

EQAR – what is is, how it works, and what it does

ENQA Seminar – Quality Assurance in the European Context

Brussels, 3 November 2016

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Contents



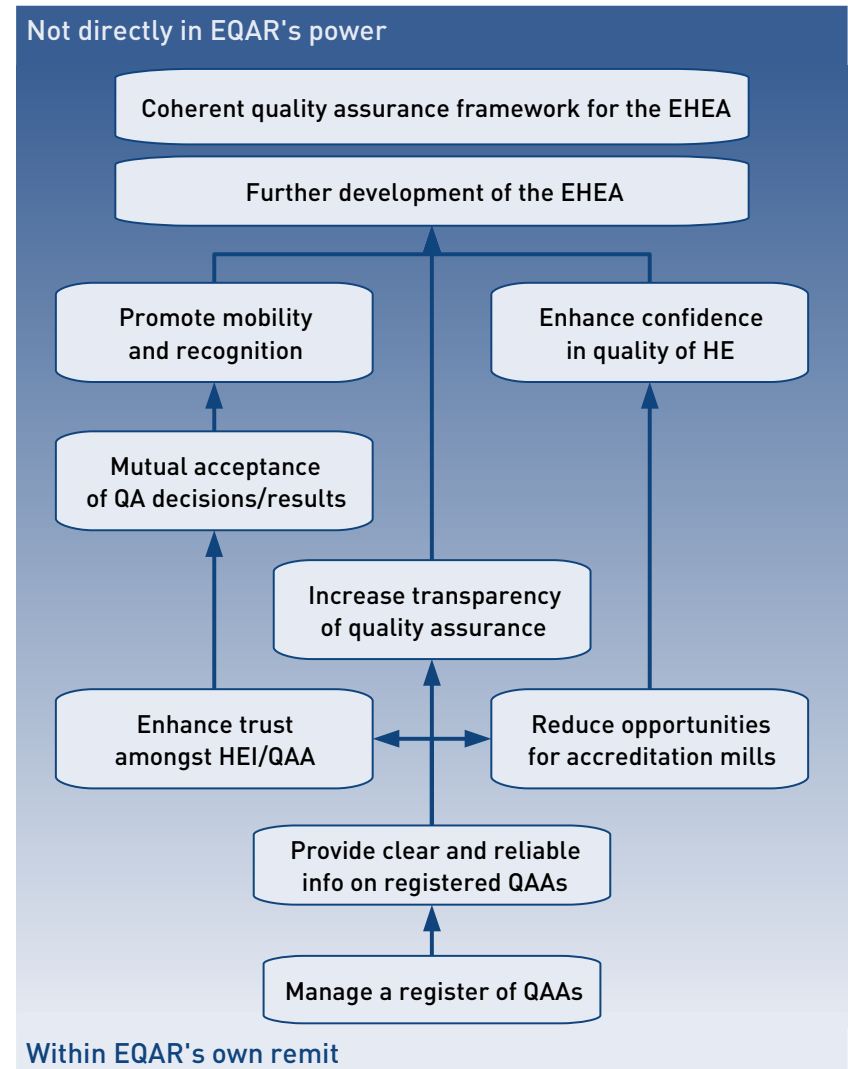
- 1) EQAR mission, objectives and organisation
- 2) What does it mean in practice for agencies?
- 3) Overview of EQAR's Work Plan
- 4) Cross-border quality assurance

