

MLA REPORT 2025



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FOREWORD



The European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) Multilateral Agreement (MLA) continued in 2025 to play a vital role in supporting confidence, transparency, and cooperation in accreditation across Europe. It successfully adapted to evolving demands while maintaining its strong and trusted foundation.

Throughout the year, EA strengthened its peer evaluation system, ensuring that all 44 signatories of the MLA uphold the highest standards of accreditation. The peer evaluation system is dynamic, continuously evolving to cover all new EU legislations. These rigorous evaluations are essential for maintaining the credibility and reliability of the MLA and foster a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration among members.

In addition, the MAC focus points approach was introduced within the peer evaluations, further enhancing their effectiveness and consistency. The cooperation between national accreditation bodies, supported by EA, reflects a shared commitment to excellence and mutual trust.

Operationally, 2025 brought both progress and challenges. A higher number of peer evaluations was achieved, although with fewer man-days due to a reduced number of scopes evaluated. While the overall number of evaluators remained stable, ongoing efforts focused on reinforcing resources, aiming not only to increase the total number of evaluators but also to expand the pool of Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders.

At the same time, EA organized targeted training programmes, which received highly positive feedback. This confirmed both the strong competence of participants and the effectiveness of the training approach.

In addition to these core activities, EA launched the process of peer evaluation in the field of biobanking, reflecting its proactive approach to expanding accreditation into new areas.

Furthermore, the EA MLA Mark was introduced in 2025, enhancing the visibility of EA and reinforcing recognition of accredited bodies across Europe and internationally.

The achievements of 2025, including successful transitions within agreed timeframes, continued recognition to new sub-scopes by International Accreditation Forum (IAF)¹, highlight the resilience and adaptability of the MLA framework. These outcomes reflect the dedication of EA members, peer evaluators, and the Secretariat in ensuring that accreditation in Europe remains a trusted pillar of quality infrastructure, driving confidence, facilitating trade, and supporting societal goals.

Maria Papatzikou (ESYD)

Chair of the EA Multilateral Agreement Council

¹ From January 1, 2026, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated will become the single international leader unifying the roles of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

1 - INTRODUCTION

This report provides information on the signatories to the EA MLA, as well as an overview of the key activities completed in 2025 to further develop the coverage of the 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 Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and 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 strengthen the position of accreditation, national 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 30 August 2022, the fourth Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) was signed with the European Commission for the period 2023-2026. A similar agreement was signed with EFTA on 16 November 2022.

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. Accordingly, a national authority in the EEA shall accept the reports and certificates issued by a conformity assessment body accredited by the national accreditation bodies 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 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. All of those EA Members that are signatories of the EA MLA aim to establish mutual confidence in the respective accreditation systems and in their accredited attestations of conformity.

Therefore, the marketplace can have confidence in activities of the 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 signatories in December 2025



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 Calibration	EN ISO/IEC 17025 EN ISO 15189 EN ISO/IEC 17025
Certification Bodies	Certification of Products Certification of Persons Certification of Management Systems	EN ISO/IEC 17065 EN ISO/IEC 17024 EN ISO/IEC 17021-1
Validation and Verification Bodies	Validation and Verification	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
Biobanks	Biobanking	EN ISO 20387

During 2025, EA Members delivered about 35,435 accreditations under the scopes for which they have signed the EA MLA, representing a 1% increase compared to 2024. This slight increase is mainly due to an overall increase of 16% in the number of accreditations for validation and verification, as well as an increase of 13% in the number of accreditations for proficiency testing provision and an overall increase of 16% in the number of accreditations for reference material production, testing, medical examinations, inspection and product and persons certification.

Numbers of accreditation certificates issued under the EA MLA

Type of accreditation	2023	2024	2025
Calibration	3,437	3,601	3,352
Testing	16,621	16,341	16,674
Medical Examinations	3,928	3,762	3,905
Products Certification	2,103	2,115	2,154
Management Systems Certification	1,438	1,275	1,258
Persons Certification	859	848	856
Validation & Verification	188	248	287
Inspection	6,543	6,568	6,591
Proficiency Testing Provision (PTP)	248	238	268
Reference Material Production (RMP)	74	84	90
TOTAL	35,439	35,080	35,435

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:

- the Articles of Association, the obligations defined in the Rules of Procedure (EA-1/17) and with the specific membership criteria defined in EA-1/17 S1; which includes relevant requirements from the Regulation (EC) No. 765/2008;
- EN ISO/IEC 17011, the internationally-accepted standard for accreditation bodies;
- the relevant standard for conformity assessment bodies including any additional requirements, e.g. those set out by the European Commission in relevant sector-based legislations, or in conformity assessment schemes established in the non-regulated sector, as well as those covered in relevant EA and IAF/ILAC documents.

