

National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education

2024 Annual Report

I. Introduction

Legal Basis

The National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education (hereinafter "NAB") was established on 1 September 2016 by the Act No. 137/2016 Coll. that amended the Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Some Other Acts (Higher Education Act). The mandate of NAB is stipulated particularly in its Part Nine and further by the Statute of NAB. On 4 September 2018, the Government of the Czech Republic approved a new Statute of NAB by its Resolution No. 568. It revised and amended some provisions dealing mainly with the Pool of Evaluators and the functioning of evaluation committees. On 6 December 2021, another amendment to the Statute of NAB was approved by Government Resolution No. 1120, which simplified and clarified processes and procedures based on previous experience with NAB's operation.

According to Section 83 (2) h) of the Higher Education Act and Article 24 of the Statute, NAB releases its annual report every year. This annual report covers the period between 1 January and 31 December 2024.

Mandate of NAB

In accordance with the Higher Education Act, NAB decides on accreditations of degree programmes, accreditations of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors and institutional accreditations of higher education institutions (hereinafter "HEIs"). It also carries out external evaluations of HEIs' educational, creative, and related activities, performs audits of compliance with legal regulations in carrying out accredited activities, and subsequently publishes the results of the evaluations. It is also in charge of issuing standpoints to determination of the type of HEI. Furthermore, NAB issues binding standpoints on granting state approval to legal entities wishing to operate as private HEIs, and provides the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (hereinafter "MEYS") with standpoints on granting domestic permits/authorisations to non-European HEIs and their branches. Finally, NAB renders standpoints on matters related to higher education (hereinafter "HE") requested by the Minister.

II. Organization Structure

Board of NAB

The executive body of NAB is the 15-member Board that consists of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and twelve other members. Five members of the Board including the Chair are appointed from persons nominated by MEYS, other central bodies of the state administration, professional and employers' organisations, or by other bodies involved in educational and creative activities. Ten members of the Board, including a student member, are appointed by the Government from persons proposed by the representative bodies of HEIs. The Board members are appointed for a period of six years, except for the student member who is appointed for a period of two years. They may be appointed for a maximum of two terms.

In 2024, the composition of the Board was subject to several changes. The second term of office ended for doc. MgA. Ivo Mathé and doc. Ing. Tomáš Pavelka, Ph.D. Effective from 1 September 2024, the government newly appointed prof. MgA. Mgr. Jan Hančil and prof. Petr Janský, Ph.D. to the Board. Furthermore, prof. Ing. Petr Noskievič, CSc., prof. PhDr. Eva Šmelová, Ph.D., prof. Rikard von Unge, Ph.D. and Ing. Michal Farník were appointed for their subsequent terms of office.

Composition of the Board as of 31 December 2024:

- Ing. Robert Plaga, Ph.D. Chair
- PhDr. Tomáš Fliegl Vice-Chair
- Radek Špicar, M.Phil. Vice-Chair
- Ing. Michal Farník
- prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.
- prof. MgA. Mgr. Jan Hančil
- prof. Petr Janský, Ph.D.
- prof. PhDr. Jiří Lach, M.A., Ph.D.
- prof. JUDr. Hana Marková, CSc.
- prof. Ing. Petr Noskievič, CSc.
- prof. JUDr. Josef Salač, Ph.D.
- prof. MVDr. Iva Steinhauserová, CSc.
- prof. PhDr. Eva Šmelová, Ph.D.
- prof. RNDr. Eva Táborská, CSc.
- prof. Rikard von Unge, Ph.D.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2024, the Board held eight regular meetings and two extraordinary meetings.

Appeals Committee

The main task of the Appeals Committee is to decide on appeals against the Board's decisions in administrative proceedings. Its members are appointed by the Government from persons with a higher education degree in Law; three of them are appointed by the Government on the proposal of the representative bodies of HEIs.

