

Supporting Quality Culture

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Accra, 28 March 2017



EESTI KÕRG- JA KUTSEHARIDUSE
KVALITEEDIAGENTUUR

Estonia





Main activities

- Development of principles and procedures of external evaluation
- **Assessment of the quality of a study program group (SPG) in HE**
- **Institutional accreditation (IA) in HE**
- **Accreditation of study program groups in VET**
- Training of experts and educational institutions
- Thematic analyses
- International cooperation

Shared responsibilities for QA

The Government or MoE	Institutions	EKKA
<p>Granting the right to conduct studies in study programme groups, based on the results of the assessments of SPGs, carried out by EKKA, checking whether the minimum standards set in the law are met.</p> <p>Financing partly based on quality assessment results</p>	<p>Main responsibility for the quality and continuous improvement of the education provided.</p> <p>Strategic management (including quality management)</p> <p>Regular internal evaluation and benchmarking</p>	<p>Promoting the quality in cooperation with HE and VET institutions through external assessments.</p> <p>Institutional accreditation (IA)</p> <p>Quality assessment /Accreditation of study programme groups (SPG)</p> <p>Initial assessment of SPGs in HE</p>

EKKA - Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency

Eesti Kõrghariduse Kvaliteediagentuur

Admission valid until: 2018-03-31 (listed since 2013-10-23)

Based in*: Estonia

Agency operates in**: Estonia

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

External review report: [EKKA External Review Report 2013.pdf](#)
[2013_03_EKKA_ApprovalDecision.pdf](#)



Evaluation standards of all EQAR-
agencies should be aligned with
**the European Standards and
Guidelines (ESG)**



- They set a common framework for quality assurance systems for learning and teaching at European, national and institutional level;
- They enable the assurance and improvement of quality of higher education in the European higher education area;
- They support mutual trust, thus facilitating recognition and mobility within and across national borders;
- They provide information on quality assurance in the EHEA.

ESG: 4 Principles



- Higher education institutions have primary responsibility for the quality of their provision and its assurance;
- Quality assurance responds to the diversity of higher education systems, institutions, programmes and students;
- Quality assurance supports the development of a quality culture;
- Quality assurance takes into account the needs and expectations of students, all other stakeholders and society.



Part 1: Standards and guidelines for internal quality assurance

Part 2: Standards and guidelines for external quality assurance

Part 3: Standards and guidelines for quality assurance agencies

ESG 1: Internal Quality Assurance



1. Policy for quality assurance
2. Design and approval of programmes
3. Student-centred learning, teaching and assessment
4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification
5. Teaching staff
6. Learning resources and student support
7. Information management
8. Public information
9. On-going monitoring and periodic review of programmes
10. Cyclical external quality assurance

ESG 2: External Quality Assurance



2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

Standard: External quality assurance should address the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance processes described in Part 1 of the ESG.

International vs national EQA



- EUA – Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP)
- EKKA – Institutional Accreditation (IA)

Both are enhancement-oriented!

