



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Prof. Dr. Thierry Coulhon
President
High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES)
2 rue Albert Einstein, 75013 Paris, France

Gloucester, 2 May 2022

Subject: Reconfirmation of HCERES membership in ENQA

Dear Prof. Dr. Thierry Coulhon,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 27 April 2022, the ENQA Board agreed to reconfirm HCERES' membership in ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that HCERES is in compliance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015)* and thus fulfils the membership criteria according to article 6, paragraph 1 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure.

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e., by April 2024.

The Board also encourages HCERES to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – an enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place in about two to three years' time from this decision. The ENQA Secretariat will be in touch with you in about a year's time to discuss this possibility. The cost of this visit has already been included as part of the review fee and are non-refundable except for the travel costs of the experts. More information about the progress visit can be found in the Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat. Please accept my congratulations for the re-confirmation of HCERES' membership in ENQA. I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Douglas Blackstock
President

Annex: Areas for development

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As outlined by the review panel, HCERES is recommended to take appropriate action, in so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

ESG 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

The agency is recommended to develop a strategic plan/strategic directions 2021-2025 in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, while taking into serious consideration the reinforced autonomy and coordinating responsibilities of the agency.

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

In order to inform the public about the progress and challenges in higher education, a system for analysing and publishing general findings of different evaluations needs to be developed by the agency.

The agency should clarify who will take the responsibility of thematical analysis and who will define what issues and themes should be tackled in that analytical effort.

ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct

The collection of feedback from reviewers and evaluated institutions needs to be systematised and implemented in a coherent way by the agency.

ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

The agency should revise the programme accreditation standards to bring them into line with the ESG Part I.

The agency is recommended to consider further simplification and harmonisation of its standards.

ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose

The agency is recommended to be more systematic and proactive in involving stakeholders, in particular higher education institutions and students, in the development of evaluation objectives and methodologies.

ESG 2.3 Implementing processes

The agency should find a follow-up method that is appropriate and useful for all involved parties and apply it consistently to all evaluations.

Stakeholders should be adequately informed about the follow-up process by the agency.



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ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

The agency is recommended to make every effort to expand their reviewers pool with current students and socio-economic experts in order to include them systematically.

The systematic involvement of international experts by the agency, at least in institutional and international evaluations, could provide significant added value and is therefore highly recommended by the panel.

ESG 2.6 Reporting

In order to facilitate the comparability of the reports, the development of a reporting template in line with the standards of the Protocol is recommended to be considered also in the programme evaluation.

The agency should make greater efforts in promoting the accessibility and readability of the reports.