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# THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE



9 March 2022  
***MAB Webinar Series 2022***  
**Hungarian Accreditation Committee**

**enqa.**

## WHERE ALL STARTED...

*„I believe we should create European Universities – a network of universities across Europe with programmes that have all their students study abroad and take classes in at least two languages. These European Universities will also be drivers of educational innovation and the quest for excellence. We should set for ourselves the goal of creating at least 20 of them by 2024. However, we must begin setting up the first of these universities as early as the next academic year, with real European semesters and real European diplomas.”*

**Emanuel Macron,**  
**26 September 2017, Sorbonne**



## WHERE ALL STARTED...

- [Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth](#), Gothenburg, Sweden, 17 November 2017;
- [European Council meeting \(14 December 2017\) - Conclusions](#)

“strengthening strategic partnerships across the EU between higher education institutions and encouraging the emergence by 2024 of some twenty 'European Universities', consisting in bottom-up networks of universities across the EU which will enable students to obtain a degree by combining studies in several EU countries and contribute to the international competitiveness of European universities”

## EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES ARE THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE FUTURE:

- *transnational alliances*, of minimum of 3 higher education institutions, from 3 EU Member States or other Erasmus programme countries,
- promoting *European values and identity*,
- promoting *sustainability*,
- revolutionising the *quality and competitiveness* of European higher education,
- *student-centred* curricula jointly delivered.



# EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES COOPERATION PRINCIPLES:

- joint long-term strategy for education with, where possible, links to research and innovation,
- European inter-university ‘campus’:
  - students, staff and researchers enjoy seamless mobility
  - transdisciplinary and transnational teams of students, academics and external stakeholders tackle big issues facing Europe.

2022  
Call  
open!

Up to € 5 million from Erasmus+  
Up to € 2 million from Horizon 2020  
per alliance



41  
ALLIANCES



**More than 280 HEI** (5% of all higher education institutions and with the potential to involve 20% of European students)



**27 MEMBER STATES**  
+ Iceland, Norway,  
Serbia and Turkey +  
United Kingdom

# QUALITY ASSURANCE



2015  
Yerevan Communiqué  
(48 countries)

- Programs:

The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs

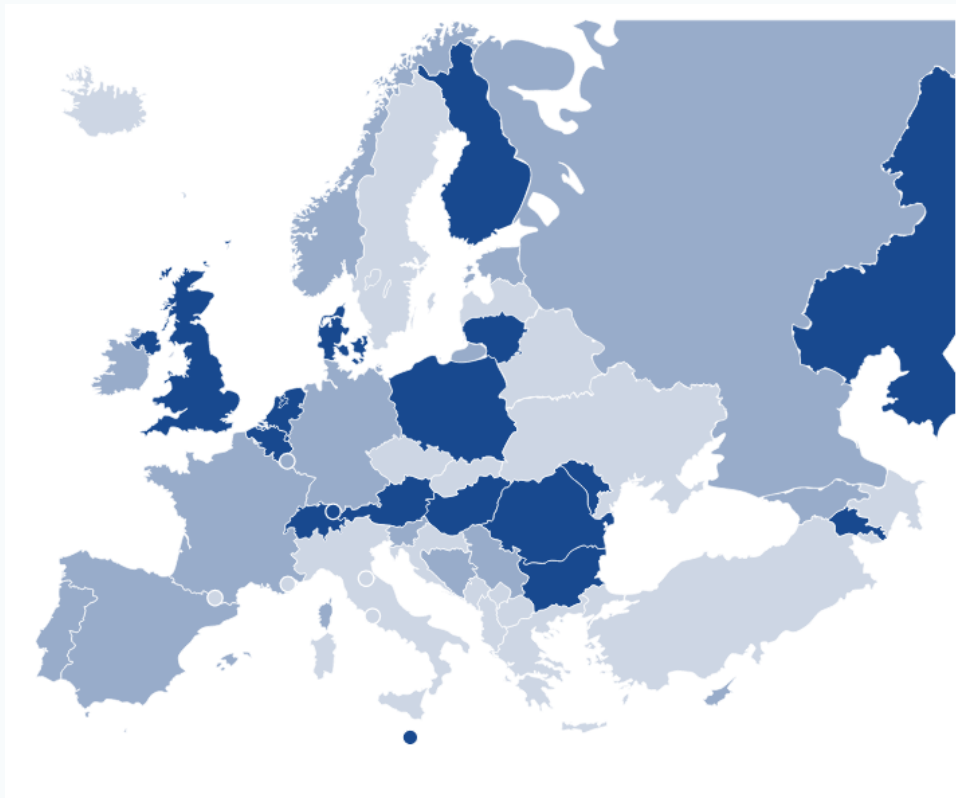
- Institutions:

