

“EQAR in a nutshell”  
Webinar for newly appointed  
governmental representatives

EQAR Newcomers Webinar

11 February 2025

Annelies Traas & Blazhe Todorovski & Aleksandar Šušnjar

# History: QA & Bologna



## First intentions:

“Promotion of European co-operation in quality assurance”

(Bologna Communiqué)

## Common principles:

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA

(Bergen)

## Closer integration:

“allow EQAR-registered agencies to perform their activities across the EHEA”

(Bucharest)

## Initial commitment:

Key elements of quality assurance systems

(Berlin)

## European organisation:

European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)

(London)

## Further consolidation:

ESG revised, European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

(Yerevan)

1999

2003

2005

2007

2012

2015

# History: QA & Bologna

## Commitments

“Three Key Commitments”

- Reaffirming “the three key commitments”
- Revision ESG
- Fundamental Values

(Paris)

(Tirana)

**DEQAR:**

EHEA ministers  
“encouraged the further development of DEQAR to facilitate automatic recognition...”

(Rome)

2018

2020

2024



# European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)

## Mission:

Enhance transparency and trust, promote international recognition

## Role:

Official register of QA agencies that comply with the ESG

- Established by and for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- Founded by the E4 organisations (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE), jointly governed with HE ministries
- Non-profit, independent and acting in the public interest

eqar

Governance of the organisation

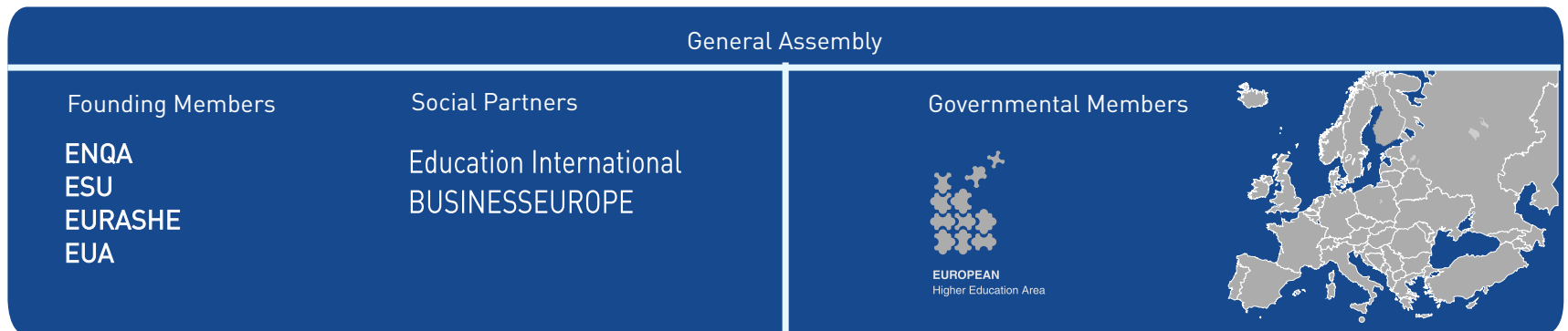
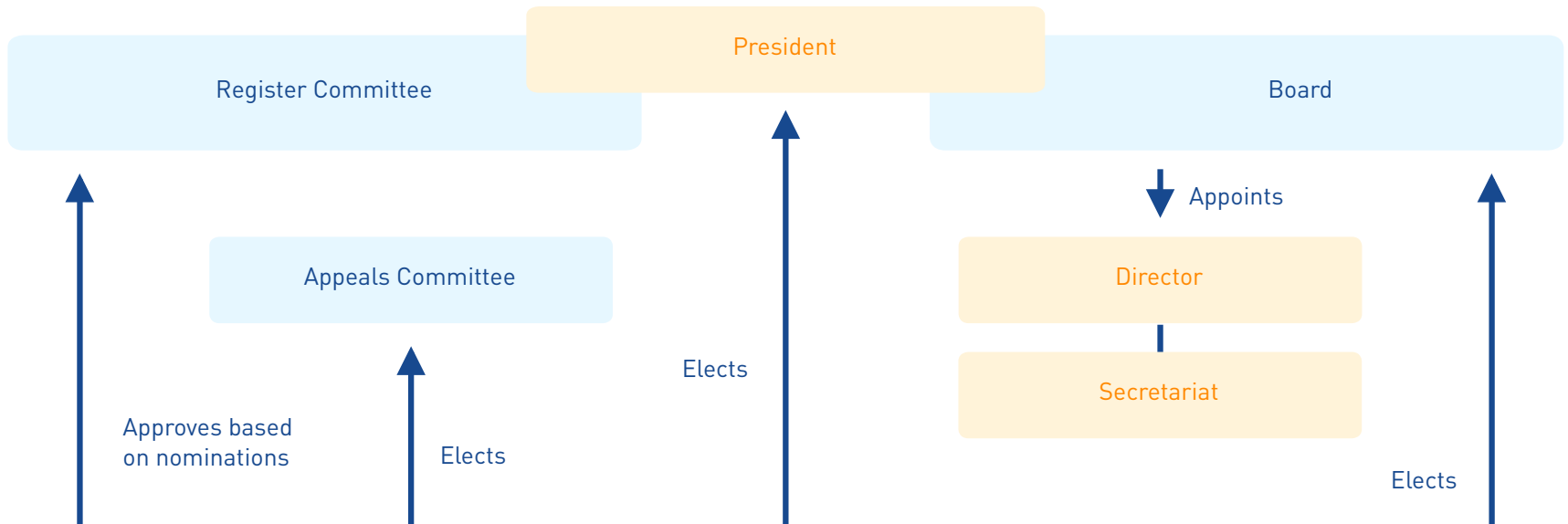


