

Moving towards transparency, trust and recognition within the EHEA. Where does EQAR stand?

IQAA Workshop
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Melinda Szabo

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- 1) Trust and transparency in the EHEA. The key commitments.
- 2) EQAR mission, objectives and organisation
- 3) EQAR's role within the trust and transparency framework

Framework for trust and transparency in the EHEA



Commitments for trust and transparency in the EHEA

Three cycle degree structure	Quality of higher education systems	Alignment of higher education systems to the ESG EQAR-registered QA agencies compliant with the ESG European Approach for the QA of Joint Programmes
	(automatic) Recognition of qualifications	NQF and QF-EHEA as 'translation devices' for qualifications (including ECTS & Diploma supplement) Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention EAR manual as guidelines for recognition

EHEA Key Commitments

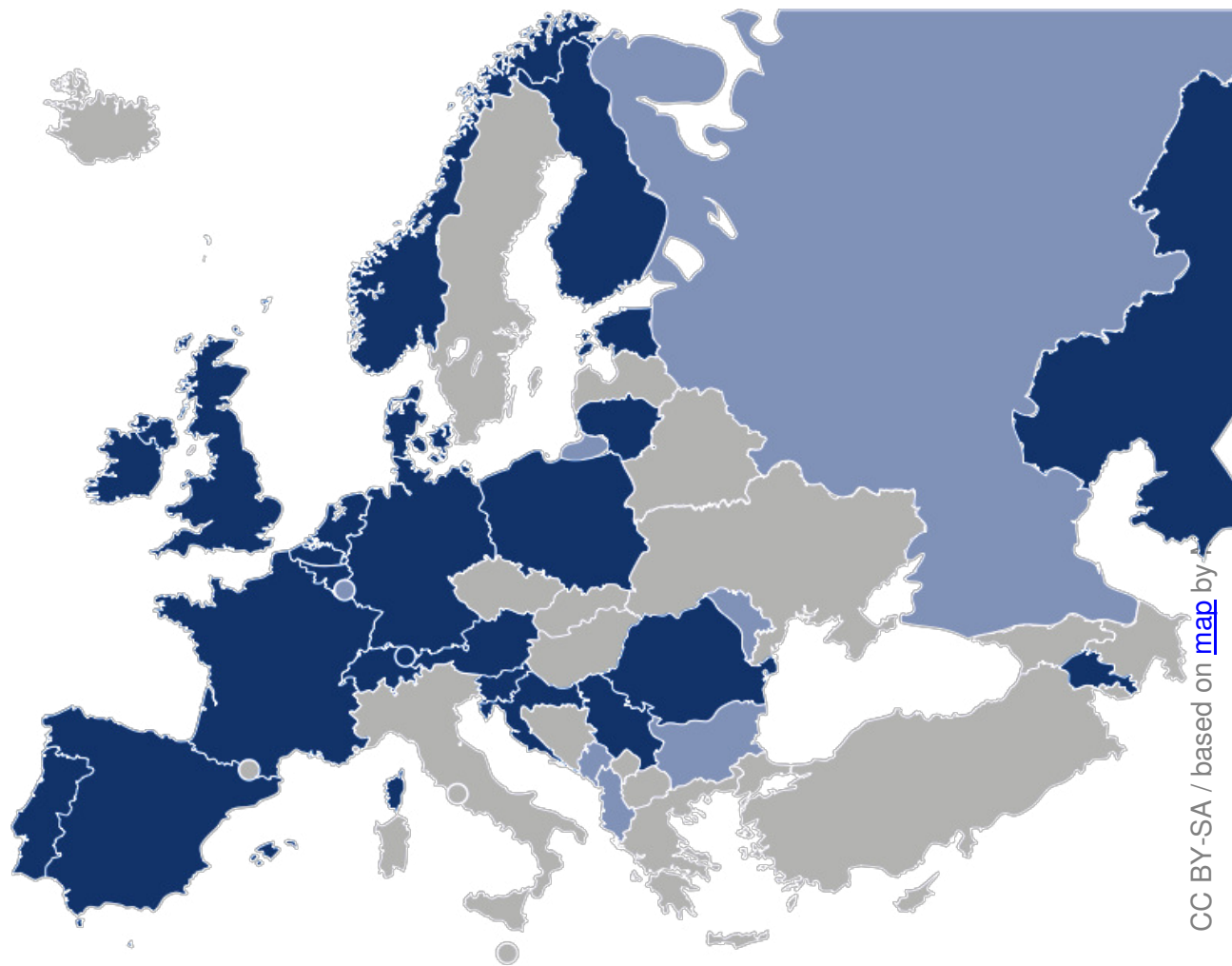


- 1) A Three-Cycle System compatible with the QF-EHEA and scaled by ECTS**
- 2) Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)**
- 3) Quality Assurance in conformity with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**
 - Institutions granting degrees assure the quality of their programmes leading 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.