Mission & Objectives

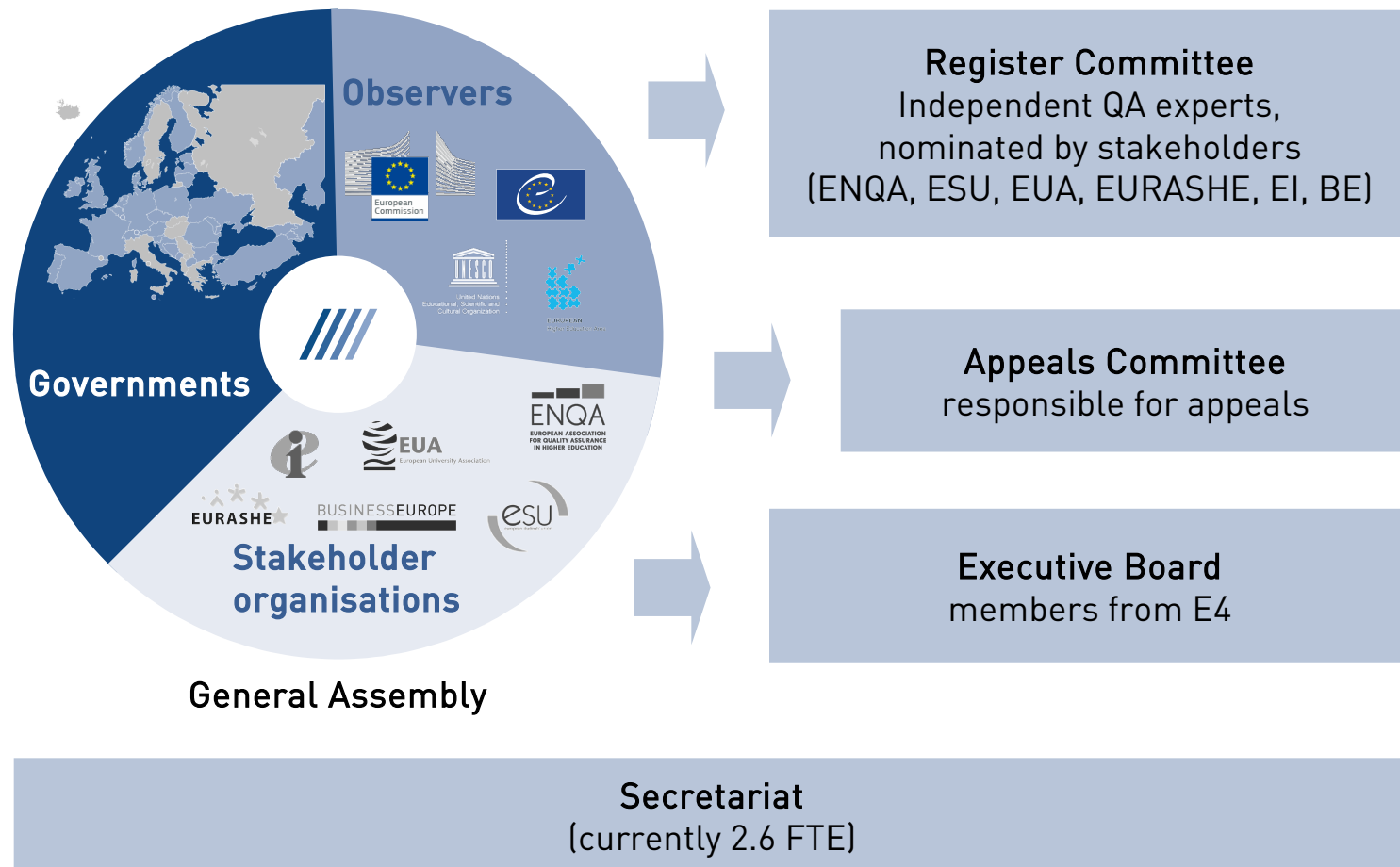


A European register of credible quality assurance agencies, operating in line with the ESG

- Initial idea part of ESG 2005
- European ministers requested E4 to establish EQAR (2007)
- Founded 2008 by E4
- Governed jointly by European governments and stakeholder organisations
- Non-profit and independent, acting in the public interest



