

**Approval of the Application
by National Agency for the Quality Assessment and
Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)
for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register**

Register Committee
2-3 March 2023

Ref. RC38/A115
Ver. 1.0
Date 2023-03-13
Page 1 / 4

Application of:	2021-07-30	
Agency registered since:	2012-11-01	
External review report of:	2022-12-16	Submitted: 2023-01-17
Type of review:	Targeted	
Review coordinated by:	European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ENQA)	
Review panel members:	Damian Michalik, Laura Beccari, Simona Lache,	
Decision of:	2023-03-03	
Registration until:	2027-10-31	
Absented themselves from decision-making:	none	
Attachments:	1. External Review Report, 2022-12-16 2. Minuted clarification by the Review Panel, 2023-02-17	

1. The application of 2021-07-30 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee confirmed eligibility of the application on 2021-10-22 having considered clarification received from ANECA on 2021-09-06 and 2021-09-22.
3. The Register Committee considered the targeted external review report of 2022-12-16 on the compliance of ANECA with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).
4. The Register Committee sought and received clarification from the review panel on 2023-02-17.

Analysis:

5. In considering ANECA's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee took into account the following activities:
 - Programme level
 - VERIFICA

- MONITOR
- ACREDITA
- International Quality Labels (SIC)
 - EUR-ACE
 - Euro-Inf
 - EUROBACHELOR / EUROMASTER
- Joint programme accreditation
- Institutional level
 - AUDIT
 - INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION
 - DOCENTIA
 - AUDIT INTERNATIONAL

6. The following activities are not within the scope of the ESG and, thus, not pertinent to the application inclusion on the Register:

- Academic staff recruitment assessment programme (PEP)
- ACADEMIA
- CNEAI
- International projects
- Other assessments that do not relate to teaching & learning in higher education

7. The Register Committee found that the report provides sufficient evidence and analysis on ANECA's level of compliance with the ESG.

8. With regard to the specific European Standards, the Register Committee considered the following:

ESG 2.4 – Peer-review experts

9. When considering the last substantive change report by ANECA, the Register Committee could not confirm whether student panel members were involved consistently in all AUDIT INTERNATIONAL reviews.

10. The panel noted that the internal system of the agency generally aimed to have students in every expert panel, in each of ANECA's procedure. The panel, however, found out that the majority of AUDIT INTERNATIONAL experts panels did not include students (see clarification of 2023-02-17).

11. According to the panel, ANECA found it challenging to ensure student participation in these experts panel due to the limited availability of the students. The Committee acknowledged that recruiting student experts might be more difficult for some reviews than for others, but underlined that

this challenge has to be addressed by any agency and cannot serve as a reason to carry out reviews without student panel members.

12. Given the absence of students from most expert panels for AUDIT INTERNATIONAL, the Register Committee was unable to concur with the panel's conclusion, but concluded that ANECA only partially complies with ESG 2.4.

ESG 2.6 – Reporting

13. In its previous decision, the Register Committee concluded that ANECA's practice of publishing summary reports did not meet the requirement of the standard.

14. The panel reported that all reports from programme evaluations were now published on ANECA's website in a more extensive format; for SIC, AUDIT and AUDIT INTERNATIONAL the agency published the full expert reports.

15. The panel clarified (see clarification) that such reports were presented during the site-visit by ANECA and that helped for the panel to reach their conclusion. Due to the fact that all institutions must undergo institutional accreditation, the panel found it understandable to have shorter programme evaluation reports that are more concise and concrete.

16. The Committee sought for further clarification by the panel on the differentiation between the review reports for programme evaluation and the experts report for SIC and AUDIT procedures.

17. The panel further explained (see clarification) that in programme evaluations the external review reports are prepared by ANECA's Committees, based on the initial experts' reports and following the multiple-stage process that is described in the review report. For SIC, AUDIT and AUDIT international procedures the panel noted that ANECA did not have the same practice and specific committees preparing external review reports, but instead considered the full experts' reports as final report.

18. Having thus considered the report and the clarification, the Committee concluded that the two step approach, where the external review reports are prepared by internal specialised committees, might mean that the full content of the reports prepared by the panel would not be publicly known. Further, the Committee could not, based on the evidence provided by the panel, identify "before" and "after" examples of programme evaluation reports, and hence understand what "more extensive" might mean in practice, and was therefore unable to concur with the panel assessment of compliance.

