

The Polish Accreditation Committee
Barbara Wojciechowska
Director
Zurawia 32/34 str.
00-515 Warsaw
Poland

Bern, 26 October 2018

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of PKA in ENQA

Dear Ms. Wojciechowska,


I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 17 October 2018, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the PKA membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that PKA 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 calls upon the agency to closely consider the recommendations in the panel report and reflect on them in a follow-up report, to be received within two years of its decision, i.e. by October 2020.

The Board also encourages PKA 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 for the re-confirmation of membership of PKA.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

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

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

PKA is recommended to strengthen the initiatives to develop a more structured approach towards thematic analysis. Such analysis should meet the requirements of the Polish HE system and be performed independently from international projects. The agency should consider adding additional resources for thematic analysis as well. Mobilizing resources from within the Bureau should be considered.

ESG 3.5 Resources

PKA is recommended to take action on human resources in its Bureau. Valuing – in terms of remuneration as well as job profiles – and capitalizing on its acquired expertise, should decrease staff turnover and increase PKA's capacity to invest time and knowledge in thematic analysis and internal enhancement.

ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct

PKA is recommended to further develop the comprehensiveness of the agency's internal quality assurance in the areas of strategic management (decision-making process, definition and implementation of the strategic plan, etc.), role of the panel's President in the programme evaluation, and internal feedback. PKA is also recommended to update its internal quality assurance on procedures for programme evaluation so that there is a check-and-balance system for the strong role of the PKA member serving as a President in the review panel.

ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance

PKA is recommended to fully align the 'opinion giving procedure' with the requirements of Part 1 of the ESG.

ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose

PKA is recommended to further develop the 'opinion giving procedure' in consultation with stakeholders, to increase its fitness for purpose.

ESG 2.3 Implementing processes

PKA is recommended to increase the transparency of the processes within the 'opinion giving procedure', particularly regarding the availability of documents for the applying institution.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

PKA is recommended to develop a practice reassuring the equal involvement of stakeholders across the different procedures, making sure that all experts are involved in the relevant key

steps of each procedure. Secondly, the external experts, particularly students, should be used in the ‘opinion giving procedure’.

ESG 2.5 Criteria for outcomes

PKA is recommended to make the ‘opinion giving procedure’ more transparent. Additionally, the decision-making process should become more consistent in order to improve the procedure and decrease the number of appeals. Secondly, the panel recommends the agency to further develop and clarify the criteria to grant respective ratings for the different standards in the programme evaluation procedures.

ESG 2.6 Reporting

The panel recommends PKA to publish the expert reports and resolutions of the ‘opinion giving procedure’. When drafting the assessment reports for the programme evaluation procedures by the President of the panel, the agency is recommended to setup a mechanism reassuring appropriate involvement of all experts.

ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

The panel recommends PKA to improve the implementation of the appeals procedure to avoid creative use of this system and decrease the number of appeals. Additionally, the agency is recommended to implement a more systematic analysis of received feedback, recommendations, complaints and data from appeals procedures to facilitate IQA and improvements of procedures.