

Quality assurance of higher education in the European Higher Education Area - The impact of HE 4.0

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Structure of the presentation

1. Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area
2. ENQA as a policy maker and membership organisation
3. European Standards and Guidelines
4. ENQA's recommendations to the Ministers of Education

The European Higher Education Area (AREA)

As the main objective of the [Bologna Process](#) since its inception in 1999, the European Higher Education Area was meant to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe. Between 1999 - 2010, all the efforts of the Bologna Process members were targeted to creating the European Higher Education Area, which became reality with the Budapest-Vienna Declaration of March 2010.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Higher_Education_Area)

The European Higher Education Area (AREA)

- 48 countries
- Europe is diverse!
- Education policies in Europe based on subsidiarity
- The Bologna Process a voluntary process
- Quality assurance an action line in the Bologna Process since the beginning (1999)
- Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education area (ESG) the common framework for QA

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)

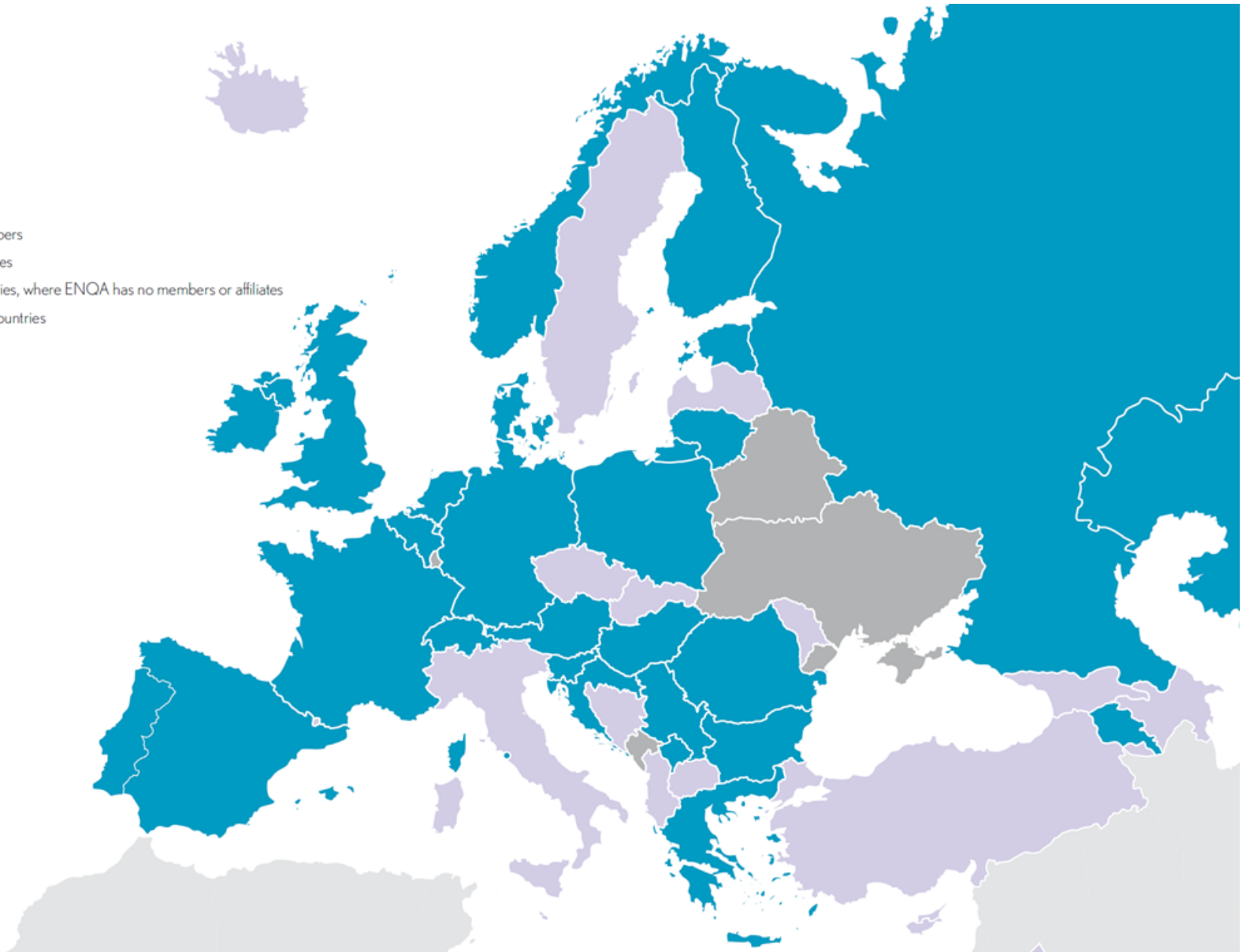
- Umbrella NGO for European quality assurance agencies
- Network in 2000; association in 2004
- Structure: Board, General Assembly, Secretariat
- 52 Members in 28 countries, 55 Affiliates in 31 countries



