

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education



Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

ENQA Members' Forum
20 April 2018, Zaragoza

Colin Tück



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



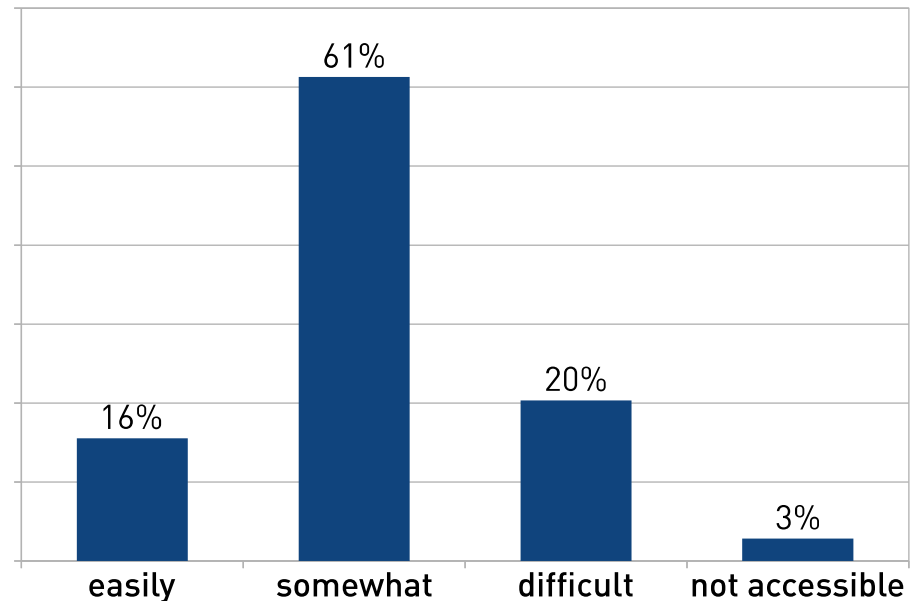
1. Introduction

Current accessibility of external QA results

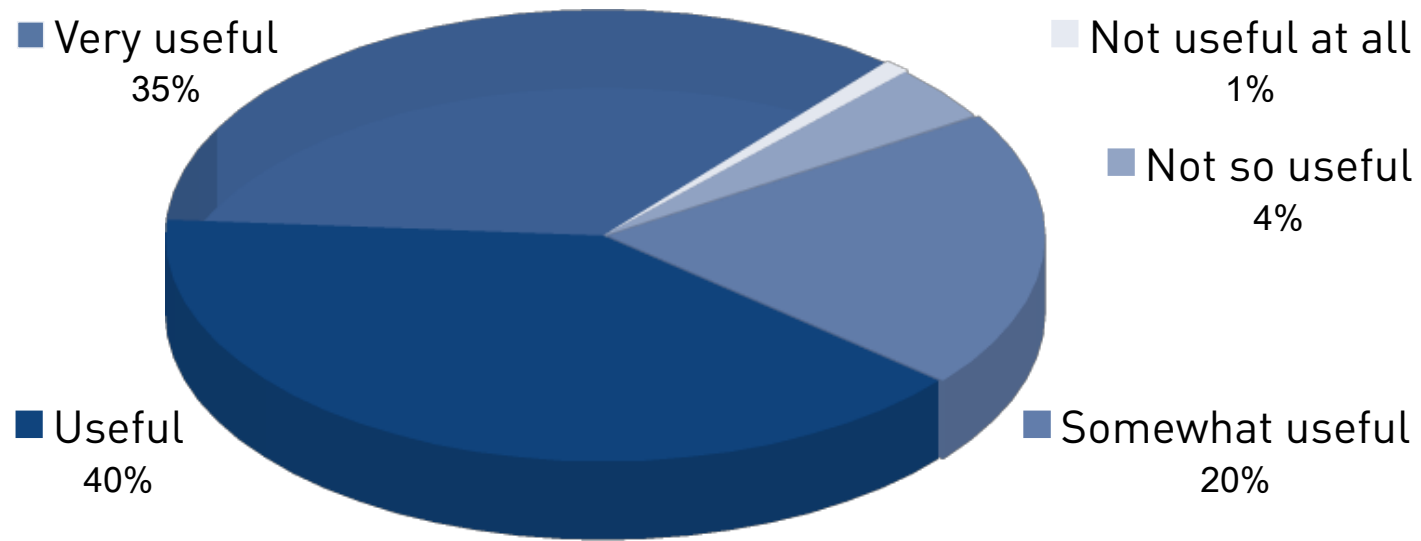


Existing difficulties:

