

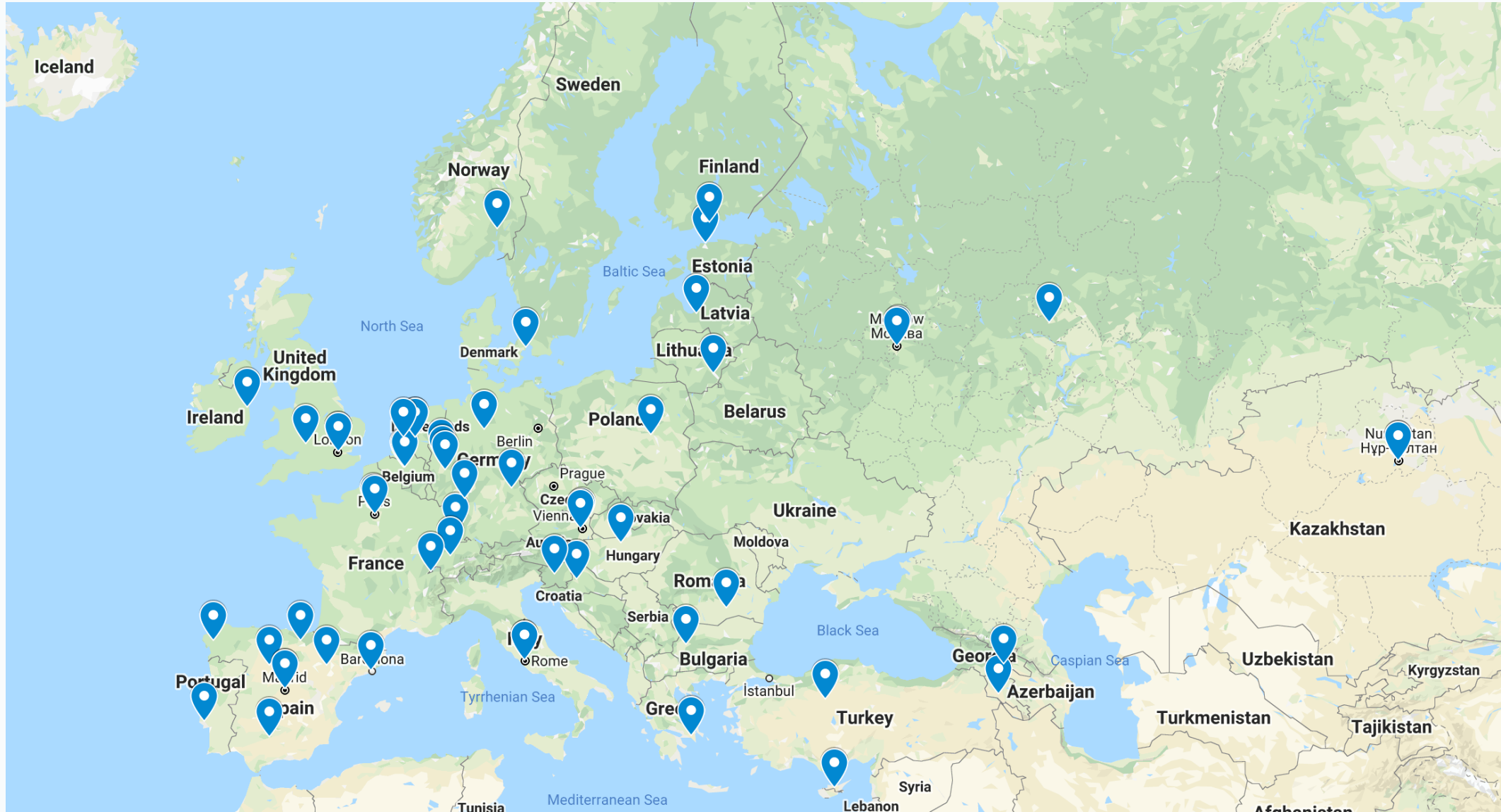
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# **QA IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT – WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?**

