



**M L A
REPORT
2021**

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FOREWORD



The EA Multilateral Agreement (MLA), signed so far by 43 EA Members, has been succeeding in overcoming the consequences of the pandemic year such as the postponement of several peer evaluations from 2020 to 2021. Eight postponed peer evaluations, i.e. about one third of those peer evaluations carried out in 2021, were performed by end of June 2021.

These postponements resulted in a huge increase of the total number of peer evaluations performed in 2021. All the peer evaluations in 2021 were carried out remotely, and the MLA Council (MAC) continued resorting to electronic ballots for a remote decision-making process, in accordance with a new policy and procedure for remote peer evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been approved by the MAC in December 2021 and published in early 2022. During the sanitary crisis, everything has been made in compliance with the rules to maintain the necessary level of confidence in the EA peer-evaluation system, using the appropriate tools of remote peer-evaluation techniques and remote decision-making processes.

Thus the number of signatories for each scope of the EA MLA remains quite stable in 2021 compared to 2020, with an increase in the number of signatories for persons certification and reference materials production scopes.

At the international level, EA has been recognised by IAF (International Accreditation Forum) for the IAF MLA Level 4 Food Safety System Certification (FSSC) 22000 sub-scope in July 2021. The re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC should begin by July 2022.

EA is also starting the process of extending its MLA for biobanking accreditation, for which a roadmap has been approved in 2021.

In 2022 when the pandemic is likely to become alleviated, the MAC should restart on-site peer evaluations, taking full advantage of the efforts made during the last two years by all those involved in the EA MLA system, i.e. members of the EA MAC and its Management Group, peer-evaluation teams and trainers, and especially the MAC Secretariat. I am very grateful for their outstanding commitment to having maintained the peer-evaluation system operational and preserving the EA MLA as a sustainable and flexible mechanism for ensuring European and International reliable equivalence and mutual acceptance of certificates and reports issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies. Saving the confidence in the public service that we provide is our vital role.

Maria Papatzikou (ESYD)
Chair of the Multilateral Agreement Council

1 - INTRODUCTION

The EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA) report provides information on the signatories to the EA MLA, as well as an overview of the key activities completed in 2021 to further develop the coverage of the EA MLA and to strengthen the operation of the peer-evaluation system, including management of evaluators.

The main objective of peer-evaluation activities is to evaluate the ongoing compliance of national accreditation bodies (NABs) with the internationally-agreed requirements, as well as to ensure that regulators, stakeholders and the business community can have confidence in the certificates and reports issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs) under the EA MLA.

According to article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 *Setting out the requirements for accreditation*, EA has been recognised by the European Commission (EC) as the European Accreditation Infrastructure and to operate the peer-evaluation system of national accreditation bodies.

Initially signed by the parties on 1 April 2009, the *General Guidelines for Cooperation between the European co-operation for Accreditation and the European Commission, the European Free Trade Association and the Competent National Authorities* aim to widen and strengthen the co-operation in order to reflect the developments in policy and legislation. It shall also stabilise the position of accreditation, accreditation bodies in EU and EFTA Member States and EA with the view to prepare a successful implementation of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008. On 13 December 2018, the third Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) was signed with the European Commission for the period 2019-2022. A similar agreement was signed with EFTA in April 2019.

Following article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, a national authority shall recognise the equivalence of services delivered by a national accreditation body from the European Economic Area (EEA) which has successfully undergone peer evaluation by EA. Furthermore, a national authority shall accept the reports and certificates issued by a conformity assessment body accredited by its national accreditation body from the EEA that are EA MLA signatories.

Maintaining a sound and reliable evaluation system also requires that EA supports the further improvement of EA's pool of evaluators through both newcomer and refresher training sessions.

2 - THE EA MLA

The EA MLA is an agreement signed between national accreditation bodies – Members of EA which are successfully peer evaluated – to recognise and accept the equivalence of the accreditation systems and the reliability of the conformity assessment results.

EA Members — located in a potential candidate country to the EU or in a country of the EU Neighbourhood Policy — are eligible to enter into a Bilateral Agreement (BLA) with signatories of the EA MLA with the aim of establishing mutual confidence in the respective accreditation systems and in their accredited attestations of conformity. Those Members entering into a BLA shall comply with the same requirements as Members signing the Multilateral Agreement. MLA signatories apply the international standards for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in a harmonised way and the services delivered by those national accreditation bodies are equivalent. Therefore, the marketplace can have confidence in activities of EA MLA signatories and their accredited conformity assessment bodies.