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

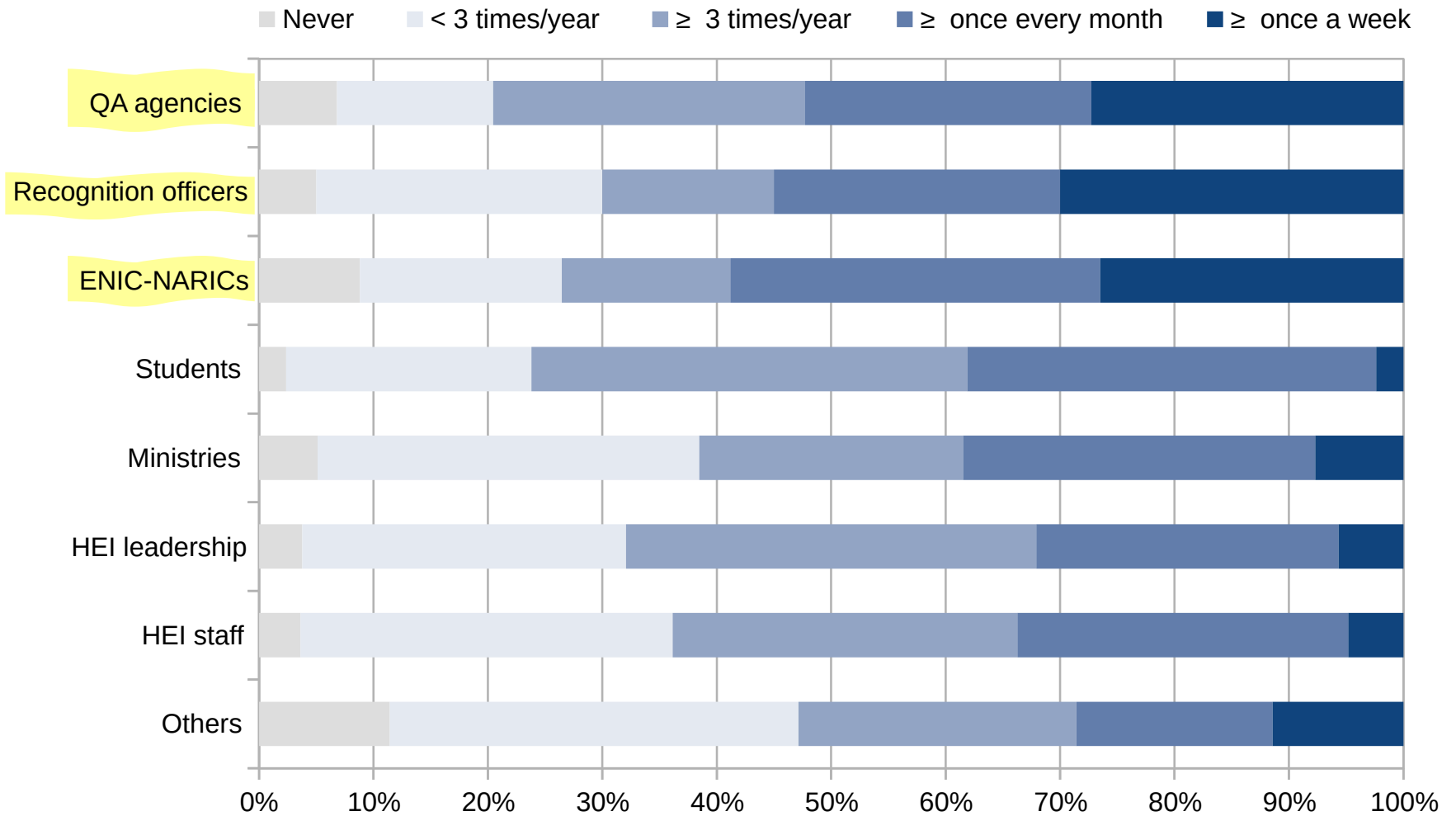


Usefulness of a database of external QA results



(no major variation between user groups)

DEQAR – for whom?



Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)



- Allow users to:
 - Identify whether HE institution, or its programmes, were subject to external QA in line with ESG
 - Access to information and report on external QA
 - Reliable information on quality or how it is managed
 - Contextualise information (e.g. national system)
- 2016: Study, Report and Operational Model
- 2017: launch of Erasmus+ project



Design Principles



- **Lean approach:** only what is needed and readily available
- **Diversity of external QA:** institutional level as starting point, list of programmes not feasible for all
- **Free and accessible:** no fees or restrictions, data also available as “open data” through public search/discovery API
- **Accessible and understandable:** contextual information to understand the status and meaning
- **Accurate and up-to-date**
- **Comprehensive:** all reviews within the scope of the ESG
- **Open:** all EQAR-registered agencies must be able to feed information in the database, if they wish; all models/code are public

What happened so far



- DEQAR project consortium:
 - 6 stakeholder organisations (E4, EI, ENIC-NARIC)
 - 1 research centre (University of Gent)
 - 17 QA agency partners – ca. 75% of EQA by registered agencies
 - 4 associate partners (e.g. QAA outside Erasmus+)
- Key activities so far:
 - Data model and software development (subcontracted)
 - Webinar and workshop for QA agency partners
 - Testing of data submission methods

2. User interface:

how will it look for the public?



Database Features



Browse and search



(by institution name, country, agency, date)



Historic record



Full download



Embed into third-party applications

Public user interface (prototype)



Database of External Quality Assurance Results

Search our database of QA results per country, city or institution

[Advanced search](#)

