

European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education



Database of External Quality Assurance Results: Report and Operational Model

6th EQAR Members' Dialogue
24 November 2016, Oslo
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Background



Review EQAR's information policy towards different target groups (governments, agencies, institutions, students), in particular: [...] Explore the feasibility of a database of evaluated and accredited institutions and programmes, linking with existing initiatives where possible.

Strategic Plan 2013-2017

To develop specifications for a possible database of quality assured higher education institutions or programmes (depending on the national system) [...]

Self-Evaluation Report 2016

Prepare a study and operational proposal, including:

1. Assessment of needs, benefits and risks
2. Analysis of existing similar initiatives
3. Specifications, design proposal
4. Estimation of one-off implementation and long-term costs

Work Plan 2016/17

- Currently: information provided by EQAR
 - Registered QA agencies, their work & national systems
 - European Standards and Guidelines (ESG): agencies have to publish results and reports
 - Access indirect, via individual agencies' websites only

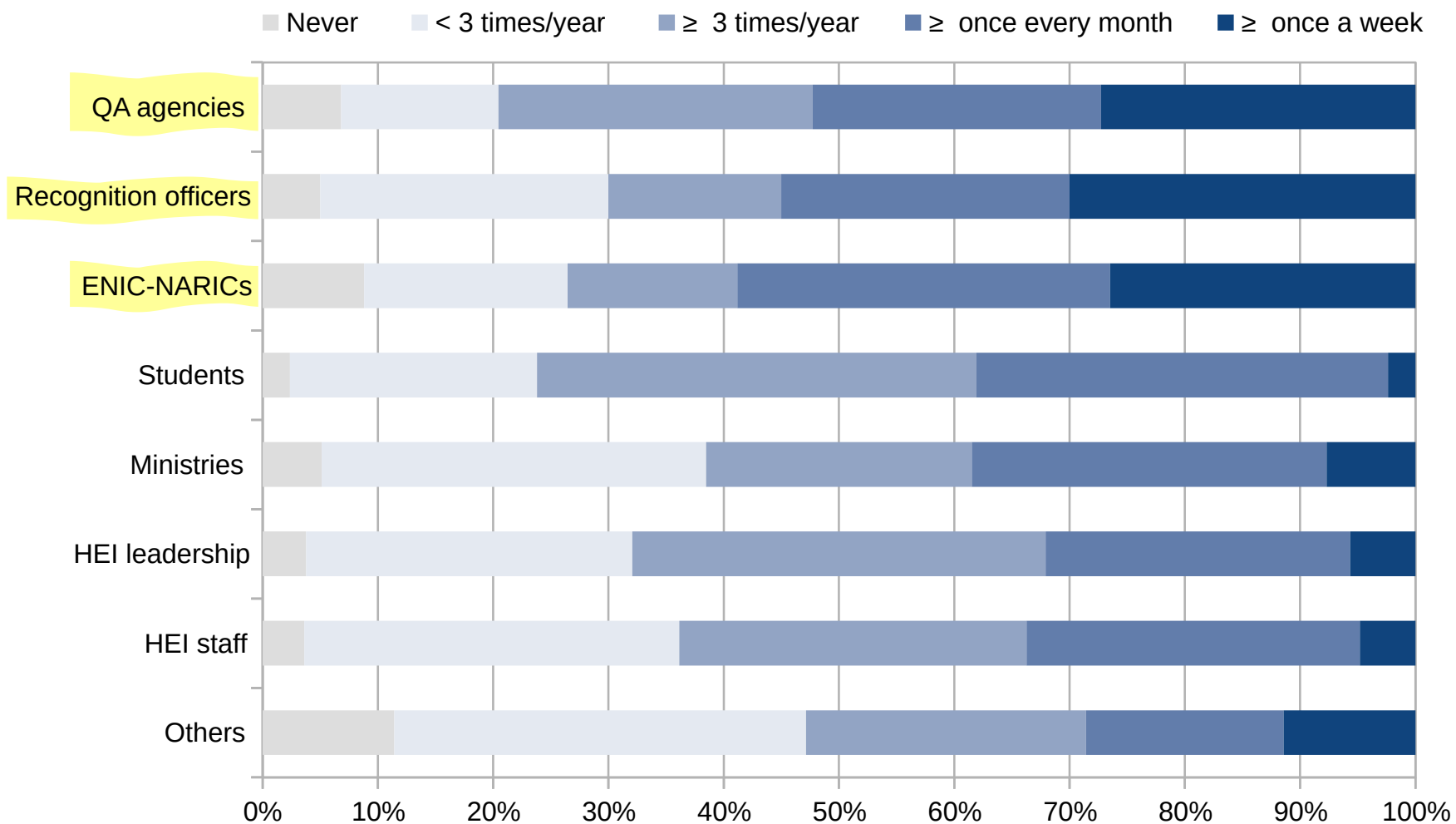
- Objective
 - Identify whether HE institution, or its programmes, were subject to external QA in line with ESG
 - Access to information and report on external QA
 - Reliable information on quality or how it is managed
 - Contextualising information (e.g. national system)

