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Bern, 1 October 2019

**Subject: Reconfirmation of membership of ACSUG in ENQA**

Dear José Eduardo López Pereira,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 19 September 2019, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the ACSUG membership of ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that the agency is in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and thus fulfils the membership criteria according to article 6, paragraph 1 of ENQA’s rules of procedure.

The Board would like to use this opportunity to provide an articulation regarding standard 3.3 Independence, where their judgement differs from that of the panel. The Board seconds the critical remark of the panel on the importance of appointing non-Galician members in all the agency’s governing and evaluations bodies to further enhance ACSUGs’ independence, which is especially relevant in smaller higher education sectors, such as the one of Galicia. Following this, in the opinion of the Board, the standard can be considered only as substantially compliant.

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e. by September 2021.

The Board also encourages ACSUG to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – a new enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place in about two years’ time from this decision. The ENQA Secretariat will be in touch with you in about a year’s time to discuss this possibility. The costs of this visit have already been included as part of the review fee and are non-refundable except for the travel costs of the experts. More information about the progress visit can be found in the [Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews](#). If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ENQA Secretariat.

Please accept my congratulations to ACSUG for the positive review outcome and I look forward to continued fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Christoph Grolimund  
President

Annex: Areas for development

### **Annex: Areas for development**

As outlined by the review panel, ACSUG is recommended to take appropriate action, so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

#### **ESG 3.3 Independence**

ACSUG is recommended to appoint non-Galician members in all the agency's governing and evaluations bodies, which would be a way to further enhance ACSUGs' independence.

#### **ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis**

ACSUG is recommended to develop their thematic analysis based on the data they gather in their external quality assurance activities.

In addition, the agency is recommended that it explores, pending the appointment of additional staff, options for outsourcing the work of thematic analysis.

#### **ESG 3.5 Resources**

ACSUG is recommended to continue the efforts to solve the issues related to the vacancies with the ministry in order to ensure full staffing as soon as possible.

Next, ACSUG is recommended to use its unused funds to creatively outsource some work, for example the translation of the ESG to Galician and thematic analysis.

Finally, ACSUG is recommended to recruit experts from outside of Galicia for all its governing and evaluation bodies.

#### **ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct**

ACSUG is recommended to develop a policy for equal opportunity that also guards against intolerance or any kind of discrimination, which covers the agency and all its activities.

#### **ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals**

ACSUG is recommended to use an independent committee or body to evaluate appeals on decisions made by the CGIACA before starting the jurisdictional procedure.