

Cross-border quality assurance in EHEA

MusiQuE Conference

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Aleksandar Šušnjar, EQAR Director

EQAR's Mission and Role

- EHEA's official register of quality assurance agencies that comply with the **Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG)**: currently 55 agencies
- Non-profit and independent
- Acting in the public interest

eqar



Policy background

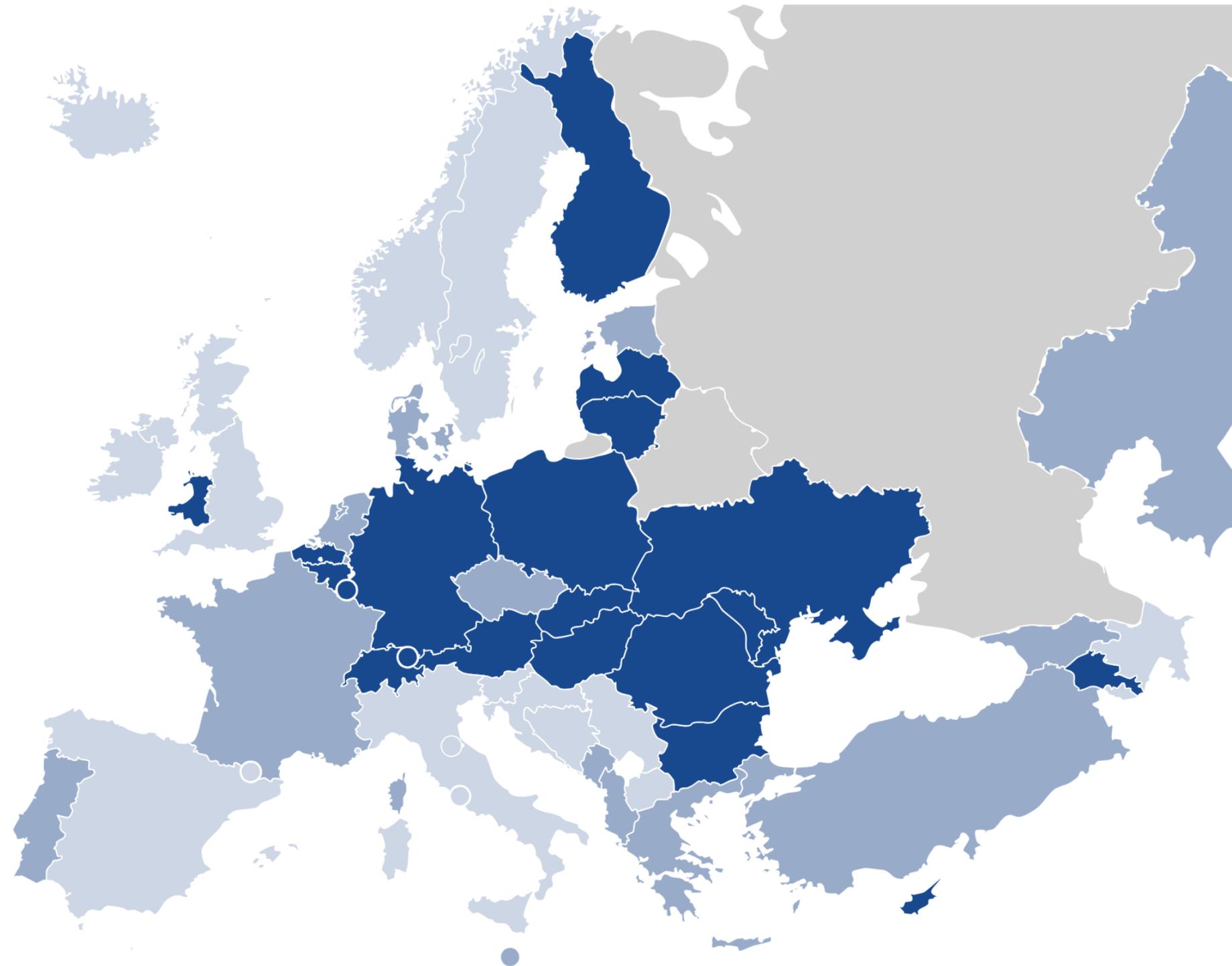


- EU Parliament and Council Recommendation on further European cooperation in quality assurance in higher education (2006)
- London Ministerial Communiqué (2007)
- Bucharest Ministerial Communiqué (2012)
- Yerevan Ministerial Communiqué (2015)