Purpose EUA-IEP vs EKKA



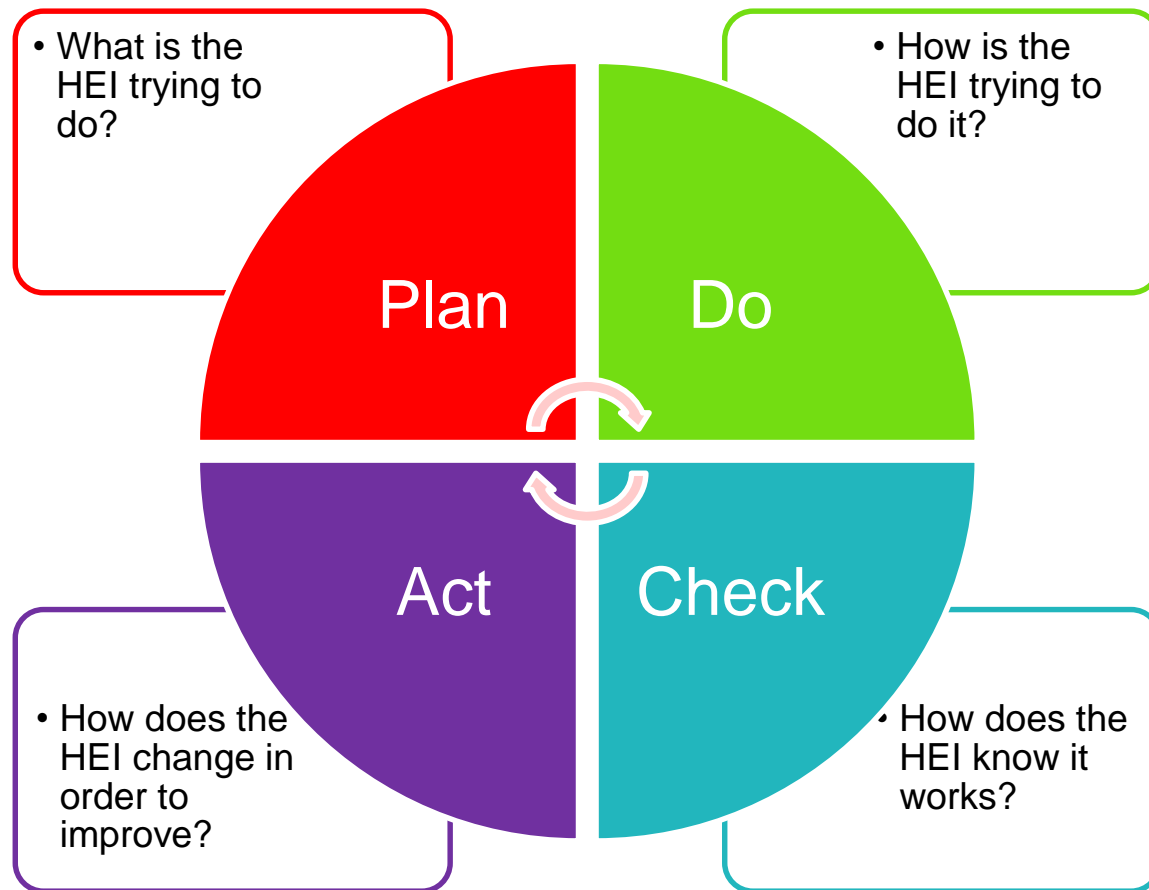
EUA-IEP	EKKA
IEP supports institutions in developing their strategic leadership and capacity to manage change	The purpose of IA is to support the development of strategic management and culture of quality in HEIs, inform stakeholders of the outcomes of the main activities thereof, and enhance the reliability and competitiveness of Estonian higher education.

Evaluation topics EUA-IEP vs EKKA

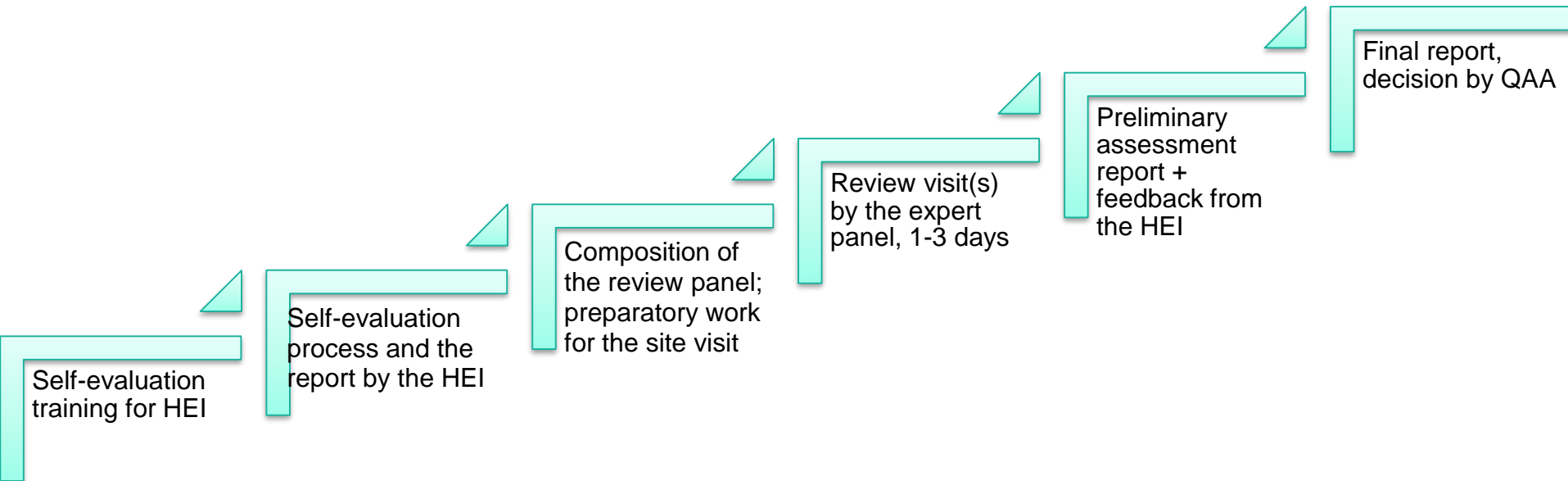


EUA-IEP	EKKA
Institutional governance and decision-making	Organisational management and performance
Quality culture	
Teaching and learning	Teaching and learning
Research	Research, development and/or other creative activity
Service to society	Service to society
Internationalisation	

Leading questions (PDCA)



Evaluation model



Additional sources



- <http://ekka.archimedes.ee/en/>
- http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG_2015.pdf
- <http://www.iep-qaq.org/>

