

Extraordinary Review and Decision to Reduce the Remaining Validity of the Danish Evaluation Institute's (EVA) Registration

Register Committee

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 4 July 2013 (submitted together with the Danish Accreditation Institution). The Register Committee took into account the clarification provided to the EQAR Secretariat on 24 October 2013.

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2. In November 2013, the Register Committee initiated an extraordinary review of EVA's registration, with a view to reducing the remaining validity of registration. According to §7.5 of the EQAR Procedures for Applications, EVA was invited to make representation on the matter before a final decision.

3. The Register Committee took into account the representation made by EVA in its messages of 17 January and 3 February 2014.

Analysis

The Register Committee considered that:

4. EVA's main responsibility in higher education used to be programme accreditation of non-university higher education. The external review of EVA (report of July 2011) analysed EVA's ESG compliance with regard to programme accreditation, which was therefore the basis for EVA's registration on EQAR. Programme accreditation has now become a responsibility of the Danish Accreditation Institution.
5. Thematic evaluations and commissioned reviews (including external quality assurance of private higher education) were already an EVA activity at the time of its external review. These activities were briefly described in the EVA self-evaluation report (2010). They received marginal attention in the external review report and compliance with the ESG was not specifically analysed for these activities.

While the clarification indicated that the methodology used for external quality assurance of private higher education is similar to the one previously used in programme accreditation, this is an activity with a distinctively different role and status (offered to institutions on a voluntary basis, without an accreditation decision, as opposed to legally obliged accreditation).

Conclusion

The Register Committee concluded that:

6. The remaining external quality assurance activities of EVA were not specifically addressed in terms of their ESG compliance in the 2010/11 review. Neither could ESG compliance in these activities be deduced with sufficient certainty from the fact that a previous activity of EVA complied with the ESG, given the substantial differences in their roles and statuses.
7. The Register Committee thus did not consider the external review of 2010/11 to still represent a sufficiently reliable basis to demonstrate ESG compliance, leading to serious concerns whether EVA's remaining activities are in substantial compliance with the ESG.

The Register Committee does not determine substantial compliance with the ESG on the basis of evidence gathered by itself, but on the basis of an external review. A new external review is, therefore, necessary in order to finally determine whether EVA's remaining activities are in substantial compliance with the ESG.

Decision

8. Pursuant to §7.4 (c) of the EQAR Procedures for Applications, the Register Committee decided to reduce the remaining validity of EVA's registration until 31/12/2014, and thus to allow EVA to undergo a new external review without interruption of its registration¹.
9. EVA has the right to appeal this decision of the Register Committee in accordance with the Appeals Procedure (available on the EQAR website at <http://www.eqar.eu/application.html>). Any appeal must reach EQAR within 90 days from receipt of this decision.

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¹ A new external review according to the ESG would need to be submitted by 31/03/2015 at the very latest.