A list of the EA MLA signatories and scopes is annexed to this report. For the latest information, please visit the [EA website](#).

Out of 47 EA Members, 44 have signed the MLA.

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

The number of member signatories for each scope of the EA Multilateral Agreement remain stable compared to those registered in 2024.

Number of member signatories to the MLA by scope

Type of accreditation	2023	2024	2025
Calibration	41	41	41
Testing	42	42	42
Medical Examinations	39	39	39
Inspection	43	43	43
Management Systems Certification	35	35	35
Products Certification	38	38	38
Persons Certification	32	32	32
Validation and Verification	25	27	27
Proficiency Testing Provision	21	22	22
Reference Material Production	13	14	14

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 the national accreditation bodies' entering into the Multilateral Agreement (MLA) 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 signatories have the voting right within the MAC on peer evaluations and the EA MLA signatory status.

Maria Papatzikou from ESYP (Greece) has been chairing the MAC since 2021.

The MAC Vice Chair is Sergio Guzzi from ACCREDIA (Italy).

The MAC held its 52nd meeting on 7-8 May 2025 in Tbilisi, Georgia, and its 53rd meeting on 1st October 2025 in Brussels, Belgium.

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 operation of the MAC.

In 2025, two members of the MAC Management Group (MAC MG) stepped down and following elections held in April and September, the group's membership was restored to full capacity. The new members come from GAC (NAB of Georgia) and OLAS (NAB of Luxembourg).

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 and the Manager of the Peer Evaluation System.



Ankica Barišić is the Manager of Peer Evaluations and Evaluators.

5 - OPERATION OF THE MLA COUNCIL

Decisions made by the MAC in 2025

ACCREDIA, the National Accreditation Body (NAB) of Italy, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of certification of products (EN ISO/IEC 17065).

ATCG, the Montenegrin NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration (EN ISO/IEC 17025) and testing (EN ISO/IEC 17025) including medical examinations (EN ISO 15189).

COFRAC, the French NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing including medical examinations, inspection (EN ISO/IEC 17020), certification of management systems (EN ISO/IEC 17021-1), certification of products, certification of persons (EN ISO/IEC 17024), validation and verification (EN ISO/IEC 17029), proficiency testing providers (EN ISO/IEC 17043) and reference material producers (EN ISO 17034).

DANAK, the Danish 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, validation and verification, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.

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.

ESYD, the Greek 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, validation and verification, proficiency testing providers.

FINAS, the Finnish 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, validation and verification, proficiency testing providers.

HAA, the Croatian NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the fields of calibration, testing, including medical examinations, inspection, managements system certification, product certification, certification of persons, validation and verification.

ISAC, the Icelandic NAB, remained an EA MLA signatory in the field of inspection.



EA Multilateral Council Meeting - May 2025 - Tbilisi (Georgia)

5 - OPERATION OF THE MLA COUNCIL

LATAK, the Latvian 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, validation and verification.

NA, the Norwegian 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, validation and verification, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.

SWEDAC, the Swedish 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, validation and verification, and proficiency testing providers.

UKAS, the British 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, validation and verification, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers.



EA Multilateral Council Meeting - October 2025 - Brussels (Belgium)

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:2022 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. The MAC makes the final decision, which is reflected in relevant EA publications and on the website.

The European Commission attends MAC meetings, and NABs under evaluation are encouraged to invite national authorities to observe the EA peer evaluation.

2 - PEER EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

For 2025, the MAC had scheduled 17 peer evaluations as follows:

- 8 re-evaluations: ATS (Serbia), BAS (Bulgaria), BATA (Bosnia and Herzegovina), DPA (Albania), EAK (Estonia), LA (Lithuania), NAB-MALTA (Malta) and RENAR (Romania);
- 1 re-evaluation with extension to proficiency testing providers and reference material producers: AA (Austria);
- 1 re-evaluation with extension to biobanking: RvA (The Netherlands);
- 1 extension evaluation to management systems certification: ALGERAC (Algeria);
- 1 initial evaluation: ARMNAB (Armenia);
- 1 second stage evaluation dedicated to reference material producers: COFRAC (France);
- 1 extraordinary evaluation: ACCREDIA (Italy);
- 1 follow up evaluation: HAA (Croatia);
- 2 progress reports dedicated to inspection: ISAC (Iceland).

