



# ***Modernising European higher education***

## ***Quality assurance for quality enhancement***

**Margie Waters, European Commission,  
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# Challenges in HE

- Expanding student population
- Need to raise quality of learning and teaching, aligning to societal and labour market needs
- Global trends in higher education
- New technologies, blended learning, MOOCs
- PIAAC: differences in graduates' skills
- Flexible learning pathways
- Need for effective HE systems—value for money

# EU – supporting Member States in education





European  
Commission

# European Higher Education Area – intergovernmental cooperation European Commission a full member



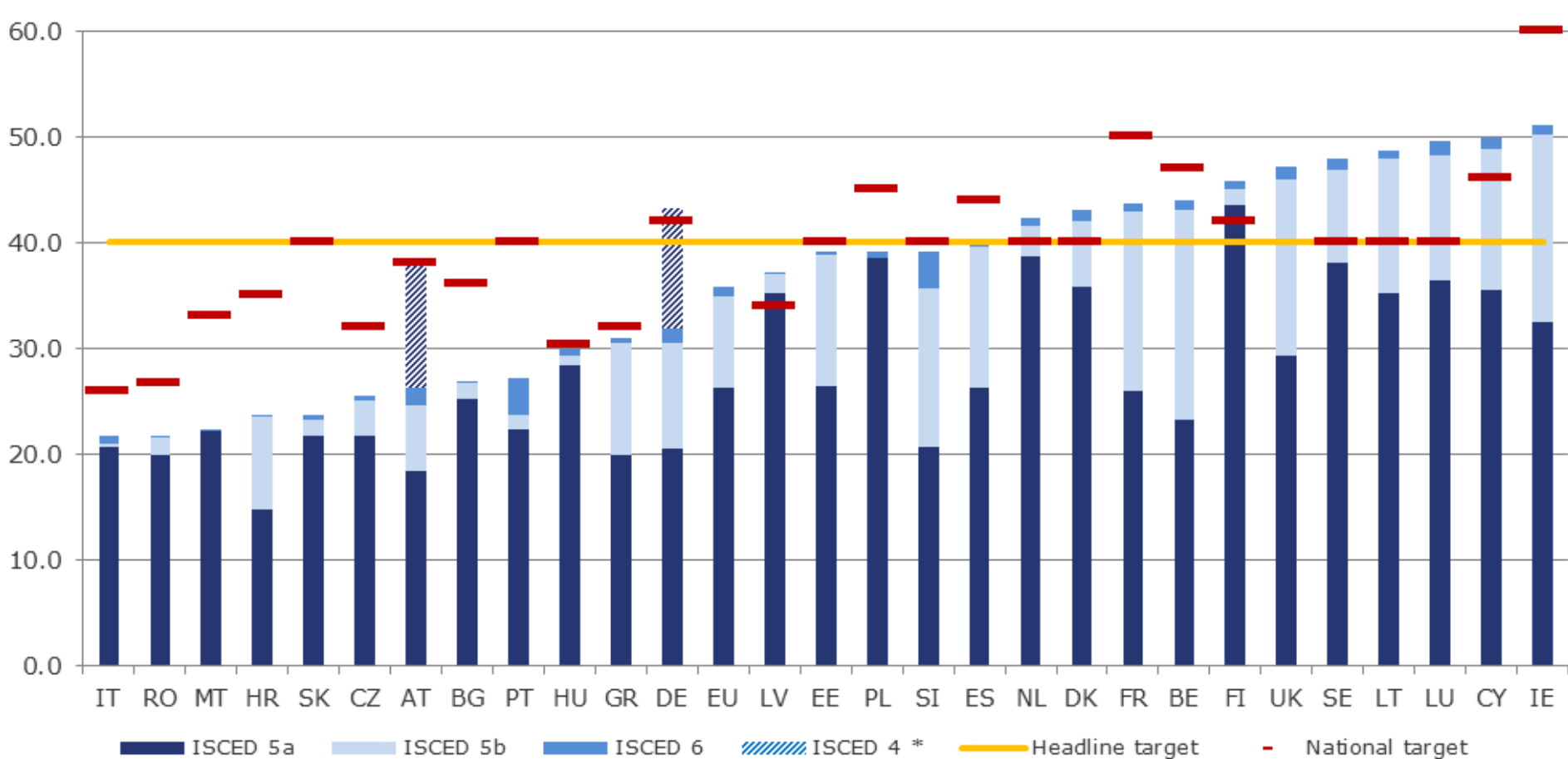
# Supporting Growth and Jobs: *an Agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems*