European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities



# QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs



17	European Approach available to all higher education institutions
14	European Approach available to some higher education institutions or only under specific conditions
18	European Approach not available to higher education institutions

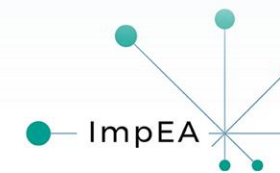


11 reports  
in DEQAR

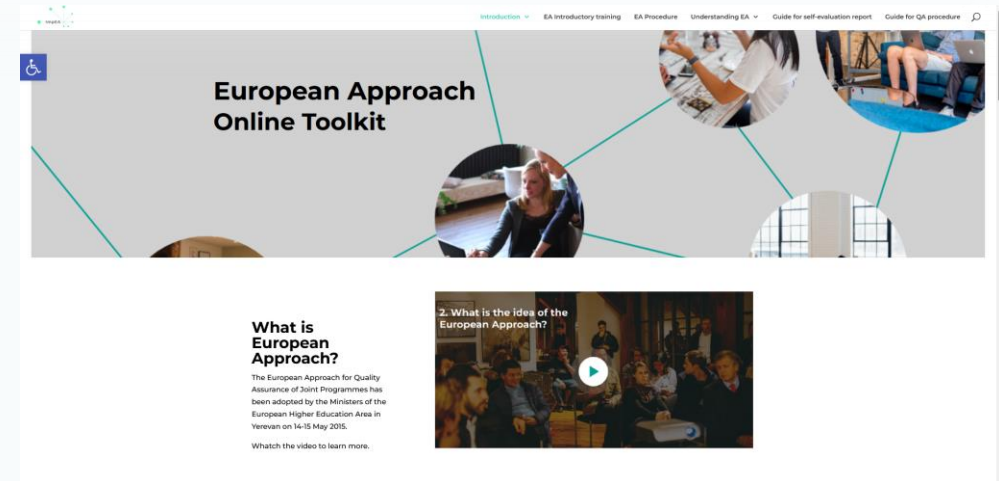
# QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

- How to deal with national regulations
- Information on procedures
- Information on assessment criteria
- Awarding of the degree
- Self evaluation report preparation
- The cooperation agreement
- Selection of the EQAR registered agency



Facilitating implementation of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes



The screenshot shows the 'European Approach Online Toolkit' website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Introduction, EA introductory training, EA Procedure, Understanding EA, Guide for self-evaluation report, and Guide for QA procedure. The main header area features the title 'European Approach Online Toolkit' and a large image of a person working at a desk. Below this, there is a section titled 'What is European Approach?' with a video player. The video title is '2. What is the idea of the European Approach?' and the description states: 'The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes has been adopted by the Ministers of the European Higher Education Area in Yerevan on 14-15 May 2015. Watch the video to learn more.'



## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities
  - one European Framework and one corresponding suitable QA procedure instead of being subject to multiple (national) frameworks and procedures that may be conflicting, burdensome or less suitable for European Universities;
  - simplify existing QA requirements for European Universities ⇒ evaluation reports according to this Framework and provided through the evaluated European University can simplify or support national QA requirements for institutions and programmes.

# QUALITY ASSURANCE

- European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities
  - The criteria:
    1. vision on quality
    2. realise its vision on the quality
    3. monitor to what extent its vision on quality is actually realised
    4. working on improvement
    5. quality of provision assured in an internationally accepted manner, respecting the EHEA principles and objectives
      - ⇒ *evaluation regarding the stage of development of the European University and its internal QA system, contribute to quality enhancement in a constructive way.*

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities
  - Procedure:
    - ✓ at least one QA agency that is registered in EQAR;
    - ✓ evaluation panel consists of at least of five members (with diverse expertise), including a student, and is supported by one or more process coordinators depending on the number of coordinating agencies;
    - ✓ Information provided: mission statement, strategic and policy documents, the partnership/collaboration agreement (if available), work plan of activities and road map, quality assurance policies/manual/documents/results, annual reports (if available);
    - ✓ a site visit of at least two days at one location of the European University.

