

# Insights from the ENQA Board

Christina Rozsnyai

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## Topic of this session:

- ENQA Board discussions on review reports
  - Scrutiny
  - Book of precedents
- Recurrent issues regarding reviews in the ENQA Board

# ENQA Board discussion of review reports

- Agency review reports on Board meeting agenda are discussed based on
  - Agency application letter
  - Panel report
  - Scrutiny form filled out by members of one of 4 Scrutiny Committees
    - 2 Board members + 1 experienced external member

# ENQA Board discussion of review reports

- Scrutiny form asks about
  - Integrity of review process & conclusiveness of Panel's findings substantiated by evidence and analysis
  - Compliance with ESG
    - Panel recommendation (vs. scrutinizer's judgment?)
  - Main recommendations/issues to be stressed in ENQA letter to agency
    - Which will be main focus of follow-up

## Reviews against ESG 2015

- As of April 2018 ENQA has passed decisions on 23 agencies reviewed against ESG 2015
- 2 agencies given „under review” status

# Frequency of standards noted in ENQA internal document „book of precedents”

## ESG Part 3

3.1: 2

3.3: **3**

3.4: **12**

3.5: **5**

## ESG Part 2

2.1: **4**

2.2: 1

2.4: 1

2.5: 1

2.6: **4**

2.7: **4**

# ENQA Board recurring issues of note

- Ad 3.3 Independence:
  - **Where decision-making body is a separate organization** from the agency organizing the evaluations – both should be interviewed for the ENQA review and relationship explored
  - Panel should present not only official documents declaring agency independence but also **describe** how **operational independence** is safeguarded in practice

# ENQA Board recurring issues of note

- Ad 3.4 Thematic analysis:
  - Concept was difficult for panel members early on (and a lot of discussion in the Board) but becoming clearer now
  - Standard focuses on analysis of agency's QA work and QA in the system the agency works in
  - **regularity** of the analyses is interpreted differently by panels
    - Not defined in Standard, but implies more frequency than „from time to time”
  - Even if a supra agency is responsible for thematic studies on the system, **each agency is responsible for conducting analyses** (possibly using information from the other study) of the impact of its work (quality in the system)
  - The results of analyses should **feed back to society**
  - Thematic analyses enhance **the agency's internal QA**



# ENQA Board recurring issues of note

- Ad 3.5 Resources:
  - As relates to **capacity for activities**, including thematic analyses

## ENQA Board recurring issues of note

- Ad 2.1 Consideration of internal QA:
  - Diverse discussions, **no recurring theme**

# ENQA Board recurring issues of note

- Ad 2.6 Reporting:
  - Discrepancy between final report being a summary report and the review panel report being more extensive: peer review **should produce peer report that is published**
  - Discrepancy between **standing committee reports**, which are published, and peer review reports that form the basis for the standing committee decisions
  - Board overturned panel judgement as too strict: **consultative reports** evaluating agency's readiness for evaluation does not fall under the publishing requirement in this standard

## ENQA Board recurring issues of note

- Ad 2.7 Complaints and appeals:
  - **Legal constraints** to appealing Council decisions, where emphasis should be given by the **agency to allow for complaints on procedure**
  - Importance to **separate appeals board members and decision-making** body members



Thank you!

