

**Approval of the Application
by National Center For Educational Quality
Enhancement (NCEQE)
for Renewal of the Inclusion on the Register**

Register Committee
21 – 22 September 2026

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Ver. 1.0
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Application of:	2025-07-22		
Agency registered since:	2019-04-01		
Type of review:	Focused	Site visit:	2026-02-28
External review report of:	2026-06-26	Submitted:	2026-07-09
Review coordinated by:	European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ENQA)		
Review panel members:	Jordi Villà i Freixa, Natalia Greniewska, Padraig Walsh		
Decision of:	2026-09-22		
Registration until:	2029-04-30		
Absented themselves from decision-making:	Giorgi Munjishvili (Secretariat)		
Attachments:	1. External Review Report (external file), 2026-06-26		

1. The application of 2025-07-22 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee confirmed eligibility of the application on 2025-08-28.
3. The Register Committee considered the focused external review report of 2026-06-26 on the compliance of NCEQE with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).

Analysis:

4. In considering NCEQE's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee took into account the following activities:
 - Institutional Authorization
 - Programme Accreditation including:
 - a) Individual programme accreditation
 - b) Cluster programme accreditation

- International accreditation of education programmes of HEIs operating abroad
- Accreditation of Joint Programmes

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5. The activities *Increasing the student quota at higher education institutions* and *Increasing the student quota on the Medical Doctor educational program* are considered to be outside of the scope of the ESG, thus pertinent to the application for renewal of the inclusion on the Register.

6. The Register Committee found that the report provides sufficient evidence and analysis on NCEQE's level of compliance with the ESG.

7. With regard to the specific European Standards, the Register Committee considered the following:

ESG 2.2 – Designing methodologies fit for purpose

8. In the last decision on registration on EQAR, NCEQE was found to be compliant with the standard. At that time, the agency was yet to commence its first review of the international accreditation of education programmes of higher education institutions operating abroad. The Register Committee therefore inquired that the external review explore whether the practical implementation of this activity is fit for purpose.

9. From the report, the Register Committee learned that since the last review, the agency conducted only one such procedure and the panel found it fit for purpose. The Register Committee concurred with the panel that NCEQE remains compliant with the standard. Future reviews of the activity *International accreditation of education programmes of HEIs operating abroad* remain to be evaluated in the next external review of the agency.

ESG 2.3 – Implementing processes

10. In the last decision on registration on EQAR, NCEQE was found to be compliant with the standard. At that time, the implementation of the international accreditation of education programmes of higher education institutions operating abroad was not explored due to lack of implemented procedures. The Register Committee therefore requested that the external review explore the implementation in practice.

11. In panel's view, the one procedure implemented so far fulfils the requirements of the standard. **The Register Committee concurred with the panel that the agency remains compliant with the standard.** The next review should continue monitoring the procedure in practice.

ESG 2.5 – Criteria for outcomes

12. In its previous decision, the Register Committee found the agency partially compliant with ESG 2.5 due to concerns about the consistent interpretation of the standards and the evidence-based nature of outcomes. In particular, it noted the discrepant use of tools for ensuring consistency

and inquired further panel insight into their consistent application and interpretation of the standards.

13. From the report, the panel learned that NCEQE has introduced several measures for ensuring the consistency of decision-making such as extending the mandate as well as introducing an ethical code for the members of the Accreditation Council. In addition, the agency strengthened the wording in the documents regulating decision-making and started implementing some of the previously established requirements, such as distributing the materials to the Accreditation Council prior to the working sessions within the prescribed timeframe, more rigorously.

14. In the panel's view, the new documentation and organisational arrangements can guarantee the consistency of outcomes of the agency.

The Register Committee welcomed these changes, but found that their consistent implementation in practice is yet to be demonstrated by the agency. Consequently, the Register Committee could not follow the panel's judgement and found that the agency complies only partially with the standard.

ESG 3.3 – Independence

15. In its previous decision, the Register Committee found the agency non-compliant with ESG 3.3 due to the severity of the issues related to the agency's organisational and operational independence, particularly the Government's significant involvement in the appointment of several agency bodies. The Committee also considered that further panel insight was needed to assess whether political influence affected the agency's operations, staff turnover and the independence of its formal outcomes.

16. To address these issues, the panel noted that NCEQE introduced a fixed five-year term for the Director and improved the involvement of the Coordination Council in the appointment and dismissal of the Director and other key bodies. It also introduced new rules on preventing conflicts of interest, accountability mechanisms and term limits. In the panel's view, the staff turnover was not linked to external interference.

17. The Register Committee welcomed the changes and agreed with the panel that they strengthen the regulatory framework and documents safeguarding the agency's independence. The Register Committee also agreed with the panel that the legislative and agency level reforms are relatively recent (2024 and 2025) and their effectiveness still needs to be evaluated following a period of implementation. **Considering the severity of issues outlined in the previous decision on registration on EQAR, the Register Committee found that the implementation of the new arrangements and their results is yet to be demonstrated by the agency. Consequently, the Register Committee found the agency to be only partially compliant with the standard.**

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18. For the remaining standards, the Register Committee was able to concur with the review panel's analysis and conclusion without further comments.

Conclusion:

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

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Standard	Previous decision (2024-11-27)	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.2	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.3	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.4	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.5	Partial compliance	Compliance	Partial compliance
2.6	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.7	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.1	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.2	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.3	Non-compliance	Compliance	Partial compliance
3.4	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.5	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.6	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.7	Compliance	(not expected)	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

20. **The Register Committee considered that NCEQE only achieved partial compliance with some standards. In its holistic judgement, the Register Committee concluded that these are issues which require consistent implementation over time and demonstration of further practical results. Overall, the Register Committee found that NCEQE complies substantially with the ESG as a whole.**

21. **The Register Committee therefore approved the application for NCEQE's renewal of the inclusion on the Register. NCEQE's renewed inclusion shall be valid until 2029-04-30¹.**

¹ Renewal of registration after a focused review is valid for five years from the date of expiry of the previous registration, see §4.21 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.

22. The Register Committee further underlined that NCEQE is expected to address the issues mentioned appropriately and to resolve them at the earliest opportunity.

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