


European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education 

**Registration on EQAR and Relevance for Higher Education Institutions and Students**

Colin Tück  
Regional Conference:  
"Approaching to ENQA Membership and How to Be Listed in the EQAR"  
Sarajevo, 12 May 2010

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Outline 

1. What is EQAR?
2. Who benefits and how?
3. How to become registered?

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The European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) 

- Quality assurance agencies that comply substantially with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG)
  - Based on an external review against the ESG
  - Registration is voluntary
  - Open to European and non-European agencies
- Managed by the key stakeholders
  - Founded (2008) by ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE (E4) based on mandate from Bologna Process ministers
  - Register Committee comprising of independent, stakeholder-nominated experts

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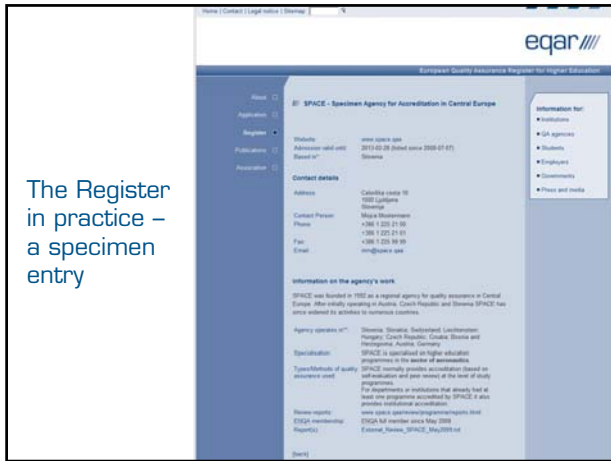
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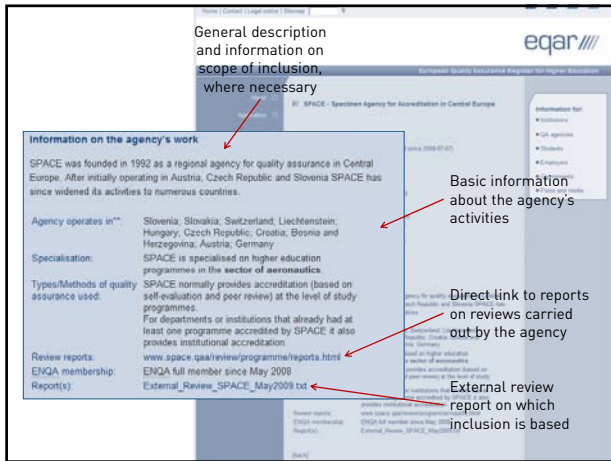
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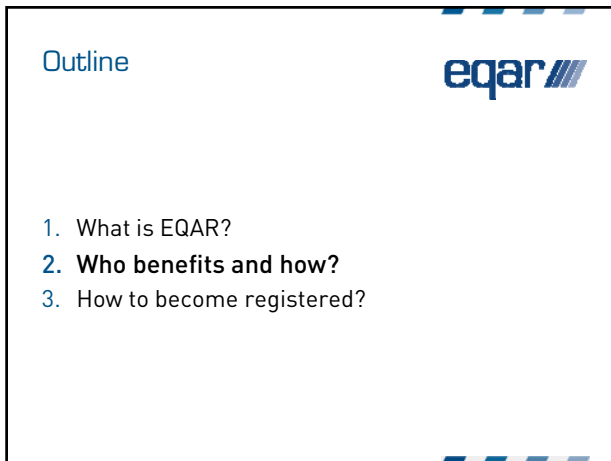
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### Target groups



- HE institutions**
  - Identify legitimate and trustworthy agencies
  - Better standing of their programmes abroad
  - Possibly easier cooperation for joint programmes
- Students & Labour Market**
  - Identify reviewed study programmes/institutions
  - Better recognition of qualifications abroad
  - Protection from spurious providers (degree mills)
- Governments**
  - Recognise the work of trustworthy foreign agencies and make external quality assurance less burdensome for institutions
- QA agencies**
  - Identify other agencies that comply with the ESG
  - Improve their standing at European level
  - Work internationally/cross-border

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### How national systems refer to the Register



- **Austria:** plans to allow universities to choose freely from amongst registered agencies for their reviews ([proposal](#))
- **Denmark:** automatic recognition of accreditation by EQAR-registered agencies for ERASMUS Mundus programmes ([proposal](#))
- **Germany:** national regulatory body for QA (Accreditation Council) can ratify decisions from foreign EQAR-registered agencies
- **Liechtenstein:** does not have its own national agency, but the university should choose a registered agency to be externally reviewed ([proposal](#))
- **Romania:** after initial accreditation by national agency, HE institutions can choose from registered agencies freely for evaluation

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### Overview: Inclusion on the Register

**1. self-evaluation** produced by the QA agency  
**2. site visit** by independent review team (QA professionals, students and academics)  
**3. external review report**  
**4. application** for inclusion on EQAR  
**5. decision** by EQAR

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### Criteria and process: two-step procedure

- Requirements for external review process
  - Review team must reflect stakeholder perspectives
  - Independence of the review coordinator and team
  - Clear reference of the review to the ESG
- Substantial compliance with the ESG
  - Comprehensive judgement, no checklist
  - No numerical rules such as: "At least x ESG must be in full compliance."

▪ The second step is the crucial part!

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### Thank you for your attention!

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