The EA MLA provides the European market with a network of conformity assessment bodies that are competent within their scope of accreditation to issue reliable and credible statements of conformity for products and services, thereby reducing costs and adding value to business and consumers. This contributes to the freedom of trade by eliminating technical barriers.

Map of MLA and BLA signatories in December 2021



3 - SCOPE OF THE MLA

The EA MLA covers the following activities and standards:

Accreditation of	Scope/Activity (Level 2)	Standards (Level 3)
Laboratories	Testing and Medical Examinations	EN ISO/IEC 17025 EN ISO 15189
	Calibration	EN ISO/IEC 17025
Certification Bodies	Certification of Products	EN ISO/IEC 17065
	Certification of Persons	EN ISO/IEC 17024
	Certification of Management Systems	EN ISO/IEC 17021-1
GHG Validation and Verification Bodies	Validation and Verification	EN ISO 14065 EN ISO/IEC 17029
Inspection Bodies	Inspection	EN ISO/IEC 17020
Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP)	Proficiency Testing Provision	EN ISO/IEC 17043
Reference Material Producers (RMP)	Reference Material Production	EN ISO 17034

During 2021, EA Members delivered more than 36,700 accreditations under the scopes for which they have signed the EA MLA, representing a slight increase compared to 2020. This progression, which does not entirely make up the small decrease registered last year, results mainly from the growth in the numbers of accreditations delivered under RMP, inspection and persons certification.

Numbers of accreditation certificates issued under the EA MLA

Type of accreditation	2019	2020	2021
Calibration	3,194	3,214	3,277
Testing	19,146	18,555	18,651
Medical Examinations	3,936	3,891	3,831
Products Certification	2,012	2,000	2,062
Management Systems Certification	1,461	1,441	1,436
Persons Certification	713	741	812
GHG Validation & Verification	156	155	146
Inspection	6,000	6,055	6,252
Proficiency of Testing Provision (PTP)	200	209	226
Production of Reference Material (RMP)	38	50	72
TOTAL	36,856	36,311	36,765

4 - SIGNATORIES OF THE MLA

National accreditation bodies are accepted under the EA MLA only after stringent evaluation of their operations and activities.

The evaluation is conducted by a peer-evaluation team entrusted with the task to determine national accreditation bodies' compliance with the requirements laid down in:

- Regulation (EC) No 765/2008;
- EN ISO/IEC 17011, the internationally-accepted standard for accreditation bodies;
- the relevant standards for conformity assessment bodies including any additional requirements, e.g. those covered in relevant EA and IAF/ILAC documents as well as those set out by the European Commission in relevant sector-based legislations.

A list of EA MLA signatories (on 31 December 2021) is given in Annexes 1 and 2. For the latest information, please visit the [EA website](#).

Out of 49 EA Members, 43 have signed the MLA.

The individual EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreement Signatories are listed by MLA scope in EA-INF/03: *Signatories to the EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements*.

The numbers of member signatories for each scope of the EA Multilateral Agreement remain identical to those registered in 2020, with the exception of an increase in the number of signatories for RMP and persons certification.

Numbers of member signatories to the MLA by scope

Type of accreditation	2019	2020	2021
Calibration	41	41	41
Testing	42	42	42
Medical Examinations	35	37	37
Inspection	41	42	42
Management Systems Certification	36	36	36
Products Certification	35	36	36
Persons Certification	31	32	33
GHG Validation and Verification	25	25	25
Proficiency of Testing Provision	19	20	20
Production of Reference Material	8	8	12

5 - OPERATION OF THE MLA COUNCIL

The EA MLA Council is responsible for the effective and impartial management and monitoring of the peer-evaluation process. It is the decision-making body for acceptance of national accreditation bodies' entering into the Multilateral Agreement (MLA) and Bilateral Agreements (BLAs) of EA.

MLA Council (MAC)

The MAC is composed of one representative from each Member of EA, one observer from the EA Advisory Board and one observer from the European Commission. All EA MLA/BLA signatories have the voting right within the EA MAC on peer evaluations and MLA signatory status.

Maria Papatzikou from ESYD (Greece), elected at the General Assembly in November 2020, is the chair of the MAC for the term 2021-22.

Karine Vincent from COFRAC (France) vice-chaired the MAC in 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MAC hold remotely its 44th meeting on 21-22 April 2022 and its 45th meeting on 6-7 October 2021.

