

# IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTRIES ACTION PLANS

TPG C MEETING

13–14 JUNE 2024

# Action plan of Thematic Peer Group C on QA

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## Thematic orientations

- Legislative framework in line with the ESG
- Internal quality assurance
- Enhancement-oriented use of the ESG
- The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
- Cross-border Quality Assurance
- *Quality assurance of micro-credentials*
- *Quality assurance of European Universities*
- *Digitalisation of quality assurance processes*

Work plan: <http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-C-QA>



# Albania

- Identifying the potential pool of students and stakeholders and determining the criteria for their selection in the External Evaluation Groups.
- Creation of an appeal structure.
- Continuous training of the staff for conducting appropriate thematic analysis.
- EQAR registration.
- Full ENQA membership.



Armenia

Key  
milestones  
for the  
period  
2022-2025

Effective model for programme accreditation-2024

Development of the model on  
integration of institutional and  
programme accreditation

Staff mobilities to NVAO to explore the  
experience of initial accreditation of  
the agency

Discussions with the stakeholders

Preparation of regulatory  
recommendations for the draft Law on  
Education and Science which is in the  
revision phase



# Armenia

## Key milestones for the period 2022-2025

### **Analysis of the current trends of the QA of micro-credentials-2023**

Staff mobility to NVAO and ANVUR

Discussions with the stakeholders

SWOT and analysis of the current regulatory barriers in Armenian laws

### **Evaluation of practice and needs of HEIs on cross border quality assurance-2022-2023**

Discussions with HEIs

Good example for joint institutional accreditation with HCERES and ANQA

Preparation of regulatory recommendations on joint institutional accreditation procedures in Armenia and ENQA member countries



Armenia

Key  
milestones  
for the  
period  
2022-2025

In cooperation with MoECS introduction of European  
Approach for QA of Joint Programmes-2025

Staff mobilities to NVAO and ANVUR  
Discussions with HEIs and  
implementation of analysis of the state  
of the art regarding joint programmes  
in Armenia



# Austria

## Development of QA System in Austria

Sound cooperation with stakeholders, incl. Ministry

Policy input provided by AQ Austria (2023)

Revision of legal framework (05/2024)

To do: Revising decrees (2024)

## Revision of Standards & Regulations (*more trust, less control*)

Common process revising programme acc w/ Univ. of Applied Sciences (2024)

Private Universities: stricter regulations (2024)

Audit: projects & analyses (2024ff.)

## QA of Microcredentials

Participation in national networks (2022ff.)

PLA EU Commission (2023)

Participation in European groups/networks (2022ff.)

Offering workshops for Austrian HEIs (2024)

## Strategic Partnerships w/Stakeholders

Univ. of Appl. Sciences, Private HEI, Colleges of Teachers' Education: improved (2023)

Public Universities: partially (ongoing)

Ministry: improved (2022)



# Austria

## Strengthening Position of QA in Public Discourse

More active media relations  
(2022/23)

Development  
communication concept  
(2024)

Publications, reports  
(ongoing)

Yearly conference on  
current issues (2022:  
Continuing Education,  
2023: EDI, 2024 Academic  
Integrity)

## Revision of Internal QA of Agency

SWOT (2023)

ENQA Targeted Review,  
ESG 3.6 (2024)

Organizational Risk Analysis  
(2024)

## Academic Integrity

New legal regulation on  
„culture of academic-  
artistic integrity“ (2024)

Joining networks nationally  
/ internationally (2024)

AQ Austria Conference  
2024: „Academic and  
Artistic Integrity“ (2024)

## QA of Cross- border Provisions (TNE)

Substantial revision of  
legal framework (2024)

Challenging QA decisions  
in court (2023ff.)





# Azerbaijan

**Providing the necessary training for independent evaluators participating in institutional and program accreditation**



Over 2000 experts participated in module trainings and almost 1000 of them got certified in last three years.

