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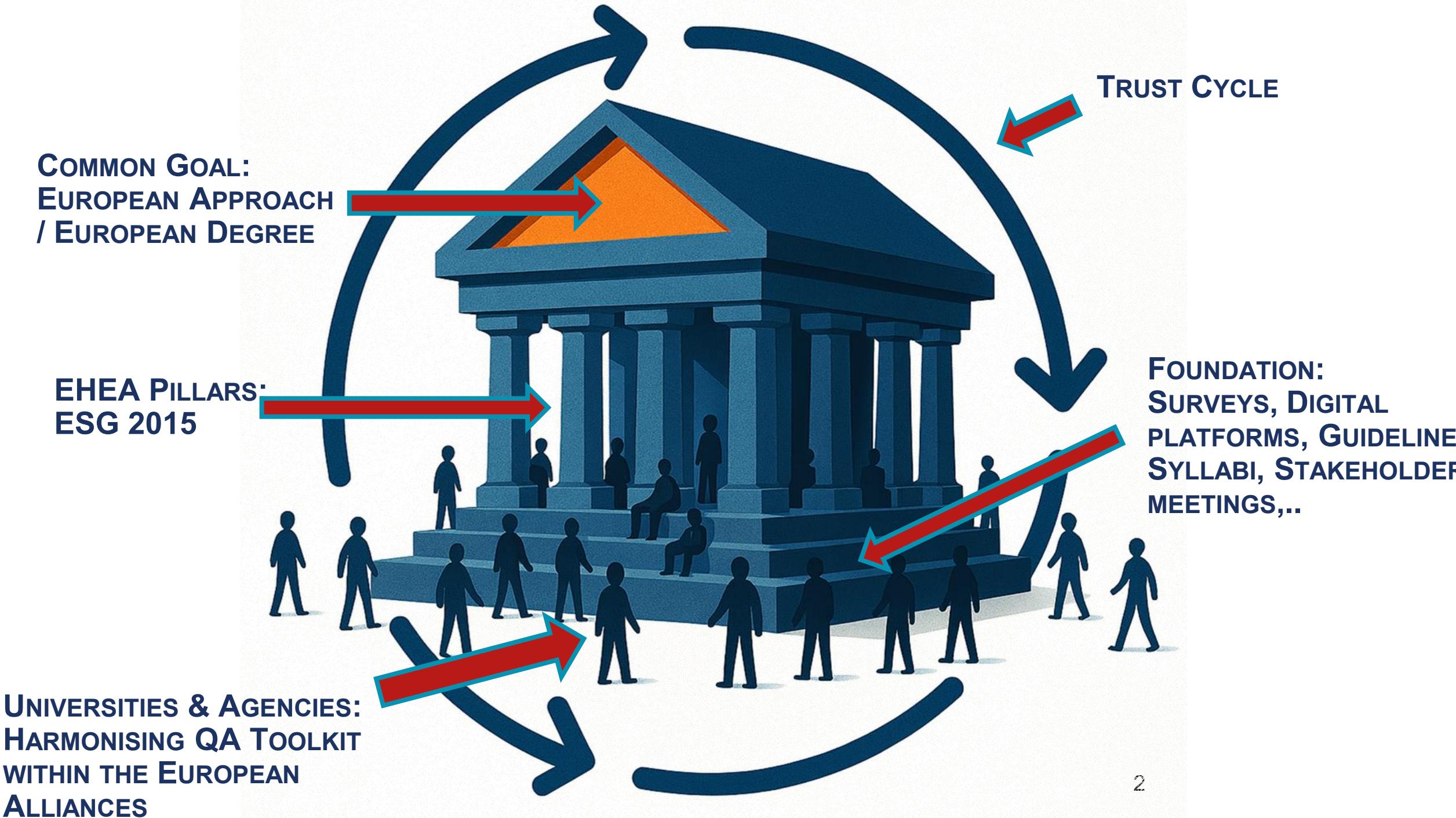
Parallel session II: Perspectives on QA Alliances as a test-bed for the European Union

Giuditta Pezzotta, Vittorio Zanetti – University of Bergamo

EQAF2025

*QA in times of crises - Ensuring
stability, autonomy and
international cooperation in higher
education*

Budapest, November 2025



THREE LENSES SHAPING QA CULTURES ACROSS EUROPE

Quality assurance (QA) across Europe is shaped by three core lenses: Accountability, Enhancement, and Trust. While present in all systems, their regional emphasis creates distinct cultural approaches to higher education QA.