MAC Management Group (MG)

The MAC MG is composed of 12 members from different NABs who were elected by the MAC members. The task of the Management Group (MG) is to achieve a more effective management and harmonisation of the peer evaluations and operations of the MAC.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the daily management of the peer evaluations, including peer evaluators, and the organisation of MAC and MAC MG meetings.



Daniela Ionescu is the MAC Secretary.



Sandy Adonel is responsible at the Secretariat for the training and monitoring of EA evaluators.

5 - OPERATION OF THE MLA COUNCIL

Decisions made by the MAC

Upon decisions made by the MAC in 2021:

AA, the Austrian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025), testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025) including medical examinations (EN ISO 15189), inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020), certification of management systems (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1), certification of products (EN ISO/IEC 17065), certification of persons (EN ISO/IEC 17024), and validation and verification (EN ISO 14065).

BELAC, the Belgian NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of reference materials producers (EN ISO 17034).

COFRAC, the French NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers (EN ISO/IEC 17043), certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification. Furthermore, COFRAC became a MLA signatory in the field of reference materials producers.

DANAK, the Danish NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification. Furthermore, DANAK became a MLA signatory in the field of reference materials producers.

DPA, the Albanian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of testing, inspection, certification of management systems and certification of persons.

EAK, the Estonian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.

INAB, the Irish NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of persons.

IPAC, the Portuguese NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of persons, and validation and verification.

Note: the MAC had already made a decision on IPAC's signatory status on 13 November 2020 for the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems and product certification.

LA, the Lithuanian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems, certification of products and certification of persons.

NA, the Norwegian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.

OLAS, the Luxembourg NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of products.

PCA, the Polish NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, proficiency testing providers, certification of management systems, certification of products, certification of persons, and validation and verification.

Furthermore, PCA became a MLA signatory in the field of reference materials producers.

Besides, on 24 March 2021, the BLA signatory status of NAAU, the Ukrainian NAB, was suspended for the scopes of inspection and certification of products. The MAC decided to lift this suspension and reinstate the BLA signatory status of NAAU in both fields of inspection and certification of products at its meeting on 6-7 October 2021.

6 - PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS AND ACTIVITIES

The reliability of the MLA is maintained through a robust peer-evaluation process, whose main objectives are to evaluate the ongoing compliance of EA NABs to the internationally-agreed requirements, and to ensure that regulators, stakeholders and the business community can have confidence in those certificates and reports issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by EA Members having signed the EA MLA.

1 - PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS

The peer-evaluation process is carried out in accordance with [EA-2/02 M:2019 EA Procedure for the evaluation of a National Accreditation Body](#).

The national accreditation body applies for the MLA signatory status, specifying the scope for which it applies.

The Secretariat reviews the application documents and appoints a peer-evaluation team composed of a Team Leader, a Deputy Team Leader, Team Members and Trainees.

This peer-evaluation team performs the document review. Where applicable, a pre-evaluation is conducted. Then, the team carries out the on-site evaluation, which combines evaluation of the management system at the NAB's office and observation of assessments carried out by the NAB. At the end of the evaluation, the team drafts the evaluation report. Findings are agreed upon with the NAB at a closing meeting.

A task force group appointed by the MAC Management Group makes a careful study of the evaluation report in order to provide the MAC with a recommendation on the result of the peer evaluation. At its meetings or by electronic means, the MAC makes a final decision, which is reflected in relevant EA publications and on the website.

The European Commission attends MAC meetings and NABs are encouraged to invite national authorities to observe EA peer evaluations.

2 - PEER-EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

For 2021, the MAC had scheduled 26 peer evaluations, out of which 8 were postponed from 2020 and carried out by end of June 2021. One peer evaluation, i.e. the initial peer evaluation of ISAC, the Icelandic NAB, whose application had been received in 2020, should be rescheduled in 2022.