6 - PEER EVALUATION PROCESS AND ACTIVITIES

EA peer evaluation activities

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total number of evaluations performed ¹	25	13	14	16	17
Total number of reports discussed ²	13	15	17	11	13
Total man-days for evaluation	1,764	1,070	940	1,241	1,123
Extraordinary evaluations	2	0	2	0	2
Suspension	1	0	0	0	0

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.

The total number of evaluations performed in 2025 decreased compared to 2024, due to a lower number of scopes of the NABs under evaluation which resulted in a lower effort.

The evaluation teams reported a total of 106 non-conformities and 128 Comments for those peer evaluations carried out in 2025.



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 Secretariat. They can be mandated for peer evaluation at the ILAC or IAF levels.

1 - MANAGEMENT OF EVALUATORS

The EA MAC is responsible for the management of peer evaluation resources by organising evaluator training sessions and harmonisation events, ensuring that enough peer evaluators with the skills necessary to cover the full scope of the MLA are available.

The management of peer evaluators is carried out in accordance with [EA-2/02 M:2022 EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body, Annex 1: Process and procedures for selection, qualification and monitoring of evaluators and the appointment and composition of the evaluation team.](#)

The initial selection and qualification (authorisation) of evaluators are carried out by the Secretariat, which may give priority to specific candidate evaluators to fulfil the needs of the peer evaluation system and to ensure a balanced contribution of all MLA signatories. Newcomer training sessions for new Team Members (TMs) are designed to ensure that the evaluators meet the competence criteria and to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the peer evaluation processes and requirements.

The Secretariat also monitors the performance of evaluators on an ongoing basis by monitoring the feedback collected from the evaluated NAB and evaluated by the Team Leader (TL) and TMs, the evaluation of TMs by the TL, and the feedback from the TMs on the TL. At least once every three years, the performance of the evaluators is re-evaluated based on this monitoring, their updated curriculum vitae and their participation in refresher trainings. The authorisation of an evaluator is reconfirmed by the Secretariat.

In order to improve the performance and harmonisation of evaluators' work and to harmonise the evaluations process, the MAC and the Secretariat regularly organise refresher trainings and exchange of experiences between evaluators, inform them about new requirements, changes in the peer evaluation procedures and areas for improvement, and take necessary action based on the feedback received on the evaluators' performance.

2 - NUMBER OF EVALUATORS

By the end of December 2025, a total number of 182 evaluators (including trainees) were 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 2025, 34 evaluators have been re-approved for a period of three years (2 Team Leaders, 2 Deputy Team Leaders and 30 Team Members).

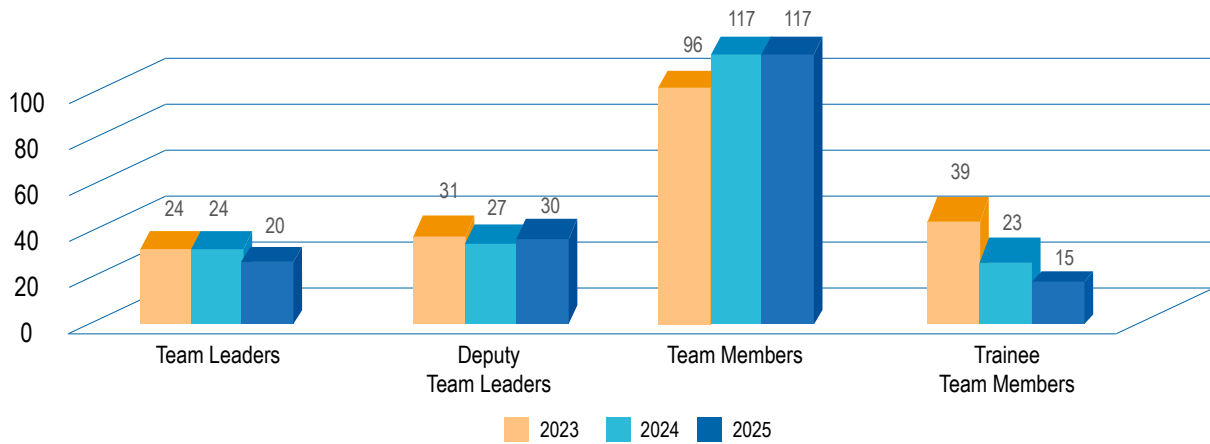
Number of evaluators per qualification

By the end of December 2025, the 182 authorised evaluators are broken down as follows:

