Insights from the ENQA Board

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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”

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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!