Accountability

Prevalent in Southern & Eastern Europe, emphasizing clear rules, formal documentation, and national oversight to ensure comparability and protect public interest.



Enhancement

Common in Northern Europe, focusing on dialogue, flexible procedures, and continuous improvement to foster innovation within autonomous universities.



Trust

Crucial for evolving contexts, building national and international credibility. QA fosters confidence among institutions, agencies, students, and society.

Different Contexts, Different Equilibria



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WHAT ALLIANCES CAN PROTOTYPE

From Strategic Level – Tactical Level – Operational Level

1

Joint Internal QA System

2

Single External Evaluation

3

Common Self-Assessment Report

4

European QA Toolkit



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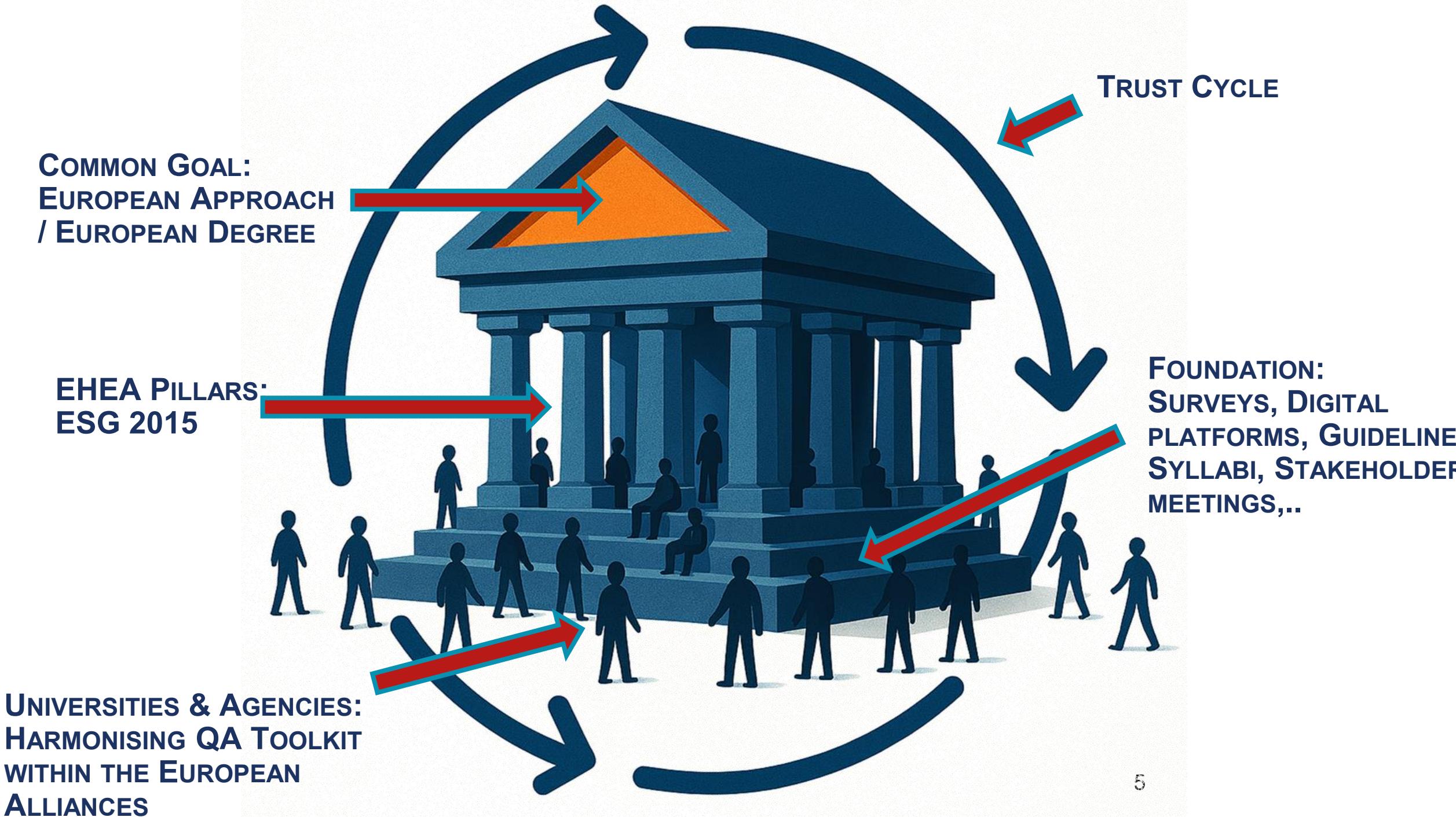
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THANK YOU

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