**Register Committee**

Independent QA experts,  
nominated by stakeholders

Decides on compliance & registration

# European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)



# EQAR Members



## Founding Members:

The E4 Group are the four organisations that founded EQAR, following the mandate given by European ministers of higher education (EUA, ESU, EURASHE and ENQA)

## Social Partner Members:

The consultative members of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) that represent the interests of employers or employees. These are:

- BUSINESSEUROPE
- ETUCE / Education International

## Governmental Members:

All parties to the European Cultural Convention, signed in Paris on 19 December 1954, that are full members of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), may become Governmental Members. (Currently 45 members – 43 countries)

# Governmental Membership



## Supporting the EHEA's common framework for QA

- Governmental membership in EQAR is an important opportunity to support the European Higher Education Area's (EHEA) common framework for quality assurance and to be in active dialogue on quality assurance with policy makers from across the EHEA. EQAR was founded as part of the Bologna Process to maintain the EHEA's official register of quality assurance agencies operating in substantial compliance with the ESG.
- Governmental Members are members of the EQAR General Assembly. The General Assembly is EQAR's supreme decision-making body and responsible for the overall governance of EQAR.
- Governmental members can also participate actively in EQAR through the Members' Dialogue. The EQAR Members' Dialogue is the only regular event specifically for EHEA governments to discuss current policy developments and exchange with peers on issues related to quality assurance.

# Rights and obligations EQAR members



## Statutes

### **I. Members, Article 6 (3)**

The Governmental Members are expected

- a. to support the Association in its work and
- b. to promote the objectives of the Association.

