

ESG: OVERVIEW AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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ENQA IN BRIEF



Who we are

Membership association of QA agencies:
57 members
48 affiliates



What we do

Represent interests of members
Provide services to members and stakeholders
Drive development of external QA



How we do it

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Policy input | Projects |
| Events | Publications |
| Working groups | Agency reviews |

DIVERSITY IN QUALITY ASSURANCE LANDSCAPE

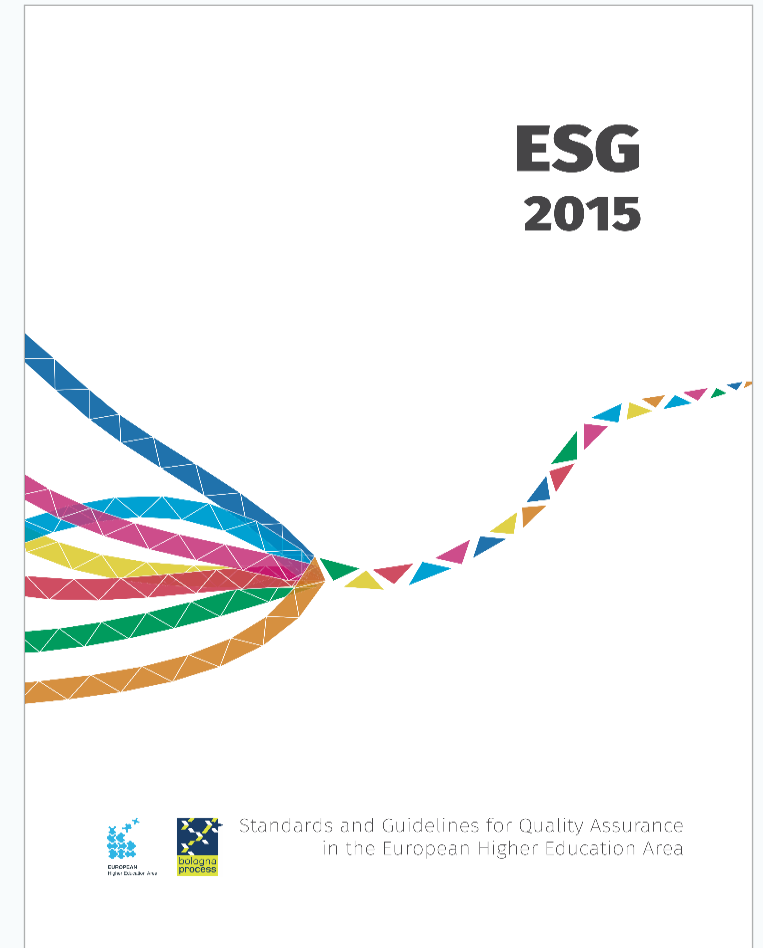


MLESTONES IN EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE

- **QA**: an action line in the Bologna Process since the beginning
- **2005**: Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG)
 - Proposed by the E4 Group (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE)
- **2008**: European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)
- **2015**: ESG 2015 adopted
 - Proposed by the E4 Group, EQAR, Education International and BUSINESSEUROPE
- **2015**: European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes adopted
- **2018**: QA a key commitment in the Bologna Process

THE ESG

- Composed of **three parts**:
 - Part 1 - Internal QA within HEIs
 - Part 2 - External QA by QAAs
 - Part 3 - Internal QA and operation of QAAs
- ESG are a document that needs to be read **as a whole**:
 - introductory part is of central importance!
 - parts 1, 2 and 3 build on each other
- Four main **purposes**:
 - Set a common framework for QA in Europe
 - Enable assurance and improvement of quality
 - Support mutual trust
 - Provide info on QA



ESG: PRINCIPLES OF QA IN THE EHEA

- Higher education institutions have the **primary responsibility** for the quality of their provision and its assurance;
- Quality assurance responds to the **diversity** of higher education systems, institutions, programmes and students;
- Quality assurance supports the development of a **quality culture**;
- Quality assurance takes into account the needs and expectations of students, all other **stakeholders** and society.

ESG: SCOPE

- Apply to **learning and teaching**, plus relevant links to research and innovation
- Apply to **all higher education** in EHEA regardless of mode of study or place of delivery
- Twin purposes of **accountability and enhancement**
- Standards for **quality assurance**, not for quality
- Generic enough to be applicable in **all contexts**

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES?

- **Generic principles** → allow for diversity of implementation; need to be “translated” into different contexts without losing their meaning
- **Standards** “set out agreed and accepted practice... and should be taken account of and adhered to by those concerned”
- **Guidelines**
 - “explain why the standard is important”
 - “describe how standards *might* be implemented”.
 - “set out good practice ... (but).. Implementation *will* vary depending on different contexts”
 - If do things in another (good) way, OK → explain “why?”

QA-FIT FOR THE FUTURE?



- QA-FIT project aims to
 - Map the implementation of QA (ESG and beyond)
 - Explore stakeholder perspectives on the fitness for purpose of the ESG
 - Develop a recommendation to the Bologna Process on the future of the EHEA QA framework
- Based on comprehensive stakeholder consultation (surveys, focus groups, expert input, synergies with other ongoing work)



ESG: WHAT WORKS?