The 25 peer evaluations carried out in 2021 are spread as follows:

- 15 re-evaluations: AA (Austria), BAS (Bulgaria), CYS-CYSAB (Cyprus), DPA (Albania), EAK (Estonia), EGAC (Egypt) postponed from 2020, IARNM (Republic of North Macedonia), LA (Lithuania), LATAK (Latvia), NA (Norway) postponed from 2020, NAB-MALTA (Malta), RENAR (Romania), RvA (The Netherlands), SWEDAC (Sweden) postponed from 2020 and UKAS (UK) postponed from 2020;
- 1 re-evaluation with extension for medical examinations and product certification: BATA (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 1 re-evaluation with extension for PTP: ATS (Serbia);
- 3 re-evaluations with extension for RMP: COFRAC (France) postponed from 2020, DANAK (Denmark) second stage evaluation, and PCA (Poland) postponed from 2020;
- 2 extension evaluations: BELAC (Belgium), and INAB (Ireland) postponed from 2020;

6 - PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS AND ACTIVITIES

- 2 extraordinary evaluations: ESYD (Greece); NAAU (Ukraine).
- 1 pre-evaluation: ATCG (Montenegro), whose application had been received in 2020.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the MAC Management Group has been intensifying their work to maintain the peer-evaluation system operational. All the evaluations in 2021 were carried out remotely, in accordance with a MAC policy and procedure for remote peer evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic which have been endorsed by the MAC in October 2020. Everything has been made in compliance with the rules and procedures to support the necessary level of confidence in the EA peer-evaluation system during the sanitary crisis, to enable decisions to be made without delay and to avoid stopping the peer-evaluation system and undermining both accreditation and accredited conformity assessment activities. EA-2/02 S4: *Procedure for Remote Peer Evaluations during the COVID-19 Pandemic* has been approved by the MAC on 7 December 2021 and published in February 2022.

EA peer-evaluation activities

	2019	2020	2021
Total numbers of evaluations performed ¹	16	7	25
Total numbers of reports discussed ²	17	31 ³	13
Total man-days for evaluation	935	335	1,764
Extraordinary evaluations on site	3	0	2
Suspension	0	0	1

¹ Initial evaluations, re-evaluations with or without scope extensions and extraordinary evaluations (performed on site in the specific year).

² Reports of evaluations, but not necessarily conducted in the specific year.

³ 31 reports, out of which 18 related to transition to EN ISO/IEC 17011:2017.

The total number of evaluations performed in 2021 took a leap, not only in comparison to 2020, but also to the previous years. As a consequence, the total number of man-days allocated to the peer evaluations performed in 2021 surged compared to 2020.

The evaluation teams reported a total of 239 non-conformities and 193 comments for those peer evaluations carried out in 2021.

Although the postponements from 2020 had a major impact on the programme of peer evaluations in 2021, no postponement from 2021 to 2022 has been planned, except the reschedule of ISAC's initial peer evaluation. Since the pandemic is likely to become mitigated, and NABs in most European countries have started to perform on-site assessments again, the MAC decided to restart on-site peer evaluations from 2022.

7 - EA PEER EVALUATORS

EA peer evaluators are highly qualified and experienced national accreditation body staff members who attend training programs on a frequent and regular basis. Peer evaluators' performance is regularly reviewed by the MAC Secretariat. They can be mandated for peer evaluation at the ILAC or IAF levels.

1 - NUMBER OF EVALUATORS

By end of December 2021, a total number of 160 evaluators (including trainees) are authorised to perform peer evaluations on behalf of EA, i.e. acknowledged for having all technical competences to perform peer evaluations under specific accreditation scopes.

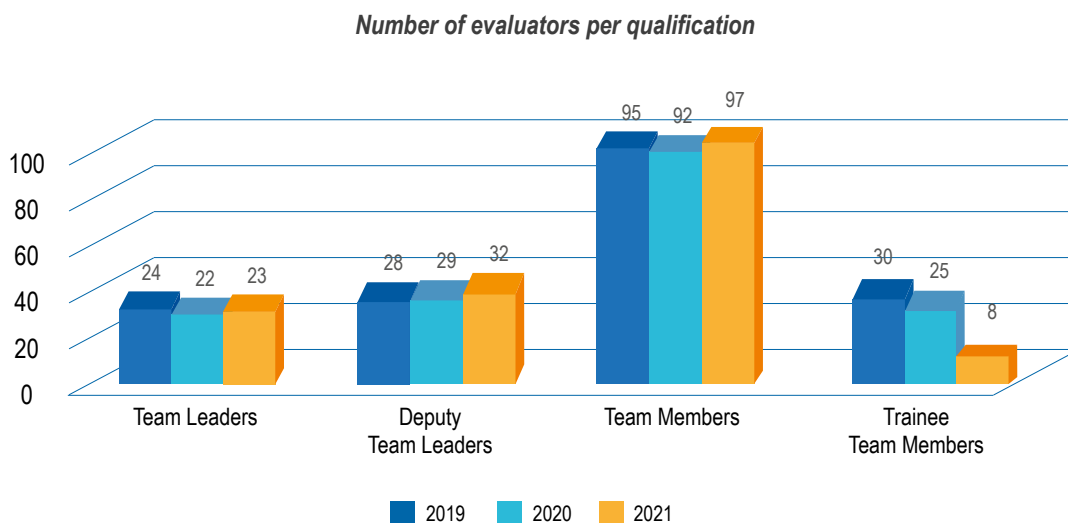
In 2021, 52 evaluators have been re-approved for a period of three years.

