European Quality Assurance Register for
Higher Education

Micro-credentials and alternative providers in DEQAR and quality labels

Aleksandra Zhivkovikj, Policy and Project officer, EQAR

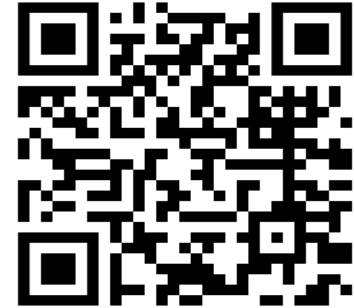Giorgi Munjishvili, Policy and Project officer, EQAR

ENQA Members' Forum, Hannover, 18th April 2024

DEQAR:
## "quality at your fingertips"
https://www.deqar.eu/

➢Created in 2018

➢Enhance trust and transparency in the EHEA and responds to needs of different stakeholders

➢Easy access to external quality assurance (QA) reports (i.e. **accreditations and evaluations**) and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies (**ONLY higher education**)

DEQAR Key Figures

	April 2024
Reports	**99 289**
HE Institutions (at least 1 report)	**4018**
Higher Education Systems (≥ 50% of HEIs)	**24**
Agencies	**56**
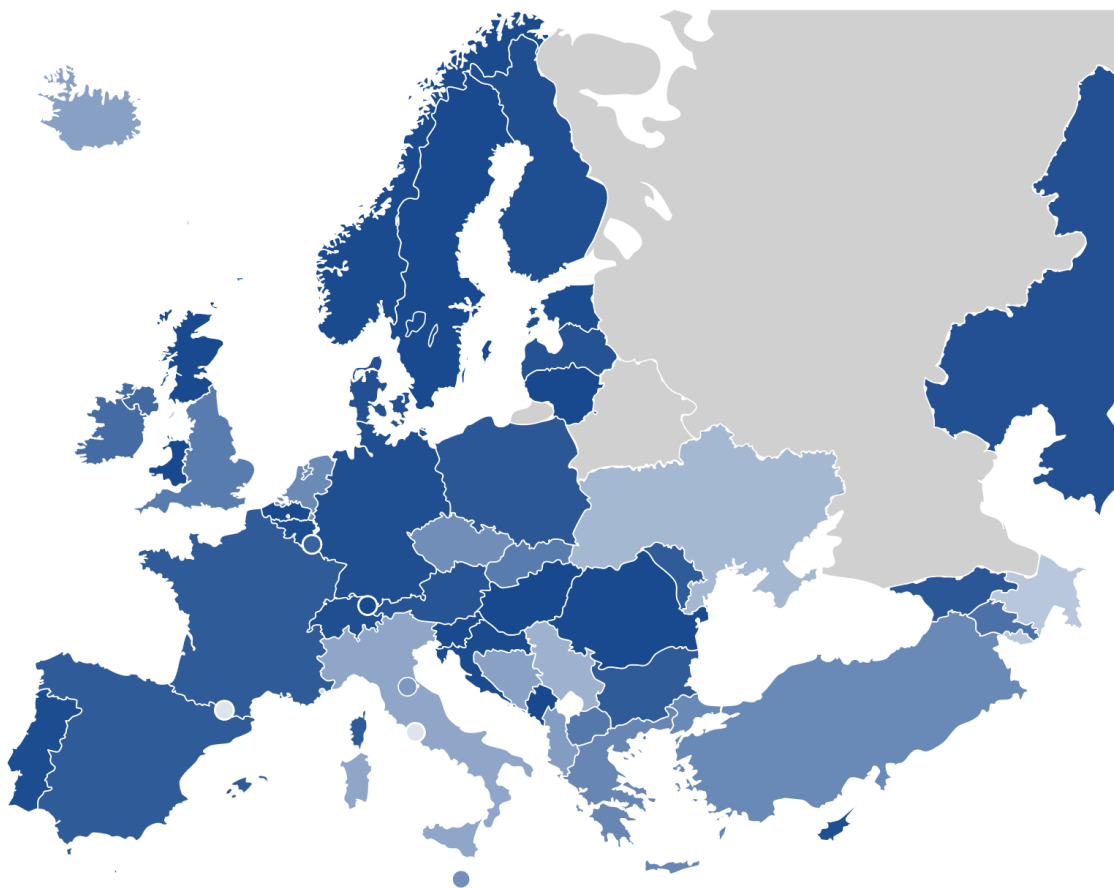
No reports   10%   of HEIs in ETER/national list   100%