**Strengthening the cooperation with ENQA and other leading QA agencies of Europe.**



Action plan is submitted to ENQA for review within the «Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG II» (SEQA) project.



Partnership memoranda signed with several QA agencies such as QAA, NVAO, EPDAD, NCEQE, NAQA and YOKAK.



## Connecting QA of HEIs with labour market needs



Approval of Evaluation Criteria for Institutional and Program Accreditation of HEIs on 30.09.2022;



Participation of labour market representatives in accreditation processes from October 2022;

## Strengthening the capacity of the Education Quality Assurance Agency



Implemented 3-year project «Strengthening institutional capacities of TKTA in Azerbaijan»;

## Providing necessary training for HEIs in establishment of internal QA system



In the last three years (including 2024), trainings on various topics related to internal and external quality assurance were held for 42 higher education institutions and 50 vocational education institutions and 4 secondary education institutions.



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



- **Consistent, clear and transparent implementation of study programmes accreditation**
  - ✓ Clear description of the methodologies of study programmes accreditation, especially procedural aspects and time frame for implementation
  - ✓ Created and published Recommendations for regulating the process of accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs of the 1st and 2nd cycle of studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
  - ✓ Accreditation plans for study programs created and started with implementation;
  - ✓ Recommendations in the implementation and monitoring phase
- **Criteria and procedures for national and international experts' selection improved**
  - ✓ New acts for selection of experts adopted and published;
  - ✓ In accordance with the new acts, 2 public calls have been held so far, around 200 experts have been trained in theoretical online training;
  - ❑ Practical trainings are planned for the end of 2024
- **Regular analyses in the field of higher education**
  - ✓ Experts in the accreditation procedure;
  - ✓ Role of students in the EQA and HEA's bodies
  - ✓ Information on higher education;
  - ✓ Analysis of regulations and procedures for external QA



# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



- **Amendements to legal regulations regarding procedures, content and interpretation of criteria / standards**

- ☐ Planned realization by the end of 2024

- **Strengthening the level of international participation in EQA**

- ☒ Participation at workshops, seminars, working groups (ENQA, CEENQA, SEQA ESG 2, BICG C on QA), as well as in projects (SEQA ESG 2, SMEQA), international conferences;

- ☐ Organization of international conference in planned in December 2024

# PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY NEAA ON TPG C ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES

- NQF amendments
  - Novel criterion system
  - Quantitative and Qualitative indicators
  - Implementation
- Digitalization of accreditation procedures
- Proposed changes in Higher Education Act
- Social Inclusion and START project
  - Focus groups
  - HEI survey
  - Draft indicators
- Trainings and seminars
  - 11 in 2023, 9 so far in 2024
  - for HEIs, stakeholders, NEAA staff
  - different topics related to HEQA



# Cyprus

## Action Plan of Cyprus

Full implementation of Bologna Tools in order to remove legal and/or administrative barriers

- Law amendment for the licencing of branches of Third country Higher Education Institutions

Work in progress

Enhancing the autonomy of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CyQAA)

- Law amendment to strengthen the human and financial capacity of the Agency
- Law amendment to allow the Agency to proceed with remote external evaluations

Work in progress  
Work in progress

Digitalization of QA Evaluations

- Uploading of Agency's Institutional and Programme Evaluations on the Agency's website
- Uploading of Agency's Institutional and Programme Evaluations on DEQAR platform

Implemented – On going  
Implemented – On going



# Cyprus

## Action Plan of Cyprus

### European Universities Alliances

- Removing legal and/or administrative barriers towards the full implementation of the initiative
- Amendment of the National Qualification Framework in order to allow Cyprus HEI's that are already Members of European Universities Alliances to offer joint undergraduate programmes of study (Level 6) of three years duration and 180 ECTS

On going

Implemented - Feb 2023

### QA of Microcredentials

- Establishment of a Working Group with officials from the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance which is currently working for the promotion/evaluation of Microcredentials

Established in 2023



# Czech Republic

## **Goals:**

- Full organizational independence and legal entity acquisition.
- Revision of standards for accreditation.
- Incorporation of site visits into degree program accreditation.
- Publication of reports.
- Thematic analysis.