### **I. Members, Article 6 (4)**

The Governmental Members have the right

- a. to participate and vote in the General Assembly in accordance with Art. 9 (3),
- b. to be a candidate as observer to the Board and the Register Committee,
- c. to elect observers to the Board and the Register Committee, and
- d. to receive regular and appropriate information on the Association's work



## III. General Assembly, Article 10 - Functions

The General Assembly is the highest decision making body of the Association. (..) In particular, without limitation, the General Assembly

- a. approves the nominations for the Register Committee collectively;
- b. may dismiss the Register Committee as a whole with a double 2/3 majority;
- c. approves the Founding Members' representatives on the Board;
- d. discharges the Board;
- e. may dismiss members of the Board with a double 2/3 majority;
- f. elects the members of the Appeals Committee;
- g. may dismiss the Appeals Committee as a whole with a double 2/3 majority;
- h. adopts the Appeals Procedure;
- i. adopts the work plan and budget of the Association with a simple majority;
- j. appoints the auditor;

## EQAR members



- k. approves the accounts of the Association with a simple majority;
- l. decides on membership fees with a simple majority;
- m. may expel a member with a double 2/3 majority;
- n. may adopt Rules of Procedure regulating the details of the Association's operation;
- o. decides on amendments to the Statutes, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 24 hereof;
- p. decides on the dissolution of the Association, in accordance with the provisions of Art. 25 hereof;
- q. elects the President;
- r. may dismiss the President with a double 2/3 majority; and
- s. appoints its representatives to the Selection Committee.

# Preparing for the GA



## GA Documents:

(Via the link provided in our emails)

Annual Report, the accounts, the Progress Report, the next Work Plan and various appointments and confirmations.

## Web-site:

- News
- General Assembly (under: About/Organisation & Structure)
- Register (including “Explaining the Register”)
- Database (including “Find out more”)
- Knowledge base
- About (annual reports, official documents, organisation & structure, events)

## Minutes of previous General Assemblies

Minutes of the GA in Brussels on 12 April 2024

# Preparing for the GA



## EQAR newsletter:

Sign up to the EQAR newsletter!

Go to the bottom of our home page or at the bottom of the “Newsletter Archive”.

About 4 issues per year - topics include information about new agencies on the Register, relevant policy developments and the use of EQAR in the national quality assurance frameworks of the EHEA countries, DEQAR news and project updates.

## Follow us on social media:

- LinkedIn:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eqar---european-quality-assurance-register>
- X: @eqar\_he (soon on Bluesky: @eqar.bsky.social)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eqar.he>

# ESG principles



- 1) HE institutions have primary responsibility for quality
  - Importance of internal quality assurance
- 2) Quality assurance responds to diversity
  - Flexible, fit for purpose methodology
- 3) Support the development of a quality culture
  - Combine accountability & enhancement
- 4) Take into account the needs & expectations of students, all other stakeholders and society
  - Involve stakeholder perspectives
  - Transparency of process and results
  - Independence of quality assurance agencies

