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European University Alliance



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

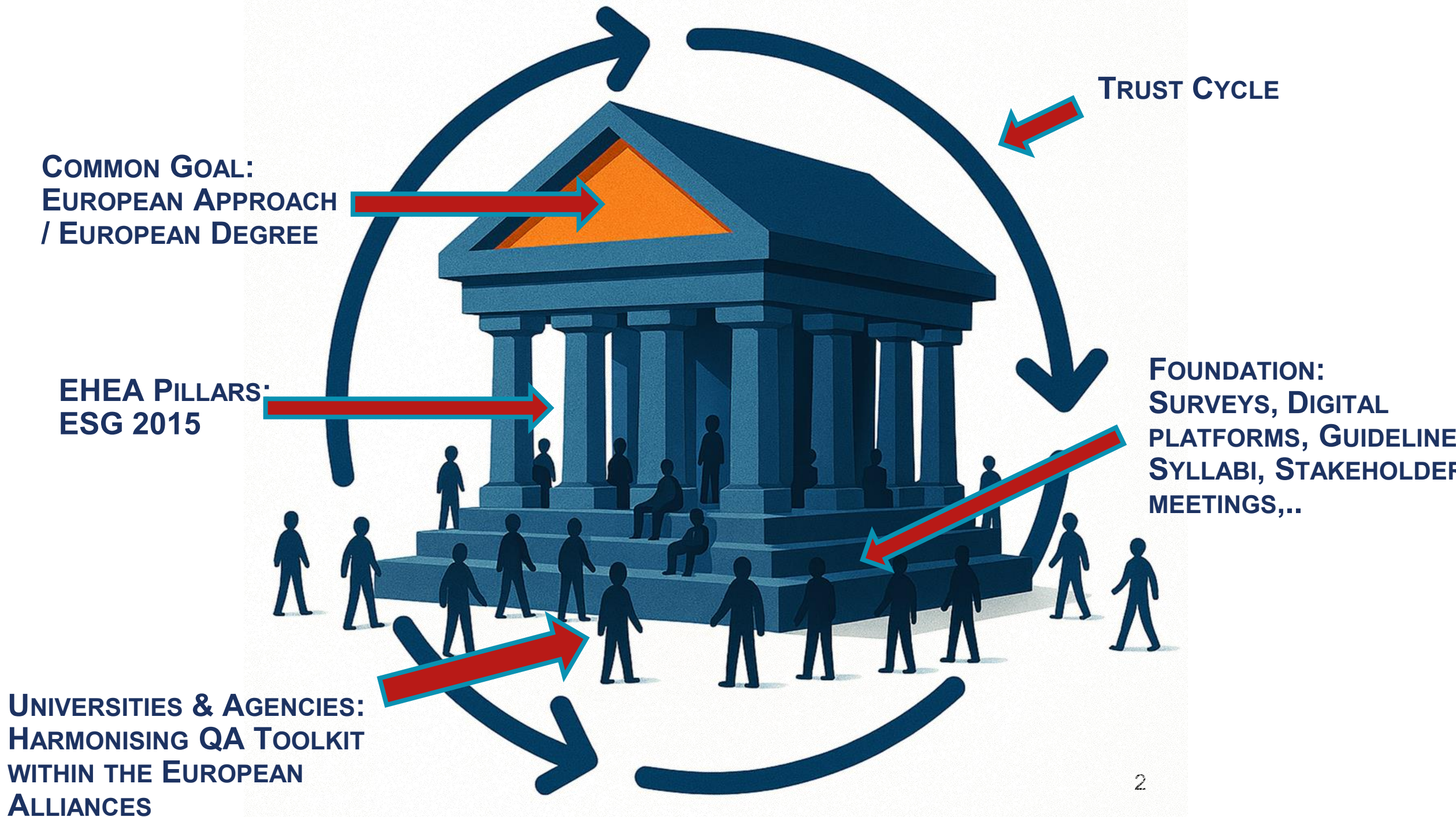
Giuditta Pezzotta, Vittorio Zanetti – **University of Bergamo**