Key Commitment on External Quality Assurance

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- External QA performed by agencies that demonstrably comply with the ESG, registered on EQAR
- For some, but not all higher education institutions



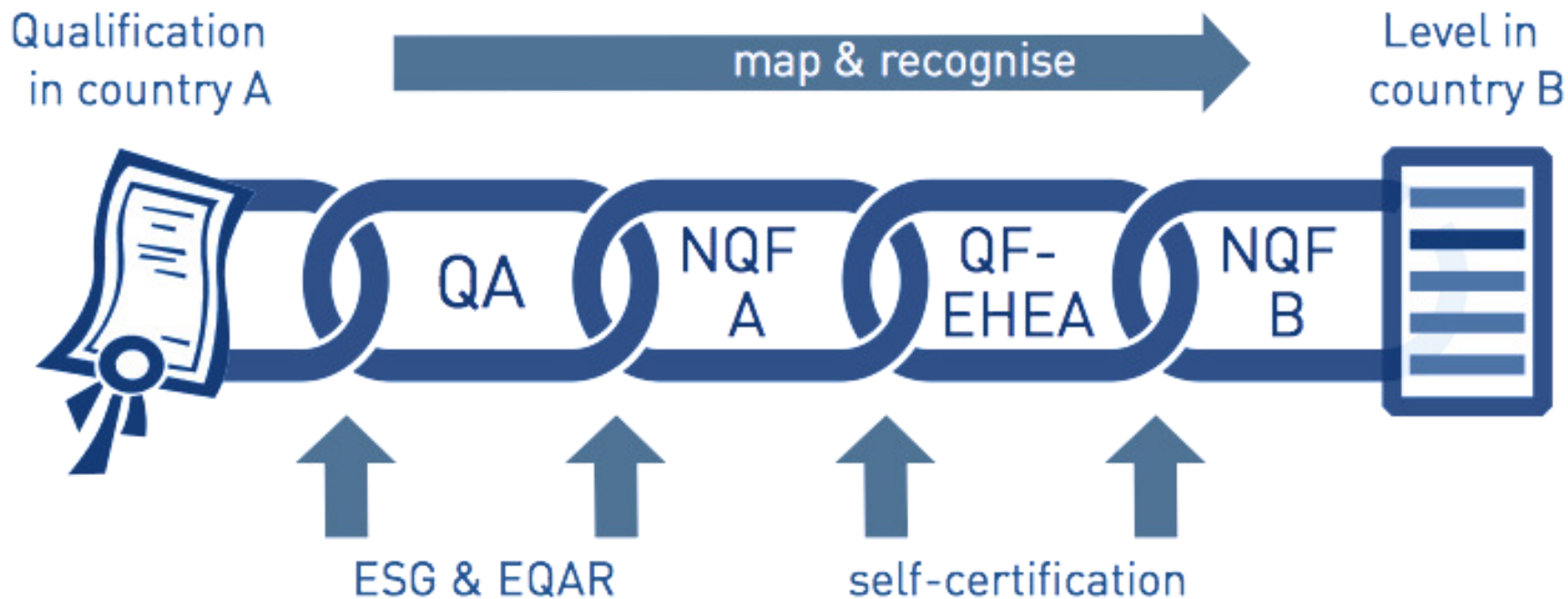
Recognition – policy context



- **Yerevan Communiqué 2015:** “By 2020 we are determined to achieve an EHEA [...] where automatic recognition of qualifications has become a reality so that students and graduates can move easily throughout it”
- **EU:** planned **Council Recommendation** on recognition
- Upcoming **Paris Ministerial Conference** (May 2018)
- **EQAR Strategic Goals:** “... qualifications that were subject to external quality assurance by registered agencies (whether at institutional or programme level) are recognised ...”

How Tools (Should) Work Together

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Trust and transparency – state of affairs

- National Qualifications Framework (NQF) & quality assurance (QA) systems are in place in most higher education systems or are progressing towards it;
- BUT key commitments to building trust and transparency have been followed unevenly across the EHEA and non-implementation in some countries may risk undermining the functioning and credibility of the EHEA



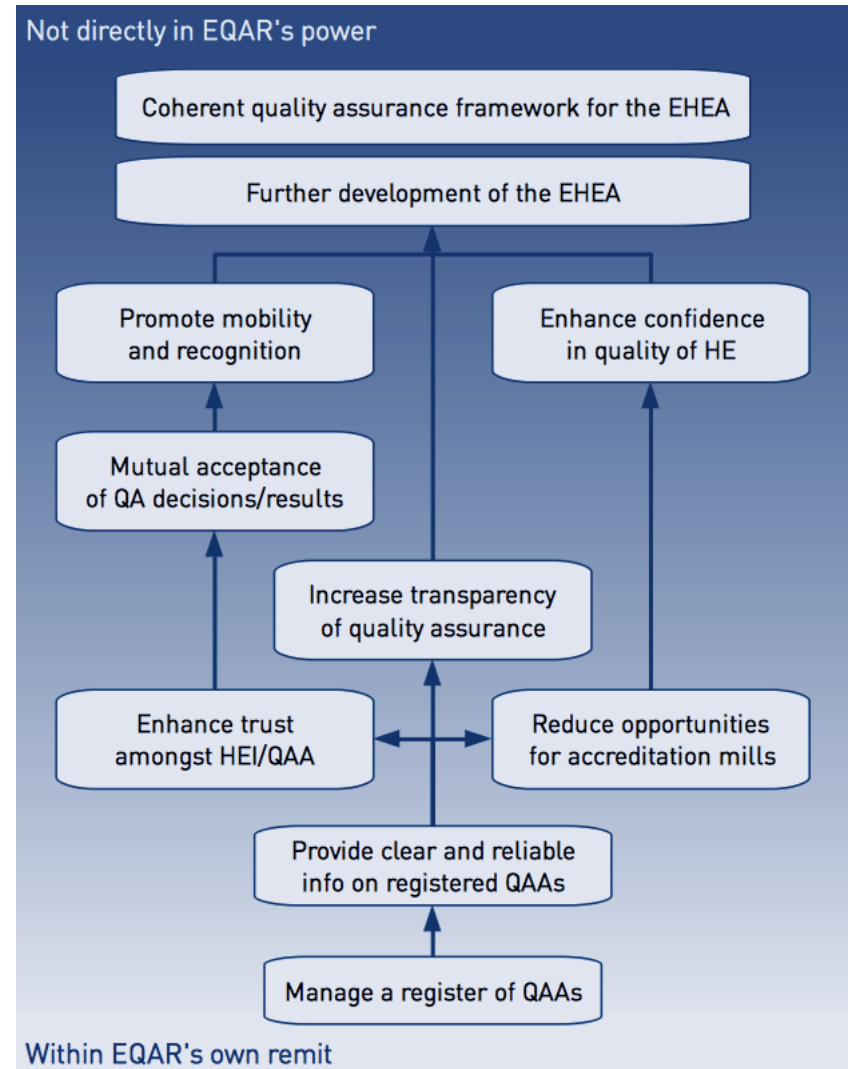
- Use of EHEA tools i.e. the ESG and EQAR, European Approach, Diploma supplement, ECTS, European Area of Recognition manual, database of external QA results may help in drive progress forward.

