European QA Framework

Status of CBQA

Experience with a CBQA

QA of TNE (CBHE)

IMINQA - Peer Learning Activity 2 , Bucharest (21 March)
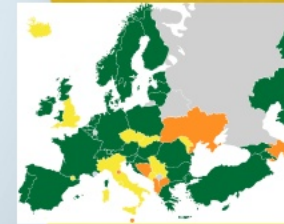"Cross-Border Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance of Transnational Education"

Melinda Szabo (EQAR)

European Quality Assurance Framework

Towards CBQA

- common standards for QA, built for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

- Register to demonstrate substantial compliance with the ESG

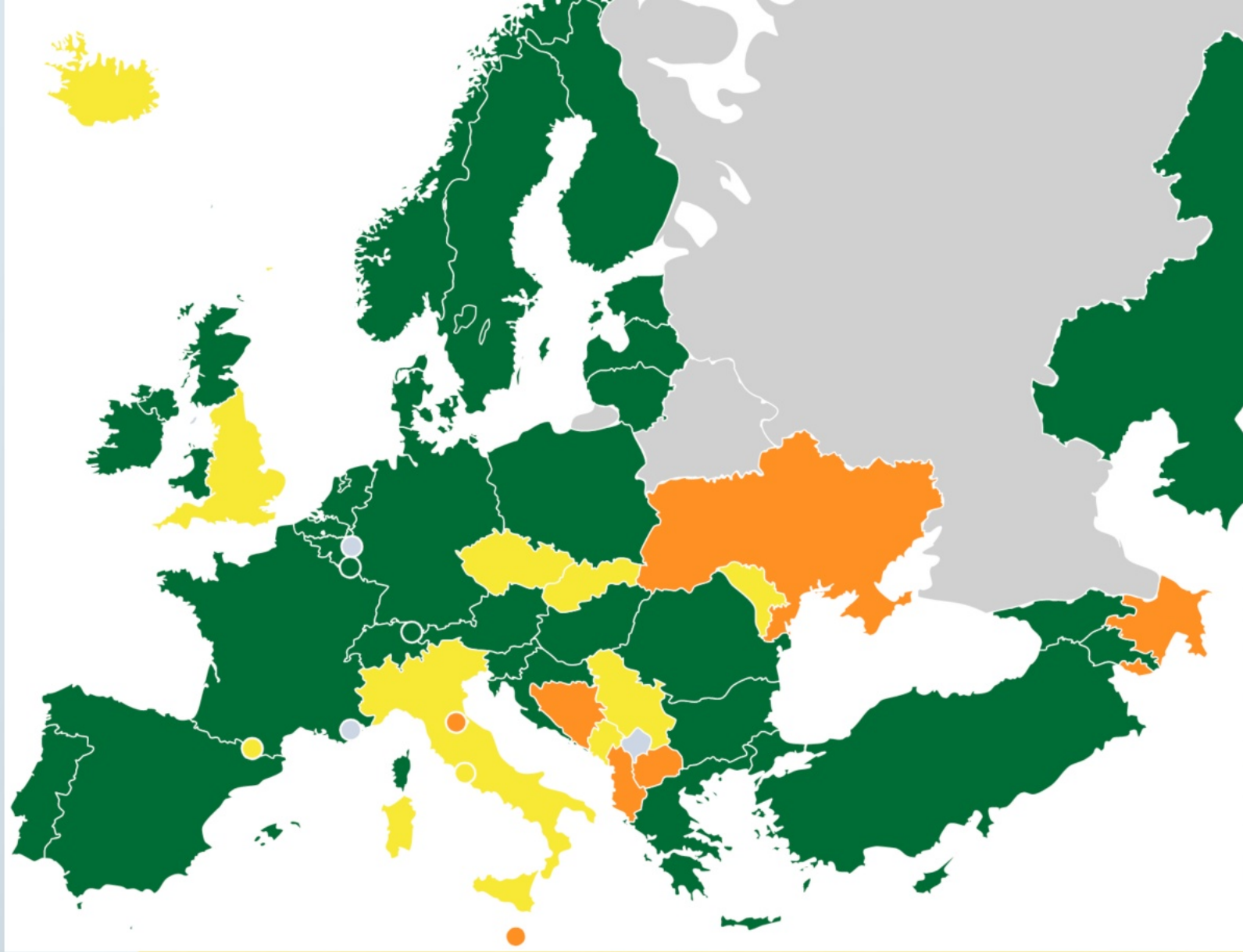- EQAR-registration is a trusted status, guarantee to the public

Stage of implementation of the EHEA key commitment on external QA

Data source

ESG 2015

Key Considerations for Cross-Border Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area

Stage of implementation of the EHEA key commitment on external QA

Towards cross-border QA

- ministers recognise HEI's responsibility for assuring the quality of education (Berlin 2003)

- over 300 types of QA activities alligned with the ESG, successfully employed across the EHEA

- ESG considered suitable basis for work across borders.

