

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education



EQAR and the impact on higher education institutions

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EURASHE

Outline



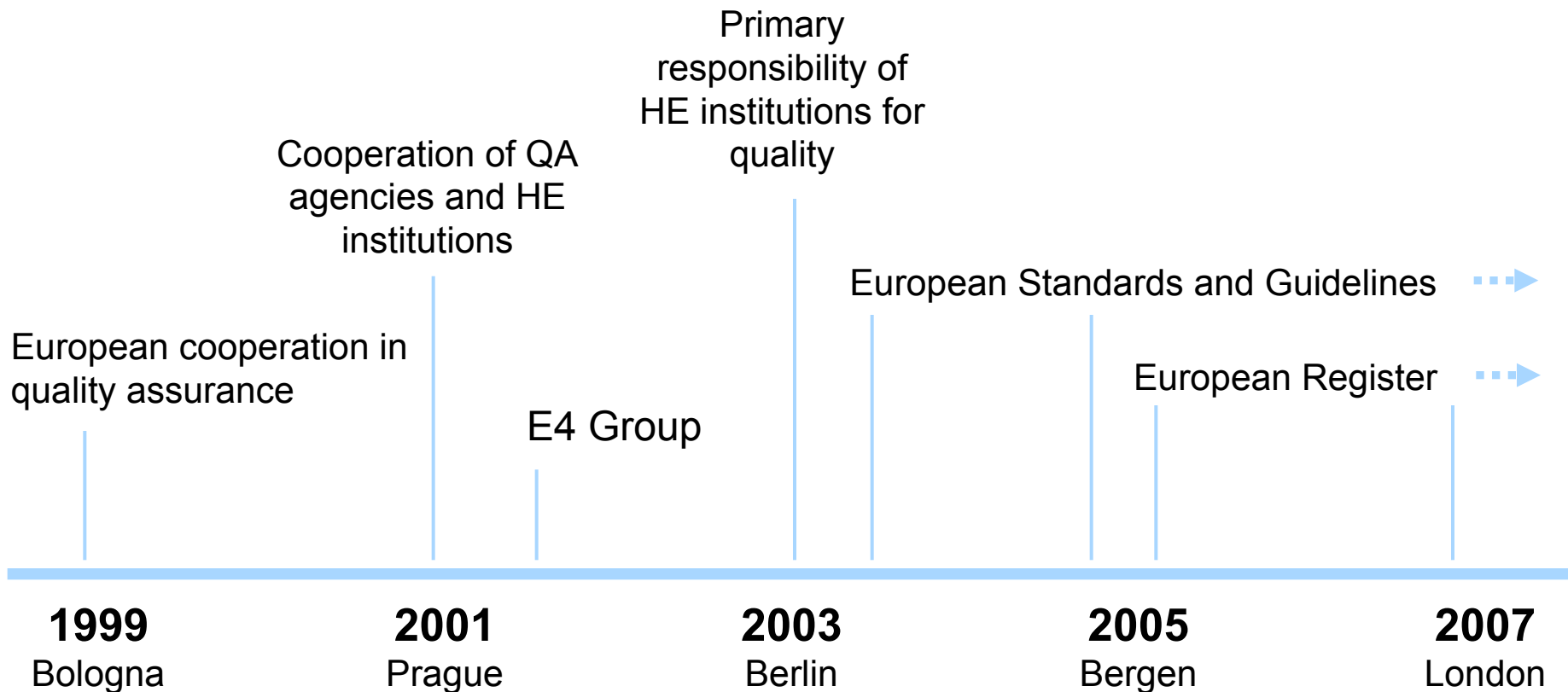
- Quality assurance in Europe
 - European Standards and Guidelines
 - A European Register for QAAs
- EQAR
 - How does it work?
 - Key features
- The benefits for higher education institutions
 - The impact on external & internal quality assurance
 - Enhancing transparency
 - Making use of the diversity

External quality assurance in Europe



- External quality assurance agencies in Europe provide a variety of approaches
 - Different approaches:
accreditation, evaluation, audit, ...
 - At different levels:
programme, department/faculty and/or institution
 - Different methodologies:
fitness for purpose, minimum standards, ...
 - etc.

Quality assurance in the Bologna Process



European Standards and Guidelines for QA

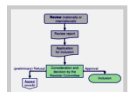


- The common ground within the diversity
- Covering all kinds of quality assurance
- Reference points for all levels of QA:
 - higher education institutions (part 1)
 - external quality assurance (part 2)
 - quality assurance agencies (part 3)
- Cyclical review of external QA agencies

