



European Association for  
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS)  
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Germany

Bern, 11 May 2020

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

Dear Georg,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 28 April 2020, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the AHPGS membership of ENQA. As this was a partial review, the validity of the membership is calculated from the decision by the Board concerning the previous review, i.e. from 20 June 2019. The membership is thus valid until 20 June 2024.

The Board concluded that AHPGS 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 receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e. by April 2022.

The Board also encourages AHPGS 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.



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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 AHPGS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Grolimund', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christoph Grolimund  
President

Annex: Areas for development

## **Annex: Areas for development**

As outlined by the review panel, AHPGS 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**

AHPGS is recommended to develop a more robust approach to strategic planning, supported by a financial plan which demonstrates sustainability, improvement and forward planning.

Furthermore, AHPGS is recommended to broaden the integration of international expertise in their Governing bodies.

### **ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis**

AHPGS is recommended to include the intended thematic analysis resource-wise already into a working plan beyond 2021.

AHPGS is recommended to reconsider the target audiences for their reports and make sure that the system level reflections will also be useful for policy makers and QA professionals within this system.

### **ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct**

AHPGS is recommended a further formalisation of its internal feedback mechanism.

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

AHPGS is recommended to develop more widely all the criteria of Part 1 in the international assessments. To demonstrate compliance with ESG Part 1, the agency should undertake a mapping exercise that clearly indicates that all standards are addressed.

### **ESG 2.3 Implementing processes**

AHPGS is recommended to take a more active role in the follow-up of the conditioned assessments outside Germany.

### **ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts**

AHPGS is recommended the intensification and further improvement of the training provided by the agency, for new and experienced members.

Furthermore, AHPGS is recommended to expand the recruitment of experts, increasing transparency and widening accessibility.



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### **ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals**

AHPGS is recommended to establish a body to deal with complaints which is independent from both the accreditation commission and the executive board.

Furthermore, AHPGS is recommended to review the complaints procedure to include common elements of a complaints procedure and use the procedure as a means of stimulating agency improvements.