

EA REPORT TO IAF/ILAC AND REGIONS

STATUS JULY - DECEMBER 2023



EA 
EUROPEAN
ACCREDITATION

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I - Structural status as at December 2023

1 - EA Membership

EA has a total of 49 Members.

The complete list of EA Members together with their details and their EA MLA status is available on the EA website at <https://european-accreditation.org/ea-members/directory-of-ea-members-and-mla-signatories/>

2 - Signatories to the EA MLA

44 Members are signatories to the EA MLA.

The individual EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreement Signatories are listed by EA MLA scope on [EA-INF/03: Signatories to the EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements](#).

	Calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025)	Testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025)	Medical Examinations (EN ISO/IEC 15189)	Inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020)	Management System Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1)	Product Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17065)	Person Certification (EN ISO/IEC 17024)	Validation and Verification (EN ISO/IEC 17029 & EN ISO 14065)	Proficiency Testing Provision (EN ISO/IEC 17043)	Reference Material Production (EN ISO 17034)
Members signatories to the EA MLA	41	42	39	43	35	38	32	25	21	13

Recapitulative table of signatories by MLA scope

3 - EA Recognised Stakeholders

EA cooperates with more than 40 Recognised Stakeholders, whose complete list is available on the EA website at <https://european-accreditation.org/about-ea/ea-stakeholders/>

In accordance with EA-1/15: *EA Policy for Relation with Stakeholders* providing for a formal review every five years, the Recognised Stakeholder agreement with IFS, International Featured Standards, has been renewed in September 2023 for the coming five years.

II - EA MLA and peer-evaluation issues

1 - New and remaining signatories to EA MLA scopes

Upon decisions made by the MLA Council (MAC) at its 49th meeting held on 4-5 October 2023 in Brussels, Belgium and through electronic ballots carried out in the second semester 2023:

- ATCG, the National Accreditation Body (NAB) of Montenegro, was recognised as a new 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) and certification of products (EN ISO/IEC 17065).
- GAC, the Georgian NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of proficiency testing providers (EN ISO/IEC 17043).
- NA, the Norwegian NAB, became an EA MLA signatory in the field of reference material producers (EN ISO 17034).
- MOLDAC, the Moldavian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of management systems (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1) and certification of products.
- NAH, the Hungarian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection, certification of products, certification of management systems, certification of persons (EN ISO/IEC 17024), validation and verification (EN ISO 14065 and EN ISO/IEC 17029) and proficiency testing providers.

2 - Latest developments relating to EA peer evaluations

2.1 - Peer evaluations in 2023

For 2023, the MAC scheduled 14 peer evaluations. 9 of those peer evaluations were performed by end of June 2023.

4 peer evaluations were carried out as follows by end of December 2023:

- Re-evaluations: CYS-CYSAB (Cyprus), HAA (Croatia), IPAC (Portugal), OLAS (Luxembourg) ;
- Extraordinary evaluation: NAH (Hungary).

Besides, in December 2023, ARMNAB (Armenia) has applied for becoming a new EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing, certification of products and certification of management systems. The process of ARMNAB's new evaluation started in December 2023 and will be continued in 2024.

Since the membership of BSCA (Belarus) has been terminated in May 2023, the re-evaluation scheduled in December 2023 was ceased.

2.2 - Peer-evaluator trainings

Newcomer training sessions

Further to a couple of newcomer training sessions held in 2022 which have permitted EA to gain a total of 46 new peer evaluators, an additional newcomer training session was organised on 12-14 December 2023 at the EA Secretariat's office in Paris, France, in order to make up lost pandemic time. As a result of the newcomer training session, the number of evaluators has increased by 16 new evaluators, of which 7 are directly Team Members and 9 are Trainee Team Members.

The next newcomer training session will take place on 3-5 December 2024.

Refresher training sessions

Three refresher training sessions were scheduled in 2023, all of which were organised on-site to alternate with the remote sessions held in 2022.

After a first session dedicated to product certification and inspection which was held in June 2023 in Paris, a second session gathered Team Members on 22-23 November 2023 in Brussels, Belgium, to focus on testing, medical examinations and proficiency testing provision (PTP).

The last session, hosted by DAkkS on 13-14 December 2023 in Berlin, Germany, was specially targeted at Deputy Team Leaders and Team Leaders, who notably considered the application of risk-based approach for the planning of peer evaluations (EA-2/02 S3).