# EHEA Key Commitments



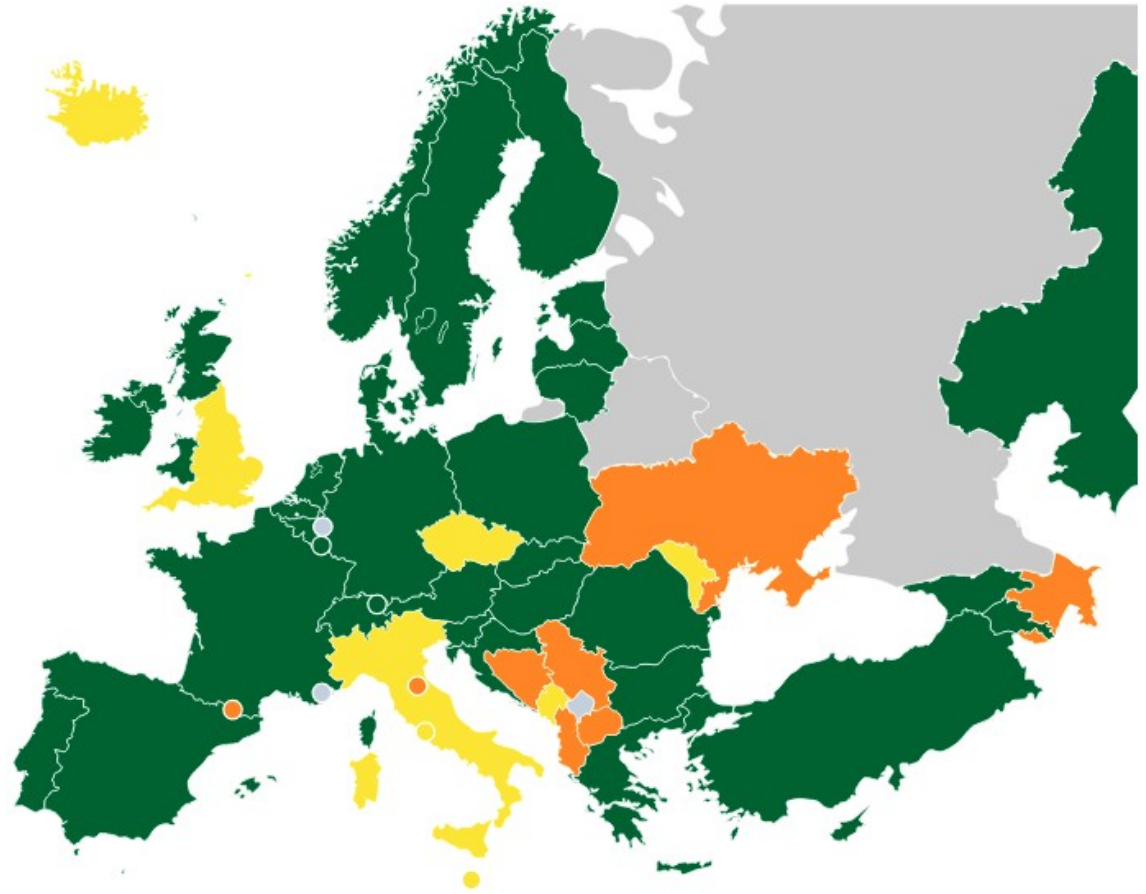
- 1) A Three-Cycle System compatible with the QF-EHEA and scaled by ECTS**
- 2) Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)**
- 3) Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**

Institutions granting degrees assure the quality of their programmes leading to degrees within the three-cycle system following the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015).

External quality assurance (be it at programme or institutional level) is performed by Agencies that have demonstrably complied with the standards and guidelines stipulated in the current ESG. This is best ensured where only those agencies registered on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) are allowed to operate in the country.

# EHEA Key Commitment – external QA

- 57 QA agencies registered on EQAR
- 33 EHEA countries **fully realise** commitment



# EQAR in EHEA



- Part of EHEA working structures as an independent institution as established by the EHEA (similar status as consultative members)
- Participation in BFUG working structures:
  - ESG Revision – Steering Committee
  - WG 1 on Monitoring
  - TPG B – Automatic Recognition
  - TPG C – QA
  - TF of establishing long term Secretariat
  - AG on the ESG Users' Guide Revision
- Contributing in further development through active participation various projects



- EQAR Knowledge base
  - EQAR's own tool for providing the public with information on the developments in QA within EHEA
    - Information on the stage of implementation of the key commitment on external QA across EHEA
    - Information on the ESG and QA in Europe in general
    - Cross Border Quality Assurance
    - European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes
    - Bologna Process and EHEA
    - Accreditation and diploma mills

# Why EQAR Registration?



- Demonstrate substantial compliance with the ESG
  - Registration is a trusted status, guarantee to the public
  - Relied on for EHEA implementation report
  - Recognition of QA results across borders
  - Publication of reports on DEQAR

## How does it work?



- Quality Assurance agency applies for registration – open to organisations that operate in Europe, regardless whether they are national or international in nature
- Evaluation of the agency (by ENQA or another review coordinator)
- Decision by the Register Committee
- If positive the agency will be listed on the Register (for 5 years)

## Register Committee (I)



- Independent body composed by individuals nominated by the non-governmental members of EQAR
- The Committee receives, evaluates and decides upon applications for inclusion on the Register or renewal of registration
- The Committee is responsible for adopting the Procedures for Applications in consultation with the General Assembly

