

# QA and Recognition of Qualifications – the Contribution of the European Quality Assurance Register

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- European ministers responsible for higher education, May 2015:

“By 2020 we are determined to achieve an EHEA [European Higher Education Area] where our common goals are implemented in all member countries to ensure trust in each other’s higher education systems; **where automatic recognition of qualifications has become a reality so that students and graduates can move easily throughout it [...]**”

# Automatic Recognition



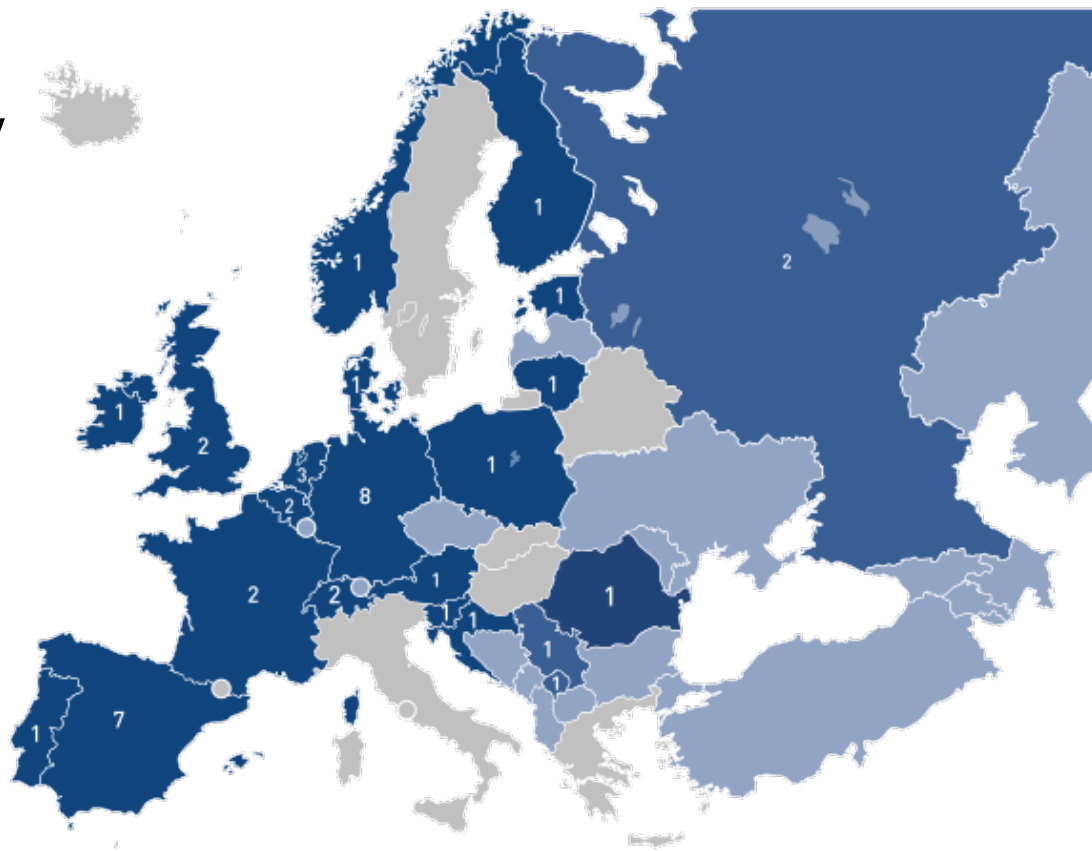
- Ambitious goal, or obvious goal?
- Challenges for EHEA tools:
  - Need to work better together
  - From non-binding transparency tools to real and direct consequences
  - Non-implementation issues
- Role for QA:
  - Common standards
  - Basis for systematic trust

- Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG): common framework
  - Developed first in 2005, revised in 2015
  - Adapted to changes and new developments
- Changes relevant for recognition:
  - Part 1 (internal QA): more attention to student experience and qualifications
  - 1.2: qualifications frameworks (NQF + QF EHEA)
  - 1.4: recognition procedures of HEIs