EQAR: Mission & Objectives

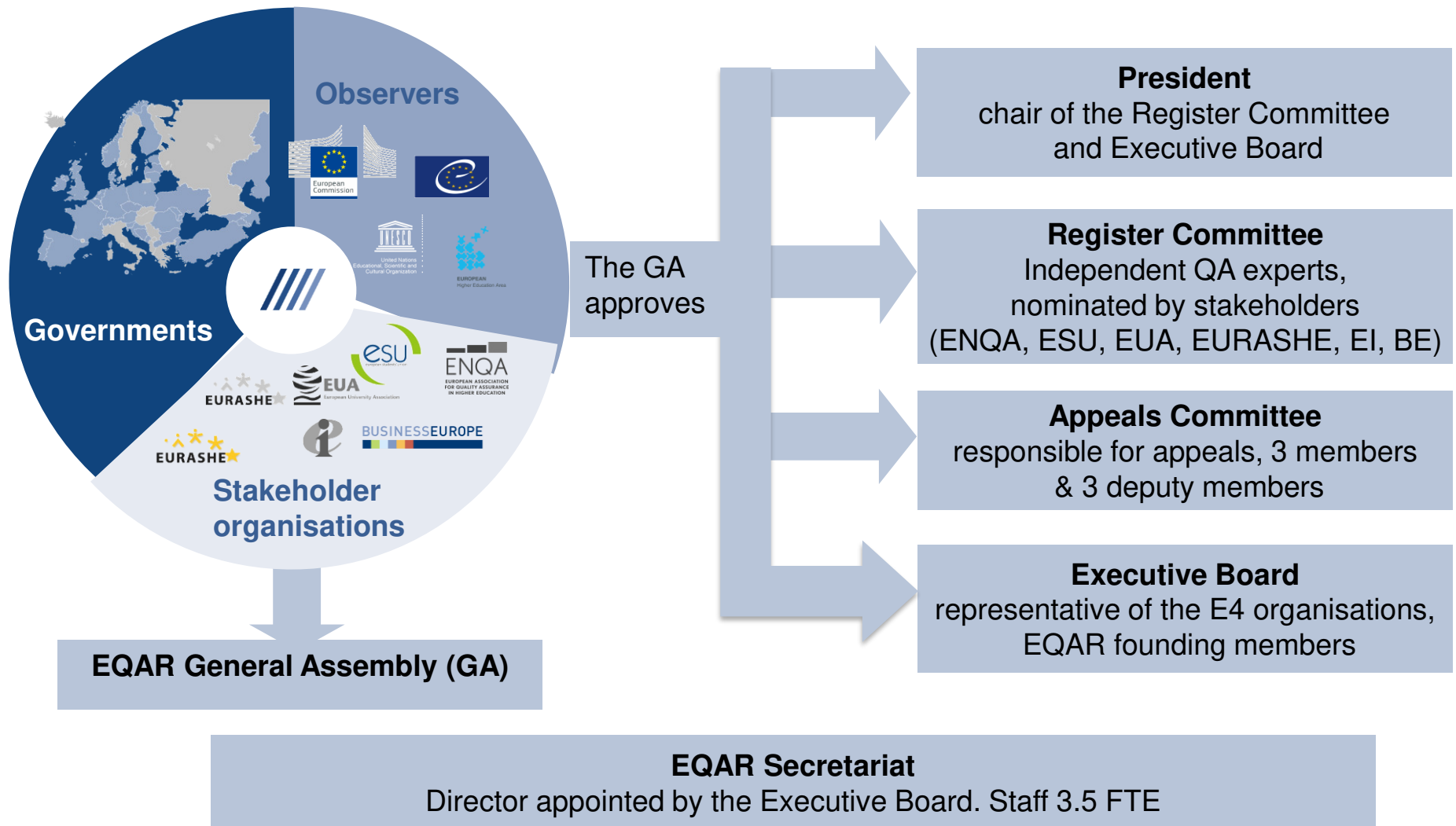


The European Higher Education Area's (EHEA) official register of quality assurance agencies operating in line with the ESG

