

The importance of quality assurance at European and national level

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Seminar on Reflections on Developments in Quality Assurance of Czech HE

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EHEA Key Commitments



- 1) A Three-Cycle System compatible with the QF-EHEA and scaled by ECTS**
- 2) Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)**
- 3) Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**

Institutions granting degrees assure the quality of their programmes leading to degrees within the three-cycle system following the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015).

External quality assurance (be it at programme or institutional level) is performed by Agencies that have demonstrably complied with the standards and guidelines stipulated in the current ESG. This is best ensured where only those agencies registered on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) are allowed to operate in the country.

EHEA Key Commitment on QA

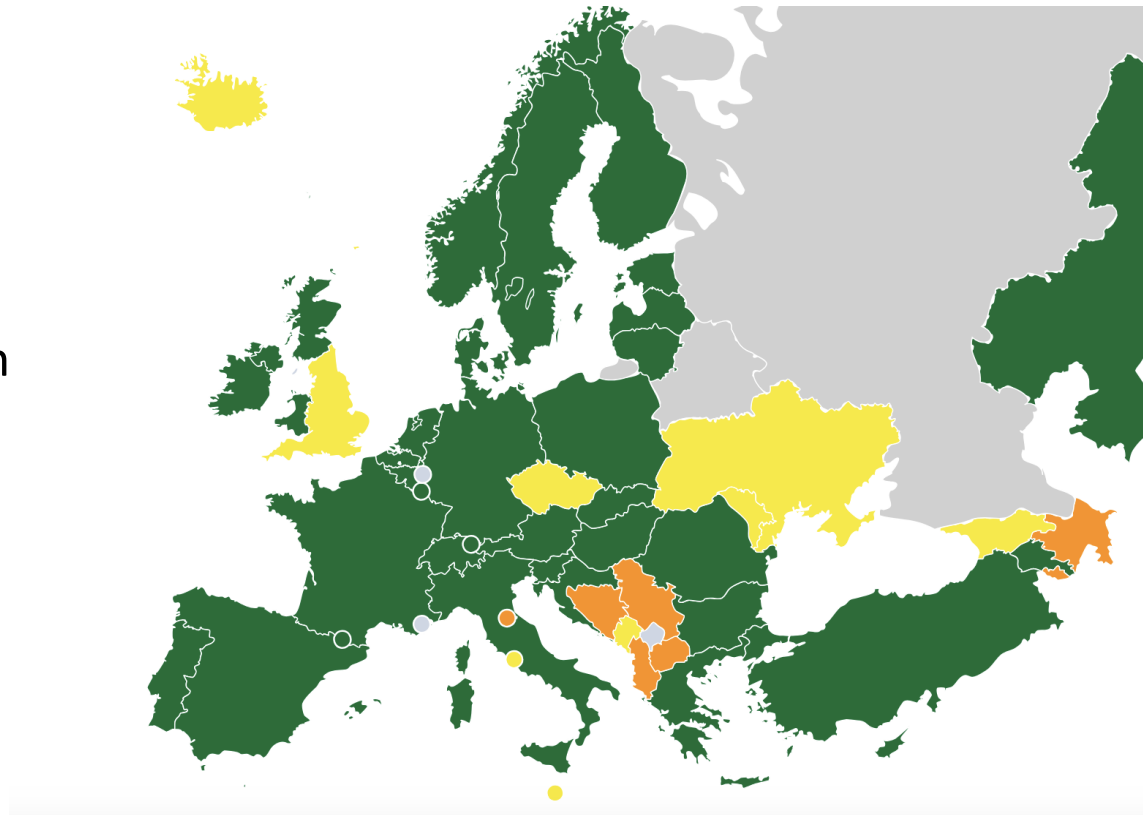


- 35 EHEA countries **fully realise** commitment

- Remaining countries:

Yellow: only some HEIs with external QA by an EQAR-registered agency

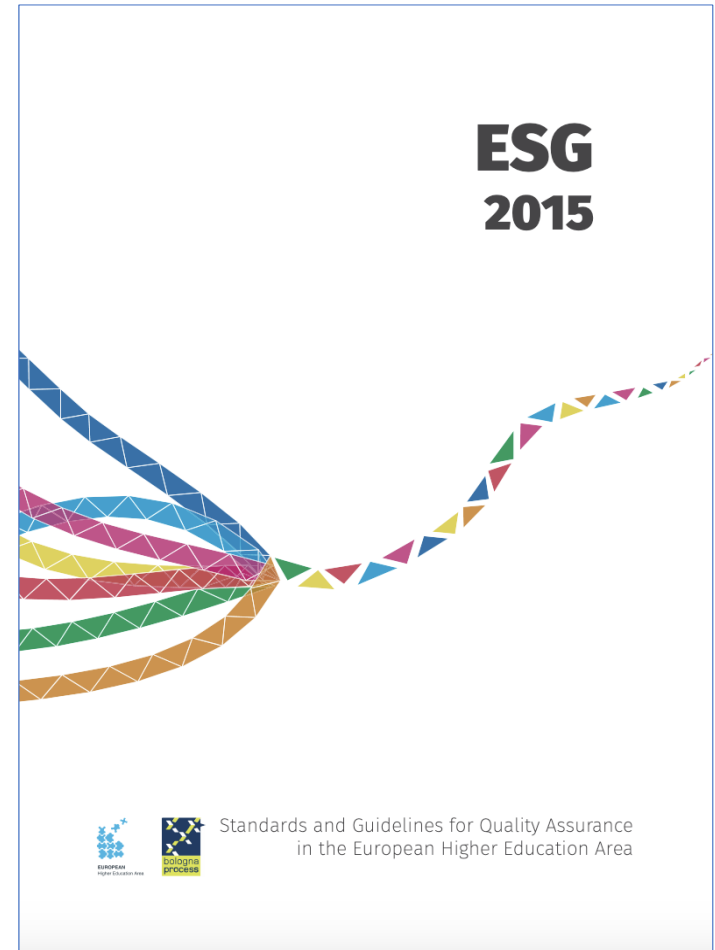
Orange: national QA agencies not fully aligned with ESG yet