Policy implementation

System
openness to
cross-border
QA

- All HEIs
- Some HEIs or with restrictions
- None of the HEIs



Policy implementation



Requirements and conditions for agencies' work across borders:

- 1) Eligibility requirements
- 2) Operational requirements for evaluation methodology implementation
- 3) System level limitations
- 4) Review results recognition

IMINQA project findings:

- Pull factor: an external perspective, broader view and possibility for comparison; offering better market opportunities and higher employment of graduates...
- Push factor: Lack of trust in the domestic QA agency, a one size-fits all approach in the national QA system, lack of international exposure, narrow pool of reviewers in smaller HE systems...
- QA agencies involvement in a cross-border review as part of their strategy for internationalisation, broadening their horizon, improving internal processes, increasing staff motivation, or as an (extra) source of revenue.

Obstacles



IMINQA project findings:

- National requirements for quality assurance often bring an added layer of difficulty i.e. mapping or use of the agency standards against the national standards.
- QA agencies might also need to adapt their external QA methodologies to specific national legislation for regulated professions.
- Practicalities: time and financial resources, language of the review, terminology...
- Specific contextual obstacles related to societal and political environment.
- Perceived risk of “*agency shopping*”.

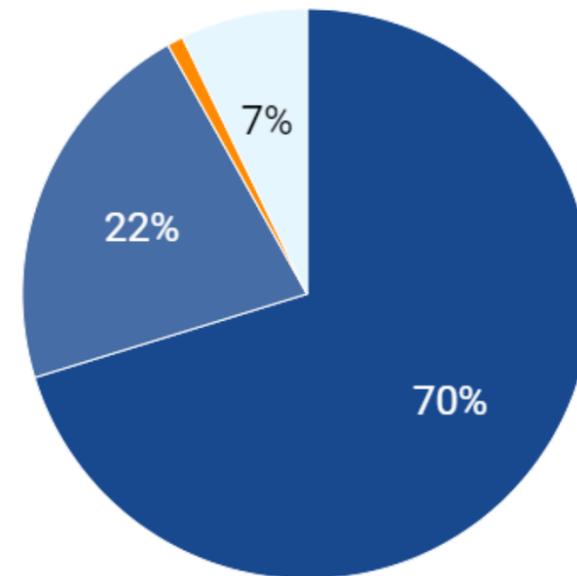
Policy implementation



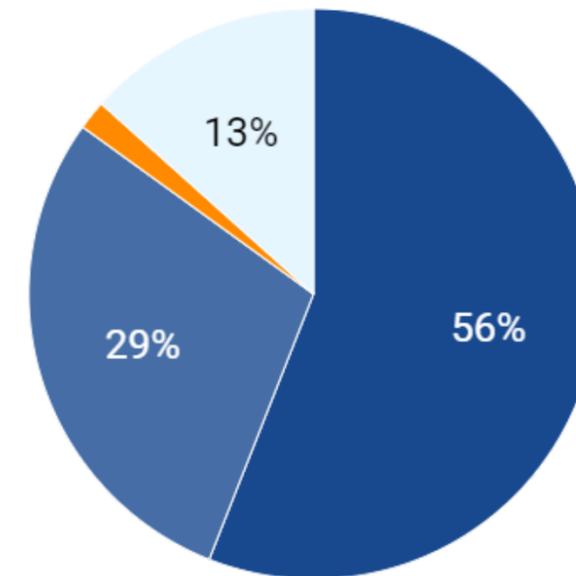
External QA Decisions

Decisions by cross-border vs domestic external quality assurance reports

- positive
- positive with conditions or restrictions
- negative
- not applicable



Cross-border



Domestic

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Policy implementation



Cross-Border Quality Assurance (EHEA) 2023

Share of cross-border external quality assurance results in DEQAR by year (EHEA institutions only)

■ Cross-border, part of obligatory EQA system ■ Cross-border, voluntary ■ Domestic, part of obligatory EQA system ■ Domestic, voluntary



European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education



Thank you!

<https://www.eqar.eu/>
info@eqar.eu