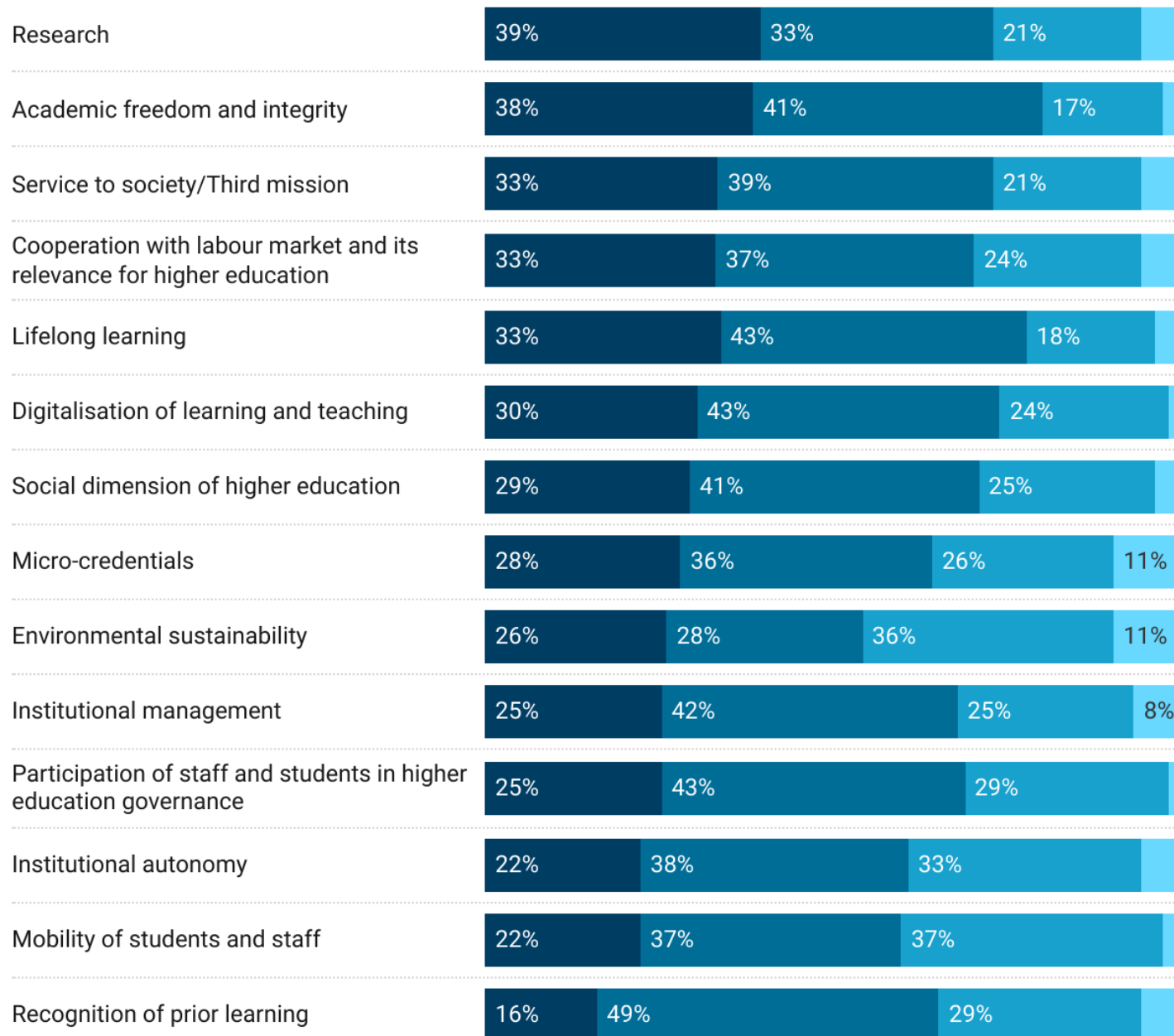
- ✓ Importance of a European QA framework
- ✓ Strong agreement that the ESG are still needed
- ✓ The ESG support development of L&T, trust in qualifications, student mobility, quality culture

ESG: WHAT NEEDS CHANGING?

If the scope of the ESG Part I were to be expanded, what should it cover in more detail?

(answers from QA agencies)

■ To a large extent ■ To some extent ■ Not at all ■ I don't know



QA FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

Purpose and use

- What need to be regulated and at what level?
- ESG as a guidance framework vs criteria for compliance
- Relevance for mature and developing systems

Scope

- Strengthened references to cross-cutting issues
- Applicability to latest developments
- Complementarity with other tools/frameworks

Structure

- Role and presentation of standards and guidelines
- Level of detail in the standard

QA FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

Autumn 2023: Further evidence gathering and exploring key questions

A light blue downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the first step to the second.

Spring 2024: Mandate for revision in the Tirana Communiqué

A light blue downward-pointing arrow indicating the flow from the second step to the third.

2024-2026: Concrete revision process

USEFUL LINKS

- www.enqa.eu
 - Membership: www.enqa.eu/members/
 - Affiliation: www.enqa.eu/affiliates/
- [ESG 2015](#)
- [European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes](#)
- [Key considerations for cross-border QA](#)
- www.eqar.eu



THANK
YOU

enqa.