

Approval of the Application
by EKKA - Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational
Education (EKKA)
for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register

Register Committee

12/13 June 2018

Ref. RC21/A50

Ver. 1.0

Date 2018-06-18

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Application of:	13/11/2016
Agency registered since:	23/10/2013
External review report of:	22/02/2018
Review coordinated by:	ENQA - European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education
Review panel members:	Jean-Pierre Finance (Chair, academic), Olena Rusnak (student), Marion Coy (secretary), Ronny Heintze
Decision of:	13/06/2018
Registration until:	31/03/2018
Absented themselves from decision-making:	N/A
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation of eligibility, 23/12/2016 2. External Review Report, 14/03/2018

1. The application of 13/11/2016 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee confirmed eligibility of the application on 23/12/2016.
3. The Register Committee considered the external review report of 22/02/2018 on the compliance of EKKA with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).

Analysis:

4. In considering EKKA's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee only took into account:
 - *Institutional accreditation of higher education institutions;*
 - *Quality assessment of study programme groups in the first and second cycles of higher education;*
 - *Quality assessment of study programme groups in the third cycle of higher education;*
 - *Initial assessment of study programme groups;*

- *Transitional evaluation and re-evaluation of study programme groups;*
 - *Accreditation of study programmes in Moldova.*
5. *Accreditation of study programme groups in vocational education and training* are not within the scope of the ESG and, thus, not pertinent to the application inclusion on the Register.
 6. The Register Committee found that the report provides sufficient evidence and analysis on EKKA’s level of compliance with the ESG.
 7. With regard to the specific ESG, the Register Committee considered the following:

ESG 2.3 – Implementing processes

In its last decision the Register Committee flagged for attention EKKA’s decision-making criteria with regards to the transparency and consistency of its criteria for transitional re-evaluations and assessments of study programme groups, specifically concerning the length of shortened review cycles.

Having evaluated the procedures for decision making by Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education (HEQAC), the panel concluded that the standard for consistency and transparency in decision-making has received considerable attention and improvement since the last review.

The Register Committee noted that EKKA now “*has transparent, published criteria in place for all types of assessments, and these are applied consistently*” (p. 47, under ESG 2.5).

Considering the analysis the Register Committee was satisfied that the flag was addressed and therefore concurred with the panel’s conclusion that EKKA complies with ESG 2.3.

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

Conclusion:

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

Standard	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Substantial compliance	Compliance
2.2	Full compliance	Compliance
2.3	Full compliance	Compliance
2.4	Full compliance	Compliance

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2.5	Full compliance	Compliance
2.6	Full compliance	Compliance
2.7	Full compliance	Compliance
3.1	Full compliance	Compliance
3.2	Full compliance	Compliance
3.3	Full compliance	Compliance
3.4	Substantial compliance	Compliance
3.5	Full compliance	Compliance
3.6	Full compliance	Compliance
3.7	(not expected)	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

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10. EKKA therefore continues to comply substantially with the ESG as a whole.
11. The Register Committee therefore approved the application and renewed EKKA's inclusion on the Register. EKKA's renewed inclusion shall be valid until 28/02/2023¹.

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

Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA)
Tiia Bach
Toompuiestee 30
10149 Tallinn
Estonia

Brussels, 23 December 2016

Confirmation of Eligibility: Application for Renewal of Registration

Application no. A50 of 13/11/2016

Dear Tiia,

We hereby confirm that the application by EKKA for renewal of registration is eligible.

Based on the information and draft terms of reference provided, the external review coordinated by ENQA fulfils the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.

We confirm that the following activities of EKKA are within the scope of the ESG:

- *Institutional accreditation of higher education institutions;*
- *Quality assessment of study programme groups in the first and second cycles of higher education;*
- *Quality assessment of study programme groups in the third cycle of higher education;*
- *Initial assessment of study programme groups;*
- *Transitional evaluation and re-evaluation of study programme groups;*
- *Accreditation of study programmes in Moldova.*

Please ensure that EKKA's self-evaluation report covers all the aforementioned activities.

Furthermore, the self-evaluation report and external review report should also address the recognition of the external quality assurance activities carried out by other quality assurance agencies.

We further remind you that the following issue was flagged when EKKA was admitted to the Register and should be addressed in your self-evaluation report and the external review report:

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ESG 2.3 – Criteria for outcomes [ESG 2005: standard 2.3]

It should receive attention whether EKKA has streamlined and made sufficiently explicit its decision-making criteria to ensure transparency and consistency in its decisions for transitional re-evaluations and assessments of study programme groups, specifically concerning the length of shortened review cycles

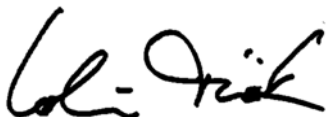
We confirm that the *accreditation of study programme groups in vocational education and training* is not an activity within the scope of the ESG, provided that the accredited courses or degrees do not belong to any cycle of the Framework of Qualifications for the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA).

While these activities are not relevant to your application, it is EKKA's choice – in agreement with the review coordinator – whether those activities should be commented upon by the review panel.

We will forward this letter to ENQA in its capacity as the coordinator of the external review. At the same time we underline that it is EKKA's responsibility to ensure that the coordinator and review panel take account of the present confirmation, so as to ensure that all activities mentioned are analysed by the panel.

This confirmation is made according to the relevant provisions of the EQAR Procedures for Applications. EKKA has the right to appeal this decision in accordance with the Appeals Procedure; any appeal must reach EQAR within 90 days from receipt of this decision.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Tück
(Director)

Cc: ENQA