

Approval of the Application
by the European Association for Public Administration Accreditation
(EAPAA) for Inclusion on the Register

Register Committee

Ref. RC12/2014/02

Ver. 1.0

Date 2014-05-22

Page 1 / 3

1. The application of 6/11/2013 adhered to the requirements of the EQAR Procedures for Applications.
2. The Register Committee considered the external review report of October 2013 on the compliance of EAPAA with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). The Register Committee found that the report provides clear evidence and analysis of how EAPAA complies with ESG.
3. The Register Committee sought and received clarification from EAPAA (response of 22/04/2014) as well as the chair of the review panel (response of 28/04/2014).

Analysis:

4. With regard to the specific European Standards and Guidelines, the Register Committee considered the following:
5. **ESG 2.2:** The Register Committee noted the review panel's recommendation that EAPAA should consult with students and practitioners in the development of EAPAA's criteria and processes, in addition to their participation in EAPAA expert panels.
6. **ESG 2.4:** The review panel considered that EAPAA's arrangements for training of experts were not sufficiently consistent and training was not "as stringently required as could be expected" (p. 21).

The Register Committee received clarification from EAPAA on its new training procedure, which was put in place to address the issue.

7. **ESG 2.5:** The review panel recommended that EAPAA publish reports on negative accreditation decisions.

While the Register Committee received clarification from EAPAA stating that "all negative decisions and site visit reports [...] will henceforth be published", it was not clear whether this was following a change of EAPAA's related official rules. Furthermore, it could not be verified whether this has already been turned into practice. This issue has therefore been flagged.

8. **ESG 2.6:** The review panel recommended that EAPAA document better its follow-up procedures in its guidelines and criteria.

The Register Committee received clarification from EAPAA that the follow-up process has been reviewed and changes to EAPAA's Standing

Orders and Accreditation Procedures have been prepared for adoption by its Accreditation Committee in September 2014.

9. **ESG 2.8:** The review panel noted that EAPAA did not produce any system-wide analyses so far, but was currently preparing a related research project and was committed to alleviate that shortcoming. EAPAA had also continuously fed its experience into the work of its two professional member organisations EGPA and NISPAcee.

The Register Committee underlined that, as an independent agency, EAPAA is expected to provide system-wide analyses itself, independently from the work of EGPA, NISPAcee or any other organisations. This matter has therefore been flagged.

10. **ESG 3.4:** The review panel concluded that EAPAA had sufficient resources to sustain its ongoing operations, but lacked appropriate means to support the development of its processes as well as to carry out activities such as producing system-wide analyses.

The Register Committee received clarification from EAPAA on the steps taken to address its resource situation.

The Register Committee took note of the plan to have EAPAA's member organisations (EGPA and NISPAcee) contribute "more significantly to EAPAA's external activities". The Committee, however, underlined that EAPAA needs to be mindful of its independence.

The Register Committee further took note of the decision by EAPAA to integrate its secretariat with another agency and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA).

The Register Committee concluded that the full nature and impact of the upcoming integration cannot be judged upon at present. The Committee underlined that EAPAA is expected to make a Substantive Change Report on the integration in due course. In doing so, EAPAA should describe in detail at what level(s) the integration took place, which tasks and services are shared with other organisations, and how a clear separation of EAPAA, as a registered agency, from any other organisation is ensured.

The issue of resources has also been flagged.

11. **ESG 3.6:** The Register Committee considered the external review panel's analysis and conclusion that EAPAA was "fully independent organisationally" and that its Accreditation Committee conducted "all matters related to accreditation fully independently" (p. 31).

The Register Committee received further clarification by the chair of the review panel on the issues and dimensions considered by the panel.

The Register Committee underlined that EAPAA needs to be mindful of the fact that its registration on EQAR may imply formal recognition of its accreditation in certain countries, and thus might shift its character away from a voluntary "add-on" accreditation in these cases.

Register Committee

Ref. RC12/2014/02

Ver. 1.0

Date 2014-05-22

Page 2 / 3

12. **ESG 3.8:** The Register Committee noted the review panel's recommendation that EAPAA should formalise and improve its internal quality assurance as appropriate for an organisation of such small size.

Conclusion:

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

EAPAA's inclusion shall be valid until 31/10/2018¹.

14. The following issues have been flagged for particular attention when considering a potential application for renewal of inclusion. EAPAA is expected to address these issues specifically in its next self-evaluation report, setting out whether the issue has been resolved or indicating what progress has been made. EAPAA is further responsible for informing the coordinator of the next external review and the review panel of the need to address these issues in the external review report.

ESG 2.5: Publication of negative decisions and reports

It should receive attention whether the decision to publish negative decisions and reports has been included in the relevant official documents and has been implemented in practice.

ESG 2.8: System-wide analyses

It should receive attention whether EAPAA has produced system-wide analyses as required by the standard.

ESG 3.4: Resources

It should be considered how EAPAA's resource situation has developed and whether appropriate resources have been acquired to support the development of its process, the production of system-wide analyses and the formalisation of its internal quality assurance.

Register Committee

Ref. RC12/2014/02

Ver. 1.0

Date 2014-05-22

Page 3 / 3

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