Expansion of information in DEQAR

1. Accreditations and evaluations of (provider level):

a) HEIs → Full degree awarding powers <u>recognised by at least one natio</u>
b) Alternative/other providers → No full degree awarding powers, b

2. Accreditations and evaluations of (programme level):

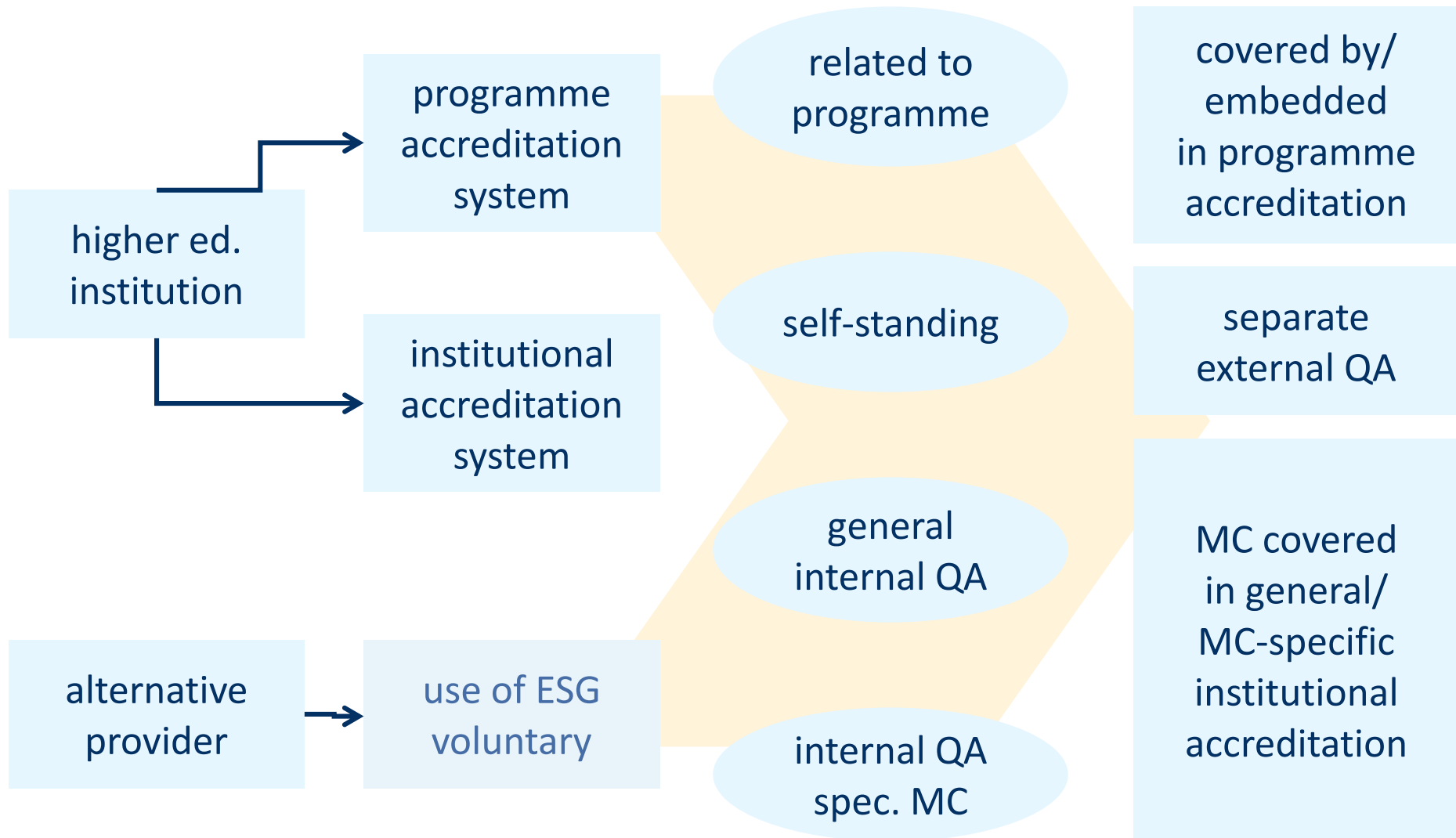**a) Full degree programmes → Full (nationally) recognised degree**
b) Micro-credentials and other → Not leading to a full (nationally) re

