

**Substantive Change Report**  
by Agence pour l'Evaluation de la Qualité de l'Enseignement  
Supérieur (AEQES)

Register Committee

Ref. RC32/C72

Ver. 1.0

Date 2021-12-15

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Decision of: 13/12/2021  
Report received on: 04/11/2021  
Agency registered since: 01/06/2011  
Last external review report: 28/08/2021  
Registration until: 28/02/2022  
Absented themselves from decision-making: Not applicable

Attachments: [1. Substantive Change Report](#)

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 04/11/2021.
2. The Register Committee noted that AEQES introduced:
  - A. *an institutional review*, which it has piloted in 17 volunteer institutions between 2019 and 2021 and
  - B. *a programmatic continuous evaluation* of study programmes in 2019.
3. **Given that most of these changes became effective in 2019 already, the Committee underlined that AEQES should have submitted a change report immediately after the new activities have been developed.**

***A. piloted institutional review***

4. The Committee understood that for the piloted phase of the *institutional reviews* the standards of ESG Part 1 have been employed and that AEQES intends to design its own set of standards for future institutional reviews (ESG 2.1).
5. The Committee welcomed the extensive consultation carried out prior to writing the methodological proposal for the piloted reviews i.e. surveys of higher education stakeholders and their bodies, experts and quality agency managers, followed by the validation of the methodological proposal by a Steering Committee (ESG 2.2).
6. The Committee noted that the formal consequence of a positive judgement is that the programmatic evaluation by AEQES are discontinued for a period of six years (ESG 2.5).

## ***B. Programmatic continuous evaluation***

7. The Register Committee noted that AEQES introduced the *continuous programmatic evaluation* following the development of a specific reference framework focusing on three main criteria (i.e. commitment to continuous enhancement QA, progress made in relation to criteria 2, 3 and 4 of the initial evaluation reference framework and the link between individual and collective values and commitments with respect to quality). The Committee took note that the three criteria cover a number or specific indicators that are mapped against ESG Part 1.
8. The Committee understood that the methodology employed in the case of *continuous programmatic evaluation* is based on its usual programme evaluation procedure. The Committee however noted that the guidelines for the *continuous programmatic evaluation* reference framework will be drafted after AEQES finalises the assessment of the methodology for continuous programmatic evaluation (ESG 2.3).
9. The Register Committee considered the reported changes and noted that they would be analysed in-depth in the upcoming external review of AEQES.

## **Register Committee**

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## EQAR Substantive Change Report

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|--|--|
| Reference #  | 21122005   |
| Status   | Complete   |
| Agency #1  | agence pour l'évaluation de la qualité de l'enseignement supérieur   |
| Agency acronym   | AEQES  |
| Expiry date #1   | 28/02/2022   |
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| Other organisations?   | No   |
| A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed? | No   |
| B. Has the organisational structure changed?                         | No   |
| C. Changes in EQA activities   | 1. One or several new external QA activities were introduced         |

## Description new/changed

A pilot institutional review was launched in 2019 and is being finalised with the presentation on November 30, 2021, of a system-wide analysis (17 HEIs reviewed on a voluntary basis from Nov 2019 to April 2021). That phase will be followed by a taking-stock phase (approx from Dec 2021 to August 2023) and followed by new 6-year cycles of EQA activities (a cycle of institutional reviews and a cycle of programmatic reviews).

The set of standards for the pilot institutional reviews were (simply) ESG, Part 1 as the pilot's remit was the T&L mission of the institutions, not the research and service to society missions. AEQES will have then to design its own set of standards for the future institutional reviews.

Simultaneously, the methodology for the programmatic continuous evaluation was reinforced with the use of a dedicated set of standards.

To operationalise the pilot phase, a project-committee was set up (to monitor the pilot), a Council for Methodological Support (Conseil d'Appui Méthodologique in French) was put in place (6 independent international QA experts) as well as an Appeal Commission. Full details can be read in the SAR prepared by AEQES for its ENQA review in September 2021. the RR is expected early in 2022.

the pilot review reports will be published on [www.aeqes.be](http://www.aeqes.be)

to grasp the context of this new activity see [www.aeqes-coconstruction.be](http://www.aeqes-coconstruction.be)

The pilot phase outcomes should ultimately bring AEQES to have its decree amended within a 2-year period of time.

### 1. New EQA activity:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | a pilot institutional review   |
| 2 | continuous evaluation of programmes (reinforced methodology with a dedicated set of standards) |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Focus                                    | study programmes or higher education institutions  |
| ESG 2.1                                  | see pages 43-44 of the SAR here attached   |
| ESG 2.2                                  | the methodology was already in place and regularly monitored via taking into consideration the surveys to the HEIs and experts results. The set of standards was designed by a representative working group and adopted by the steering committee of the agency (largely representative of the stakeholders) |
| ESG 2.3                                  |  |
| 1  | <a href="http://www.aeqes.be/documents/20210823Guide20192023adestinationdesetablissementsV3.pdf">http://www.aeqes.be/documents/20210823Guide20192023adestinationdesetablissementsV3.pdf</a>  |
| ESG 2.3                                  | not applicable   |
| ESG 2.4                                  | same as in programmatic evaluations  |
| ESG 2.5                                  | same as in programmatic evaluations  |
| ESG 2.6                                  |  |
| 1  | <a href="http://www.aeqes.be">www.aeqes.be</a>   |
| ESG 2.7                                  | same as in programmatic evaluations  |
| ESG 3.4/ESG 3.6                          | same as in programmatic evaluations  |
| D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG | No   |
| File #1                                  | <a href="#">20210823_AEQES_updatedSAR_EN.pdf (2.10 MB)</a>   |
| File #2                                  | <a href="#">AEQES_SAR_2021_annexes.pdf (1.46 MB)</a>   |
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