The revision of the ESG

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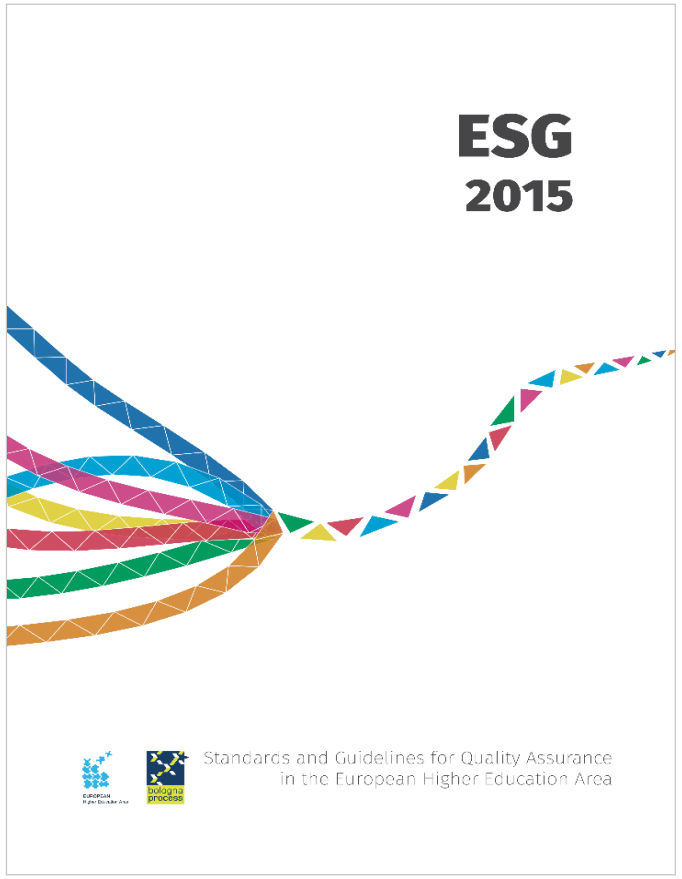
Date



Reference framework for agreed practice in QA in Europe (since 2005)

Key pillar of the Bologna Process

Introduction, followed by three parts:

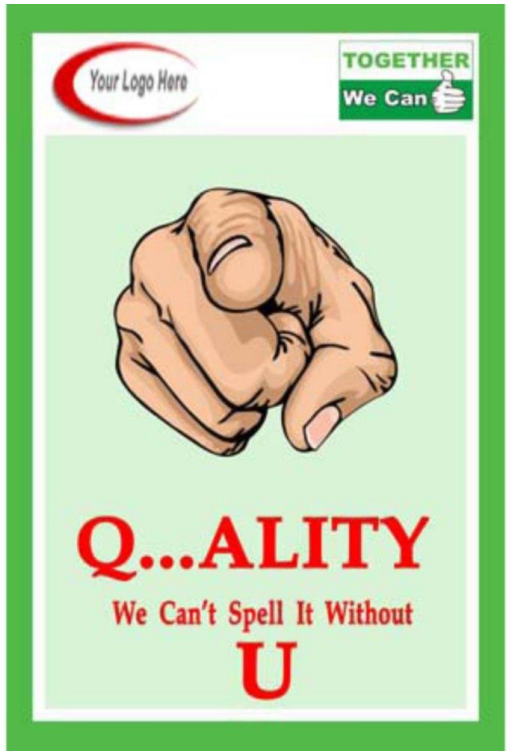
- Part 1- Internal QA within HEIs
- Part 2- External QA carried by QAAs
- Part 3 - Internal QA within QAAs

Focus on quality assurance of higher education, scope: teaching and learning

What are the standards and guidelines?

- **Generic principles**
  → allow for diversity of implementation
  → need to be “translated” into different contexts
  → apply to ALL higher education (cross-border, elearning, micro-credentials, doctoral education…)
- **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” (good practice)

Impact of the common framework



- **Spreading good practice** → becomes “norm” (e.g. student participation, independence of agencies, student-centered learning)
- **Improvement of quality** through shift from (pure) quality control to quality enhancement and support
- **Strong cooperation** with and involvement of different stakeholders
- **Responsibility to institutions** → ownership, accountability
- **Better understanding and trust** in different systems is possible: dialogue, cooperation, mobility, recognition
- Powerful policy implementation tool – also a “curse” → pressure to include “everything important”

Extensive consultations 2022-2024 among stakeholders

What do we agree on?

