

UPDATE ON THE ESG REVISION

18 MARCH 2025

TPG C MEETING, ONLINE

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

ACTIVITIES SO FAR

- **September 2024:** Steering Committee meeting to discuss roadmap & reflections on structure, scope and principles
- **December 2024:** Steering Committee meeting to discuss introduction and key topics to be introduced/removed/strengthen
- **February 2025:** Consultation at the BFUG meeting in Poland
- **March 2025:** Steering Committee meeting to discuss introduction and Part I

STEERING COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS (I)

- The current **structure** should be maintained (introduction, 3 parts)
- There should be further work on ensuring that the **standards are self-explanatory**, while the guidelines support implementation in different contexts
- The ESG should remain **focused on L&T**, but with stronger reference to the links to the research and societal missions of HEIs
- The ESG should maintain **applicability** to all types of higher education provision (and revision should keep in mind “other/alternative providers” and smaller units of learning smaller e.g. micro-credentials)

STEERING COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS (2)

- Re-writing of **introduction** to revise the structure and eliminate overlaps, update the context, make the key messages clearer
- The ESG should support different **concepts of quality**
- The ESG are **standards for quality assurance** and not for quality itself
- The existing **principles remain valid**, but discussion on whether additional ones are needed
- Reflection on whether **definitions** should be in the text versus a separate section (glossary)

BFUG CONSULTATION FEBRUARY 2025

- General agreement on
 - The need for a revision, but building on the existing version
 - The current structure is appropriate
 - Caution against overloading the ESG with too many topics and risk diminishing its strength
 - No need to (re-)define the concept of quality
 - The ESG should focus on learning, teaching (and assessment), but with much stronger reference to research and societal missions
- Divergent views on
 - If and how references to values and social dimension should be strengthened
 - Extent of convergence needed between ESG/EA and European Degree criteria

FURTHER TOPICS OF RELEVANCE

- Digitalisation in/of L&T
- Lifelong learning
- Micro-credentials / short learning units
- Transnational education
- Cross-border quality assurance
- Recognition of qualifications
- Environmental sustainability (sustainability as a broader term?)
- Social dimension
- Fundamental values
- Societal mission - relevance to the society/region/labour market
- Research

KEY MILESTONES FOR 2025

- June, September & December 2025: Steering Committee meetings to prepare drafts of Parts 1, 2 and 3.
- December 2025: BFUG consultation
- Winter 2025/26: Public consultation on complete draft
(+ *start work on revision of the European Approach*)



THANK
YOU

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