# Register Committee (II)



- The work of the Committee is transparent and all decisions are being public on EQAR's website
- Tool for analysis of decisions
- [EQAR database of precedents](#)
  - Provides an overview of EQAR's past decisions and the grounds for them by standard
- Information provided on the Register
  - General information about the agency
  - Registration validity
  - RC decisions on the agency
  - Which countries the agency operates in
  - Link to the review reports
  - Contact details

## Policy on Use and Interpretation of the ESG

for the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies

- General policy explaining how the RC has used and interpreted the ESG
- Clarify expectations and make precedents transparent
- Explain how Register Committee makes decisions
- Guidance re. activities and scope of the ESG
- Affirm: **standards** are normative, **guidelines** are not
- **Reports should at least address:** for all standards, aim to assist in drafting report and avoiding questions afterwards
- **Interpretations:** for standards where needed, address specific cases
- Addresses QA agencies seeking inclusion on the Register and all those involved in the external review of QA agencies.

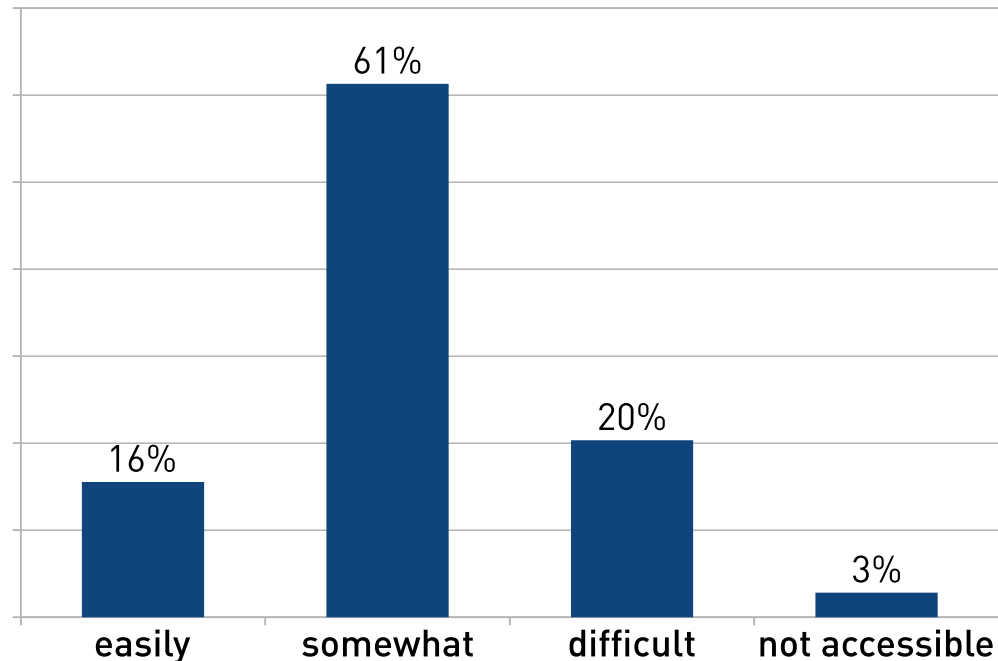
# Access to QA results before DEQAR (- before 2018)



## Existing difficulties:

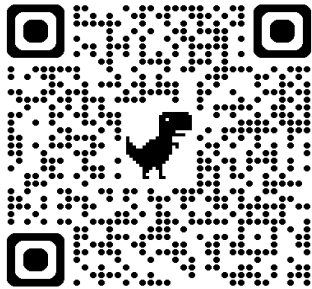
- Which agency?
- User-friendliness of websites
- Language
- Information up-to-date
- Understanding different external QA systems

Do you consider that decisions or reports on external quality assurance of higher education institutions or programmes are currently easy/difficult to access?