# QUALITY ASSURANCE

- European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities
  - Tested:
    - ✓ **EUTOPIA** - NAKVIS (Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education) and AIC (Academic Information Centre Latvia)
    - ✓ **UNA** - NEAQA (National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance Serbia) and NVAO (Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders)
    - ✓ **UNITE!** - UKÄ (Swedish Higher Education Authority) and the ANQA (National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance, Republic of Armenia)
    - ✓ **YUFE** - ANVUR (Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes) and AAQ (Swiss Agency for Accreditation and Quality Assurance)



## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- QA Development Roadmap: Implementing the European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities
  - Focus on the joint provision of the alliance,
  - The evaluation of a European University providing joint programmes could support and simplify this assessment,
  - Flexible to accommodate the further development of European Universities.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- QA Development Roadmap: Implementing the European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities

1. Discuss and decide what the main benefits of using the European Framework are for the alliance.
2. Clarify the expectations of the alliance for the evaluation in view of the benefits perceived ➔ select one or several EQAR listed agencies.

*EQAR and QA agencies could assist the selection process by including information on the European Framework as well as the experiences and approaches of agencies on their websites.*

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- QA Development Roadmap: Implementing the European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities

3. The evaluation procedure starts ➔ the coordinating agency/agencies inform all QA agencies related to the partners on the procedure.

*The European Commission could consider how evaluations according to the European Framework can be stimulated, e.g. by co-funding more evaluations with the European Framework. QA agencies, in cooperation with European Universities, could develop new projects to raise awareness and provide additional guidance (e.g. through an online toolkit).*

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- QA Development Roadmap: Implementing the European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities

4. The full evaluation report should be published by the coordinating agency/agencies (on the agency website and in DEQAR). The partner institutions of the alliance inform the national authorities and QA agencies of the evaluation outcome.

*National authorities and QA agencies could consider how the evaluation results according to the European Framework can support the national (institutional or programme) external QA procedures of joint provision by a European University.*

*Recommendations from the European Commission to promote the application of the European Framework as well as peer learning among national (recognition) authorities and agencies.*



## DIFFICULTIES...

- Legal and administrative difficulties related to national or specific regulations,
- Uneven implementation of Bologna tools,
- Difficulties to invest and share resources.

## NEXT...

- European strategy for universities – empowering higher education for the future of Europe
- Proposal of a Council Recommendation on Building Bridges for effective European Higher Education

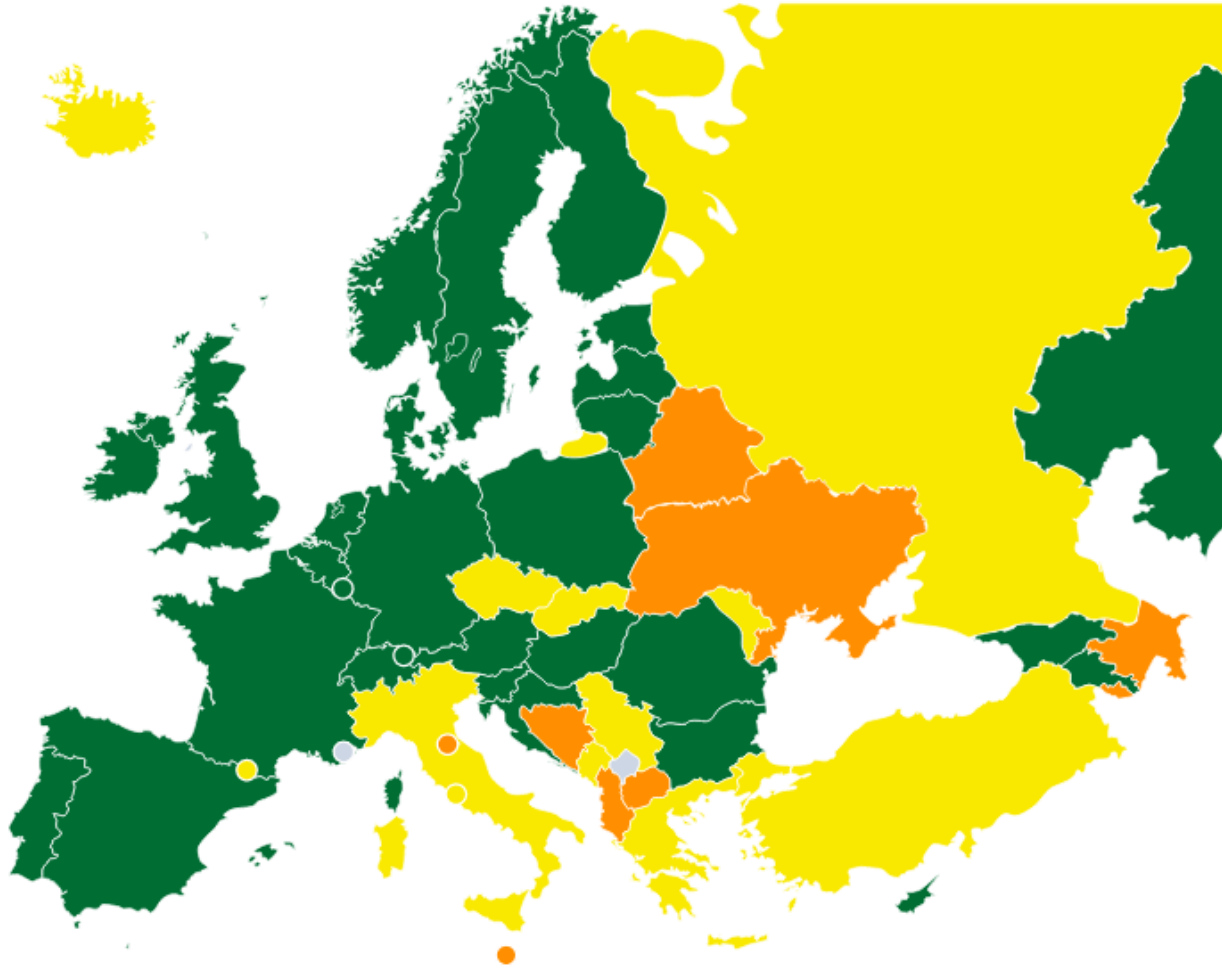
Joint European Degree  
and European Degree  
Label