Definition of a micro-credential

A study provision:

a) Consisted by a **workload expressed in ECTS** in the range of **1 and 59 ECTS credits**

b) Related to **EQF/ISCED level (5), 6, 7 or 8 OR QF EHEA level short, first, second, third cycle**

c) Does **not** lead to a **full (recognised) degree**

Scenarios in practice

Main observations process

1. The micro-credentials usually bore up to **30 ECTS.**

But there are other various combinations between the

no. of ECTS – Full degree – Recognised degree

Main observations

2. Most of the **other providers** were established as **non governmental organisations,** some as private companies. Rarely public organisations or public-private partnerships

3. **Micro-credentials** can be **tied to a QF level** (reference – entry qualification)

4. The **use of terminology** "diploma", "bachelor", "master" **is not always protected via national legislation** (hence providers can utilise it for own purposes)

Feasibility Study on Quality Label – Sep. 2024

Feasibility assessment on the establishment of an ESG-based quality label for all providers that operate in alignment with the European Approach for Micro-credentials, in dialogue with alternative providers.

- *What are the perceptions of educational providers and QA agencies on the necessity of implementing a quality label for micro - credentials?*
- *What is the added value of a quality label for micro-credentials?*

Quality labels by EQAR-registered agencies – Major observations

- Over 30 quality labels by 30 EQAR-registered agencies.

- Most of the labels use common peer-review principles and are given after (as a result) of an external review. However, some of the labels are only awarded if the educational provider has demonstrated excellence.

- Quality labels are mostly awarded by the implementing agency, but in some cases, they can also be awarded through authorised agencies (Euro-inf Quality Label, EUR-ACE, Eurolabel Chemistry Quality Label, CEQUINT).

Feasibility Study on Quality Label - Stakeholder Perceptions

Stakeholder perceptions are assessed to gauge the perceived need for a quality assurance label, and gather insights on potential benefits or concerns.

- Desk research using data stored at agencies' websites
- IMINQA Working group on QA of Micro-Credentials
- **_ENQA's Member Forum (now)_**
- Focus group with alternative providers

1) What is the **added value for creating a quality label** demonstrating that the micro-credential has been evaluated/accredited (using methodology aligned with the ESGs)?

Label scenarios

- **Scenario 1:** Considering the workload, would you **award a label based on the evaluation of each micro-credential** or at the **level of micro-credential provider**?

- **Scenario 2:** Should such **label be issued by QA agency** or **another body**/ies (e.g. national or regional (professional) body, international entity or someone else)?

3) For the national agencies, are there any **regulations for issuing and using labels applicable to micro-credentials** provided by HEIs or alternative providers in your system?

4) Based on your experience, would HEIs and **alternative providers** in your context be **interested in undergoing a review with QA agency** and obtain a label for the micro-credentials they provide?

Thank you

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Visual distinction

Symbols

Higher education institution

→ 🏛️ Aachen University
RWTH Aachen
Aachen (Germany)

Alternative provider

→ 🏢 Almaty Bible College
Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Information on alternative providers

Database

Search

— **By provider**

— By report

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

Cornerstone Centre for Intercultural Studies

Basic information

Identifiers	DEQARINST8154 NL-KVK: 56495439 ?
Provider type	other provider
Type of organisation	non governmental organisation
Legal seat(s)	Beugen, Netherlands
Website	https://www.cornerstonecollege.eu/
Founding year	1947
QF-EHEA levels	short cycle
Data source	(Name of agency to be presented)
Permalink	https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-institution/institution/?id=8154