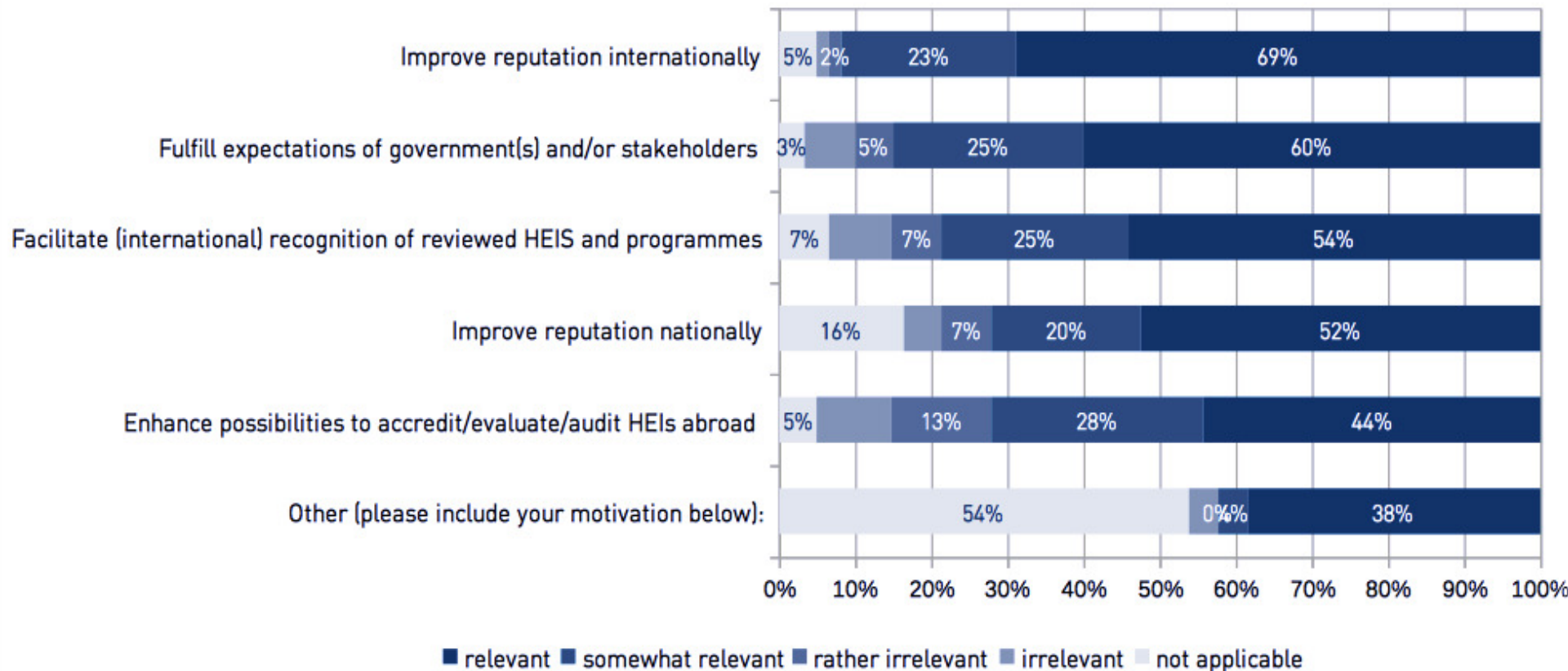
- Initial idea part of ESG 2005
- European ministers requested E4 to establish EQAR (2007)
- Founded 2008 by E4 organisations
- Governed jointly by European governments and stakeholder organisations
- Non-profit and independent, acting in the public interest



EQAR: Organisational structure



Objectives of EQAR registration according to QA agencies



(EQAR Self-Evaluation 2015, Survey of Quality Assurance Agencies, n=61)

EQAR registration - Publication of decision



European Quality Ass

News

About

Register

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Former entries

Criteria for Inclusion

Application Process

External QA activities

Reporting and Renewal

IQAA - Independent Kazakh Agency for Quality Assurance Education

Білім беру сапасын қамтамасыздандыру тәуелсіз қазақстандық агенттігі


Admission valid until: 2022-02-28 (listed since 2017-06-20)

Based in*: Kazakhstan

HE systems where agency conducted reviews**: Kazakhstan

Reports by the agency: <http://iqaa.kz/en/component/k2/item/1216-reports-of-institutional-accreditation-of-heis>

External review reports and EQAR decisions:

-  2017-06 A36 Approval Decision IQAA
-  IQAA External Review Report 2017

Contact details

Website: www.iqaa.kz

Standards and Guidelines for QA in the EHEA (ESG, 2015)



Three parts, building on each other:

1) Internal quality assurance

Policy for IQA, QA of teaching and learning, e.g. design, approval of programmes, on-going monitoring and periodic review, student-centred learning, learning resources ...

2) External quality assurance

Self-evaluation & peer review model, public reports, experts incl. students, complaints and appeals processes ...

3) Quality assurance agencies

Independence, resources, professional conduct ...

