European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education

Updates on the Database for external quality assurance results (DEQAR) - certified micro-credentials and other providers

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EQAR Members' Dialogue

October 28-29, 2024 | online

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DEQAR:
"quality at your fingertips"

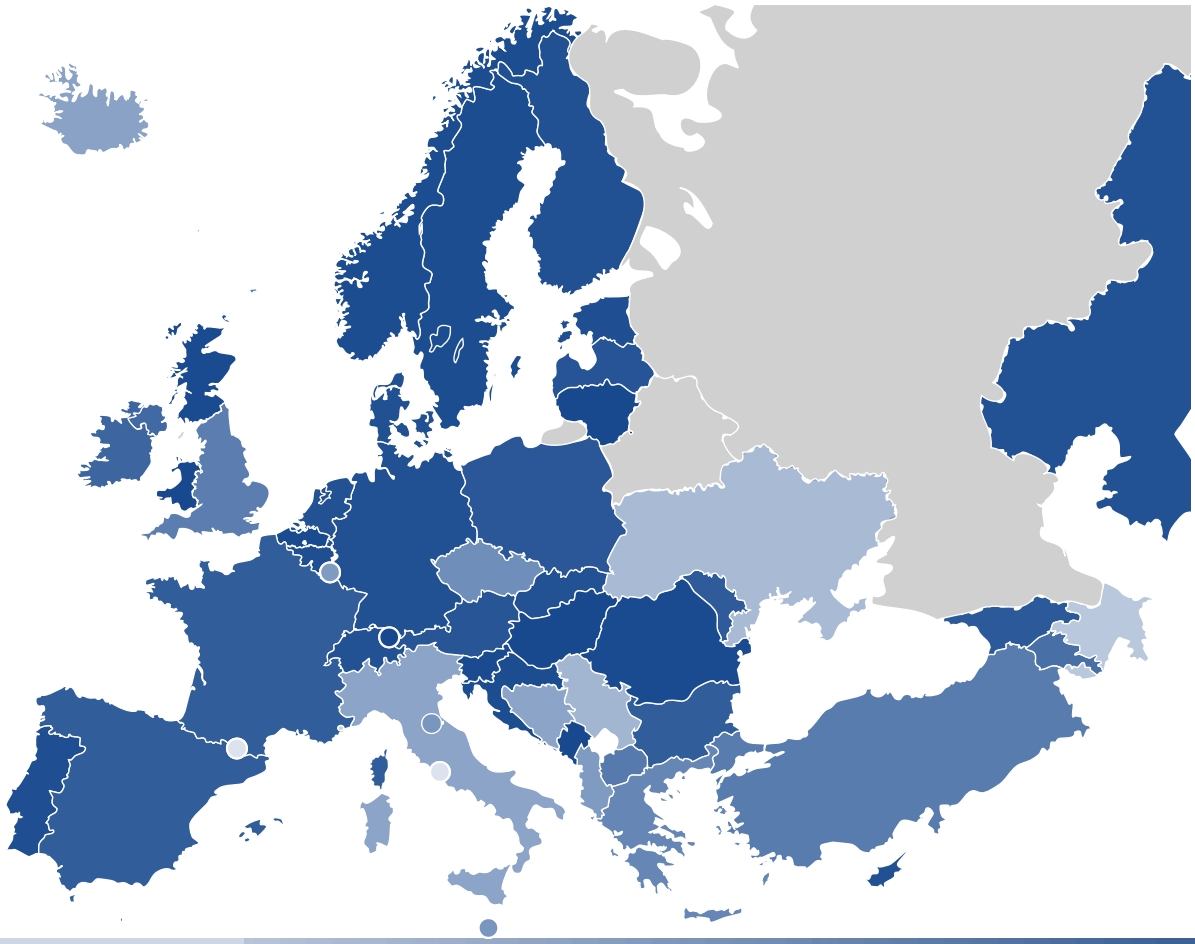
eqar

https://www.deqar.eu/

- Created in 2018
- Enhance trust and transparency in the EHEA and responds to needs of different stakeholders
- Easy access to external quality assurance (QA) reports (i.e. **accreditations, evaluations and certifications**) and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies (**ONLY higher education**)
- Accreditations and evaluations uploaded by EQAR registered QA agencies

DEQAR Key Figures

	October 2024
Reports	108 566
HE Institutions (at least 1 report)	4164
Higher Education Systems (≥ 50% of HEIs)	33
Agencies	56



