

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Agency for Quality of the Basque University System (Unibasq)

Register Committee

Ref. RC/C88

Ver. 1.0

Date 2023-04-19

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Decision of:	2023-04-17
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2022-12-01
Agency registered since:	2014-04-01
Last external review report:	2019-02-21
Registration until:	2024-02-29
Absented themselves from decision-making:	n/a
Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantive Change Report 2. Guide to Standards and Criteria for the Renewal of Institutional Accreditation of University Centres (weblink)

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2022-12-01.

A) Institutional Accreditation

2. The Register Committee took note of the changes in Institutional Accreditation, relating to the second phase of this methodology and the first re-accreditations. Unibasq updated its corresponding guide and will run a pilot procedure during 2023.
3. The Register Committee understood that the general context of the change is the upcoming second phase/round of institutional accreditations. Given the large significance for the system, the Committee expects that the forthcoming **targeted review pays close attention to the changes introduced and their fitness for purpose (ESG 2.2)**.
4. The Register Committee noted that the submitted documents do not refer to the **training of the review panel (ESG 2.4)**. Even though Unibasq was found to be compliant with the standard previously, this should receive **attention in the forthcoming targeted review of Unibasq**.
5. The Register Committee noted that **the regulations describe the several stages passed by a review report but leaves open at which stage(s) exactly is it published (ESG 2.6)**. Especially since Unibasq was found

only partially compliant with the standard previously, this should receive attention in the forthcoming targeted review of Unibasq.

Register Committee

B) Review of applications for grants to support the activities of research groups

6. The Register Committee took note that Unibasq was appointed by the Basque Government to conduct the review of applications for grants to support the activities of research groups. Given that this activity relates to research rather than teaching and learning, the Register Committee concurred with Unibasq's assessment that it is outside the scope of the ESG.
7. Notwithstanding this, Unibasq was found only partially compliant with ESG 3.1 previously due to the problematic presentation of "titolos propios". The clear distinction of non-ESG activities is therefore in the focus area of Unibasq's upcoming targeted review; this also includes these new activities.

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EQAR Substantive Change Report

Reference #	23610136
Status	Complete
Login Username	eva.fdzlabastida@unibasq.eus
Login Email	eva.fdzlabastida@unibasq.eus
Agency full name	Agency for Quality of the Basque University System
Agency acronym	Unibasq
Expiry of registration	29/02/2024
Contact person	Eva Fernandez de Labastida
Phone	+34945187581
Email	eva.fdzlabastida@unibasq.eus
Is the change you are reporting a merger that involves other organisations than the reporting agency/ies mentioned above (i.e. that are not registered on EQAR)?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed? This might include: changes to the legal form or status; merger with/into another body/entity, another body/entity becoming part of the agency; changes in parent entity, if applicable; liquidation, bankruptcy or similar proceedings.	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed? This might include: role or composition of governing or managing bodies (only changes of the general composition/ membership categories – there is no need to report regular changes of individuals, e.g. when	No

their terms end);
 establishment or discontinuing of governing or
 managing bodies;
 major/dramatic changes in the staffing or financial
 situation;
 outsourcing of activities with significant relevance
 for the agency's external quality assurance
 activities.

Item #74

2. Substantive changes carried out to one or
 several existing external QA activities (e.g.
 changes to their methodology, criteria or
 procedures)

For case 1. and/or 2. please describe the context
 that lead to the current changes in your agency's
 activities. For new activities, please explain if
 they were developed from scratch or on the
 basis of existing activities that were subject to
 the last external review.

As a change in an existing external QA activity,
 the second phase of the institutional
 accreditation procedure will start in 2023. Until
 now, and as established by Spanish regulations,
 Spanish university schools and faculties could
 request institutional accreditation once they had
 their IQAS's implementation certified and had at
 least 50% of their study programmes (bachelor,
 master and doctoral level) reaccredited. Unibasq
 has developed a guide for the institutional
 reaccreditation and will run a pilot procedure
 during 2023.

2. Changes to existing EQA activity/-ies Please specify which of your existing
 external QA activities were changes? (introduce the name of the activity as listed
 on your agency's profile on EQAR). Add a + for each new activity that was
 changed.

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Institutional accreditation

ESG 2.1: How does the agency ensure that ESG
 standards 1.1 – 1.10 are effectively translated
 into the revised external quality assurance
 activity? If a mapping was carried out against the
 ESG Part 1, please upload document (see end of
 the form).

As described in the "Guide to standards and
 criteria for the renewal of Institutional
 Accreditation of University Centres", the ESG are
 one of the main references for the development
 of the standards for the institutional
 reaccreditation. Table 1 in the guide (see

attached document) provides a mapping of the Unibasq criteria and the ESG part 1, as well as the correspondence with the criteria for the certification of IQAS.

ESG 2.2: Please shortly describe how the agency ensured the revised methodology is fit for purpose and how were stakeholders involved in the development of the processes and criteria?

The revised methodology including all the steps stated in ESG 2.3. (a self-assessment report; external assessment including a site visit; report resulting from the external assessment and consistent follow-up) has been developed so the university centres can grant the reaccreditation of the study programmes they deliver without having to undergo the reaccreditation of each of the study programmes as they have already proved the effectiveness of their own internal quality assurance systems. The institutional reaccreditation will review that the IQAS continues being effective and will assess the quality of the study programmes in an integrated manner. This will reduce the workload of EQA at the institutions. The institutions have been involved in the development of the guide through different meetings and providing comments to the different versions. Moreover, Unibasq Advisory Board, which is composed of academic, professionals and students, has reviewed the guide and add proposals for improvement before its approval on 11 November 2022.

ESG 2.3: Please provide us with a link(s) to the revised external QA methodology and/or procedure

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<https://www.unibasq.eus/en/institutional-institutional-accreditation/>

ESG 2.4: Please shortly describe any changes in the review team composition, selection, appointment and training of reviewers (if different then before).

Same as before.

ESG 2.5: Please shortly describe what methods

Same as before.

does the agency employ to ensure consistency in the application of its criteria?

ESG 2.6: Please provide us with a link to where the external QA reports for this procedure are (or will be) published (if different than before):

1	https://www.unibasq.eus/en/institutional-institutional-accreditation/
D. Has the agency introduced any other new types of activities outside the scope of the ESG? These activities may include consultancy services, recognition of qualifications, reviews of non-higher education providers, evaluation of research units or research proposals etc.	Yes
Please provide below some information concerning these newly introduced activities i.e. link to the procedure or methodology, target audience, separation of the activity from other activities within the scope of the ESG etc. If the agency is a unit or department of a larger organisation, please also include all newly introduced activities of the organisation you are part of.	As a new activity, Unibasq was appointed by the Basque Government to conduct the review the applications for grants to support the activities of research groups in the Basque university system for the years 2022-2025. This activity is done every four years and the criteria for the evaluation are established in the call: https://www.euskadi.eus/ayuda_subvencion/2021/ikertalde/web01-tramite/es/
Item #55	AZKENAGua_de_estndares_y_criterios_para_la_renovacin_de_la_Acreditacin_Institucional_de_Centros_Universitarios.pdf (1.11 MB)
Submit form?	I am ready to submit the change report form
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