



ESG: OVERVIEW AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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enqa.

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

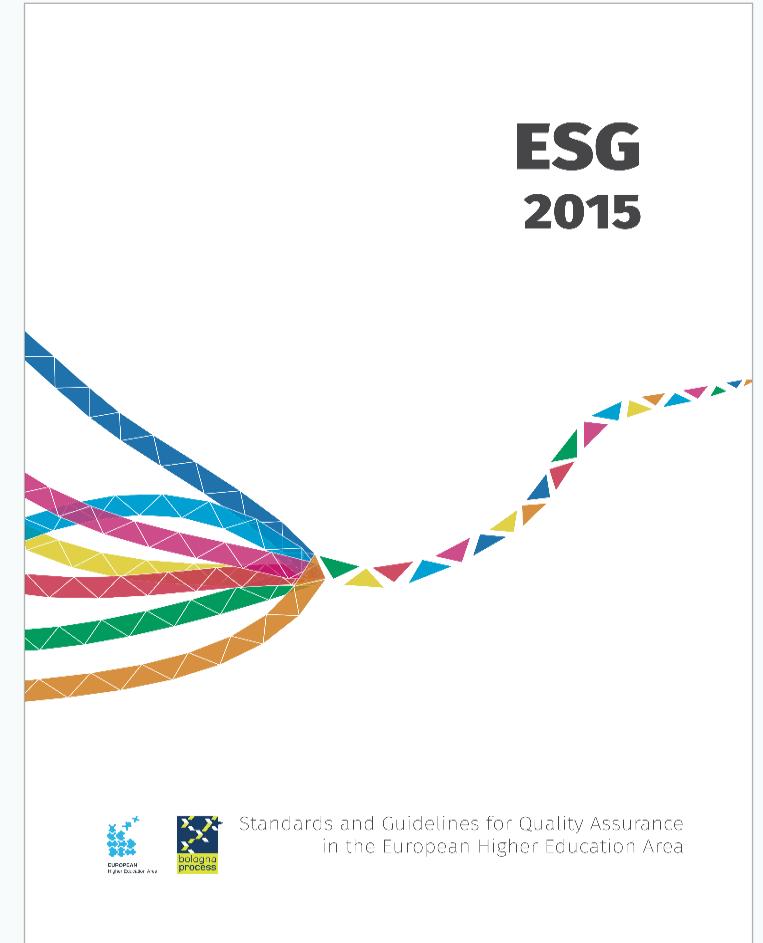


MILESTONES IN EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE

- **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)

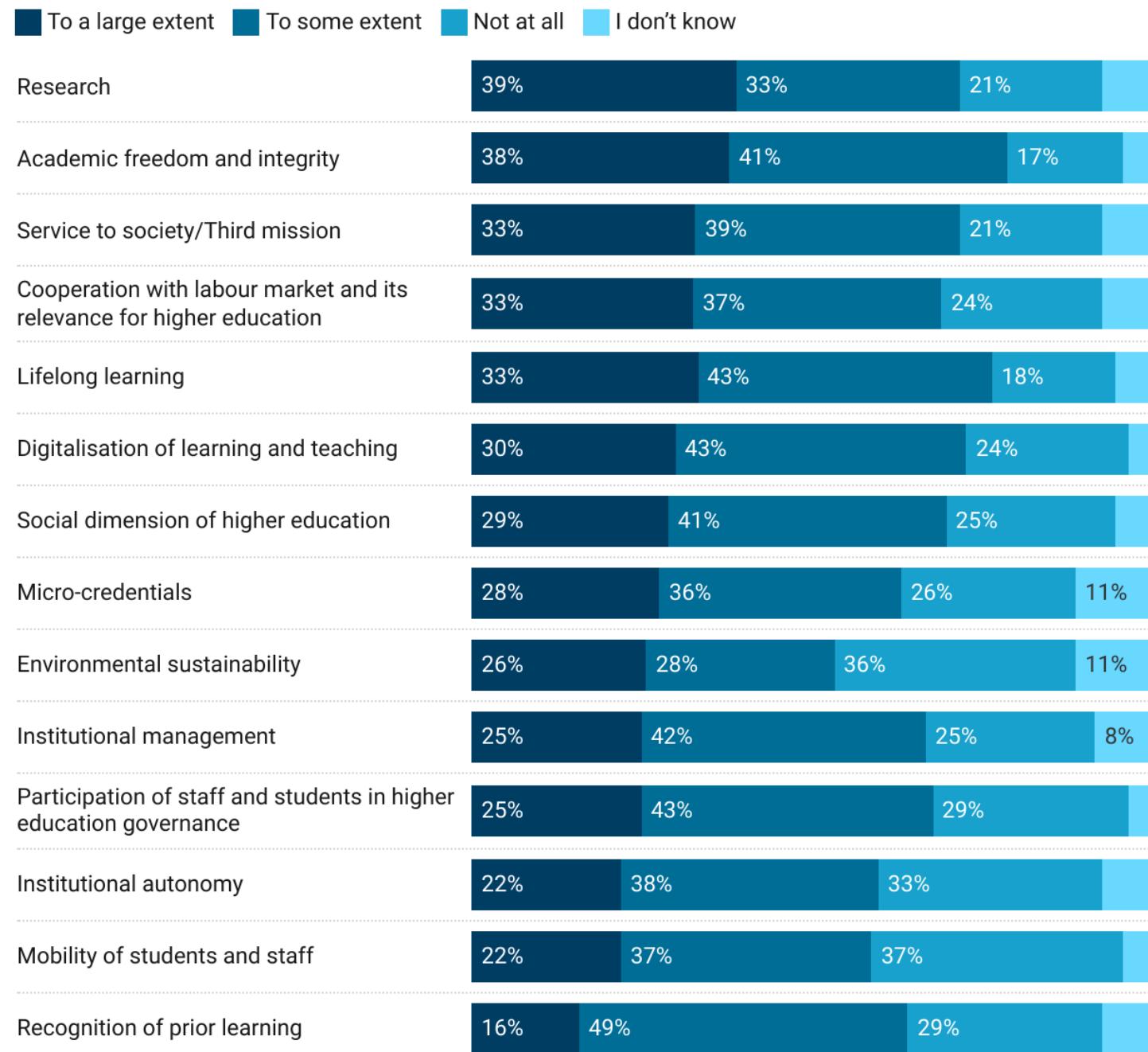
ESG:WHAT WORKS?

- ✓ 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)



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

Spring 2024: Mandate for revision in the Tirana Communiqué

2024-2026: Concrete revision process

USEFUL LINKS

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



THANK
YOU

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