

Heli Mattisen  
Director  
Toompuiestee 30  
10149 Tallinn  
Estonia

Bern, 8 March 2018

**Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of EKKA in ENQA**

Dear Ms Mattisen,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 22 February 2018, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the EKKA membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The ENQA Board concluded that EKKA is in substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015).

In the light of the recently revised procedure for review report scrutiny, the ENQA Board has analysed the scrutiny of EKKA review report and provides here the articulation regarding the specific standards of the ESG, where a difference of opinion from that of the panel exists:

***ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis***

The review report confirms that EKKA has produced several thematic analyses and that their content meets the expectations of the standard. EKKA has also demonstrated considerable improvement in this area since its last review, which is visible from the evidence provided in the review report. The Board finds the panel's recommendation "*to put in place a more structured approach to the dissemination and utilization of thematic analysis*" more as a suggestion for further improvement than a compliance related issue. Thus, the Board agrees with the ENQA Review Committee that the panel's judgement of the ESG 3.4 is overly strict.

In addition, the Board is of the opinion that the panel's suggestions for further improvement under the ESG 2.2 and 2.3 are deemed to be important, thus EKKA is expected to follow-up on them together with the panel's recommendations (as outlined in the annex attached). The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e. by February 2020.

The Board encourages EKKA 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 EKKA.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund  
President

Annex: Areas for development

## **Annex: Areas for development**

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

### **ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis**

EKKA is recommended to put in place a more structured approach to the dissemination and utilization of thematic analyses and to demonstrate more systematically how it uses the outcomes of these analyses.

### **ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance**

EKKA is recommended to reconsider its approach to reviewing institutional compliance with the ESG standards on internal quality assurance in the three areas omitted from its mapping. The gaps in EKKA's framework in relation to information management and reporting on the new guidelines for Ph.D. Study Programmes should be addressed. On initial assessments, the approach should address comprehensively the standards of the ESG Part 1, particularly on Teaching and Learning (Standard 1.3).

### **ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose**

EKKA is recommended to streamline its assessment procedures in order to eliminate duplication of activity for both the HEIs and EKKA. It is recommended that this be implemented in the next cycle of assessments. Approaches to integration of assessment types should be explored more fully.

### **ESG 2.3 Implementing processes**

EKKA is recommended to review the balance between the assessment, feedback and implementation of recommendations, so that more attention is focused on the HEIs implementation of assessment recommendations.