- 20 Team leaders (TLs)
- 30 Deputy Team Leaders (DTLs)
- 117 Team Members (TMs)
- 15 Trainee Team Members (Trainee TMs)

7 - EA PEER EVALUATORS

Number of evaluators per qualification from 2023 to 2025



The total number of evaluators slightly decreased in 2025 by 4,7 % primarily due to retirements and withdrawal of evaluator status at the request of NABs because of different reasons. During 2025, the total number of the Team Leaders decreased by 16 % due to retirement and expiration of the 5 years after retirement in accordance with the requirements of [EA 2/02:2025](#) but the number of Deputy Team Leaders has increased by 10 %.

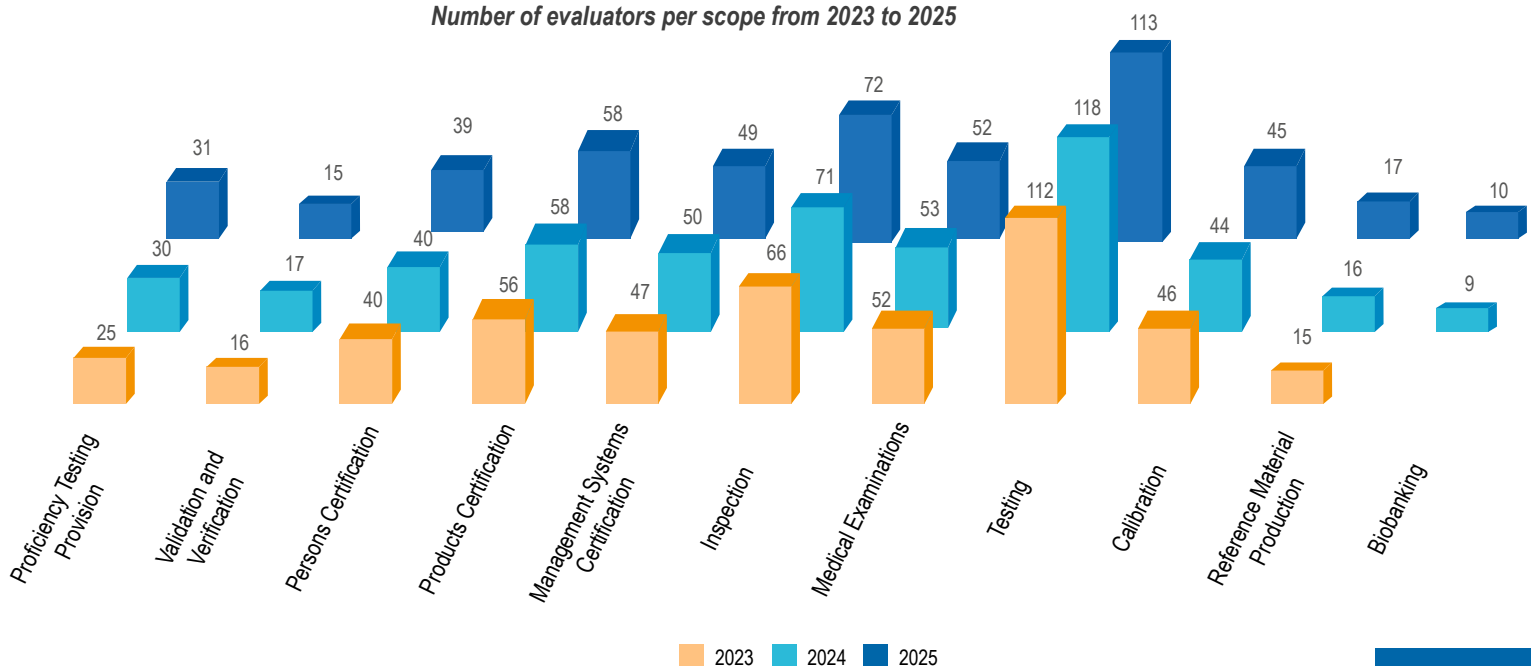
The number of Team Members remained stable in 2025 because the 8 Team Member Trainees who participated in the peer evaluations in 2025 were upgraded as Team Members. 7 Team Member Trainees participated in the peer evaluations at the end of 2025 and 6 Team Member Trainees will participate in the peer evaluations in the first half of 2026, so expectation is that the number of Team Members will increase too.

