

Approval of the Application by Estonian Quality Agency for Education (HAKA) for Renewal of Inclusion on the Register

Register Committee
29-30 June 2023

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Ver. 1.0
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Application of:	2021-10-20		
Agency registered since:	2013-03-01		
Type of review:	Targeted	Site visit:	2022-09-20
External review report of:	2023-02-17	Submitted:	2023-03-03
Review coordinated by:	European Association for Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ENQA)		
Review panel members:	Jakub Bakonyi, Nuria Comet, Tadej Tuma		
Decision of:	2023-06-30		
Registration until:	2028-02-29		
Absented themselves from decision-making:	None		
Attachments:	1. External Review Report , 2023-02-17 2. Minuted clarification with HAKA, 2023-06-06		

1. The application of 2021-10-20 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee confirmed eligibility of the application on 2021-12-17.
3. The Register Committee considered the targeted external review report of 2023-02-17 on the compliance of HAKA with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG, 2015 version).
4. The Register Committee sought and received clarification from the agency on 2023-06-06.

Analysis:

5. In considering HAKA's compliance with the ESG, the Register Committee took into account:
 - Institutional Accreditation
 - Initial and re-assessment of study programme group
 - Accreditation of study programmes
 - Accreditation of continuing education programmes

The following activities are not within the scope of the ESG and, thus, not pertinent to the application inclusion on the Register:

- Initial assessment of study programme groups in VET
- Quality assessment of study programme groups in VET
- International development projects
- A pilot project for developing a quality assurance model for continuing education
- A pilot project for developing a quality assurance model for general education

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6. The Register Committee found that the report provides sufficient evidence and analysis on HAKA's level of compliance with the ESG.

7. With regard to the specific European Standards, the Register Committee considered the following:

ESG 2.3 – Implementing processes

8. The Register Committee found the difference between the initial and re-assessments of study programme groups on the one hand and the phasing out of assessments of study programme groups on the other hand not to be completely clear.

9. The agency explained (see clarification of 2023-06-06) that the initial and re-assessment procedures remain compulsory for the opening of any new study programme groups. For existing study programme groups that have gone successfully through multiple assessment processes, the assessments of individual study programme groups are being phased out for a sample of these programmes, within the new model for institutional accreditations.

10. Having considered the agency's explanation and the implementation of the new procedures, the Register Committee concurs with the panel's conclusion of compliance.

ESG 3.5 – Resources

11. The Register Committee noted that the proportion of HAKA's activities financed through state budget has been decreasing. This is caused by the fact that HAKA has taken on activities for other education levels/types not falling under the ESG, which are financed through projects.

12. The Register Committee understood from the agency's clarification (see minuted response of 2023-06-06) that the financial concerns do not affect the agency's ability to carry out its regular external QA activities.

13. The Register Committee therefore concluded that the agency continues to comply with ESG 3.5.

14. For the remaining standards, the Register Committee was able to concur with the review panel's analysis and conclusion without further comments.

Conclusion:

15. Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that HAKA demonstrated compliance with the ESG (Parts 2 and 3) as follows:

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Standard	Previous decision (2018-06-13)	Review panel conclusion	Register Committee conclusion
2.1	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.2	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.3	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.4	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.5	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.6	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
2.7	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.1	Compliance	Full compliance	Compliance
3.2	Compliance	Full compliance	Compliance
3.3	Compliance	Compliance	Compliance
3.4	Compliance	Substantial compliance	Compliance
3.5	Compliance	Full compliance	Compliance
3.6	Compliance	Full compliance	Compliance
3.7	Compliance	(not expected)	Compliance (by virtue of applying)

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16. HAKA therefore continues to comply substantially with the ESG as a whole.

17. The Register Committee therefore approved the application for HAKA's renewed inclusion shall be valid until 2028-02-29¹.

¹ Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §3.25 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.