



# Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education

Liia Lauri, Assessment Director

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# Estonia – some indicators



Population: 1,328 million (2022)

45 000 sq km

2222 islands

Forests 52,3 % of land area

Average monthly salary 1,553 EUR (2021)

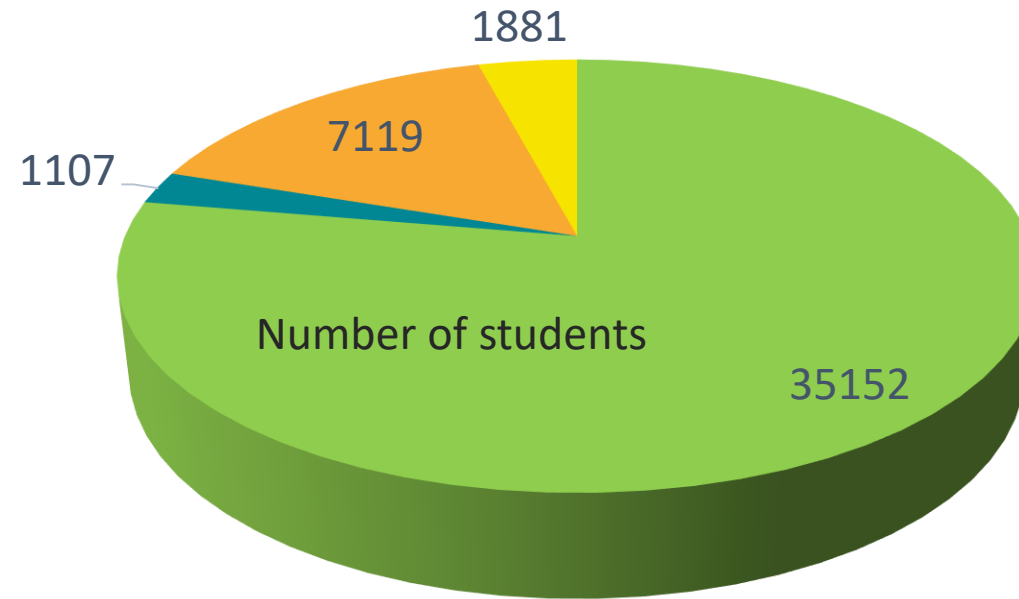
Unemployment rate 6 % (2021)

