

# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 Context, Aims and Principles</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2 European Standards and Guidelines</b>	<b>11</b>
Background of the standards and guidelines	11
Introduction to Parts 1 and 2: European standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance of higher education	12
Part 1: European standards and guidelines for internal quality assurance within higher education institutions	15
Part 2: European standards and guidelines for the external quality assurance of higher education	19
Introduction to Part 3: European standards and guidelines for external quality assurance agencies	22
Part 3: European standards and guidelines for external quality assurance agencies	23
<b>3 Peer Review System for Quality Assurance Agencies</b>	<b>27</b>
International context	27
Cyclical reviews of agencies	29
Register of external quality assurance agencies operating in Europe	30
European Consultative Forum for Quality Assurance in Higher Education	32
<b>4 Future Perspectives and Challenges</b>	<b>34</b>
<i>Annex: Cyclical review of quality assurance agencies – a theoretical model</i>	<i>36</i>