Recognition and the ESG



- **ESG: Scope and concepts**
- “The ESG should be considered in a broader context that also includes **qualifications frameworks, ECTS and diploma supplement** that also contribute to **promoting the transparency and mutual trust** in higher education in the EHEA”
- **1.4: Student admission, progression, recognition and certification**
- Guidelines: [...] Fair recognition of higher education qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, are essential components for ensuring the students’ progress in their studies, while promoting mobility. Appropriate recognition procedures rely on: - institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention; [...]
- **2.6: Reporting**
- Full reports by the experts should be published, clear and accessible to the academic community, external partners and other interested individuals. [...]
- **Accessibility** of external quality assurance results **crucial**

Accessibility of external QA results (QA reports) of EQAR-registered agencies

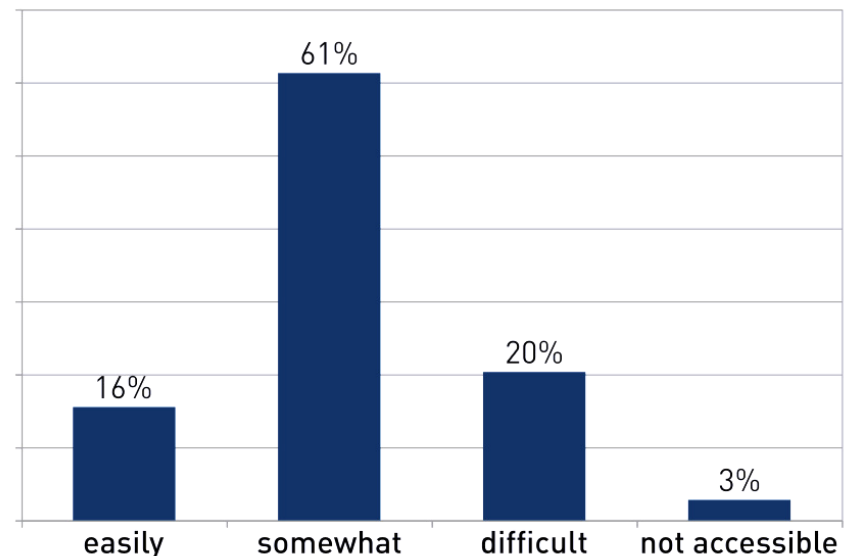


EQAR currently provides (see following slides):

- Information on national systems and registered QA agencies
- Indirect access to agencies' reports & results, via QA agency's individual websites

Existing difficulties:

- Which agency carried out the review?
- User-friendliness of agency websites
- Language
- Information up-to-date
- Understand different external QA systems



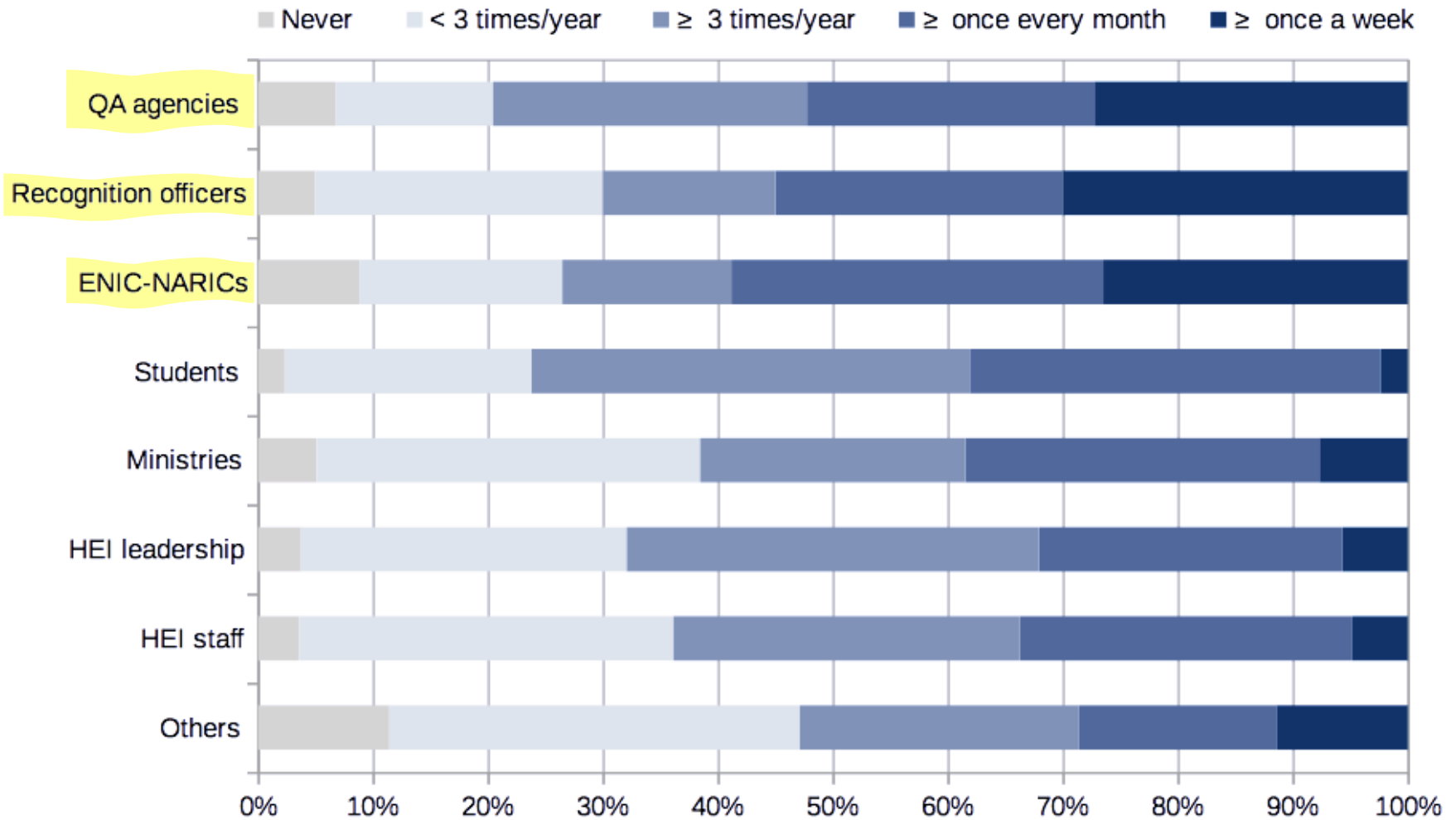
Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)



