

# Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG



Co-funded by  
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## SEQA-ESG 2

Supporting European QA Agencies  
in meeting the ESG

enqa.



*Janko Balšić, LL.M, NEAQA's Secretary-General, 19.10.2023.*



**EMPOWERING**  
EHEA Paris 2018  
**EUROPE'S YOUTH**

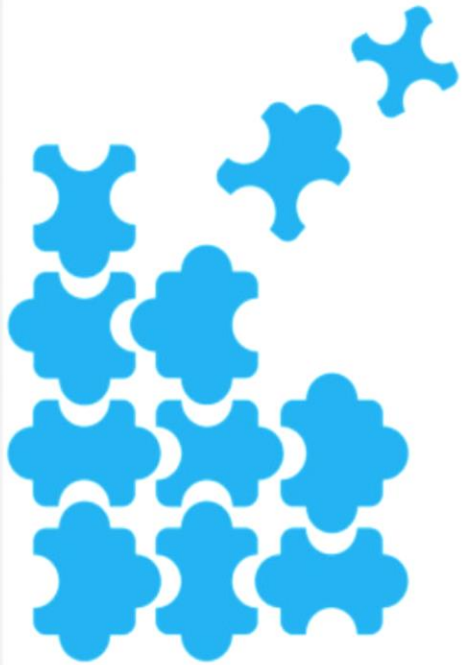
Conférence ministérielle européenne  
pour l'enseignement supérieur



## **PARIS COMMUNIQUÉ**

Paris, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

“Quality assurance is key in developing mutual trust as well as increasing mobility and fair recognition of qualifications and study periods throughout the EHEA. We therefore recognise the progress made in implementing the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG) into national and institutional practice in most countries, and we commit to removing the remaining obstacles to their implementation in national legislations and regulations.”



# EUROPEAN Higher Education Area



**ESG  
2015**



Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance  
in the European Higher Education Area



Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance  
in the European Higher Education Area



ENQA

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE  
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE



# SEQA-ESG

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# SEQA-ESG2

- In 2021, NEAQA gained full participation in the project **Further supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG – SEQA-ESG2** (Call: ERASMUS-EDU-2021-EHEA-IBA – European Higher Education Area (EHEA) – Initiative to support the implementation of reforms).
- The project coordinator is the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (**ENQA**), while **NEAQA** is the project partner. The project is co-financed by the **European Union**.



# SEQA-ESG2

- The project aims to provide **support to the countries of the Western Balkans and their QA agencies** to achieve compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA – **ESG** and, therefore, to fulfil key Bologna Process commitments in terms of QA.
- Participants of the project are also the following QA agencies (associated partners):
  - HEA** (Bosnia and Herzegovina),
  - AHERS** (Republic of Srpska),
  - TKTA** (Azerbaijan) and
  - NAQA** (Ukraine).





Bosnia and Herzegovina



Serbia



Ukraine



Azerbaijan



# SEQA-ESG2

- The SEQA-ESG2 project officially started on **December 1, 2022**, and is expected to last until November 30, 2025.
- The **kick-off meeting** was held on March 9, 2023, in Brussels, where all specific goals of the project were introduced, as well as the timeline and activities that will be implemented in the following period.
- **Ministerial and QA agency representatives' meeting** was organised in conjunction with the kick-off meeting of the SEQA-ESG2 project.



# Kick-off & Ministerial Conference (March 2023)



# SEQA-ESG2

➤ The project aims to achieve:

1. **Legal frameworks** in line with ESG compliance;
2. **Alignment of the QA processes** to the ESG peer-review method;
3. **Connection of national criteria** with the ESG;
4. **Appropriate methods and criteria** for the involvement of peer reviewers; and
5. **Stakeholder involvement** in external QA.



# SEQA-ESG2

➤ To reach the objectives, activities are as follows:

1. **Peer counselling visits** in the four countries, gathering national authorities, the agency and key stakeholders. The key outcome of the activity will be a national action plan for QA development;
2. **Peer support workshops** on four key themes (QA methodology, QA criteria, review experts and stakeholders);
3. **Staff exchanges** between agencies; and
4. **Creation of agency action plans** for a review against the ESG.



# PEER COUNSELLING VISITS (MEETINGS)

- **Policy dialogue and practice-oriented elements**, aiming to identify areas of need and action, determine the sharing of tasks between the actors within the national frameworks, and establish detailed action plans and timelines.
- Creating **national awareness** and shared understanding among national stakeholders for the issues that need to be subsequently addressed.
- The **involvement of the national authorities** is essential for the successful implementation of the ESG.



# PEER COUNSELLING VISITS (MEETINGS)

➤ Participants – representatives:

- ❖ The **ministry** in charge of HE;
- ❖ Local **QA agency**;
- ❖ Key **stakeholder organisations**.

➤ Contributors:

- ❖ **ENQA & EQAR** leadership;
- ❖ Additional **experts from EHEA agencies** already compliant with the ESG and with relevant or comparable experience in setting up their own EQA system (neighbouring countries or agencies from similar systems/structures).



# PEER COUNSELLING VISIT IN SERBIA (July 2023)



# PEER COUNSELLING VISIT IN SERBIA (July 2023)

- The president and the director of **EQAR**;
  - **ENQA** Board member;
  - The director of the **SQAA** (Slovenia);
  - **ENQA** Secretariat representatives;
  - The Rector of the **University of Belgrade**;
  - **HEIs** representatives
  - Representatives of **Reviewers**
  - Representatives of the **Ministry of Education**; and
  - **NEAQA** representatives
- (Director, Secretary-General, Employees, Management Board, Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Appeals Commission).





# PEER COUNSELLING VISIT IN SERBIA (July 2023)

- Establishment of legal frameworks for the **agency's independence**;
- A connection of national/agency criteria with **Part I of the ESG**;
- Peer-review **experts**;
- **Stakeholder involvement** in external quality assurance;
- The alignment of the methodology and processes used in the Serbian system to the **ESG's four-stage peer-review method** and
- **ESG 3.4 Thematic Analysis**.



# PEER COUNSELLING VISIT IN SERBIA (July 2023)





***Thank you for your  
attention!***



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