026 before formal adoption by the EHEA Ministers at the Ministerial Conference in Romania/Moldova in spring 2027.

The main objective of this policy is:

- To ensure that all agencies on the Register will have been admitted or renewed based on the revised ESG by 2033.
- To allow agencies to plan ahead and enable a swift transition, by giving them sufficient time to adjust their structures or processes to the revised ESG.

3. Timeframe for Inclusion or Renewal of Registration on the Register

According to EQAR’s [Procedures for Applications](#), the standard duration of the process foresees that the **external review report is submitted to EQAR within 12 months** of the Register Committee’s confirmation of eligibility.

For **renewal of registration**, the usual practice is that agencies submit their application **12–13 months before their registration expires**. The Register Committee typically confirms receipt of the application and its eligibility **4–5 weeks** after submission. Following eligibility confirmation, the **site visit is generally scheduled around six months later**, and the **review report is usually submitted to EQAR 10–12 months** after eligibility has been confirmed.

4. Policy for Initial applications

EQAR will continue to accept applications for initial registration on the Register based on the ESG 2015 until 31 December 2026.

From 1 January 2027 until the official adoption of the revised ESG by the ministers at the Ministerial Conference in May 2027, EQAR will suspend the acceptance of any new applications for initial registration. Following the Ministerial Conference, all initial applications submitted to EQAR will be assessed against the revised ESG 2027.

5. Policy for Renewal of registration

A) Agencies that are required to apply for renewal of registration by 31 December 2026 are expected to do so based on the **current ESG 2015**.

B) Agencies that are required to apply for renewal of registration **between 1 January 2027 and 31 May 2027** could:

- Apply for renewal of registration **based on ESG 2015**, in which case the process is conducted as usual;
OR
- Apply for renewal of registration on the basis of the **revised ESG 2027**, with the possibility of an extension of their current registration. In such cases, the maximum extension granted by the Register Committee may not exceed 12 months.

C) Agencies that are required to apply for renewal of registration **between 1 June 2027 and 31 December 2027** will be required to undergo a review against the revised ESG 2027. Considering that these agencies might need sufficient time to adapt its procedures to the revised ESG 2027, the agencies will have the possibility to request an extension of their current registration. In such cases, the maximum extension granted by the Register Committee may not exceed 12 months.

Agencies that are required to apply for renewal of registration **from January 2028** are expected to renew their registration based on the **revised ESG 2027**.

Targeted Reviews

Following the official adoption of the revised ESG in May 2027, the possibility for targeted reviews will be suspended until at least one review against ESG 2027 has been conducted. Consequently, all agencies applying for renewal of registration will be required to undergo a full review against the **revised ESG 2027**.

Focused reviews

Agencies undergoing a focused review will be expected to be reviewed against the same standards that applied to their regular external review.

6. Further information

General information on the revision process

<https://www.eqar.eu/kb/esg/#timeline>

Public consultation on the draft ESG 2027

<https://www.eqar.eu/kb/esg/public-consultation/>