3 - Development of the EA MLA

EA MLA signatory status for EN ISO/IEC 17029

Following the launching of the EA MLA on EN ISO/IEC 17029:2019 in October 2022, the MLA signatory status in the field of validation and verification was updated to EN ISO/IEC 17029 for 20 NABs by end of December 2023: AA (Austria), ACCREDIA (Italy), BAS (Bulgaria), BELAC (Belgium), CAI (Czech Republic), COFRAC (France), DAkkS (Germany), EAK (Estonia), ENAC (Spain), ESYD (Greece), FINAS (Finland), LATAK (Latvia), NAH (Hungary), PCA (Poland), RENAR (Romania), RvA (The Netherlands), SA (Slovenia), SNAS (Slovakia), SWEDAC (Sweden) and TURKAK (Türkiye).

III - Status of EA's recognition in IAF/ILAC

The re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC started in early September 2022 with the evaluation of the EA Secretariat, continued with the evaluation of the scopes of medical examinations, inspection, persons certification as well as validation and verification in 3 NABs, and terminated with the evaluation of the MAC decision-making process at the MAC meeting held in October 2022 in Turin, Italy.

In December 2023, the ILAC Arrangement Council (ARC) has confirmed the continuation of EA as a recognised regional cooperation body of ILAC, i.e. the continuation of recognition of the EA MLA to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of calibration and testing laboratories using ISO/IEC 17025, medical testing laboratories using ISO 15189, inspection bodies using ISO/IEC 17020, proficiency testing providers using ISO/IEC 17043 and reference material producers using ISO 17034.

The IAF decision on the related MLA scopes is expected for the first quarter of 2024.

It is recommended that the next re-evaluation of EA is scheduled to begin no later than July 2026.

In November 2023, EA and its members have been recognised by IAF for IFS Food sub-scope under the IAF MLA on product certification (ISO/IEC 17065) as follows:

- level 4 – IFS Food Version 7, Part 1, Section 2 & 3 and Part 4*
- level 5 – IFS Food Version 7, Part 2*

* Note: This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS Food Version 7, Part 3, Section 1.

In December 2023, EA applied to IAF for the recognition of the following sub-scopes under the IAF MLA on product certification (ISO/IEC 17065):

BRC Global Standard - Food Safety

- Level 4 – Food Safety, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Food Safety, Part II

BRC Global Standard - Agents and Brokers

- Level 4 – Agents and Brokers, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Agents and Brokers, Part II

BRC Global Standard - Packaging Materials

- Level 4 – Packaging Materials, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Packaging Materials, Part II

BRC Global Standard - Storage and Distribution

- Level 4 – Storage and Distribution, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Storage and Distribution, Part II

BRC Global Standard - Gluten Free Certification Program

- Level 4 – Gluten Free Certification Program, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Gluten Free Certification Program, Part II

BRC Global Standard - Consumer Products Personal Care Household

- Level 4 – Consumer Products Personal Care Household, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Consumer Products Personal Care Household, Part II

BRC Global Standard - Consumer Products General Merchandise

- Level 4 – Consumer Products General Merchandise, Part III & IV
- Level 5 – Consumer Products General Merchandise, Part II

Global G.A.P. Produce Handling Assurance (PHA)

- Level 4 – Global G.A.P. PHA General Regulations
- Level 5 – Global G.A.P. PHA CPCCs

In December 2023, EA also applied to IAF for the recognition of the following sub-scopes under the IAF MLA on management systems certification (ISO/IEC 17021-1):

IAQG (International Aerospace Quality Group)

- Level 4 – IAQG 9104-1
- Level 5 – IAQG 9100, IAQG 9110, IAQG 9120

EA will apply early 2024 to IAF for the transition of the IAF MLA from ISO 14065:2013 to ISO/IEC 17029 + ISO 14065:2020.