## Five key priorities

1. Quantity: widening access, routes in, reducing drop-out - headline target 40% graduates
2. Quality and relevance: employability, student-centred learning, quality teaching
3. International cooperation + mobility
4. Linking education, research + innovation (knowledge triangle)
5. Ensuring adequate, efficient funding and tailoring governance

# Quantitative target: attainment



# Helping countries meet their modernisation/quality challenges

- Country Specific Recommendations (Europe 2020)
- Mutual learning – dropout; regional development; consolidation; funding; employability...
- Funding – cost sharing study
- Learning and teaching – high level group reports
- Erasmus+ programme
- Quality assurance progress report
- ECTS Guide review
- U-Multirank



# Commission Report on QA

## QA support to reaching quality goals

- **Over 75% of HEIs with public strategy for internal quality assurance** - But need to move away from process and channel results into strategic decision-making
- **Positive shift from programme accreditation to institutional evaluation**
- **More students and employers involvement** - But often limited to formal presence and observation
- **European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) contributed to convergence of QA systems** - Current revision to improve take-up and understanding

# QA support to increasing attainment

**QA can encourage and incentivise HEIs to**

- **Widen access through more innovative approaches to admission**
- **Prevent dropout and stimulate retention**
- **Involve students in programme design**
- **Evaluate support services for students**

# QA support for quality and relevance

## QA can encourage and incentivise HEIs to

- **Apply QA to programme design –**  
Train academics in using learning outcomes; Use transparency tools (QFs, ECTS, DS) to improve recognition
- **Meaningfully involve employers –**  
Work-based learning
- **Employability of graduates -** Graduates' tracking
- **Support HEIs in adapting to new modes (blended learning, MOOCs etc.)**
  - Develop quality indicators
  - Allocate resources
  - Reach new learners

# QA support to mobility and internationalisation

- **Strong QA: basis of internationalisation**
- **Growing numbers in ENQA & EQAR**
  - BUT national ministries tend to prefer working with their own QAA
  - Only 2/5 of EQAR-registered QAAs operate across borders
- **Increasing tendency to include international experts in QA panels**
- **QA essential for cross-border higher education**



***EU funding –  
supporting ASEM cooperation  
on quality assurance***



## **For ASEAN, EU-SHARE: €10M**

British Council leads consortium of EUA, ENQA, DAAD, Campus France and Nuffic Neso

- working on comparable ASEAN-European credit transfer systems and supporting ASEAN HEIs to implement change
- aims to introduce and test systems through providing mobility scholarships
- fostering mutual recognition between ASEAN HEIs and Europe and complementing work on Quality Assurance and Quality Frameworks

## Erasmus+ for ASEM

*Capacity-Building: trans-national cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships, primarily between higher education institutions from Programme and eligible Partner Countries*

*Regional priorities - defined by Commission, based on EU external policy priorities*

*Priorities for Asia include:*

*higher education institution governance, strategic planning and management and*

*international cooperation at regional or cross-regional level*

# Capacity building - new for ASEM Asia

Has proved highly effective in EU neighbouring regions, including Russia and Central Asia

Many projects cost around €1M each: the Asia regional budget 2015 is €32M

- *Institutional governance*
- *Documented transparency*
- *Subject related: e.g. engineering*
- *Training and networking (including peer review)*  
*Financing*
- *Internationalisation*



# Erasmus+

*QUEST ...*

*MAP-ESG ...*

*JOQAR ...*

*... RIQAA*

*QACHE ...*