

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA

ANNA GOVER, ENQA DIRECTOR

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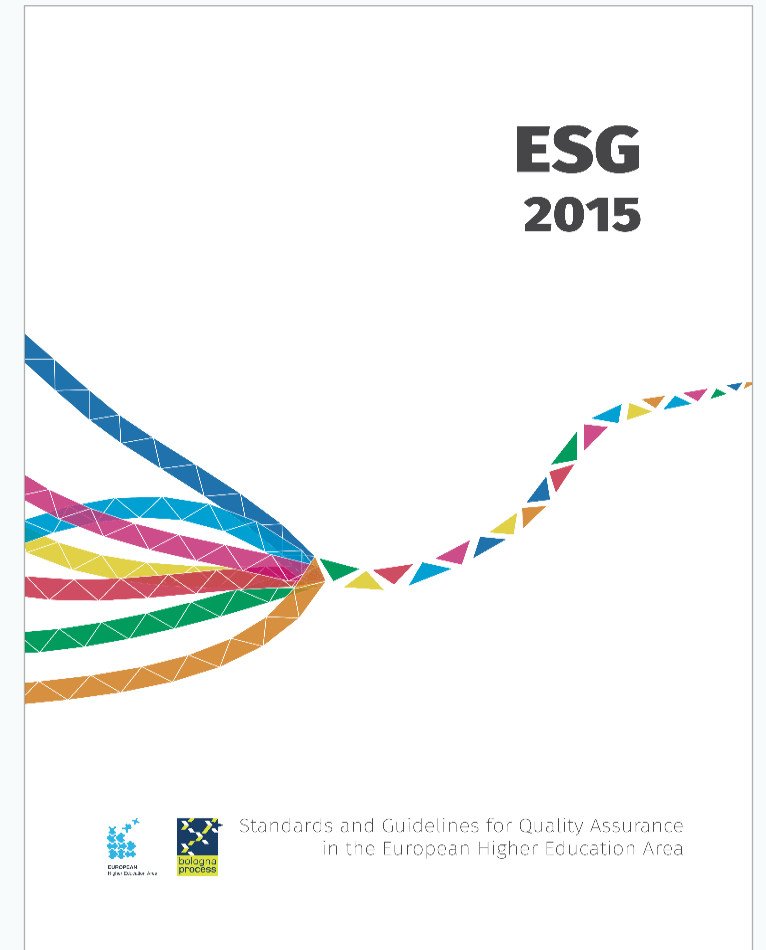
EUROPEAN QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The **EHEA** was set up through the **Bologna Process**. QA in line with the **ESG** is a key commitment of the Bologna Process. Primary authors of the ESG are the **E4 Group (ENQA, EUA, EURASHE and ESU)**. The same organisations are the founding members of **EQAR**.

ENQA is the **representative body** of QA agencies in the EHEA, a **consultative member** of the Bologna Process, and the primary **coordinator of reviews** of the QA agencies against the ESG.