<http://estonia.eu/>

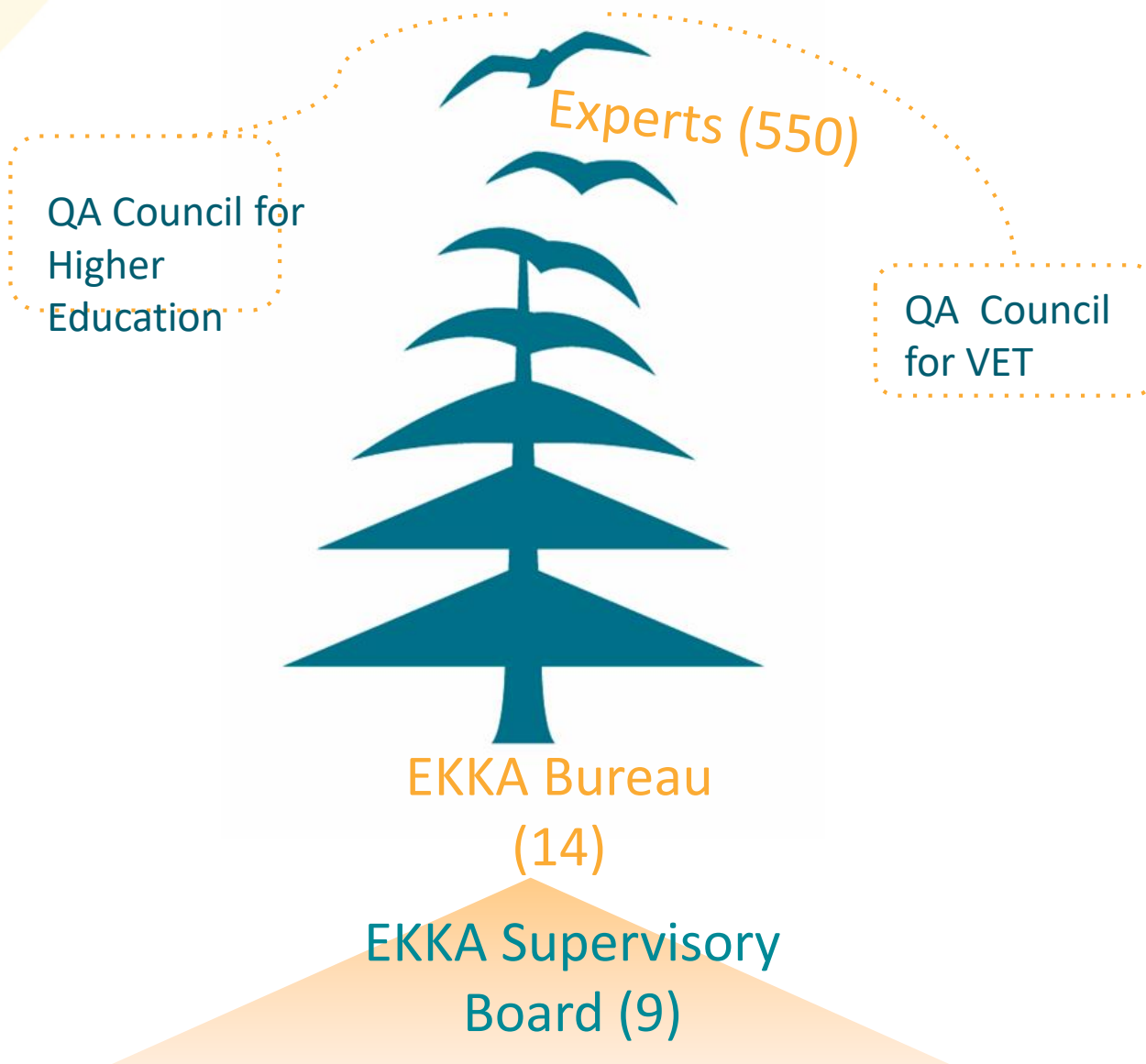
# Higher Education Institutions in Estonia

6 public universities  
1 private university

7 state professional HEIs  
4 private professional HEIs



Public universities      Private university  
State professional HEIs      Private professional HEIs



Founded in 2009 on the basis of Estonian HE Accreditation Center

# Activities of EKKA 2022

HIGHER EDUCATION	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING	CONTINUING EDUCATION	GENERAL EDUCATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Initial assessment of study programme groups</li><li>➤ Institutional accreditation</li><li>➤ Thematic assessment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Initial assessment of study programme groups</li><li>➤ Quality assessment of study programme groups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Threshold based assessment</li><li>➤ Quality label for providers of continuing education</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Developing the system for quality enhancement in general education</li><li>➤ Development programmes for internal quality assurance</li></ul>

Development of standards and guidelines, trainings, analyses, international activities

## Register

Registered agencies

— Suspended entries

— Former entries

Decisions

Criteria for inclusion

Analysis of Decisions

Application process

Reporting and renewal

Complaints

### Read more

Learn about the criteria and application process for registration.



eqar.eu > Register > Registered agencies > EKKA

## EKKA - Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education

Eesti Kõrg- ja Kutsehariduse Kvaliteediagentuur

SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE ESG

VIEW 160 REPORTS ON 32 INSTITUTIONS

Admission valid until

28/02/2023 (listed since 01/03/2013)

Website

<http://www.ekka.archimedes.ee/en>

Reports by the agency

<http://www.ekka.archimedes.ee/universities/quality-assessment-of-study-programme-groups/assessment-decisions-and-reports>