- ministerial commitments for cross-border recognition (Bucharest 2012) and HEIs right to choose a suitable EQAR-registered agency (Yerevan 2015 and Paris 2018)

Data sources

Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR)

- 82 776 reports
- 3 487 institutions HEIs
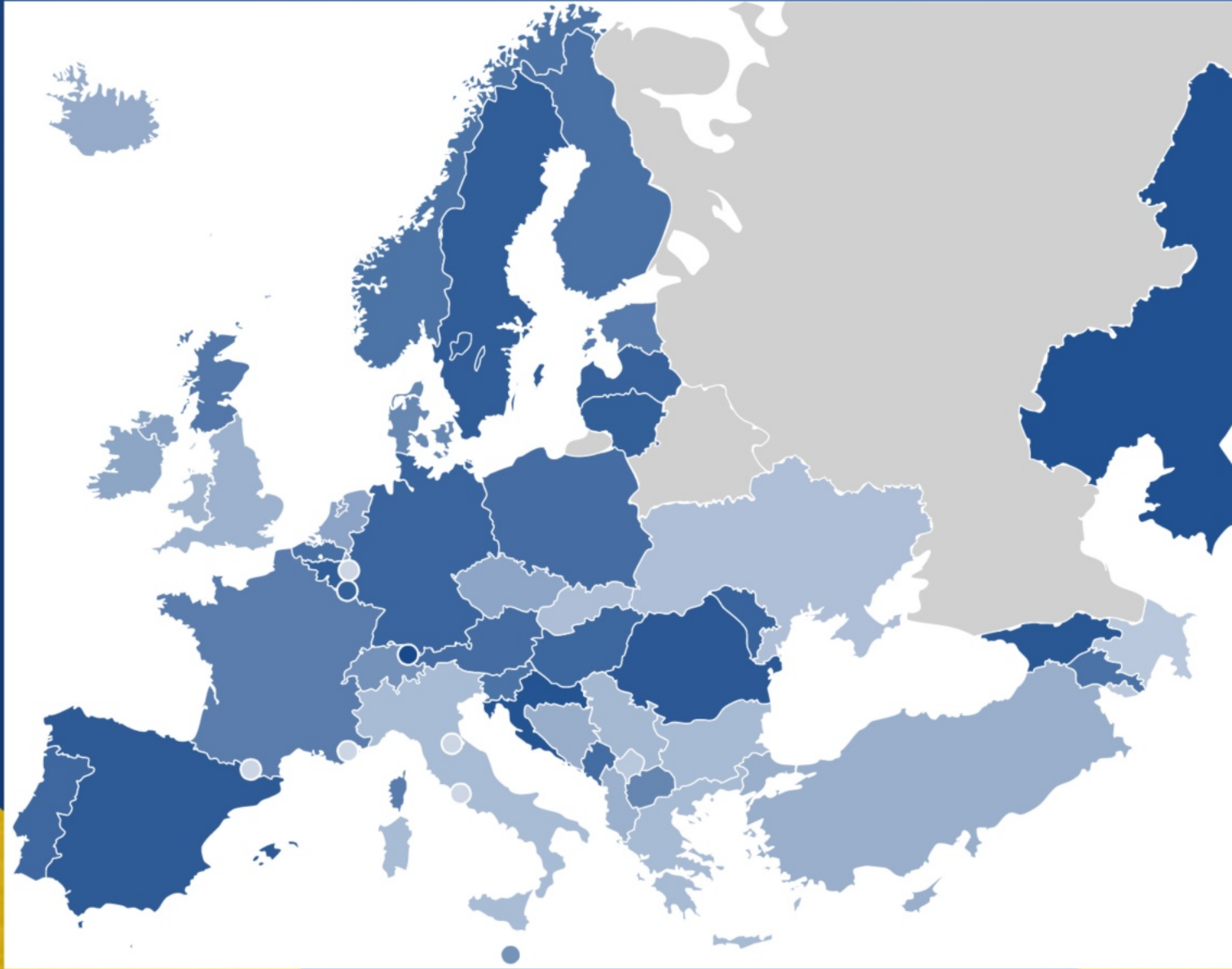- DEQAR contributing agencies cover 87% of the EHEA member countries
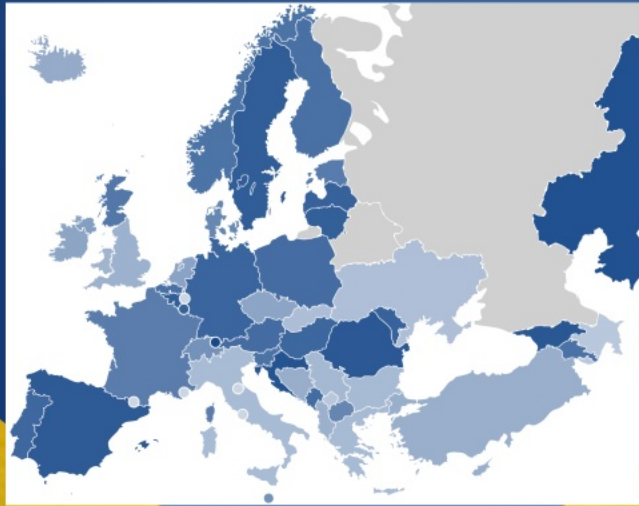
EQAR's Knowledge Base (47 EHEA countries)