- Allow users to:
 - Identify whether HE institution, or its programmes, were subject to external QA in line with ESG
 - Access to information and report on external QA
 - Reliable information on quality or how it is managed
 - Contextualise information (e.g. national system)
- Design
 - Lean approach – only what is needed and readily available
 - Institutional level – list of programmes not feasible for all
- 2016: Study, [Report and Operational Model](#)
- 2017: launch of Erasmus+ project
- 2018: launch of the database



DEQAR – for whom?



Information to be provided on the database' user interface (mock-up version below)

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amsterdam

Search Based in*

Name	Based in*
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands
VU University Amsterdam	Netherlands
Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten	Netherlands
Hogeschool van Amsterdam	Netherlands
...	...

VU University of Amsterdam (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Showing current details - click to include history

1. Basic information

Country: Netherlands
Website: <http://vu.nl/nl/index.aspx>
NQF and QF-EHEA cycles: First, Second and Third Cycle

2. National External Quality Assurance System

Obligatory external quality assurance required in the Netherlands:

- Programme accreditation (required if no institutional audit)
- Institutional audits (optional)

3. External Quality Assurance Reports and Decisions

3.a Institutional level

Institutional Audit by NVAO

Status: Part of the obligatory EQA system
Formal decision: yes, positive with conditions or restrictions
Date: 2014-09-03
Valid until: 2016-09-02
Report and decision: Audit report (language: English)
 Audit decision (language: Dutch)

Institutional Evaluation by IEP

Status: Voluntary
Formal decision: no
Date: 2014-01-23
Valid until: n/a
Report and decision: Evaluation report (language: English)

3.b Programme level

Architecture (Accreditation by NVAO)

Biology (Accreditation by NVAO)

Liberal Arts and Sciences (Accreditation by NVAO)

Status: Part of the obligatory EQA system
Formal decision: yes, positive
Date: 2014-01-27
Valid until: 2020-01-26
Qualification: Bachelor of Arts (Amsterdam University College) (joint degree)
NQF and QF-EHEA level: First cycle
Report and decision: Accreditation report (language: English)
 Accreditation decision (language: Dutch)

Mechatronics (Accreditation by ASIIN)

Public Administration (Accreditation by EAPAA)

Status: Voluntary
Formal decision: yes, positive with conditions or restrictions

EQAR – country information system



Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has been a Governmental Member of [EQAR](#) since 2012.

Focus of external quality assurance

- Programme Accreditation
- Institutional Accreditation

Can higher education institutions choose a suitable [EQAR](#)-registered agency?

Yes, Kazakh higher education institutions can choose for their mandatory external quality assurance an [EQAR](#)-registered agency.

- **Eligibility requirements for foreign agencies:** Foreign agencies have to be listed in the national Kazakh register. To be listed, agencies need to be registered in [EQAR](#) and to also meet the following requirements:
 - 1) to have the status of a legal entity in the organizational and legal form of a non-profit organization;
 - 2) to be a full member of the international network of quality assurance;
 - 3) to have the resources necessary to fulfill the obligations on accreditation of educational organizations, educational programs;
 - 4) to have the necessary staffing;
 - 5) to have accreditation standards (regulations) that establish requirements for the accreditation procedure.
- **Conditions for the agencies' work (e.g. criteria to be used):** own criteria.
- **Recognition of reviews carried out by foreign agencies:** automatic.
- **Further information/regulations:**
 - [↗](#) Rules for the recognition of accreditation bodies

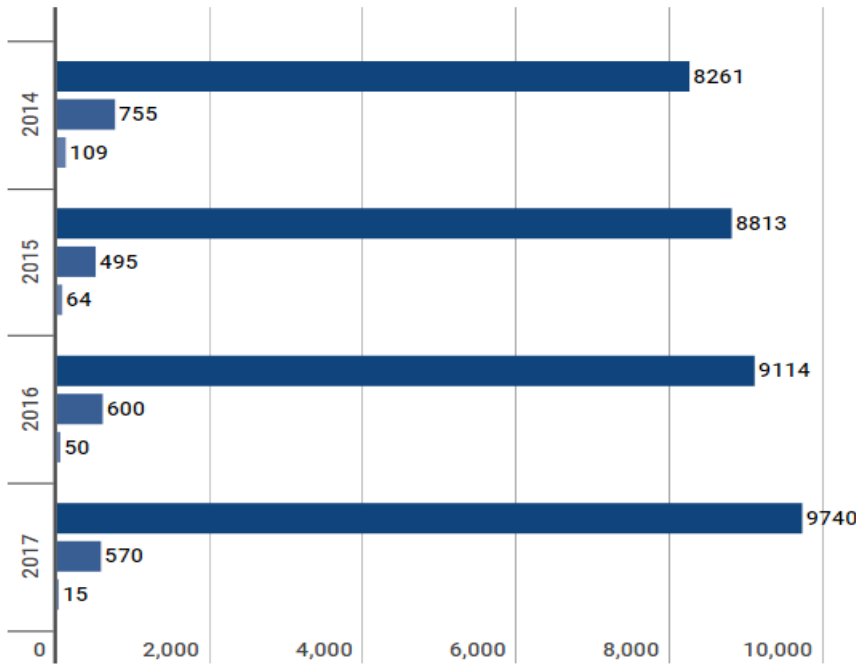
Can higher education institutions use the [↗](#) European Approach for the Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes?



