

Approval of the Application by Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP) for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register

Register Committee

3-4 April 2024

Ref. RC42/A140

Ver. 1.0

Date 2024-04-24

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Application of:	2022-11-03		
Agency registered since:	2009-04-01		
Type of review:	Targeted	Site visit:	2023-09-20
External review report of:	2024-01-10	Submitted:	2024-01-12
Review coordinated by:	European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ENQA)		
Review panel members:	Alastair Delaney, Tara Ryan, Teresa Sánchez Chaparro, Damir Solak		
Decision of:	2024-04-04		
Registration until:	2029-01-31		
Absented themselves from decision-making:	Lewis Purser		
Attachments:	1. External Review Report, 2024-01-10		

1. The application of 2022-11-03 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee confirmed the eligibility of the application on 2022-12-01.
3. The Register Committee considered the targeted external review report of 2024-01-10 on the compliance of IEP with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).

Analysis:

4. In considering IEP's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee took into account its only activity, *Institutional evaluation*.
5. The Register Committee found that the report provides sufficient evidence and analysis on IEP's level of compliance with the ESG.
6. With regard to the specific European Standards, the Register Committee considered the following:

ESG 2.1 – Consideration of internal quality assurance

7. The review report showed that the coverage of the particular standards is ensured with guiding questions for institutions and for review teams. However, the evaluation reports are still not checked with a specific focus on how ESG is covered by the IEP Secretariat.

8. While the Register Committee concurred with the panel’s judgement and found the agency to be compliant with the standard, it highlighted the panel’s recommendation on importance of systematic signposting of ESG Part 1 criteria in the evaluation reports.

ESG 2.3 – Implementing processes

9. In the last review, the agency was found to be partially compliant with the standard as the follow-up model did not ensure a consistent follow-up for all evaluated higher education institutions.

10. The Register Committee noted from the panel’s analysis IEP’s efforts in addressing the shortcomings with the standards. Furthermore, the Committee noted that IEP took further measures to increase the rate of submission of follow-up reports by evaluated higher education institutions.

11. The Register Committee therefore concurred with the panel’s conclusion that IEP complies with the standard.

ESG 3.3 – Independence

12. In the previous renewal decision of IEP’s registration, the Register Committee noted that the agency’s organisational independence still continued to be compelled by the close link with the EUA.

13. The Register Committee understood that IEP has taken further steps to address the flagged issues raised in the previous decision. The Committee notes the panel’s analysis and the conclusion that while the EUA is providing resources to IEP, it does not have any role in the decision making processes within the IEP. Furthermore, the Committee notes that in order to better distinguish between EUA and the separate activities undertaken by the IEP, the agency has developed a new website and a distinguishable new corporate identity.

14. Furthermore, the Register Committee took note of the agency’s revised Terms of Reference in order to show the Steering Committee’s full ownership of the development and operation of the IEP.

15. The Register Committee therefore concurred with the panel’s conclusion that IEP complies with the standard. The Committee, however, shared the panel’s view that the agency should make publicly visible the *IEP Terms of Reference* and other official documents that state the organisational independence of IEP from EUA.

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Conclusion:

16. Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that IEP demonstrated compliance with the ESG (Parts 2 and 3) as follows:

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Standard	Previous decision (2019-04-03)	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.2	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
2.3	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.4	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
2.5	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
2.6	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
2.7	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.1	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.2	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.3	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.4	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.5	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.6	Compliance	<i>(Inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.7	Compliance	{not expected}	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

17. IEP therefore continues to comply substantially with the ESG as a whole.

18. The Register Committee therefore renewed IEP’s inclusion on the Register. IEP’s renewed inclusion shall be valid until 2029-01-31¹.

¹ Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §3.25 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.