Source: EQAR survey of potential users, 2016 (n=384)

# DEQAR – “Quality at your fingertips”



<https://www.deqar.eu/>

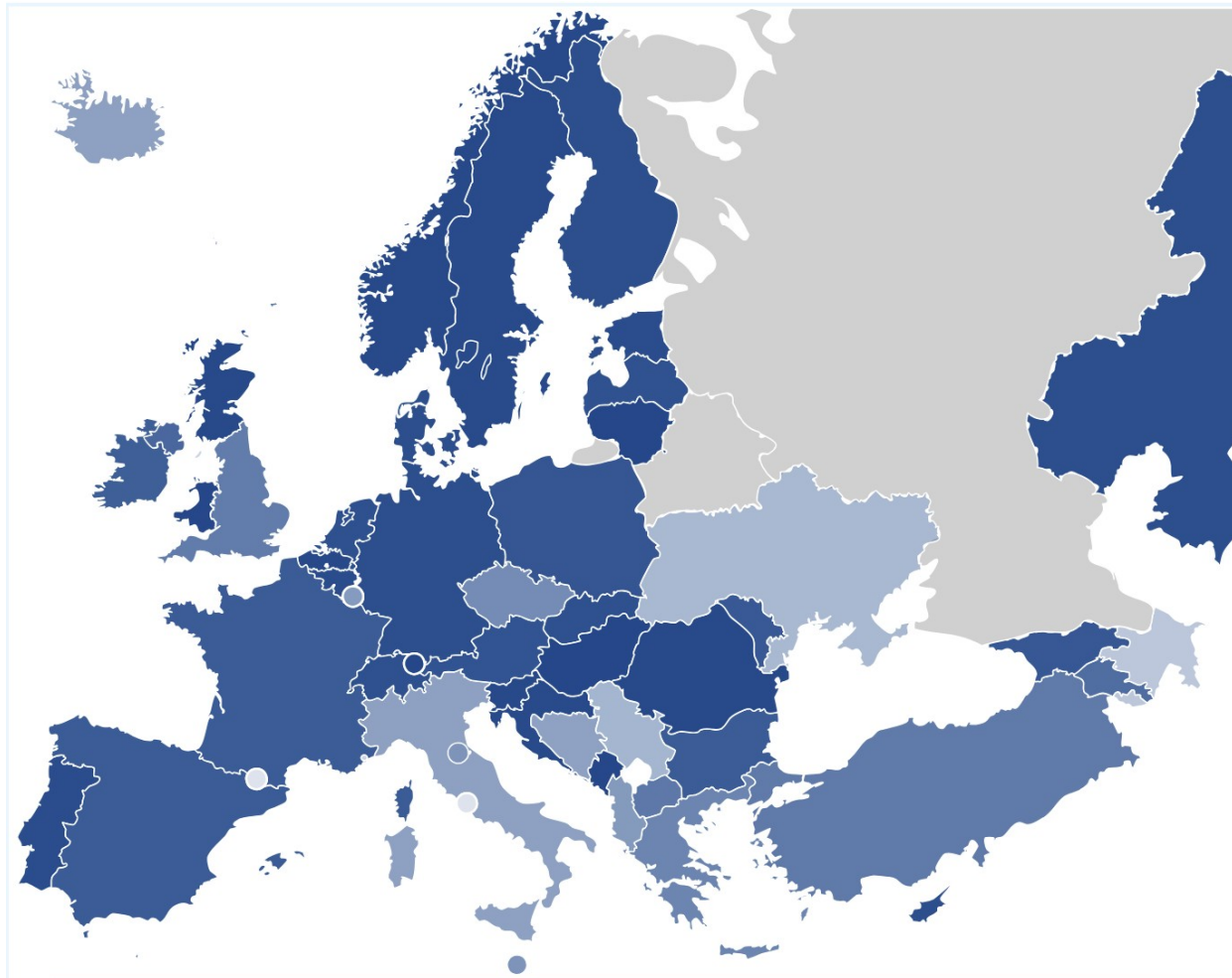
- Easy access to external quality assurance (QA) reports and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies
- Enhance **transparency and visibility at the European level**
- **Facilitates trust and automatic recognition**, based on robust quality assurance in line with ESG
- **Responds to information needs** of various stakeholders, in particular ENIC-NARICs and admission officers



# Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)



DEQAR is the Database of External Quality Assurance Results on activities performed by EQAR-registered quality assurance agencies.



