

Approval of the Application
by the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
(SQAA)
for Inclusion on the Register

Register Committee
 18/19 October 2013

Ref. RC11/2013/05

Ver. 1.0

Date 2013-10-21

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1. The application of 21/08/2013 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee considered the external review report of July 2013 on the compliance of SQAA with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (European Standards and Guidelines, ESG). The Register Committee found that the report provides clear evidence and analysis of how SQAA complies with ESG.
3. The Register Committee sought and received additional clarification from SQAA (letter of 18/09/2013).

Analysis:

4. With regard to the specific European Standards and Guidelines, the Register Committee considered the following:

ESG 2.1: The review panel recommended that SQAA strengthens the attention to higher education institutions' internal quality assurance systems, in the context of the planned shift towards external quality assurance predominantly at the institutional level.

The Register Committee noted the recommendation and underlined that greater attention to internal quality assurance systems would be important in paving the way for the planned transition from programme to institutional accreditation in 2017.

ESG 2.5: The Register Committee received clarification from SQAA on its Council's decision to publish the expert groups' assessment reports once the decision on accreditation is final.

Since publishing of reports has yet to become practice, the Register Committee underlined that this will need to be addressed in the next external review of SQAA.

ESG 2.6 & 2.8: Given that SQAA is in the first evaluation and accreditation cycle, the Register Committee acknowledged that the

follow-up procedures and system wide-analyses could not possibly have been fully implemented in practice yet.

These two matters thus require further attention and will need to be addressed in the next external review of SQAA.

ESG 3.4: The Register Committee noted the review panel's concerns with regards to the financial sustainability of the agency after the cease of the funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) in 2014.

The Register Committee underlined that SQAA is expected to submit a Substantive Change Report (see §6.1 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications) once the funding situation has changed, including an analysis on how the sustainability of SQAA's funding will be ensured.

ESG 3.8: The Register Committee noted the panel's analysis that SQAA lacks a coherent and formalised internal quality assurance framework, and the corresponding recommendation of the panel that SQAA systematise its internal quality assurance processes.

Conclusion:

5. Based on the external review report and the considerations above, the Register Committee concluded that SQAA substantially complies with the ESG and therefore approved the application for inclusion on the Register.

SQAA's inclusion shall be valid until 31/07/2018¹.

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¹ Inclusion is valid for five years from the date of the external review report, see §4.1 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.