



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Prof Dr Valéria Csépe
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Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB)
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Brussels, 6 November 2023

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

Dear Prof Dr Valéria Csépe,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 25 October 2023, the ENQA Agency Review Committee validated the external review report of MAB. 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 received the final review report that addressed the additional requirements as elaborated in the committee's letter to the panel dated 29 September 2023. Furthermore, on the ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts, the committee strongly recommends the agency to amend its practice of including staff as part of the agency's review panels, since this clearly undermines the required peer-review approach to external quality assurance, as noted in the standard.

Following the receipt of the final review report, the report can now be further used to apply for ENQA membership and EQAR registration, as well as for any other purposes, as stipulated above.

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,



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alastair Delaney', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr. 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), MAB 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 simplify its structure and transition to a more horizontal organisation, with fewer hierarchical levels, to increase efficiency.

ESG 3.3 Independence

The agency is recommended to explore additional ways to strengthen its organisational independence, especially regarding a more balanced representation of the nominated delegates to MAB's Board so different groups of stakeholders can be adequately represented.

The agency is recommended to define clear and transparent rules and criteria for selection, appointment, and dismissal procedures for its Board members so that the most competent candidates can be chosen without any governmental interference and the possibility to dismiss members without a limited set of reasons decreases. MAB might use the opportunity of the RRF project currently underway to suggest necessary legislative changes in this direction.

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

The agency is recommended to continue gathering qualitative data and exploits the full potential of collected data and findings from EQA activities to regularly conduct and publish thematic analysis at the system level.

The agency is recommended to devise a plan for conducting thematic analyses within its changing EQA processes to ensure regularity and for implementing a systematic approach to selecting the themes of the thematic analyses.

ESG 3.5 Resources

The agency is recommended to be mindful of the workload of the Secretariat and reconsider their participation in expert committees as just coordinators rather than expert members.

The agency is recommended to involve the members of its Secretariat in conducting thematic analyses.

ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct

The agency is recommended to ensure that students are included in providing their feedback and are informed of the improvements and developments resulting from surveys.

ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

The agency is recommended to fully address the effectiveness of all the standards described in Part 1 of the ESG in its ongoing and new procedures, and make sure that stakeholders continue being familiar with them. The panel especially refers to ESG 1.4 and ESG 1.7, which need to be fully addressed in ex-ante programme evaluation and MAB-WFME accreditation.

ESG 2.3 Implementing processes

The agency is recommended to include a consistent follow-up in the renewed ex-ante programme evaluations.

The agency is recommended to implement consistent follow-up strategies for institutions and doctoral schools that fully comply with criteria, as it believes that monitoring will be useful to improve IQA performance.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

The agency is recommended to publish the criteria and process for the selection of site visit teams and experts in ex-post institutional accreditation and ex-ante programme evaluation procedures.

The agency is recommended to include students in all EQA activities of the agency including ex-ante programme evaluations.

The agency is recommended to strengthen the training of experts, include training in all EQA activities, and adapt it to the specifics of different procedures.

The agency is recommended to amend its practice of including staff as part of the agency's review panels, since this strongly undermines the required peer-review approach to external quality assurance, as noted in the standard.

ESG 2.6 Reporting

The agency is recommended that within the new model of ex-ante programme evaluation the reports produced by experts are published in full. Full reports should be published and accessible to the academic community and the wider public.

ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

The agency is recommended to publish the criteria for the selection, nomination, and appointment of the members of the Board of Appeals and Complaints.