Previous names

- Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency until 01/04/2015

EQAR registration decisions and reports on the agency



13/06/2018 Renewal of Registration



13/06/2018 External Review Report




22/10/2013 Admission to the Register

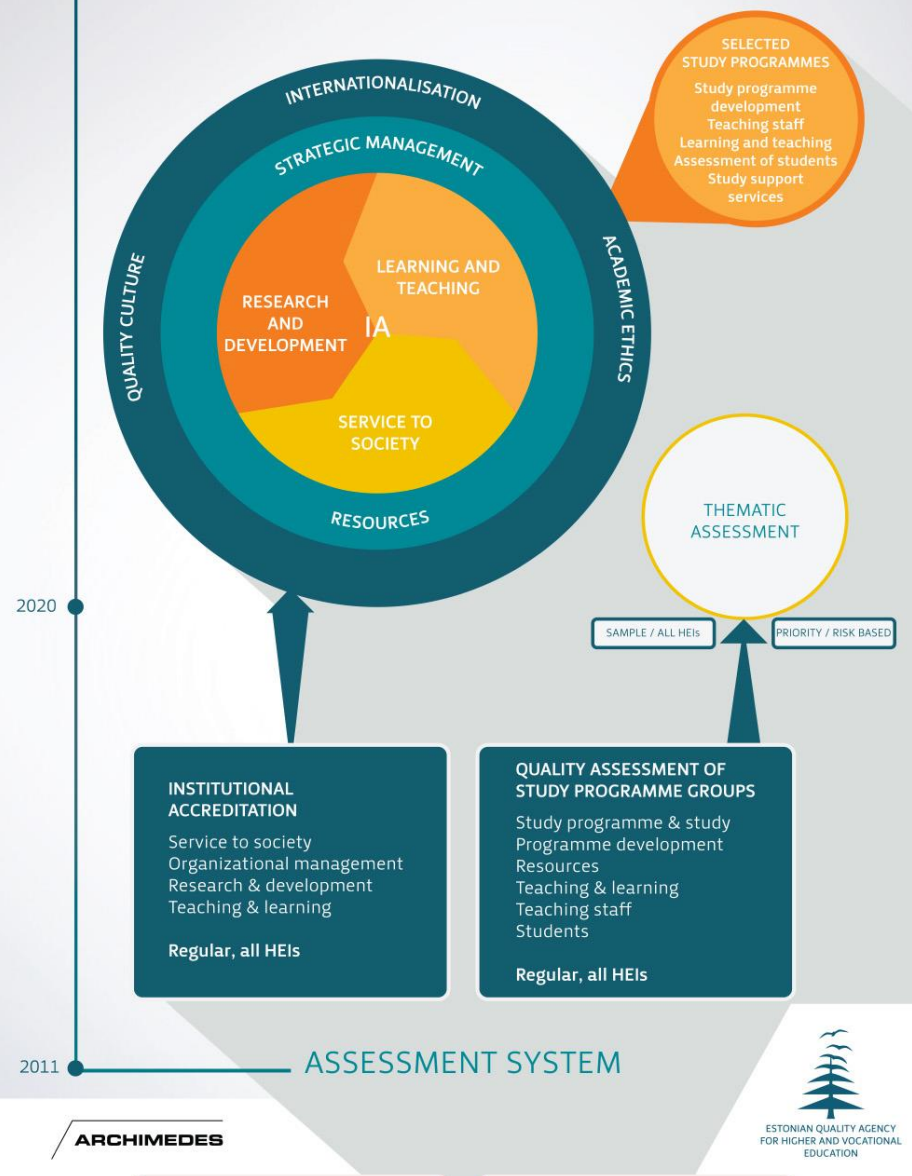


22/10/2013 External Review Report

# Shared responsibilities for QA in HE

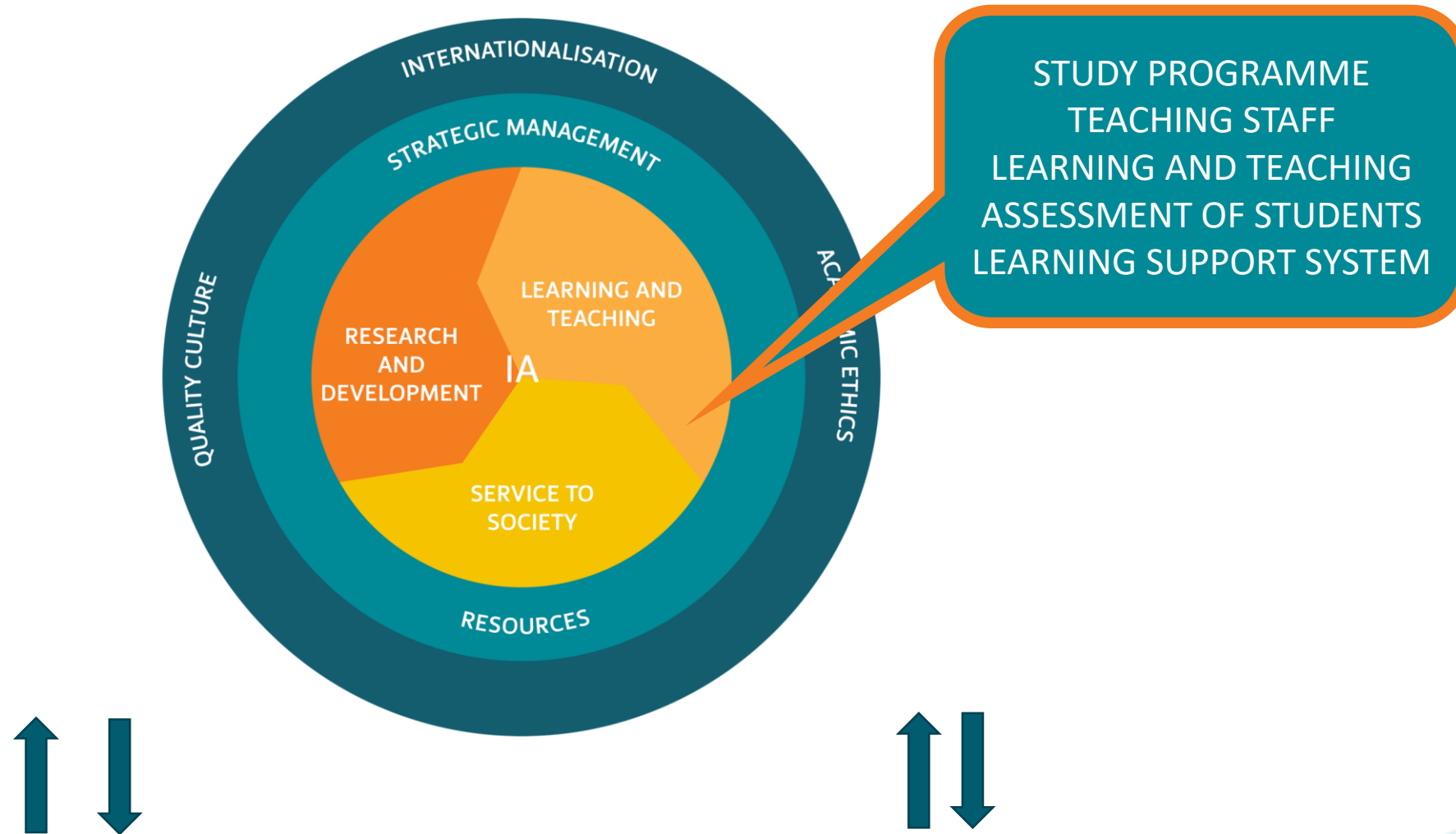
STATE	EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	EKKA
<p>Setting long-term goals and objectives</p> <p>Financing and monitoring the implementation</p> <p>Granting the right to conduct studies in HE and VET</p> <p>Checking the compliance before registering curricula in the Education Information System (HEI and VET)</p>	<p><b>Main responsibility for the quality and continuous improvement</b> of the education provided.</p> <p>Strategic management (including quality management)</p> <p>Regular internal evaluation and benchmarking</p>	<p><b>Promoting the quality culture</b> in education in cooperation with institutions through external feedback and assessment</p> 