Composition of the NAB Appeals Committee as of 31 December 2024:

- JUDr. Ivan Barančík, PhD.
- prof. JUDr. Josef Bejček, CSc.
- prof. JUDr. Aleš Gerloch, CSc.
- prof. JUDr. Milana Hrušáková, CSc.
- JUDr. Ing. Josef Staša, CSc.

In the reporting period, the Appeals Committee did not convene.

Office of NAB

As stipulated by the Higher Education Act, MEYS secures the operation of NAB materially and financially. Tasks related to professional, administrative, and technical support of the NAB activities are carried out by the Office of NAB (hereinafter "the Office"), which is a department of MEYS – a unit falling directly under the Minister.

Pool of Evaluators

In accordance with the Higher Education Act, NAB administers a Pool of Evaluators as a database of persons eligible to be appointed to evaluation committees. Evaluation committees are advisory bodies of NAB; according to the Statute, the Chair appoints them to prepare standpoints usually on individual administrative proceedings, on the type of HEI, on applications for state approval to operate as a private HEI, on ensuring foreign higher education degree programmes including conditions for proper instruction, and to prepare reports on external evaluation of HEIs. The Pool of Evaluators is divided according to fields of study stipulated by the Government Regulation No. 275/2016 Coll., On Fields of Study in Higher Education.

In 2024, NAB launched two calls for proposals for inclusion of persons in the Pool of Evaluators. As a result of the first call, 84 new evaluators were enrolled. The selection of candidates from the second call was not finalized by the end of 2024. In addition, a permanent call was launched for rolling submission of proposals for inclusion of students, candidates from state and public administration and candidates from industry.

In 2024, evaluators whose six-year term expired (i.e. they were enrolled into it in 2018) were removed from the Pool in line with the Higher Education Act. Some were re-enrolled based on new calls. Students whose studies ended and a few individuals at their own request were also removed. The total number of evaluators registered in the Pool as of 31 December 2024 was 1,569, with some evaluators registered in multiple fields of study.

Field of study* * In the order stipulated by the Higher Education Act (alphabetical order in Czech)	Number of Evaluators as of 31/12/2023	Number of Evaluators as of 31/12/2024
Architecture and Urbanism	47	38
Security Sector Fields	117	111
Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Studies	90	85
Transportation Sciences	50	48
Economic Disciplines	100	94
Electrical Engineering	41	37
Energetics	36	28
Pharmacy	45	45
Philology	73	74
Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology	62	61
Physics	47	42
History	89	84
Chemistry	88	90
Informatics	80	78
Cybernetics	35	29
Forestry and Wood Sciences	34	30
Mathematics	46	38
Media and Communication Studies	42	50
Non-teaching Pedagogy	80	80
Political Sciences	71	73
Food Science	28	25
Law	104	105
Psychology	45	40
Social Work	41	43
Sociology	43	46
Civil Engineering	69	61
Mechanical Engineering, Technology and Materials	75	61
Physical Education and Sport; Kinanthropology	34	33
Mining and Mineral Processing	25	26
Pedagogy	139	133
Art	71	71
Art and Culture Sciences	57	58
Earth Science	75	68
Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Hygiene	31	25
General Medicine and Dentistry	114	111
Healthcare Fields	100	92
Agriculture	62	56
Total	2386	2269

III. Activities of NAB

Contribution to Legislation

A key objective of NAB in 2024 was to meet the ESG (European Standards and Guidelines) and to achieve membership in ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) and registration in EQAR (European Register of Accreditation Agencies in Higher Education), which is also a national priority set out in the National Action Plan for the Development of Quality Assurance in the Czech Republic. In the first months of 2024, NAB continued to discuss its draft theses of a separate law on quality assurance with the Ministry, universities and their representative bodies. In June 2024, after the Ministry supplemented the existing draft amendment to Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions, with quality assurance topics, NAB declared its readiness to participate in the commenting and refinement of this draft. Subsequently, after the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic included major changes in the field of quality assurance into the draft amendment to the Higher Education Act in autumn 2024, NAB representatives were involved in the negotiations on this draft within the framework of the given legislative process.

