

Bi-monthly meeting of the CEENQA network
20th September 2023

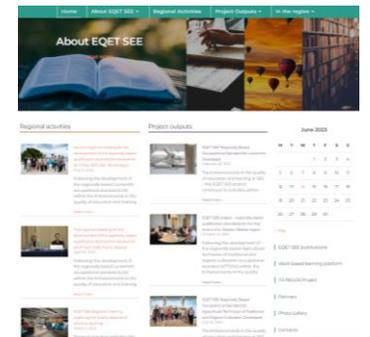
ERI SEE Support to Quality Assurance Systems
in Higher Education in the Western Balkans

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Background information

- Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe
- International, inter-governmental organisation
- Ministries of education from 7 economies:
 - **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia**
- Regional cooperation for the benefit of national reform processes in education and training, monitoring EU trends and developments
- Partners:
 - Ministries of education/Labour or economy (strategic level)
 - National agencies for VET, QA in pre-tertiary, QA in higher education, Teacher education and training agencies, Chambers of commerce (implementation level)
 - International organizations (ETF, RCC, SICI, WB6 CIF...)



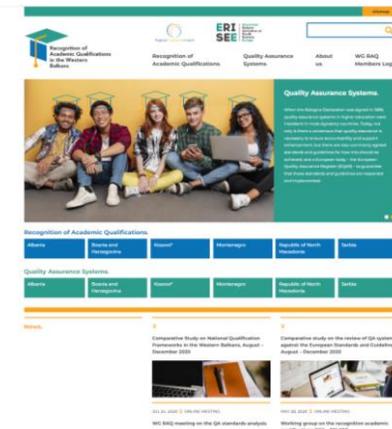
Thematic areas

- Vocational education and training
 - regional network: SEE VET Net and Western Balkans Alliance for Work-based Learning
- General education and VET
 - Regional network for Quality Assurance in pre-tertiary education
 - South Eastern European Network for Teacher Education and Training (SEE TET Network)
- Higher education
 - Cooperation with Regional Cooperation Council: Joint Working Group for recognition of HE qualifications and quality assurance in higher education



Types of support

1. Regional working group for recognition and quality assurance
 - Joint meetings discussing the topics relevant for WB6
 - Delivery of legal framework: Declarations, Agreements, Rules of Procedures relevant for regional cooperation
2. Seminar and conferences on relevant topics
3. Expert assistance
4. Digital support



1. Regional working group on recognition and QA in the Western Balkans 6

- RCC – ERI SEE Working Group on Recognition of Academic Qualifications and Quality Assurance
 - Composed of representatives of ministries, ENIC/NARIC offices and QA agencies
- Signed Regional Agreement on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications:
 - Under the Berlin Process
 - Emphasizing not only the mutual recognition, but also the relevance of QA systems in the WB6 and alignment with the ESG
 - Signed by the heads of economies of the WB6
 - Ratified in the majority of WB6 economies
 - In force
- Implementation:
 - JOINT COMMISSION – to establish Rules and Procedures on the implementation of the Regional Agreement (last meeting in July in Tirana)
 - in progress

2. Seminars and conferences on relevant topics

- Regional conference on QA and recognition, in October 2022 in Zagreb (with cooperation from ministries of education and QAA from Croatia and Slovenia), bringing together QA and recognition bodies
- Seminar in Croatia, with the Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education – early June 2023, on different aspects of ESG, identified by QAA and covered by Croatian experts
- Ministerial conference in North Macedonia, on Quality in HE, 26th – 27th September, Skopje, North Macedonia
 - Focus on quality and quality assurance in higher education
 - Bringing together different actors active in the region in the area of QA (Ministries, QAA, HEI, international organizations etc.)
 - Platform for exchanges, peer learning and discussions
 - Joint policy recommendations to be presented



3. Expert assistance

- Planned external support to WB 6 QA agencies
 - External experts joining QA agencies for some expert days
 - Assist in the integration of recommendations from the Action plans (developed through projects, mock reviews and reviews)
 - Targeted support to QAAs in meeting key ESG priorities (planned by the RCC - pending the approval of the budget, including a second “mock review” in 2025)
 - More information by Regional Cooperation Council



4. Digital support

- Regional training on data management and establishment of data basis of accredited institutions and study programmes, on-line, in September 2022
- Regional portal on QA processes and institutions (www.wb-qualifications.org)
- Regional register on accredited institutions and study programmes (wb-qualifications.org/quality-assurance-system/qa-register.php)
- On-line training on maintenance of data – planned for October/November 2023
- Individual support in data management
 - Offered to some QAA
 - To help establish the Register of accredited institutions and study programmes

Thank you for your attention

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