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Policy brief

*Ensuring quality assurance that is
fit for the future*

QA FIT

Quality Assurance Fit for the Future

Policy context - EHEA

Tirana Communiqué

- Reaffirmed the role of the three key commitments for the successful development of the EHEA.
- Gave the mandate for the revision of the ESG
*“The application of the ESG promotes trust and transparency within and between higher education systems and facilitates accountability and enhancement. **To keep them in line with ongoing developments, challenges and expectations, we invite the authors of the ESG to propose a revised version by 2026 to the BFUG, to be adopted by us at our 2027 Ministerial conference, as well as an adjustment, where required, of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes.**”*

Policy context - EU

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European QA and recognition system

- EU initiatives (European Universities Initiative, European Degree) highlight long-standing challenges for quality assurance that arise due to rigid legal frameworks in some countries.
- Council recommendations aims to ensure that national quality assurance arrangements enable transnational cooperation.
- Reiterates the need for member states to meeting the existing Bologna Process commitments.

Key issues for ESG revision

- ▶ Evolution rather than revolution
- ▶ Primary focus on learning and teaching
- ▶ Maintain wide applicability in diverse institutions and agencies and explore areas where there has previously been lack of clarity
- ▶ Ensure relevance in international contexts for IQA and EQA
- ▶ Part 1: digitalisation, diversity of learners and academic staff, flexible learning pathways (...)
- ▶ Part 2: flexibility in QA methodologies while maintaining sufficient accountability (...)



What happens next?

- ▼ ESG Steering Committee
 - ▼ Representatives of ENQA, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, EQAR, Education International & Business Europe
 - ▼ Coordinate the overall process, including main directions and consultations
- ▼ ESG Drafting Group
 - ▼ Representatives of ENQA, EUA, EURASHE & ESU
 - ▼ Prepare drafts and identify issues for further discussion
- ▼ Consultation rounds with all key stakeholders
- ▼ Final version in 2026, ministerial approval in 2027



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