Dark blue: 50-100% coverage  
Medium blue: 10-50% coverage  
Light blue: 5-10% coverage  
Grey area: non-EHEA

# Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)



|   | 31 Dec 2024 |
|---|-------------|
| Reports                                     | 109 117     |
| HE Institutions<br>(at least 1 report)      | 4181        |
| Higher Education Systems<br>(≥ 50% of HEIs) | 33          |
| Agencies                                    | 56 of 57    |

## Database

Search

— By provider

— By report

Glossary

Visualise data

Download data

Connect to API

Synergies

Find out more

## University of Liège

Université de Liège

### Basic information

Identifiers

DEQARINST0073 [ILLIETER BE0008](#) ROR: [HTTPS://ROR.ORG/00AFP2280](https://ror.org/00AFP2280)

ERASMUS: B LIEGED1 [?](#) SCHAC: ULIEGE.BE [?](#)

ERASMUS-CHARTER: E10209384 [?](#) EU-PIC: 999976105 [?](#)

EU-VAT: BE0325777171 [?](#) WHED: IAU-019607 [?](#)

Provider type

higher education institution

Legal seat(s)

Liège, [Belgium \(French Community\)](#)

Further location(s)

Arlon, [Belgium \(French Community\)](#)  
Gemboux, [Belgium \(French Community\)](#)

Website

<http://www.ulg.ac.be/>

Founding year

1817

QF-EHEA levels

second cycle

Historical relationships

- absorbed [Faculté universitaire des Sciences agronomiques de Gembloux](#) in 2009
- absorbed [Fondation Universitaire Luxembourgeoise](#) in 2004
- absorbed [HEC-Liège Business School](#) in 2005
- absorbed [I.S.A. Saint-Luc De Wallonie](#) in 2010
- absorbed [Institut supérieur d'architecture Lambert Lombard](#) in 2010

Permalink

<https://data.deqar.eu/institution/73>

# Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)



## National External Quality Assurance Requirements

- **Programme evaluations**  
address 1st (bachelor) and 2nd cycle (master) degrees.
- [Further information on external quality assurance in Belgium \(French Community\)](#)

## External Quality Assurance Reports and Decisions

### Institutional level

1 report

« < 1 > »

Results per page

10 20 50 100

#### Institutional review

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| DEQAR Report ID     | 98162   |
| Agency              | <a href="#">Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement Supérieur (AEQES)</a>          |
| Type                | Institutional review  |
| Status              | part of obligatory EQA system   |
| Formal decision     | not applicable  |
| Date                | 24/11/2021  |
| Valid until         | not applicable  |
| Report and decision |  report (French) |

# EQAR Members' Dialogue



## What?

The Members' Dialogue covers recent policy developments in QA as well as EQAR's current and future activities. Thanks to the informal setting, it also serves as a forum for exchange and networking among governments on issues related to QA. The event is usually hosted by a governmental member.

## When?

Autumn 2025

## Topics MD 2025?

ESG revision and EQAR's self-evaluation (TBC)

## For whom?

- EQAR members
- Stakeholder organisations, permanent observers and statutory bodies
- Speakers and guests

Thank you. Questions?

**Contact:**

- Annelies Traas  
[Annelies.traas@eqar.eu](mailto:Annelies.traas@eqar.eu)  
+32 474 9009 74
  - Blazhe Todorovski  
[blazhe.todorovski@eqar.eu](mailto:blazhe.todorovski@eqar.eu)  
+32 488 37 87 48
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