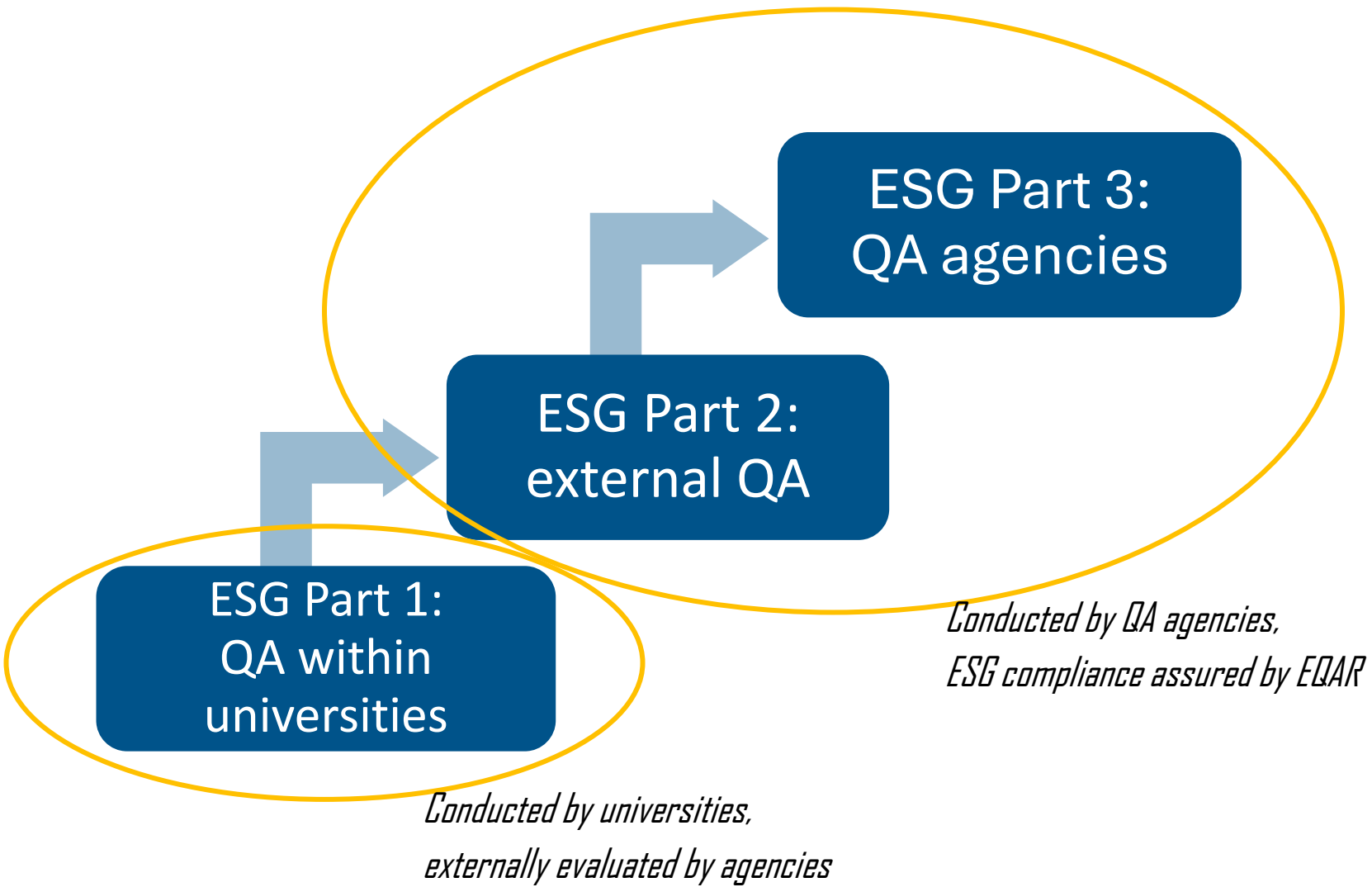
Standards and Guidelines for QA in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)



- Common framework for QA
- Developed by stakeholders (E4) and adopted by ministers responsible for higher education
- Initial version 2005, revision adopted 2015
- Three parts:
 - 1) Internal quality assurance
 - 2) External quality assurance
 - 3) Quality assurance agencies