19. The Committee therefore concluded that ANECA is not living up to the intentions of standard 2.6 which states that "full reports by the experts should be published". Therefore, the Register Committee concluded that ANECA only partially complies with ESG 2.6.

Register Committee

2-3 March 2023

Ref. RC38/A115

Ver. 1.0

Date 2023-03-13

Page 3 / 4

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

Conclusion:

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

Register Committee
2-3 March 2023

Ref. RC38/A115
Ver. 1.0
Date 2023-03-13
Page 4 / 4

Standard	Previous decision (2018-09-11)	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.2	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.3	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.4	Compliance	Compliance	Partial compliance
2.5	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.6	Partial compliance	Compliance	Partial compliance
2.7	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.1	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.2	Compliance	<i>(inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.3	Compliance	<i>(inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.4	Compliance	<i>(inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.5	Compliance	<i>(inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.6	Compliance	<i>(inherited)</i>	Compliance
3.7	Compliance	(not expected)	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

22. The Register Committee considered that ANECA only achieved partial compliance with some standards. In its holistic judgement, the Register Committee concluded that these are specific and limited issues, but that ANECA continues to comply substantially with the ESG as a whole.

23. The Register Committee therefore approved the application for renewed ANECA's inclusion on the Register. ANECA's renewed inclusion shall be valid until 31/10/2027¹.

24. The Register Committee further underlined that ANECA is expected to address the issues mentioned appropriately and to resolve them at the earliest opportunity.

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

Application by ANECA for Renewal of Registration

Register Committee

Clarification provided by the Panel

Ref. A115
Date 2023-02-20
Page 1 / 2

Date of the conversation:	2023-02-17
Panel members:	Laura Beccari
Representative of EQAR:	Blazhe Todorovski, Melinda Szabo

1. ANECA has submitted on 2021-07-30 an application for renewal of registration with a targeted review on the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). On 2023-01-17, ANECA submitted the external review panel's report of 2022-12-16.
2. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on ANECA' compliance with the ESG, EQAR contacted the Panel to clarify the matter(s) below.

ESG 2.4 – Peer-review experts

3. EQAR representatives asked the panel to elaborate on the level of student experts involvement in different type of reviews. The were asked on how this has assured.
4. The panel explained noted that student experts were part of each review procedure, this has been confirmed during the interviews with the students and other stakeholders. The panel noted that in ANECA's case, the names of the experts are not published on the reports as this is the practice.
5. In the case of AUDIT international the panel underlined that in the majority of the procedures, students are not involved. The panel underlined that ANECA was fully aware of the lack of students involvement in AUDIT International procedures and the reason has been the limited availability of student experts for this procedures.

ESG 2.6 – Reporting

6. The EQAR Secretariat inquired on the differentiations of the external evaluation reports and experts reports and how the panel considered what is the review report for different procedure.
7. The panel noted that external evaluation reports for programme evaluation are the report the are published in a more extensive format. This report are prepared by a specific committee working to deliver consistent reports. The panel underlined that during their visit they have checked different reports of this type and concluded that this reports are

in more extensive format than previously, when ANECA was publishing the summary of such kind of reports.

8. The panel also noted that due to the fact that all institutions must undergo an institutional accreditation, it is understandable to have shorter programme evaluation reports that are more concise and concrete.
9. Regarding the SIC, AUDIT and AUDIT International procedure, the panel noted that ANECA does not have the same practice and specific committee in preparing reports for this procedures, and in this case ANECA considers the full experts' reports as final reports and the same are published on ANECA's website.
10. The panel underlined that in the case of AUDIT International procedure the experts reports are the reports from the second phase of the procedure, where a site-visit by the experts is conducted. For the first phase of the procedure the design certification phase, this is not the case and much shorter reports are published which is a phase where the agency conducts a check where the internal quality assurance system is evaluated.
11. The EQAR Secretariat asked if examples of such reports can be shared (links) as it has been difficult to find them via the online system.
12. The panel informed that they do not have at hand such reports and in fact the panel had also difficulties in finding the extended reports published for each type of evaluation, therefore they have asked during the site-visit and ANECE made an on-spot presentation about the published reports through which the panel concluded that the report were more extensive and not a summary of the reports.

Register Committee

Ref. A115
Date 2023-02-20
Page 2 / 2