

Substantive Change Report by Unibasq

Register Committee

Ref. RC/C25

Ver. 1.0

Date 2017-01-24

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Decision of: 24/01/2017

Report received on: 16/11/2017

Agency registered since: 29/11/2014

Last external review report: April 2014

Registration until: 30/04/2019

**Absented themselves from
decision-making:**

Attachments: 1. [Substantive Change Report Unibasq](#)

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 16 November 2017.
2. The Committee noted that Unibasq made a number of changes related to its financial and human resources and introduced provisions to address appeals' procedures and that these changes address the flags the Committee raised in its decision of initial inclusion.
3. The Register Committee noted that Unibasq secured a new mode of financing from the Basque Government intended to support the objectives set out in its Strategic plan, while allowing for more autonomy in the management of its finances.
4. The Committee noted the establishment of a new Ethics and Rights Committee, that will be responsible for supervising the implementation of Unibasq's evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures and overseeing the application of its Ethics and Rights code. The Committee noted that in some procedures (study programmes and institutional evaluations) the decision is taken by a different entity (University Council).
5. The Committee further noted the composition of the Ethics and Rights Committee, where the Director of the agency acts as the President of the Committee and the presence of other staff and Committee members of Unibasq.
6. While the Register Committee took note of these changes, the Committee underlined that Unibasq is expected to address these matters in its upcoming external review in 2018, in particular to consider how the complaints and appeals procedures are managed and how the independence of the respective organisational unit is ensured.

Subject: Substantive Change Report: Unibasq - Agency for Quality of the Basque University System**From:** "eva.fdzlabastida@unibasq.eus" <form_engine@fs22.formsite.com>**Date:** 11/16/2017 1:09 PM**To:** substantive-changes@eqar.eu

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Status	Complete
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Agency #1 *	Unibasq - Agency for Quality of the Basque University System
Expiry date #1 *	30/04/2019
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Other organisations? *	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed? *	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed? *	Yes
Description *	<p>A new model of financing for Unibasq has eventually come into operation in 2016. The special feature of this system is that it lays down the principle that funding is linked to the fulfilment of certain objectives. The Governing Board approved the multi-annual programme contract with the Basque Government according to the new Strategic Plan 2016-2019. It is important to note that the multi-annual programme contract should be regarded as a way of improving quality in all the Agency's activity areas, leading to the progressive development of actions to achieve the objectives contained in the Strategic plan while ensuring at the same time the Agency's funding autonomy.</p> <p>The aforementioned multi-annual programme contract in line with the new Strategic plan establishes specific actions related to playing an active role within ENQA, and extends it to a broad international level through joint activities with foreign universities and institutions and participating actively in seminars and international meetings.</p> <p>In addition to the economic funds, human resources have been increased, and since the end of 2015 the staff was strengthened with the inclusion of technical staff. In this line, two more evaluation technicians joined Unibasq. Furthermore, in order to build</p>

a quality core of personnel in the agency, an assessment of job positions is going to be made to facilitate the alignment of the staff with the new reality of Unibasq.

C.i. Are there new types of activities? *	No
C.ii. Are there changes in existing activities? *	Yes
C.iii. Have some or all existing activities been discontinued? *	No
Description new/changed *	<p>In order to further improve its appeals procedure, Unibasq analysed the possibility of creating a commission to deal with appeals. Eventually, the decision was taken that the Ethics Committee became the Ethics and Rights Committee, which will be responsible for supervising the correct implementation of Unibasq's evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures and the correct application of its Ethics and Rights code. In addition, this Committee could declare evaluations null and the evaluations will have to be made again, although this Committee does not have reassessment capacity. The reasons why evaluations could be declared null are if the Committee sees risk of impartiality of some expert or if during the procedure some defense right is broken.</p> <p>In the case of study programmes and institutional evaluations, Unibasq does not issue a formal resolution. The Evaluation Committee issues a preliminary report which is communicated to the interested party. Then a period for the submission of claims is opened. Finally the report is reviewed taking into account the submitted claims, and a final report is issued. Unibasq does not make the formal decision, which is a competence of the University Council. If there is a negative decision, there is an appeal procedure where the University Council can ask Unibasq to review it. In this case, the chairs of Unibasq Study programmes evaluation committees will issue a report. If the final outcome is still negative, the institutions have the option to appeal before the Courts in accordance with Act 29/1998 on Contentious-Administrative Jurisdiction.</p>
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