Other continuous efforts are ongoing to strengthen the resources to increase the number of evaluators and especially to increase the Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders.

Number of evaluators per scope

In the table below, the number of evaluators includes all approved evaluator statuses for the Trainee Team Members, Team Members, Deputy Team Leaders and Team Leaders competent for each scope, knowing that one evaluator is competent for one or several scopes.

Number of evaluators per scope from 2023 to 2025



7 - EA PEER EVALUATORS

The number of evaluators for each scope of the EA MLA is continuously changing and has been balanced for most scopes in the last 2 years, while the number of evaluators has increased for Proficiency Testing Provision by 24%, Inspection by 9% and for Reference Material Producer by 1.6%.

Number of evaluators per NAB

In 2025, 7 NABs decreased their total number of evaluators. The newcomer training session to be held in June 2026 will allow the NABs to nominate new candidates in order to increase their number of evaluators and contribution to the EA MLA system and evaluators pool.

Considering both the total number of evaluators (including trainees) and the number of MLA signatories for each scope, the highest ratios of evaluators by end of 2025 are observed for testing (2.69), inspection (1.67) and products certification (1.53). The most critical ratio of evaluators is noticed for validation and verification (0.56) and calibration (1.10).

3 - TRAINING OF PEER EVALUATORS

The evaluator resources is a constant priority on the MAC agenda in order to assure sufficient number of evaluators and appropriate level of competence in the purpose of the maintenance of the EA MLA system. The Secretariat organize and coordinates the trainings of evaluators on the ongoing base according to the MAC Work Programs.

Refresher training sessions

In accordance with EA-2/02, the peer evaluators are expected to attend refresher training within 3 years after their initial training and thereafter at intervals of no more than 5 years. Since the evaluators are mainly authorised for more than one scope, the Secretariat invites them to attend the refresher trainings planned in all their authorised scopes.

In 2025, 3 trainings were specifically dedicated to the EA evaluators: 2 Refresher trainings dedicated to Team Members and 1 Refresher training dedicated to the Team Leaders (TLs) and Deputy Team Leaders (DTLs).

62 out of the total pool of 182 peer evaluators participated in the refresher trainings in 2025.

The first refresher training session held remotely on 23-24 June 2025, was dedicated to Product Certification and Inspection. 23 Team Members from 19 NABs took part in the training programme.

The second session gathered 19 Team Members from 15 NABs on 5-6 November 2025 in Paris, in the EA Secretariat premises to focus on the transitions on the new versions of accreditation standards in the fields of Medical Examinations and Proficiency Testing Providers.

The last refresher training session was held on 10-11 December 2025 in Brussels specially targeted at Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders. 20 participants, out of which 5 TLs and 15 DTLs and 1 TM from 14 NABs took part in the training programme.

The analysis of the feedback received by the participants of trainings showed their appreciation and excellent level of competence, programme and discussions, demonstrating an effective result of the trainings.

8 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE MLA AND PEER EVALUATION PROCESS

1 - IMPROVING THE PEER EVALUATION PROCESS

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

Starting 2025, the MAC introduced the focus points approach, to further enhance the effectiveness and consistency of the peer evaluation process.

3 important areas were chosen as focus points, enabling the peer evaluation teams to evaluate them during the next 4 years for each national accreditation body and to provide the summary of their evaluation for further analysis:

- ISO/IEC 17011 §7.4.4, §7.4.5 and §7.4.6 & EA-2/13 - EA Cross Border Accreditation Policy and Procedure for Cross Border Cooperation between EA Members,
- ISO/IEC 17011 §4.6.3 and §4.6.4 (development of accreditation schemes) & EA-1/22 - EA Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members & IAF MD 25,
- ISO/IEC 17011 §4.3 & 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.

In 2025, the EA Secretariat completed the pilot project started at the end of 2024, related to the use of the EA Intranet surveys system for collecting and managing of feedback on the PE process and Evaluators' performance with a view to further improve harmonisation and the work of evaluators according to the requirements of EA-2/02.