Standards and Guidelines for QA in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)



ESG Part 1 – for universities



1.1 Policy for quality assurance

1.2 Design and approval of programmes

1.3 Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment

1.4 Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

1.5 Teaching staff

1.6 Learning resources and student support

1.7 Information management

1.8 Public information

1.9 On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes

1.10 Cyclical external quality assurance

Link with external QA

ESG Parts 2 and 3 – external QA (for QA agencies)



Link with internal QA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance | assurance |
| 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose | 3.2 Official status |
| 2.3 Implementing processes | 3.3 Independence |
| 2.4 Peer-review experts | 3.4 Thematic analysis |
| 2.5 Criteria for outcomes | 3.5 Resources |
| 2.6 Reporting | 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct |
| 2.7 Complaints and appeals | 3.7 Cyclical external review of agencies |

Benefits for universities and higher education systems

Why comply with the ESG?



Trusted status, guarantee to the public

- Governments know QA is up to European standards
- Universities know that QA-agency is professional, independent and trustworthy
- Students know that evaluation by registered agency is valid
- Society (labour market) can trust the quality of education and of graduates

Why comply with the ESG?



International recognition of qualifications and QA results

- Via QA agencies and EQAR accreditation information is integrated with ENIC-NARIC (recognition) centres across Europe
- Recognition of QA results important e.g. in cases when universities want to deliver education internationally

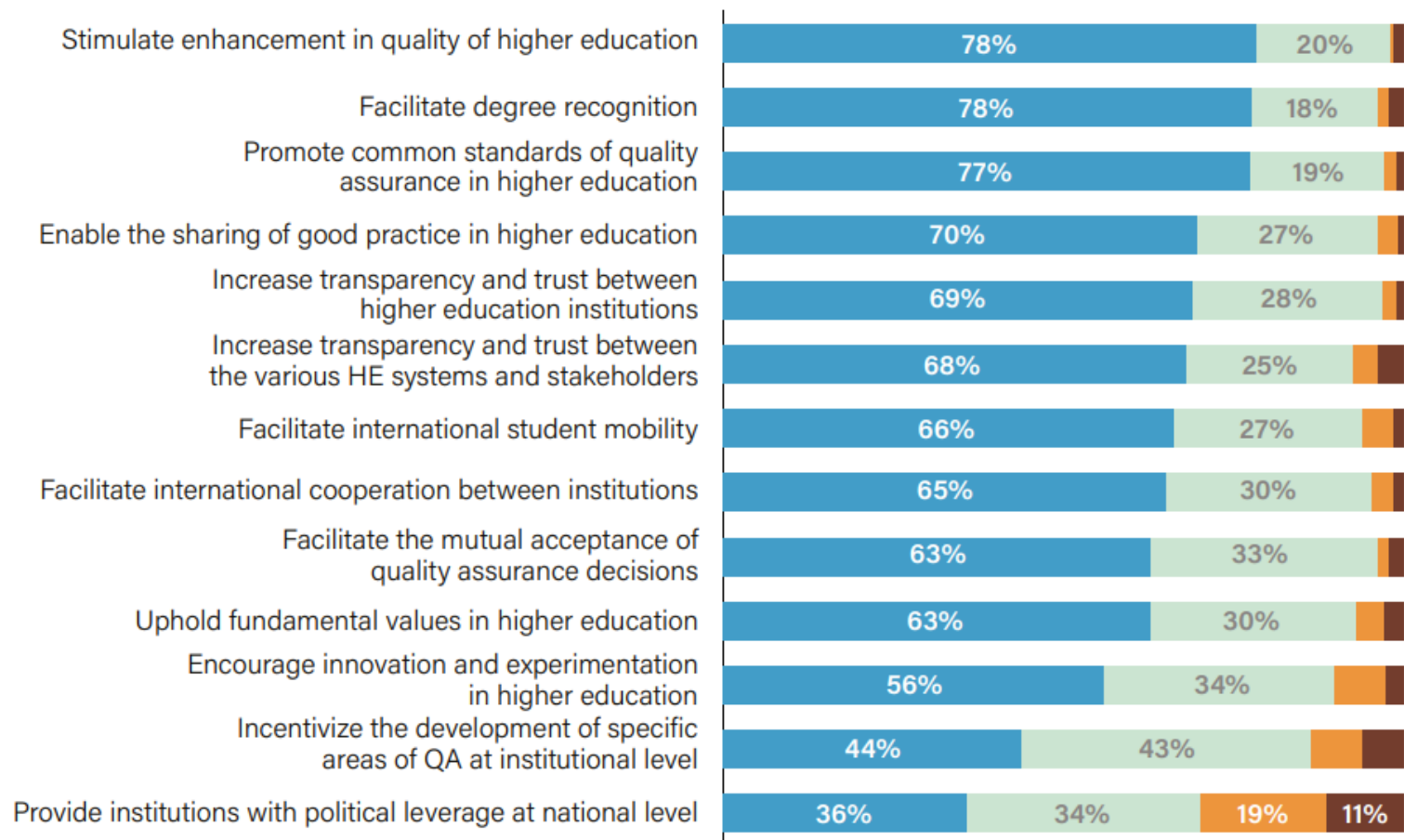
Why comply with the ESG?