Sources



- Survey of potential users:
 - Distributed via EQAR members, newsletter, etc.
 - 385 respondents from 48 EHEA countries (91%) + 22 others (9%)
 - Topics: accessibility of external QA results, usefulness of a database, information needs
- Survey of registered QA agencies:
 - 36 of 43 registered agencies
 - Topics: information availability and feasibility
- Meetings with existing initiatives and experts

Potential Users

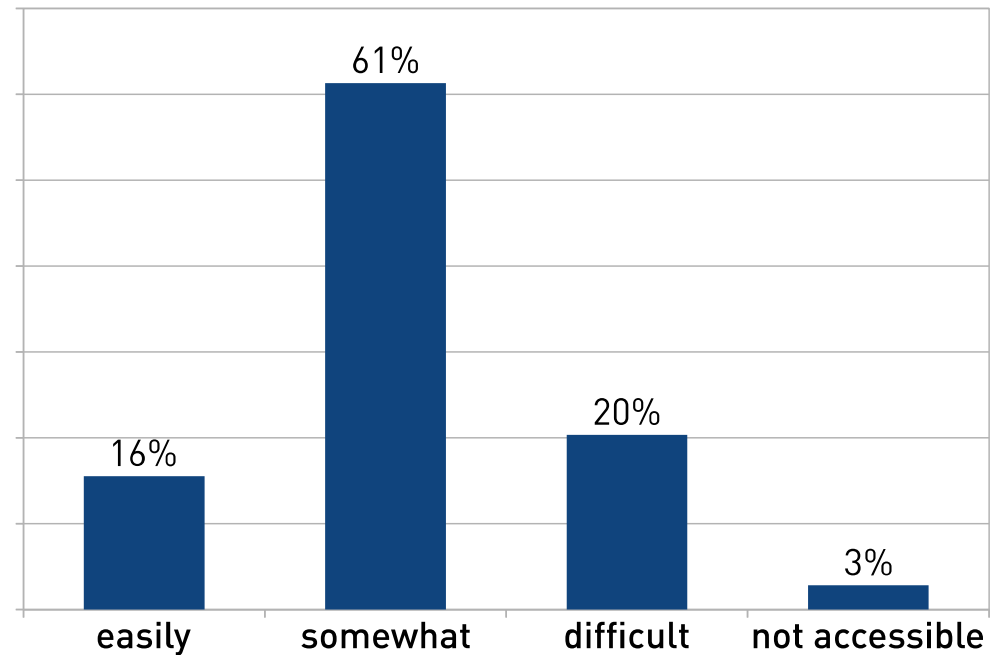


Current Accessibility of external QA results

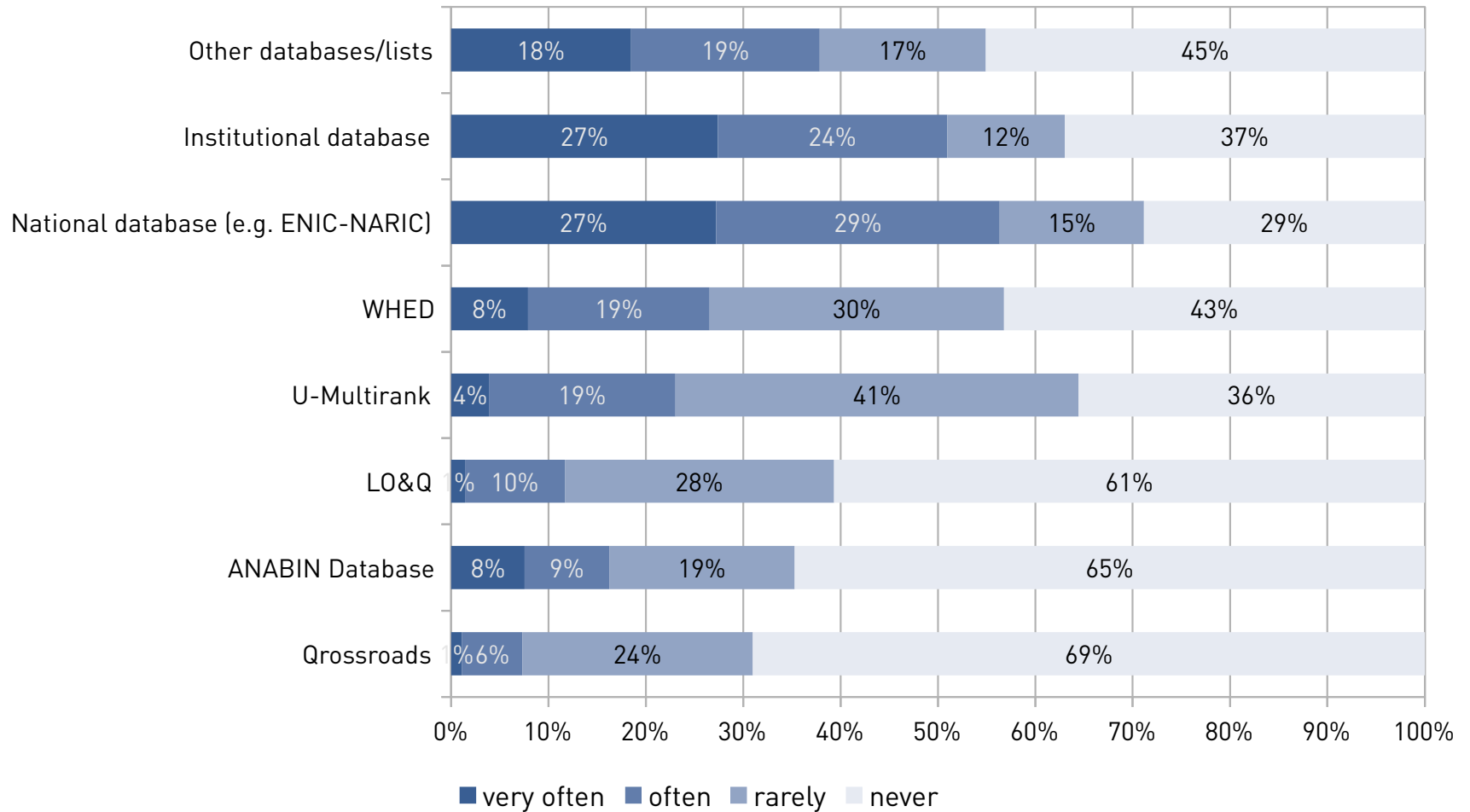


Difficulties noted:

- Which agency?
- User-friendliness of agency websites
- Language of websites and reports
- Information up-to-date?
- Understand different external QA systems



