



**SOCIAL HUMANITIES
BASIC SCIENCES
ACCREDITATION and
RATING ASSOCIATION**

**REVISITING THE ESG FOR IMPROVED RELEVANCE
AND CLARITY – INTERNATIONAL ONLINE
CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY STAR**

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Chair of Internationalization Committee, STAR

**Advisor of BoT, Final International University – North Cyprus
(Former President of YODAK – National QAA of North Cyprus)**

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1. HIGHER EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TURKEY

1.1 HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL AND UNIVERSITIS

- **Higher Education Council (YOK) was established in 1981. All HEIs were merged under 28 Universities.**
- **Currently, 208 Universities: 129 Public, 75 Foundation and 4 Vocational**
- **187 thousand Academic Staff**
 - 76% PhD and above
 - 24% Lower than PhD.
- **6,84 million Students**
 - 41% Associate Degrees
 - 52% B.Sc. Degrees
 - 5% MSc Degrees
 - 2% Ph.D. Degrees
- **Student/Faculty Ratio**
 - $6,835,115/186,893 = 36,6$ students per faculty

Source: <https://www.yok.gov.tr/tr/news/yuksekogretim-kurulu-ogrenci-ve-akademisyen-istatistiklerini-acikladi-0h1og>

1. HIGHER EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TURKEY

1.2 Turkish Higher Education Quality Assurance Council (YOKAK - THEQC)

- THEQC in 2017 – An Independent Constitutional Organization
 - Institutional review and accreditation of HEIs in Turkey
 - Authorization / Recognition process includes
 - Compliance with national and international standards (particularly with ESG)
 - Implementation of output-oriented accreditation approach (LOs assessment etc.)
- Recently, THEQC is authorized to do Institutional Accreditation outside Turkey
- Currently, 28 National QAAs authorized and 17 International QAAs recognized

1. HIGHER EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TURKEY

1.2 Turkish Higher Education Quality Assurance Council (YOKAK - THEQC)

List of National QAAs			List of International QAAs	
1. DEDAK	11. IAA	20. SAYAK	1. AABI	10. CEA
2. DEPAD	12. İLAD*	21. SPORAK	2. AACSB	11. EAEVE
3. DÖDAK	13. MEDEK	22. STAR*	3. ABET	12. EAQUALS
4. ECZAKDER*	14. MIAK*	23. TAPLAK	4. ACEN	13. FIBAA
5. EPDAD*	15. MÜDEK	24. TEPDAD*	5. ACPHA	14. HCERES
6. EPDAK	16. PDR	25. TPD	6. ACQUIN	15. IAAR
7. ETMK	17. PEMDER	26. TURAK	7. AHPGS	16. IACBE
8. FEDEK*	18. SABAK	27. VEDEK	8. AQAS	17. RICS
9. FTR-AD	19. SANAD	28. ZİDEK	9. ASIIN	
10. HEPDAK*				



* CEENQA Members (8)

Note: Full names of QAAs are available on the Web page of THEQC: <https://yokak.gov.tr/>

1. HIGHER EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE IN TURKEY

1.2 Turkish Higher Education Quality Assurance Council (YOKAK - THEQC)

- Since 2016, THEQC has been implementing Institutional External Evaluations (Developmental)
- Every HEI is obliged to be reviewed institutionally by THEQC
- Program accreditations are not compulsory, however there are incentives as well as constraints.
- In the last 6 years, 126 universities have gone through THEQC's Institutional Evaluation

Year	Number of Programs	Year	Number of Programs
2020	11	2023	21
2021	22	2024	22
2022	30	2025	30

Source: <https://yokak.gov.tr>

2. STAR OF TURKEY

- STAR was established and authorized by THEQC in 2020
- The first program review was carried out in 2021
- Until this Academic Year 258 applications have been received from 88 Universities
- Since then 139 programs have been accredited from 52 universities
- Currently, 125 programs from 57 universities are in the process of review

- Total number of programs that could go through STAR accreditation is approximately 1,200 from 208 Universities in Turkey
- In 208 Universities in Turkey, there are 8,504 programs
- 28 National QAAs cover only around 18 percent of these programs
- Turkey needs more additional National QAAs and qualified reviewers.

3. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESG (2023)

Motive for Organizing the ESG Conference

- None of the QAAs in Turkey are members or affiliate members of ENQA
- SEQA – ESG 1 (2020 – 2022): Albania, Czech Republic, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, and Slovakia
- SEQA - ESG 2 (2022 – 2025): Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Ukraine
- Turkey not included
- However, intensive internationalization efforts are in progress
- Desire to have accredited programs of national QAAs listed by EQAR
- The first step is to have a substantial compliance with the ESG
And membership to ENQA.

3. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESG (2023)

- Invited Speakers of the ESG Conference (2023):
 - Anna GOVER, Director of ENQA
 - Daine FREIBERGER, Managing Director of FIBAA
 - Iring WASSER, Managing Director of ASIIN
 - Ronny HEINTZE, Deputy Director of AQAS, Member of ARC of ENQA
 - Prof. Robert REDHAMMER, Chair - the Executive Board of SAAHE
 - Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali BIÇAK, Moderator, Rector of Rauf Denktas University

3. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESG (2023)



**Social, Humanities and Basic Sciences
Accreditation and Rating Association**

**ONLINE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
ESG: GUIDELINES FOR UNIVERSITIES AND
QUALITY ASSURANCE
AGENCIES IN ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS**

INVITED SPEAKERS

Anna GOVER
Director of ENQA

Daine FREIBERGER
Managing Director of FIBAA

Iring WASSER
Managing Director of ASIIN

Ronny HEINTZE
Deputy Director of AQAS, Member of ARC of ENQA

Prof. Robert REDHAMMER
Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (SAAHE)

Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali BIÇAK
Moderator
Rector of Rauf Denktaş University

Wednesday, October 4th 10.00 AM (Local Time TSi)

www.star.org.tr

4. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESG (2025)

Motive for Organizing the ESG Conference

- YOKAK is urging National QAAs to ensure compliance with ESG
- The Conference was Unique:
 - Represented all perspectives, ENQA, Universities (ESG Part 1), QAAs (ESG Part 2) and EQAR (ESG Part 3) – Please see the invited speakers
 - At a time that discussions taking place for revising/updating ESG
 - First time simultaneous translation from English to Turkish (captions)
- More than 250 participants from Universities and QAAs in Turkey and North Cyprus, QAAs of CEENQ Members, from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Oman.
- Recordings and the slides of presentations are available at star.org.tr

4. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESG (2025)



**SOCIAL HUMANITIES BASIC SCIENCES ACCREDITATION
and RATING ASSOCIATION**

**ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Revisiting the ESG for Improved Relevance and Clarity**

Invited Speakers

Anna Gover
Director, ENQA

Dr. István Vilmos Kovács
Budapest Metropolitan University
ENQA Agency Reviews Expert

Patrick Van den Bosch
Head, VLUHR QA
ENQA Board Member

Sandra Bezjak
Head, International Cooperation Committee, ASHE
EQAR Register Committee Member

Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Bicak (Moderator)
Final International University, N. Cyprus
CEENQA Board Member

Friday, 17 October 2025
10:00 - 12:15, Local (Istanbul) Time

[star.org.tr](https://www.star.org.tr)

[Click here for registration](#)

Source: <https://www.star.org.tr/news/esg-a-conference-on-revisiting-the-esg-for-improved-relevance-and-clarity-was-held>

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- National QAAs in Turkey are eager to comply with the ESG and be part of international community
- More of such informative conferences need to be organized
- SEQA – ESG type projects could be organized for Turkish QAAs (85 million population, 208 universities and 28 national QAAs)
- Initiating membership with ENQA and increasing CEENQA membership
- Membership in CEENQA – only 8 out of 28 QAAs are members not even affiliate membership to ENQA

**Thank you all for listening
and
CEENQA Executive Board for providing this opportunity**

<https://www.star.org.tr>

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