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Bern, 7 October 2019

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of VLUHR QA in ENQA

Dear Patrick,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 19 September 2019, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the VLUHR QA 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.

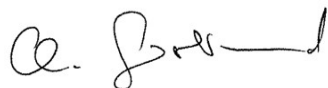
The Board would like to use this opportunity to draw attention to the challenge related to the decrease of responsibilities in 2022, when the activities of the agency as mandated by law will come to an end. The Board advises the agency to make all efforts to address the challenge in time.

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

The Board also encourages VLUHR QA to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – an 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 VLUHR QA for the positive review outcome and I look forward to continued fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

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

ESG 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

VLUHR QA is recommended to ensure enhanced stakeholder participation in the governance of the VLUHR QA through greater involvement of representatives from the Flemish higher education sector.

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

VLUHR QA is recommended to actively engage in discussions with the higher education stakeholders other than higher education institutions to ensure that VLUHR QA has an active role in conducting the upcoming comparative and thematic analyses.

Furthermore, VLUHR QA is recommended to identify the areas for thematic analysis that would be of interest for the higher education stakeholders.

Next, VLUHR QA is recommended to use the results of the thematic analysis in order to improve the quality assurance processes on institutional and national level.

ESG 3.5 Resources

VLUHR QA is recommended to consider looking for additional funding opportunities in the form of international projects or assessment procedures abroad and employ/ appoint a staff member whose main responsibility would be the branding of VLUHR QA in the international environment.

ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

For the assessment procedures in Flemish higher education VLUHR QA is recommended to make sure that all the elements covered by the ESG Part 1 are analysed in the review reports. This could be done either by further defining the details of the standards or by ensuring guidance to the review panels.

ESG 2.3 Implementing processes

VLUHR QA is recommended that its Board considers making the follow-up procedure a mandatory element of the review process, while also collaborating with the HEIs and other stakeholders to ensure the procedure provides a clear added value for them.