

ENQA follow-up report

ACPUA towards Excelence

Zaragoza, June 2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

On 24th June 2021, the Board of ENQA (The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) unanimously agreed that our Agency complies with the European Quality Standards (ESG) and consequently renewed the status of the ACPUA as a full member of ENQA for a further 5 years. This decision was based on the evaluation report prepared by the international panel of experts who visited the ACPUA in November 2020.

Before continuing to comment on the improvements developed by the Agency, it is worth reflecting on the regulatory changes that have recently been approved and which reinforce the activity and essential role of the Agency in relation to external quality assurance evaluation activities at the national and regional university level:

- Royal Decree 640/2021, of 27 July, on the creation, recognition and authorisation of universities and university centres, and institutional accreditation of university centres.
- Royal Decree 822/2021, of 28 September, establishing the organisation of university education and the procedure for quality assurance.
- Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the University System.

In addition, ACPUA has initiated strategic changes that favour improvements related to the ENQA recommendations, such as:

- 1.-Staff recruitment with a foresight profile. Since the end of 2022, the ACPUA has a new career civil servant, with a profile of economist and statistics, in charge of compliance with the ESG 3.4 standard.
- 2.-The creation, by Resolution of 5 October 2021, of a new Subcommittee for Thematic Evaluations (SETE) for "the imminent activation and/or effective implementation of new evaluation processes of a thematic approach resulting from the pursuit of goals specifically associated with the current ACPUA Strategic Plan. This strategy of the Agency must also allow and make effective the short and medium-term follow-up of the recommendations and suggestions for improvement issued by the international evaluation panel of ENQA that has evaluated the Agency in the last year (ACPUA Review Report, approved by the Board of ENQA on 24 June)".
- 3.-Adherence to compliance with INQAAHE's GGPs. Since March 2023, ACPUA is a member aligned to the international Guidelines and Good Practices of INQAAHE. Due to this recognition, ACPUA becomes the first INQAAHE membership category to be called "GGP ALIGNED MEMBERS" and is defined as "organisations responsible for ensuring the quality of external evaluation of institutions and/or programmes, which have successfully passed the INQAAHE GGP alignment procedure".

In 2023, due to changes in the management of the ACPUA, after the closure of the previous Strategic Planning 2019-22, the Activity Plan 2023 has been approved by the Governing Board, which is an extension of the previous 7 Strategic Lines. In the coming months, the development of the Agency's new Strategic Plan 2023-26 is foreseen.

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2. EVALUATION REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The decision to renew the Agency for 5 years due to compliance with the ESGs was received with satisfaction, as well as all the congratulations described above that highlighted the ACPUA's work in these matters:

- > The launch of the new ALCAEUS programme
- ➤ The good selection of evaluation panel members
- The professionalism of the staff of ACPUA
- > The increase in funding
- > The adequate feedback from stakeholders and their involvement in the design of its evaluation methodologies.
- The assurance of the principles of tolerance, non-discrimination, equality and gender balance that ACPUA promotes in its social dimension.

Following the positive evaluation by the ENQA panel of experts 2 years ago, ACPUA presents its follow-up report due to explain the improvement carried out on the 4 recommendations:

- ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis
- > ESG 3.6 Internal quality assurance and professional conduct
- ESG 2.1 Consideration of internal quality assurance
- ESG 2.6 Reporting

For this reason, we list below these 4 European Standars and Guidelines with the developed actions through this estructure: comments on each recommendation, description on the measures already taken and plans for further improvement.

2.1 ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis

The ENQA panel expressed in 2021 the following: "ACPUA has put a lot of work and emphasis in the seminar programmes that it runs for the benefit of stakeholders and has worked on useful exercises such as the study on labour market insertion of graduates, the analysis of low-demand programmes and reports on findings from programme accreditation reviews. Clearly, in choosing the topics for analysis, the agency caters to the diverse interests and needs of all stakeholder groups. There is also a commitment in the agency to develop its research function, as evidenced by the inclusion of thematic analyses in its Strategic Plan, the increase in funding for such activities and the new staff member hired" (p.21).

This is a main observation of the panel that has launched an important process of reflection within the agency in the last two years, specially because this comment is reflected in several of the recommendations made in the review report.



RECOMMENDATION

ESG 3.4: The panel recommends that ACPUA develop a more systematic and deeper approach to the analysis of findings from its evaluation processes, and expand its research activities to provide reports that discuss trends and developments at the level of the Aragon higher education system.