Modification of Internal Regulations

The Board of NAB adopted an amendment of the Rules of Procedure of Evaluation Committees. The modifications aimed primarily at simplification of the voting process in evaluation committees, with consideration of the fact that the evaluation committees are merely advisory bodies rather than bodies with the authority to decide on rights and obligations of higher education institutions.

Preparation of Methodological and Conceptual Documents

Following the earlier adoption of the Methodological Guideline on the Use of Distance Education Elements in Full-Time Study, the Board of NAB proceeded to modify the methodological materials for the preparation and evaluation of applications for degree programme accreditation to fully reflect the content of the Methodological Guideline in question. In addition, the requirements for the explicit inclusion of learning outcomes and teaching methods in educational activities have been incorporated into the methodological materials. Other changes related to the submission of applications for accreditation of degree programmes aimed at preparing for the profession of teachers and were initiated by the Ministry as the regulatory body assessing compliance with its Framework Requirements for Study Programmes leading to professional qualifications for the regulated professions of teachers. At the same time, the Board of NAB introduced a transitional period to allow higher education institutions to adapt to these amended methodological materials for the preparation and evaluation of applications for degree programme accreditation.

The Board of NAB also addressed the issue of creative, scientific and research activities in professionally oriented degree programmes in the field of study Pedagogy with regard to the need to assess creative, scientific and research activities in these degree programmes in relation to their professional nature. Within the framework of this topic, the preparation of a methodological commentary has begun in cooperation with the Ministry as a regulatory body.

During 2024, a working group was established at NAB to address the topic of developing the quality of teaching at higher education institutions. A group of experts on the subject worked on the preparation of a pedagogical model for higher education institutions with the aim of identifying and describing the principles and processes of quality teaching in higher education institutions. The effort of the working group was aimed, in line with the stated priorities of NAB, at developing a reference framework for quality education for all those involved in teaching and learning in higher education institutions.

Training of Evaluators

In 2024, NAB also provided all evaluators with training materials offering a comprehensive overview of the legal basis for evaluation activities, the process of assessing accreditation applications, and basic evaluation principles according to accreditation standards. These materials include commented examples of evaluation committee standpoints as inputs for NAB Board decisions. They are publicly available at the NAB website.

Information Provision under Act No. 106/1999 Coll., On Free Access to Information

According to Section 18 of the Act No. 106/1999 Coll., NAB, as an obliged entity, includes a report on its activities regarding the provision of information as part of this Annual Report. According to Article 38 (3) of the Statute, the duties of the obliged entity are delegated to the Director of the Office.

- Number of submitted requests for information: 3
- Number of issued refusal decisions: 1
- Number of submitted appeals against a decision: 0
- Copies of substantial parts of a court judgment reviewing the legality of the obliged entity's decision to refuse the request for information: none
- List of exclusive licenses granted, including justification of the need for exclusive license: none
- Number of complaints submitted on the basis of Section 16a, reasons for submitting them, and a brief description of the respective resolution: 0

Further information related to the application of the Act No. 106/1999 Coll.: The obliged entity publishes the provided information on its official notice board in accordance with Section 5 (3).

Other Activities

The Chair, Vice-Chairs, and other members of the Board met with representatives of higher education bodies (Czech Rectors Conference and Council of HEIs), MEYS representatives, the Centre for International Cooperation in Education, and other partners. NAB's representatives were also involved in discussions related to the preparation of the draft amendment to the Higher Education Act and led negotiations on the new concept of NAB's activities in line with ESG. They participated in thematic meetings and seminars focused on accreditation and quality assurance in higher education as speakers.

In April, the 24th Annual Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education was held in Telč. The theme of the conference was evaluation of the experience with the functioning of institutional accreditation and internal approval of degree programmes. NAB acted as one of the partners of the conference and its vice-president actively participated in the conference programme in the preparatory committee and as a participant of one of the panels.