IV - Status of EA documents

1 - Documents published since July 2023

	<i>EA Code of Conduct</i>
EA-1/17	<i>EA Rules of Procedure</i>
EA-2/15	<i>EA Requirements for the Accreditation of Flexible Scopes</i>
EA-INF/15	<i>Joint EA - EDQM Communication regarding Cooperation when Carrying Out (Joint) Audits/Assessments in Official Medicines Control Laboratories</i>

2 - Documents under revision

EA-0/06	<i>Format & Layout of EA Documents</i>
EA-0/08	<i>Procedure for EA Management Reviews</i>
EA-1/06	<i>EA Multilateral Agreement. Criteria for Signing. Policy and Procedures for Development</i>
EA-1/13	<i>EA's Relationship with Accreditation Bodies of Countries not being Members of the EU or EFTA</i>
EA-1/15	<i>EA Policy for Relations with Stakeholders</i>
EA-1/21	<i>EA Internal Procedure for Liaison Activities</i>
EA-1/22	<i>EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members</i>
EA-2/02	<i>EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body</i>
EA-2/02 S4	<i>Supplement 4 to EA-2/02: EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body. Procedure for the Management of the Peer Evaluations in case of Extraordinary Circumstances.</i>
EA-4/14	<i>The Selection and Use of Reference Materials</i>
EA-4/20	<i>Guidance for the Assessment of Laboratories Against EN ISO 15189 and EN ISO 22870 Point-of-Care Testing (POCT)</i>
EA-4/21	<i>Guidelines for the Assessment of the Appropriateness of Small Interlaboratory Comparisons within the Process of Laboratory Accreditation</i>
EA-5/02	<i>Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17020 in Vehicle Inspection</i>
EA-6/03	<i>EA Document for Recognition of Verifiers under the EU ETS Directive</i>
EA-INF/04	<i>Statement on Acceptance and Recognition of Activities under the EA MLA</i>
EA-INF/14	<i>Communication with the European Commission and its DGs</i>

3 - New documents under development

- EA-3/01 S1 *Rules for Use of the EA MLA Mark*
Note: approved in October 2020; not to be published before the EA MLA mark is formally registered.
- EA-X/XX Guidelines for the Accreditation of Laboratories carrying out Genetic Testing using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) / Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Techniques
- EA-X/XX Guidance Document on Transfers of Certificates under ISO/IEC 17024

4 - Documents withdrawn since July 2023

None.

V - Activities to promote the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA

See EA's website and social media.

VI - Major other activities/developments in EA

EA Code of Conduct

On 21 October 2023, EA adopted a *Code of Conduct* applicable to all “EA actors”, i.e. persons and bodies working for and within EA in the framework of the *EA Articles of Association* and *Rules and Procedures*, including EA Members, stakeholders, observers as well as EA officers and staff.

The principles set out in the *Code of Conduct* (CoC) are minimum standards of behaviour such as commitment to: respecting others and the professional culture of European accreditation; acting in good faith and with due care and diligence; striving for non-discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, disability, age or sexual orientation, etc.; promoting gender equality/equity; working for the benefit of the European community; respecting and protecting the EA's brand and reputation; and monitoring potential non-compliance of those principles.

The implementation of the CoC, published on 8 November 2023, is mandatory for all EA actors.

New EFTA representative

The General Assembly held on 22-23 in November 2023 in Dublin, Ireland, paid a glowing tribute to Gudrun Rognvaldardottir who had been representing the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in EA, and in the EA Advisory Board, since January 2018.

As from 2024, EFTA will be represented by Anne Børmark, Norwegian Officer in the Internal Market Division.

Launch of the EA Communication Network

Subsequent to the General Assembly resolution, adopted in May 2023, to disband the Communications and Publications Committee, the Terms of Reference of a new EA Communication Network have been approved by EA Members on 21 October 2023.

The Communication Network will be a place for communications professionals to share experiences and best practices, learn new tools and submit to peers any question related to communications and marketing. Further to the General Assembly in November 2023, the whole of EA Members and Recognized Stakeholders have been invited by 30 January 2024 to send nominations to participate in the new Communication Network.

Finalisation of the EA MLA mark registration

According to *EA Strategy 2025*, EA has been establishing a MLA mark for the purpose of identifying EA MLA signatories and their accredited CABs. After EA Members selected their preferred option for the MLA mark at the General Assembly in November 2019, the previous Executive Committee has been mandated to proceed with the formal registration of the MLA mark as a collective mark of the European Union (EU) in a first stage, and then to extend registration to non-EU countries at the international level based on the Madrid Agreement.

The formal registration as a collective mark of the EU was completed in June 2022.

As agreed in November 2019, the EA MLA mark shall not be used until it is registered in the countries of all EA MLA signatories.

The process for registering the EU mark as an international mark is nearing completion for those EA MLA signatories which are not EU Members: further to EA's formal application to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the EA MLA mark has been successfully registered dated 12 April 2023 as an international collective mark with the WIPO in the non-EU countries of EA MLA signatories. The mark is now examined by the national offices of the countries concerned; notifications may be issued until 18 months after notification of the registration of the EA MLA mark in each country. This means that the full process is expected to be completed by summer 2025.