EQAR's Policy Paper on CBQA (2020)

RIQAA project report (2014)

UNESCO-OECD guidelines for quality provision in CBHE (2022)
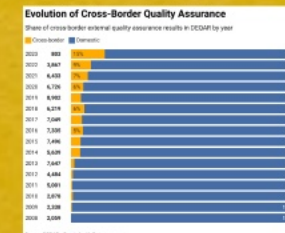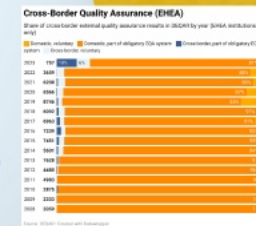
Status of cross-border QA

Facts and Figures

43 countries of the 47 EHEA members had at least one EQA by a foreign EQAR-listed agency (agencies participanting in DEQAR)

The share of cross border QA procedures within EHEA is more common but increasing in recent years for non-EHEA regions.

CBQA activities within the EHEA mostly carried out within countries that have a legal framework recognising foreign EQAR-registered agencies, but 'openness' to such CBQA lagging behind.

National Requirements for CBQA

Cross-Border Quality Assurance (EHEA)

Evolution of Cross-Border Quality Assurance

Level of official recognition of cross-border external QA (March 2023)

Level of official recognition of cross-border external QA (March 2023)
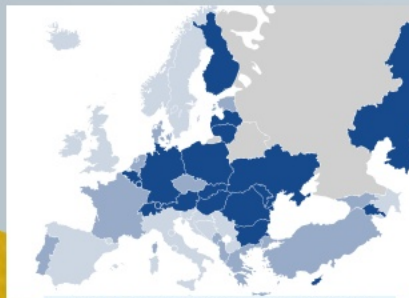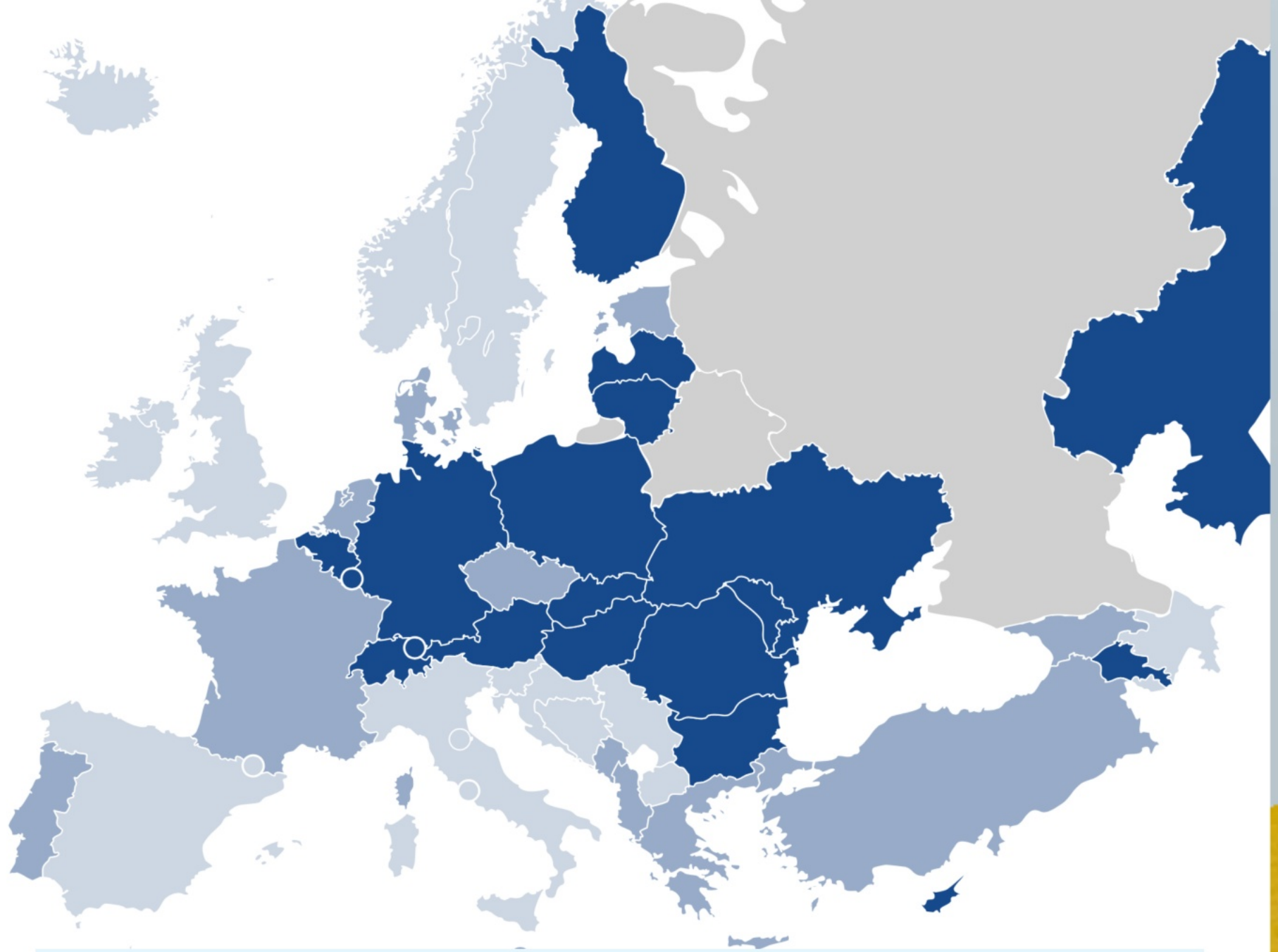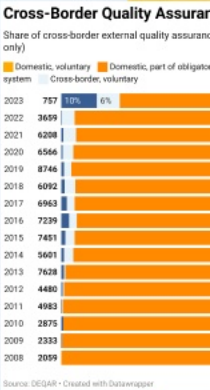
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Cross-Border Quality Assurar
Share of cross-border external quality assuran only)

