

Valéria Csépe
President
HAC – Hungarian Accreditation Committee
Krisztina krt. 39/B
H-1013 Budapest
Hungary

Bern, 1 October 2018

Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of HAC in ENQA

Dear Ms. Csépe,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 13 September 2018, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the HAC membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that HAC 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.

Overall, the Board acknowledges the significant progress HAC made since its last review and commends the efforts of the agency to further enhance its quality assurance activities. In regard to ESG 3.3 Independence, the Board acknowledges that the changes introduced at the time of the 2015 partial review have been sustained well to the present.

Furthermore, the Board is of the opinion that the panel's recommendation under the ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals is important, thus HAC is expected to follow-up closely on this recommendation together with the rest of panel's recommendations (as outlined in the attached annex).

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of the decision, i.e. by September 2020.

The Board also encourages HAC 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 HAC.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund
President

Annex: Areas for development

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

ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

HAC is recommended to ensure publication of the thematic analysis under way, disseminate it widely and follow up on the promise to publish reports and conduct more system-wide analyses.

ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct

It is recommended that HAC ensures methodical follow-up on and feedback from all procedures and all types of stakeholders; conducts systematic analyses of data regularly; informs users of improvements and developments from feedback; and prepares the aggregated system-wide analysis on the impact of its activities as suggested in review from 2013.

ESG 2.2 Designing methodologies fit for purpose

It is recommended that HAC discontinues the practice of evaluating doctoral schools every six months. Furthermore, the agency should consider including the evaluation of doctoral schools within the institutional evaluation procedure. Next, HAC is recommended to involve non-academic stakeholders and international experts in the design and improvement of its QA procedures.

ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts

HAC is recommended to give up anonymity and invisibility of its experts for ex-ante procedures; involve foreign experts in all visiting panels and disciplinary committees; ensure the involvement of students in ex-ante evaluations and in all processes and decisions; increase the training of experts; and standardise the method of training according to the purpose and type of evaluation activity.

ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals

It is recommended that HAC develops a policy of complaints and communicates to the public how complaints will be handled.