

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP)

Register Committee

Ref. RC/C154

Ver. 1.0

Date 2026-02-13

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Decision of:	2026-02-12
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2025-12-15
Agency registered since:	2009-04-01
Last external review report:	2024-01-10
Registration until:	2029-01-31
Absented themselves from decision-making:	n/a
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive Change Report, 2025-12-15 Minuted clarification of 2026-01-09

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2025-12-15.
2. The Register Committee took note of the newly introduced activity *Evaluation of European University Alliances*, which offers institution level evaluations. The activity relies on the other IEP's methodologies, as well as the European Framework for the Comprehensive Quality Assurance of European Universities by EuniQ project.
3. While the guidelines for the evaluation of the European University Alliances clearly map all the ESGs Part 1 in the methodology, it was unclear for the Register Committee whether all the questions are obligatory for the alliances and the review panels.
4. In a call (see Annex 2), IEP explained that it ensures full coverage of ESG Part 1 in practice as all of the questions must be covered both in the self-evaluation report by the alliance as well as the external review report by the panel. IEP has the right to ask both subjects to amend the reports should this not be the case.
5. **The Register Committee took note of the change and did not have prima facie concerns that the activity does not comply with the ESG. The Committee expects that the activity will be evaluated in full by a review panel the next external review of the agency.**

EQAR Substantive Change Report

Reference #	31174557
Status	Complete
Agency #1	Institutional Evaluation Programme
Agency acronym	EUA-IEP
Expiry date #1	31/01/2029
Contact #1	Cecilia Biaggi
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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	<p>In response to the evolving landscape of European higher education, the IEP decided to extend its activities to the evaluation of European Universities Alliances. This decision was guided by the conviction that our methodology, with its enhancement-led, peer-review-based approach, can be highly beneficial to alliances that are developing complex, transnational governance structures, joint educational provision, and shared quality cultures. The evaluations of European Universities Alliances are conducted using the established IEP methodology, complemented by the framework developed within the EUniQ project. The application of the IEP methodology to this new evaluation activity is</p>

fully consistent with its use in the agency's other evaluation services. These existing activities were the subject of the IEP's most recent external review.

1. New EQA activity:

1

Evaluation of European University Alliances

Focus

- other i.e. micro-credentials, short cycle studies etc.
 - European University Alliances
-

ESG 2.1

The agency ensures that ESG standards 1.1–1.10 are effectively translated into the evaluation of European Universities Alliances through the consistent application of its established IEP methodology, which has been demonstrated to be fully aligned with the ESG and was confirmed as such during the agency's most recent external review. The evaluation of alliances does not constitute a departure from this methodology, but rather an adaptation of it to a multi-institutional and transnational context.

Core ESG themes such as quality assurance policy, governance and decision-making, learning and teaching, student participation, etc., are addressed using the analytical framework developed within the EUniQ project, which translates ESG requirements into alliance-specific evaluation areas.

The involvement of key stakeholders, including students and senior institutional leaders, transparency of procedures and outcomes, and clear follow-up mechanisms further ensure that ESG standards 1.1–1.10 are embedded in the design and implementation of this new external quality assurance activity.

ESG 2.2

The methodology for the review of European Universities Alliances was designed to ensure fitness for purpose by building on the results of the EUniQ project, in line with the 2025 Council Recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system for European Universities Alliances.

Stakeholders were actively involved in the development of the processes and criteria through targeted consultations with members of the IEP Steering Committee who are closely engaged in the management and strategic development of European Universities Alliances, as their home institutions are members of such alliances. Their input ensured that the methodology reflects operational realities, governance arrangements, and quality challenges specific to alliances, thereby strengthening its relevance and applicability.

ESG 2.3

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https://eua-iep.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/alliances_guideline.pdf

ESG 2.3

Not applicable

ESG 2.4

As for all types of EUA-IEP evaluations, review teams for the evaluation of European Universities Alliances are assembled by the Secretariat to best meet the requirements of the specific evaluation. In the case of alliances, all reviewers are actively involved in the management and/or activities of European Universities Alliances at their home institutions, which ensures a high level of contextual understanding and relevance.

ESG 2.5

Same as for the other types of evaluations conducted by EUA-IEP

ESG 2.6

1	https://eua-iep.org/reports-publications/
ESG 2.7	Same as for the other types of evaluations conducted by EUA-IEP
ESG 3.4/ESG 3.6	Same as for the other types of evaluations conducted by EUA-IEP
D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG	No
Submit form?	I am ready to submit the change report form
Last Update	2025-12-15 11:38:49
Start Time	2025-12-15 11:38:11
Finish Time	2025-12-15 11:38:49
IP	2.36.100.107
Browser	Chrome
Device	Desktop
Referrer	https://www.eqar.eu/

Substantive Change Report by Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP)

Minutes of Zoom call

Register Committee

Ref. C154
Date 2026-01-14
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Date of the conversation:	09/01/2025
Representative of IEP:	Cecilia Biaggi
Representative of EQAR:	Aleksandra Zhivkovikj

1. IEP has made a Substantive Change Report on 2025-12-15. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on the report, EQAR contacted IEP via call the matter(s) below.
2. IEP agreed to clarify the matter(s) by means of a Zoom call, including the following:
3. The guiding questions for the self-evaluation process outlined in Guidelines for Alliances Evaluation aligned with the EuniQ model are of obligatory nature – i.e. the alliances are expected to cover all of them in their self-evaluation reports. IEP ensures this through a pre-preliminary check of the SAR and has the right to ask the alliance to amend its report, should there is not sufficient information on all of the standards.
4. In similar fashion, the guiding questions for the self-evaluation process are also aimed at and of obligatory nature for the external review panel.
5. The ESG 1.5 is addressed through the questions in the section “Human resources” of the guiding questions for the self-evaluation process.