Legal Status of Alliances of  
Higher Education  
Institutions

## NEXT...

- Strengthen mutual trust through **external quality assurance and accreditation of joint educational programmes** and other forms of joint educational offers developed by European Universities and similar institutional transnational cooperation models.
  - (a) Move further towards the use of **institutional-based external quality assurance**.
  - (b) Consider the possibility to allow for **self-accreditation of programmes** based on institutional quality assurance to underpin the self-responsibility of higher education institutions.
  - (c) In countries still relying on programme-based external quality assurance, consider the possibility to:
    - (i) enable the full implementation of the **European Approach for the Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**, without further additional national requirements or conditions to the use of the European Approach;
    - (ii) ensure that the external evaluation of joint transnational programmes can be done by **one single agency registered in the EQAR** and that the outcomes are automatically accepted in all other higher education systems concerned, without adding further national requirements or procedural steps; and
    - (iii) ensure that **re-accreditation** of joint transnational programmes is required only for clearly substantial changes, with a view to enhance their agility.

49 QA agencies (28 countries)  
listed in EQAR:



Stage of development of external Quality Assurance system  
(<https://www.eqar.eu/>, December 2021)

- In 37 countries both programs and institutional evaluations are in place;
- Audits are allowed in 8 countries;
- 5 countries implement cluster procedures for the study programs;
- In only 4 countries only one procedure is in place (either at programme or institutional level).

29	A fully functioning quality assurance system is in operation nationwide, in which all higher education institutions are subject to regular external quality assurance by an agency that has successfully demonstrated compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG) through registration on EQAR
12	A fully functioning quality assurance system is in operation nationwide but only some higher education institutions are subject to regular external quality assurance by an agency that has successfully demonstrated compliance with the ESG through registration on EQAR
8	A quality assurance system is in operation nationwide, but has not (yet) been fully aligned to the ESG
0	No quality assurance system is in operation

## THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION – ENQA

- As the designated stakeholder organisation of quality assurance agencies in the EHEA, ENQA:
  - **represents** their interests internationally
  - **supports** them nationally and
  - **provides** them with comprehensive services and networking opportunities.
- Under ENQA's umbrella, the community of agencies **drive innovation** in quality assurance and refines quality assurance processes.

**NEXT ...**

Diversification of external quality assurance in the EHEA – Reflection following the analysis of ENQA Agency Reviews in 2020 - 2021

## **INNOVATION**

- Driven by
  - Support broader changes in HE
  - Show added value for HEI
  - Competitive environments.
- ENQA Board working group on **innovation**
  - Quality Assurance Fit for the Future (QA-FIT) project
  - Implementation and Innovation in QA through peer learning (IMINQA)
- Debates with the members starting in June 2022 ENQA Members Forum
- Working groups - **Micro-credentials and Academic Integrity.**

THANK  
YOU

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enqa.