Country

Agency

Report status

Report Year

EHEA Level

- None Short cycle First cycle Second cycle Third cycle

Include Historical data

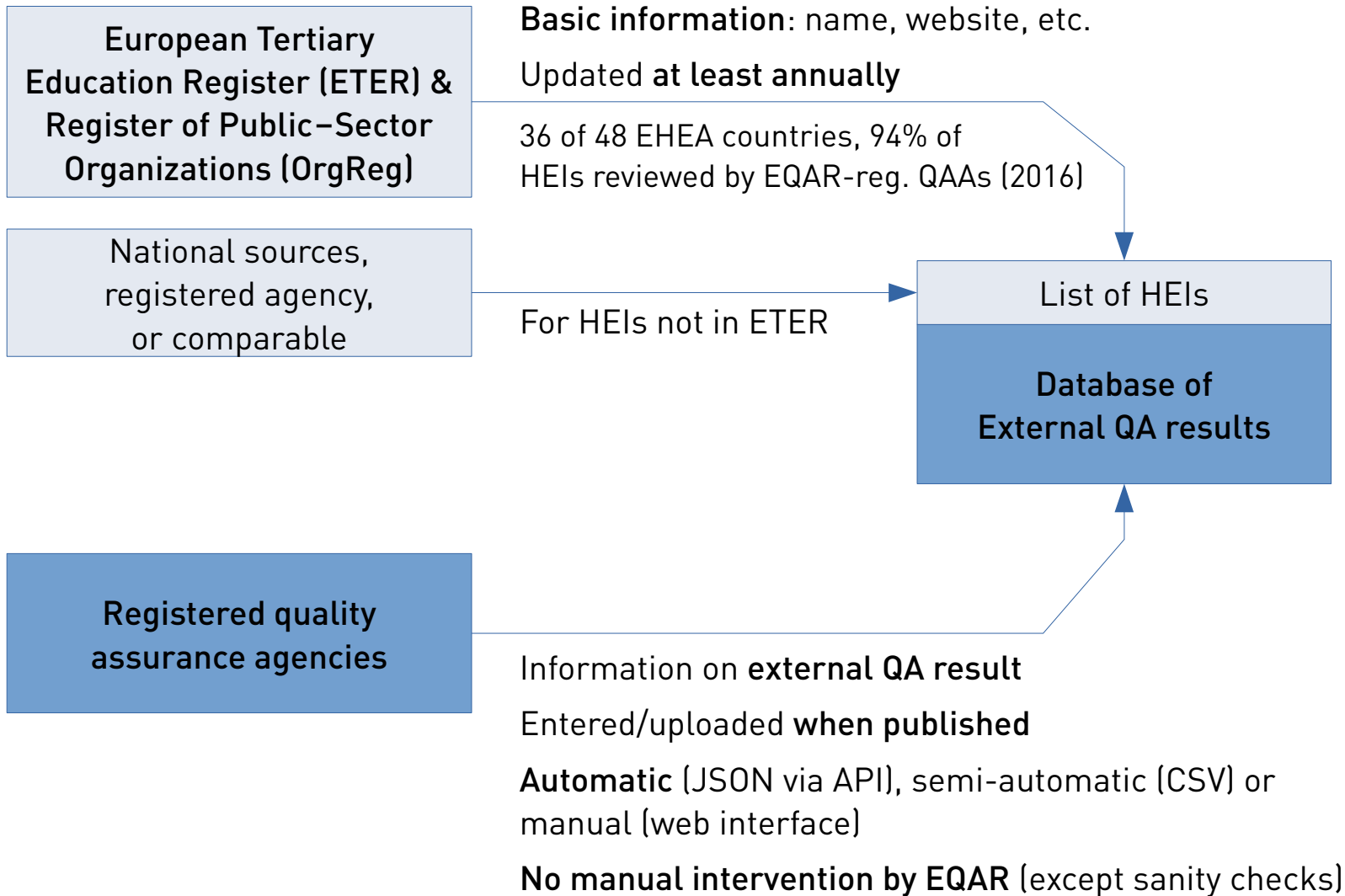
Include cross-border recognition

3. The backend:

how does the information get there?



Sources and updates



3 Methods for Data Submission



Web form (administrative interface)

- Agencies without IT developers
- Agencies with a closed system architecture from which data export is not straightforward
- Submit small amounts of data occasionally

File upload (Comma-separated values, CSV)



- Export data from agency system into CSV (possibly via XLS/ODS/...)
- Work manually on the dataset before submit
- Submit big amount of data in a batch

Using the Application Programming Interface (API)

- Agencies with IT developers
- Send data in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) format
- Keep DEQAR and local system in sync, e.g. submission of reports upon their creation
- Suitable also for large amount of data
- Data submitted periodically and at longer interval

Admin interface / web form



eqar  Welcome, space! 

[Home](#) / [Dashboard](#)

85
Reports submitted

0
High level flag

99
Institutions covered

65
Programmes mentioned

Report ID	Agency	Name	Institutions	Programmes	Flag
3456	SPACE	Enhancement-led review at institutional level (by SPACE)	Aachen University of Applied Sciences		none
3455	SPACE	Enhancement-led review at institutional level (by SPACE)	Aachen University		none
3454	SPACE	European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes (by SPACE)	Conservatoire national supérieur musique et danse de Lyon; Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre; Hamburg University of Music and Theater; Royal College of Music in Stockholm	CoPeCo – Masters in Contemporary Performance and Composition	low level
3451	SPACE	European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes (by SPACE)	Aachen University; Arts Academy	Joint Croatian-German Studies	low level