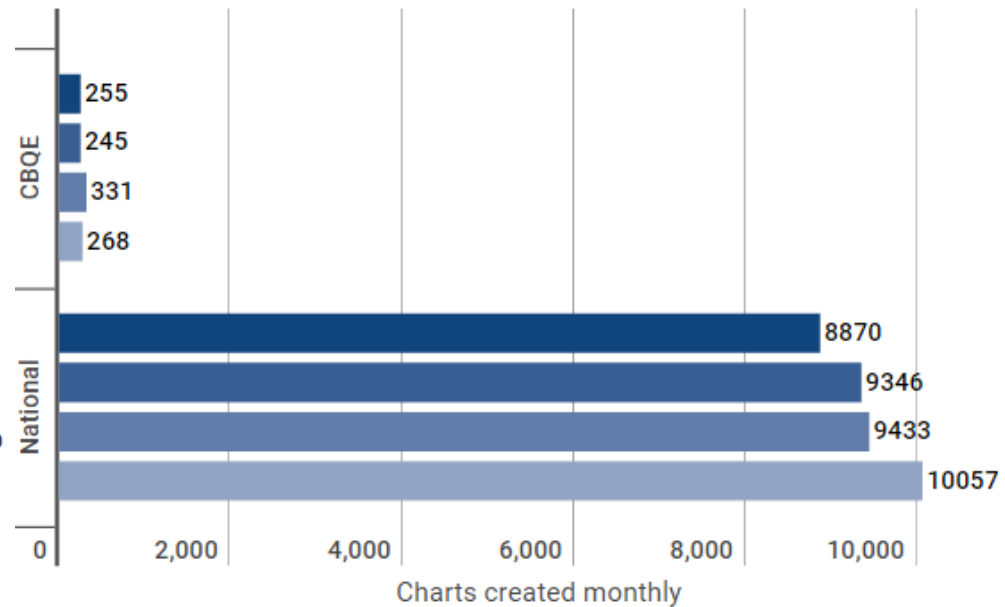
Increasing number of external QA activities of EQAR-registered agencies



(data from 2014 to 2017)