THE ESG

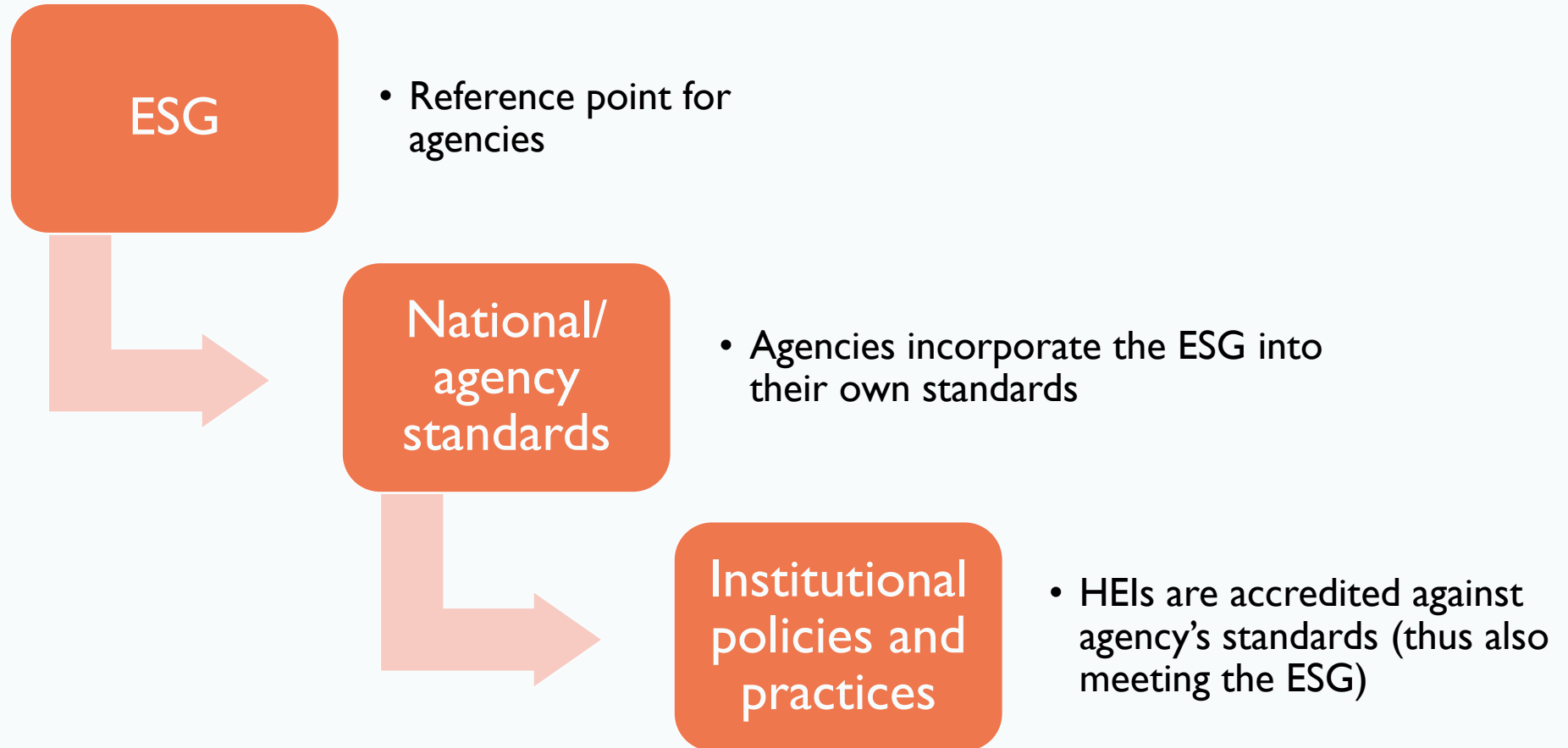
- Composed of:
 - The introduction
 - Part 1 - Internal QA within HEIs
 - Part 2 - External QA by QAAs
 - Part 3 - Internal QA and operation of QAAs
- Four main purposes:
 - Set a common framework for QA in Europe
 - Enable assurance and improvement of quality
 - Support mutual trust
 - Provide information on QA
- The focus of the ESG is on quality assurance related to **learning and teaching** in higher education, including the learning environment and relevant links to research and innovation.
- At the heart of all quality assurance activities are the twin purposes of **accountability and enhancement**.



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.