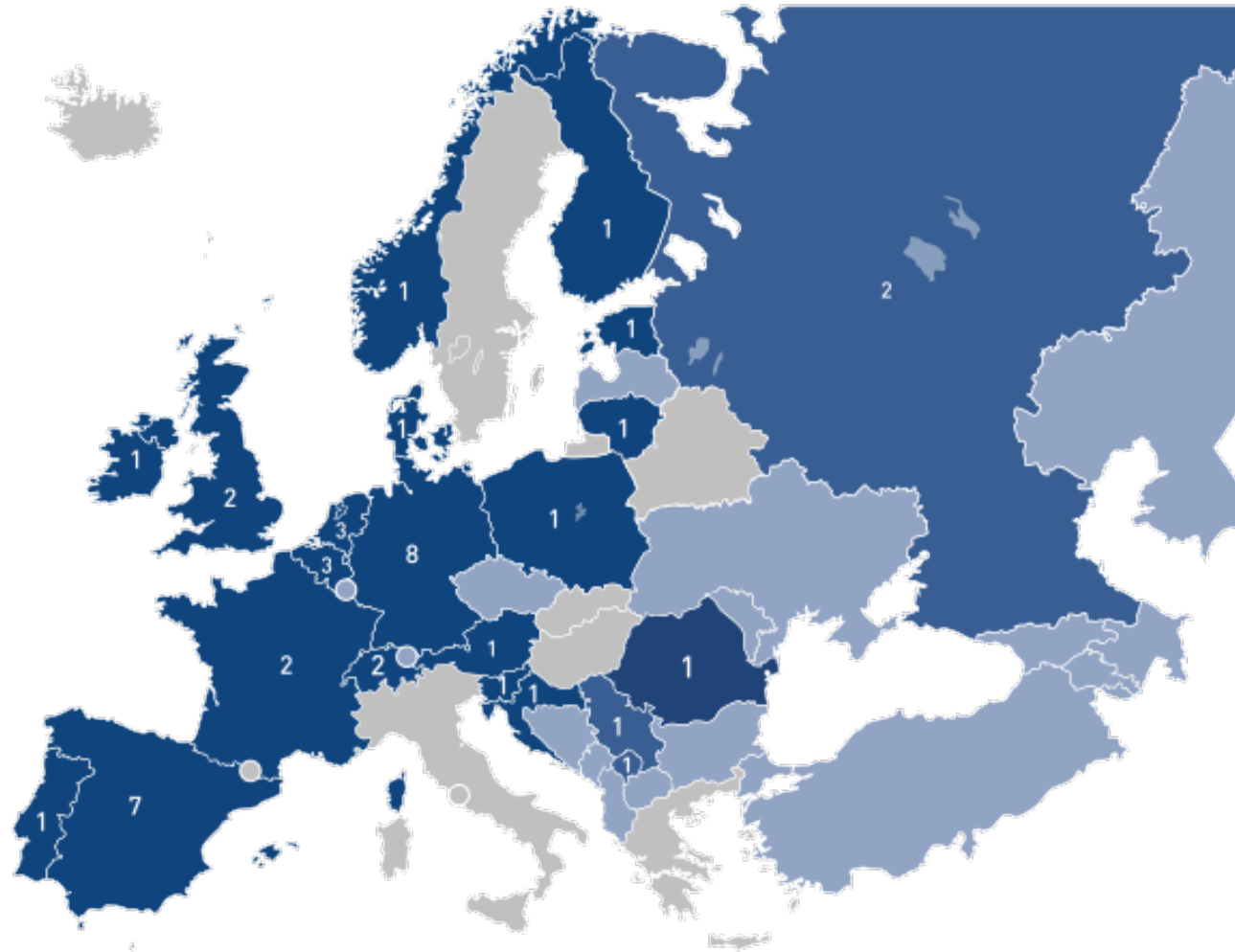
Organisational structure



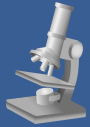
EQAR-registered agencies and governmental members