File upload (CSV) – flags



Submission Results

Row	Agency Record ID	Submission Status	Errors	Sanity Check	Report Flag	Report Warnings	Institution Warnings
1	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea Creștină „Dimitrie Cantemir” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
2	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea Creștină „Dimitrie Cantemir” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
3	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea Creștină „Dimitrie Cantemir” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
4	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea Creștină „Dimitrie Cantemir” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
5	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
6	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
7	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
8	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
9	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
10	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
11	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Titu Maiorescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
12	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea „Nicolae Titulescu” din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
13	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea Româno-Americană din București] suggested by [ARACIS] on [2018-03-06]
14	28	Success		Warning			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternative [name_official] [Universitatea Româno-Americană din

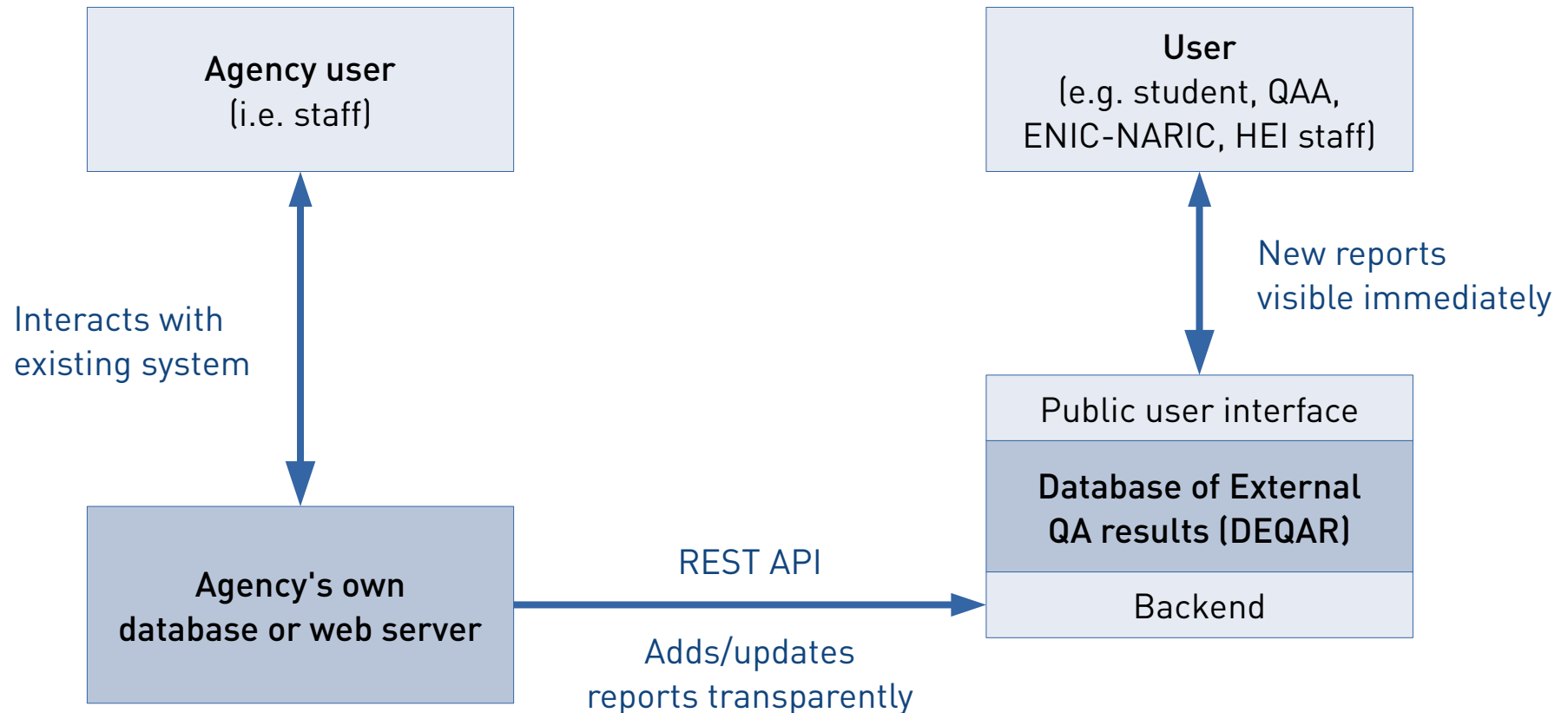
File upload (CSV) – errors



Submission Results

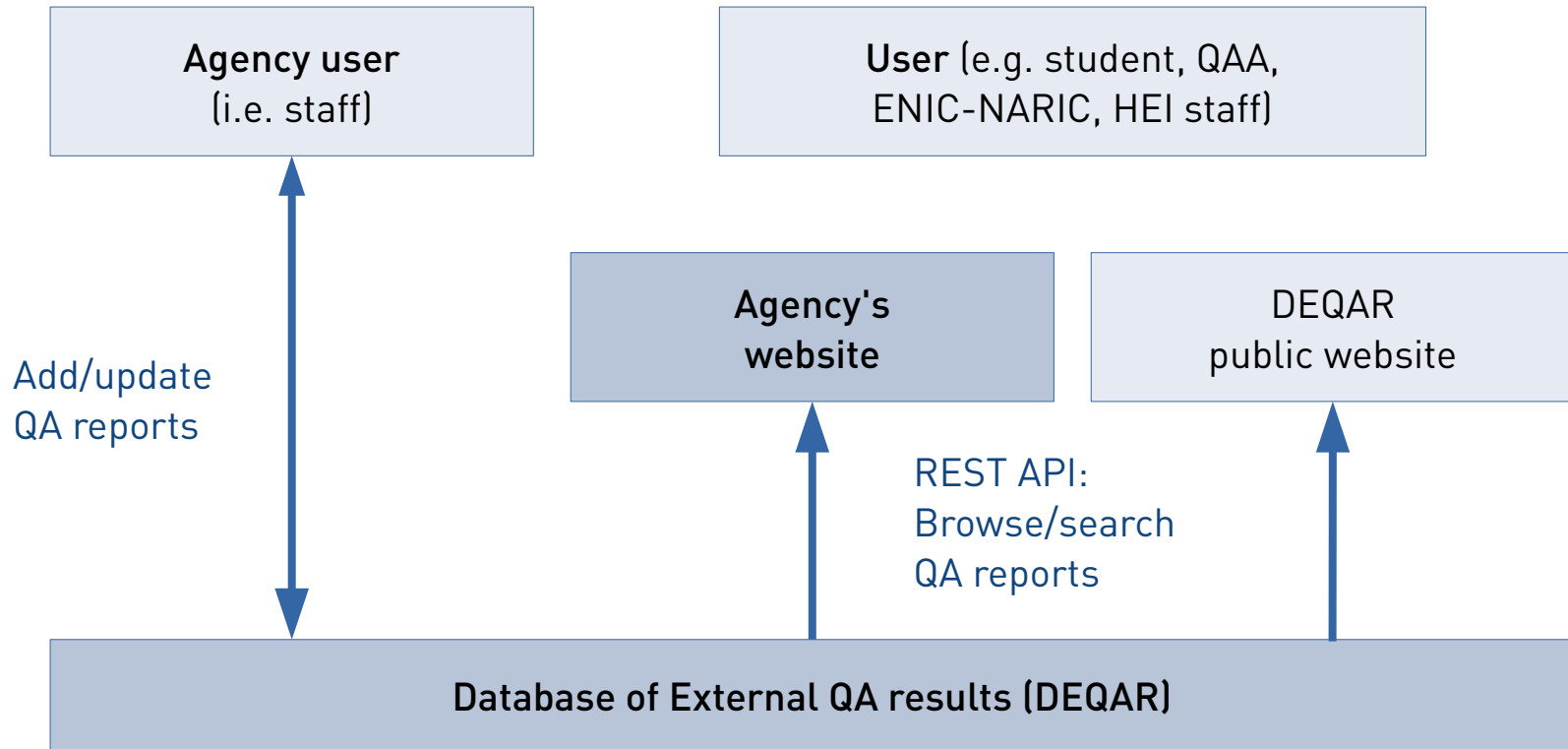
Row	Agency Record ID	Submission Status	Errors	Sanity Check	Report Flag	Report Warnings	Institution Warnings
1		Errors	agency You can't submit data to this Agency.				
2		Errors	agency You can't submit data to this Agency.				
3		Errors	report_files {'original_location': ['Enter a valid URL.'], 'report_language': ['Please provide valid language code.']}				
			valid_from Ensure this field has no more than 20 characters.				
			status Please provide valid Report Status.				
			decision Please provide valid Report Decision ID.				
			report_links {'link': ['Enter a valid URL.']}				
			institutions {'locations': [{'country': ['Please provide valid country code.']}				
			agency Please provide valid Agency Acronym.				
4		Errors	-----				

