

Substantive Change Report
by Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU)

Register Committee

Ref. RC/07

Ver. 1.0

Date 2016/03/24

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| Decision of: | 24 March 2016 |
| Report received on: | 17/02/2016 |
| Agency registered since: | 05/12/2008 |
| Last external review report: | July 2012 |
| Registered until: | 31/07/2017 |
| Absented themselves from decision-making: | Josep Grifoll |
| Attachments: | 1. Substantive Change Report |

The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 17 February 2016.

The Register Committee took note of the changes introduced by AQU following the adoption of the Catalunya Bill in July 2015. The Committee welcomed the increase in the number of stakeholders within the Governing Board of AQU, which now includes all Catalan rectors, representatives of students and representatives of the labour market. The Register Committee also welcomed the newly established Appeals Committee and the simplification of the agency's appeals' procedure.

The Committee formed the view that these changes are likely to strengthen the independence of AQU from the government, while at the same time they increase the influence of the university sector, both public and private.

The Committee nevertheless underlined that the issue of independence has been flagged by the Register Committee in the renewal decision of the agency (of December 2012) and that it will require careful attention when considering a potential application for further renewal of inclusion given the regional government's involvement in the Governing Board of AQU including the senior appointments made by the government and the extended representation of all universities' rectors.

Subject: Substantive Change Report: AQU - Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency
From: "mgine@aqu.cat" <form_engine@fs22.formsite.com>
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EQAR Substantive Change Report

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This form is used to report substantive changes in your agency. Before completing the form, please read carefully the [information on reporting substantive changes](#) available on our website and the Guide for Applicants and Registered Agencies. Please note that your Substantive Change Report will be published after the Register Committee has taken note of it.

Reporting Agency

Save & Return: optionally, you can create an account to save your progress and complete this form later.

*** Agency #1**

AQU - Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency

*** Expiry date #1**

31/07/2017

*** Contact #1**

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Second agency?

The report involves another registered agency (in case of a merger)

Other Organisations Involved

*** Other organisations?**

Yes

No

Description of the Changes

*** A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?**

Yes

No

*** B. Has the organisational structure changed?**

Yes

No*** Description**

On 8 July 2015 the Parliament of Catalonia approved the AQU Catalunya Act (Llei15/2015, de 21 de juliol).

New legislation was necessary for AQU Catalunya, above all to comply with the recommendations of the ESG external international review of AQU Catalunya carried out in 2007 in relation to: appointment of the Agency's President and Director and the chairs of the review committees; an increase in the Agency's Board of Management to include students and labour representatives; plus the setting up of an appeals committee and the merging of the CLiC committee, which deals with tenure-track and collaborating teaching staff, with the Research Assessment Committee (CAR).

The most important aspects of the new legislation, which answer the requirements of ESG evaluation, in this regard are:

1.The setting up of an Appeals Committee in charge of dealing with appeals filed against the decisions of review panels in the Agency's QA procedures. This committee will ensure that there are more safeguards as regards technical independence than the current model, in which it is the review committee chairperson who issues the final ruling in appeals.(Actually, we are working in changing the procedures to adapt them to thie Committee)

2.An increase in the representation on the Governing Board (formerly the Board of Management) and its Standing Committee so as to now include the rectors from all public and private universities in Catalonia, student representatives and labour representatives.
http://www.aqu.cat/aqu/estructura/organs/consell_direccio_en.html#.VsRDpMs5Doo

3.A more flexible structure, with the Governing Board now having the power to set up, modify and abolish the Agency's permanent and non-permanent committees, with the exception of the Advisory Committee and the Research Assessment Committee (CAR), into which the CLiC committee, which deals with tenure-track and collaborating teaching staff, has been merged. The merged will finish next 1rt April.

Definitely, the new law increases the independence of AQU Catalunya and satisfied the ESG external review requirements 2007.

C. Have the external quality assurance activities implemented by your agency changed?

This includes all external quality assurance activities within the scope of the ESG: reviews, audits, evaluations or accreditations of higher education institutions or programmes that relate to learning and teaching in higher education, including the learning environment and relevant links to research and innovation; regardless of whether these activities are carried out within and outside the EHEA, and whether they are obligatory or voluntary.

*** C.i. Are there new types of activities?** Yes No*** C.ii. Are there changes in existing activities?** Yes No*** C.iii. Have some or all existing activities been discontinued?** Yes No

If necessary, you can upload documents that you wish to annex to your report. Please make sure that these documents are referred in the descriptions above. Please only upload PDF files.

File #1

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File #2

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File #3

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File #4

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Please review your information:

Reporting agency/ies: AQU - Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency

Other organisations: none

Changes in the organisational identity:

- none -

Changes in the organisational structure:

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New/changed EQA activities:

- none -

Discontinued EQA activities:

- none -

If the information is correct, please submit the form using the button below. Otherwise, please go back to the first page and correct your information.