eqar

- 43 registered QAAs
- Governmental members without registered agency



EQAR in practice



Registration based on external review of agency



Annual updates on reviews and countries



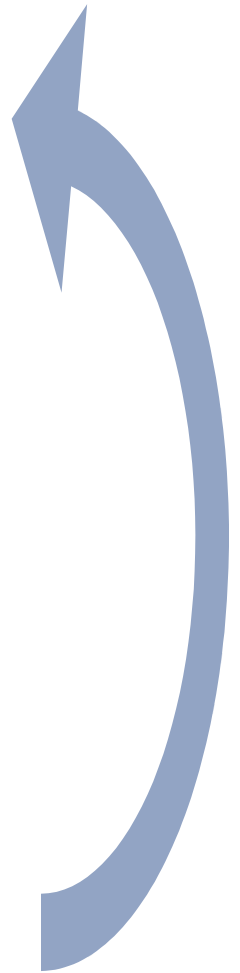
Substantive change reports



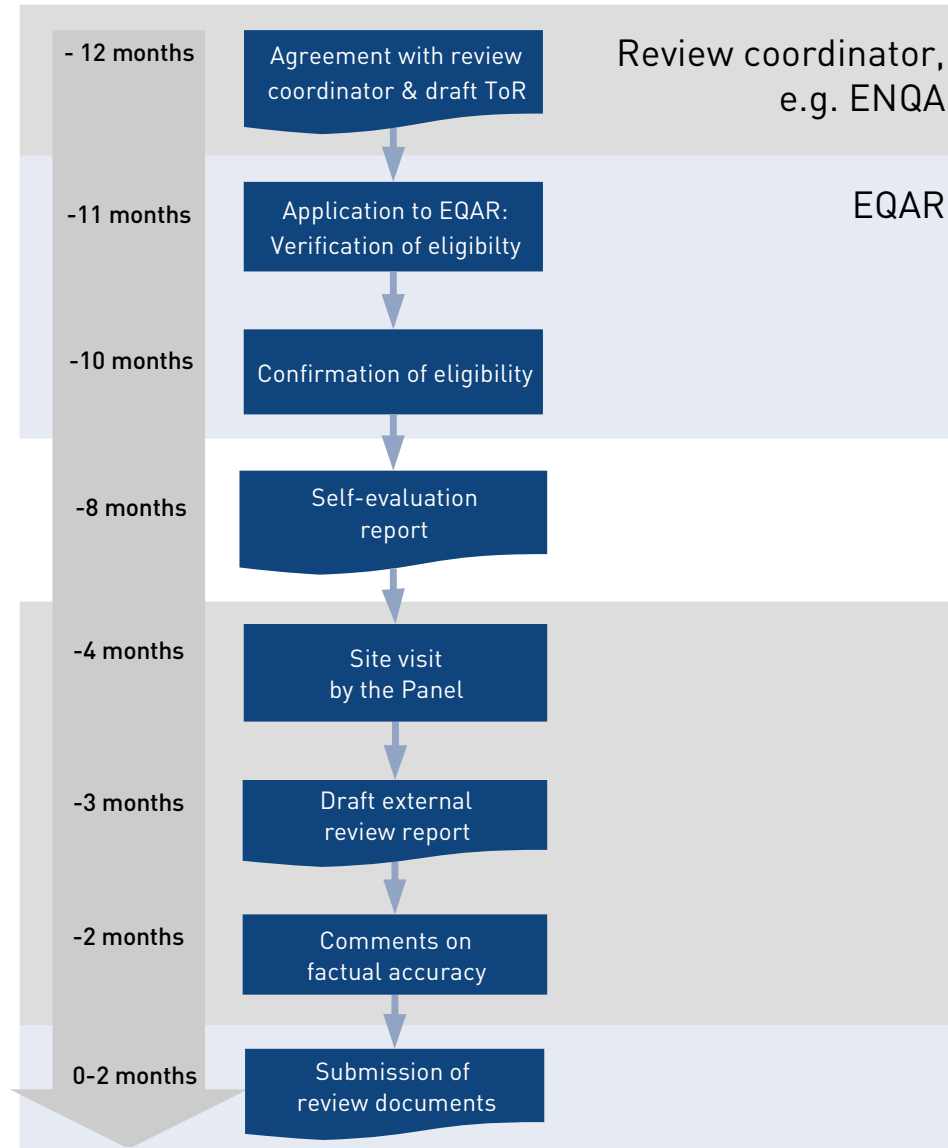
Third-party complaints



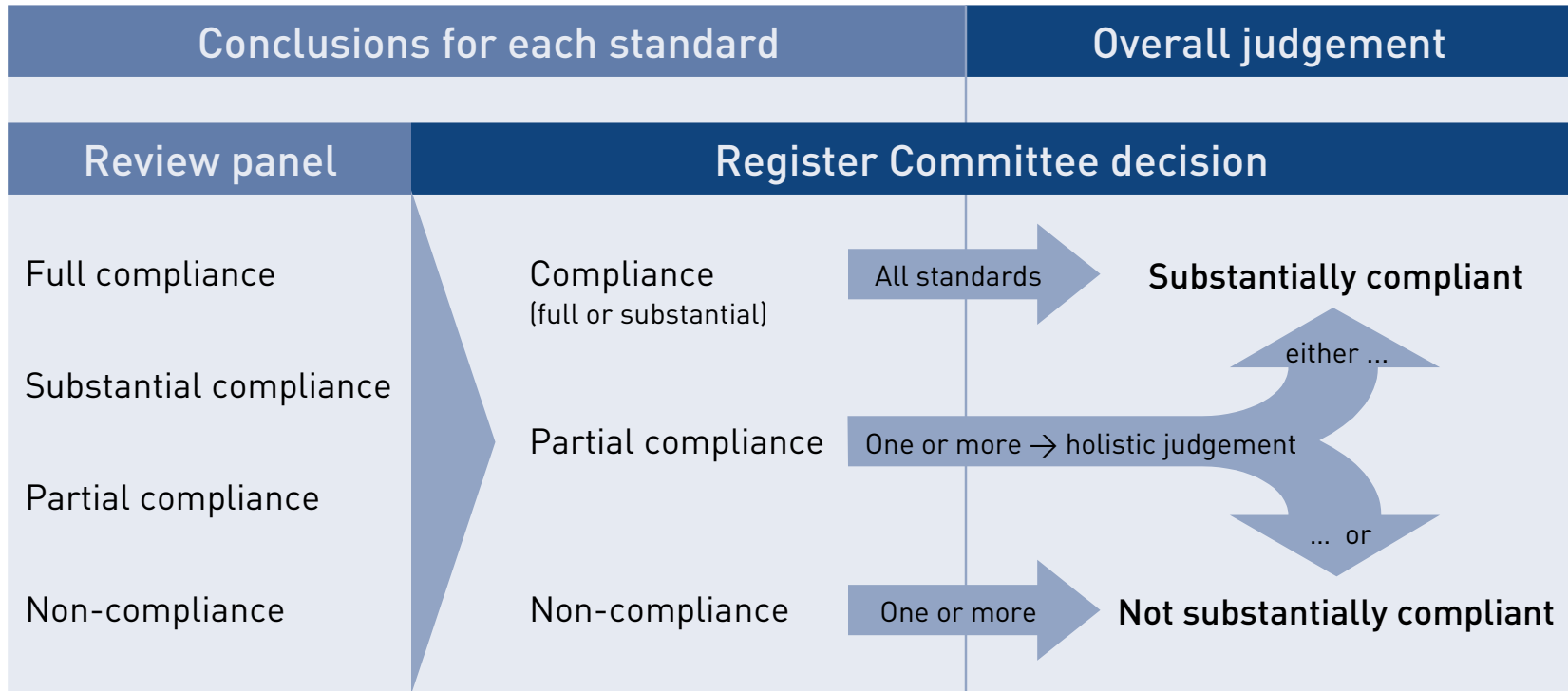
Periodic renewal every 5 years



Application/renewal process



Decision-making



- Clarification requests to panel chair if needed
- If conclusion differs from panel, explained in public decision

Publication



News

About

Register

View as map

View as list

Former entries

Criteria for Inclusion

Application Process

Registration and Renewal

Complaints

Documents

//// MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement

Admission valid until: 2020-11-30 (listed systems)

Based in*: Belgium

HE systems where agency conducted reviews**: Armenia; Belgium; France; Germany; Poland; Portugal; R; Switzerland; United

Reports by the agency: <http://www.musique>

External review reports and EQAR decisions: [2016-06_A31_ApprovalDecision_MusiQuE.pdf](#)