In light of this recommendation, ACPUA has developed different measures that are considered evidences in these issues.

ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Comments on each recommendation

Starting point (Self Assessment Report_SAR): One of the aspects developed in our SAR was the creation of the strategic line 4: foresight vision in order to systematise this activity.

Related to this issue and already mentioned in the introduction, ACPUA has committed itself to hiring a specialist in strategic foresight and research. This worker will be in charge of carrying out the tasks of analysis, comparison and evaluation of subjects, that serve to improve the quality of the work of our higher education system.

The new recruitment "Quality Assurance Research Technician" is described in "The team" section on our webpage: ACPUA About Us

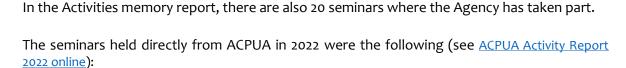
Description on the measures already taken

Strategic Plan 2019-22: Related to the monitoring of the actions, ACPUA tries to fulfil this mission aligned with ESG3.4 through a wide range of activities:

a.- National and internacional Seminars developed.

The seminars held directly from ACPUA in 2021 were the following (see <u>ACPUA Activity Report 2021 online</u>):

- > 3/02/2021.- The Universities of Indigenous Communities in Colombia, under the coordination of Subcommittee member Julio Gaitán Bohórquez (U. del Rosario, Bogotá).
- ➤ 21/10/21.- Quality and University: Society's trust in its Universities. Presentation of the book written by the president of the SEC, José Ángel Dominguez (U. de Salamanca) and with the participation of Martí Casadesús, director of AQU.



➤ 12/01/2022.- Webinar on Criteria for the evaluation of research in the ACPUA.

- > 02/03/2022.- Post-COVID strategic rorum: focus group developed at the Faculty of Education of the University of Zaragoza.
- > 15/03/2022.- Post-covid strategic forum: focus group developed at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Zaragoza.
- ≥ 22/03/2022.- Post-covid strategic forum: focus group developed at the University Campus of the University of San Jorge.
- ➤ 24/03/2022.- Scope and impact of the COVID-19 context on teaching methodologies: digitisation of education in the Post-Pandemic Era.
- > 01/04/2022.- ACPUA Conference: stakeholders annual meeting.
- > 05/04/2022.- Post-covid strategic forum: focus group developed at the Huesca Campus of the University of Zaragoza.
- ➤ 25/05/2022.- Training session for PACE auditors.
- > 07/06/2022.- Pre-university quality: ACPUA certification.
- 22/09/2022.- International Seminar REACU ENQA.
- ➤ 28/09/2022.- Post-covid strategic forum: Focus results.

In the Activities memory report, there are also 33 seminars where the Agency has taken part.

The seminars held directly from ACPUA in 2023 were the following (see ACPUA Events details):

- > 19/01/2023.- International worshop in social dimensión with ANVUR "What do we What do we talk about when we talk about social impact?".
- ▶ 01/02/2023.- Challenges and Progress in Quality Assurance of European Universities (cooperating with UNITA).
- > 01/02/2023.- University Reform in Peru.
- > 02/03/2023.- Infographics: a new tool for university orientation.
- ➤ 21/03/2023.- The presentation of the report on graduates of Aragon.

b.- The implemented project to follow up the labour insertion of university graduates in the Aragon Higher education System.

ACPUA Graduates Report 2016-2017

ACPUA has contributed to develop this final report that is part of the serie "ACPUA Learns n°. 10": the labour market insertion of graduates in the University System of Aragon (SUA), 2016-2017 cohort. This periodical survey aimed at assessing and analysing the insertion of university graduates in the University System of Aragon is jointly carried out.

The present report publishes the second edition of the study, thus complying with the framework agreement between the Government of Aragon, the Aragon Agency for Quality Assurance and Strategic Foresight in Higher Education (ACPUA), the Aragonese Institute of



Statistics (IAEST), the University of Zaragoza, the University of San Jorge and the Social Council of the University of Zaragoza.

c.- Another reports published by the serie "The ACPUA learns".

The studies are carried out in collaboration with external experts from the Subcommittee of Thematic Analysis (SETE). Two new volumes, apart from "the labor market insertion report" have been added to the collection in recent years:

"ACPUA Learns", no. 9. Final report on the ACPUA+students programme: post-covid strategic forum. <u>ACPUA Focus Groups Report</u>

"The ACPUA learns", no. 11. Final report on the ACPUA programme x equality and diversity: a guide to diversity terms. ACPUA Equality & Diversity Final Report

d.- Thematic webinars in collaboration with other Agencies (REACU).