EQAR in practice



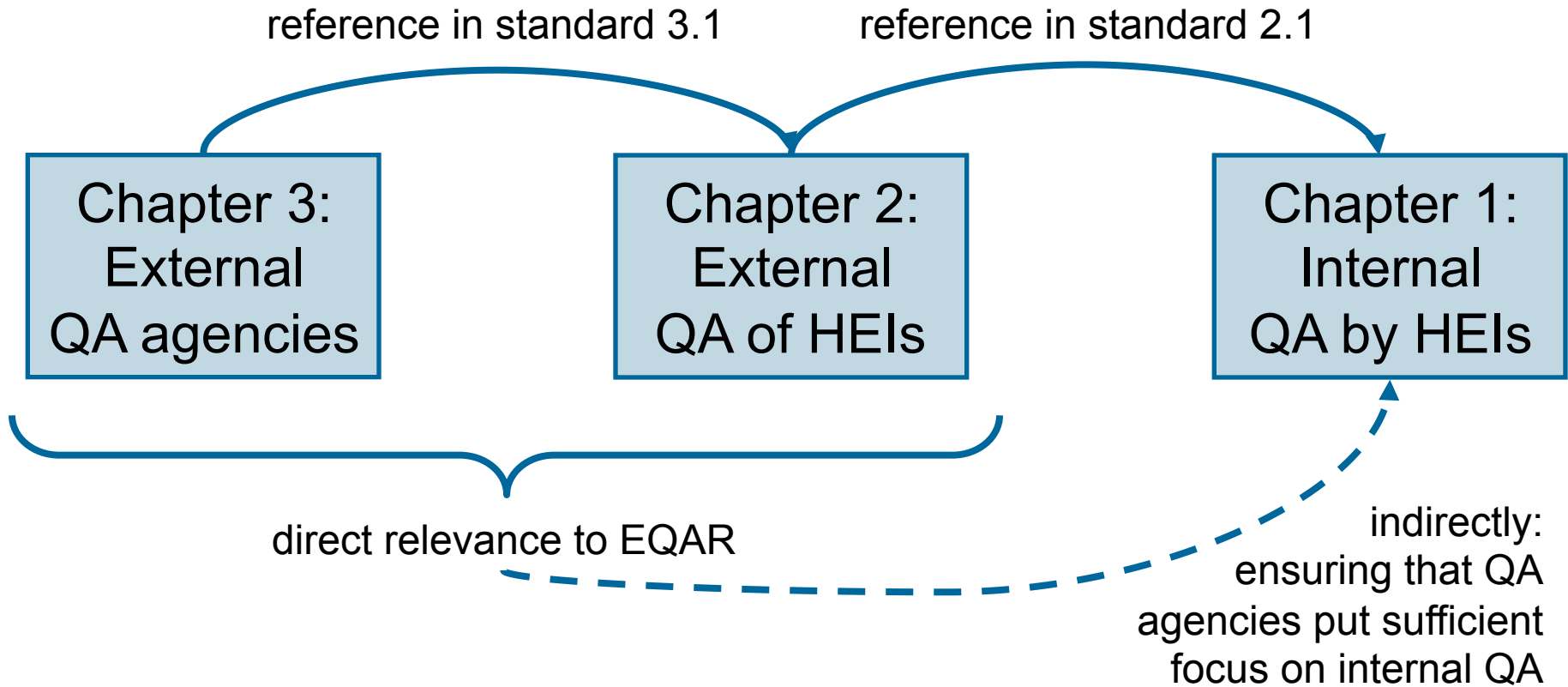
- A web-based list of quality assurance agencies
 - Basic information on the agency's work
 - Information on external review of the agency
- Which agencies can be included?
 - All agencies that comply substantially with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)
 - Evidenced through an external review by independent experts (HEI staff, QA experts, students)
 - Inclusion is voluntary



EQAR and the ESG



- The three sections of the ESG are linked:



Key features



- An exclusive register
 - One list of agencies that comply with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG)
 - No multiple categories
- Governed by stakeholders
 - Developed and founded by ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE (E4 Group)
 - Active involvement of social partners (BUSINESSEUROPE, Education International)
 - European governments can get involved



Key features (2)



- Independence
 - New association with a clear objective
 - Decisions are taken by an independent Register Committee (nominated by the key stakeholders)
- Accountability
 - Clear and transparent procedures
 - Avoid unnecessary burden
 - General Assembly comprising both stakeholders and governments



Impact on external and internal QA



- External quality assurance
 - Promoting common principles in Europe
 - Trust and mutual recognition
 - Prevent dubious agencies from gaining credibility
- Internal quality assurance
 - ESG stress the importance of internal quality culture and quality improvement
 - External quality assurance has to put sufficient focus on internal systems

Enhancing trust through greater transparency



- Greater transparency in external QA
 - EQAR allows to identify credible QA agencies
 - Institutions can identify others that have been reviewed by a legitimate QA agency
- More transparency should help to:
 - Increase trust and confidence in higher education
 - Increase of trust amongst institutions
 - Improve recognition of qualifications
 - Facilitate mobility of students and staff

Making use of the diversity



- How to make sense of the diversity in QA?
 - Agency's approach should fit the institutions' needs
 - ... align well with the institutions' mission
 - ... be the best choice to demonstrate accountability
 - ... facilitate quality improvement
- EQAR helps to make choices, on the basis of
 - Available reliable information on QAAs
- Possibilities though depend on national legislation (recognition of QA decisions/results)

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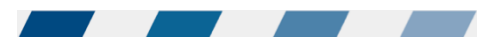
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Structure overview



Register Committee
11 members in their individual capacity
5 government observers

↑
Approval based on nominations



Appeals Committee
3 members

↑
Election

General Assembly		
Founding Members E4 Group	Social Partners BE and EI	Governmental Members EHEA Governments, CoE, CEPES

Executive Board: 4 members (elected on proposal of the E4)

Secretariat: Director + Administrative assistant



Application process