Domestic, voluntary ■ Domestic, part of obligato system ■ Cross-border, voluntary

2023	757	10%	6%	
2022	3659			
2021	6208			
2020	6566			
2019	8746			
2018	6092			
2017	6963			
2016	7239			
2015	7451			
2014	5601			
2013	7628			
2012	4480			
2011	4983			
2010	2875			
2009	2333			
2008	2059			

Source: DEQAR • Created with Datawrapper

Cross-Border Quality Assurance (EHEA)

Share of cross-border external quality assurance results in DEQAR by year (EHEA institutions only)

■ Domestic, voluntary   ■ Domestic, part of obligatory EQA system   ■ Cross-border, part of obligatory EQA system   ■ Cross-border, voluntary
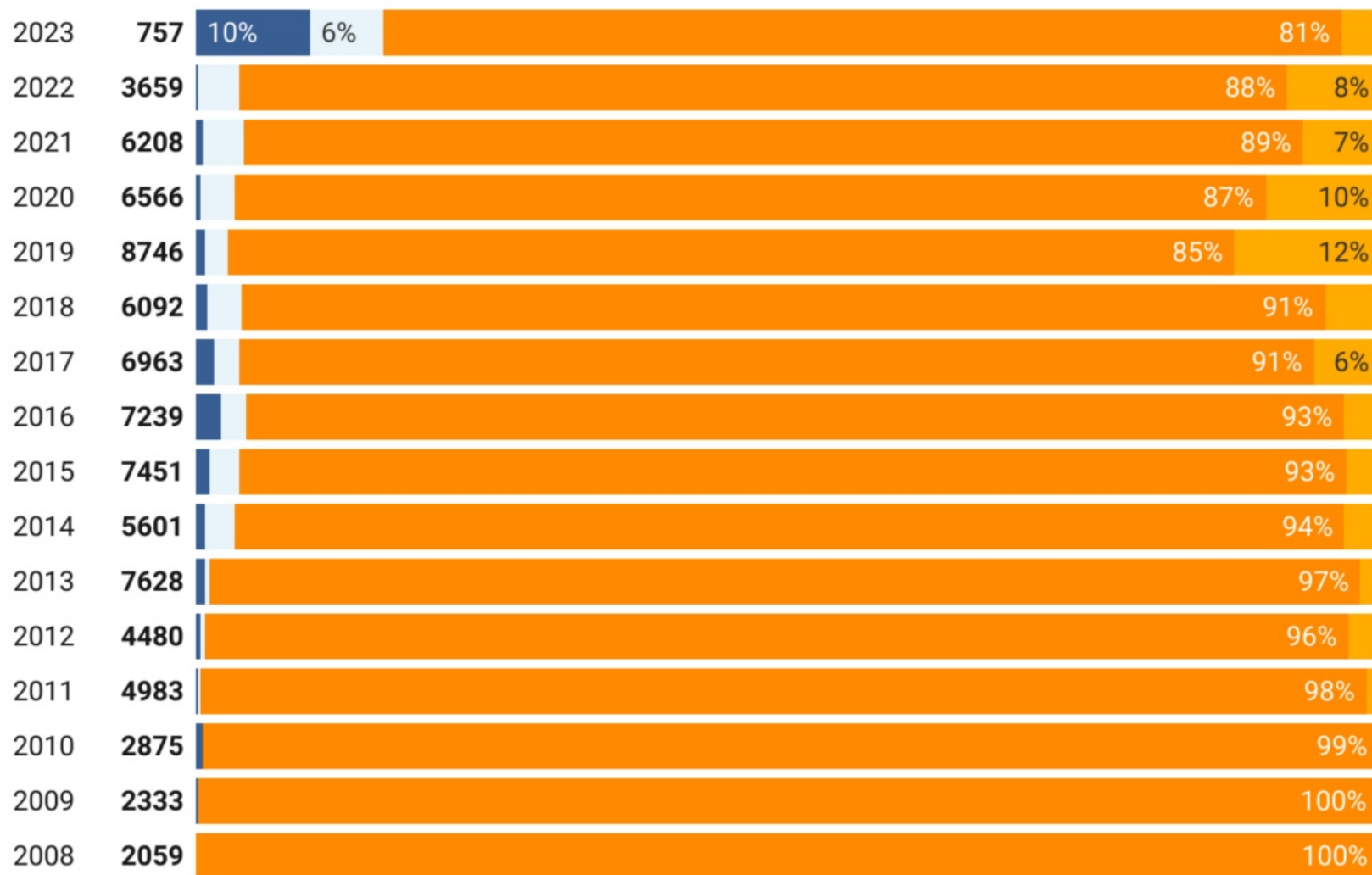
Year	Count		
2023	757	10% 6%	81%
2022	3659		88% 8%
2021	6208		89% 7%
2020	6566		87% 10%
2019	8746		85% 12%
2018	6092		91%
2017	6963		91% 6%
2016	7239		93%
2015	7451		93%
2014	5601		94%
2013	7628		97%
2012	4480		96%
2011	4983		98%
2010	2875		99%
2009	2333		100%
2008	2059		100%