ACPUA Thematic Analisys Project online

Fourth webinar: IT and telecommunications studies. On 12 May 2021, the fourth webinar was held, jointly organised by the quality agencies of Catalonia (AQU), Andalusia (DEVA-AAC), Canary Islands (ACCUEE), Castile and Leon (ACSUCYL), Basque Country (Unibasq), Galicia (ACSUG) and Aragon (ACPUA) on Challenges of university education from the perspective of the employer community. This webinar, in its fourth edition, was devoted to university studies in Computer Science and Telecommunications.

Fifth webinar: journalism and audiovisual communication studies. The fifth webinar jointly organised by the quality agencies of Catalonia (AQU), Andalusia (DEVA-AAC), Canary Islands (ACCUEE), Castile and Leon (ACSUCYL), Basque Country (Unibasq), Galicia (ACSUG), Valencia (AVAP) and Aragon (ACPUA) on Challenges of university education from the employers' perspective was held on 17 June 2021. On this occasion, the webinar was dedicated to university studies in Journalism and Audiovisual Communication.

Sixth webinar: Master's studies in teacher training. On 27 January 2022, the sixth webinar was held, jointly organised by the quality agencies of Catalonia (AQU), Andalusia (DEVA-AAC), the Canary Islands (ACCUEE), Castile and Leon (ACSUCYL), the Basque Country (Unibasq), Galicia (ACSUG), Valencia (AVAP) and Aragon (ACPUA), on Challenges of university education from the employers' perspective. On this occasion, the webinar was dedicated to the Master's Degree in Compulsory Secondary Education and High School, Vocational Training and Language Teaching.

Plans for further improvement

Strategic Plan 2023: Related to innovative and ongoing activities expected this year, the ACPUA is planning a day for the dissemination of the labour market report published in 2023 with the aim of sharing the results to stakeholders (universities, employers and students).



This event has a dual focus:

- ➤ Learning from good practices within the Aragonese University System (SUA), sharing experiences within the University of Zaragoza and the University of San Jorge, as well as within other Aragonese institutions related to higher education.
- ➤ Learning from good practices outside the SUA, sharing experiences from other organisations related to higher education, but from outside Aragon (other universities, other quality agencies, employers' centres, etc.). The aim is, in a very simple way, to establish synergies between all stakeholders around a common theme (employability) which, in addition, allows working with students around two sustainable development goals: quality education (SDG 4) and decent work and economic development (SDG 8).

The approach is linked to target 8.5: "By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value". In other words: to go beyond graduate follow-up and employability itself, and to reflect on whether the employment of SUA graduates is appropriate to their studies, not only in terms of their position (working with something related or not), but also in terms of their working conditions.

2.2 ESG 3.6 Internal Quality Assurance and professional conduct

The ENQA panel expressed in 2021 the following: "Panel commendations: the panel commends ACPUA for its responsiveness to the feedback collected from stakeholders in a continuous effort to enhance its policies, structures and procedures. The panel commends ACPUA for its efforts to ensure that the principles of tolerance, non-discrimination, equality and gender balance feature prominently in its policy and practice". (p.26)

This is an observation of the panel that ACPUA has been developing in the last two years, continuing its Strategic Planification Activities.

RECOMMENDATION

ESG 3.6: The panel recommends that ACPUA bridge the gaps in its internal quality assurance system by closing the feedback loops between its evaluation bodies and reviewers, and by putting in place a procedure to deal with breaches of its Code of Ethics that might occur in the future.

In light of this recommendation, ACPUA has developed different measures that are considered evidences in these issues.



ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Comments on each recommendation

Starting point (Self Assessment Report): One of the aspects developed in our SAR was the launch of Strategic Line 5 named "Development of the social dimension of quality". "The ACPUA's commitment to the values and principles of sustainability and social responsibility has been given a strong boost with the launch of the ALCAEUS programme, which is oriented towards active commitment to SDG as an important strategic commitment of the Agency". (p.36)

Description on the measures already taken

Strategic Plan 2019-22: Related to the monitoring of this actions, ACPUA tries to fulfil this mission aligned with ESG3.6 through a wide range of activities:

a.- Assuring the signature of the Code of Ethics by all stakeholders.

ACPUA Code of ethics details

The compliance with this Code of Ethics is unavoidable: ACPUA requires all its members and stakeholders to perform their duties in accordance with the highest ethical standards established in this document and in the regulations in force, as well as the highest levels of independence, fairness, professionalism and integrity.

b.- Improving the ACPUA's Service Charter.