Number of evaluators per qualification

By end of December 2021, the 160 authorised evaluators are broken down as follows:

- 8 Trainee Team Members - 68% compared to 2020
- 97 Team Members (TMs) + 5% compared to 2020
- 32 Deputy Team Leaders (DTLs) + 10% compared to 2020
- 23 Team Leaders (TLs) + 5% compared to 2020

Regarding evaluators' upgrading based on their performance during peer evaluations, the fact that postponed and scheduled peer evaluations could take place remotely in 2021 made possible to upgrade evaluators as follows: 3 Deputy Team Leaders were upgraded as Team Leaders, 8 Team Members as DTLs, and 5 Trainee Team Members as TMs.



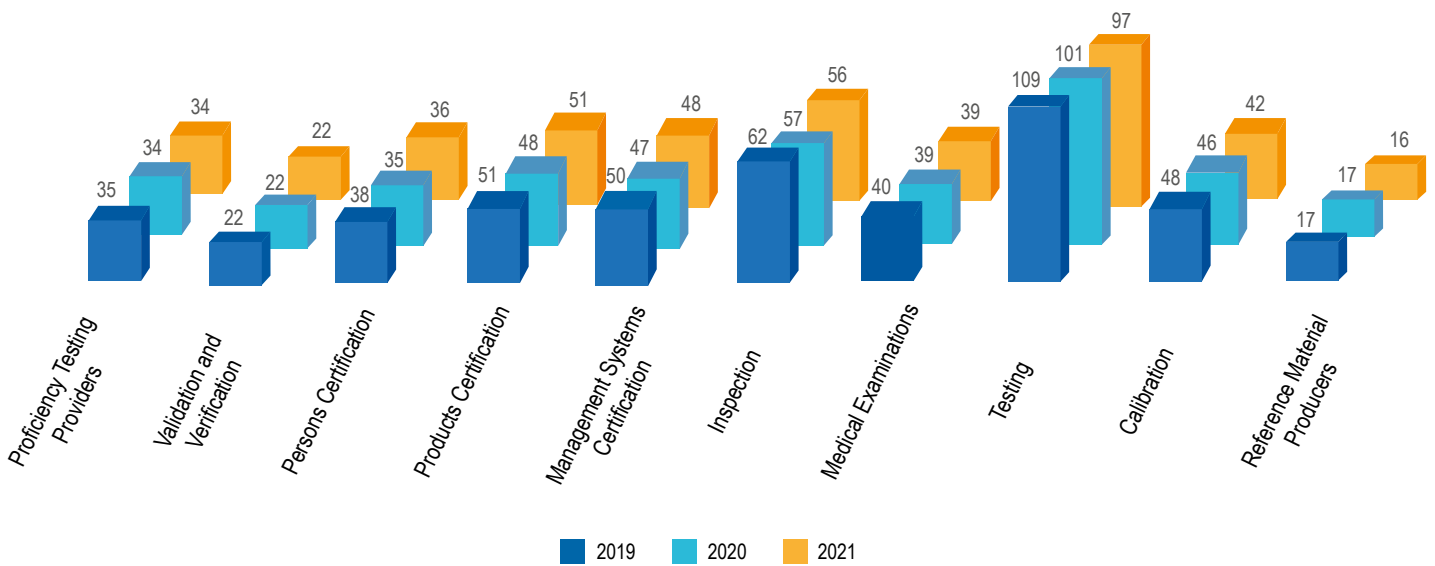
7 - EA PEER EVALUATORS

Number of evaluators per scope

In the table below, the number of evaluators includes altogether Trainee TMs, TMs, DTLs and TLs competent for each scope, knowing that one evaluator can be competent for several scopes.

The table shows that, like in previous years, the scope of testing gets a far much larger number of evaluators in 2021, i.e. 22% of the total number of competent evaluators. The next scopes gathering the highest numbers of evaluators are inspection (13%), products certification (11.5%) and management systems certification (11%).