The application of the EA 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 EA MLA signatories.

Completion of the EC-EA project for quality and safety of Breast Cancer Services

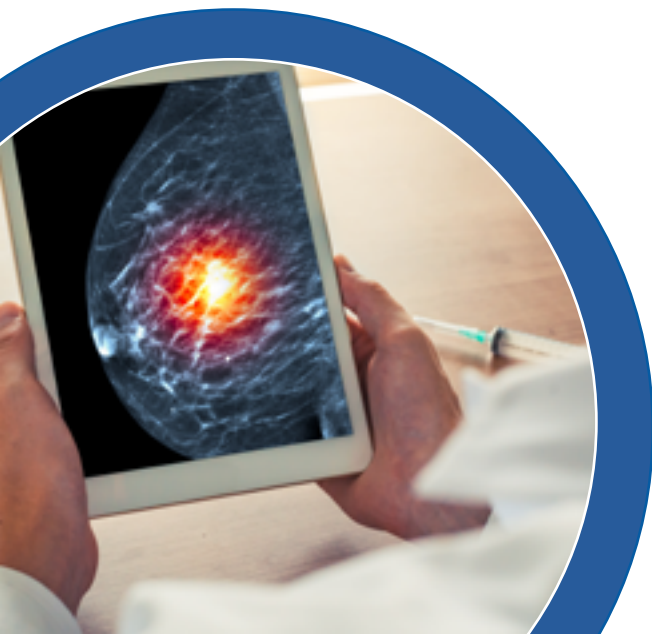
A joint project between the European Commission and EA which was initiated to ensure the quality and safety of women's journey through the breast cancer care pathway, has been accomplished in April 2023.

The European Quality Assurance (QA) Scheme for Breast Cancer Services was established under the auspices of the EC Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC), which was launched by the EC Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety with oversight by the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The European QA Scheme defines a common set of quality and safety requirements and criteria for Breast Cancer Services (BCSs) in Europe to be complied with by any entity providing BCSs to women. The voluntary fulfilment of these requirements and criteria, which remains not mandatory for BCSs to implement, is demonstrated through accredited certification.

For more detailed information on the European QA Scheme for BCS, please read the Summary Report dated 13 December 2023 published on the EA website at:

<https://european-accreditation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Breast-Cancer-Service-Summary-Report.pdf>



VII - EA meetings

Please visit the EA website <https://european-accreditation.org/information-center/newsroom/events-2/>

VIII - EA representatives in IAF and ILAC Committees

IAF Committees

General Assembly (GA)	Andreas Steinhorst (EA Executive Secretary)
Executive Committee (EX)	Maureen Logghe (EA President)
Technical Committee (TC)	Casper van Erp (RvA, Netherlands)
MLA Committee (MLAC)	Maria Papatzikou (ESYD, Greece)
MLA Management Committee (MLA MC)	Karine Vincent (COFRAC, France), Rolf Straub (SAS, Switzerland)
Communications and Marketing Committee (CMC)	Amandine Combe (EA Communications Manager)
Development Support Committee (DSC)	Andreas Steinhorst
Database Management Committee (DMC)	Herman Van den Langenbergh (BELAC, Belgium)

ILAC Committees

General Assembly (GA)	Andreas Steinhorst
Executive Committee (EX)	Andreas Steinhorst
Accreditation Committee (AIC)	Sergio Guzzi (ACCREDIA, Italy)
Marketing & Communications Committee (MCC)	Amandine Combe
Arrangement Committee (ARC)	Andreas Steinhorst
Arrangement Management Committee (AMC)	Maria Papatzikou, Daniela Ionescu (MAC Secretary)
Arrangement Council (AC)	Andreas Steinhorst
Inspection Committee (IC)	Marek Wilgos (PCA, Poland)

Joint IAF/ILAC Committee meetings

Joint Executive Committee (JEX)	Maureen Logghe, Andreas Steinhorst
Joint Management Committee (JMC)	Maria Papatzikou, Daniela Ionescu Rolf Straub, Karine Vincent
JWG Communications and Marketing (JCMC)	Amandine Combe
JWG Developing Countries	Andreas Steinhorst
JWG A-series	Maria Papatzikou, Daniela Ionescu

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