

**Approval of the Application  
by the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA)  
for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register**

Register Committee

Ref. RC12/2014/05

Ver. 1.0

Date 2014-05-22

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1. The application of 13/12/2013 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee considered the external review report of December 2013 on the compliance of PKA with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). The Register Committee found that the report provides clear evidence and analysis of how PKA complies with ESG.
3. The Register Committee further considered the Action Plan submitted by PKA in response to the review report and recommendations.

Analysis:

4. With regard to the specific European Standards and Guidelines, the Register Committee considered the following:
5. **ESG 2.2:** The Register Committee noted the review panel's recommendation that PKA formalise its consultation with external stakeholders as regards the development of its processes and criteria. This would also allow PKA to systematically address any concerns regarding overlaps between institutional and programme evaluations, and to identify suggestions for improvements from stakeholders.
6. **ESG 2.5:** The review report noted that reports produced from ex-ante evaluations, serving as advice to the minister, are not made public by PKA.

While the review panel stated that it would not see added value in publication, the Committee underlines that ESG 2.5 generally requires publication of all reports. At least for institutions/programmes that were eventually approved by the ministry there does not seem to be any arguments against publishing the report. This has therefore been flagged.

The Register Committee further noted the review panel's recommendation to ensure that suggestions on internal quality assurance of institutions are included in all reports, and that reports distinguish more clearly between recommendations and suggestions.

7. **ESG 3.6:** When PKA was initially admitted to the Register it was flagged for future attention whether there are sustainable arrangements to ensure its independence, with a focus on the robustness of PKA's procedures to avoid interference from third parties.

The Register Committee has considered the review report and found that it addressed comprehensively the arrangements and instruments in place to ensure PKA's independence vis-à-vis the ministry, the higher education institutions and stakeholders.

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8. **ESG 3.7:** The establishment of an appeals system was flagged when PKA was initially admitted to the Register. The Register Committee noted that PKA has meanwhile introduced an internal appeals system. It was not considered fully impartial and transparent by the review panel, but described as what was possible within the current legal provisions.

The Register Committee was pleased that PKA is also in ongoing discussions with the ministry to introduce a robust external appeals system. The impartiality and transparency of that (future) system can, naturally, only be judged once it has been decided and implemented, as part of the next external review of PKA.

### Conclusion:

9. Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that PKA continues to substantially comply with the ESG and, therefore, renewed its inclusion on the Register.

PKA's renewed inclusion shall be valid until 31/12/2018<sup>1</sup>.

10. The following issue has been flagged for particular attention when considering a potential application for renewal of inclusion. PKA is expected to address this issue specifically in its next self-evaluation report, setting out whether the issue has been resolved or indicating what progress has been made. PKA is further responsible for informing the coordinator of the next external review and the review panel of the need to address this issue in the external review report.

### **ESG 2.5: Publication of reports from ex-ante evaluations**

It should receive attention whether PKA, in consultation with the ministry, has considered to publish reports from ex-ante evaluations of authorised programmes and higher education institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §4.1 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.