Number of evaluators per scope



7 - EA PEER EVALUATORS

2 - TRAINING OF PEER EVALUATORS

The issue of evaluator resources is still a priority issue on the MAC agenda. In order to support the ongoing improvement of EA's pool of evaluators, three refresher training sessions as mentioned below were held in 2021.

Refresher training sessions

In 2021 three refresher training sessions were organised remotely due to the health and travel conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first refresher training session held on 8-9 June 2021 was dedicated to management systems certification and persons certification. 31 participants from 20 NABs took part in this training.

The second refresher training session held on 15-16 June 2021 gathered 26 Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders from 16 NABs.

The third refresher training session held on 8-9 December 2021 was dedicated to testing, medical examination and reference materials producers. 33 peer evaluators from 22 NABs participated in this training.



8 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE MLA AND PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS

1 - IMPROVING THE PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS

The peer-evaluation process is under review by the MAC, peer evaluators and EA internal auditors on an ongoing basis.

MAC project on reengineering the peer-evaluation system

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 reinforces the role of EA and its peer-evaluation system in both voluntary and regulated sectors. EA shall support and harmonise the implementation of stringent rules to achieve consistency throughout Europe, as well as greater transparency and acceptability to all interested parties, including national authorities. The peer-evaluation process is also further strengthened to accommodate the specific needs of regulatory fields in order to raise the reassurance of regulators and stakeholders that national accreditation bodies' technical competence is thoroughly assessed.

The MAC project to reengineer the peer-evaluation system, one of the key actions of the EA Strategy 2025, has been much progressing in 2021 and is nearing its goal.

The MAC has been finalising the revision of EA-2/02: *EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body*, as well as the revision of the MAC Terms of Reference in order to include the role and responsibilities of the Secretariat and to annex the competence criteria for decision-makers.

In 2021, the MAC has also been elaborating five supplements to EA-2/02 in order to set out:

- EA-2/02 S1: *Description of Competence Criteria of the EA Secretariat Personnel Involved in the Management of the Peer-Evaluation Process;*
- EA-2/02 S2: *Circumstances and Process of Involving EA Technical Committees in Peer-Evaluation Issues;*
- EA-2/02 S3: *Risk-Based Approach for the Planning of a Peer Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body;*
- EA-2/02 S4: *Procedure for Remote Peer Evaluations during the COVID-19 Pandemic;*
- EA-2/02 S5: *Procedure for Remote Decision-Making.*

2 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE MLA

The international standard ISO 20387: *General requirements for biobanking* has been published in 2018. This standard specifies general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of biobanks, including quality control requirements to ensure biological material and data collections of appropriate quality. Many EA NABs are offering accreditation to biobanking facilities since accreditation is the best means to demonstrate the competence of biobanks.

EA is currently in the process of extending its MLA to include biobanking. EA has taken the first steps in 2021 and approved the roadmap towards the EA MLA for biobanking, which identifies the actions to be undertaken such as the revision of EA documents to include the activity and the harmonised standard into the EA MLA and training of the peer evaluators.

8 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE MLA AND PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS

3 - INCREASED VISIBILITY OF THE MLA

EA has been working on having an EA MLA mark for the purpose of identifying MLA signatories and their accredited CABs. After the EA Members selected their preferred option for the MLA mark at the General Assembly in November 2019, the Executive Committee has been mandated to proceed with the formal registration of the MLA mark as a collective mark of the EU in a first stage, and then to extend registration at the international level based on the Madrid Agreement.

As part of the registration process, a set of rules for the use of the EA MLA mark shall be submitted to the registration authorities. Accordingly, the Horizontal Harmonisation Committee (HHC) has elaborated on these rules in [EA-3/01: EA Conditions for the Use of Accreditation Symbols, Logos and Other Claims of Accreditation and Reference to the EA MLA Signatory Status - Supplement 1: Rules for Use of the EA MLA Mark](#). The rules were approved by the Members in October 2020.

The formal registration of the EA MLA mark has been started in May 2021 and, after some editorial improvements, is expected to be completed by spring 2022.

The application of the MLA mark should remain voluntary for NABs signatories of the EA MLA, which will be entitled to use the MLA mark in combination with their logo. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) accredited by a MLA-signatory NAB will have the right to use the MLA mark in combination with the NAB accreditation symbol. The basic principle is that the mark can only be used in a country where it has been properly registered. It means that the mark will be registered (at least) in all the countries of the MLA/BLA signatories.

4 - MANAGEMENT OF TRANSITIONS OF STANDARDS AND IAF/ILAC DOCUMENTS

The MAC has strengthened its process for ensuring continuing compliance with the MLAs transitions.

