

Unibasq – Agency for the Quality of the Basque University System
San Prudencio 8
01005 Vitoria-Gasteiz
Spain

Bern, 26 February 2019

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of Unibasq in ENQA

Dear Eva,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 21 February 2019, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the Unibasq membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that the agency is in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and thus fulfils the membership criteria according to article 6, paragraph 1 of ENQA's rules of procedure.

The Board would like to use this opportunity to provide an articulation regarding standard 2.4 Peer-review experts, where their judgement differs from that of the panel. The Board notes that there is sufficient evidence that the external quality assurance of the agency is carried out by groups of external experts that include student members. Following this, in the opinion of the Board, the standard 2.4 is fully compliant.

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report containing Unibasq's reactions to all recommendations within two years of its decision, i.e. by February 2021.

The Board also encourages Unibasq to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – a new enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place 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 to Unibasq for the positive review outcome and I look forward to fruitful future cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

Annex: Areas for development

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

3.1 Activities, policy and processes for QA

Unibasq is recommended to clearly distinguish its ESG-based evaluation procedures and its consultancy activities.

3.4 Thematic analysis

Unibasq is recommended to structurally embed the practice of the publication of thematic analyses in its strategy and daily work, providing overview reports which bring together the results of its quality assurance processes and its other activities in order to inform (potential) students, the regional Government and society at large, and to serve as input for further quality improvement within the higher education system.

3.5 Resources

Unibasq is recommended to continue to search for ways to diversify its incomes. Furthermore, the agency is recommended to ensure that enough resources are available to extend its work on thematic analysis.

2.1 Consideration of internal QA

Unibasq is recommended to integrate the concept of student-centred learning as a core element in the agency's work and in its procedures (ESG 1.3).

2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose

Unibasq is recommended to further develop its quality assurance procedures in order to further increase the fitness for purpose of the whole external quality assurance system, aiming for better balance between qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Unibasq is recommended to involve the Advisory Board more often at a strategic level in the development of the longer term strategy and vision of the agency on the development of the external quality assurance framework in the Basque country.

2.6 Reporting

Unibasq is recommended to further research ways to offer the available information in a more integrated way, making both quantitative and qualitative data easily accessible and comparable for all stakeholders, including students and employers.

2.7 Complaints and appeals

Unibasq is recommended to split the Ethics and Guarantees Committee and make sure the Appeals Committee is composed of members who are independent from the agency and the Basque higher education system.