

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Directorate for Evaluation and Accreditation (AAC-DEVA) on its change into the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA)

Register Committee

Ref. RC39/C92

Ver. 1.0

Date 2023-07-12

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Decision of:	2023-06-01
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2023-02-23
Agency registered since:	2009-01-01
Last external review report:	2019-09-19
Registration until:	2024-09-30
Absented themselves from decision-making:	none
Attachments:	1. Substantive Change Report, 2023-02-23 2. Minuted clarification of 2023/06/27

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2023-02-23.
2. The Register Committee noted that following a decree-law issued by the Andalusian government in August 2021 the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA) has become the legal successor of the Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Directorate for Evaluation and Accreditation (AAC-DEVA).
3. ACCUA started operating on 1 March 2023.

Organisational Changes (ESG 3.1, ESG 3.2, ESG 3.3)

4. According to the decree-law, ACCUA is ascribed to the regional Andalusian Ministry of University, Research and Innovations, it has public legal personality, full legal capacity, its own assets, budget, management autonomy and independence.
5. The Committee noted that compared to its predecessor (AAC-DEVA) ACCUA has a more simplified structure i.e., which includes the technical committees for evaluation and accreditation (transferred from DEVA) and the General Secretary (transferred from AAC), Governing Board and two new sub-directorates (units).

6. The Committee noted that ACCUA's new Governing Board is effective as of 24 May 2023, and it now includes an additional student member.
7. The Committee further noted that ACCUA's two new units for Evaluation and Accreditation and for Quality and Institutional Relations are expected to be operational at the end of the year.
8. The Committee also took note that ACCUA's has recently launched a call for the position of Director, which is expected to be filled in by September 2023.
9. The Committee also considered that the new Director will be responsible for the new composition of the technical committees, that is expected to be in place at the end of 2023.

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Staffing and financial situation (ESG 3.5)

10. The Register Committee learned that ACCUA inherited most of the staff employed by AAC-DEVA. The Committee welcomed the agency's clarification regarding the expected staff capacity increase, which is likely to provide more time and resources to the new agency.
11. The Committee also understood that the ACCUA's budget will be allocated through an annual approval by the Governing Board and Regional Government, following the same procedure as for AAC-DEVA.

Strategic plan and procedures (ESG 3.1, ESG 2.2)

12. ACCUA's strategic plan (for the next four years) and ensuing plan of work will follow after all the agency's new bodies are operational (end of 2023). The agency clarified that some preparation work was already carried out in this regard i.e., internal analysis, defining of the main strategic lines etc.
13. The Register Committee understood that ACCUA follows otherwise, the existing procedures (of its predecessor) and that no substantive changes are expected to its external QA activities in the near future.
14. **Based on the information provided in the Substantive Change Report and minuted clarification, the Register Committee considered that ACCUA is eligible for provisional registration and that it may undergo an external review without interruption of its registration.**
15. **As per EQAR's Merger Policy¹, ACCUA's registration may be exceptionally prolonged for up to 24 months counted from the date of the agency's operation i.e., from 1 March 2023.**
16. **However, considering AAC-DEVA's expiry of registration on 2024-09-30 and the operation of ACCUA's new bodies, the Register Committee invites ACCUA to initiate its external review (by applying for registration on EQAR) before the end of 2023.**

¹See EQAR's Merger Policy

https://www.eqar.eu/assets/uploads/2018/04/agency_mergersv1.0.pdf

EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Directorate for Evaluation and Accreditation
Agency acronym	AAC-DEVA
Expiry date #1	30/09/2024
Contact #1	Sebastián Chávez de Diego
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Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	Yes
Description	<p>In the process of reorganising the public agencies of Junta de Andalucía, the Andalusian government approved by decree-law in August 2021 the creation of the Agency for Scientific and University Quality of Andalusia (ACCUA, https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/boja/2021/153/1), an administrative agency to carry out the competences in matters of evaluation and accreditation of university activities and evaluation and accreditation of the research, development and innovation activities of the agents of the Andalusian Knowledge System, which were previously carried out by the Directorate for Evaluation and Accreditation of the Andalusian Agency of Knowledge (AAC-DEVA). According to this decree-law, ACCUA will be ascribed to the regional Ministry of University, Research and Innovations and will have its own public legal personality, full legal capacity, its own assets and treasury as well as management autonomy and independence for</p>

the fulfilment of its purposes.