The brand-new online system replaces the old system based on word templates distributed by emails. The whole process generated a lot of emails back-and forth with the drawbacks inherent to such a process. The new system significantly contributed to the efficiency of the feedback management process, including about protection of personal data. Besides, practical experience shows that the new Intranet-based survey system is led increasing the level of quality and objectivity of feedback received from all the parties involved in the peer evaluation process, both evaluators and accreditation bodies under evaluation. This directly contributes to improving and harmonizing the work of evaluators and, eventually, the entire EA MLA peer evaluation system.

2 - DEVELOPMENT OF THE MLA

Extension of the EA MLA to EN ISO 20387 (biobanking)

The General Assembly approved in May 2025 that EA Resolution 2023 (53) 14 on the EA MLA for biobanking comes into immediate effect, based on the recent confirmation of EN ISO 20387:2018 Biotechnology – Biobanking – General Requirements for Biobanking as the harmonised standard.

Supported by trained evaluators and a functioning system since 2023, following the EA Resolution of May 2025, the Secretariat has already scheduled the peer evaluations for biobanking based on the outcome of a 2025 survey showing at least nine NABs willing to undergo evaluation. A first scope extension was already completed in 2025 and seven more are planned for 2026.

The EA MLA for biobanking is planned to be launched in October 2026, when a minimum of two members are successfully peer evaluated.

8 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE MLA AND PEER EVALUATION PROCESS

3 - INCREASED VISIBILITY OF THE MLA

According to the *EA Strategy 2025*, EA has been establishing a MLA mark for the purpose of identifying EA MLA signatories and their accredited CABs, and demonstrating European recognition of accredited conformity assessment performed under the EA MLA. The EA MLA mark is registered as a collective mark of the European Union (EU) and at the international level based on the Madrid Agreement.

To date, the mark is registered in the countries of all EA MLA signatories except Switzerland - as follows: *Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom.*

The registration of the EA MLA Mark in Switzerland should be completed before end of 2026.

The application of the EA MLA mark should remain voluntary for NABs signatories of the EA MLA, which will be entitled to use the EA MLA mark in combination with their logo. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by an EA MLA-signatory NAB will have the right to use the EA 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.

The rules for use of the mark are set out in [EA-3/01 Supplement 1](#) (and [Supplement 2](#) for the United Kingdom).

The EA MLA mark was launched on the 1st of September 2025. The launch was promoted through a dedicated page of the [website](#), a news and posts on LinkedIn.

At end 2025, 18 NAB MLA signatories have approached the Secretariat to express their wish to use the EA MLA mark.

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

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

Following the publication of ISO 15189 Medical laboratories — Requirements for quality and competence in 2022 and ISO/IEC 17043 Conformity assessment — General requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers in 2023, the MAC has monitored the transitions implemented by the NABs with view to report to ILAC on the progress made by 30th June 2024.

In this regard, the MAC conducted two surveys and reported to ILAC in September 2025 the following:

- for ISO 15189 - Out of 38 NABs signatories to ILAC MRA, 5 are at or below 50% of transitioning their CABs to the new version of the standard, while the remaining 33 exceed 50%, including 12 NABs at 100%;
- for ISO/IEC 17043 – Out of 22 NABs signatories to ILAC MRA, 16 (≈73%) are at or below 50%, while 6 (≈27%) exceed 50%, including 2 NABs at 100%.

Further surveys will be carried out in 2026 to check the full compliance with the requirements of the standards by the established transition deadlines.

8 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE MLA AND PEER EVALUATION PROCESS

The transition periods of the following documents having come to end in 2025, the MAC carried out surveys on each transition to monitor EA Members' compliance with the requirements during 2025:

- IAF MD 28:2023 - IAF Mandatory Document for the Upload and Maintenance of Data on IAF Database.
- IAF MD 27:2023 - Transition requirements for ISO 22003-1:2022
- ILAC P9:01/2024 - Policy for Proficiency Testing and/or Interlaboratory comparisons other than Proficiency Testing.
- ISO 14066:2023 - Environmental information. Competence requirements for teams validating and verifying environmental information.

The feedback received from each survey indicated that all members had completed the transition within the agreed timeframe and therefore EA continued to comply with the requirements of EA and of ILAC and IAF as a Recognised Region, with the exceptions mentioned below.

However, for IAF MD 28, there are 2 NABs which requested exemption from IAF related to the implementation of IAF MD 28 and the process is ongoing.

For ISO 14066 one NAB is expecting to finish implementation in February 2026.



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 (International Accreditation Forum) and ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) multilateral agreements. The EA MLA acts as a world-wide passport to trade.

