

**Approval of the Application
by the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (EKKA)
for Inclusion on the Register**

Register Committee
18/19 October 2013

Ref. RC11/2013/03

Ver. 1.0
Date 2013-10-21
Page 1 / 2

1. The application of 28/06/2013 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee considered the external review report of March 2013 on the compliance of EKKA 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 EKKA complies with ESG.
3. The Register Committee sought and received clarification from EKKA (letter of 13/08/2013) regarding the nature of its counselling and training activities.
4. The Register Committee sought and received clarification from the review panel chair (letter of 12/08/2013), see ESG 2.5.

Analysis:

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

ESG 2.3 & 2.7: The Register Committee noted the review panel's analysis that EKKA's criteria for transitional re-evaluation and assessment of study programme groups are not sufficiently clear and explicit.

The Register Committee noted EKKA's response to the panel's recommendations and the fact that EKKA has already taken some steps to clarify part of its criteria.

In particular, the Register Committee concurred with the panel's view that EKKA criteria are not sufficiently clear regarding how the length of the cycle is determined in assessments of study programme groups and transitional re-evaluations. This issue has therefore been flagged

ESG 2.5: The Register Committee considered the panel's additional clarification that, despite the comments on accessibility of reports made in the panel report, all reports are available and essentially accessible without major obstacles through EKKA's website.

The Register Committee made no specific observations on the review panel's analyses of EKKA's compliance with the remaining standards.

Conclusion:

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

EKKA's inclusion shall be valid until 31/03/2018¹.

7. The following issues have been flagged for particular attention when considering a potential application for renewal of inclusion:

ESG 2.3 – Criteria for decisions)

It should receive attention whether EKKA has streamlined and made sufficiently explicit its decision-making criteria to ensure transparency and consistency in its decisions for transitional re-evaluations and assessments of study programme groups, specifically concerning the length of shortened review cycles

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Page 2 / 2

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