Possibility of cross-border QA and participation in international structures

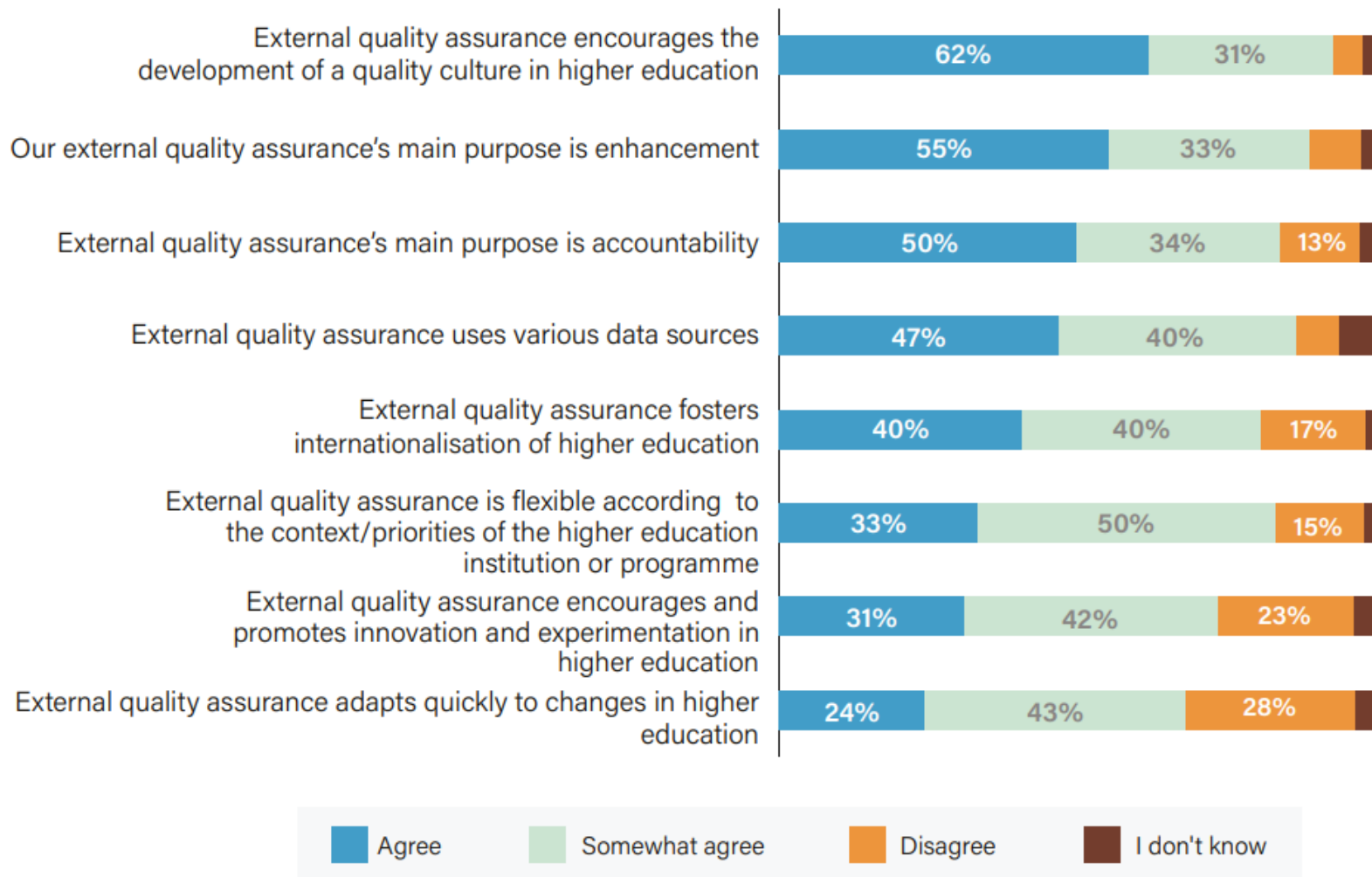
- Opens up the possibility for universities to select an EQAR-registered QA agency that will evaluate them
- Agencies eligible for conducting European Approach to QA of Joint Programmes
- Eligibility for new European initiatives: e.g. European Degree

