

## NAQA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** June 1, 2021

**Present:**

*Advisory Board members.* Tricia Bertram Gallant, Ian Welch, Irine Darchia, Jean-Hugues Chauchat, Lennart Ståhle, Tomáš Foltýnek, Olgun Cicek, Zbigniew Marciniak.

*NAQA representatives:* Nataliia Stukalo, Iryna Zolotaryova, Ihor Oleksiv, Liliya Janse, Mychailo Wynnyckyj, Albina Tsiatkovska.

**Exused:** Alison Johns.

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. Declaration of any business interests and conflicts of interest pertinent to the agenda
3. Any urgent matters to be considered for inclusion under any other business
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Feedback from subgroup discussions;
  - a. Institutional accreditation
  - b. Law “On Academic Integrity”
  - c. Accreditation of independent evaluation organisations in Ukraine
6. NAQA letter (NAQA statement) to foreign QA agencies conducting cross-border quality assurance in Ukraine – any further comments
7. The future – changes in the role of NAQA?
8. Receive schedule from NAQA of upcoming topics for discussion
9. Clarification of agreed actions
10. Any other business

## **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Alison Johns has informed in advance about the impossibility to participate in the meeting.

## **2. Declaration of any business interests and conflicts of interest pertinent to the agenda**

No declarations.

## **3. Any urgent matters to be considered for inclusion under any other business**

No.

## **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

No comments.

## **5. Feedback from subgroup discussions:**

### **a. Institutional accreditation**

[Meeting minutes.](#)

[IA shared folder.](#)

Next steps: NAQA will initiate next subgroup meeting in order to discuss the development of a detailed procedure for institutional accreditation while the Article 25-1 of the Law “On higher education” (defining the concept of IA) is being amended in the Parliament.

### **b. Law “On Academic Integrity”**

[Meeting minutes.](#)

[AI Shared folder.](#)

NAQA has taken into account the experts` suggestions and made amendments to the text.

### **c. Accreditation of independent evaluation organisations in Ukraine**

[Meeting minutes.](#)

[IEA Shared folder.](#)

The process of adopting the Regulations within the Ministry and the Parliament is ongoing.

## **6. NAQA letter (NAQA statement) to foreign QA agencies conducting cross-border quality assurance in Ukraine**

The letter was sent to the foreign agencies, the AB members' suggestions were included into the text.

### **6.1. Cross-border QA. NAQA authority in Ukraine?**

According to Ukrainian legislation Ukrainian HEIs may apply to a number of foreign agencies to receive accreditation certificate. In such case NAQA is just technically confirming the fact of certification (automatically recognises) and fill the data in the Ukrainian database (foreign agencies don't have access to it). NAQA does not have power to controll/review/cancell etc. the certificate.

According to the AB members this is a *dangerous* situation that needs to be revised and changed so that NAQA will have power to controll (step-in) this process in order to avoid situations when low quality (or even fake) study programmes receive certificates from foreign QA agencies. For example, in Georgia there is a possibility for the Agency to double-check the evaluation of the foreign agency. One way may be that NAQA set a number of criteria for foreign agencies to follow while working in Ukraine.

NAQA agrees with this and will discuss the development of respective legislation changes. Thank to the experts, Ukrainian Parliament is now in the process of discussing/adopting the norms which will provide state funding for national

accreditation. This will potentially reduce the number of HEIs willing to apply foreign agencies to accredit low quality programmes.

NAQA needs to find balance to ensure cross-boarder QA and secure Ukrainian system from misusing of foreign accreditation to hide low quality.

NAQA will provide AB members with the feedback on this issue.

### **7. The future – changes in the role of NAQA?**

NAQA members powers are ended in December 2021. NAQA Secretariat remains to work at least until February 2024. By the end of the term of NAQA members the new members will be elected by International Commission.

### **8. Receive schedule from NAQA of upcoming topics for discussion**

NAQA will inform AB members. The issues for discussion depend on the progress in the Parliament.

### **9. Clarification of agreed actions**

Hyperlinks to recourses are included in the minutes.

NAQA will report on the progress on cross-border QA.

### **10. Any other business**

The next meeting will be held in the beginning of September (as it's a period of vacations in summer). A poll will be sent in August.

The audio recording of the meeting is available at [https://naqa-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/atsiatkovska\\_naqa\\_gov\\_ua/EUGxrQzYL7RFtn13\\_4uFmz4BBilns\\_2aFY76u6jsgIc2nA?e=gsR1ai](https://naqa-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/atsiatkovska_naqa_gov_ua/EUGxrQzYL7RFtn13_4uFmz4BBilns_2aFY76u6jsgIc2nA?e=gsR1ai)