

NGOs will soon be able to apply for EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificates 2028-34. As part of the application process, applicants are required to undertake an ex-ante assessment. DG ECHO continues to support the use of HQAI CHS audit findings to streamline ex-ante assessments - i.e. CHS Audit findings can be leveraged to answer a large part of the ex-ante assessment.

ARE YOU PURSUING OR ALREADY HOLDING CHS CERTIFICATION OR CHS INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION?

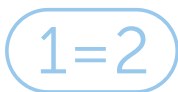
Leverage it to streamline DG ECHO ex-ante assessments for Humanitarian Partnership—save time, cut costs, and reduce audit fatigue.

WHAT YOU GAIN



• TIME & COST SAVINGS

HQAI's bridge audit repurposes CHS audit data to meet ~80% of DG ECHO ex-ante assessment needs, requiring only minimal additional verification—cutting total costs and reducing timelines significantly.



• ONE AUDIT, TWO REPORTS

With one streamlined process, your CHS audit becomes a dual-purpose tool—fulfilling both CHS certification and DG ECHO pre-qualification requirements.



• MINIMIZED DUPLICATION, LESS STAFF BURDEN

HQAI maps, reviews, and integrates CHS findings directly into the DG ECHO reporting framework, complementing them with targeted interviews or document reviews only where needed.



• ROBUST, QUALITY-ASSURED APPROACH

HQAI is ISO-accredited, trusted by major donors and recognised as ensuring rigorous and reliable audit results.

HOW THE BRIDGE WORKS

1. INITIATION

Apply early for an ECHO Bridge audit to ensure it is completed within 12 months of your last CHS onsite audit activities.

2. MAPPING & GAP ANALYSIS

- CHS audit findings are mapped against DG ECHO ex-ante criteria.
- HQAI identifies and plans for any missing elements

3. TARGETED BRIDGE ACTIVITIES

HQAI auditors conduct document reviews, interviews and checks—only where CHS evidence does not fully cover DG ECHO requirements.

4. REPORTING & DELIVERY

CHS audit + DG ECHO ex-ante assessment delivered as two distinct packages.

HOW CHS+ WORKS

1. INITIATION

Inform HQAI you'd like to integrate DG ECHO ex-ante assessment into HQAI's CHS audit process.

2. ADDITIONAL AUDIT CRITERIA

- HQAI will combine CHS and DG ECHO ex-ante criteria in one audit process.

3. AUDIT ACTIVITIES

HQAI auditors conduct audit activities and collect evidence to assess both, CHS and ECHO ex-ante requirements..

4. REPORTING & DELIVERY

CHS audit report & DG ECHO ex-ante assessment delivered

PROVEN SUCCESS & COMPETITIVE EDGE

CARE Confederation Case

Four CARE members (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway) successfully used CHS audit results to fast-track DG ECHO ex-ante assessments, saving substantial time and budget. See more detail [here](#).

Sector-Wide Recognition

HQAI has demonstrated how validated CHS audit data can objectively inform identified levels (50-100%) of various donor due diligence or partner capacity assessments. Using them as primary assurance in funders' processes represents a way to increase cost-effectiveness. HQAI works with governments, funding bodies, intermediaries, and the CHS Alliance, to leverage efficiencies and achieve sector-wide savings (financial, admin and HR) without compromising on the accountability and quality of aid, nor the rigour of the assessments."

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

- **Pressure on Funding**

With growing humanitarian needs and tighter budgets, avoiding redundancy is essential.

- **DG ECHO Humanitarian Partnerships renewed in 2027**

The partnerships between DG ECHO and non-governmental organisations will be renewed in 2027. Be ready for the next submission.

- **Assessment Fatigue is Real**

Overlapping due diligence and compliance assessments burden staff and partners. HQAI's solutions ease that strain.

- **Demonstrate Quality & Accountability**

An approach based on the CHS as a recognised quality and accountability standard conveys credibility, rigorously backed by independent, accredited assurance.

TAKE THE COMBINED AUDIT ROUTE

Interested in saving resources and reducing duplication?

Contact HQAI today to build bridge audits or CHS+ audits into your funding strategy.
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