Expansion of DEQAR with information on MC&OP

eqar

1. **Research, compare frameworks** (Council recommendation on MC, MicroBol, national legislations)
2. First draft data model
3. **First consultation with policy makers and other stakeholders** (EQAR's Members' Dialogue, Prague)

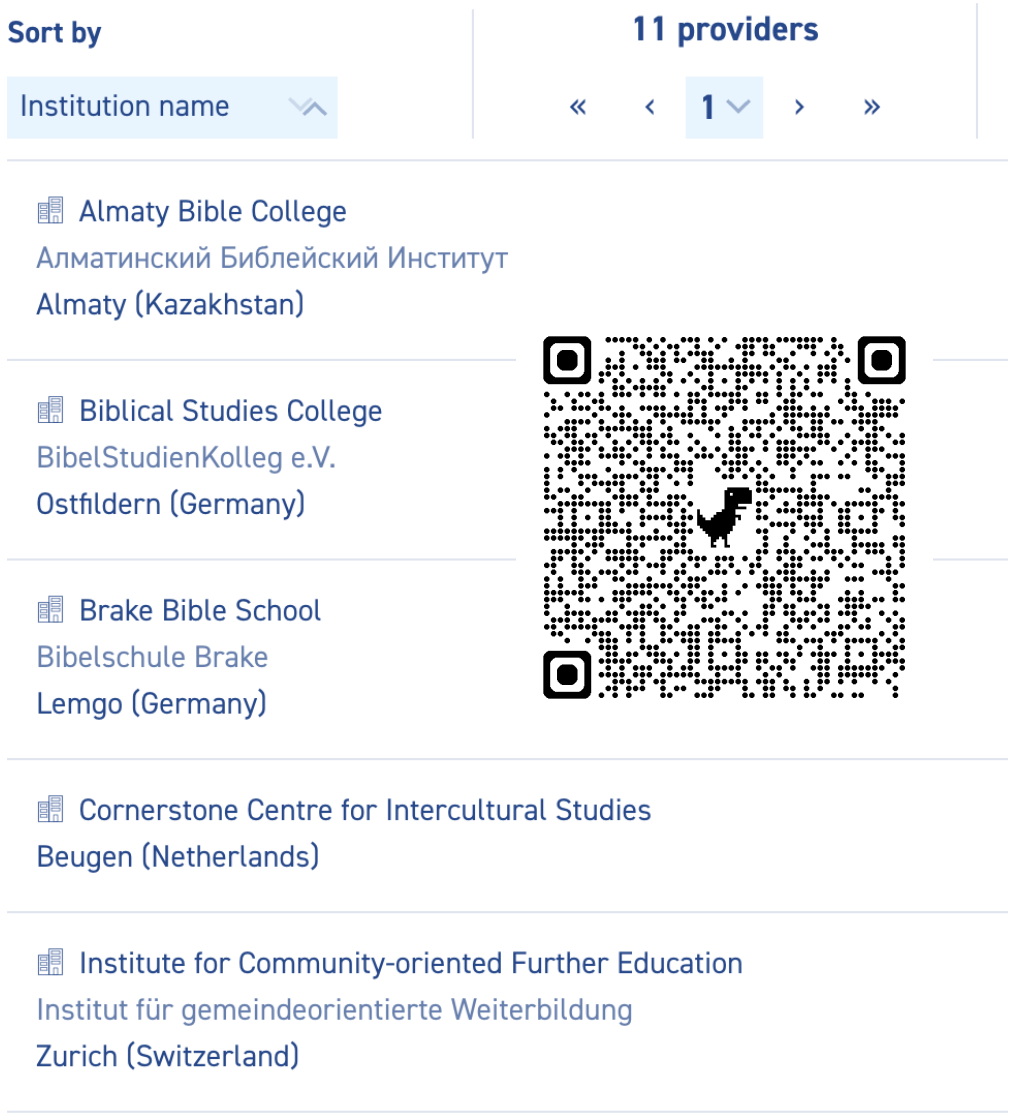
8. **Webinar with EQAR registered agencies** (February)
9. **Opening the test system for all EQAR registered agencies**
10. Last wave of comments on the system and the DEQAR Handbook
11. **Open the live system** (late March)