## **Progress and Development:**

- New amendment to the Higher Education Act – includes publication of reports.
- Preparation of the new Act on Quality Assurance – full compliance with ESG (establishment of an Independent QA agency, mandatory institutional audits + initial program accreditation, thematic analysis).
- New comprehensive guidelines for external evaluation of HEI.
- WFME recognition process - decision is expected in Autumn 2024.
- Development of new guideline material on QA of Internationalization.
- INQAAHE membership (April 2024).
- Staff mobility project with NAKVIS Slovenia (CEENQA scheme).
- Additionally, I have completed the survey on TPG C's future work as requested.





## Finland

### National Education Evaluation Plan 2024–2027

- Between 2024 and 2026, a new evaluation model will be designed in cooperation with the key stakeholders and the model will be piloted in universities of applied sciences and universities. Evaluations in accordance with the new model (2026–2030) will begin in universities of applied sciences and universities in 2027.
- FINEEC supports the development of microcredentials by conducting one-off evaluations of higher education institutions between 2024 and 2026 to ensure that the institutions have the procedures required for managing the quality of microcredentials.



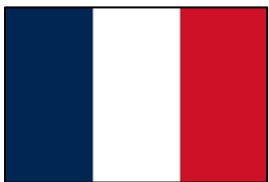
# France

Challenges	Expected outcomes	Concrete actions	Timeframe
Adapting QA to societal changes	Adapting & creating external evaluation frameworks	Introducing or strengthening topics in existing frameworks to reflect societal change – gender representation, professional integration, sustainability, research integrity... (Hcéres & CTI)	Achieved in 2023
	Adapting QA processes to encompass all HEI's missions	New frameworks adapted to the diversity of HEIs (ie. art schools) (Hcéres) Implementing integrated evaluations (institution, programmes and research units) (Hcéres)	Achieved in 2023
	Contributing to the implementation of the national action plan for gender equity in HE	Review of the HEI's gender equity reports (Hcéres)	Ongoing
Institutionalisation of the existing dialogue between the agencies operating at the national level in France	Harmonising frameworks, processes and evaluation cycles	Decree on national QA coordination  Institutionnalisation of existing cooperations  Coordinated audits between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Hcéres and CTI for some engineering schools</li><li>- Hcéres and CEFDG for four pilote institutional reviews</li></ul>	Achieved in 2023 and under improvement in 2024



# France

Challenges	Expected outcomes	Concrete actions	Timeframe
<b>Clarify the role &amp; mission of Hcéres in TNE (transnational education)</b>	Identifying TNE providers and programmes  Defining a specific process for QA of TNE	Dialogue between the <b>Hcéres</b> , <b>CTI</b> , and CEFDG to define and map the external quality assurance activities related to TNE	Ongoing
<b>QA of European Universities Alliances</b>	Participation in the definition of a national strategy on the QA of European universities Alliances	Dialogue between the Ministry, <b>Hcéres</b> , and <b>CTI</b> on the QA of European Universities Alliances and participation to a national seminar.  <b>Hcéres</b> is a member of the Quality Evaluation Board of the UNITA alliance  <b>CTI</b> was a project partner in 2 Erasmus +projects on the European Degree and European Status and involved in all discussions for a tentative Label/ Degree for Engineering programmes	Ongoing  Ongoing  Achieved in 2024