ACCUA's effective start-up will take place in March 1st, with the entry into force of the decree of the Governing Council of February 14, approving its statutes.

B. Has the organisational structure changed?	Yes
Description	<p>According to the statutes ACCUA's organisational structure will be similar to the current AAC-DEVA's structure and will be made up of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. governing bodies, such as the Presidency, held by the head of the competent regional Ministry and the Governing Board, composed of the Presidency and the Agency's Director, three representatives of the regional government, two representatives of Andalusian rectors, two representatives of University Social Councils, four members with outstanding professional prestige from the scientific and technical fields, two representatives of the regional administration and two students.2. management body, the Agency's Director, how will be appointed after a public call and will have the same function that the current DEVA's Director, plus two new sub-directorates, one for Evaluation and Accreditation and another for Quality and Institutional Relations.3. technical and advisory body, the Technical Committee, formed by the ACCUA's Director, the two Sub-directorates, the area coordinators, fourteen members of international prestige and two students. <p>Likewise, it shall have a General Secretariat that will assist the Director in his functions. All current</p>

DEVA's staff will be transferred to ACCUA, which guarantees the normal operation of the Agency during the period of transition. The organisational structure of ACCUA has been proposed to improve the internal functioning and does not affect to the ESG2015 compliance.

C. Changes in EQA activities

4. Not applicable, no new activities/no changes

D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG

No

Submit form?

I am ready to submit the change report form

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Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Directorate for Evaluation and Accreditation (AAC-DEVA)

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Minutes of Telephone Conversation

Date of the conversation:	2023-06-27
Representative of ACCUA (formerly AAC-DEVA)	Belén Floriano/ Francisco Pérez
Representative of EQAR:	Melinda Szabo, Deputy Director

1. AAC-DEVA /ACCUA has made a Substantive Change Report on 2023-02-23. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on the report, EQAR contacted AAC-DEVA /ACCUA via telephone to clarify the matters below.
2. AAC-DEVA/ACCUA agreed to clarify the matters by means of a telephone conversation.

Governing or managing bodies (ESG 3.1, ESG 3.3)

3. The agency (ACCUA) has moved to a more simplified structure compared to its predecessor (AAC-DEVA). The new agency does no longer include units that were part of AAC i.e., areas of promotion of research and development and transfer of knowledge; areas of international programmes, advanced training area and mobility of knowledge, areas of studies and prospective.
4. The new simplified structure of ACCUA includes the technical committees for evaluation and accreditation (transferred from DEVA) and the General Secretary (transferred from AAC). ACCUA maintains the earlier format of the Governing Board, to which it has added an additional student. The new Governing Board is effective as of 24 May 2023.
5. The agency plans to introduce two new sub-directorates, one for Evaluation and Accreditation and one for Quality and Institutional Relations. The new units are expected to start functioning at the end of the year.
6. ACCUA has launched a call for the position of Director, who is expected to be selected (following the same selection process as before) as of September 2023.

Staffing or financial situation (ESG 3.5)

7. AAC-DEVA's staff has been transferred to ACCUA i.e., 16 technical and administrative staff from DEVA, 15 technical staff from AAC and an addition of 6 IT personnel. Given the restructuring of the agency, the staff capacity is expected to increase with more time and resources to be allocated to ACCUA. The agency's budget will be allocated as before through an annual approval by the Governing Board and Regional Government.

Strategic plan and procedures (ESG 3.1, ESG 2.2)

8. ACCUA expects its new strategic plan (for the next four years) to be adopted by its Governing Board next year, after the new director and the new bodies are in place. Some previous work already done i.e., internal analysis, defining of the main strategic lines etc.
9. The agency's existing procedures are being employed. The agency is not expected to implement changes to its external QA activities in the near future, other than minor changes as a result of the update of the national legislation i.e., changes are related to internal QA as more responsibilities is given to universities in developing their own internal QA.

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