- A European QA framework is important
- Strongly agree that the ESG are still needed - and that **some revision is needed**
- BUT … HEI < 50%, agencies 75%, students 90%

Main messages of stakeholders

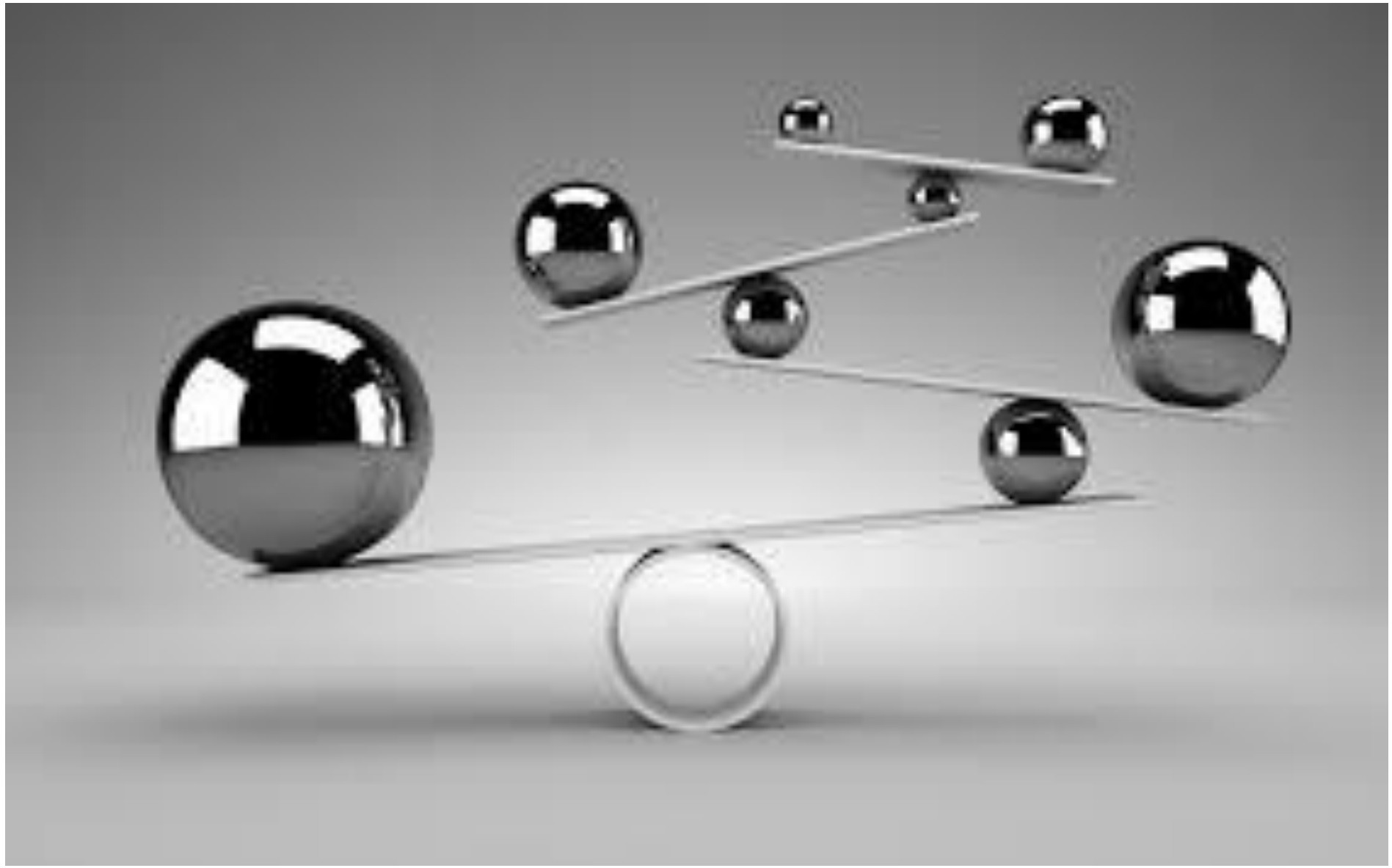
HEI: flexibility, autonomy in implementation, allow for innovation in L&T, smooth international cooperation - **"Less is more" (but want more guidance)**

QA agencies: clarity, consistency, comparability, less scope for interpretation. Allow for different approaches to QA. **"We need to make it work"**

Students: student-centered learning, diversity and support needs, fundamental values, social dimension… **– the longest wish list! "More is more"**

Ministries: internationalisation, AI, call for respect of **national frameworks and diversity**

3rd mission
management
micro-credentials
alliances
learning and teaching
research
greening
social dimension
digitalisation
values



keep
the baby!

What happens next?

ESG Steering Committee

- Representatives of ENQA, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, EQAR, Education International & Business Europe
- Coordinate the overall process, including main directions and consultations

ESG Drafting Group

- Representatives of ENQA, EUA, EURASHE & ESU
- Prepare drafts and identify issues for further discussion

Consultation rounds with all key stakeholders – influence also via EUA and your national Bologna rep.

Final version in 2026, **ministerial approval in 2027**

eua EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

Thank you for your attention

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