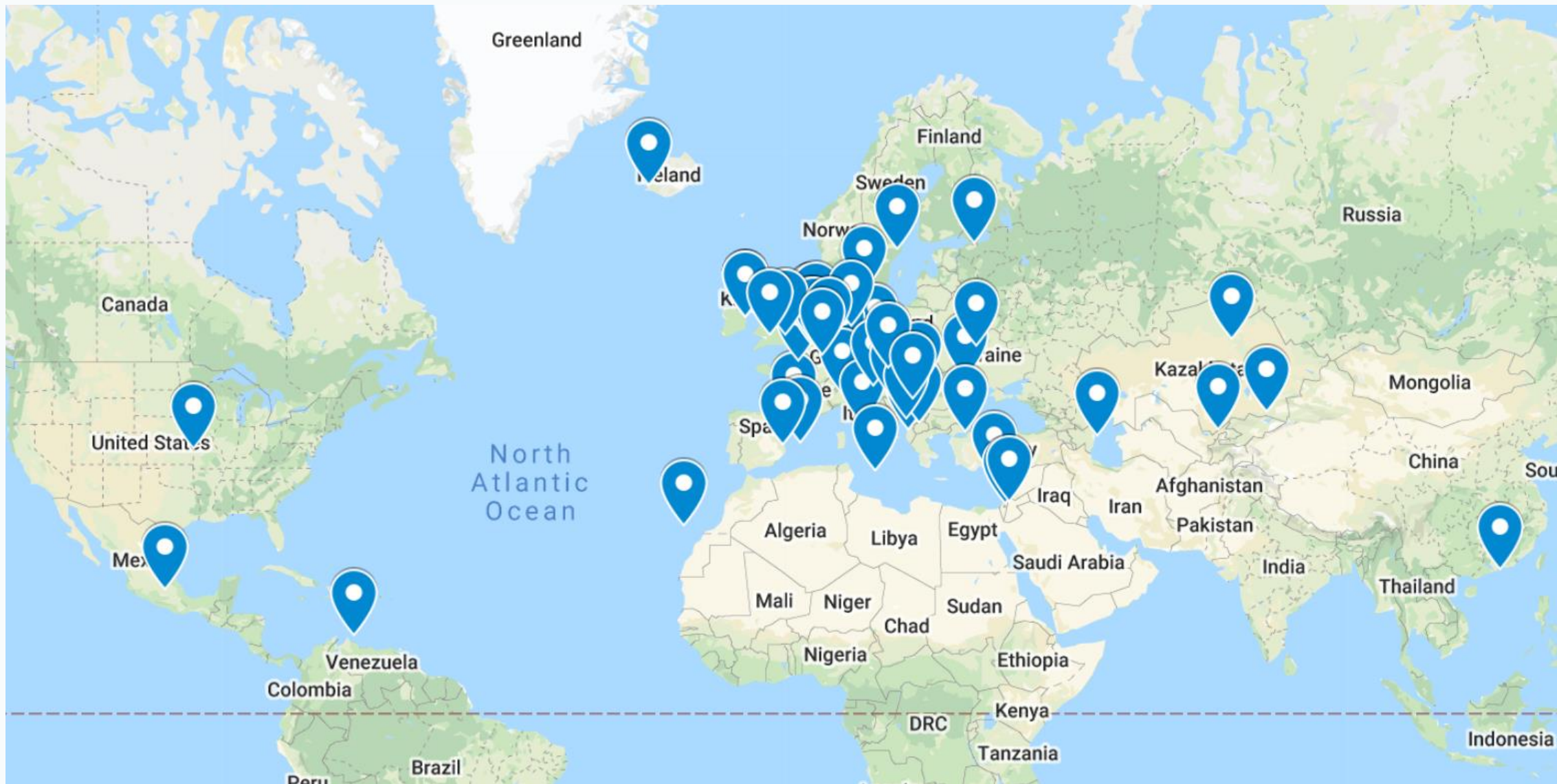
## WHAT IS ENQA?

- The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- **A membership and representative organisation** of QA agencies in the EHEA (founded by agencies (in 2000); governed by agencies)
  - Over 50 members from over 30 European (EHEA) countries (out of a total of 49)
  - 55 affiliates from a further 12 European countries, international and European level organisations, and entities from the USA, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Israel, Jordan, Mexico and Uzbekistan
- The criteria for membership is that an agency undergoes a successful **external review** against the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) every five years

## ENQA – MEMBER AGENCIES (55 IN 31 COUNTRIES)



## ENQA – AFFILIATES (55 IN 34 COUNTRIES)





# DIVERSITY

## Different types of agencies and methods

- Evaluation, audit, accreditation...
- Programme level and / or institutional level
- Subject specific / multidisciplinary
- European, national, and regional agencies

## Outcomes of quality assessments vary

- Permission to operate/award degrees
- Impact on funding
- Recommendations for improvement

→ Need for a common framework

## IMPLEMENTATION OF QA IN THE EHEA

- **Major changes** over the past two decades
- Almost all countries now have internal and external quality assurance systems in place on a system-wide scale
  - **ESG 2015 has consolidated as the EHEA model** and provided conditions for trust between systems
  - Most countries have **an independent QA agency** → ENQA membership has grown from 0 to over 50!