2022 → **2023** → **2024**

4. Further development of the model
5. **Gathering further feedback from stakeholders (IMINQA WG meetings**; + 5 events and conferences)
6. **Programming and opening a test zone**
7. Updating the DEQAR Handbook
7. **Testing the system with 4 EQAR registered agencies** (ACQUIN, ECTE, IAAR, ZeVA)

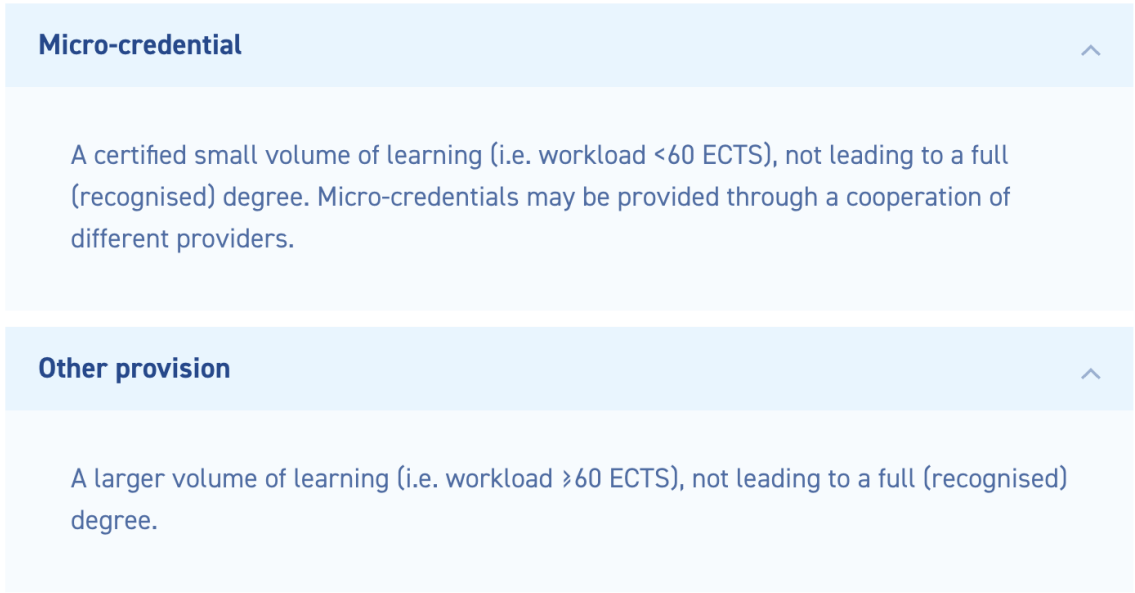
First uploads of certificates

- **One agency** has uploaded reports, **two more** are expected to do so soon
- Providers based in **10 EHEA countries**
- Certificates for, both, **providers and programmes**

