

NAQA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 10, 2025;

Present:

Advisory Board members: Ian Welch, Lennart Ståhle, Alison Johns, Tricia Bertman Gallant, Irine Darchia, Jean-Hugues Chauchat, Olgun Cicek, Tomáš Foltýnek, Zbigniew Marciniak.

NAQA Representatives: Andrii Butenko, Nataliia Stukalo, Artem Artiukhov, Nataliia Avsheniuk, Liliya Janse, Iryna Zolotaryova, Oleksandr Khymenko, Oxana Trebenko, Olena Knysh, Anna Shylina

Agenda:

- Welcome words – NAQA Advisory Board Head Ian Welch and NAQA Head Andrii Butenko);
- NAQA Updates – NAQA Vice Head Nataliia Stukalo;
- Q&A and open discussion (NAQA Self-Assessment Report, training programme for international experts, extension of membership in the Advisory Board.)

1. Welcome words

Ian Welch opened the meeting,

Andrii Butenko welcomed participants and thanked Advisory Board members for their constant support and consultations.

2. NAQA Updates

Nataliia Stukalo emphasised that NAQA has started its preparation for ENQA external review on the way of full ENQA membership and EQAR registration. The agency has already developed the first draft of the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and shared it with Advisory Board members prior to the meeting and with other stakeholders to receive feedback on it. NAQA Vice Head briefly presented NAQA alignment with ESG Part 2 and 3 and highlighted main challenges which the Agency faced and how NAQA overcame these challenges.

3. QA and Open Discussion

Alison Johns noted the work done by NAQA within SAR preparation.

Olgun Cicek raised an issues regarding: the number of Appeals Chamber members and procedure of Appeals Chamber formation (**ESG 2.7**); NAQA's thematic analysis (**ESG 3.4**) and recommended to give examples of 2-3 thematic analysis topics to include them in SAR; the international member inclusion in NAQA Board. the

implementation of post-accreditation monitoring as a follow-up action (**ESG 2.3**) as a great achievement and congratulated NAQA with the great job done within ENQA external review preparation.

Zbigniew Marciniak emphasized the importance of post-accreditation monitoring procedure and the mutual trust between QA agency and HEIs as this is a basis of quality. He has also shared Polish experience regarding cyber-attacks on universities and QA agency databases and recommended to address [Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union \(NIS2 Directive\)](#). Zbigniew has also raised an issue on the role of the universities in knowledge based society.

Lennart Ståhle raised the issues regarding: NAQA funding (**ESG 3.3 and 3.5**) and its sustainability; if NAQA makes risk analysis within this area.

Irine Darchia admitted a high quality SAR draft prepared in such difficult circumstances. Irine also raised the issues regarding: the coherence in analytical approach in SAR; NAQA independence (**ESG 3.3**) and recommended to clearly describe the procedure of appointment of NAQA Board members; if the current documents could protect NAQA from the external influence on its independence; the international experts' and employers' involvement in accreditation process (**ESG 2.4**).

Nataliia Stukalo reflected on Advisory Board members' questions and recommendations. She thanked for the feedback and noted that it would be considered and implemented in SAR. Advisory Board members' feedback will be collected in a written form and proceed as well.

Ian Welch continued meeting with the topic of training programme for international experts. He explained that a training programme had been drafted in conjunction with NAQA in anticipation of being able to draw on Advisory board member's expertise and experience. He invited Advisory Board members to contribute to the design and delivery of the proposed training. It was also outlined, that the training will be held in summer 2025. Ian explained that he would contact all advisory board members with further details about the proposed training and the anticipated involvement of some Advisory board colleagues.

Nataliia Stukalo also raised the issue regarding extension of membership in the Advisory Board. It was decided that the relevant official letters with request to confirm or resign as the Advisory Board member will be sent.

4. The next meeting: TBC.