Existing initiatives

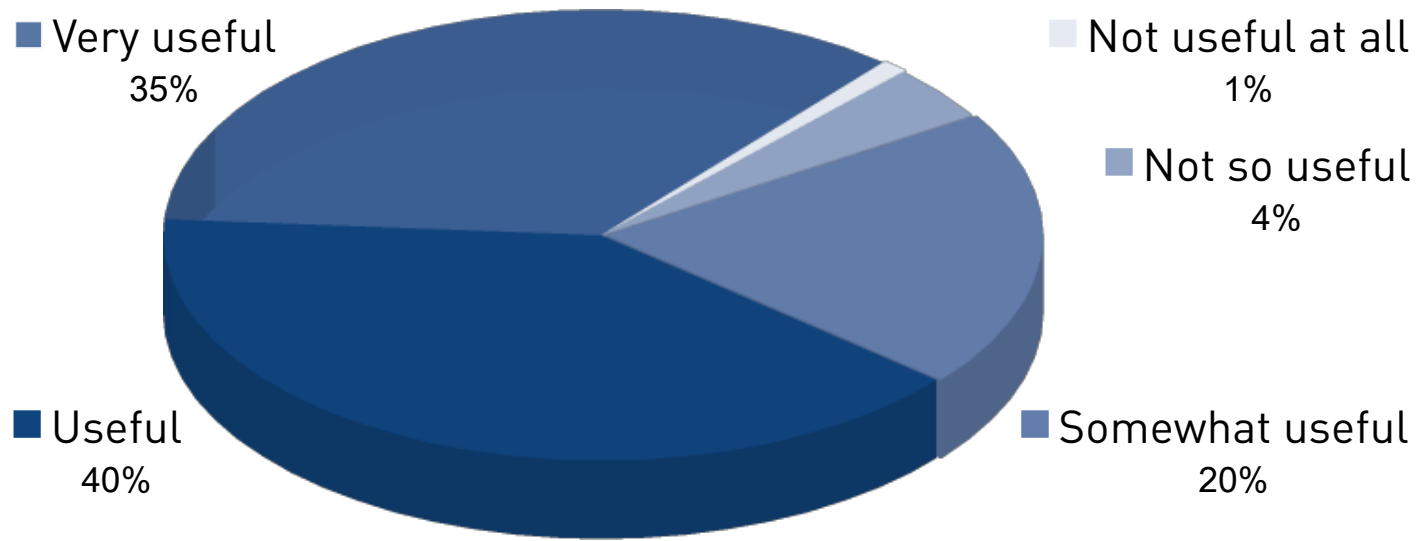


Existing initiatives (2)



- Mainly national & institutional databases used
 - QA-related information mostly cover particular country/region
- Information from various agencies
 - National portals (e.g. Spain, Germany)
 - European: Crossroads, EUR-ACE
 - Non-European examples (CHEA, USDE)
 - Benefit from experience & built on existing data
- Information on higher education institutions
 - WHED, ETER, Anabin, U-Multirank, Learning Opportunities & Qualifications
 - Useful as underlying database

Usefulness



(no major variation between user groups)

Feasibility



- Registered agencies dispose of information needed
- Starting point: institutional level
- Automated data delivery crucial
- Connect with existing databases (national, Crossroads)
- Use existing database of HEIs for basic information
- Avoid manual intervention

Functionality



amsterdam

Search Based in*

Name	Based in*
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands
VU University Amsterdam	Netherlands
Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten	Netherlands
Hogeschool van Amsterdam	Netherlands
...	...

VU University of Amsterdam (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Showing current details - click to include history

1. Basic information

Country: Netherlands
Website: <http://vu.nl/nl/index.aspx>
NQF and QF-EHEA cycles: First, Second and Third Cycle

2. National External Quality Assurance System

Obligatory external quality assurance required in the Netherlands:

- Programme accreditation (required if no institutional audit)
- Institutional audits (optional)

3. External Quality Assurance Reports and Decisions

3.a Institutional level

Institutional Audit by NVAO

Status: Part of the obligatory EQA system
Formal decision: yes, positive with conditions or restrictions
Date: 2014-09-03
Valid until: 2016-09-02
Report and decision: Audit report (language: English)
 Audit decision (language: Dutch)

Institutional Evaluation by IEP

Status: Voluntary
Formal decision: no
Date: 2014-01-23
Valid until: n/a
Report and decision: Evaluation report (language: English)

3.b Programme level

Architecture (Accreditation by NVAO)

Biology (Accreditation by NVAO)

Liberal Arts and Sciences (Accreditation by NVAO)

Status: Part of the obligatory EQA system
Formal decision: yes, positive
Date: 2014-01-27
Valid until: 2020-01-26
Qualification: Bachelor of Arts (Amsterdam University College) (joint degree)
NQF and QF-EHEA level: First cycle
Report and decision: Accreditation report (language: English)
 Accreditation decision (language: Dutch)

Mechatronics (Accreditation by ASIIN)

Public Administration (Accreditation by EAPAA)

Status: Voluntary
Formal decision: yes, positive with conditions or restrictions

Information to include



1) Info on the institution

- Name (English & official languages)
- Country
- Website
- NQF and QF-EHEA levels