Evolution of Cross-Border Quality Assurance

Share of cross-border external quality assurance results in DEQAR by year

■ Cross-border   ■ Domestic

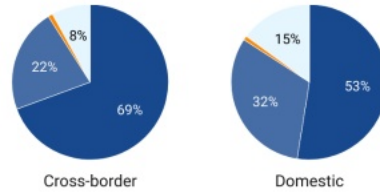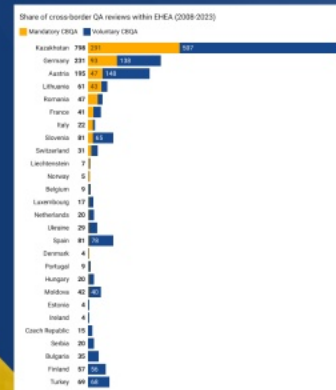| Year	Total	Cross-border	Domestic
2023	803	15%	85%
2022	3,867	9%	91%
2021	6,433	7%	93%
2020	6,726	6%	94%
2019	8,902		96%
2018	6,219	6%	94%
2017	7,049		95%
2016	7,335	5%	95%
2015	7,496		96%
2014	5,639		96%
2013	7,647		98%
2012	4,484		99%
2011	5,001		99%
2010	2,878		99%
2009	2,338		100%
2008	2,059		100%
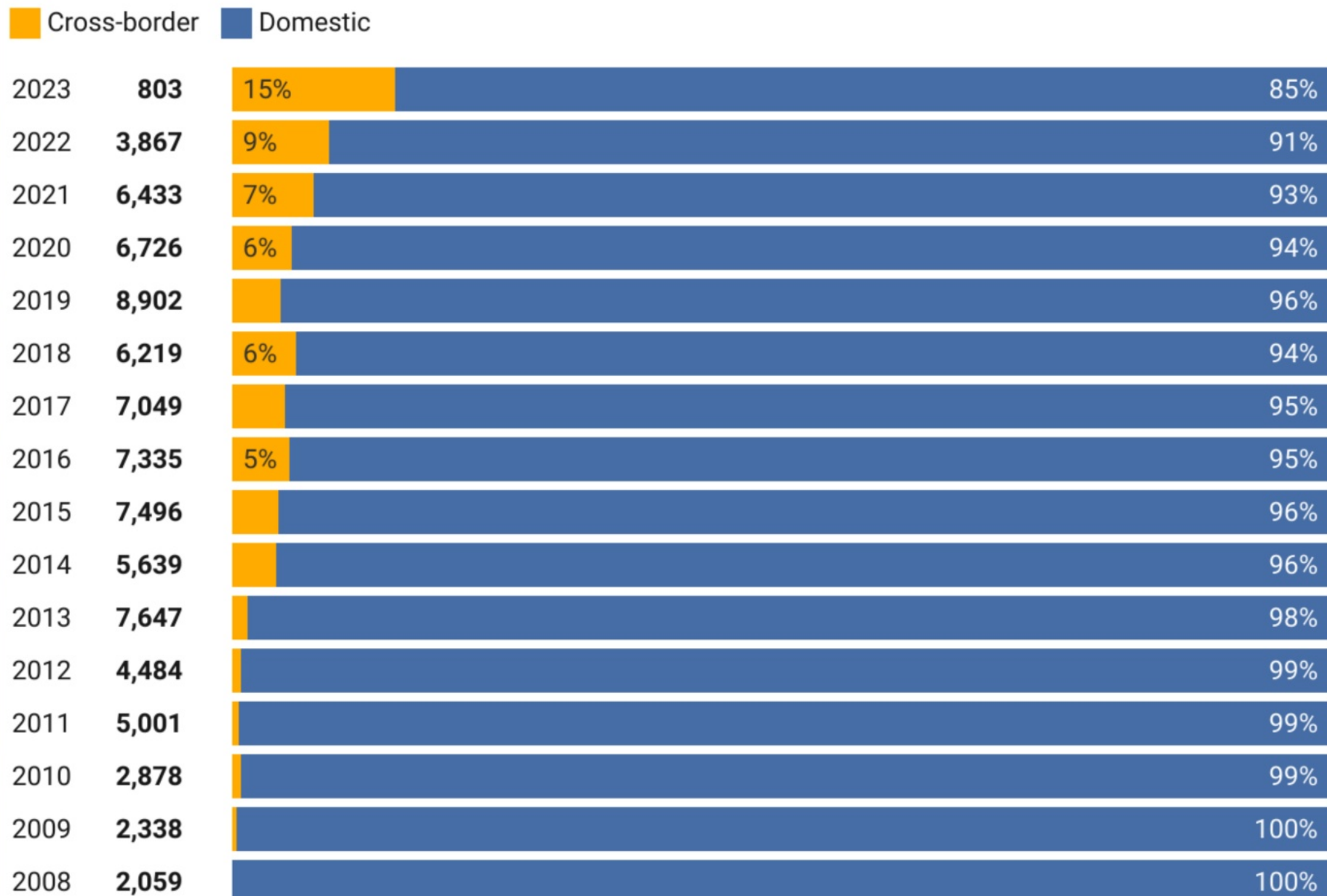
Facts and figures