A new ACPUA's Service Charter is created in 2022 for the enhancement in the definition of updated indicators in line with all external quality assurance evaluation processes.

Approval of the new Service Charter (see ACPUA's Service Charter: legislative information):

In this charter, the Agency collects the whole score obtained from all the satisfaction surveys answered by 189 stakeholders. The last score in 2022 reflects a high average of 8,9/10.

c.- Enhancing the role of the Appeals Committee.

The Committee of Guarantees is the Agency's technical body responsible for supervising the correct processing of the Agency's evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures, reporting on appeals lodged against resolutions of the Director. Created by agreement of the Governing Board on 4 May 2015, it was constituted on 19 January 2016.

Technical body of the Agency which is responsible for supervising the proper conduct of the Agency's evaluation, certification and accreditation procedures and for reporting on appeals against decisions of the Director. This committee is made up of 6 members: academics in higher education institutions, international professionals and students, at least half of whom have a legal background.

It meets when complaints or appeals are lodged with the Agency. Within the functions entrusted to the Assurance Committee, in 2021 it met once and during 2022 it met on 3 times.



In addition, the Agency's transparency page has been updated to clearly specify the procedure for complaints, claims and appeals, as well as the procedure to be followed.

ACPUA Complaints, claims and appeals Procedure

d.- Encouraging the feedback loop in all processes.

ACPUA has developed an improvement on feedback in all the external evaluation processes of our universities, sending each of the reports developed both to the panel of experts and to the members of the universities, as well as to the members of the Committees.

In addition, two new protocols have been launched in which a face-to-face session with all stakeholders has been integrated into the meta-evaluation:

- New teaching staff evaluation programme. In 2022, the ACPUA is launching a new programme for the evaluation of clinically attached doctoral faculty. In the process of creating the protocol and after the first pilot experience, a meta-evaluation is carried out and integrated into the final results of the evaluation protocol.

 ACPUA Protocol: Accreditation of Contracted Lecturer with clinical affiliation
- Final protocol of the Alcaeus programme. Quality assurance with regular reviews: pilot evaluations, meta-evaluation, publication de reports and the new protocol on the Agency's website. As the ALCAEUS' slogan says: "We are on board".

 ACPUA Protocol: ALCAEUS Programme

e.- Promoting the principles of Equality, Diversity and Sustainability.

Thanks to the creation of Subcommittee for Thematic Evaluations (SETE) to ensure the implementation of strategic lines 4, 5 and 6, numerous activities have been carried out as part of the different programmes linked to these themes, apart from the aforementioned ALCAEUS programme:

- ACPUA+Society ACPUA+Society details
- ➤ ACPUA x la Equality and Diversity

 ACPUA Programme × The Equality & Diversity details

f.- Renewing and broadening adherence to the 2030 Agenda.

ACPUA + Society online

With these actions, ACPUA aims to make its commitment visible and share its actions in order to work in a coordinated way and create synergies with other entities that also promote its spirit of solidarity and sustainability.

- United Nations Global Compact: renewal of the Engagement Communication until 2025 ACPUA Communication on Engagement, COE
- ➤ ACPUA adheres to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Strategy in Aragon in 2023 ACPUA Aragon Seal 2030





Plans for further improvement

Strategic Plan 2023: Related to innovative and ongoing activities expected this year, ACPUA is planning the inclusion, in the protocols of the reporting cycle for degree and centre processes, of a continuous feedback (which is already done) to the panel of experts on the reports following reviews and allegations from the universities. This will be included in a new learning format named "training pills".

2.3 ESG 2.1 Consideration of Internal Quality Assurance

The ENQA panel expressed in 2021 the following: "Following the 2016 review recommendation, ACPUA has successfully promoted IQAS certification (and initial institutional accreditation based on this process), as evidenced by several centres that have obtained initial accreditation, and continues to do so in its dialogue meetings. Along the same lines, it has made efforts to develop the institutional follow-up accreditation processes which are expected to address better SCL and focus on supporting quality enhancement, even though the progress in its work has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic". (p.33)

This is an observation of the panel that ACPUA has been developing in the last two years, continuing its Strategic Planification Activities and reinforced with the launch of the Subcommittee of Thematic Evaluations (SETE).

RECOMMENDATION

ESG 2.1: The panel recommends that ACPUA develop a coherent approach to address more explicitly student-centred learning, teaching and assessment in its evaluation methodologies, and pay special attention to these issues in its training for reviewers.

