

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

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Brussels, 8 October 2024

Subject: Statement on validation of the external review report of AQUIB

Dear Antonio Luis Alcover Casasnovas,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 26 September 2024, the ENQA Agency Review Committee validated the external review report of AQUIB. The committee concluded that the report has been produced in accordance with the Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews and can thus be used to apply for ENQA membership and EQAR registration, as well as for any other purposes. This is in line with article 26, paragraph 2 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure, which states that the review report can be further used only once this statement of validation has been issued. The purpose of the statement is to set out the committee's views on the quality of the final report and consistency of the panel's evaluation on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

The committee examined the provided review report and asked the panel for minor revisions on the following standards: ESG 3.3, 3.5, and 2.3.

On ESG 3.3 Independence, the committee noted that the evidence section includes a contradiction in the description of the Board of Directors composition – "Article 20(3) of Law 7/2010 establishes that the Board of Directors should consist of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 13 members" but "According to the 2005 Statutes, the Board of Directors consists of six members". The committee asked the panel to confirm the provided information.

Regarding ESG 3.5 Resources, the committee asked the panel to strengthen the analysis section as to better connect the evidence to the listed commendation and suggestion. In contrary, the panel elaborated on a need for long-term human resources planning but missed to provide for a related suggestion.



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On ESG 2.3 Implementing processes, the panel was asked to add a bit further to the justification or reference on why the absence of site visit is considered as acceptable (i.e., for the ex-ante accreditation of art study programmes).

Finally, the panel was asked to address some minor typing errors.

The committee received the final review report that addressed the additional requirements. The final review report can thus be further used to apply for ENQA membership and EQAR registration, as well as for any other purposes, as stipulated above.

This statement will be published on ENQA's website as an annex to the review report.

Thank you for your trust placed in ENQA to conduct this review. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

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Mr. Alastair Delaney Chair of ENQA Agency Review Committee

Annex: Areas for development



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As outlined by the review panel and further discussed by the committee (where relevant), AQUIB is recommended to take appropriate action, in so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

ESG 3.1 Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

AQUIB is recommended to improve stakeholder involvement in the Board of Directors as foreseen in the new draft statutes.

ESG 3.3 Independence

AQUIB is recommended to implement the composition of the Board of Directors with a balanced and broad representation as foreseen and intended by the new statutes, overcoming the limitation enforced by the law 7/2010, article 20.3.

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

AQUIB is recommended to assure that the areas relevant under the scope of ESG are covered by thematic analysis on a regular basis, ideally in cooperation with UIB.

ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

AQUIB is recommended to put emphasis on how to implement areas such as innovation in teaching and learning, encouraging students to take an active role in their learning process and more involvement in the design of programmes.

ESG 2.3 Implementing processes

AQUIB is recommended to ensure that all stakeholders, including CET representatives, expert panel members and UIB representatives, are effectively informed about the entire external evaluation process. This includes their roles, the steps involved and how their contributions fit into the bigger picture.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

AQUIB is recommended to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest, such as CET QA members participating in both the external evaluation for one criterion and in the decision-making process, are



addressed in the Code of Ethics, in the briefing of the experts and in the guides for programme assessments.

ESG 2.6 Reporting

AQUIB is recommended to assure the transparency of roles and of substantial modifications from panel visit reports to CET final reports, if any.