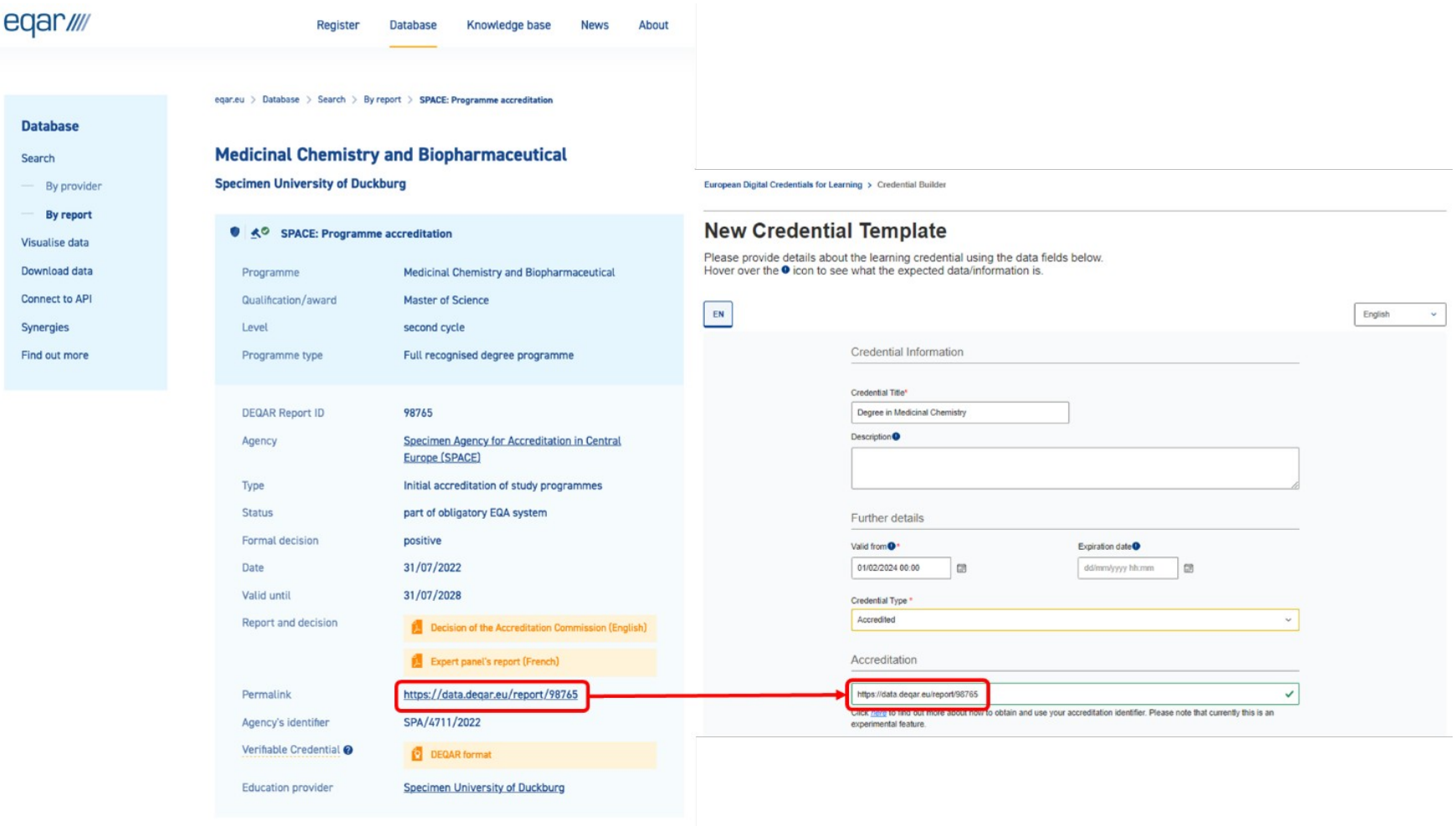


Introduction of glossary of DEQAR terminology on the website

- Higher education institution (HEI)
- Provider
- Other provider
- Awarder
- Programme
- Full (recognised) degree
- Micro-credential
- Other provision
- Joint programme
- Joint degree
- Double/multiple degrees
- QF-EHEA level



Programme accreditation from DEQAR to the European Digital Credentials Initiative (EDCI)



