

Intro

Targeted  
reviews

Focus areas

**Webinar:** 14th ENQA TRAINING OF AGENCY REVIEWERS, 9-10  
May 2022

**Presentation:** Avoiding the evaluation fatigue – introducing targeted  
reviews of QA agencies

**Author:** Melinda Szabó, Senior Policy Analyst (EQAR)

## The European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)

- EQAR official register of agencies that substantially comply with the ESG
- Decision making on ESG compliance -> Register Committee, 3-4 meetings a year

### **EQAR May 2022:**

50 registered QA agencies, all members of ENQA, renewal every 5 year

21 expected reviews against the ESG in the coming 15 months:

- **6 targeted reviews:** AQU, SKVC, ANECA, NVAO, EKKA, NOKUT (renewal)
- **1 focused review:** THEQC (initial)
- **14 full reviews :** 9 initial, 5 renewal

## Full vs targeted reviews

	Full review	Targeted review
Focus	All ESG Part 2 and Part 3 standards	A) Standards with PC B)/C) Substantive changes since the last review D) ESG 2.1 E) Enhancement area F) Additional issues arising
Panel composition	4 panel members (a least 1 student and 1 academic staff member)	3 panel members (at least 1 student and 1 academic staff member)
Site visit	Live, hybrid, blended, online	Same, but shorter
Timeframe	> 12-14 months	> 10 months
RC decision on ESG	Holistic decision C/NC/PC judgment for all standards	Holistic decision C/NC/PC for issues in focus (A-F) and C for "inherited"/kept for other standards

Decision making

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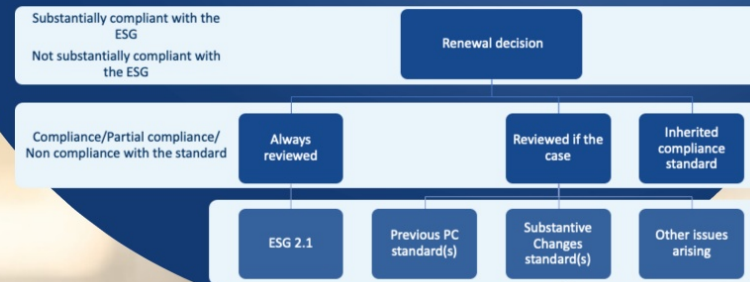


# RC decision making

## Full reviews



## Targeted review



# Full reviews

For each standard

Overall judgement

Panel conclusion

Register Committee decision

Compliance

Compliance

All standards

Substantially compliant

Partial compliance

Partial compliance

One or more → holistic judgement

either ...

