1. Context

- 48 governments participate in the Bologna Process
- Common goal to realise the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by.
  - promoting mobility
  - facilitating cooperation
- Through:
  - Harmonised educational landscape (three cycle-structure)
  - Agreed principles for the recognition of qualifications
  - Robust internal and external quality assurance (ESG)
2. EQAR's Role

- Public-interest organisation
- EHEA's official register of QAAs that comply with the ESG
- **Mission**: enhance transparency and trust between systems, QA agencies and institutions
## Registration & monitoring

- Registration based on external review of agency
- Annual updates on reviews and countries
- Substantive change reports
- Third-party complaints
- Periodic renewal every 5 years
3. What have we accomplished?

- 38 out of 48 EHEA signatories are members of EQAR
- 46 registered agencies (as of November 2017, of ca. 90 agencies in Europe)
- 13 countries recognise EQAR-registered agencies as evaluators for external QA
- 10 countries recognise foreign agencies as evaluators if they comply with specific, national requirements
EHEA Key Commitment

- External QA is performed by agencies that demonstrably comply with the ESG, registered on EQAR
- Applies for some, but not all higher education institutions
Which standards do you think are the most challenging for QA agencies?

http://etc.ch/4kcX
Which are the most challenging standards (partial compliance in > 25% of cases) for agencies?

http://etc.ch/4kcX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Internal QA / Part 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 External QA designed fit for purpose</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Implementing processes</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Use of experts (incl. student)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Published criteria used consistently</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Reports published and accessible</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 Complaints and appeals processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Mission, stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Official status</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Independence</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Publication of thematic analyses</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 Sufficient resources</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6 Internal QA and professional conduct</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

48 votes - 19 participants
Register Committee conclusions

Clarification requests
Non-Compliance  Partial compliance  Compliance

Non-Compliance
Partial compliance
Compliance
Clarification requests
Substantive Change Reports

- Substantive Change
- Merger
- Complaint
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of changes</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisational identity</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisational structure</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>New external QA activity</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes to existing EQA activity</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discontinuation of activity</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“EQAR’s vision is a coherent quality assurance framework for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in which higher education institutions have the freedom to turn to any EQAR-registered agency for their external quality assurance reviews, and in which qualifications are thus universally recognised.”
“EQAR provides reliable and widely-used information on registered quality assurance agencies as well as on which higher education institutions or programmes have been subject to external quality assurance in line with the ESG.”
Strategic Goal 1: Transparency & Information

“EQAR provides reliable and widely-used information on registered quality assurance agencies as well as on which higher education institutions or programmes have been subject to external quality assurance in line with the ESG.”

- Keep the Register up-to-date, through the Register Committee
- Maintain a database of external QA results
- Ensure that monitoring instruments are known
- Publish information and analysis
Strategic Goal 2: Trust & Recognition

“EQAR-registered agencies and their results are recognised across the EHEA. On that basis, qualifications that were subject to external quality assurance by registered agencies (whether at institutional or programme level) are recognised and, in line with national requirements, higher education institutions are allowed to work with a suitable registered agency to fulfil their formal external quality assurance obligations.”
Strategic Goal 2: Trust & Recognition

“EQAR-registered agencies and their results are recognised across the EHEA. On that basis, qualifications that were subject to external quality assurance by registered agencies (whether at institutional or programme level) are recognised and, in line with national requirements, higher education institutions are allowed to work with a suitable registered agency to fulfil their formal external quality assurance obligations.”

- Maintain public knowledge base on legal frameworks for external QA and cross-border recognition
- European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes
- Encourage EHEA governments to use the register to recognise external QA results
- Support (automatic) recognition of qualifications
Thank you for your attention!

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