**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

# WHAT ALLIANCES CAN PROTOTYPE

From Strategic Level – Tactical Level – Operational Level

1

Joint Internal QA System

2

Single External Evaluation

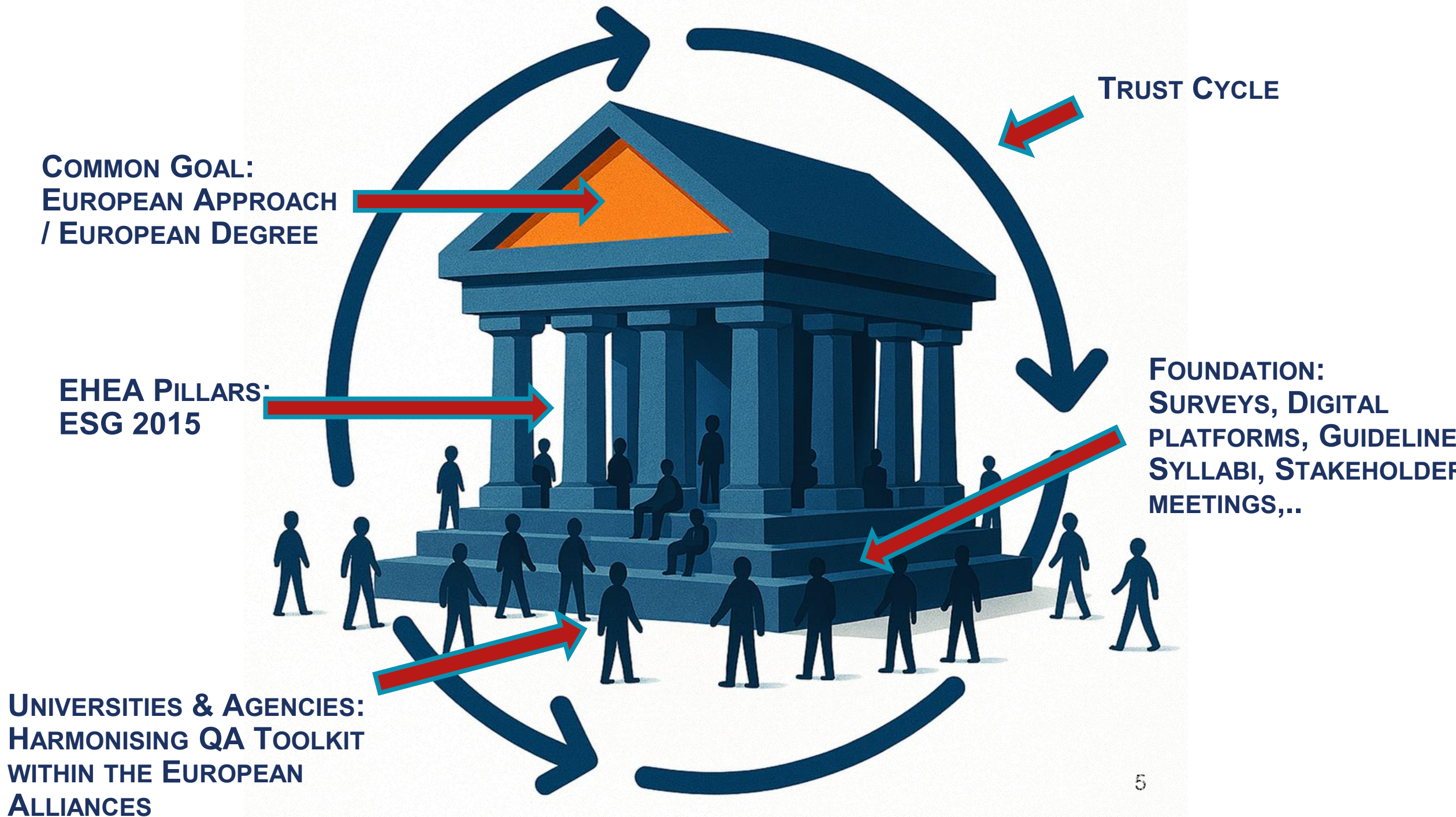
3

Common Self-Assessment Report

4

European QA Toolkit







# THANK YOU

**Giuditta Pezzotta – University of Bergamo**