2) External QA procedure

- Quality assurance agency
- Description
- Level

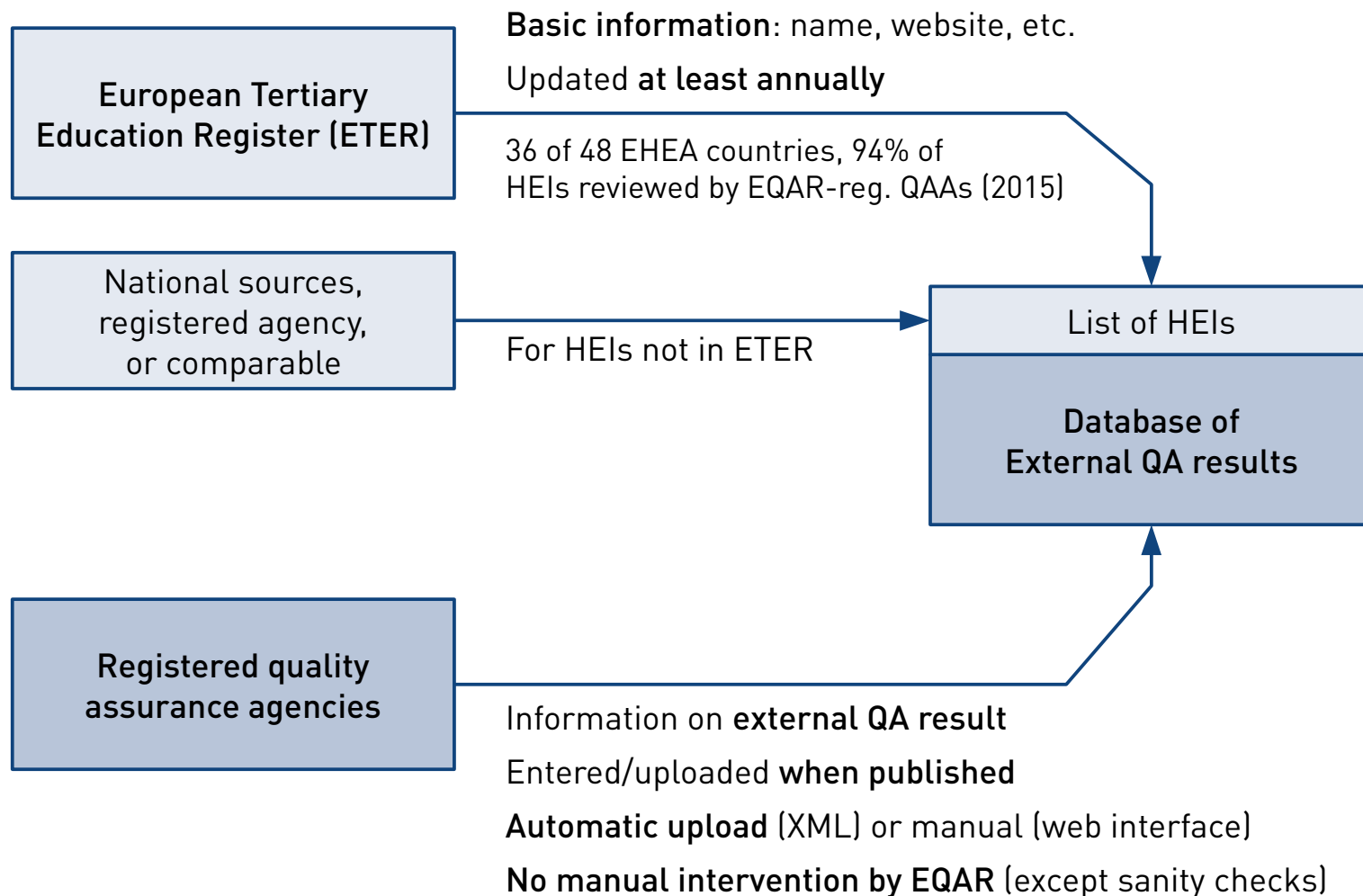
- Decision
- Status
- Date
- Valid until
- Report(s) and decision(s)
- If programme-level:
 - Name of the programme in official language(s) and English
 - Name of the qualification(s) awarded
 - Country (if different)
 - NQF and QF-EHEA level

Features



- Search and browsing
 - HEI name
 - By country
 - By agency
 - By date
 - By type of review
- Historic record available
- Full download
- Can be embedded into 3rd-party applications

Updates



Costs



One-off realisation costs	Long-term annual costs
<p>Staff time: Existing EQAR staff + Dedicated staff member</p> <p>Subcontract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data model design• Technical concept• Back-end programming• Web development <p>EUR 30 000 ~ 35 000</p> <p>Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate in technical design• Adjust own database	<p>Staff time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor• Maintain HEI list• Handling sanity checks• Agency and user questions• Oversee technical maintenance <p>ca. 60% FTE staff ~ EUR 35 000</p> <p>Technical maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web server• Maintenance• Provision <p>ca. EUR 10 500</p>

Overview



Needs and Benefits	Challenges and Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fill accessibility gap• Help understand external QA• Visibility at European level• Support recognition• Efficiency gain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure accuracy and relevance• Correct interpretation• Financial sustainability• Legal protection

Questions and discussion



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