

## EQAR listing and the impact for quality assurance agencies

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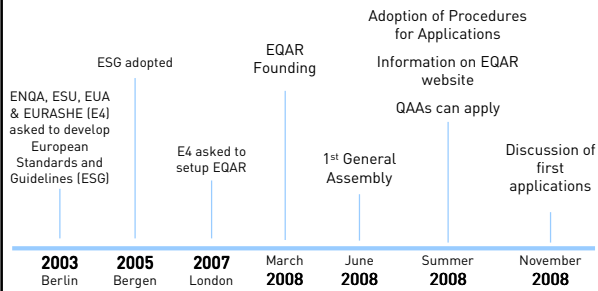
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## Development of EQAR



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## Mission

**“[...] to further the development of the EHEA by increasing transparency of quality assurance, and thus enhancing trust and confidence [...]” (EQAR mission statement)**

- Provide clear and reliable information on QAAs
- Facilitate mutual acceptance of QA decisions
- Improve trust among higher education institutions
- Reduce opportunities for “accreditation mills”

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## Mission



"[...] to achieve its mission EQAR manages a register of QAA operating in Europe that substantially comply with the ESG [...]" (EQAR mission statement)

- Recognising the diversity of approaches and therefore open to all QAAs
- ESG principles: central responsibility of HEI, independent, transparent, objective, responsible, involving all stakeholders, substantiated results based on well-defined procedure & criteria
- EQAR is independent in taking proportionate, consistent, fair & objective decisions
- Transparency, confidentiality, improvement

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## What it is, what it isn't ...



- A register of legitimate and credible QA agencies
- EQAR will allow QAAs:
  - to demonstrate their accountability at European level
  - to make their own quality visible and transparent
- EQAR will not:
  - provide a forum to network, share experience, ...
  - be a platform for policy debate on quality assurance
  - organise site visits

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## EQAR Committee



- Substantial compliance with the ESG
- ESG ≠ checklist, but a set of common principles and reference points
- "... evidenced through an independent review process..." (London communiqué)
- Review should be an independent, sound and reliable scrutiny, essentially based on a self-evaluation report & site visit, providing the Committee with sufficient evidence (e.g. ENQA)
- No EQAR site visits → procedures

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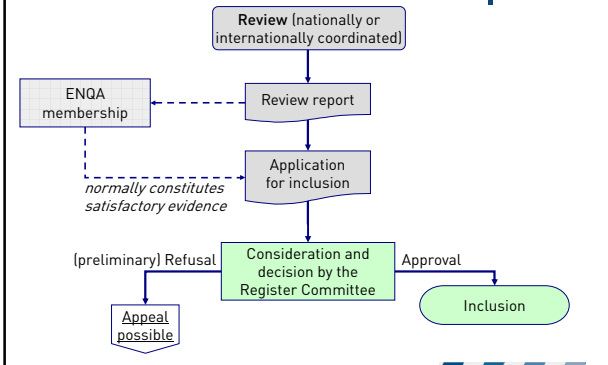
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## Application procedure



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## Application procedure (2)



- External reviews
  - Coordinated by a national authority or another body with the necessary professional capacity (e.g. ENQA)
  - Requirements compatible with current ENQA Guidelines for national reviews
- ENQA members
  - Same external review can be used
  - ENQA scrutiny will give the Register Committee additional confidence

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## Listing on EQAR



- Validity
  - Inclusion for five years
  - Counted from the external review report
- What is listed
  - Name, contact details, etc.
  - Duration of inclusion
  - Basic information on the agency
  - External review report

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Conclusion



- Historical stepping stone in creating a transparent, trustworthy, quality EHEA
- EQAR listing: distinct purpose, different from ENQA membership
- Independence of EQAR allows it to fulfil its mission properly
- Application for listing on EQAR incurs only limited additional effort for full ENQA members (with re-confirmed membership)

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