[2015-](#)

Application of: 17/11/2015

External Review Report of: November 2015

Review coordinated by: National Association of Sch

Review Panel members: Daniel Sher (Chair), André Sharkey (academic), Iring V (student), Pieter-Jan Van d

Decision of: 6 June 2016

Registration until: 30 November 2020

Absented themselves from decision-making: none

Attachments:

- [1. Confirmation of eligibility](#)
- [2. External Review Report,](#)
- [3. Applicant statement: "In financial sustainability o](#)

Contact details

Website:

Address:

Contact Person:

Conclusion

34. Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that MusiQuE demonstrated compliance with the ESG (Parts 2 and 3) as follows:

Standard	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	substantially complies	Compliance
2.2	fully complies	Compliance

Application – important documents



General

- Policy on **Use and Interpretation of the ESG** for the European Register
 - To be read in conjunction with the full text of the ESG
 - New element: “**Reports should at least demonstrate**”
- Guide for Applicants and Registered Agencies

<https://eqar.eu/register/application-process.html>

Your agency

- Eligibility confirmation letter
- For renewals: previous decision, Substantive Change Reports, Complaints (if any)

Annual update



Activities completed in 2015

Please provide the **number of external quality assurance procedures** at institutional and programme level **completed in 2015**, broken down by country.

Under **institutional level**, please also include reviews of smaller organisational units (departments, faculties), if appropriate.

Under **programme level**, please also include clustered reviews of several programmes and exclude joint programmes.

Under **joint programmes**, please specify the number of procedures (evaluations/accreditations) of such programmes. One procedure represents one joint review that resulted in one formal decision/report. (e.g. an EQA of a Belgian-France-German joint study programme with a site-visit carried out at the coordinating institution in Belgium is one review to be written as Belgium - joint programme procedure - 1).

As a rule, **one report should be counted as one procedure.** *

	Institutional level	Programme level	Joint programmes
Albania	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Andorra	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Armenia	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Austria	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Azerbaijan	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Substantive Change Reports



- **Why**
 - Become aware if agency's current practice differs substantially from when it was reviewed
 - Not intended to discourage change and innovation
- **When**
 - When changes are sufficiently clearly defined
 - E.g. when new procedure or manual is launched
- **How**
 - Online reporting form
<http://eqar.eu/register/reporting-and-renewal/substantive-change-report.html>
 - EQAR will normally take note, other action only if there are serious concerns

