

# Insights from the ENQA Board

## ESG 3.4 Thematic Analysis

# ENQA is the preferred partner

14 completed reviews against ESG 2015

- 14 SARs
- 14 ERRs
- 14 scrutiny reports

# ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

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Agencies should regularly publish reports that describe and analyse the general findings of their external quality assurance activities.

### Guidelines:

In the course of their work, agencies gain information on programmes and institutions that can be useful beyond the scope of a single process, providing material for structured analyses across the higher education system. These findings can contribute to the reflection on and the improvement of quality assurance policies and processes in institutional, national and international contexts. A thorough and careful analysis of this information will show developments, trends and areas of good practice or persistent difficulty.

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# From the scrutiny reports:

- FIBAA regularly produces publications that can be considered thematic analysis.
- It is important during the training of the experts to make clear what is a good thematic analysis and by whom it should be done.
- Limited evidence (occurs several times).
- I was a bit surprised by the recommendation of the panel «The result of the thematic analysis should be included in the IQA of the agency:» The standard argues for Thematic analysis as a mean of enhancement of *higher education*.
- Lack of funding and/or human resources arguable counetarguments or irrelevant excuses?
- The choice to do TA depends on the demand for such analysis. Regularity? FC, SC og PC?

# Does *ENQA* act in compliance with ESG 2015?

- The ENQA Board has decided that ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis in itself is a theme for our own (ENQA's) thematic analysis.
- The ENQA internal quality assurance group, ENQA-IQA, has recently completed a report on their findings.
- «Thematic analysis» was a topic at the seminar for reviewed agencies.
- The ENQA Board will discuss the way forward on this issue at their meeting 6 December.

# What recommendations would you give ENQA regarding thematic analysis?





# The ENQA touch - value added

A recommendation to one agency was to develop a procedure for the publishing of reports on thematic analysis.

The Agency reported that it did not know how to deal with this recommendation.

What could be done to make this advice more useful for the agency?



# The ENQA touch - value added

- Common ground
- What is *Evidence*
- Contextual understanding