European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)

- Consultative member in the Bologna Follow-up Group since 2005 (QA as one pillar of EHEA since the beginning in 1999)
 - mandate to be the policy voice of QA in Europe
- Co-operation within E4 (European University Association, European Students Union, European Association of Institutions in Higher Education)
 - Close collaboration among the core stakeholders of higher education
- External reviews of QA agencies
- Founding member of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)

- ENQA members
- ENQA affiliates
- EHEA countries, where ENQA has no members or affiliates
- non-EHEA countries



Global reach of ENQA's activities

- Quality Assurance of Cross-Border Higher Education (QACHE): <https://qache.wordpress.com/>
- EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE): <http://share-asean.eu/>
- Modernizing and Enhancing Indian eLearning Educational Strategies (MIELES)
- Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA): <https://haqaa.aau.org/>



European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)

Established in 2008 to:

- promote student mobility by providing increased trust among higher education institutions;
- reduce opportunities for “accreditation mills”;
- provide a basis for governments to authorise higher education institutions to choose any agency from the Register, if compatible with national arrangements;
- provide a means for institutions to choose between different agencies, if compatible with national arrangements;
- serve as an instrument to improve the quality of agencies and to promote mutual trust among them.

European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)



PART 1. INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

PART 2. EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

PART 3. QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES

Main principles for QA in Europe

- **Higher education institutions have primary responsibility** for the quality of their provision and its assurance
- QA responds to the **diversity** of HE systems, institutions and programmes (as well as of agencies)
- QA supports the **development of a quality culture**
- QA **involves stakeholders** and takes into account the expectations of all stakeholders and society

Main principles for QA in Europe

- Standards and guidelines for QA, not quality as such
- Apply to **all higher education** offered in the EHEA regardless of the mode of study or place of delivery (TNE, e-learning, short courses...)
- Apply to **all types of QA** activities and agencies (quality audits, programme accreditation, institutional assessment...)

Main principles for QA in Europe

- Independence of QA agencies (not parts of the ministry)
- Provides **transparent and independent information** on the quality of HEIs and programmes → but is it accessible and easy to use?
- **External and internal QA build on each other** (one is not complete without the other)
- **Students are equal partners**

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EHEA Ministerial Conference – ENQA's messages to ministers:

- Pleased to report solid progress
- External quality assurance systems are practically ubiquitous in the EHEA
- An increased complexity in the structure and functions of the agencies (mergers, added responsibilities..)
- Already created tools need full support from governments (such as the European Approach for the QA of Joint Programmes)

EHEA Ministerial Conference – ENQA's recommendations to ministers:

- To safeguard appropriate levels of autonomy for agencies to operate.
- To support responsible development of cross-border quality assurance.
- To encourage student participation in QA.
- To ensure that regulations allow for full publication of review reports.

EHEA Ministerial Conference – ENQA's messages to ministers:

ENQA envisages an EHEA where all students have access to high-quality education and can achieve qualifications that are recognised worldwide, a goal which is furthered by ensuring that its members work in line with the ESG 2015.

Thank you!