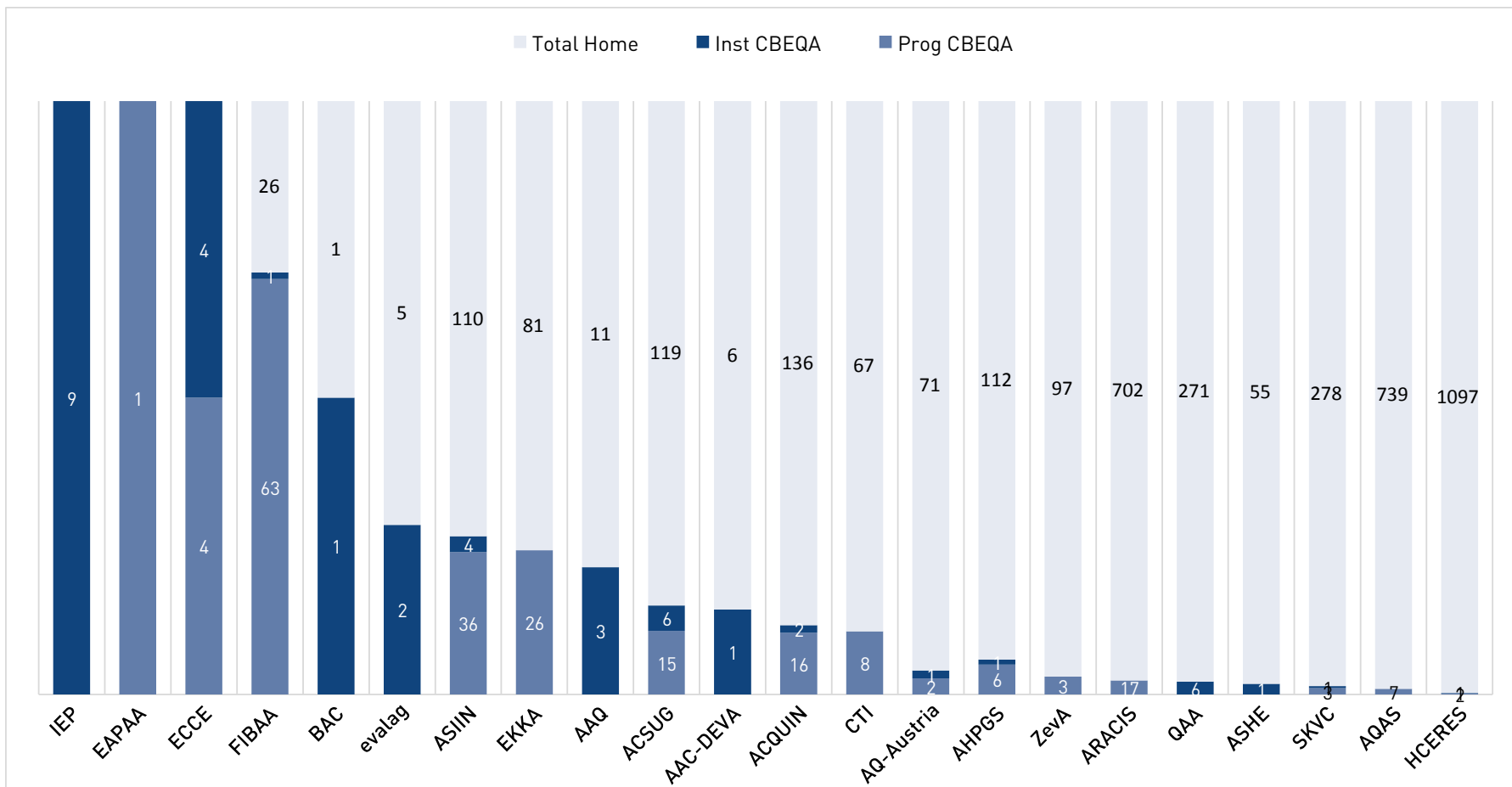
EQAR Work Plan 2016/17



- **Strategic Goal 1: International Trust and Recognition**
 - Implementation of the ESG 2015
 - Developments in Cross-Border QA
 - European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes

- **Strategic Goal 2: Enhanced Transparency and Information Provision**
 - Information on the Work of Registered Agencies
 - Database of Quality-Assured Programmes or HEIs
 - Extended Publication of Decisions