1 - EXTENSION OF EA'S MLA SIGNATORY STATUS

On 7 May 2025, EA was recognised by IAF for the extension to the following sub-scopes:

Level 3 standard: ISO/IEC 17065

- **IFS Logistics**

Level 4 - IFS Logistics, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 and 3 and Part 4 (Note 1)

Level 5 - IFS Logistics, Part 2 (Note 1)

Note 1 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS Logistics Part 3, Section 1

- **IFS Broker**

Level 4 - IFS Broker, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 and 3 and Part 4 (Note 2)

Level 5 - IFS Broker, Part 2 (Note 2)

Note 2 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS Broker, Part 3, Section 1

- **IFS PACsecure**

Level 4 - IFS PACsecure, Part 1, Part 3, Sections 2 and 3 and Part 4 (Note 3)

Level 5 - IFS PACsecure, Part 2 (Note 3)

Note 3 - This scope adds requirements at Level 1 - IFS PACsecure, Part 3, Section 1

Furthermore, on 1st of August 2025, EA was recognized by IAF for the following sub-scopes:

Level 3 standard - ISO/IEC 17065

- FOS 0001 - Certification Procedure, Audit Guidance for Friend of the Sea Standards (FOS)

Level 3 standard - ISO/IEC 17021-1

- Compliance Management Systems (CMS)
- Anti-Bribery Management Systems (ABMS)

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

The re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to start in July 2026.

EA has applied to IAF/ILAC for the extension of scope “Biobanking – ISO 20387”. The extension will take place together with the re-evaluation of EA in 2026.

Besides, EA has responded positively to the IAF/ILAC requests and evaluators for the evaluations of the other regions as follows:

- 1 Team Leader from IPAC for the evaluation of IAAC (Inter American Accreditation Cooperation);
- 1 Team Member from TURKAK for the field of management system certification in the evaluation of AFRAC (African Accreditation Cooperation);
- 1 Team Member from IPAC for the field of persons certification in the evaluation of APAC (Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation);
- 1 Team Member from DANAK for the field of testing in the evaluation of SADCA (Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation).

ANNEX - MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES (8 OCTOBER 2024)

	CALIBRATION LABORATORIES	TESTING LABORATORIES	MEDICAL LABORATORIES ¹	INSPECTION BODIES	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PRODUCTS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	CERTIFICATION BODIES - PERSONS	VALIDATION & VERIFICATION BODIES	PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS	REFERENCE MATERIAL PRODUCERS
ALBANIA - DPA		√		√		√	√			
ALGERIA - ALGERAC	√	√		√						
AUSTRIA - AA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
BELGIUM - BELAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA - BATA	√	√	√	√	√					
BULGARIA - BAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
CROATIA - HAA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
CYPRUS - CYS	√	√	√	√	√					
CZECH REPUBLIC - CAI	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
DENMARK - DANAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
EGYPT - EGAC								√	√	
ESTONIA - EAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
FINLAND - FINAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
FRANCE - COFRAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
GEORGIA - GAC	√	√	√	√	√		√		√	
GERMANY - DAkkS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
GREECE - ESYD	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
HUNGARY - NAH	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
ICELAND - ISAC				√						
IRELAND - INAB	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√
ISRAEL - ISRAC	√	√	√	√						
ITALY - ACCREDIA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
LATVIA - LATAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
LITHUANIA - LA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
LUXEMBURG - OLAS	√	√	√	√	√	√				
MALTA - NAB-MALTA	√	√		√						
MONTENEGRO - ATCG	√	√	√	√	√					
NORWAY - NA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
POLAND - PCA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
PORTUGAL - IPAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - MOLDAC	√	√	√	√	√	√				
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA - IARNM	√	√	√	√	√	√				

¹ From 2003, the medical examinations are covered by EN ISO 15189.

ANNEX - MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES (8 OCTOBER 2024)

	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
ROMANIA - RENAR	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SERBIA - ATS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	
SLOVAKIA - SNAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SLOVENIA - SA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
SPAIN - ENAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
SWEDEN - SWEDAC	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	
SWITZERLAND - SAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√
NETHERLANDS - RvA	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
TUNISIA - TUNAC	√	√	√	√	√	√				
TURKEY - TURKAK	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
UKRAINE - NAAU	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		
UNITED KINGDOM - UKAS	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√

¹ From 2003, the medical examinations are covered by EN ISO 15189.

MLA REPORT 2025

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