

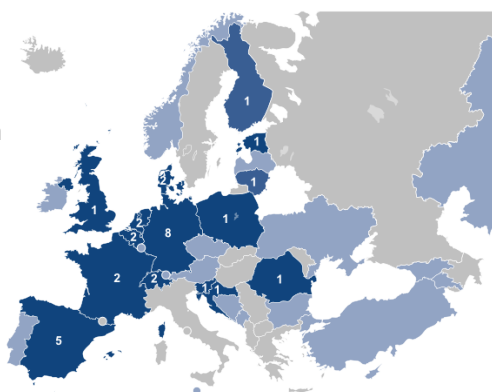
## Report to the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG)

(for the 7/8 November 2013 meeting, Vilnius)

1. This report updates the BFUG on developments related to EQAR since the last BFUG meeting in March 2013 in Dublin, Ireland.

### Newly Registered Agencies

2. The Register includes agencies that have demonstrated their substantial compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) through an external review. The Register Committee, an independent expert body, decides on admission. The Committee convened for two meetings since the last BFUG meeting, on 2/3 May 2013 (Berlin) and 18/19 October 2013 (Gent).



3. The following agencies were newly admitted to the Register:

- ECCE - European Council on Chiropractic Education (DE)
- EKKA – the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency
- QAA – the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (UK)
- SQAA – the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

4. The National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA) had its registration renewed.

5. Under the terms of the EQAR Merger Policy, the Flemish Council of Universities and University Colleges' Quality Assurance Unit (VLUHR QAU), established as a result of a merger between the two quality assurance agencies VLIR and VLHORA, was granted provisional registration.

6. The Register now includes 31 quality assurance agencies from 15 countries. The standard way of accessing information on registered agencies is through the newly created interactive map (see thumbnail above) at:

[www.eqar.eu/register.html](http://www.eqar.eu/register.html)

### Recognising International Quality Assurance Activity (RIQAA)

7. With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the EU, EQAR is carrying out a project on cross-border recognition of quality assurance agencies and their activities. To kick off the project, its Advisory Group met in Gent on 18 October 2013 to discuss upcoming project activities.

8. The project includes an in-depth analysis of both legal provisions in EHEA countries recognising EQAR-registered QA agencies and their

decisions, and the use made of such provisions by higher education institutions/programmes.

[eqar.eu/projects/analysis-recognition.html](http://eqar.eu/projects/analysis-recognition.html)

## Practices and Interpretations

9. A new document explaining the Register Committee's Practices and Interpretations in using the ESG has been published. The document aims to:

- increase the transparency of the Register Committee's decision-making practice;
- help demonstrate consistency in the Committee's practices, interpretations and decisions on applications;
- aid external review panels in understanding how the Committee has interpreted the ESG and used external review reports;
- facilitate the understanding of the Committee's public decisions.

[eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/official/RC\\_08\\_1\\_PracticesAndInterpretations\\_v1\\_0.pdf](http://eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/official/RC_08_1_PracticesAndInterpretations_v1_0.pdf)

## Future Application Deadlines

10. There are now fixed deadlines for initial applications by quality assurance agencies for inclusion on the Register: **15 March** and **15 September** of each calendar year.

[www.eqar.eu/register/application.html](http://www.eqar.eu/register/application.html)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> EQAR Members' Dialogue

11. The 3<sup>rd</sup> EQAR Members' Dialogue was held on 17/18 October 2013 in Gent (Belgium), hosted by the Flemish Department of Education and Training. Approximately 50 representatives of EQAR's governmental and stakeholder members participated in the event, which included keynote presentations by European and international experts and policy makers.

12. Discussions evolved around the priorities set by EQAR's Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017. The presentations are available on the EQAR website:

[eqar.eu/publications/presentations.html](http://eqar.eu/publications/presentations.html)

## Outlook

**Survey to review the information provided on registered agencies:**

[https://survey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_brRGppD8P8Zjg1](https://survey.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_brRGppD8P8Zjg1) (until 30/11/2013)

**Peer-Learning Seminar: Role of NQFs and QA in Recognition:**

(organised by Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports together with EQAR, **11 December 2013**, Trakošćan)

[www.kvalifikacije.hr/span-langen-gb-stylefont-family-times-new-romanser](http://www.kvalifikacije.hr/span-langen-gb-stylefont-family-times-new-romanser)