External QA Decisions

Decisions by cross-border vs domestic external quality assurance reports
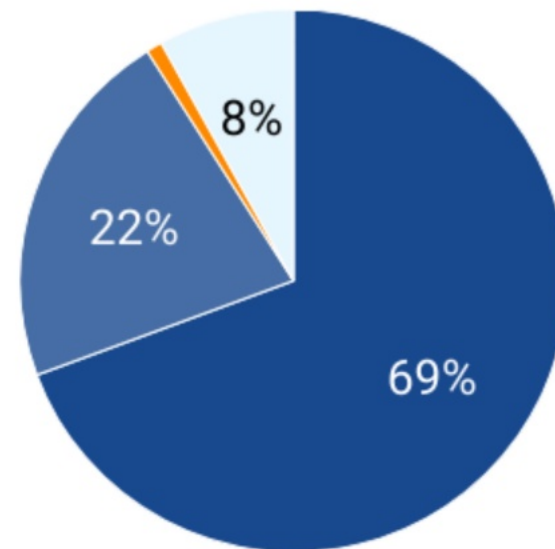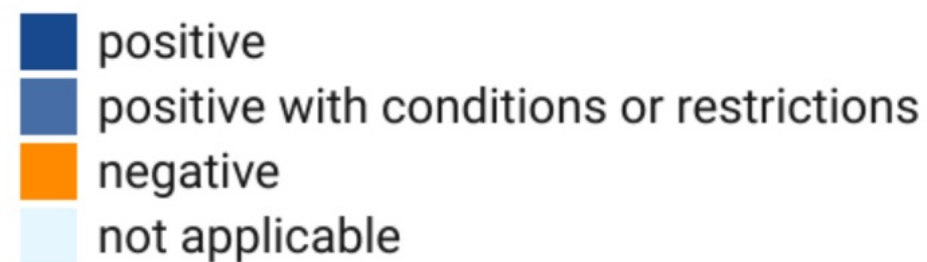
- ■ positive
- ■ positive with conditions or restrictions
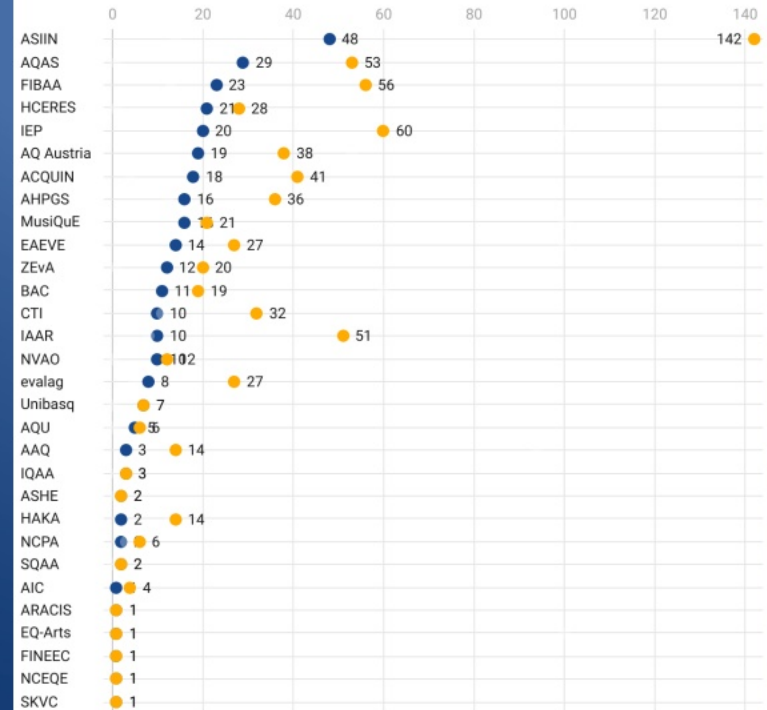- ■ negative
- ■ not applicable