Submission API



REST ("Representational State Transfer") API: convenient way for internet-based exchange of information between different systems using the protocol used by the WWW (HTTP). Widely used together with JSON (JavaScript Object Notation).

Web API – use by agency



Agencies could use the same API (as the DEQAR public website uses) to publish reports on their own website

API – report submission



POST <https://backend.deqar.eu/submissions> Send 200 OK TIME 422 ms SIZE 874 B

JSON Bearer Query Header 1 Doc Preview Header 8 Cookie Timeline

```
1 {
2   "agency": "SPACE",
3   "activity_local_identifier": "SIR",
4   "status": "voluntary",
5   "decision": "not applicable",
6   "valid_from": "2018-01-31",
7   "valid_to": "2023-01-31",
8   "date_format": "%Y-%m-%d",
9   "report_files": [
10    {
11     "display_name": "Review report",
12     "report_language": [ "eng" ]
13    }
14  ],
15  "institutions": [
16    { "eter_id": "SI0001" },
17    { "deqar_id": "DEQARINST2942" }
18  ]
19 }
20
```

```
1 {
2   "report_flag": "low level",
3   "sanity_check_status": "warnings",
4   "report_warnings": [
5     "File location was not provided."
6   ],
7   "submitted_report": {
8     "id": 3430,
9     "agency": "SPACE - *** TEST *** Specimen Agency for QA in Central Europe",
10    "local_identifier": null,
11    "agency_esg_activity": "SPACE -> SPACE Institutional Review (institutional)",
12    "name": "SPACE Institutional Review (by SPACE)",
13    "status": "voluntary",
14    "decision": "not applicable",
15    "valid_from": "2018-01-31",
16    "valid_to": "2023-01-31",
17    "files": [
18      {
19        "id": 4746,
20        "file_display_name": "Review report",
21        "file_original_location": "",
22        "file": null,
23        "report_language": [
24          "English"
25        ]
26      }
27    ],
28    "institutions": [
29      {
30        "id": 2799,
31        "deqar_id": "DEQARINST2799",
32        "eter_id": "SI0001",
33        "name_primary": "University of Ljubljana"
34      },
35      {
36        "id": 2942,
37        "deqar_id": "DEQARINST2942",
38        "eter_id": null,

```

Beautify JSON \$.store.books[*].author

Time to get practical ...



- Frontend “pre-preview”
- Admin interface:
 - Registered QAAs: use credentials you have received
 - Others: contact EQAR for test environment
- Questions:
 - Main considerations for your agency?
 - Any secondary implications from participation?
 - One of the 3 options feasible for you?
 - Use cases for agency itself as DEQAR user?
 - Feedback on the previews?



Thank you for your attention!

Further information:

www.deqar.eu

Contact:

colin.tueck@eqar.eu

+32 2 234 39 11

@EQAR_he

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