Quality assurance crossing borders



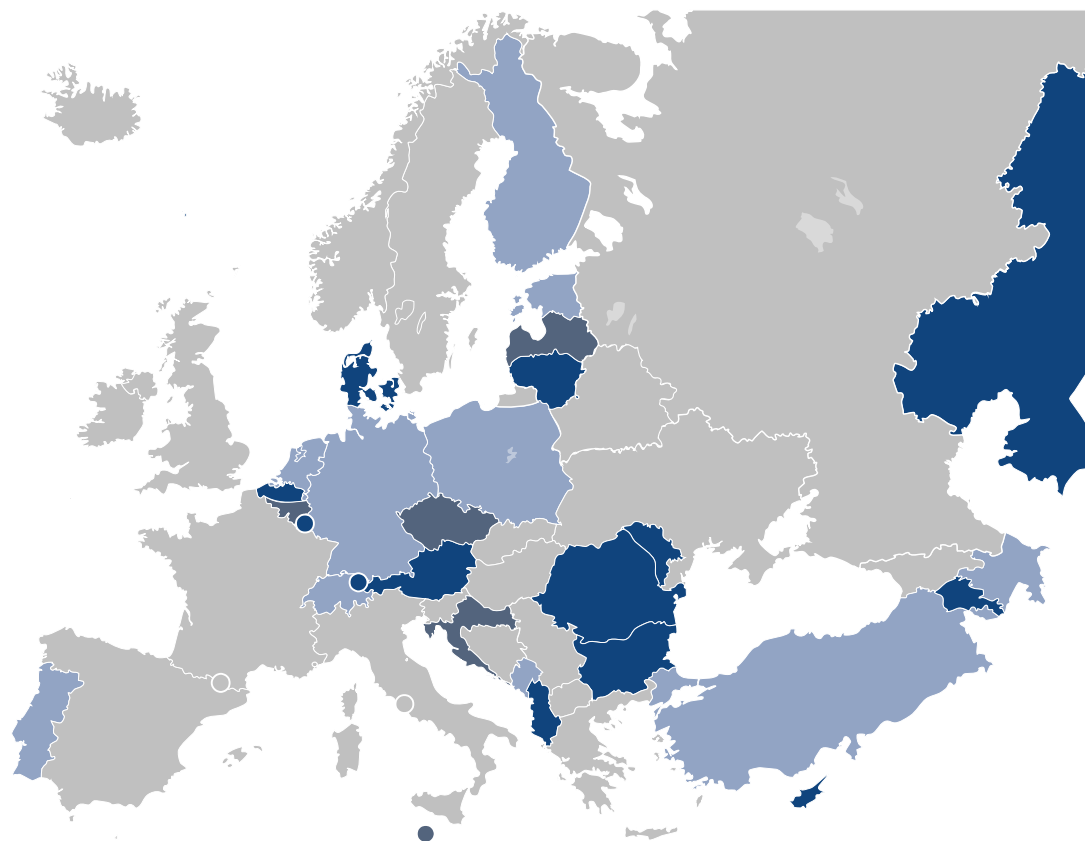
CBQA: opportunities & challenges



	Opportunities	Challenges
Higher Education Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International visibility• Valuable feedback• Increased commitments• Different approaches• Suit their own mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify suitable agency• Workload and costs• Unknown expectations• Language
Quality Assurance Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International profile• Experience relevant for work at home• Diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unfamiliar context• Adapting standards• Language

CBQA: national legal frameworks lag behind

- Despite the robust European framework in place ...
 - Cross-border accreditation/ evaluation not fully recognised
 - In addition/parallel to obligatory national external QA
 - Duplication of efforts for institutions



- Recognising EQAR-registered agencies as part of the national requirements for external QA
- Recognising foreign agencies with own/specific framework
- Discussions ongoing
- Countries not recognising external QA by foreign agency

EQAR – system information



Austria

Austria has been a Governmental Member of EQAR since 2008.

Focus of external quality assurance

- *Public universities:* Institutional audit
- *Universities of applied sciences:* Institutional and initial programme accreditation; Institutional audit (after an uninterrupted accreditation period of 12 years)
- *Private universities:* Institutional and initial programme accreditation
- *University colleges of teacher education:* own methodology

Can higher education institutions choose a suitable EQAR-registered agency?

- *Public universities:* yes.
- *Universities of applied science:* after having been re-accredited by the national Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria)
- *Private universities & university colleges of teacher education:* no.
- **Eligibility requirements for foreign agencies:**
 - Registration on EQAR
 - QA agencies have to submit an expression of interest to the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.
- **Condition for the agency's work:** compliance with the criteria by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy.
- **Further information/regulations:** [↗ Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education \(HS-QSG\) from March 2012 \(§ 19.\) \(page 14\)](#) & [↗ BMWF Presentation](#)



E4/EQAR Key Considerations for CBQA



- E4 Group and EQAR ad-hoc group, following up recommendation from RIQAA project (2012)
- Reaffirm ESG as the basis for CB QA
- Key issues that should be taken into consideration by HEIs and QAAs
 - **A. Engaging in cross-border QA**
Rationale, suitable agency, legal framework, internal and external stakeholders
 - **B. Carrying out cross-border QA**
Procedures, preparation, expert selection/training, practical specificities
 - **C. Addressing the results of cross-border QA**
Recognition, complaints, appeals, follow-up



Thank you for your attention!

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