Added value of external QA for universities



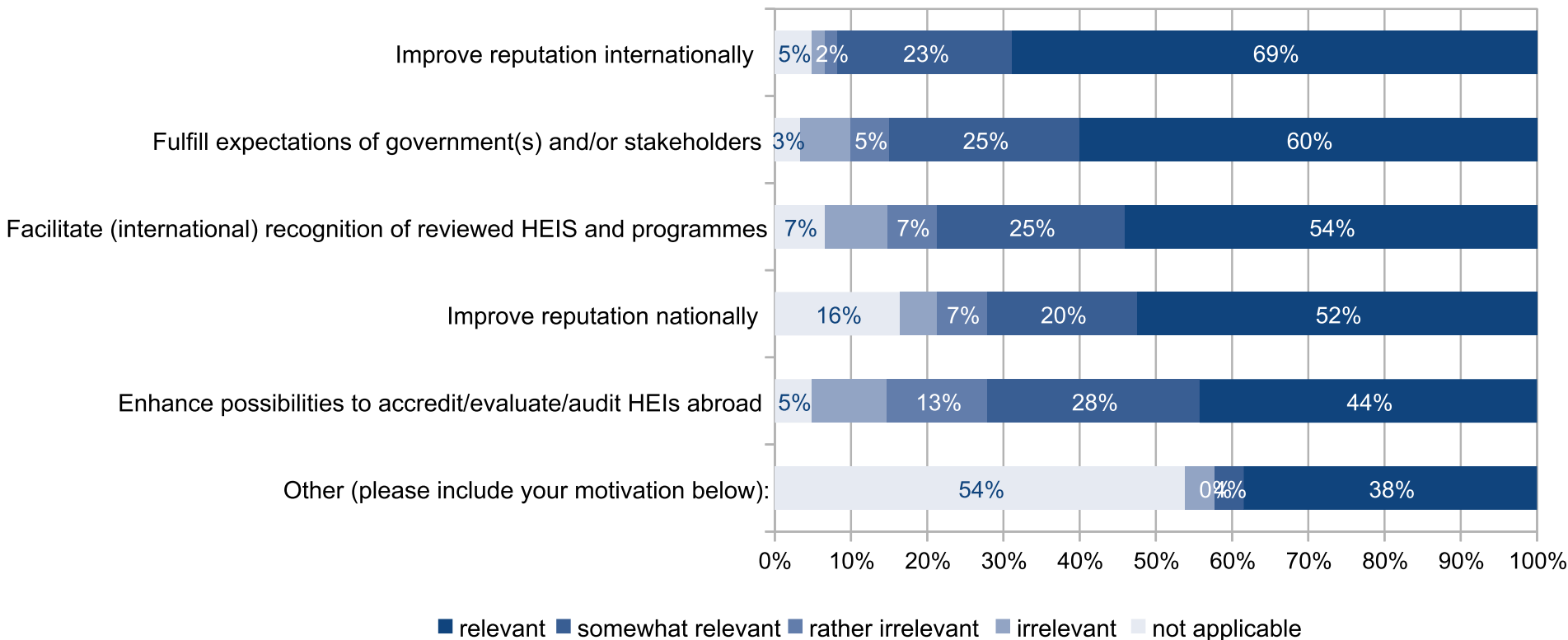
Source: EUA survey, QA-FIT project (N=260)

Impact of external QA for universities



Source: EUA survey, QA-FIT project (N=260)

Added value for agencies



Source: EQAR Self-Evaluation 2015, Survey of QA Agencies, n=61)



**European Quality Assurance Register for Higher
Education
(EQAR)**

EQAR



Mission:

Enhance transparency and trust, promote international recognition

Role:

Official register of QA agencies that comply with the ESG

- Established by and for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- Founded by the E4 organisations (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE), jointly governed with HE ministries
- Non-profit, independent and acting in the public interest



