

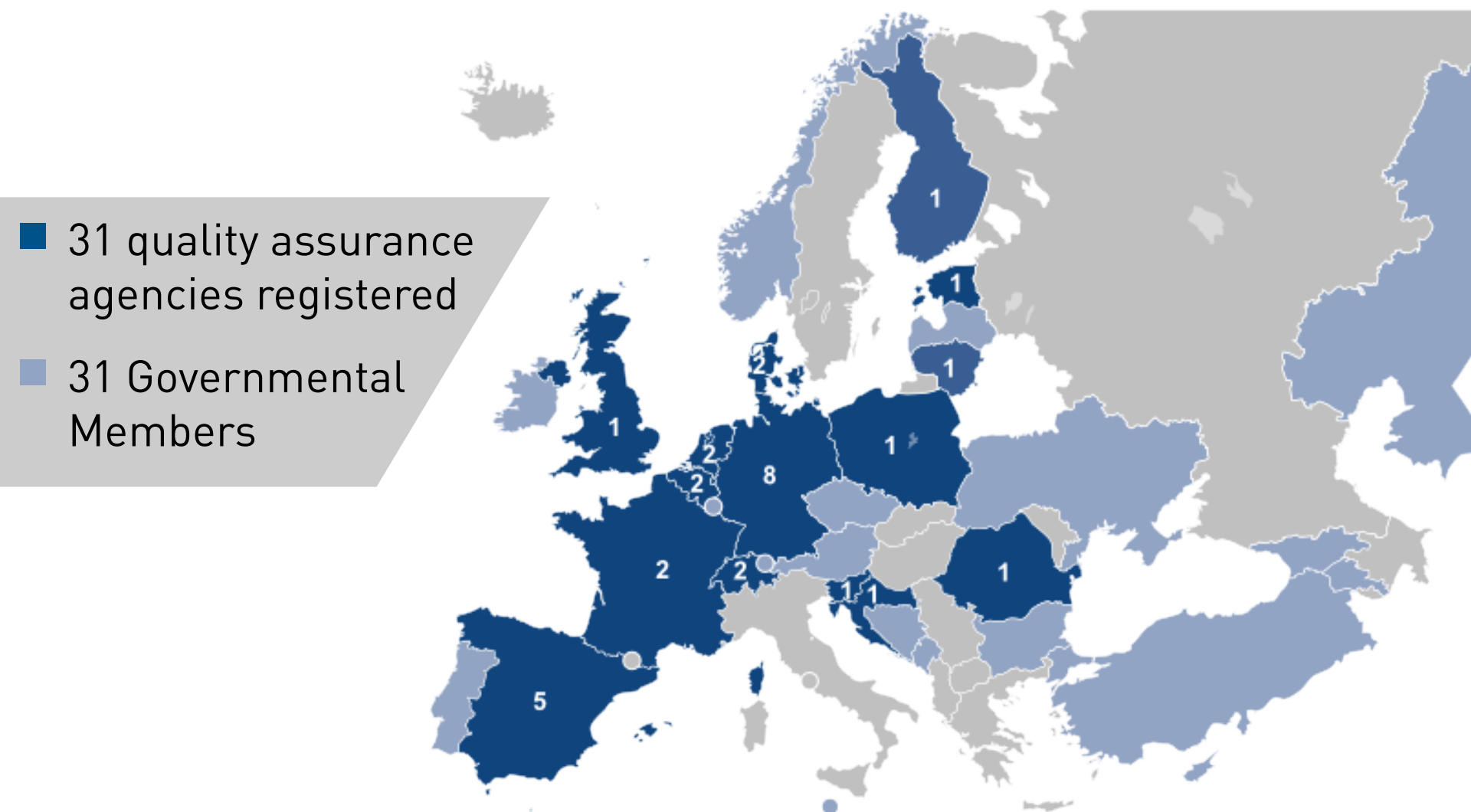
# Cross-Border Activities of QA Agencies