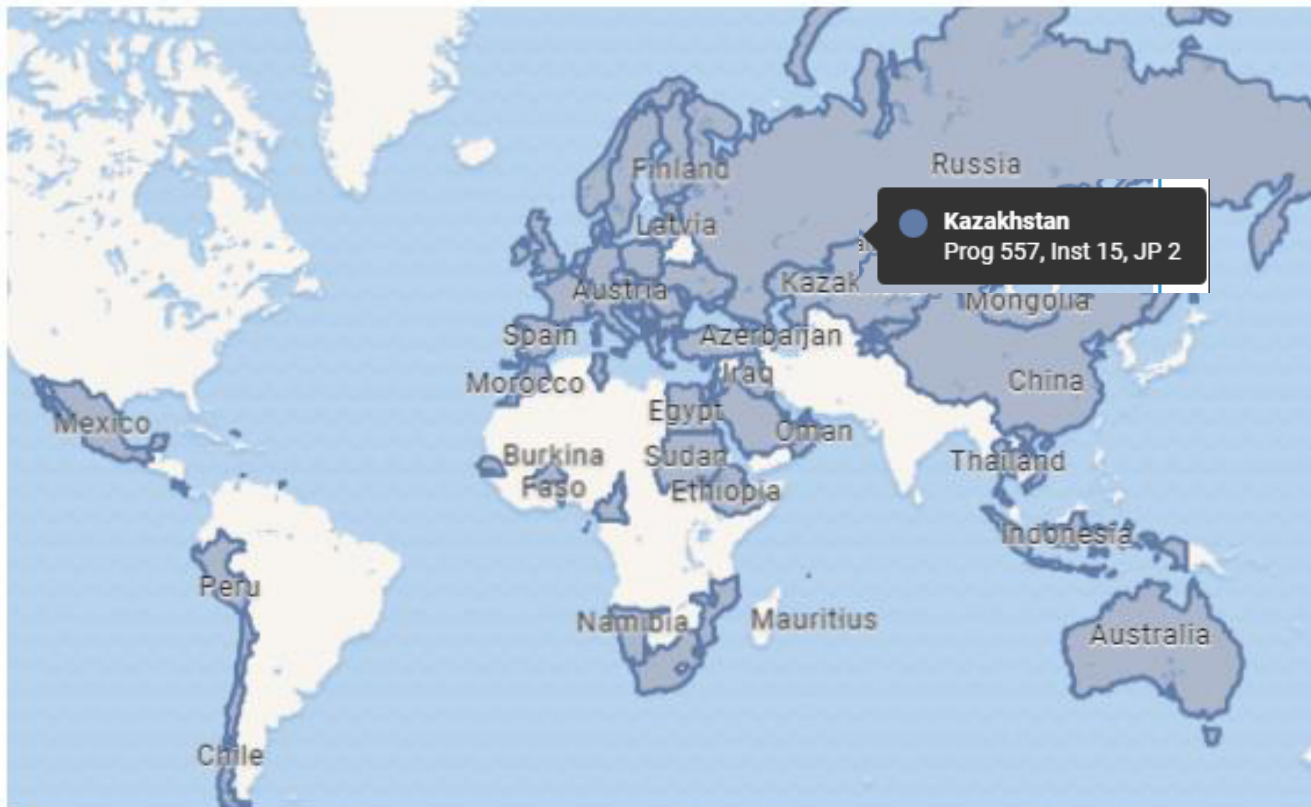


● Prog ● Inst ● JP



● 2014 ● 2015 ● 2016 ● 2017

Where are EQAR-registered agencies carrying out their external QA activities?



Map showing where EQAR-registered agencies carried out at least one external QA between 2014 and 2017 (97 countries)

External QA activities carried out in Kazakhstan between 2014-2017

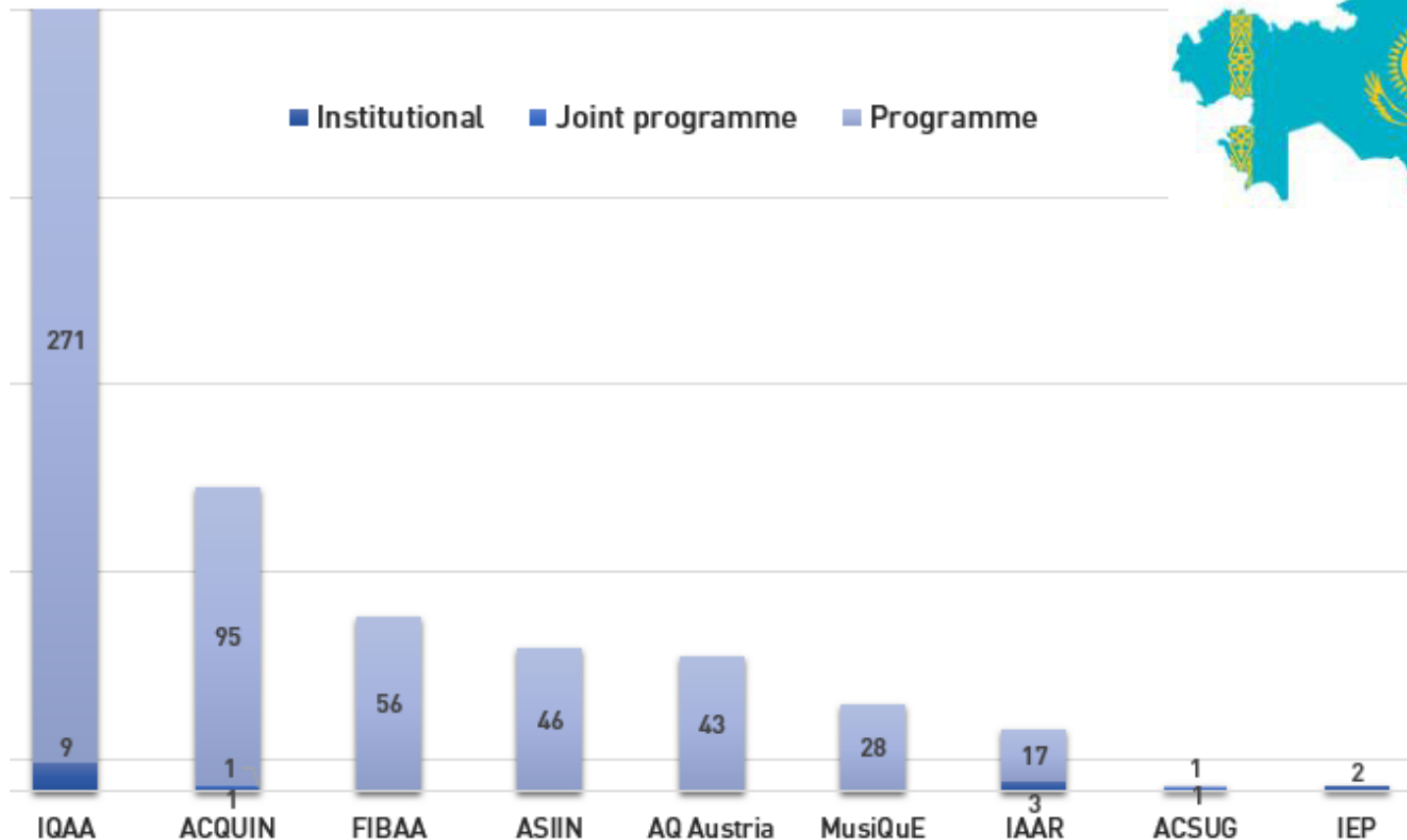


Chart. External QA activities in Kazakhstan by QA agency and type (2014 - 2017)



Thank you for your attention!
назарыңыз үшін рақмет!
благодарю вас за внимание!

Contact:

melinda.szabo@eqar.eu

+32 2 234 39 15



[EQAR_he](https://twitter.com/EQAR_he)