The European Database of External Quality Assurance Decision and Results (DEQAR)

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European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

**Mission:** enhancing trust and confidence

**Role:** manage the register of QA agencies that comply substantially with the ESG

**Objectives:**
- Enhance trust
- Prevent „accreditation mills“ from gaining credibility
- Recognition of QA decisions and results
- Allow registered QAAs to operate across the entire EHEA, HEIs to choose suitable QAA
Recognition and the ESG

- **ESG: Scope and concepts**

  “The ESG should be considered in a broader context that also includes qualifications frameworks, ECTS and diploma supplement that also contribute to promoting the transparency and mutual trust in higher education in the EHEA”

- **1.4: Student admission, progression, recognition and certification**

  Guidelines: [...] Fair recognition of higher education qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, are essential components for ensuring the students’ progress in their studies, while promoting mobility. Appropriate recognition procedures rely on: - institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention; [...] 

- **2.6: Reporting**

  Full reports by the experts should be published, clear and accessible to the academic community, external partners and other interested individuals. [...] 

  ➢ **Accessibility** of external quality assurance results crucial
How the tools should work together?

Qualification in country A

map & recognise

Level in country B

QA A

NQF

QF-EHEA

NQF B

ESG & EQAR

self-certification
Publication of decision

HCERES - High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLIANT WITH EUROPEAN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

SEE QA RESULTS BY HCERES

Haut Conseil d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur

High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Admission valid until: 28-02-2022 (listed since 14-05-2011)

Based in: France

HE systems where agency conducted reviews: Armenia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, France, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam

Reports by the agency

External review reports and EQAR decisions

- 2017-06-27 Renewal of Registration
- 2017-06-27 Renewal of Registration - b
- 2011-10-10 Admission to the Register

Information on the agency's work

The High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES), created by the Law No. 2013-660 of July 22nd, 2013 relative to higher education and research, has replaced the AERES as from November 17th, 2014 (after publication of the decree No.2014-1385 of November 14th, 2014).

Decision of the Register Committee on the QA agency's **compliance with the ESG as a whole.**

The Register Committee also does an assessment of each ESG standard and concludes on:

- **compliance** (which may be full or substantial),
- **partial compliance** and **non-compliance**.
EQAR – higher education system information

France

France has been a Governmental Member of EQAR since 2008.

Registered agencies based in France

- CTI - Engineering Degree Commission
- HCERES - High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education

Registered agencies operating in France

- AQAS - Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes
- ASIIN - ASIIN e.V.
- CTI - Engineering Degree Commission
- FIBAA - Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation
- HCERES - High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education
- MusiQuE - Music Quality Enhancement

- country sample -
Current access to external QA results
Current accessibility of external QA results

Existing difficulties:

- Which agency?
- User-friendliness of agency websites
- Language
- Information up-to-date
- Understand different external QA systems

EQAR currently provides only indirect access to agencies' reports & results, via their individual websites.
Usefulness of a database of external QA results

- Very useful: 35%
- Useful: 40%
- Somewhat useful: 20%
- Not so useful: 4%
- Not useful at all: 1%

(no major variation between user groups)
Review EQAR's information policy towards different target groups (governments, agencies, institutions, students), in particular: [...] Explore feasibility of a database.

Strategic Plan 2013-2017

To develop specifications for a possible database of quality assured higher education institutions or programmes (depending on the national system) [...] Self-Evaluation Report 2016

To analyse the feasibility of the database EQAR carried out surveys of potential users and registered agencies and desk research on existing initiatives. Study, Report and Operational Model 2016

To establish a database of results of external quality assurance procedures in line with the ESG. Long-term sustainability through dedicated EQAR staff. Work Plan 2017/18 ; Budget & membership fees from 2018

The DEQAR project (2017-2019) was selected for EU co-funding under Erasmus+ Key Action 3 - European Forward-Looking Cooperation Projects. The launch of the database is expected for May 2018.
DEQAR aim – function and form of database

- **Function**, allows users:
  - To identify whether a higher education institution (HEI) or its programmes were subject to external QA in line with ESG
  - To gain direct access to information and reports on external QA procedures
  - To find clear and reliable information on European national quality assurance systems

- **Form**, will take:
  - Lean approach – only what is needed and readily available
  - Standard approach – institution-level access, as full list of programmes is not feasible
DEQAR context – relation to existing resources

- Mainly national & institutional databases
  - QA-related information mostly covers a particular country/region

- Information available from agencies
  - National portals (e.g. Spain, Germany)
  - European-level projects (Qrossroads, EUR-ACE)
  - Non-European projects (CHEA, USDE)
  ➔ Benefit from experience & build on existing data

- Information on higher education institutions
  - Online data sources (WHED, ETER/OrgReg, Anabin, U-Multirank, Learning Opportunities & Qualifications)
  ➔ Use for harvesting HEI data
1) Data on HEIs
   - Name (English & official languages)
   - Country
   - Website
   - QF-EHEA levels
   - For programme-level:
     - Name of the programme (English & official languages)
     - Name of the qualification(s) awarded
     - Country (if different)
     - NQF and QF-EHEA level

2) Data on QA results
   - Quality assurance agency
   - Description
   - Level (institution, programme)
   - Decision
   - Status
   - Dates valid
   - Including, full report(s) and decision(s)

3) Integrated with information on agencies and countries already in the register
DEQAR content – scope and coverage

Results of external QA activities (2014-2017)
DEQAR content – scope and coverage

Countries where external QA activities were carried out (2014-2017)
Search and discovery of QA results using DEQAR

- Browse and search (by institution name, country, agency, date)
- Historic record
- Full download
- Embed into third-party applications
Search and discovery of QA results using DEQAR
Thank you for your attention!

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