

## ENQA report to the BFUG 24-25 February 2025, Poland

### Highlights of ENQA's activities since September 2024

ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) is 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 drives innovation in quality assurance and refines quality assurance processes.

In 2025 ENQA celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The occasional will be marked with a series of [initiatives](#) throughout the year, culminating an anniversary event in Brussels in October 2025.

#### I. ENQA GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Elections for ENQA's governing Board took place at the General Assembly meeting on 24-25 October 2024 in Malta. Heli Mattisen (HAKA, Estonia) was elected for her first three-year term; Patrick Van den Bosch (VLUHR QA, Belgium) and Kristin Vinje (NOKUT, Norway) were re-elected for subsequent terms.

ENQA's full membership currently stands at 61 agencies in 32 countries in the EHEA, as well as 41 affiliates in 52 countries worldwide. Full members are agencies that have demonstrated compliance with the ESG through an independent peer review. There are ENQA members and/or affiliates in 45 out of the 47 EHEA countries (excluding Russia and Belarus where members and affiliates are currently suspended).

Whilst a number of agencies are working towards ESG compliance, including with support through the [SEQA-ESG](#) project, at least ten EHEA member states do not have agencies compliant with the ESG. The key barriers (as reported in [ENQA's statement to the Tirana conference](#)) are independence from government involvement in the agency affairs and legislative systems that block ESG compliance, for example student involvement in external quality assurance and publication of reports. At this BFUG and in the coming months, ENQA would appreciate an opportunity to meet with colleagues from Ministries to discuss how we can support them in alignment with the ESG.

#### 2. LATEST ENQA ACTIVITIES

##### Conclusion of QA-FIT project and launch of ESG revision

On 7 November 2024, the final event of the QA-FIT project was held in Brussels to gather higher education stakeholders and policy-makers to discuss the current context for quality assurance and reflect on how the EHEA framework can evolve to remain responsive and relevant, drawing on the findings of the project activities. In conjunction with this, a [final paper](#) was published that sets out some key principles for the revision of the ESG. All resources from the project are available [here](#).

The project and its associated activities have provided an evidence base for the revision of the ESG, which got underway in September 2024, following the mandate from the EHEA Ministers in the Tirana Communiqué. So far two meetings of the ESG Steering Committee have taken place, primarily to discuss the core aims, principles and scope of the ESG, with particular reflection on how the higher education landscape has changed in the decade since the framework was last revised. The BFUG will

be consulted on these points at the meeting in February 2025. A briefing note on the ESG revision is available [here](#).

### **Report on quality assurance and academic integrity**

The ENQA working group on quality assurance and academic integrity concluded their work and published their [report](#) in October 2024. The report analyses the key issues, maps current activities by quality assurance agencies and provides recommendations on how agencies, depending on their remit and jurisdiction, can contribute to fostering and upholding cultures of academic integrity. Importantly, the report highlights the need for cross-sectoral action to protect academic integrity and address the challenges and threats from the commercial cheating industry.

### **Focus on staff development for quality assurance agencies**

In December 2024, ENQA held two events in Brussels to support professional development within quality assurance agencies. A seminar on the European dimension of quality assurance took place on 11 December 2024, providing an opportunity for agency staff to learn about the fundamentals of quality assurance at the European Level and gain an understanding of the broader context in which agencies work.

On 12 December 2024, ENQA ran a workshop on staff development in agencies, which explored the changing competencies needed by agency staff and initiatives to provide professional development and attractive working environments. During the workshop, participants reflected on how ENQA's 2016 Professional Competencies Framework could be updated to match the evolving needs and expectations of the sector. Follow-up work in spring 2025 will result in the publication of an updated version of the framework.

In February 2025, ENQA will also launch registrations for this year's edition of the Leadership Development Programme, which provides a unique training and peer learning opportunity for high potential staff at agencies.

### **Global engagement**

In November 2024, ENQA presented at the national conferences of the Malaysian Qualifications Authority, and the National Authority for Quality Assurance & Accreditation in Education in Egypt. The events were attended by quality assurance colleagues from across the ASEAN regional and Africa respectively.

Under the [HAQAA Initiative](#), ENQA is supporting the coordination of agency reviews in Africa to achieve alignment with the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance. A [call](#) for participation in 2025-26 is currently open.

ENQA is also working with the Ibero-American System for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (SIACES) and agencies from both regions on a project looking at alignment between the ESG and the SIACES Principles of Good Practice. A report mapping the similarities and differences between these two regional quality assurance frameworks will be published in spring 2025.

## **3. ENQA AGENCY REVIEWS**

In 2025, ENQA is coordinating seven external peer reviews of quality assurance agencies. The review process assesses the compliance of agencies with the ESG, in line with the Bologna Process key commitment on quality assurance, and also provides recommendations to the agencies for their further development.

ENQA is currently engaged in an external review of its Agency Review service to assess ENQA's compliance with the ESG and to follow up on the outcomes of the previous external review in 2019. This is an important exercise for the transparency and improvement of the Agency Reviews, ensuring that ENQA is held to the same high standards that are expected of quality assurance agencies in the EHEA.

The review is being coordinated by the Knowledge Innovation Centre, who were selected following an open tendering process. ENQA published a [self-assessment report](#) in September 2024 and hosted a visit of the external review panel in December 2024. The final report of the external review is expected in spring 2025 and will be shared with BFUG members.

## 4. UPCOMING EVENTS

**ENQA Members' Forum 2025** will take place on 10-11 April in Paphos, Cyprus.

**ENQA webinar on external quality assurance of research** will take place on 14 March 2025. The webinar will explore conclusions and case examples from ENQA's working group on quality assurance of research in higher education. The webinar is open to all interested stakeholders. Further information and the registration link are available [here](#).

**ENQA Agency Review Seminars** will take place back-to-back on 26-28 March 2025 in Madrid, Spain. The first seminar is for [recently reviewed agencies](#), while the second one is for [agencies preparing for a review](#).

**ENQA General Assembly and anniversary reception** will take place on 22-24 October 2025 in Brussels, Belgium.

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