Structural Reform WG, Gent, 9/10 December 2013

Colin Tück <[colin.tueck@eqar.eu](mailto:colin.tueck@eqar.eu)>

# Agencies and Governments

eqar

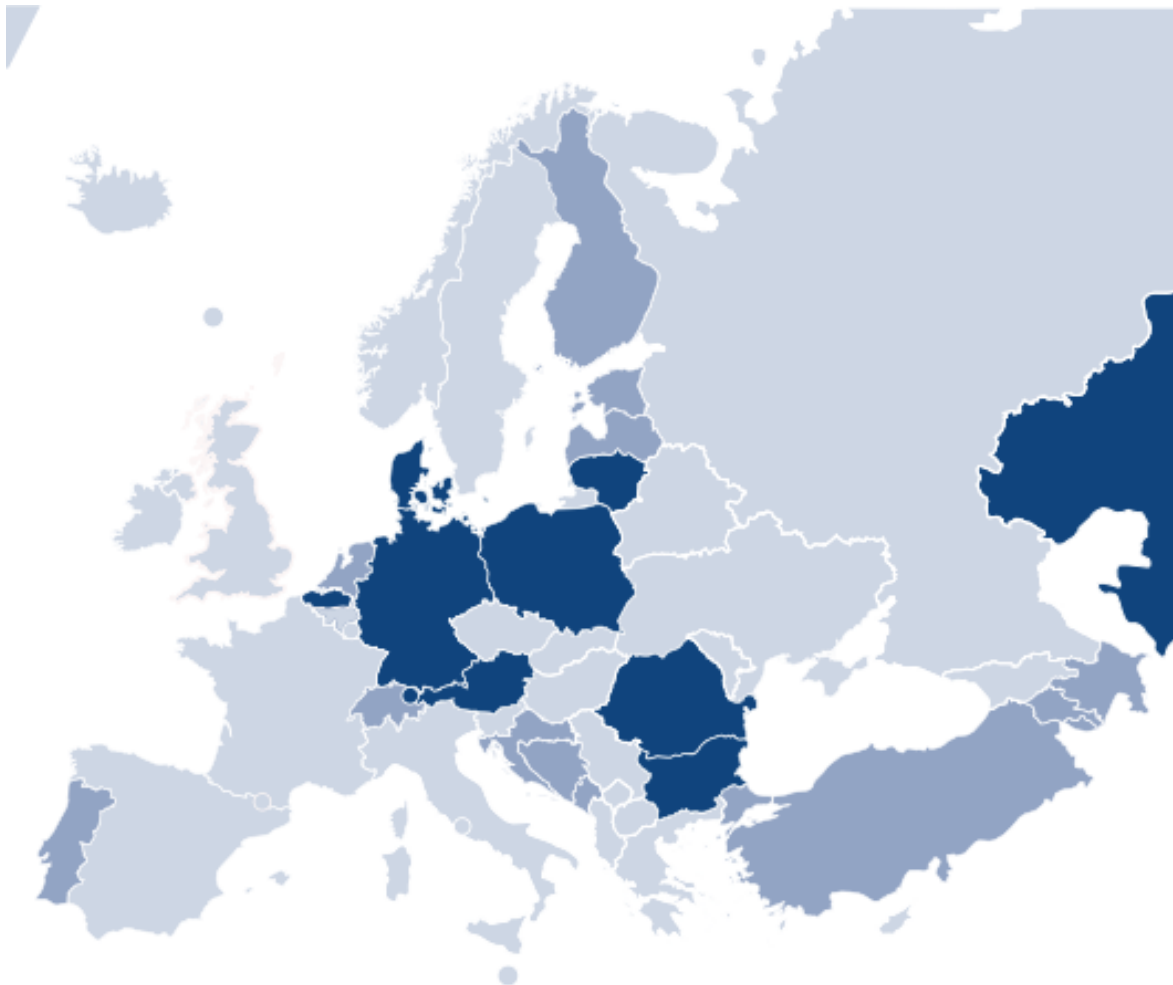


- **EHEA ministers** (Bucharest Communiqué, 2012):

“We will allow **EQAR registered agencies to perform their activities across the EHEA**, while complying with national requirements. In particular we will aim to **recognise QA decisions of EQAR-registered agencies on joint and double degree programmes.**”
- **EQAR Strategic Goal** (adopted by **governments and stakeholders**, 2013):

„In line with national requirements all EQAR-registered agencies and their decisions are officially recognised by all EHEA countries and in the context of relevant European initiatives, and **all EHEA countries allow higher education institutions to request evaluation, audit or accreditation by any registered agency** to fulfil their formal external quality assurance obligations.“

# Legal frameworks recognising foreign QAAs



- Countries allowing EQAR-registered agencies to operate as part of the national requirements for external QA
- Countries allowing other/some foreign agencies to operate
- Countries not open to external QA by EQAR-registered QA agency (as part of national requirements for external QA)

Still work in  
progress...



## Legal frameworks (2)



External QA by EQAR-registered agency ...	Outcome/decision directly recognised	Final decision by national QA body
All HEI's and for all external QA	FI, LI, RO	AL, AM, BE-fl, EE, KAZ, ME, NL
Some HEI's or some types of external QA only	AT, CH	LT, PT
Only joint degrees or similar circumstances	DK, PL	DE

Missing: no full information or no operational framework

# Recognising International QA Activity (RIQAA project)



## Activities:

- Mapping of the legal framework in EHEA countries allowing the use of EQAR-registered QAAs, including targeted consultation of BFUG rep.s
- Survey of QAAs on their cross-border activities
- Seminar with QAAs operating across borders in the EHEA (April 2014)
- **Case-study interviews with 12 HEIs to analyse institutional experiences regarding international quality reviews**
  - HEIs from countries that allow foreign QAAs to operate and from countries that do not
  - HEIs that were evaluated by a foreign QAA and HEIs who plan to do so
- Conference for governments and stakeholders in the autumn of 2014

Co-funded by the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme

# Challenges and Opportunities



Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Language</li><li>▪ Local context</li><li>▪ Country-specific rules</li><li>▪ Specific degree structures</li><li>▪ Types of institutions</li><li>▪ Cultural differences</li><li>▪ EHEA framework vs national concerns</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Suit HEI's profile and strategy</li><li>▪ Specialised institutions and QAA</li><li>▪ Joint degrees</li><li>▪ Higher commitment on both sides</li><li>▪ Active choice by HEI</li><li>▪ Underlining autonomy of HEI's</li><li>▪ Improving the internationalisation</li></ul>

# Questions for discussion



- Does your country have experiences with HEI's being evaluated by foreign QA agencies?
- What is the current legal framework? Are there plans to change and allow foreign QAA's to operate?
- What is the view of national stakeholders?
- What are the concerns or inhibiting factors?
- What are the expected gains or benefits?
- Do you expect that revision of ESG and European Approach for JPs will make a difference?
- What policy recommendations/developments would facilitate recognition/openness in your view?