Register Committee
Independent QA experts,
nominated by stakeholders

Decides on compliance & registration

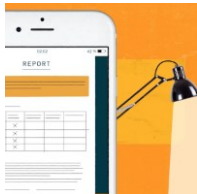
Registration and monitoring



Initial application & review against ESG



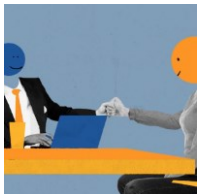
Annual updates on activities



Substantive Change Reports



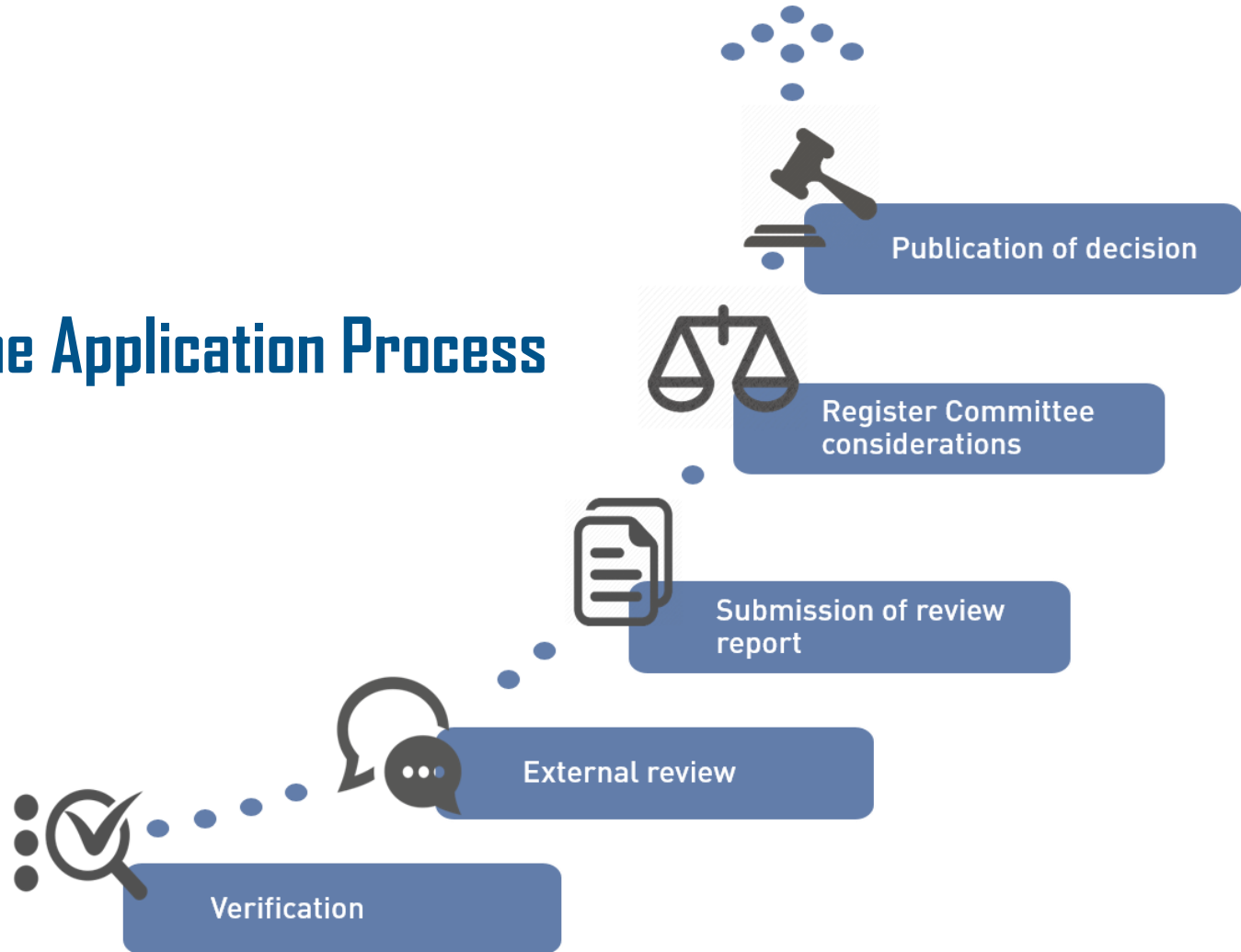
Third-party complaints



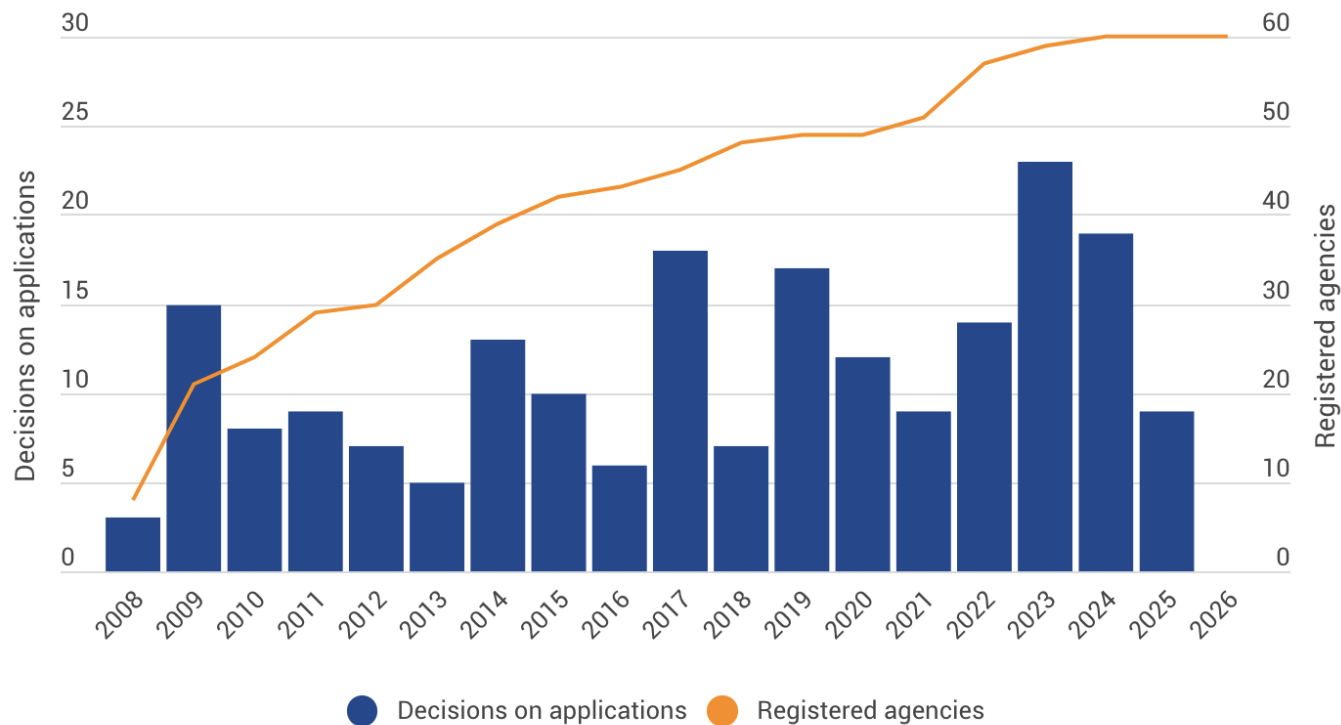
Periodic renewal every 5 years



