
Thomas Reil
Managing Director
Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN)
Brandenburger Straße 2
95448 Bayreuth, Germany

Dublin, 3 March 2017

Subject: Membership of ACQUIN in ENQA

Dear Mr. Reil,

I am writing to inform you of the decision taken by the ENQA Board on 14 February 2017 regarding the membership of ACQUIN in ENQA.

In light of the documentary and oral evidence considered by the Review Panel, the Board was satisfied that, in the performance of its functions, ACQUIN is in a number of areas in substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). However, after thorough consideration and discussion on the final review report, the Board came to the conclusion that the overall level of compliance with the ESG is not sufficient to renew the Agency's membership at this stage. The Board therefore decided to designate ACQUIN as "Member under review" for a period of two years from the 14 February 2017. The Agency will need to undergo a new partial review process at the end of this period, or sooner, if it wishes. That review will focus in particular on the weaknesses described in the Panel's report.

The Board was especially concerned about ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis. In the Board's view, this particular standard is considered not compliant. The Board's concern is that ACQUIN does not regularly publish reports that would describe and analyse the general findings of its own external quality assurance activities, and that would feed back to the stakeholders and society and also strengthen the internal quality assurance of the agency.

The Board is confident that the shortcomings identified in the review can be properly addressed and substantially resolved in the next two years. The Board recommends that this be undertaken on the basis of a desk exercise only without the need for a further panel visit.

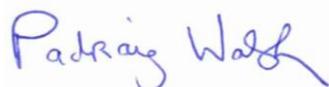
According to ENQA's Rules of Procedure, following a successful partial review in 2019, ACQUIN's membership in ENQA would extend to a five-year term starting from the date of the Board's initial decision (14 February 2017). I would like to point out that members under review maintain their membership rights and duties during the period of membership under review (maximum of two years). You may find the full listing of benefits here:

<http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/enqa-agencies/enqa-membership-benefits-and-services/>

If ACQUIN is dissatisfied with the decision of the ENQA Board, it may file an appeal according to the procedures outlined in article 24 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure.

For any questions, do not hesitate to be in touch with the ENQA Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh
President of ENQA