Audits of Compliance with Legal Regulations

In the reporting period, an audit was initiated at the Faculty of Health Care Studies of the University of West Bohemia.

In this audited entity, NAB found deficiencies in compliance with Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Other Acts. The detected violation of the Higher Education Act concerned the failure of the higher education institution to comply with the information obligation in case of changes in staffing in the total number of more than half of the guarantors of profile courses. In addition, some violations of Government Regulation No. 274/2016 Coll., on Standards for Accreditation in Higher Education, were found concerning in particular the non-fulfilment of requirements for staffing of Bachelor degree programmes. Partial non-compliance with the standards was related to the accuracy of the information about the degree programme presented in the information system of the Faculty of Health Care Studies of the University of West Bohemia and to the strategy of staff development.

External Evaluations of Educational, Creative, and Related Activities

In 2024, the Board completed external evaluations of educational, creative, and related activities launched in the previous year. Firstly, the evaluation of the Charles University with a focus on its institutional accreditation was finalized. This evaluation process employed a new methodology emphasizing the assessment of the internal quality assurance system's functionality through, among other things, the analysis of selected degree programmes. Emphasis was also placed on obtaining insights directly on-site through interviews with various groups within the HEI.

The external evaluations of educational, creative, and related activities were also completed at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, focusing on the institutional environment of the HEI, and at the Prague College of Psychosocial Studies, s.r.o., where the overall state of educational, creative, and related activities, including personnel provisions for these activities was assessed. Furthermore, the Board finalized the external evaluation of the Faculty of Medicine of Palacky University in Olomouc that targeted the General Medicine master's degree programmes and was conducted in connection with the WFME recognition process.

NAB continued in conducting external evaluations of higher education institutions with institutional accreditation. The Board therefore initiated external evaluation of the Masaryk University in 2024, implementing the new methodology that had been piloted at the Charles University. A site visit took place in December 2024 within this process; the evaluation is expected to finish in the first half of 2025.

Additionally, the Board of NAB launched an external evaluation at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague in order to assess the functioning of its internal quality assurance system for evaluation of quality of educational, creative and related activities. This external evaluation was initiated on the Minister's request.

Administrative Proceedings

Application-based administrative proceedings

a) Accreditation of Degree Programmes:

In the reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, NAB received 277 applications for accreditation (e.g. granting, extension and expansion of accreditation) of degree programmes.

It conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of applications. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes that were applied for. They include applications submitted to NAB prior to the start of the reporting period in the cases when NAB conducted related administrative proceedings in that period.

Applications ¹	Accred gran			litation nied		edings nated	Proceed unfinish of 31/12	ned as	Tot	tal
Bachelor	104	69	0	1	9	6	72	50	185	126
Short-Master	75	58	0	0	5	9	48	33	128	100
Long-Master	8	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	11	6
Doctoral	32	34	0	0	4	4	5	23	41	61
Cooperation with another legal entity	11	8	0	0	0	2	0	4	11	14
Total	230	172	0	1	18	21	128	113	376	307

Of this number, NAB granted accreditation to the following number of professionally oriented degree programmes:

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 $[\]underline{^{1}}$ The data for the current period, January 1 – December 31, 2024, are shown in bold. For comparison, the data for the previous period, January 1 – December 31, 2023, are shown in regular font.

Professionally oriented	Accreditation granted
Bachelor	54 45
Short-Master	34 12
Long-Master	3 1
Total	91 48

b) Accreditations of fields for habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors:

During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, the NAB received 133 applications for the accreditation of fields for habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors.

It conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of applications. The figures relate to the number of fields that were applied for. They include applications submitted to NAB prior to the start of the reporting period in the cases when NAB conducted related administrative proceedings in that period.

Applications ¹	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	U	Total
Fields of habilitation procedure	68 266	1 2	8 3	20 41	97 312
Fields of procedure for appointment of professors	63 256	1 4	8 4	19 38	91 302
Total	131 522	2 6	16 7	39 79	

c) Institutional Accreditation:

In the reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, the NAB did not receive any application for the granting of institutional accreditation.