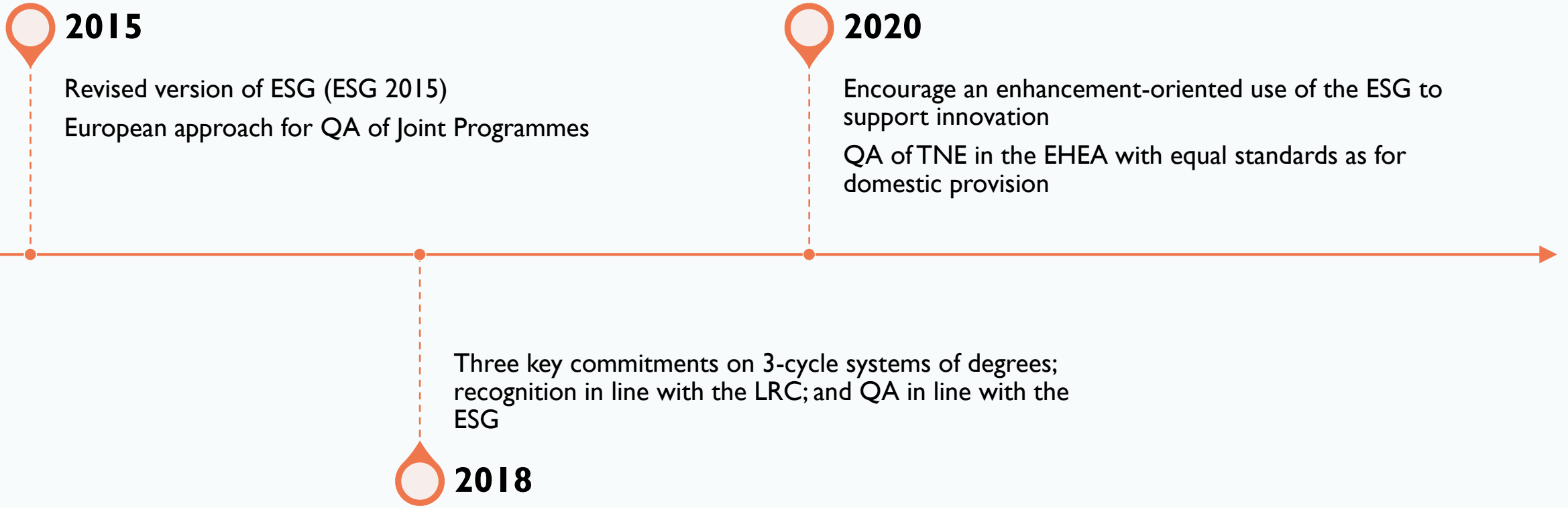
RELEVANCE OF ESG FOR INSTITUTIONS



QA IN THE EHEA TIMELINE



QA IN THE EHEA TIMELINE



MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUÉ 2024

- Re-affirm the three key commitments
- Revision of the ESG and the European Approach by 2027
- Robust and transparent QA of TNE delivered worldwide, in line with the ESG



BEFORE THE ESG REVISION: QA-FIT PROJECT

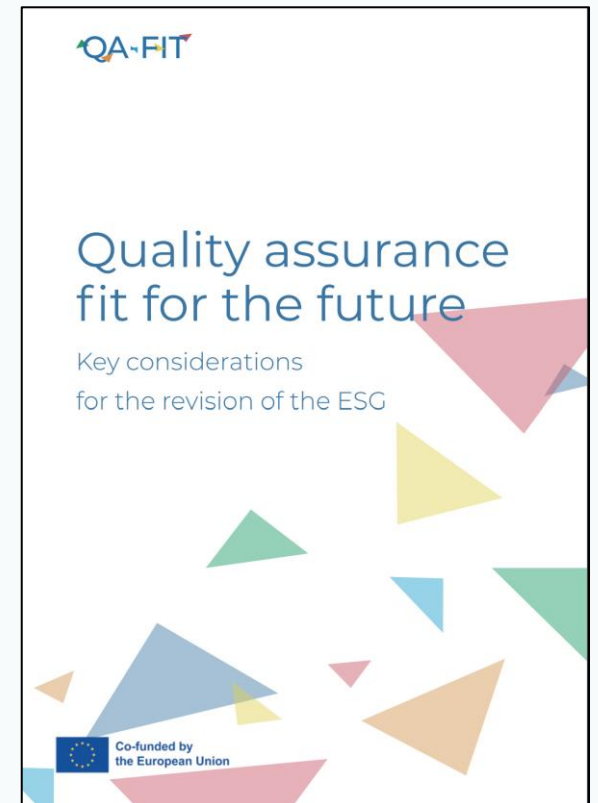
What works?

- ✓ 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
- ✓ The basic principles remain relevant

These points are agreed by all main stakeholder groups

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE REVISION OF THE ESG

- Recognise the existing purposes of the ESG as relevant and valid
- Maximise the added value of EHEA standards
- Celebrate the diverse contexts and cultures in higher education
- Situate the quality assurance of learning and teaching in its broader context
- Balance current issues with long term relevance



ESG REVISION PROCESS

- Led by a Steering Committee of all seven authoring organisations
- Started in September 2024
- Public consultation on full draft in winter 2025/26
- Parallel revision of European Approach
- Expected approval by EHEA Ministers in May 2027

KEY ISSUES SO FAR (INTRODUCTION AND PART I)

- Update the context, clarify key concepts and make main messages sharper
- Maintain focus on QA of learning and teaching, but stronger reference to links with research and societal missions of HEIs
- If and how to address broader issues such as social dimension of HE and fundamental values of HE, digital and green transitions
- Ensure continued applicability for lifelong/flexible learning; different modes of delivery; diversity of staff, students and institutions; cross-border contexts...

ENQA IN BRIEF



Who we are

Membership association:

61 members in 32 countries

42 affiliates in 26 countries



What we do

Represent interests

Provide services to members and stakeholders

Drive development of external QA



How we do it

Policy input

Projects

Events

Publications

Working groups

Agency reviews

CURRENT TOPICS FOR ENQA



QA of research



Staff development for
QA agencies



Use of artificial
intelligence in
external QA



QA and recognition



Added value of
Agency Reviews



Revision of the ESG



QA of transnational
education



Cross-border QA



Global relations



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