Cross-border

- 69%
- 22%
- 8%

Domestic

- 53%
- 32%
- 15%
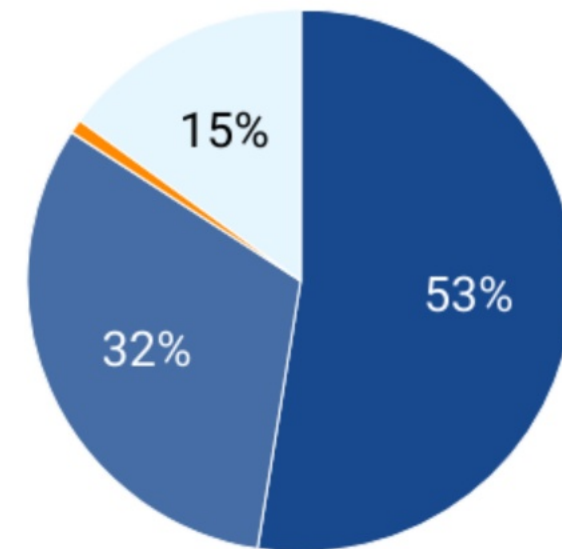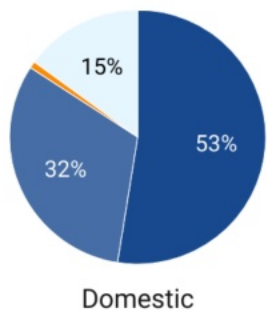
Cross-border external QA by no. of countries & HEIs