Thank you

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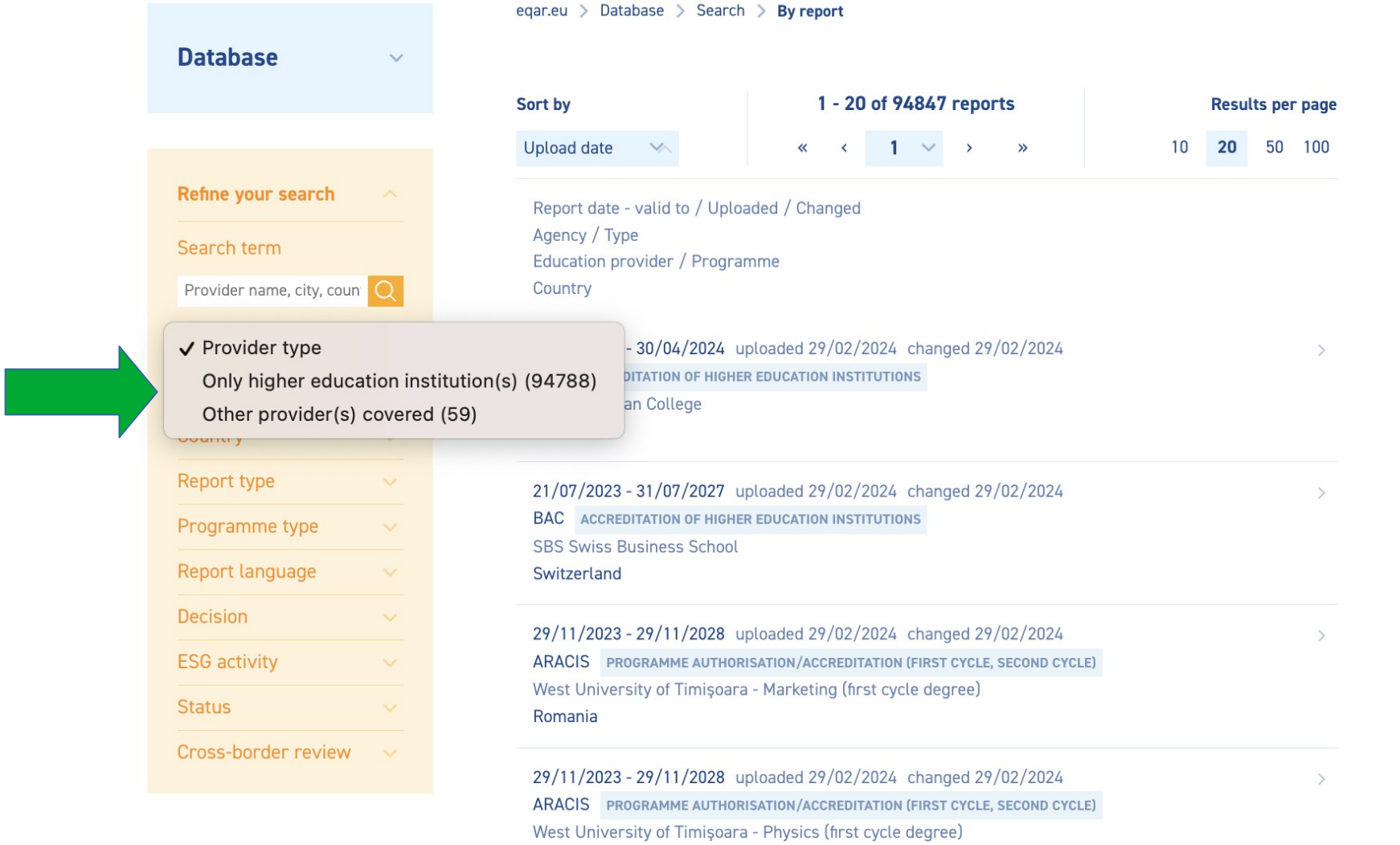
DEQAR in practice



Certification of a micro credential

3D modeling software - CAD 1

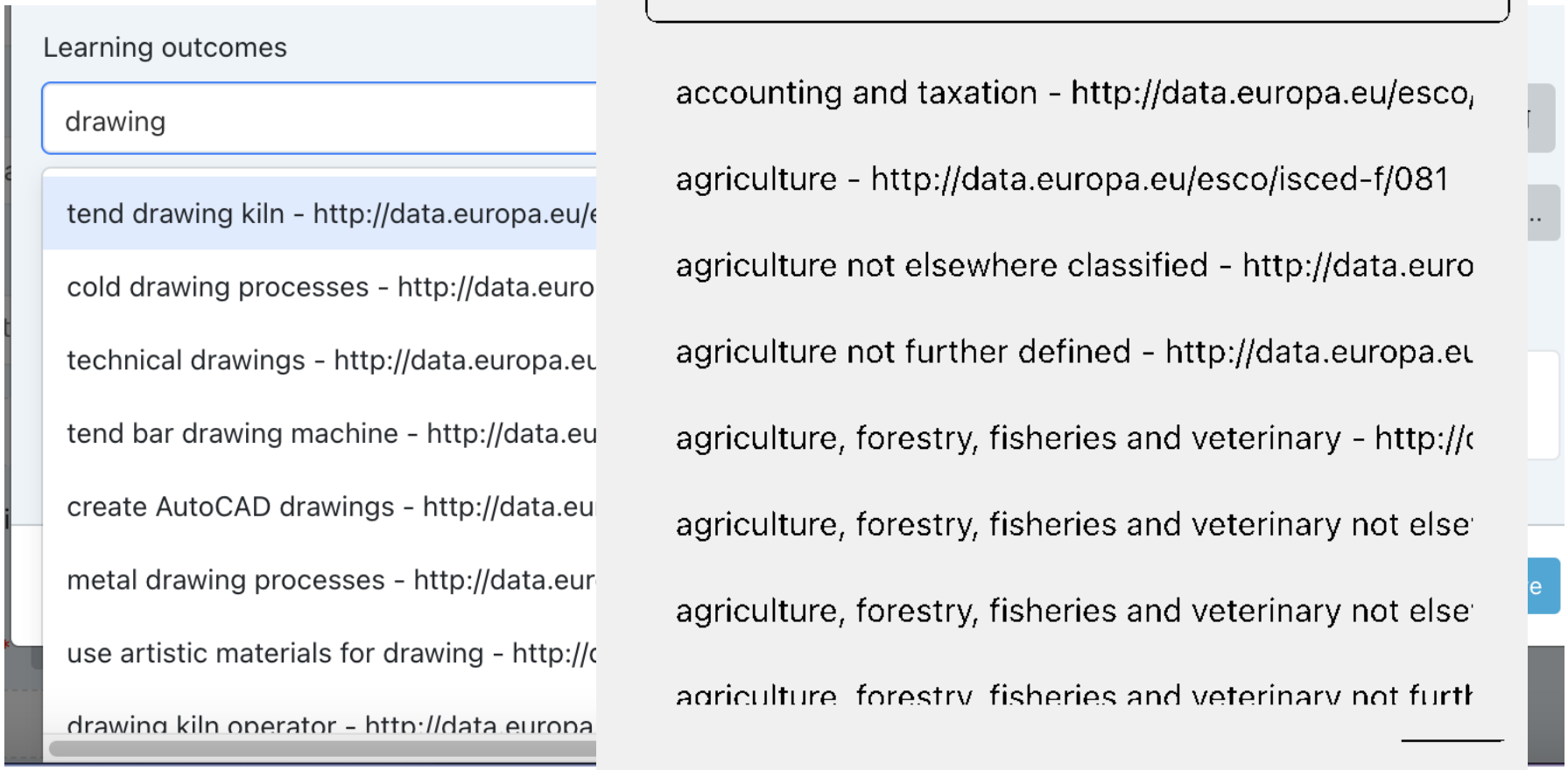
Educational Centre "Zerde" Limited Liability Partnership

