

HAQAA QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY REVIEWS AND CONSULTANCY VISITS TRAINING/PREPARATORY SESSION FOR EXPERTS

Parallel working groups on the analysis of an External Review Report (ERR)

Extracts from the ERR for the evaluation of ANAQ-Sup

- Standard B2. Élaboration de mécanismes d'AQE adaptés au contexte national et international
- Standard C4. Independence of the QAA

Consider...

- Any commendations?
- What recommendations would you make given the information in the report?
- Try to draft the commendations and the recommendations in a developmental way

Be prepared to...

- Feedback one commendation (if relevant)
- Feedback one recommendation – is the recommendation necessary to meet the standard or will it lead to improvement?

Part B

Standard 2. Designing External Quality Assurance Mechanisms Fit for Purpose

Standard: Standards, guidelines and processes for external quality assurance shall be designed to be fit for purpose, defined to achieve the intended aims and objectives of EQA, and to strengthen IQA systems at institutions.

The ANAQ-Sup standards for the evaluation of institutions and programmes have been developed in the national, regional and international context.

At the national level, these guidelines respond to the recommendations on the quality of higher education, research and innovation of the Concertation nationale sur l'Avenir de l'enseignement supérieur (National Consultation on the Future of Higher Education), which were formalised by the presidential decisions of the Presidential Council on 1 August 2014. At the regional level, the ANAQ-Sup standards are compatible with those of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES) and the "References and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in African Higher Education (ASG-QA)". Finally, these standards take into account international good practices in quality assurance.

The process of developing these guidelines involved all the stakeholders in quality assurance in Senegal, in particular the HEIs. These institutions participated in the drafting committee of the standards and benefit from various support mechanisms put in place by ANAQ-Sup, including capacity building seminars for the CIAQ. Student representatives also participated in the development of the ANAQ-Sup standards, which were adopted by all stakeholders on a consensual basis.

Part C

Standard 4. Independence of ANAQ-Sup

Standard: The QAA shall be independent in its operations, outcomes, judgments and decisions.

The independence of ANAQ-Sup is manifested through its organisation, its functioning and the procedures it uses to conduct its activities and make decisions on the results of programme or institutional evaluations.

4.1 Organisational independence

The decree establishing ANAQ-Sup gives it the autonomy and independence required to carry out its missions effectively. This independence is reflected in the independence of the external evaluators in proposing decisions/opinions, the existence of a regulatory framework specific to a quality assurance agency and the existence of three governance bodies, the Board, the Scientific Council and the Executive Secretariat, which take decisions in complete autonomy.

The Committee of External Experts notes that the organisational independence of ANAQ-Sup is based on the division of tasks between the Board, the Scientific Council and the Executive Secretariat. The Board, which is mainly composed of representatives appointed by the President, the Prime Minister and a large number of ministries, supervises the activities of ANAQ-Sup, while the Scientific Council takes decisions on reference documents, the composition of evaluation committees, and the use of evaluation and accreditation reports. The members of the ES are personalities recognised for their knowledge of the higher education sub-sectors, their professional expertise and their knowledge in terms of quality assurance of higher education and/or research and innovation. They are appointed from a shortlist proposed to the Ministry by the Executive Secretary.

4.2 Operational independence

The entire procedure for the evaluation of programmes or HEIs is under the full responsibility of the ANAQ-Sup. This procedure includes in particular: (a) the selection and recruitment of external experts, (b) the determination of the evaluation methodology and tools, (c) the planning and execution of evaluation-related activities and (d) the publication of the results of its evaluations.

4.3 Independence of findings, judgements and decisions

The results of ANAQ-Sup assessments are the result of a coherent, transparent and independent process based on a number of tools and principles that ensure impartiality. These include the ethics charter, the declaration on possible conflicts of interest and the no-objection notices issued by the HEIs on the lists of external evaluators. Evaluation reports are signed by the Chair on behalf of the review panel to certify that the content is in line with the opinion of the panel members.

From the interviews held during the visit, the Committee of External Experts found that HEIs find ANAQ-Sup to be an agency that makes balanced and well-founded decisions on the basis of reliable processes.