Certification of alternative providers

Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"

IAAR: Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education

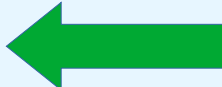|	
DEQAR Report ID	93960
Agency	Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)
Type	Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education
Status	voluntary
Formal decision	positive
Date	30/06/2023
Valid until	29/06/2028
Report and decision	Decision (Russian)
	Review Report (Russian)
Permalink	https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93960
Institution page	Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"
External link	View record on agency's website
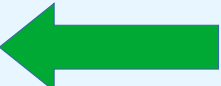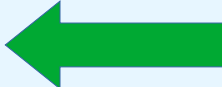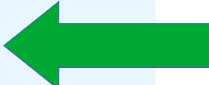
Certification of a micro credential

3D modeling software - CAD 1

Educational Centre "Zerde" Limited Liability Partnership

A3ES: Programme accreditation

Programme	3D modeling software - CAD 1
Qualification	
Level ❓	first cycle
Programme type	Micro-credential
Workload (in ECTS credits)	15
Assessment and certification	Assessment based certificate
Learning outcomes	use CAD software
Field of study	engineering, manufacturing and construction

Connected with European Commission's ESCO API

Learning outcomes

drawing

- tend drawing kiln - http://data.europa.eu/e
- cold drawing processes - http://data.euro
- technical drawings - http://data.europa.eu
- tend bar drawing machine - http://data.eu
- create AutoCAD drawings - http://data.eu
- metal drawing processes - http://data.eur
- use artistic materials for drawing - http://c
- drawing kiln operator - http://data.europa

Field of study (ISCED-F)

- accounting and taxation - http://data.europa.eu/esco
- agriculture - http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081
- agriculture not elsewhere classified - http://data.euro
- agriculture not further defined - http://data.europa.eu
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary - http://e
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not else
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not else
- agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not furth

Feasibility Study for Implementing Quality Assurance Labels

Agency	QA Label
Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (**AAQ**)	Seal of quality
Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (**ACPUA**)	ALCAEUS
Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (**AQU**)	Programme ex-ante accreditation; Accreditation; Additional dimensions in accreditation (Internationalisation, Employment and Research); Short learning programmes (micro-credentials); Certification of the Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS); Institutional Accredited Centre; Quality Assurance of Research Department Level; Accreditation of an International Educational Facility for Cooperation and Academic Mobility
ASIIN e.v. (**ASSIN**)	ASIIN-AMSEE label, Certification of continuing education courses, modules and training courses
Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg (**evalag**)	Institutional Quality Label
Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (**FIBAA**)	FIBAA Quality Seal for Institutional Accreditation; FIBAA Seal (Premium) for certified continuing education courses

Feasibility Study for Implementing Quality Assurance Labels

Agency	QA Label
German Accreditation Council (**GAC**)	System accreditation; Programme Accreditation
Estonian Quality Assurance Agency for Education (**HAKA**)	HAKA Quality Label; Certificate of Assessmmet
Institutional Evaluation Programme (**IEP**)	Evaluated by IEP
Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (**QAA**)	The QAA Quality Mark
Quality and Qualifications Ireland (**QQI**)	International Quality Mark (IEM)
Agency for Quality of the Basque University System (**Unibasq**)	Unibasq Quality Label
Fundación para el Conocimiento Madrimasd (**madri+d**)	Cualificam Programme
Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (**THEQC**)	Accreditation Label
Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (**FINEEC**)	Quality label for excellence

Feasibility Study for Implementing Quality Assurance Labels

Other QA Labels	QA Agencies
EUR-ACE	AAQ, ANECA, ARACIS, ASIIN, CTI, FINEEC, KAZSEE
Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation (CeQuInt)	CTI, NVAO, HCERES, Unibasq, ACSUCYL, AQAS, ACSUG, PKA
Euro-Inf Quality Label	ANECA, ASIIN
Eurolabel Chemistry Quality Label	ANECA, ASIIN
EQAS Food Quality Label	ASIIN
GAC label	AAQ, ACQUIN, AHPGS, AQAS, AQ Austria, AKAST, ASIIN, evalag, FIBAA, MusiQue, ZeVA