

NAQA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 3, 2024

Present:

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

NAQA representatives: Nataliia Stukalo, Nataliia Avsheniuk, Oleksandr Dluhopolskyi, Liliya Janse, Ihor Oleksiv, Tetiana Prikhna, Iryna Zolotaryova, Mariia Piddobrivna, Iryna Simshah, Anna Shylina, Tamara Sverdlyk, Oksana Trebenko.

Exused: Alison Johns, Zbigniew Marciniak

Agenda:

- Welcome words – NAQA Advisory Board Head Ian Welch and NAQA Vice Head Nataliia Stukalo;
- NAQA Updates – NAQA Vice Head Nataliia Stukalo;
 - Report on National Action Plan 2022-2023 and higher education quality in 2023;
 - Outcomes from SEQA-ESG 2 Peer Counselling meeting;
- Q&A and open discussion (NAQA members and Advisory Board members)
 - Potential trainings for NAQA

1. Welcome words

Ian Welch opened the meeting, emphasizing the progress of NAQA since last Advisory Board meeting.

Nataliia Stukalo thanked all the Advisory Board members and NAQA representatives and briefly told about future NAQA plans.

2. NAQA Updates

Nataliia Stukalo presented the results on the National Action Plan for 2022-2023, which covered legislative changes, improvement of the mechanisms of training of NAQA experts,

increasing the level of stakeholders' involvement in NAQA activities. NAQA Vice Head also reported on the Ukrainian higher education quality in 2023, citing statistical data on accreditations, Ukrainian and international experts, trainings and QA events. Nataliia Stukalo highlighted outcomes from SEQA-ESG 2 Peer Counselling meeting. She thanked Advisory Board members for joining the event online. Also, she spoke about the following activities carried out by NAQA within the framework of the project, noting that these are important steps that bring NAQA closer to ENQA/EQAR membership.

3. Q&A and open discussion

During the discussion **Ian Welch** was interested whether NAQA plans to involve foreign students as international experts on accreditation. **Irine Darchia** asked if NAQA already has a vision of the institutional accreditation mechanism and does NAQA plan to pilot this procedure. She was also interested in what caused the low number of denial in accreditation in 2023. **Tomáš Foltýnek** was interested in NAQA expert trainings process. **Olgun Cicek** asked if NAQA needs the support of the Ministry of Education and Science and other stakeholders. Also, he raised the topic that NAQA demonstrates high work results in the extremely difficult conditions of the war and it would be good to present a scientific paper on this topic. This would serve as a good example for QA agencies that might face operational challenges caused by external stressors. **Lennart Ståhle** was impressed by NAQA work and asked about the plans of ethical culture development in Ukrainian HE society. And asked how HEIs survive in wartime. **Nataliia Stukalo** answered questions that Advisory Board members raised, while **Ihor Oleksiv, Iryna Zolotaryova and Tetiana Prikhna** reflected on how their universities work in wartime conditions. At the end of the meeting **Ian Welch** raised a question on how Advisory Board members can practically support NAQA. The meeting participants supported the idea of creating trainings for international experts. It was decided to create a working group which would include Advisory Board members and representatives of NAQA to deal with this issue. All of Advisory Board members expressed their support to Ukraine and NAQA.

The next meeting: TBC.