During 2021, the transition periods of the following five documents came to an end and the MAC carried out surveys on each transition to monitor the compliance by its members with the requirements:

- IAF MD 8:2020 Application of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 in the Field of Medical Device Quality Management Systems (ISO 13485);
- IAF MD 13:2020 Knowledge Requirements for Accreditation Body Personnel for Information Security Management Systems (ISO/IEC 27001);
- ILAC P10:07/2020 ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results;
- ILAC P14:09/2020 ILAC Policy for Measurement Uncertainty in Calibration;
- ILAC P15:05/2020 Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies.

With the exception of the survey dedicated to ILAC P15 still ongoing at the end of 2021, the feedback received from each survey indicated that all members completed the transition within the agreed timeframe.

Implementation and monitoring of period for migrating accredited certifications from OHSAS 18001:2007 to ISO 45001:2018

According to IAF Resolution 2016-15, the period for migrating accredited certifications from OHSAS 18001:2007 to ISO 45001:2018 *Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems -- Requirements with Guidance for Use* was 3 years from the date of publication of ISO 45001, i.e. until 31 March 2021, before IAF extended the application date to 30 September 2021.

All 30 NABs signatories to the EA MLA successfully made the transition from OHSAS 18001:2007 to ISO 45001:2018 by 30 September 2021.

8 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE MLA AND PEER-EVALUATION PROCESS

Implementation and monitoring of EN ISO/IEC 17025 transition period

The revised international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories* has been published in November 2017 and should have been implemented by 1 June 2021.

All 42 NABs signatories to the EA MLA successfully made the transition from ISO/IEC 17025:2005 to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by 1 June 2021.



9 - COOPERATION WITH IAF/ILAC: PEER EVALUATION OF EA

EA is a regional cooperation body recognised by IAF and ILAC: the EA MLA is recognised by both organisations and covered by their respective arrangements. In concrete terms, a test report or certificate accredited by an EA MLA signatory is recognised by the signatories to the IAF and ILAC multilateral agreements. The EA MLA acts as a world-wide passport to trade.

1 - EXTENSION OF EA'S MRA SIGNATORY STATUS TO FSSC 22000

IAF has extended its MLA to cover Level 4 Food Safety System Certification (FSSC) 22000 sub-scope. Consequently, in May 2021, EA applied to IAF to be recognised for the IAF MLA sub-scope FSSC 22000. 19 national accreditation bodies in Europe could be recognised once EA's recognition has been accepted by IAF in July 2021.

2 - FULL RE-EVALUATION OF EA BY IAF/ILAC

The next re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to begin no later than July 2022.