# France

Challenge	Expected outcomes	Concrete actions	Timeframe
QA of micro-credentials	Discussions on the definitions/scope of micro-credentials in France	Participation of the <b>CTI</b> in the BFUG subgroup on micro-credentials that aimed to write a comparative report	Achieved in 2024
	Establishing quality assurance frameworks for programmes outside the scope of the BMD model (ie. professional certificate, « clusters of competences »...)	Convergence of <b>Hcéres &amp; CTI</b> evaluation frameworks with the Ministry of Labour's label for professional education QUALIOPI that was developed by the leads to specific funding: for HEIs, an external evaluation with a positive outcome leads to the automatic award of QUALIOPI.	Achieved in 2022
		Application to participate in the European Commission's call for proposals on micro-credentials (Erasmus+ project) ( <b>Hcéres and CTI</b> )	Ongoing
QA of joint diploma	Conducting reviews of joint diplomas with the European Approach	Reviews with the European Approach ( <b>Hcéres</b> )	Ongoing
	Promoting the European Approach outside EHEA	Online dissemination events (ie. Japan, Argentina) in bilateral cooperation with <b>Hcéres'</b> partners	Achieved in 2023
	Facilitating the accreditation of joint diplomas evaluated with the European Approach	Ongoing dialogue ( <b>Hcéres &amp; CTI</b> ) with the Ministry and publication of a document explaining the links between the evaluation with the European Approach by Hcéres and the accreditation by the French ministry	Achieved in 2024
	Participating in international projects that test and facilitate the delivery of joint European degree labels	Support from <b>Hcéres</b> and <b>CTI</b> to 5 Erasmus+ projects « <i>Pilot a joint European degree label</i> »	Achieved in 2024



# Ireland

Prosecuting cheating service providers and intermediaries based on new law.	Consultation on white paper (draft policy) closed May 2024 <a href="#">white-paper-on-academic-integrity_consultation_0.pdf (qqi.ie)</a>
Design a new cycle of reviews of private HEIs that will build on their track record of external programme accreditation and pave the way for them to acquire self-accrediting powers	Handbook published Nov 23 ( <a href="#">cinnte-handbook-for-independent-private-providers.pdf (qqi.ie)</a> ). Reviews underway.
Add the newly established TUs to the Cinnte cycle 18-24 months following their establishment, with a focus on the internal QA procedures established by these new entities.	Schedule completed ( <a href="#">Cinnte schedule extended to 2024/25   Quality and Qualifications Ireland (qqi.ie)</a> ) and reviews underway
Look towards more differentiated review models for the successor to the Cinnte cycle.	Concept paper published Nov 2023 <a href="#">quality-assurance-in-higher-education-where-do-we-go-from-here-2023.pdf (qqi.ie)</a>
Post-pandemic in-person networking activities for experts	<a href="#">QQI 10th anniversary conference   Quality and Qualifications Ireland</a>



# Italy

						Further efforts have been made since the last monitoring (May 2023) to improve the procedures for the accreditation of institutions and programmes in the universities and AFAM sector (higher education in arts, music, theatre and dance). In particular:
Normative updates to allow full compliance with the ESG and the innovation of the QA system	3.1	2022-24		<i>For universities:</i> Peer review experts have been involved in the initial accreditation of University PhD programmes		
				<i>For AFAM Institutions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the Network of AFAM Evaluation Units (created in July 2021) was regularly convened (three times a year) and involved in the development of ESG-compliant QA procedures for the AFAM sector (e.g. the new AFAM PhD Regulation and Guidelines)</li><li>- the pilot project for the periodic assessment of AFAM public institutions (launched at the beginning of 2023) has been tested on the first three institutions</li></ul>		
				<i>Other general activities:</i> ANVUR has contributed as an associated partner to three Erasmus+ funded projects aimed at awarding an European degree label to joint programmes, based on common criteria (ERASMUS-EDU-2022-POL-EXP-Eudegree) ANVUR has participated actively in the TPG C WG on the QA of European Alliances ANVUR has formally proposed to the Ministry that the new three-year University programming (due to be published this year) allows the Agency to adopt the European approach to the QA of joint programmes		
Development of a reflection on the QA of research and third mission activities, in the direction of an integrated European knowledge area		2022-24		The framework for the periodic evaluation of research and third mission quality (VQR 2020-2024) has been substantially revised, following an in-depth analysis of the previous exercise, to more accurately reflect the range of dissemination and social engagement activities of universities and research institutes, and to take into account the ongoing discussions on the reform of research assessment (also within the context of ANVUR's participation in the CoARA initiative).		
Apply for the renewal of the ANVUR membership in ENQA + Apply for the registration of ANVUR in EQAR	All	2022-24		The procedure for the renewal of ANVUR's membership in ENQA and registration in EQAR concluded with the visit of the Expert panel at the end of January 2024 (results will be known in Autumn 2024)		