Steps of the Application Process



Registered agencies & evolution of applications



Total applications (with a final decision): 217

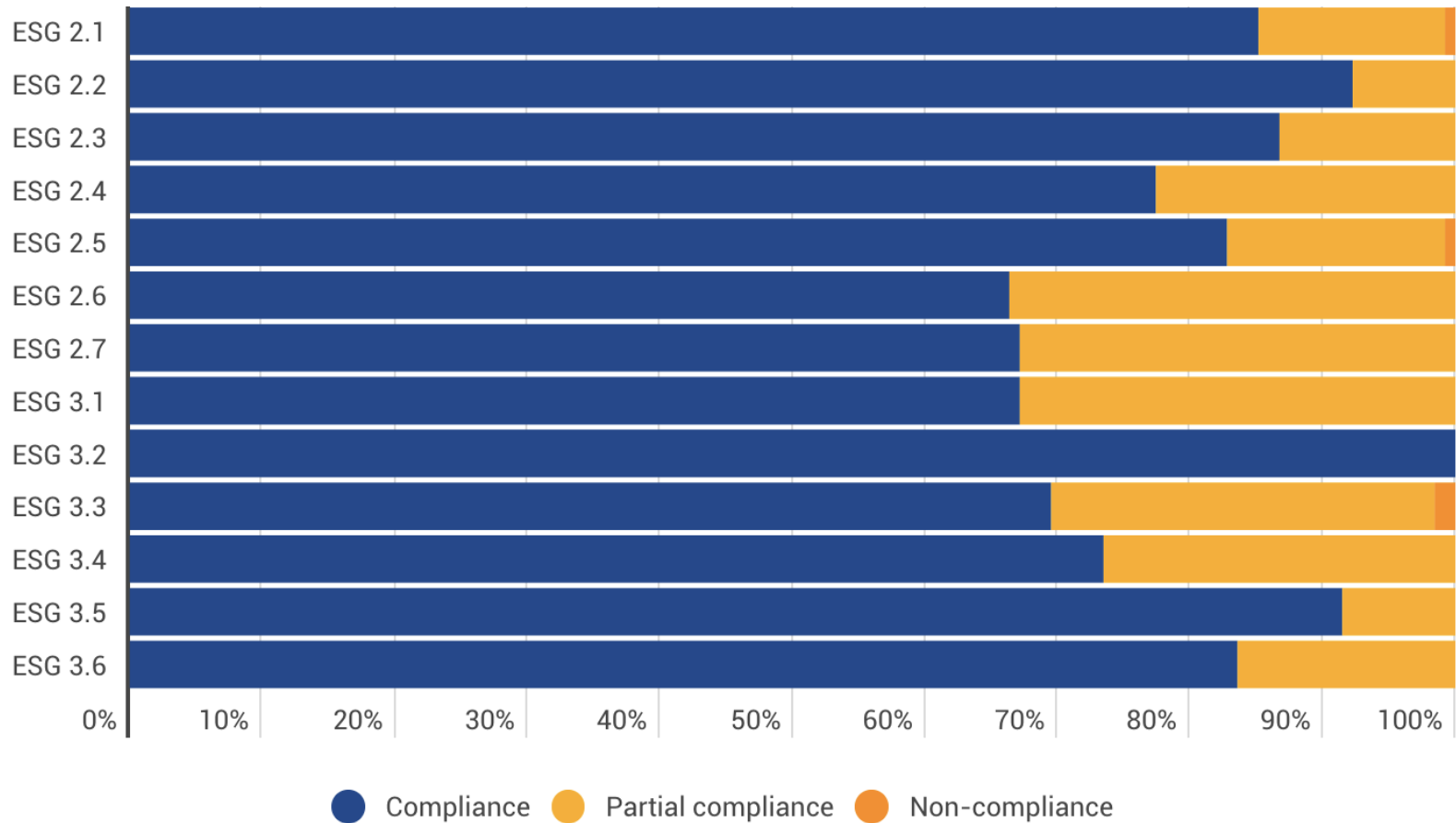
Approved applications (2008-2025): 170

82% approval rate of which:

- Initial appl. 71%
- Renewal appl. 93%

Source: EQAR website

ESG Compliance: what do the numbers show? eqar



Source: EQAR website

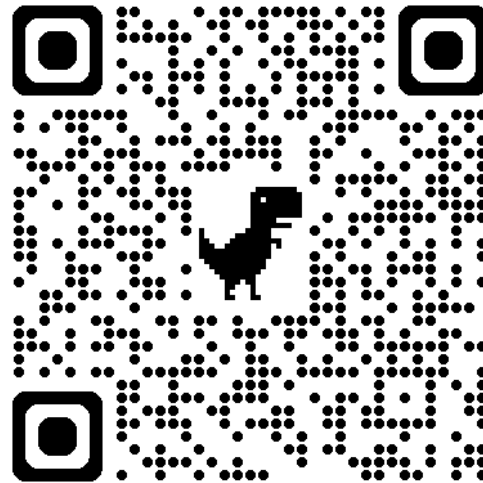


eqar 

Database of external quality assurance results (DEQAR)



