

Prof. Dr. José Arnáez Vadillo
Executive Director
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28020 Madrid
Spain

Bern, 08 November 2017

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of ANECA in ENQA

Dear Prof. Dr. Vadillo,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 25 October 2017, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the ANECA membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

The ENQA Board concluded that ANECA is in substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015). The Board would like to receive a follow-up report on the recommendations in the panel report (as outlined in the annex attached) within two years of its decision, i.e. by October 2019.

Furthermore, the Board would like ANECA to pay specific attention to ESG 2.6 Reporting. The review report states that *“the panel discovered, during discussions with both experts and stakeholders, that initial reports are as long as 60-70 pages and contain very detailed discussion and consideration of evidence in relation to the evaluation being conducted. However, the final report is usually less than 10 pages long, thus leading to the conclusion that a lot of valuable evidence and conclusions are not included in the final report published.”* The Board is of the opinion that the publication of the findings by the panels visiting the institutions is currently limited to the minimum. As the ESG 2015 state explicitly that full reports by the experts should be published, the Board encourages ANECA to consider whether the current practice could be revised to support the philosophy of the peer review where focus is given to the panel’s findings directly, and thus be fully in line with the requirements of the ESG.


In addition to these above-mentioned recommendations, the Board encourages you to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – a new enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place after the submission of the follow-up report, 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.

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

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

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

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

It is recommended that ANECA continues to analyse the data and information emerging from evaluations conducted, in particular the evaluation of programmes, and to expand the range of thematic reports published on the Spanish quality assurance system.

ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct

ANECA is recommended to publish its annual IQA report, primarily aimed at an internal readership, and at developing an institutional memory of changes and developments.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

ANECA is encouraged to continue and extend its efforts to include international experts in the review panels.

ESG 2.6 Reporting

It is recommended that ANECA considers how best to include all the valuable information contained in the 'long' reports in the published reports.