● No. of countries   ● No. of HEIs covered

Agency	No. of countries	No. of HEIs covered
ASIIN	48	142
AQAS	29	53
FIBAA	23	56
HCERES	21	28
IEP	20	60
AQ Austria	19	38
ACQUIN	18	41
AHPGS	16	36
MusiQuE	15	21
EAEVE	14	27
ZEvA	12	20
BAC	11	19
CTI	10	32
IAAR	10	51
NVAO	10	12
evalag	8	27
Unibasq		7
AQU	5	5
AAQ	3	14
IQAA		3
ASHE		2
HAKA	2	14
NCPA		6
SQAA		2
AIC		4
ARACIS		1
EQ-Arts		1
FINEEC		1
NCEQE		1
SKVC		1
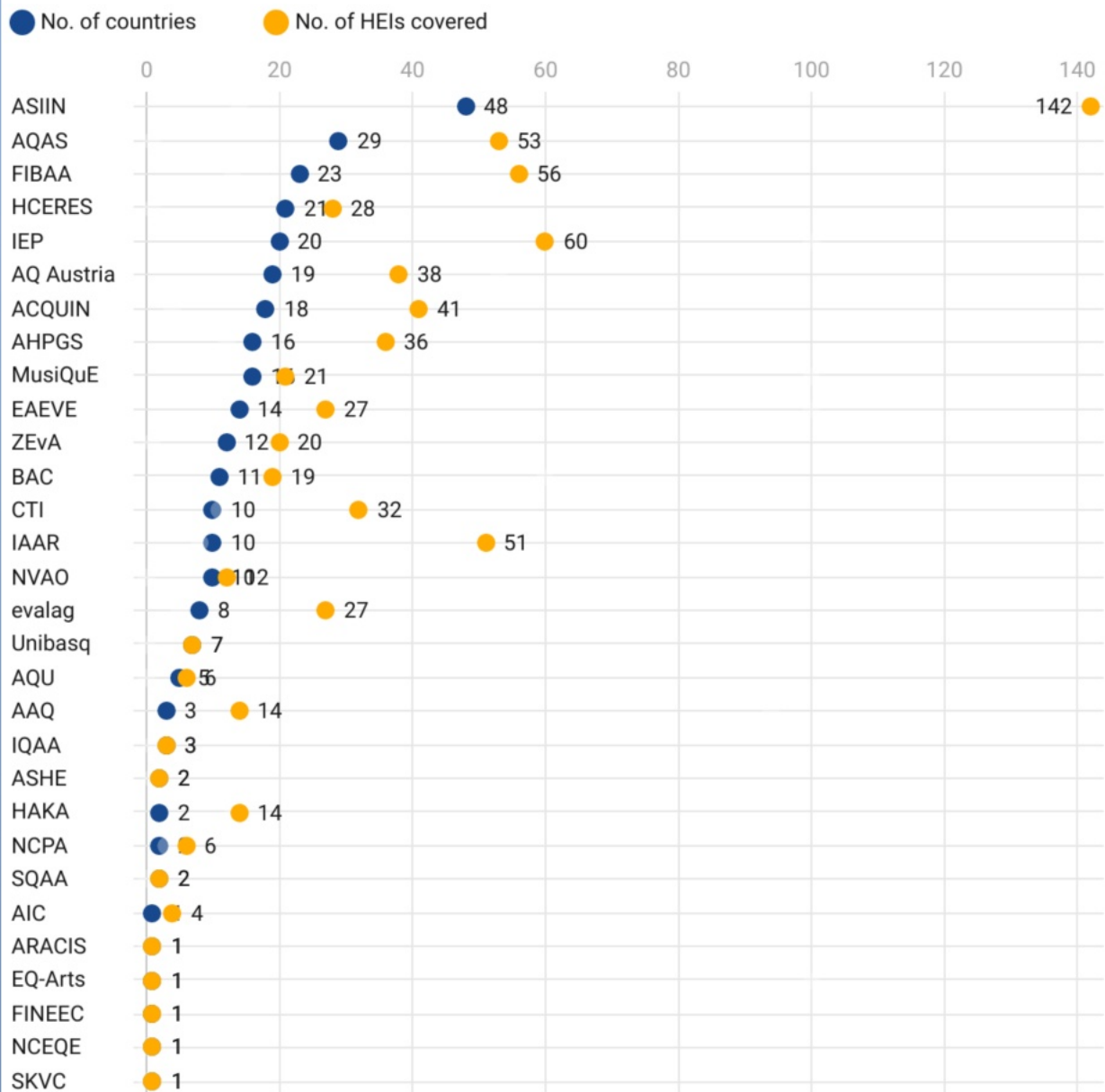
Created with Datawrapper

Cross-border QA of EQAR-registered agencies over time

Share of cross-border QA reviews within EHEA (2008-2023)

Mandatory CBQA   Voluntary CBQA

Country	Total	Mandatory CBQA	Voluntary CBQA
Kazakhstan	798	291	507
Germany	231	93	138
Austria	195	47	148
Lithuania	61	43	
Romania	47		
France	41		
Italy	22		
Slovenia	81		65
Switzerland	31		
Liechtenstein	7		
Norway	5		
Belgium	9		
Luxembourg	17		
Netherlands	20		
Ukraine	29		
Spain	81		78
Denmark	4		
Portugal	9		
Hungary	20		
Moldova	42		40
Estonia	4		
Ireland	4		
Czech Republic	15		
Serbia	20		
Bulgaria	35		
Finland	57		56
Turkey	69		68

Main "importers" of cross-border external QA

Requirements for quality assurance agencies to operate in another country

1. **Eligibility requirements** e.g., approvement by a competent national body

2. **Conditions for the agency's work** e.g., use the regulations and frameworks of the national higher education system

3. **System level limitations** e.g., only certain HEIs or programmes may use CBQA

4. **Recognition of reviews** e.g. the approval of the report & decision by a competent national body or the national QA agency

Rationale for CBQA

Choice of a QA agency

Experience with a cross-border QA

Read more:
https://www.eqar.eu/kb/cross-border-qa/
https://www.eqar.eu/about/projects/deqar-connect/conference/

Rationale for CBQA

- enhance their reputation
- increase the employability of their graduates
- develop their own internal quality cultu
- to fulfil the educational standards for specific EU regulated professions e.g., EAEVE review
- strengthen internationalisation policies
- increase external & internal acknowledgement of the institutions
- a way of attracting more students not from the national pool but also from abroad.

Choice of a QA agency

- usually involves considerable desk research (EQAR website, the portfolios of international activities and the presentation of QA agencies' procedures and cross-border review policies)

- important in their choice: the international reputation, country of origin, expertise in a particular field, affordability etc.

DEQAR data TNE

QA of TNE

TNE or CBHE = any learning activity in which the students are based in a different country from the country in which the institution providing the education is located

Rome Communique (2020)- national EQA arrangements should cover transnational higher education with equal standards to those used for domestic provision

TNE provision - a steady increase in the number of new TNE programmes being offered and in new forms of delivery

QA of TNE (DEQAR data)

At east 30 higher education institutions from 17 different EHEA systems have TNE provision in different higher education system

European QA Framework

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