In light of this recommendation, ACPUA has developed different measures that are considered evidences in these topics.

ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Comments on each recommendation

Starting point (Self Assessment Report): One of the aspects developed in our SAR was to "... approve the protocols to be applied in each of the processes. Based on these protocols, the ACPUA, in its evaluation guides, includes some nuances... for their adaptation to the characteristics of the Aragon Higher Education System. Outside the aforementioned regulatory framework, the ACPUA develops its own evaluation protocols, as in the case of the ALCAEUS Programme, whose objective is to measure the degree of commitment of the centers to the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)". (p.38)





Description on the measures already taken

Strategic Plan 2019-22: Related to the monitoring of the actions, the ACPUA tries to fulfil this mission aligned with ESG2.1 through a wide range of activities:

a.- Student Center Learning as a main dimension in ALCAEUS programme.

After metaevaluation, it has been applied some modifications on different aspects of the ALCAEUS evaluation protocol, including more clearly the SCL perspective in dimension 4 called teaching.

ACPUA ALCAEUS Programme

b.- All protocols updated due to regulatory changes.

New protocols have been designed in collaboration with the rest of the Spanish agencies, through the REACU network, with ESG compliance, on all external study programme evaluation models:

- Initial Accreditation and Modification ACPUA Initial Accreditation
- Follow up
 - **ACPUA Follow up**
- Accreditation renewal
 ACPUA Accreditation renewal

And also in all external centers evaluation models:

- Evaluation of the internal quality assurance system PACE-SIGC ACPUA: Programme PACE - SGIC
- Institutional Accreditation
 ACPUA: Institucional Accreditation

c.- Development of the ACPUA+Students Programme in all areas.

ACPUA + Students Programme details

Student-centred learning is presented in all expert trainings (evaluation panels) for all external quality assurance evaluation activities of the agency.

First, ACPUA has developed some training for students in collaboration with other agencies (in training section):

Secondly, ACPUA, concerned by covid impact for students, carried out in 2022 the Covid Strategic Impact Forum:

ACPUA + Students Report Programme

Besides, the students belong to the Governing Board, all Committees and all experts evaluation panels.

d.- A new infographic on university guidance has been designed.

ACPUA Infographic





As a great novelty in 2023, the ACPUA launches a new information system for students about access to universities in Aragon called ACPUA+Students Programme: university guidance at a click. ACPUA launches a new infographic with the aim of promoting an appropriate transition of students to higher education in Aragon. With the slogan "Inform yourself and decide your education!", it details, both in Spanish and English, the updated links of 5 relevant topics, which have been carefully selected by some public and private stakeholders from Aragon and the rest of Spain.

The content focuses mainly on support for the choice of studies, the section on available degrees and degrees in transition (access, levels, institutions, satisfaction reports, scholarships and grants), resources for employability and entrepreneurship, the possibility of free counselling and other options related to vocational training.

With this infographic, available on the ACPUA website and disseminated through social networks, teachers, students and families can find resources to facilitate decision-making, available at the click of a button.

Plans for further improvement

Strategic Plan 2023: Related to innovative and ongoing activities expected this year, ACPUA is planning these actions. With these activities, ACPUA promotes its compliance with its Strategic Plan (line 6.1), with European standards (ESG 3.1) and also with the 2030 Agenda (SDG4) to achieve quality education.

On one hand, ACPUA will prepare new protocols for Institutional Accreditation renewal. On the other hand, ACPUA's work will continue on the training of students, their collaboration and participation in activities related to quality evaluation. It will also be intensified, not only in Aragonese universities but also with state associations such as CREUP.

Related to post-covid forum: In 2023, it is planned to disseminate the results generated in the ACPUA Covid Impact Report with the aim of sharing the improvements and recommendations that the students themselves consider should be maintained and promoted in the universities.

Besides, dissemination and training to all secondary schools in Aragon will be implemented. In 2023, ACPUA will disseminate a university guidance seminar to raise awareness of this resource, as well as training actions in secondary schools in coordination with the Innovation and Vocational Training Service of Education of the Government of Aragon.

2.4 ESG 2.6 Reporting

The ENQA panel expressed in 2021 the following: "The panel confirms that evaluation reports, including those with unfavourable decisions, are published on the ACPUA website, as well as on the DEQAR portal. The panel has examined a sample of reports for all fully implemented evaluation processes (provided by ACPUA and downloaded from its website) and finds them clear and accesible". (p.46)





This is an observation of the panel that ACPUA has been developing in the last two years, improving the reports, including in the introduction all the relevant changes made by all the stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

ESG 2.6: The panel recommends that ACPUA continue its efforts to ensure that reports in all evaluation processes provide sufficient evidence and analysis to substantiate judgments, and that report writing for the new processes follow best practice. For a related recommendation on feedback to be provided to review panels, see ESG 3.6.

