
Dr. Ivan Leban
Director
Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (SQAA)
Slovenska 9
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Dublin, 18 March 2015

Subject: External review of SQAA and decision on membership

Dear Dr. Leban,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 6 March 2015, the Board of ENQA agreed to grant SQAA Full membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

On the basis of its scrutiny of the final review report, the Board agreed that SQAA met the necessary requirements for being granted ENQA Membership.

In relation to the resource criterion, the Board was concerned that around 60 percent of the current SQAA budget, currently covered by European structural funds, will expire in August 2015, with no agreement reached yet on how this budget gap will be filled from September 2015 onwards.

From your written explanation, dated 27 February 2015, the Board acknowledged that the Agency is actively negotiating funding with the government. Notwithstanding the State is bound by law to secure stable funding of SQAA, there is no security, as reported by the panel, that the state budget will compensate for the European funds in case they would not be prolonged. Given this, the Agency is requested to report back to ENQA on the outcomes of its funding negotiations within one year of the decision, i.e. by March 2016.

As for the independence criterion, the Board notes that, although the panel's judgement is one of full compliance, the Agency Council includes two government representatives. SQAA is advised to take steps toward achieving better formal independence from the government.

A subsequent follow-up report is expected within two years of the decision (by March 2017) based on the other recommendations from the panel.

Please accept my congratulations to SQAA for the positive review outcome and I look forward to a fruitful future cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh
President of ENQA