# Latvia

## Transition to the Cyclical Institutional accreditation (instead of study fields)

- 2024 – approval of the conceptual report
- 2024 – 2025 – development and approval of regulations and methodologies
- 2026 - pilot accreditations
- 2027/2028 – starting the new cycle of institutional accreditation

## Quality Assurance of Microcredentials

- Definition
- Quality assurance



# Lithuania



Action	Progress
Development of new EQA framework to be implemented since 2029	<i>Draft of new EQA framework is prepared by the working group. The plan is to discuss it with stakeholders in Autumn 2024. Project with OECD on enhancing quality of post-compulsory education and training in LTU</i>
Introduction of European Approach for QA of JSP	<i>European Approach for QA of joint Programmes legally available since August 2023.</i>
Setting up QA of microcredentials	<i>Ongoing discussions on MC concept on the country, draft proposals presented to the Ministry; application for EU funded project submitted.</i>
Development of further requirements for short cycle studies and their QA	<i>First short cycle programmes were launched in 2022. Short cycle programmes can be delivered by profesional HEIs in certain study fields. External QA focus on labor market, practical training etc.</i>
Legal changes to enhance research activity in higher education in Lithuania	<i>Changes of the Law on HE&amp;R to enhance research activity of HEIs and stronger link with studies. Since 2023 HEIs may apply for incentive funding for educational achievements. Merger of state HEIs started with an aim to strengthen quality of education and research.</i>





# Luxembourg



**Luxembourg** aims to establish a more holistic quality assurance system that is easily comprehensible to the wider public, reinforcing trust and promoting recognition of national diplomas in and especially outside the country.

To achieve this goal, several measures has to be implemented, including :

- the review of relevant legal texts on higher education, with a special focus on QA (the fundamental structure of HE system will remain the same) ;
- a set-up of a close collaboration with one foreign EQAR-registered QAA, which will also support the long-term development of national competences in the area of QA ;
- an elaboration of a set of new external QA procedures.





# Luxembourg

## Implementation of legal framework for HE

The new **Higher Education Law**, which was enacted on July 21, 2023, and came into effect on September 15, 2023, addresses several key areas within in LU higher education system:

- **Protection of titles and denominations related to HE system (i.e. BA, MA, PhD, MD, University, specialised HEIs, ...)** ;

- **Governance:**

- The new law seeks to clarify accreditation criteria, establish more comprehensive procedures, enhance consistency of procedures and introduce monitoring measures for specialised higher education institutions, short-cycle programme providers, and their programmes.

## Close collaboration with NVAO

**2022/2023:** framework agreement with the Dutch-Flemish accreditation agency NVAO and enhancement of the LU quality assurance system

**2024:**

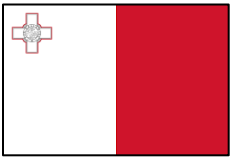
- **Accreditation procedures:** From now on, the accreditation procedures for both specialised higher education institutions (BA and MA-programmes) and short-cycle programmes offered by Luxembourgish secondary schools will be conducted by NVAO.

