



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Dr Riccardo Cinquegrani
Director
Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties (AVEPRO)
Via della Conciliazione 5, 00193 Rome
Holy See

Bern, 22 June 2020

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of AVEPRO in ENQA

Dear Dr Cinquegrani,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 18 June 2020, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the AVEPRO membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that AVEPRO 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 use this opportunity to provide an articulation regarding standard 3.4 Thematic analysis. The Board seconds the panel's suggestion on further sharing of the agency's analyses and calls for the related reports to be more widely and easily accessible to the general audience.

Regarding the standard 3.5 Resources, the Board notes a significant increase of the agency's resources since the last review. The agency's resources suffice for its current functioning, thus, in the opinion of the Board, the standard can be considered as substantially compliant with the ESG. Nevertheless, the Board shares the panel's concern on better use of the existing resources and calls for a careful consideration of the agency's future workload.

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e. by June 2022.

The Board also encourages AVEPRO to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – an enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place in about two 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 costs of this visit have 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.



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Please accept my congratulations for the re-confirmation of membership of AVEPRO.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Grolimund', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

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

ESG 3.5 Resources

AVEPRO should define a work plan and connect required resources to it in order to balance and plan activities and required resources. This will help to specify the realistic need of additionally required resources.

AVEPRO should better use the potential of the Scientific Council, define a meeting interval and adhere to it.

ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct

AVEPRO should take a more systematic and formalised approach in its IQA efforts.

ESG 2.3 Implementing processes

AVEPRO should implement a consistent follow-up procedure.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

AVEPRO should define its expert nomination criteria and improve the nomination process of the external evaluation procedures.

AVEPRO should increase and ensure a consistent and comprehensive programme of training for experts.

ESG 2.5 Criteria for outcomes

AVEPRO should implement a technical committee assuring consistency and evidence-based recommendations in the reports.

ESG 2.6 Reporting

AVEPRO should take steps to further improve comprehensibility of its reports that clearly follow the template it provides.

AVEPRO should take steps to assure a stronger visibility of the reflection of ESG part one in its evaluation reports.

ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

AVEPRO should formalise their complaints procedures.