DEQAR – “Quality at your fingerprints”



- Easy access to external quality assurance (QA) reports and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies
- Enhance transparency and visibility at the European level
- Facilitates trust and automatic recognition, based on robust quality assurance in line with ESG
- Responds to information needs of various stakeholders, in particular ENIC-NARICs and admission officers

Database of external quality assurance results (DEQAR)



Database

Refine your search

Agency

MAB

Country

Status

Cross-border review

Report level

Activity

Accreditation of medical schools based on the WFME 2020 standards

Decision

Report language

eqar.eu > Database > Search > By report

Sort by

4 reports

Upload date

« < 1 > »

Report date - valid to / Uploaded / Changed
Agency / Type
Institution / Programme
Country

24/11/2023 - 15/12/2031 uploaded 07/02/2024 changed 07/02/2024
MAB ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS BASED ON THE WFME 2020 STANDARDS
University of Szeged
Hungary

30/06/2023 - 30/06/2031 uploaded 17/07/2023 changed 17/07/2023
MAB ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS BASED ON THE WFME 2020 STANDARDS
Semmelweis University
Hungary

03/03/2022 - 03/03/2030 uploaded 17/01/2023 changed 17/01/2023
MAB ACCREDITATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS BASED ON THE WFME 2020 STANDARDS
University of Pécs
Hungary

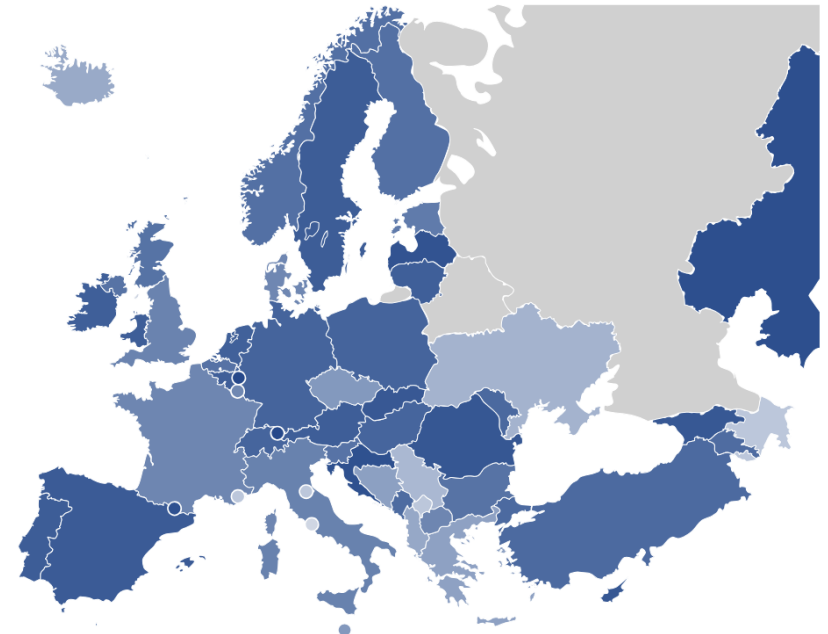
22/04/2022 - 22/04/2030 uploaded 17/01/2023 changed 17/01/2023

Filter providers

Provider name, city, country, ETER ID or DEQARINST ID

search

Currently available: 127 274 reports on 4 981 institutions



Education providers in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

Czech Republic in DEQAR

- 13 EQAR-registered QA agencies
- 16 higher education institutions
- Mix of program and institutional evaluations




Sort by

16 providers

Name

« < 1 > »

 Anglo-American University **DEQARINST0286** **IIETER CZ0042**
Anglo-americká vysoká škola, z.ú.
Prague (Czech Republic)

 Brno University of Technology **DEQARINST0269** **IIETER CZ0025**
Vysoké učení technické v Brně
Brno (Czech Republic)

 Charles University **DEQARINST0258** **IIETER CZ0014**
Univerzita Karlova
Prague (Czech Republic)
Further location: Plzeň (Czech Republic)

 Czech Technical University in Prague **DEQARINST0248** **IIETER CZ0004**
České vysoké učení technické v Praze
Prague (Czech Republic)
Further location: Děčín (Czech Republic)
Further location: Kladno (Czech Republic)

 Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague **DEQARINST0247** **IIETER CZ0003**
Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze
Prague (Czech Republic)

Aligning the national systems with the ESG

Key success factors



Governments / ministries...

- Create a reliable legislative framework for external QA
- Implement complementary tools and processes (e.g. qualifications frameworks, ECTS...)
- Respect and safeguard independence of the agency
- Collaborate with all relevant higher education stakeholders
- Provide stable funding

Key success factors



Agencies...

- Conduct external QA in line with the ESG
- Involve stakeholders in governance and design of external QA methodologies (criteria, procedures, processes...)
- Ensure that external QA is „fit for purpose“, i.e. that it actually evaluates and enhances quality

Key success factors



Universities...

- Conduct internal QA in line with the ESG
- Collaborate with the agency on design of external QA methodologies
- Contribute to agency's governance and operations
- Ensure that external QA is „fit for purpose“, i.e. that it actually evaluates and enhances quality

Thank you!

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