Non-compliance

Non-compliance

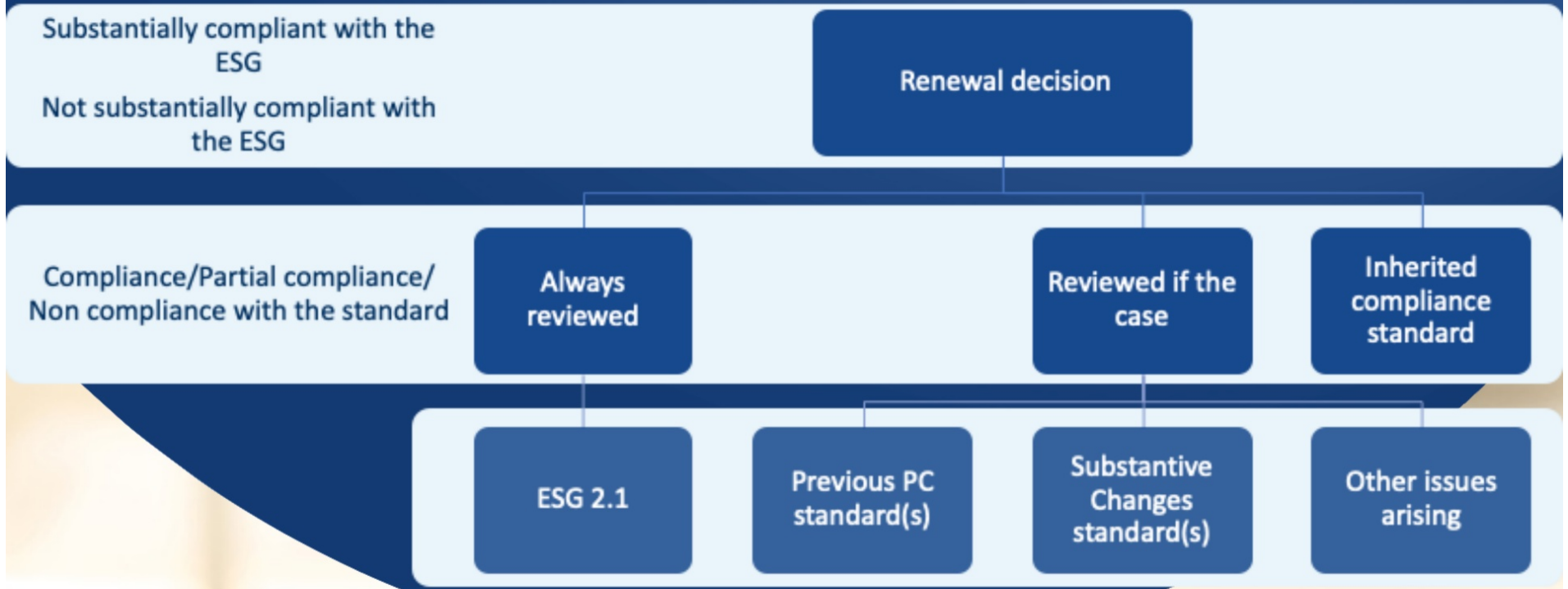
One or more

Not substantially compliant

... or

# Targeted review

# Targeted review



## Target review: focus areas

- A) standards with a “**partial compliance**”: usually 1 to 4 PC
- B) **standards 2.1 to 2.7** for new activities or relevant standards for changed activities: most agencies, focus on the essence
- C) **other types of substantive changes**: e.g. change in governance structure (ESG 3.3), new consultancy activity (ESG 3.1);
- D) **ESG 2.1: always**
- E) one further **enhancement area**: any other standard
- F) any other matters re. ESG compliance arising during the review -> any aspects that may affect the compliance with the ESG if brought to their attention.

Eligibility  
check & TOR



## ToR & Eligibility check

Tripartite Terms Of Reference agreed between the applicant, the review coordinator (ENQA) and EQAR at the start of the review.

**During eligibility, confirmation of “ESG-type activities” :**

**Subject:** teaching and learning in HE, including the learning environment and relevant links to research and innovation.

**Object:** HEIs, study programme(s), faculty(ies), department(s).

**Nature:** evaluation against a set of predefined standards

**Typical terminology:** “evaluation”, “review”, “audit”, “assessment” or “accreditation”.

**Confirmation of the ToR only if all substantive changes have been reported**

Grey Areas

Substantive changes

**Unusual EQA activity WITHIN the scope of the ESG:**

- assessment of ad-hoc EQA activities or those that do not result in a decision making by the agency;
- EQA of PhD programmes; EQA of short learning programmes, EQA of private HEIs; EQA of cross-border non EHEA higher education institutions

**Usual EQA activity OUTSIDE the scope of the ESG:**

- Thematic/tailor-made reviews that do not necessarily tackle teaching and learning
- Reviews carried out in someone else's name
- Activity that can be seen as review or as a consultancy project
- BUT: not acceptable to classify the activity out of scope and to present it as review, or speak about activity being aligned with the ESG

## Types of substantive changes

- Legal form and other organisational changes (ESG 3.1, ESG 3.2, ESG 3.3, ESG 3.5)
- New external QA activities (all ESG Part 2 but different level of intensity) e.g. reviews of joint programmes using the EA vs. introducing new EQA from scratch
- Changes in an existing QA activity e.g. change in the nomination of experts (ESG 2.4), in the decision making body (ESG 2.2, 2.5, 3.3), changing from an auditing to an accreditation approach (ESG Part 2)