- **Goal:** coherent quality assurance system for all public and private higher education programs in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

- **Micro-credentials:** In 2024, a pilot project was launched between NVAO and the University of Luxembourg Competence Centre to assess the quality of higher education certificates with ECTS. The project aims to potentially develop a proposal for a national framework for the assessment of HE certificates/micro-credentials in the future. The project is expected to be completed in June 2025.

## Improved public information provision

The Ministry is presently taking steps to make information about its higher education and quality assurance system available in multiple languages on its [website](#).



# Malta

Please identify here for your country the current challenges (if relevant) or describe the situation in the respective key commitment

There is a great need to update and improve the current National Quality Assurance Framework and procedures for EQA, including distance learning, transnational education and cross-border QA. [ESG 2.2 NQAF is being revised, a new manual of procedures has been developed and should come into force in January 2024.](#)

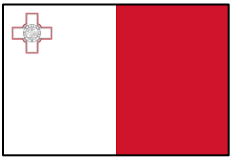
The new manual of procedures is in force, and we just started to use it for the first audit. MFHEA is involved in ensuring the quality of education across borders. The MFHEA allows providers to conduct external quality assurance processes through the services of another agency registered with EQAR. A foreign agency must meet the following criteria:

- Transparency of the External Quality Assurance Process
- Independence of the Peer-Review Panel
- Experience and Expertise of the Foreign Agency
- Alignment of the External Quality Assurance Process to the ESG and the Maltese NQAF

To expand the pool of peer reviewers through training and recruitment, including student reviewers. [ESG 2.4 The MFHEA's pool of peer-review experts has been significantly expanded by attracting international experts, where local experts are given the opportunity to improve their review skills through exposure to best practices. In cooperation with ESU, the MFHEA has expanded the pool of student reviewers who are considered equal member of peer review panels. A new approach on how to carry out training for peer reviewers is discussed.](#)

MFHEA is continuing to engage international experts and consolidate our relations with those we have already worked with. Our network is growing, especially with the intensification of our international participation in events and bringing international events to Malta. We provide training to the panel of each audit before starting in a meeting called induction, aimed at establishing constructive working relationships, providing training on accreditation procedures, and any additional information concerning the provider.

Annual training for prospective peer reviewers shall start being held as from this year.



# Malta

The necessary preparations will be considered in order to become ENQA member. **ESG 3.1** The application has been submitted; the audit will take place on 11-12-13 October 2023. An internal SWOT analysis was carried out at the beginning of the year 2023, The SAR shall be submitted to ENQA by the end of June.

The review report is published on ENQA's website. MFHEA has submitted formally the application to EQAR and is expecting a formal decision on its application.

To develop internal procedure for the new established Advisory Committee. **ESG 3.1** Regulated by art 18 chapter 607 (FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION ACT). The responsibilities and internal procedures of the Advisory Committee are defined.

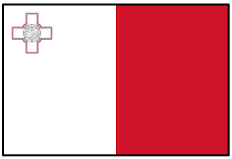
To develop the procedure for thematic analysis of findings of EQA activities. **ESG 3.4** The procedures for thematic analysis have been developed. The first thematic analysis report will be published by the end of July.

A recommendation has been issued following the ENQA review. MFHEA is working to ensure regular and expanded thematic analysis within HE and HEIs with a hands-on approach, emphasizing internal involvement over outsourcing to externals.

To consolidate the existing processes and procedures of the Authority into a comprehensive IQA policy. **ESG 3.6** The QA policy of the MFHEA is public. The IQA policy that consolidates all the internal policies and procedures is being finalized.

To develop support for HEIs that lack a self-critical faculty, which affects the compilation of the SAR during the EQA audit. **ESG 2.1** Support on how to approach an audit and develop an appropriate SAR is provided upon request and this will take place in the form of a meeting between MFHEA and the providers. Seminars were also held, this was open to all institutes with the possibility of giving feedback, more upcoming seminars are in the pipeline.

