

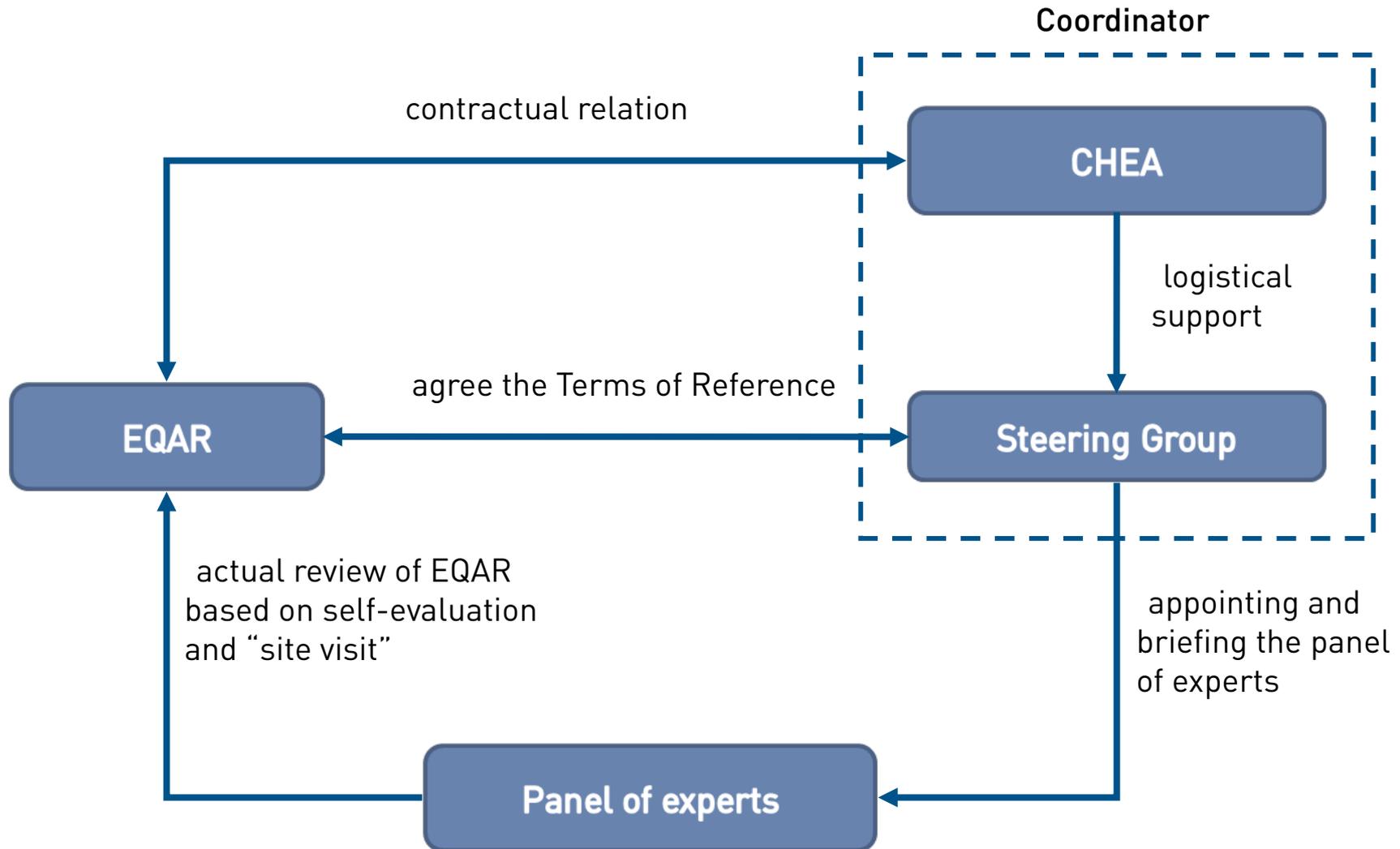
# External Evaluation of EQAR – Overview of Key Findings

BFUG Thematic Session on Quality Assurance

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# Setup and Coordination



# Terms of Reference



- Main questions:
  1. Are the **organisational structures and methods** of EQAR fit for purpose in the light of the agreed objectives? Have they functioned effectively and efficiently in practice?
  2. What has been the **initial impact** of EQAR? Is it in line with the desired goals?
  3. What **improvements** are desirable? How might the organisation develop and act further with a view to best achieving its missions and objectives?
- Not addressed by the evaluation:
  - Ministerial decisions
  - European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) as such

# Evidence Base



- Self-Evaluation Report
  - Interviews: governments and stakeholders
  - Surveys: QA agencies and website visitors
  - Self-analysis by EQAR Self-Evaluation Group
- Site Visit by the Evaluation Panel (May 2011)
  - Interviews: EQAR committees, governments, stakeholders & QA agencies

# Key Findings by the Panel: Organisational Structure



- EQAR was put in place swiftly and with minimal resources, structure is generally fit for purpose
- Majority of ESG-reviewed QA agencies applied
- Register Committee successfully established and safeguarded its independence
- Thus far, focus has been on operations and putting in place procedures for the Register
- In the next phase, a more strategic focus – aiming at achieving the wider objectives – will be required

# Key Findings by the Panel: Procedures & Transparency



- Panel found that trust and confidence in EQAR's Procedures has emerged over the first 2 years
- Transparency: challenge in the early days of EQAR
- Register Committee reports (2009 & 2010) addressed the initial concerns
- Further efforts needed to make transparent:
  - Eligibility requirements and substantial criteria for inclusion
  - Decision-making on applicants
  - Different roles of EQAR and ENQA

# Key Findings of the Panel: Initial Impact



- Difficult to analyse in-depth after only two years of operation, likely to be indirect rather than direct (e.g. objective of facilitating mobility and recognition)
- Registration is important for agencies to demonstrate quality – depending on context, it is a matter of status
- There is trust in EQAR's independence and integrity
- Noted that only national authorities have the competence to recognise/accept registered QA agencies and their results/decisions

# Specific Recommendations



## Register procedures:

- Publication of full decisions on applications by quality assurance agencies (incl. unsuccessful)
- Clarify organisational eligibility for the Register
- Publicly clarify the different roles of EQAR and ENQA, and their use of the ESG
- No longer include governmental observers on the Register Committee

# Specific Recommendations (cont'd)



## Strategic development:

- Develop strategic function further
- Focus on the promotion of EQAR and the benefits of registration
- Develop indicators for impact on wider objectives
- Certain structural changes (functions, length of mandates, etc.)

# Next Steps



## EQAR Members' Dialogue:

- Unique opportunity for governmental and stakeholder members to discuss the evaluation results and follow-up
- 21 & 22 November 2011, Vienna

## Follow-Up and Implementation Plan:

- Adopted by EQAR members in January 2012
- Then submitted to BFUG and Ministers, together with the Evaluation Report