Decisions were made on the following number of applications (e.g. for granting or expansion of the institutional accreditation). The figures relate to the number of HEIs that applied for

institutional accreditation, the number of fields of study that were applied for and the number of types of degree programmes that were applied for within individual fields of study.

Applications for institutional accreditation ¹	Accredit- ation granted	Accredit- ation expanded	Accreditation denied (application rejected or narrowed)	Proceed- ings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2024	Total
HEIs	3 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 3	3 4
fields of study – Bachelor type	5 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 7	5 8
fields of study – Master type	2 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 7	2 8
fields of study – Doctoral type	2 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 3	2 4

In 2024, the NAB Board acknowledged 324 degree programmes approved by higher education institutions under their institutional accreditation.

Administrative proceedings instigated by NAB

a) Proceedings towards revocation of accreditation:

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards revocation of accreditation of degree programmes. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree programme was divided into areas of study) that were subject of the proceedings towards revocation.

Proceedings ¹	Accreditation revoked	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2024	Total
Revocation of accreditation	0 2	0 3	1 1	1 6

b) Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation:

In the period from 1 January to 31 December, 2024, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards restriction of accreditation of degree programmes. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree was divided into areas of study) that were subject of the proceedings towards restriction.

Proceedings ¹	Accreditation restricted	Proceedings terminated	J	Total
Restriction of accreditation	0 1	0 4	6 4	6 9

c) Proceedings on revocation of accreditation for fields of procedure for appointment of professors

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards revocation of accreditation of fields of procedure for appointment of professors. The figures relate to the number of fields that were subject of the proceedings towards revocation.

Proceedings ¹	Accreditation revoked	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2024	Total
Revocation of accreditation	1 2	1 3	0 1	2 6

d) Proceedings towards revocation of institutional accreditation:

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, NAB did not conduct any administrative proceeding towards revocation of institutional accreditation.

Standpoints

Standpoints on applications for state approval

During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, the NAB Board received 1 application for state approval to operate as a private higher education institution and issued a negative statement. Furthermore, the NAB Board issued an affirmative statement to an application for state approval received in 2023.

Standpoints on granting domestic permits/authorisations to non-European HEIs and their branches

During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, the NAB Board received 1 application for granting domestic authorisation to operate as a branch of a non-European foreign higher

education institution. The application pertained to one Master degree programme and one Doctoral degree programme; the Board issued an affirmative statement. In addition, the Board adopted a resolution on an application from 2023 and issued an affirmative statement to 4 degree programmes as well as a negative statement to 3 degree programmes contained in this application.

Standpoints on determination of the type of HEI

During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, the NAB Board did not receive any application for a standpoint on the determination of the type of higher education institution. However, the NAB Board issued a standpoint on an application submitted in 2023, stating that the HEI in question was of university type.

Standpoints on follow-up reports and reports on changes

In 2024, the NAB Board discussed 210 follow-up reports and their supplements related to degree programmes (or areas of study where the degree programme was divided into areas of study) and 40 follow-up reports and their supplements related to fields of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors. These follow-up reports were requested by NAB as part of its activities. The mechanism of submitting and discussing follow-up reports enables monitoring of the quality of degree programmes and fields of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors during their accreditation period.

In 2024, the NAB Board also discussed 10 follow-up reports related to institutional accreditation, which serve primarily to verify the implementation of the recommendations made to the respective HEI when granting institutional accreditation.

In 2024, the NAB Board further discussed 2 follow-up reports requested by the NAB Board based on an external evaluation of educational, creative, and related activities of HEIs.

Furthermore, in 2024, the NAB Board discussed 137 reports on changes in degree programmes (or areas of study where the degree programme was divided into areas of study) and 79 reports on changes in the field of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors, which NAB received based on the information duty stipulated for higher education institutions by the Higher Education Act.