Significant improvements in the quality of SAR submissions are evident, and we remain committed to this objective. This includes integrating digital tools to further improve the process.



# Malta

## Please describe here for your country the progress to be achieved by 2024

- Review of programme audit procedures ESG 2.1

The MFHEA initiated a process to review and update the relevant procedures. we selected a group of experts to carry out this work, which included:

- Conducting an international benchmarking analysis to compare Malta's practices with other countries
- Organizing focus group discussions with the involved institutions and panels
- Carrying out an internal consultation process across the different MFHEA departments and structures
- Engaging in constructive consultations with the providers and other stakeholders

The MFHEA aims to have this revised process in place and enforced by next year. This shall apply only to Higher Education programs.

As a result of the revision and further development of the National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF) and EQA Audit Provider Manual of Procedures the QA Agency will expand its approach to the Quality Assurance of HE in Malta, including transnational education and cross border QA. The preparation to become an ENQA member will help to consolidate the alignment with the ESG, as will the involvement of various stakeholders in different processes and expansion of the pool of peer reviewers. Planned seminars, workshops and guidelines will give better support and strengthen the internal quality assurance systems of HEIs.

We believe that significant improvement has been reached when TPG started. We also had the ENQA review. This consolidated our work, but at the same time, the recommendations issued by the panel and welcomed by MFHEA are telling us that there are many rooms for improvement. However, we accept the challenge. MFHEA aims to complete all reforms in the QA sector by end of **2025** as evidenced in the QA Development Plan published on MFHEA's website (<https://mfhea.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/QA-Development-Plan-2023-2025.pdf>)



# Montenegro



- In April 2023, ACQAHE sent the latest version of the QA Action plan to BFUG.
- After that, ACQAHE adopted the Internal analysis on the compliance of the Montenegrin quality assurance system with European standards and guidelines – ESG (firstly in June 2023, and updated it in May 2024) to identify the status of the fulfilment and therefore to prepare for the membership in ENQA. This document represents a clear guide with identified deadlines for the fulfilment of recommendations by ACQAHE on the one hand, as well as a quality base of arguments that indicate the necessity of changing the legal framework and by-laws, on the other hand.
- Currently, ACQAHE is in the process of engaging international QA experts to support our path to fulfilling recommendations based on the Internal analysis.
- ACQAHE launched a set of new ideas in the second half of 2023 to develop research activities, both related to evaluation procedures and to propose measures for improvement of the higher education system.
- ACQAHE initiated the idea of conducting the **research on the aspirations of high school graduates** regarding their transition from high school to higher education. Considering the lack of quality information when deciding on the continuation of education by high school graduates, ACQAHE initiated the idea of preparing the Questionnaire which was distributed to graduates in April 2024. The obtained data will be used to analyze plans, motives, reasons, socioeconomic influences, personal predispositions, and preferences of the graduates, as well as instruments that would support the best possible decision-making when it comes to the continuation of education.



# Montenegro



ESG standard	ACQAHE's Level of compliance with ESG Standard (May 2024)
2.1 Consideration of Internal Quality Assurance	Compliant and started implementing the recommendations
2.2 Designing Methodologies fit for purpose	Partially Compliant
2.3 Implementing processes	Partially Compliant and started implementing the recommendations
2.4 Peer Review Experts	Partially Compliant and started implementing the recommendations
2.5 Criteria for Outcomes	Partially Compliant and started implementing the recommendations
2.6 Reporting	Compliant
2.7 Complaints and appeals	Partially Compliant
3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance	Partially Compliant
3.2 Official status	Compliant
3.3 Independence	Partially Compliant
3.4 Thematic analysis	Partially Compliant and started implementing the recommendations
3.5 Resources	Compliant
3.6 Internal Quality Assurance and Professional Conduct	Partially Compliant and started implementing the recommendations
3.7 Cyclical External Review of Agencies	Compliant and started implementing the recommendations



