



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Prof. Dr. Cristina Rodríguez Coarasa
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Brussels, 4 May 2026

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

Dear Prof. Dr. Rodríguez Coarasa,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 22 April 2026, the ENQA Agency Review Committee validated the external review report of ACPUA. The committee concluded that the report has been produced in accordance with the Guidelines for ENQA Targeted 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 3 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 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance, ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts and ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals. On ESG 2.1, the committee asked the panel to complete the report's analysis by addressing the remaining requirements of ESG 1.3 that were not yet sufficiently covered. Regarding ESG 2.4, the panel was asked to strengthen its reflection on including a doctoral student member in agency review panels and revise the recommendation under this standard to focus primarily on resolving conflict-of-interest issues in SET or SEC evaluation decisions, with other improvement points framed separately as suggestions. Finally, on ESG 2.7, the committee asked the report to be made self-standing by clearly explaining the agency's appeals and complaints procedures and clarifying how these two processes are distinguished for the external QA activities within the scope of the ToR.

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



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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 targeted review. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Upmace', is written over a faint, larger blue signature.

Ms. Asnate Upmace
Vice-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), ACPUA is recommended to take appropriate action, in so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

2.4 Peer-review experts

The agency is recommended to protect itself from any person alleging a conflict of interest, or a perceived conflict of interest, in SET or SEC evaluation decisions. Members of the relevant decision-making committee should not participate in an assessment panel whose recommendations will be considered by their own committee. Therefore, it is recommended that any such person should recuse themselves from the subsequent decision-making forum.