A3ES: Programme accreditation

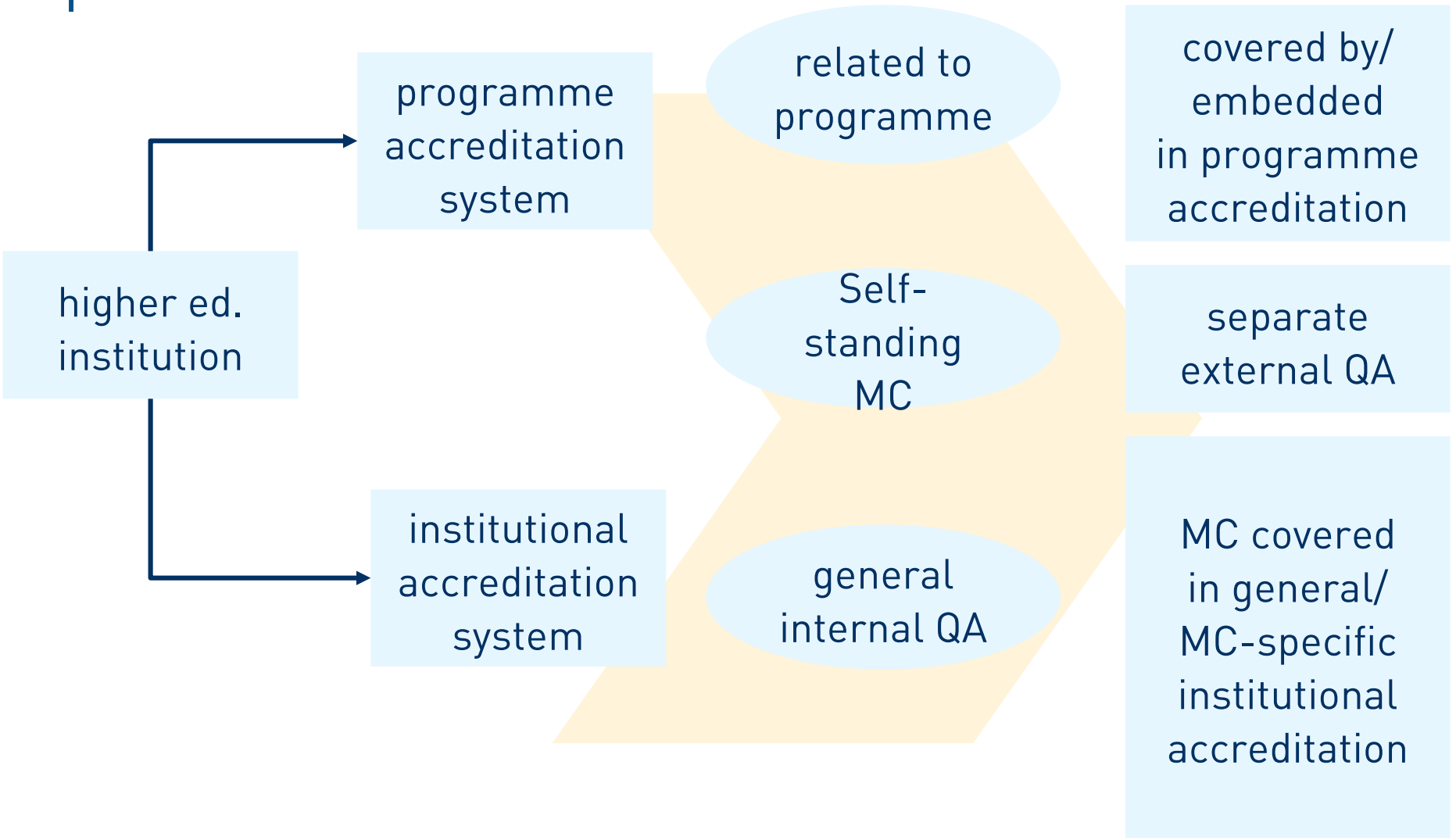
Programme	3D modeling software - CAD 1
Qualification	
Level	first cycle
Programme type	Micro-credential
Workload (in ECTS credits)	15
Assessment and certification	Assessment based certificate
Learning outcomes	use CAD software
Field of study	engineering, manufacturing and construction

