

How will external QA change as a result of the ESG 2015?

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EQAR Policy on Use and Interpretation of the ESG



- Aims
 - Create transparency *ex ante*, consistency and understanding
 - Inform QA agencies, review panels and coordinators
 - Relevant for the EQAR Register Committee's decisions on registration of agencies and reviews for that purpose
- Development
 - Replaces “Practices and Interpretations” (2013)
 - Drafts presented to E4 organisations and governments
 - Adopted by Register Committee, published June 2015

Scope



“quality assurance related to learning and teaching in higher education, including the learning environment and relevant links to research and innovation”

“‘quality assurance’ is used [...] to describe all activities within the continuous improvement cycle (i.e. assurance and enhancement activities)”

- For registration on EQAR: **substantial compliance in all activities within the scope**
 - Obligatory and voluntary
 - Reviews “at home” and abroad, within and outside the EHEA
 - **New:** EQAR addresses activities **before** external review, to ensure full coverage

Role of external QA



- Role did not change
 - Link to Part 1 in standard 2.1, like in ESG 2005
- But: significant changes in Part 1
 - E.g. student-centred learning, link to NQF/QF-EHEA
 - Relevant, though indirectly, also for QAAs
- Expectation
 - Analysis how QAA reflects standards 1.1 – 1.10 in its own standards
 - Not an entirely new expectation, already under ESG 2005

Example

2.3 Implementing processes

External quality assurance processes should be reliable, useful, pre-defined, implemented consistently and published. They include

- a self-assessment or equivalent;
- an external assessment normally including a site visit;
- a report resulting from the external assessment;
- a consistent follow-up.

Interpretations:

4. If site visits are not part of the processes used by agency there need to be clear reasons for that.
5. The agency should provide follow-up procedures all reviews that contain any sort of recommendation.
6. It is up to the agency to determine the nature and timing of the follow-up in light of its mission and appropriate in its context, taking into consideration the national legislation.
7. The agency remains responsible for ensuring a consistent follow-up even if the formal decision is taken by another body or another body carries out actual follow-up.

Reports should at least demonstrate:

- How the agency ensures that its processes are reliable, useful and consistent.
- How the key features in the standard are implemented by the quality assurance agency in each of its activities.
- If no site visits are used, how evidence provided by institutions is validated through other mechanisms.

- Explain how RC interpreted ESG in specific cases thus far
- Shorter and fewer than in P&I 2013
- Mainly about specific scenarios
- Not for all standards

- **New:** ensure that external review reports provide evidence needed
- Generic
- Provided for all standards
- Use when preparing your self-evaluation report



Thank you for your attention!

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Decision-Making