# The Netherlands

## Action plan of the Netherlands

Development towards institutional accreditation (instead of program accreditation) based on ESG by 2025	Because the current minister is at the end of his term, the new cabinet will have to make a decision on this.
Micro-credentials: based on the ESG organise and improve the internal quality assurance and to identify and solve problems and limitations in relation to the existing legal framework and developments.	Work in progress
Thematic analysis: The Dutch ministry stimulates the national accreditation organization and the inspectorate of education, each having a distinct role in our system of higher education, to further improve their cooperation on thematic analyses.	The first thematic analyzes are currently being started by the NVAO.
EQF to NLQF: implement in regulation.	Implemented





# Republic of Moldova

## Progress in 2023-2024:

- international institutional accreditation of 5 universities
- development of an institutional accreditation procedure
- digitalization of processes (introduction of e-form for reporting)

finalization of the first iteration of full accreditation of Bachelor and Master programmes in the system

## **FUTURE PLANS:**

- **ACCREDITATION OF DOCTORAL SCHOOLS AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES**
- **CONSOLIDATION OF THE qa Agency (focus On HE only, with the exclusion of the task of evaluating general education from anacec)**
  - **Extending the accreditation validity – revise the methodology on accreditation**
  - **Develop and evaluate joint programmes with foreign universities**



# Romania

## Progress to be achieved by 2024:

Revised External Evaluation Methodology, development of specific Guides (for defining learning outcomes and quality culture oriented internal quality assurance approaches), development of specific tools for the European Approach of Joint Programs and micro-credentials, digitalisation of quality assurance processes and procedures, revision of procedures related to internal quality assurance.

Action	Implementation
Develop a National framework regarding "learning outcomes" approach implementation	Draft ready
Develop an IQA Guide for HEIs	Study, to inspire the guide
Review of the External Evaluation Methodology Create tools for Quality assurance of micro-credentials	Draft to be approved by GD <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Simplification</li><li>- Lower no. of indicators</li><li>- New procedures - Audit/simplified evaluation</li></ul>
Create specific tools for the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs implementation	Allowed by the national legal framework Guides to be sent to HEI for consultation
Revised Complaints and Appeals Procedure	Complaint
Continue to make steps for the digitalisation of Quality assurance processes	The platform for managing the Register of Experts operational Platform dedicated to external reviews Cloud New system to be implemented



# Sweden

Goal: 'QA in relation to European Universities, micro-credentials, and other forms of cross-border QA should be aligned with national legislation and the ESG, while fully respecting Sweden's national decision-powers on education.'

- SE Governmental Member of EQAR (2023)
- Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) report on transnational QA (May 2024)
- Joint survey/report Swedish Council for HE and UKÄ on obstacles and funding opportunities for European Universities
- UKÄ Internationalisation Plan 2024-2026.



# Sweden

Goal: 'QA methodologies and processes should make innovative and efficient use of digitalisation.'

- UKÄ digital QA processes and tools, e.g. online collaborative platform for UKÄ, peer-review experts and HEIs, and learning platform (e.g. expert training, staff CPD)
- Enhanced online site visits/interviews
- Annual open digital information meetings for HEIs and students' unions (institutional reviews)
- Knowledge-based review methodology (using existing data, previous evaluation results, etc.).



# Sweden

Goal: 'International collaboration and exchange of experience should be an integral part of the national quality assurance framework and methodologies.'

- ENQA WG on MC and co-chair WG on QA of research
- TPG C IMINQA staff mobility and UKÄ 'Staff Week' Oct 2023; next 'Staff Week' May 2025
- IMINQA QA of European Universities and QA of micro-credentials
- New MoUs: Hcéres (FR) and NAQA (UA)
- UKÄ project on internationalisation in national QA framework and processes
- UKÄ international advisory committee
- Networks: NOQA, ENQA, EQAR, ECA, INQAAHE...

# Thank you!

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