



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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Brussels, 14 November 2022

Subject: Statement on validation of the external review report of ACCUEE

Dear Prof. Dr. Jose Saturnino Martínez García,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 26 October 2022, the ENQA Agency Review Committee validated the external review report of ACCUEE. The Committee concluded that the report has been produced in accordance with the Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews and can thus be used to apply for ENQA membership and EQAR registration, as well as for any other purposes. This is in line with article 26, paragraph 2 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure, which states that the review report can be further used only once this statement of validation has been issued. The purpose of this statement is to set out the committee's views on the quality of the final report and consistency of the panel's evaluation on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

The committee hereby notes that the methodology for ENQA Agency Reviews has been followed and has no further remarks on the final report.

This statement will be published on ENQA's website as an annex to the review report.

Thank you for your trust placed in ENQA to conduct this review. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

Alastair Delaney
Chair of ENQA Agency Review Committee

Annex: Areas for development

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As outlined by the review panel and further discussed by the committee (where relevant), ACCUEE is recommended to take appropriate action, in so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

ESG 3.3 Independence

The agency is recommended to have an active role in initiating a review of the legal frameworks' definition on the composition and the proportion of governmental members in the GB and specifically the role of chair and vice-chair of the Governing Board should be reconsidered to allow a higher level of independency from the Ministry.

The agency's Governing Board is recommended to issue its organisational rules for its work, appointment, and dismissal of its members, based on the legal framework.

The agency is recommended to initiate a reflection with the regional Government on the current process in place regarding the appointment procedure of the director and its role and involvement in different bodies of the Agency.

ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

The agency is recommended to take ESG part 1 into account following REACU's protocol as stated by the Agency for the future activities.

ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose

The agency is recommended to carefully analyse the overlapping between the different procedures and particularly linked to the two-steps ex-ante accreditation process leading to two different reports.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

The agency is recommended to include professional representatives in the experts' panels for the ex-post accreditation site-visit and report.

ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

The agency is recommended, when an appeal through a resolution is received, to appoint experts who did not intervene in the first evaluation, independent from the Technical Committees who ran the first evaluation in order to clearly assure impartiality.

The agency is recommended to work on an appeal procedure within ACCUEE in the case of the ex-ante, monitoring and ex-post accreditation of study programmes' procedures. A separate and standing appeal



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committee should allow to dissociate the decision on the appeal from the Technical Committee that has made the initial decision which is being appealed against.

The agency is recommended to formalize the complaints procedure and to communicate more largely on it in its protocols, to ensure HEIs are informed satisfactorily.