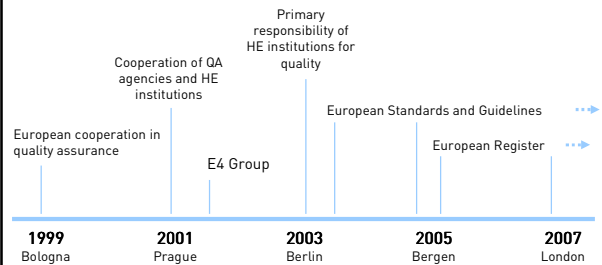


## EQAR's structures and operation

Colin Tück  
Founding Assembly  
4 March 2008

## Quality assurance in the Bologna Process



## The idea of a European register for QAAs

- Bergen summit 2005
  - Ministers welcomed the "principle of a European register of quality assurance agencies"
  - Mandate to the E4 to further develop the practicalities
- Development of an operational model by the E4 Group, following the Bergen summit
- London summit 2007
  - Ministers adopt the operational model and mandate the E4 Group to establish the register

## Purpose of a European Register for QAAs

- To provide transparent information on reliable and trustworthy QA agencies
- To serve the interests of stakeholders
  - HE institutions, students, QA agencies, employers
- To build trust and facilitate mutual recognition
- To ensure comparable standards and preserve national and institutional diversity
- To facilitate accountability of QA agencies
  - especially of non-European QA agencies

## Principles

- **Legitimacy, transparency and reliability**
  - Independence of the Register Committee
  - Clear criteria: European Standards & Guidelines
  - Stakeholder co-operation
    - Under the responsibility of the E4 + Social Partners
    - Involvement of governments & BFUG Consultative members
- **Prevention of unnecessary burden**
  - Simple structure and unbureaucratic procedures
  - Full ENQA membership normally constitutes satisfactory evidence for inclusion

## Rationale of the structure

- Involvement of E4, social partners & governments in the "governance" of EQAR
  - Different roles
  - Different responsibilities
- Clearly defined functions of different bodies
  - E.g. administration vs. deciding on inclusion
- Checks and balances
  - Limited powers
  - Interdependencies between EQAR's bodies

## Structure of EQAR aisbl



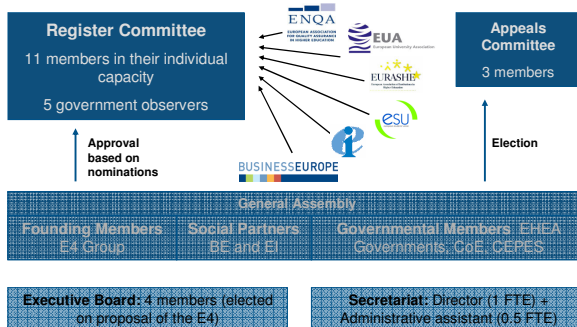
- Legal form
  - International Non-Profit Association (aisbl/ivzw)
- Three categories of membership:
  - **Founding Members:**  
E4 organisations
  - **Governmental Members:**  
Bologna signatory states, Council of Europe, CEPES
  - **Social Partner Members:**  
BUSINESSEUROPE & Education International

## Membership vs. "being listed"



- Membership
  - Reserved for E4, Social Partners, Governments
  - Members support the work of EQAR (financially, politically and through their participation)
  - Responsibility for EQAR's governance
- QA agencies will "be listed on the Register"
  - ≠ membership of the association
  - No (direct) influence on the association's bodies
  - Membership of QAAs would be contradictory!

## Structure overview



## The bodies in brief



- Register Committee
  - Independent of all other bodies
  - Decision making on applications by QAAs
  - Adopts Procedures for Applications in consultation with the General Assembly
- Executive Board
  - Administrative operation of EQAR
  - Supervising the Secretariat
  - Responsibility for budget & accounts

## The bodies in brief (2)



- Appeals Committee
  - Decision on appeals against (negative) decisions taken by the Register Committee
  - Cannot change decisions itself, only refer them back
- Secretariat
  - Support of the association's bodies in their work
  - Day-to-day business of EQAR
  - Director (1 FTE) + Assistant (½ FTE)

## The General Assembly



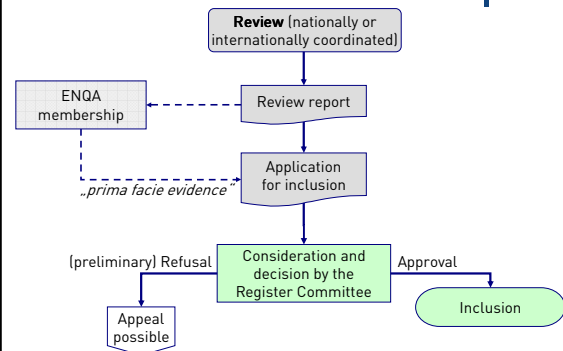
- Composition
  - All full members of EQAR aisbl
  - Observers can be invited
- Competences
  - Highest decision-making body of EQAR
  - Elects the Executive Board & Appeals Committee
  - Approves the Register Committee
  - Adopts the budget
  - Changes the statutes

## The General Assembly: voting groups



- Two voting groups
  - **Governmental Members**
  - **Nongovernmental Members**  
Founding Members + Social Partner Members
- Principle of “double majorities”
  - Majority to be reached in both groups
  - Double majority applies unless specified otherwise
  - Budget, accounts, membership fee: simple majority

## Application process



## Applications by quality assurance agencies



- Assessment based on an independent external review
- Application will consist of ...
  - Self-evaluation report (submitted for ext. review)
  - External review report
  - Additional statement, as appropriate
- Decision on inclusion by the Register Committee
- Possibility for appeal on procedural grounds or in case of perversity of judgement

European Quality Assurance  
Register for Higher Education



## Contact

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