In light of this recommendation, ACPUA has developed different measures that are considered evidences in these issues.

ACTIONS CARRIED OUT

Comments on each recommendation

Starting point (Self Assessment Report): One of the aspects developed in our SAR was to highlight our welldone reports in structure and content: "The format of the reports follows the guidelines established by general regulations, as well as those of the ACPUA itself, in terms of structure and content. Prior to the preparation of these documents, the reviewers receive detailed information from the ACPUA's technical team in order to ensure that they are systematized and standardized". (p.48)

This is an observation of the panel that ACPUA has been developing in the last two years, specially for the new activities, evaluation protocols and reports carried out.

Description on the measures already taken

Strategic Plan 2019-22: Related to the monitoring of the actions, ACPUA tries to fulfil this mission aligned with ESG2.6 through a wide range of activities:

a.- New reporting templates.

On the one hand, for the ALCAEUS programme, a new reporting template has been created, developed before carrying out the pilot programme. Two centers already have got their Certificate with strong compliance on the Agenda 2030.

- Higher Polytechnic School (EPSH) EPSH Alcaeus Report
- School of Engineering and Architecture (EINA)
 EINA Alcaeus Report







On the other hand, new reports have been created for the monitoring of the centres that obtained their certification on the internal quality assurance system (PACE-SIGC) and are now available in the European DEQAR register.

b.- Reports publication with comprehensive judgements.

In our reports, all the considerations taken into account by the universities in their submissions to the agency's report are fully explained. Besides, ACPUA attaches all the allegations at the end of all reports as an annex.

The panel of experts also receives these subsequent reports and offers its point of view before sending the report to the Subcommittees for the evaluation of titles and centres, which submits the final report.

c.- Update of the transparency portal.

Law 8/2015, on transparency and citizen participation of Aragon, establishes a series of legal obligations of transparency and active publicity for public administrations with citizens. The ACPUA, as a public law entity, is also subject to this law.

It is ACPUA's commitment to promote the legitimacy and effectiveness of public administrations, as well as to encourage citizen participation and representation in them. That is why we provide you with all the information you need to know about the actions and management of the ACPUA as part of the Aragonese public sector.

ACPUA Institucional Transparency Website

d.- Update of ACPUA reports in DEQAR.

All favourable and unfavourable reports are published on the ACPUA website and in the European DEQAR Register.

Due to adapt ACPUA's daily work to the new national regulations we have updated some issues. Specifically, those related to qualifications and centres have been adapted. The terms of validity of qualifications and accreditation of centres have been extended from 5 to 6 years. Consequently, all the validity periods of the reports in DEQAR have been modified.

EQAR Database ACPUA reports

Plans for further improvement

Strategic Plan 2023: Related to innovative and ongoing activities expected this year, the ACPUA is planning to develop some innovative actions.

Firstly, ACPUA'll launch a new report, included in its serie "La ACPUA learns". An analysis and comparison of all reports on accreditation renewal will be carried out.



Secondly, a site visit will be included as an initial part of the study programme initial accreditation, following one of the suggestions made by ENQA on ESG2.3 in the review report (p.51). It will be done when the panel of experts decide that there are enough innovations in the design to be assessed in depth.

Last but not least, we will promote accessibility standards in our reports in order to meet the diversity standards of the European Higher Education Area. This is an example of the first ACPUA learns report where these modifications have already been made.

ACPUA Equality & Diversity Programme: Final Report

3. FINAL REMARKS

In order to get excellence, ACPUA is making huge efforts in different áreas while preparing the new Strategic Plan for the coming years: strengthening the staff structure, creating new subcommittees, maintaining the budget in the main strategic lines, taking into account the SCL approach in all proccesses, improving social dimension, managing the feedback loops and opening to International and European projects.

"Excellence is an art gained by training and habit. We do not act rightly because we have excellent virtues, but we are virtuous because we act rightly. We are what we do repeatedly. Excellence, then, is not an event but a habit."

-Aristotle-

As Aristotle said in the below sentence, since years ACPUA has been developeing a route map in order to get its best marks in compliance with the International and European Standars and Guidelines.

We are on board