# EQA IN ESTONIA 2020





# Institutional accreditation since 2019 (2nd round)



Implementation of standards tested with the sample of study programmes

# Challenges 2020-2022

# Challenges 2020-2022: Web and hybrid visits

## Lessons learnt

- hybrid visits get better feedback from HEIs, but are technically challenging comparing to web-visits
- requires good communication between the panel, agency and HEI
- netiquette to be agreed upon
- some interviews and visit to labs can be held before the „site visit“.



# Challenges 2020-2022: Training of experts

## Lessons learnt

- Several training sessions with the expert panel before the site visit
- Clear focus and goal for each meeting – (a) introduction and sharing first impressions, (b) writing draft reports and proposing interview questions between two meeting etc.
- A good practice to continue also in the future



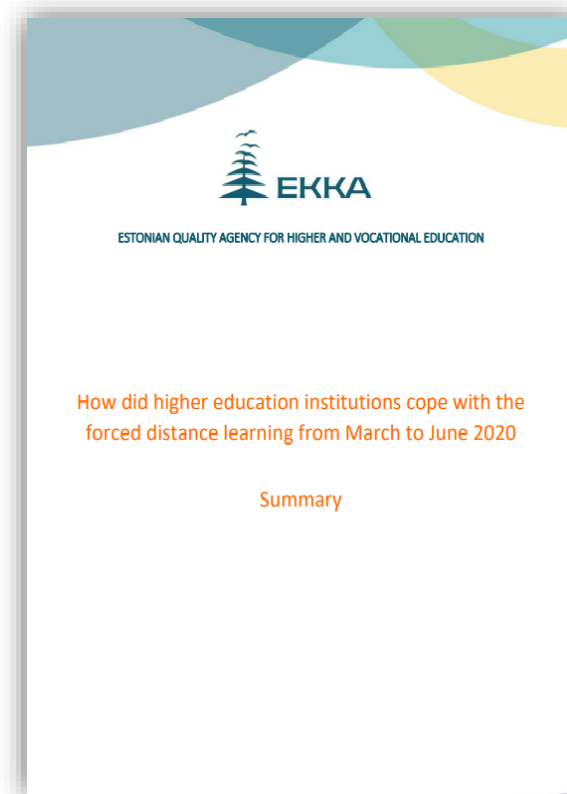
# Challenges 2020-2022

## Thematic analysis

### on lessons of distance learning in 2020

- Survey and interviews
- Collecting best practices
- Seminar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdsUqZ2lysU>



# Challenges 2020-2022: Update of accreditation regulations in the light of digitally enhanced learning and teaching

Some examples:

Resources	data protection, protection of user privacy, security of online learning environment
Teaching staff	digital competencies and appropriate training
Learning Support systems	IT and digital learning/teaching support
Learning and Teaching	/.../learning and teaching process are modern, appropriate and effective and support the development of digital culture /.../ /.../The HEI has a Code of Good Learning and Teaching (including online) and it is applied in practice/.../

# Quality Label for e-courses



Awarded since 2008. EKKA - from 2021.

- The aim is to improve the quality of e-courses and to share best practices.
- E-course is a systematic comprehensive set of materials, learning activities and guidelines for learners that support the partial or full execution of the learning process online.
- The Quality Label affirms the very good quality of the e-course and shows that excellent results have been achieved in the application of digital technologies in the learning process.
- The Quality Label of the e-course affirms to the learner that the course and its level of delivery meet the quality requirements.
- E-course self-evaluation and assessment criteria are set and regularly updated





Thank you!

[liia.lauri@harno.ee](mailto:liia.lauri@harno.ee)

<https://ekka.eu/>