* Test example

Connected with European Commission's ESCO API



Quality assurance of micro-credentials: Scenarios in practice



Information in DEQAR

Accreditations and evaluations of (programme level):

a) Full degree programmes → Full (nationally) recognised degree

b) Micro-credentials and other → Not leading to a full (nationally) recognised degree, but at HE level

*Expansion supported by the IMINQA project

Definition of a micro-credential in DEQAR

A study provision:

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

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

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

Full glossary of terms:
https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/glossary/

Information on alternative providers

Database

Search

— **By provider**

— By report

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

Cornerstone Centre for Intercultural Studies

Basic information

Identifiers	DEQARINST8154 NL-KVK: 56495439
Provider type	other provider
Type of organisation	non governmental organisation
Legal seat(s)	Beugen, Netherlands
Website	https://www.cornerstonecollege.eu/
Founding year	1947
QF-EHEA levels	short cycle
Data source	
Permalink	https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-institution/institution/?id=8154

(Name of agency to be presented)

Certification of alternative providers

Search

- By organisation/provider
- **By report**

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

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
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

Overview of the current landscape of micro credentials

- **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
- Employers 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)
- No comprehensive mapping of micro credentials across the EHEA yet

Overview of the current landscape of policies related to micro credentials (OECD, 2023)

Table 2.1. Recent examples of the use of regulations and guidelines in shaping micro-credentials provision

	Country	Initiative and leading organisation	Launch year	Workload	Level	Inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework	Reference to industry and social relevance	Reference to stackability and portability	Providers that operate under the legislation / guideline
Public authorities have made legislative changes	Hungary	"Amendments made to the Adult Education Act No. LXXVII of 2013" by the Parliament	2022	Not specified	Not specified	No	No	No	All types of providers in the higher education, vocational education and training and adult education sectors (including alternative providers)
	Spain	"Royal Decree 822/2021" set by the Ministry of Universities	2021	Less than 15 ECTS	Not specified (but university education is given at ISCED level 6-8)	No	Partially yes (but it applies to all programmes offered by universities, including degrees)	No	Universities
Public authorities have supported stakeholders' collaborative efforts to standardise designs	Austria	Recommendation made by the national Bologna Follow-Up Group	2023	3-15 ECTS	Not specified (but higher education is given at ISCED level 6-8)	No	Yes	Yes, through academic recognition	Higher education institutions
	Ireland	"MicroCreds" initiative led by the Irish Universities Association	2020	1-30 ECTS	National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) level 6-9 (equivalent to ISCED level 5-7)	No	Yes	Yes, but optional	Seven public universities
	Netherlands	"Microcredentials Pilot" run as part of the Acceleration Plan	2021	3-30 ECTS	Not specified (but higher education is given at ISCED level 5-8)	No	No	No	32 higher education institutions