## Stage of development of QA systems in 2019



- AD
- LU
- LI
- MT
- VA

Dark Green = EQAR registered agency

Light Green = ESG-aligned but not EQAR

Yellow = EQAR agencies in some cases

Orange: QA system not yet aligned to ESG

Red: QA system not established

2018/19

30

6

6

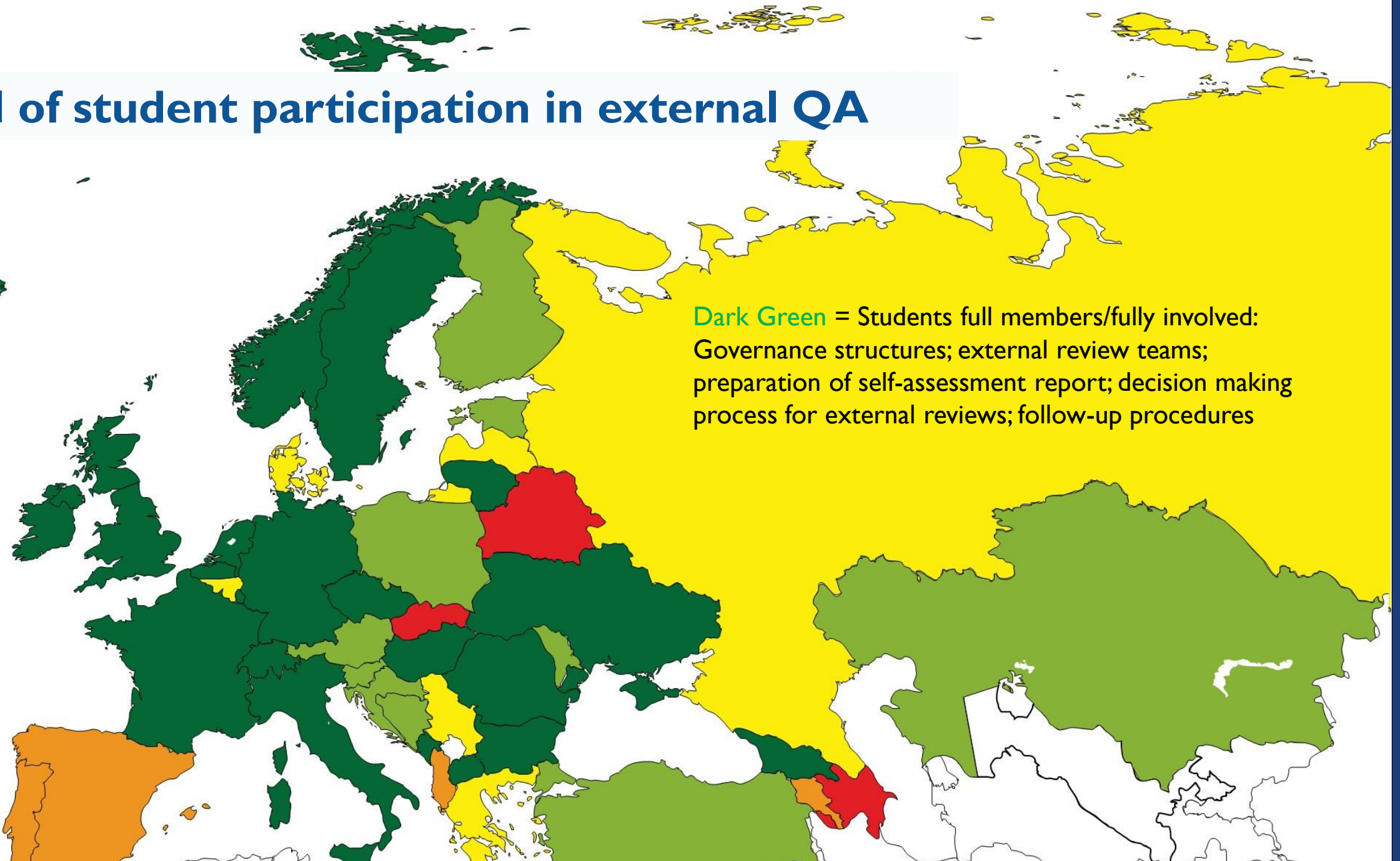
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## Level of student participation in external QA

- AD
- LU
- LI
- MT
- VA

**Dark Green** = Students full members/fully involved:  
Governance structures; external review teams;  
preparation of self-assessment report; decision making  
process for external reviews; follow-up procedures





## CROSS-BORDER QA

- Cross-border QA = QA agencies operating across borders
- Will to promote this mentioned in the Ministerial Communiqués
- HEIs could choose an agency that suits their profile among EQAR-listed agencies
- According to EQAR web-site
  - In **19 systems all HEIs can choose** a suitable EQAR listed QA agency
  - In **11 systems** can choose EQAR-listed agency, but **need to follow national requirements**
  - **17 countries do not recognise foreign agencies** as part of their national external quality assurance systems at all
- If interested, check “**Key considerations for Cross-border Quality Assurance**” developed by the E4 Group and EQAR

# QA OF JOINT PROGRAMMES

- Developing joint programmes a policy goal at European level – highlighted importance due to European Universities Initiative
- Challenges identified include external QA, in particular in programme accreditation countries
- **European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes** adopted in 2015
  - External QA based purely on criteria derived from the ESG Part I
  - One exercise carried out by EQAR listed agency - all countries involved recognise the results
- **Relatively limited impact so far**
  - In 18 systems European approach **not permitted** and external QA is based on programme-level accreditation
  - In 15 systems European Approach is available to some institutions, or with conditions
  - In 15 systems all HEIs can use the European Approach (but in many there is no need to use it...)



THANK  
YOU

enqa.