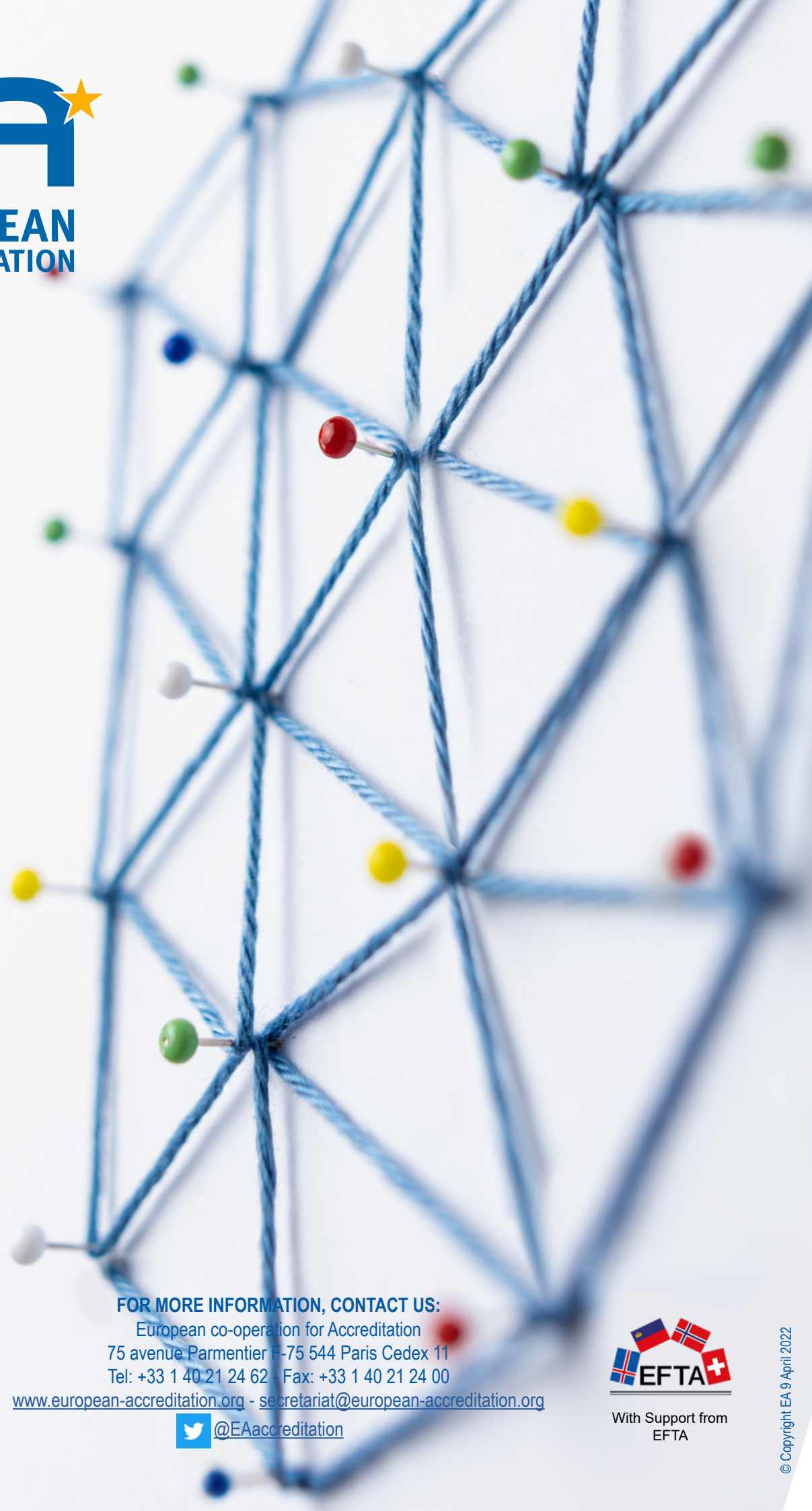
ANNEX 1 - MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES (31 DECEMBER 2021)

	CALIBRATION LABORATORIES	TESTING LABORATORIES	MEDICAL LABORATORIES	INSPECTION BODIES	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PRODUCTS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PERSONS	VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODIES	PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS	REFERENCE MATERIAL PRODUCERS
ALBANIA - DPA		√		√		√	√			
AUSTRIA - AA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
BELGIUM - BELAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	☐
BULGARIA - BAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
CROATIA - HAA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
CYPRUS - CYS	√	√	√	√	√					
CZECH REPUBLIC - CAI	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
DENMARK - DANAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	☐
ESTONIA - EAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
FINLAND - FINAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
FRANCE - COFRAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	☐
GERMANY - DAkkS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
GREECE - ESYD	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HUNGARY - NAH	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
IRELAND - INAB	√	√	√	√	√	√	☐			√
ITALY - ACCREDIA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
LATVIA - LATAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
LITHUANIA - LA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
LUXEMBURG - OLAS	√	√	√	√	√	√				
MALTA - NAB-MALTA	√	√		√						
NORWAY - NA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
POLAND - PCA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	☐
PORTUGAL - IPAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA - IARNM	√	√	√	√	√	√				
ROMANIA - RENAR	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SERBIA - ATS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
SLOVAKIA - SNAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SLOVENIA - SA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
SPAIN - ENAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
SWEDEN - SWE-DAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SWITZERLAND - SAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
NETHERLANDS - RvA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
TURKEY - TURKAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UNITED KINGDOM - UKAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

ANNEX 2 - BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES (31 DECEMBER 2021)

	CALIBRATION LABORATORIES	TESTING LABORATORIES	MEDICAL LABORATORIES	INSPECTION BODIES	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PRODUCTS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PERSONS	VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODIES	PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS	REFERENCE MATERIAL PRODUCERS
ALGERIA - ALGERAC	√	√		√						
BELARUS - BSCA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - BATA	√	√		√						
EGYPT - EGAC									√	
GEORGIA - GAC	√	√	√	√	√		√			
ISRAEL - ISRAC	√	√	√	√						
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - MOLDAC	√	√	√	√	√	√				
UKRAINE - NAAU	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
TUNISIA - TUNAC	√	√		√		√				

☐ Signatory in 2021



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