IV. International Cooperation

Membership in international associations

In 2024, NAB was an affiliate of ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), which brings together accreditation agencies at the European level and acts as a partner for other European bodies in HE. The affiliate status in ENQA enables NAB to take part in its activities, seminars, and other events as well as to benefit from opportunities to exchange

good practice and experiences with its member agencies. The NAB Vice-Chair and Office staff represented NAB at the association's general assemblies.

NAB was also a member of CEENQA (The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education), which serves as a platform for meetings of accreditation agencies in the Central and Eastern European region. NAB representatives participated in the regular CEENQA General Assembly as well as virtual meetings of members throughout the year, where they presented NAB's activities in ensuring the quality of higher education in the Czech Republic.

In 2024, NAB became a full member of INQAAHE (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education), which is an association of more than 300 accreditation agencies and other institutions worldwide. NAB representatives took part in a focus group to give views on the state of play of quality assurance in the European region, feeding into the Global Study II 2023-2025.

Other international activities

In October 2024, the Fourth Forum of the V4 Quality Assurance Agencies (V4QA) was held in Warsaw. The agencies followed up on previous discussions on common issues and on the perspectives for further development of quality assurance systems at national and European level. One of the main topics was the cross-border provision of higher education in the region and the possibilities of cooperation on quality assurance. Discussions also covered current developments in the field of quality, including the topics of plagiarism and artificial intelligence. The cooperation within V4QA resulted, among other things, in the invitation of NAB representatives to the annual conference of the Polish Accreditation Agency (PKA) in Krakow, where the NAB Vice-Chair presented during a panel discussion on the topic of institutional assessments and support for internal quality assurance in higher education institutions.

In 2024, the process to obtain the recognition status from WFME (World Federation for Medical Education) continued, which is crucial for Czech medical faculties and opens new opportunities for international cooperation in medical education. In the spring, the international review team visited the Czech Republic. The team observed the evaluation of a medical faculty by the NAB evaluation committee and held meetings with NAB representatives. In the second half of the year NAB received the review report prepared by the international team. The report and the whole review process provided valuable insight into the activities of NAB and feedback for the development of the external quality assurance system for medical education.

In the framework of cooperation with quality assurance agencies of Central and Eastern Europe, a staff mobility between NAB and the Slovenian agency NAKVIS supported by CEENQA took place. During the stays in Prague and Ljubljana, the staff of the agencies got acquainted with the relevant legislation, key aspects of the agencies' functioning, the specifics of evaluation and other activities of the agencies beyond periodic accreditation or evaluation. Participants of the mobilities on both sides also met with evaluators, representatives of higher education institutions, members of the agencies' management, etc. The exchange provided an opportunity to share experiences and gain knowledge applicable to the further development of national systems.

In 2024, two meetings were held within the framework of the European Thematic Peer Support Group C on Quality Assurance (TPG-C), one of the three support groups established as part of the implementation of the Bologna Process. The group brings together most of the countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and provides a platform for coordinated national activities aimed at meeting the objectives of the Bologna Process more effectively.

The first meeting of this working group, which took place in Bucharest in June 2023, focused on presenting the progress of the individual accreditation agencies in implementing the Action Plan towards ESG compliance and on the issue of digitalisation in the field of quality assurance in higher education.

The second meeting of this working group was held in Belgium in November 2024 to review the activities of the TPG-C for the period 2021-2024 and to set priorities for the period 2024-2027. The meeting also included several thematic workshops, focusing on issues such as academic integrity, the revision of the ESG and the digitisation of quality assurance agency activities.

A meeting in Belgium in April 2024 brough together another working group, which focuses on the issue of microcredentials and functions as a sub-group within the TPG-C. On the agenda was a discussion on the forthcoming EQAR (European Quality Assurance Agency Register) project to create a register of microcredential providers and on the possibilities for further cooperation between quality assurance agencies within the EHEA in creating a single framework for quality assurance in the field of microcredentials.