# Consequences for EQAR



- Official register of QAAs that substantially comply with ESG
- Governed jointly by stakeholders and governments
- Registration:
  - based on external review against ESG
  - periodic renewal every 5 years



- 42 registered QAAs
- Governmental members without registered agency

# Consequences for EQAR (2)



Focus on monitoring/interaction with registered QAAs during 5-year cycle:



Annual updates on reviews and countries



Substantive change reports



Third-party complaints

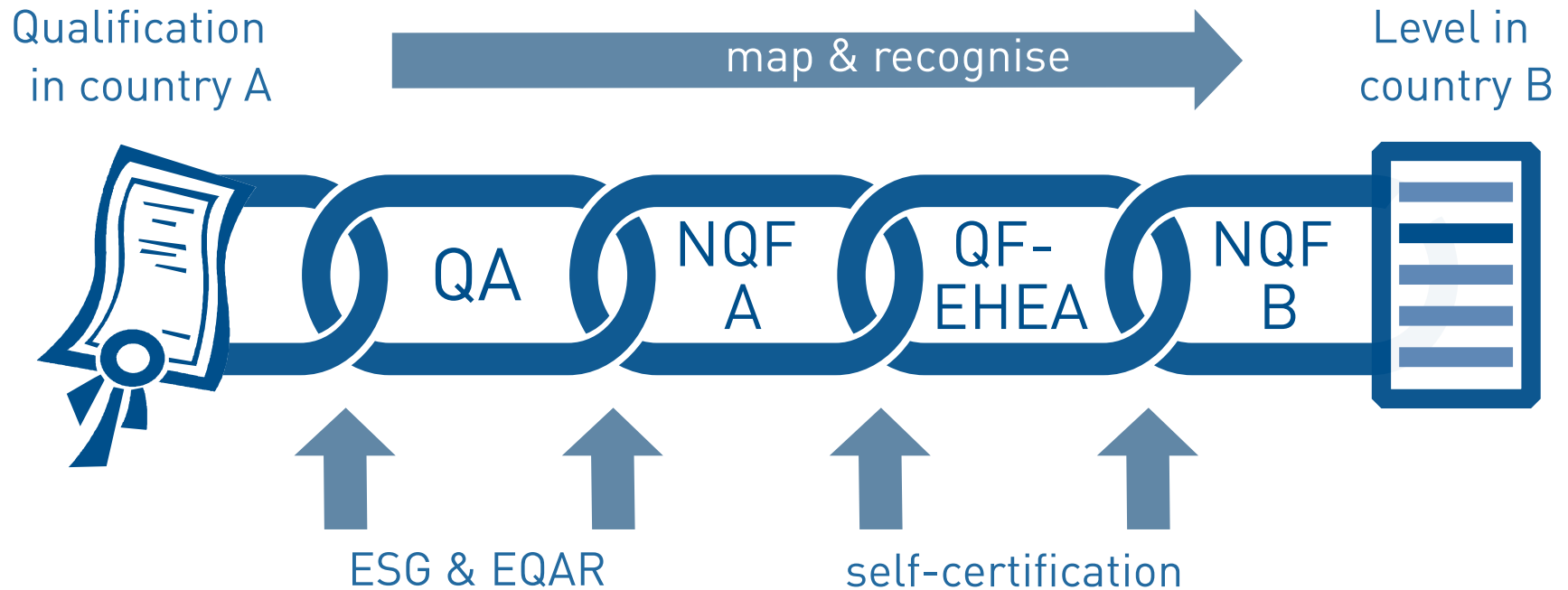
# Consequences for EQAR (3)



- Quality assurance results (decisions + reports):
  - ESG 2.6: reports published by the agency
  - ... but on which agency's website to look for them?
- Database, portal or list of HEIs and programmes accredited/evaluated by EQAR-reg. QAAs?
  - Possible users: HEIs (recognition offices), ENIC-NARICs, government authorities, students
  - Idea raised in EQAR self-evaluation
  - Exploring possible options and proposals

# Vision: Building a Chain of Trust

eqar





Thank you for your attention!

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