Decision on the Substantive Change Report by National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)

Decision of:	2026-06-26
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2026-06-08
Agency registered since:	2012-11-01
Last external review report:	2022-12-16
Registration until:	2027-10-31
Absented themselves from decision-making:	n/a
Attachments:	1. Substantive Change Report, 2026-06-08

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2026-06-08.
2. The Register Committee understood that, further to the information provided in ANECA's previous substantive change report of 2026-03-01, AUDIT International was not discontinued entirely. Rather, ANECA has ceased only the international scope of the activity and will continue to offer it domestically under the name AUDIT, exclusively within the Spanish higher education system.
3. The Register Committee noted that, although the international scope had been discontinued, AUDIT is the successor to the AUDIT International activity. Following this, the issue of the lack of student participation raised during the agency's previous renewal of registration for AUDIT international activities should be further considered as part of ANECA's next review.
4. **The Committee took note of this change and, taking into account the changes to the activity since the agency's last renewal of registration, expects the activity to be fully analysed against ESG 2.1–2.7 as part of ANECA's next renewal of registration.**

EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	ANECA
Agency acronym	ANECA
Expiry date #1	31/10/2027
Contact #1	Anabel Bonilla Calero
Phone #1	630441061
Email #1	Abonilla@aneca.es
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	2. Substantive changes carried out to one or several existing external QA activities (e.g. changes to their methodology, criteria or procedures)
Description new/changed	Under the leadership of Pilar Paneque (current director of ANECA), it was decided that AUDIT activities would be carried out exclusively in Spain, as at present other foreign institutions in Latin America are no longer evaluated; consequently, the AUDIT INTERNATIONAL programme was discontinued, but AUDIT would continue to carry out evaluations using the same criteria as to date.
2. Changed EQA activity	
1	AUDIT
ESG 2.1	As before, ANECA ensures that ESG Standards 1.1–1.10 are effectively integrated into the revised AUDIT external quality assurance activity through their direct incorporation into the

	programme methodology, the assessment framework, and the operational procedures. The AUDIT programme is explicitly designed as a quality assurance system for the internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions, and its criteria are fully aligned with the ESG Part 1 standards. Each ESG standard is operationalised within the AUDIT model through defined criteria, indicators, and assessment guidelines used by the review panels, as follows: ESG 1.1 (AUDIT criterion 1), ESG 1.2 (AUDIT criterion 2); ESG 1.3 (AUDIT criterion 3); ESG 1.4 (AUDIT criterion 3); ESG 1.5 (AUDIT criterion 4); ESG 1.6 (AUDIT criterion 5); ESG 1.7 (AUDIT criterion 9); ESG 1.8 (AUDIT criterion 10); ESG 1.9 (AUDIT criterion 2); and ESG 1.10 (the achievement of programme implementation implies renewal of certification every five years). The evaluation process, which includes self-assessment reports, external peer review, and institutional site visits, is structured to ensure that all relevant ESG 1.1–1.10 standards are systematically addressed (e.g. programme design, student-centred learning, student assessment, teaching staff, learning resources, information management, public information, and continuous improvement). Evaluators receive specific training on the ESG and on the AUDIT methodology to ensure consistent interpretation and application of the standards across all evaluations. Internal quality assurance mechanisms within ANECA further ensure methodological consistency and alignment with ESG requirements.
ESG 2.2	The AUDIT methodology remains fit for purpose

	as it involves a limited modification of the scope of the activity, consisting solely of the removal of evaluations outside Spain, while the criteria, methodology, and evaluation procedures remain unchanged. Since no substantial changes were introduced to the design of the process, no methodological redesign was necessary. The fitness of the activity is maintained as full alignment with the ESG standards and the existing evaluation framework is preserved. Stakeholders did not participate in a specific redesign process, as neither the criteria nor the structure of the programme were modified, but only its geographical scope of application.
ESG 2.3	
1	Since no substantial changes were introduced to the design of the process, no methodological redesign was necessary. However, access is provided to the published information on AUDIT: https://www.aneca.es/en/centres-and-institutions
ESG 2.4	No changes have been made to the composition of the review team, nor to the selection, appointment, or training of reviewers.
ESG 2.5	The agency ensures consistency in the application of its criteria through several mechanisms. These include the use of detailed and publicly available evaluation guidelines, regular training and calibration sessions for evaluators, and the work of coordinated evaluation panels. In addition, internal quality assurance procedures, such as double review of reports and cross-checking of decisions, help to ensure uniform interpretation and application of

	criteria. Periodic meetings and feedback loops are also used to identify and correct potential discrepancies, thereby promoting consistency across all evaluations.
ESG 2.6	
1	https://www.aneca.es/en/centres-and-institutions
D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG	No
Submit form?	I am ready to submit the change report form