

**Approval of the Application  
by Academic Information Centre (AIC)  
for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register**

**Register Committee**  
13 – 14 March

Ref. RC46/A167  
Ver. 1.0  
Date 2025-03-20  
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<b>Application of:</b>	2024-06-26		
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2018-06-01		
<b>Type of review:</b>	Focused	<b>Site visit:</b>	2024-12-04
<b>External review report of:</b>	2025-02-24	<b>Submitted:</b>	2025-03-03
<b>Review coordinated by:</b>	European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ENQA)		
<b>Review panel members:</b>	Arnoldas Solovjovas, Eva Jaroszewski, Oliver Vettori		
<b>Decision of:</b>	2025-03-14		
<b>Registration until:</b>	2028-06-30		
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	Beate Treml, Inga Lapina		
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <a href="#">External Review Report, 2025-02-24</a>		

1. The application of 2024-06-26 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. AIC applied for renewal of registration on EQAR based on a focused review, addressing those standards against which the agency was found to be partially compliant in the Register Committee decision of [2023-12-12](#), ESG 2.1; ESG 2.4; ESG 2.6 and ESG 3.6. The Register Committee confirmed eligibility of the application on 2024-07-02.
3. The Register Committee considered the focused external review report of 2025-02-24 on the compliance of AIC with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).

**Analysis:**

4. In considering AIC's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee took into account the following activities:
  - Accreditation of higher education institution
  - Assessment and accreditation of a study field
  - Licensing of study programmes
  - Accreditation of study programmes abroad

5. The Register Committee noted that the *Assessment of feasibility* on changes in study fields (i.e. study programmes)<sup>1</sup> is not an activity within the scope of the ESG and has thus not considered it in its assessment of AIC's compliance with the ESG.

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

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

### ESG 2.1 – Consideration of internal quality assurance

8. In its decision of 2023-12-12, the Register Committee found AIC to be partially compliant with ESG 2.1, as some standards of ESG Part 1, (ESG 1.1, ESG 1.2 and ESG 1.3) were not covered in all of the external quality assurance activities of the agency.

9. The Register Committee learned from the panel analysis that AIC has modified the methodology for its activities and now all ESG aligned activities of AIC cover Part 1 of the ESG sufficiently.

**10. The Register Committee could therefore follow the panel's conclusion and found the agency to be compliant with the standard.**

### ESG 2.4 – Peer-review experts

11. In its decision of 2023-12-12, the Register Committee found AIC to be partially compliant with the standard, due to lack of involvement of students in the review panels in its procedure *Inclusion of licenced study programme on the accreditation of study fields*. The Register Committee understood from the review report that as AIC moves towards a system focused on cyclical institutional reviews, it has discontinued this activity and no future reviews of this kind will be implemented.

**12. The Register Committee considered that since the agency has discontinued the activity, the conditions leading to partial compliance have ceased to exist. The Register Committee could therefore follow the panel's judgement and found the agency to be compliant with the standard.**

### ESG 2.6 – Reporting

13. In its decision of 2023-12-12, the Register Committee found AIC to be partially compliant due to the insufficient transparency in the agency reporting processes, i.e., the published reports and decisions did not reflect the elements which have been provided and taken into consideration after the site visit, nor the additional conditions given to the higher education institution.

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<sup>1</sup>This activity was not designed as a stand alone procedure and therefore does not independently cover all requirements of the ESG Part 2. It only covers the ESG Part 2 in combination with another related procedure licensing of study programme or accreditation of study field.

14. The Register Committee understood from the panel’s analysis that following the amendments of the national regulations in Latvia, AIC is now publishing review reports and decisions by the Study Quality Commission in full on the agency’s E-platform, specifically developed for publication of reports and decisions.

**15. Following the novelties, the Register Committee could follow the panel’s conclusion and found the agency to be compliant with the standard.**

**ESG 3.6 – Internal quality assurance and professional conduct**

16. In its decision of 2023-12-12, the Register Committee found AIC to be partially compliant as it could not conclude that the agency’s internal quality assurance processes are fully sufficient to assure and enhance the quality and integrity of its activities.

17. The Register Committee learned from the panel’s analysis that the agency has improved its internal QA processes and now has a robust internal QA system which is well documented in a manual where all the processes are described in detail. Furthermore, as noted by the panel, the agency now has well developed feedback mechanisms, effective communication and autonomy in making the necessary changes as part of its internal quality management.

**18. Following the evidence on improvements to the internal QA system of the agency, the Register Committee could follow the panel’s judgement and found the agency to be compliant with the standard. The Committee, however, highlighted the panel’s recommendation that AIC should also include aspects dealing with effectiveness and impact of internal quality procedures into their quality manual.**

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

**Conclusion:**

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

Standard	Previous decision (2023-12-12)	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.2	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
2.3	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
2.4	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.5	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
2.6	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.7	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited

3.1	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
3.2	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
3.3	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
3.4	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
3.5	Compliance	Not applicable	Inherited
3.6	Partial compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.7	Compliance	(not expected)	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

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21. AIC therefore complies substantially with the ESG as a whole.

22. The Register Committee therefore approved the application for renewed AIC’s inclusion on the Register. AIC’s renewed inclusion shall be valid until 2028-06-30<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §3.25 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.