

# Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance

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## Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

# ESG – Twinning Project

- Beneficiary Country (BiH) assigned to achieve as a mandatory result that
  - ***Standard and Guidelines for QA in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) are implemented on all levels (higher education institutions, higher education authorities and QA agencies)***

# Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) – Starting point

- In 2003 in Berlin, the Ministers responsible for higher education invited
  - European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Students' Union (ESU), European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), European University Association (EUA) to develop an
    - ***"agreed set of standards, procedures and guidelines on quality assurance"***, and to ***"explore ways of ensuring an adequate peer review system for quality assurance and/or accreditation agencies or bodies "***
- In 2005 in Bergen, the Ministers adopted the ESG

# Revised version of ESG – Timeline

- 2011 - launch of MAP-ESG project – review of the extent of the application and implementation of the ESG since 2005
- 2012 (Burcharest) - the Ministerial Communique invited the E4 (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) *in cooperation with*
  - Education International (EI)
  - BUSINESS EUROPE
  - European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) to prepare
    - an initial proposal for a revised version of the ESG

# Revised version of ESG - Timeline

- 2012 – Meeting of stakeholder organisations, nomination of members of the Steering Group and Drafting Group
- 2013 – Open call for the proposals for revision of the ESG, analysing suggestions and preparing a synopsis and an analytical paper of suggestions, meeting of the Steering Group and Drafting Group to discuss analytical paper/synopsis
- 2014 – **Finalising** the draft report and presentations of the initial proposal of the revised ESG in BFUG thematic session
- 2015 – **Adoption** of the revised version of the ESG at the Ministerial Conference in Yerevan (Armenia)

# Who is using the ESG? And why?

- ESG - **trust building** instrument within EHEA – but do they cover explicitly the quality of education or are they more oriented towards quality of (internal/external) QA procedures, processes and preconditions (implicit towards: quality of education)?
- ESG - impact on the **development** of national and institutional QA
- ESG - reference document for HEI and for QAAs
  - Part 1 – internal quality assurance within higher education institutions
  - Part 2 - external quality assurance of higher education institutions
  - Part 3 - for external quality assurance agencies

# Who is using the ESG? And why?

- ESG supported the **alignment** of national QA systems to a shared understanding of main characteristics of the 'European' QA
  - Responsibility of HEI for HE provision
  - Independence of QAAs
  - Involvement of external experts, students and other stakeholders
  - Use of self-evaluation/site-visit/panel report/follow-up model in EQA
- ESG contributed to a **greater awareness and transparency** regarding evaluation programmes; HEI and QAAs
- Since 2008, EQAR and ENQA have been using the ESG as **membership/registration criteria**





# Revised version of ESG – Aim and outline

*to improve their clarity, applicability and usefulness, including their scope*

- Revised version – presents joint views of all **involved stakeholders**, reflects the **changes in the EHEA**
  - Stronger link to other Bologna action lines
    - ECTS; LO; Qualification Frameworks; recognition issue - link to the teaching and learning process in the section of IQA ( ESG Part 1)
- Reflection of paradigm shift towards: **student-centered learning and teaching**

## ESG Part I Standards and Guidelines for Internal Quality Assurance (**current version**)

- ESG 1.1 Policy and procedures for quality assurance
- ESG 1.2 Approval, monitoring and periodic review of programmes and awards
- ESG 1.3 Assessment of students
- ESG 1.4 Quality assurance of teaching staff
- ESG 1.5 Learning resources and student support
- ESG 1.6 Information systems
- ESG 1.7 Public information



## ESG Part I Standards and Guidelines for Internal Quality Assurance (revised version)

- ESG 1.1 Policy and procedures for quality assurance
- ESG 1.2 Design and approval of programmes
- ESG 1.3 Student-centered learning, teaching and assessment
- ESG 1.4 Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
- ESG 1.5 Teaching staff
- ESG 1.6 Learning resources and student support
- ESG 1.7 Information management
- ESG 1.8 Public Information
- ESG 1.9 On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes
- ESG 1.10 Cyclical external quality assurance



## ESG Part II Standards and Guidelines for External Quality Assurance (**current version**)

- ESG 2.1 Use of Internal quality assurance procedures
- ESG 2.2 Development of external quality assurance processes
- ESG 2.3 Criteria for decisions
- ESG 2.4 Processes fit for purpose
- ESG 2.5 Reporting
- ESG 2.6 Follow-up procedures
- ESG 2.7 Periodic reviews
- ESG 2.8 System-wide analysis



## ESG Part II Standards and Guidelines for External Quality Assurance (revised version)

- ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance
- ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose
- ESG 2.3 Implementing process
- ESG 2.4 Peer-review process
- ESG 2.5 Criteria for formal outcomes
- ESG 2.6 Reporting
- ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

## ESG Part III – Standards and Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies (**current version**)

- ESG 3.1 External quality assurance procedures for higher education (link to Part II)
- ESG 3.2 Official status
- ESG 3.3 Activities
- ESG 3.4 Resources
- ESG 3.5 Mission statement
- ESG 3.6 Independence
- ESG 3.7 External quality assurance criteria and processes used by the agency
- ESG 3.8 Accountability procedures

## ESG Part III – Standards and Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies (**revised version**)

- ESG 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance
- ESG 3.2 Official status
- ESG 3.3 Independence
- ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis
- ESG 3.5 Resources
- ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct
- ESG 3.7 Cyclical external review of agencies

Thank you for your attention!

Hvala Vam na pažnji!  
Хвала Вам на пажњи!