

Cover note University Council

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| Details | | |
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| Topic | | Programme Plan for Strengthening EUR Educational Quality Assurance 2024-2027: 'Quality dialogues: Connecting and Improving' |
| To be discussed before | | 4-6-2024 |
| Author / Section | | Betting / AZ |
| Handled by (to be invited to the Task Force TF) | | Wink, Betting / AZ |
| Date | | 30-4-2024 |

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| Context / Reason |
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| <p>In 2013 (ITK 1.0) and 2018 (ITK 2.0), EUR successfully obtained its Recognition-ITK (<i>Instellingstoets Kwaliteitszorg</i>; institutional educational quality assurance audit) from the national accreditation organisation NVAO, by demonstrating to an independent expert panel that EUR's internal quality assurance system in conjunction with our quality culture ensures that our vision of good education ('educational vision') is being realised. See https://www.eur.nl/nieuws/positief-oordeel-nvao-over-onderwijs-eur.</p> <p>Since then, EUR has further developed its governance and approach to educational innovation, quality enhancement, and quality assurance, as demonstrated in the context of the design and implementation of the Quality Agreement (HEQA) plans. This EUR approach is characterized by interfaculty collaboration and co-creation with participation bodies, organized within the framework of an institutional thematic quality & innovation calendar.</p> <p>In 2026, the third audit round (ITK 3.0) will take place. Whereas the assessment framework is still the same as in 2018, there is a shift in emphasis, away from the Executive Board being <i>in control</i> of educational quality, towards demonstration of the workings of a sustainable <i>quality culture</i>, focusing on the interplay of quality dialogues at the various organisational levels operating in a cohesive way.</p> <p>EUR is starting from a good position: as mentioned before, quality dialogues already play a central role in EUR's approach to quality assurance, and because of our typical organisational culture, we have long been familiar with the productive tension between (decentral) autonomy and (institution-wide) alignment.</p> <p>None the less, there is scope for further strengthening of our institutional educational quality assurance, as exemplified by the recommendations from the previous ITK panel (2018) and midterm review panel (2022), and spurred by the sharpening of our quality assurance vision and ambitions. The attached programme plan lays out the proposed action lines with which this further strengthening is to be achieved.</p> |

Jurisdiction UC / Question to the UC

The UC has *right to consent* to:

- ‘de vormgeving van het systeem van kwaliteitszorg overeenkomstig artikel 1.18 WHW, alsmede het voorgenomen beleid in het licht van de uitkomsten van de kwaliteitsbeoordeling, bedoeld in artikel 2.9 WHW, tweede lid tweede volzin’’ ([Article 7 Reglement Universiteitsraad](#)).

As far as *educational* quality assurance is concerned, article 1.18 WHW primarily refers to the organization of periodic (six-yearly) external accreditation reviews at programme level and participation in the institutional audit, which in the EUR-context is complemented with a system of midterm evaluations both at programme level (interim programme evaluation, or *Tussentijdse Opleidingsevaluatie*, TOE) and at the institutional level.

At programme level, decentral participation bodies (Faculty Councils and Programme Committees) are involved in the development of action plans (*Plannen van Aanpak*) following up on recommendations from peer panels as well as from other stakeholders. At the institutional level, the UC is an important stakeholder in policy-making directed at the further strengthening of EUR quality assurance, taking into account the outcomes of prior evaluations. Specifically, we ask the UC to:

- Consent to the action lines proposed in the attached programme plan, which will be further developed into more detailed project plans, to be discussed with the UC in the September 2024 cycle.
- Provide input for the development of the action lines into more detailed project plans, and the further development of the quality assurance vision.
- Confirm participation of 2-3 UC representatives in the sounding board sessions that will be organized throughout the timeline for implementation of the programme plan to collect feedback on the various steps to be taken.

Short Summary

A multi-year programme plan aimed at strengthening internal educational quality assurance at EUR, from the Education & Quality Assurance team (Academic Affairs). The programme plan describes the:

- **Context:** EUR’s ambition to:
 - take control of its quality assurance and thus ensure achievement of ITK 3.0, and
 - strengthen the link between external and internal quality assurance, to minimize the administrative burden on the organization and maximize results.
- **Ambitions:** optimal positioning in autonomy-alignment quadrant (see visual below), through commitment to:
 1. strengthening a culture of learning and reflection, and facilitating synergy between autonomy and alignment,
 2. professionalizing and strengthening shared ownership,
 3. strengthening the information base for the informed dialogue.

- **Action lines** linked to the ambitions, including:
 - developing a website/digital quality assurance portal to systematically organize and provide access to the EUR quality assurance vision, procedures, and manuals,
 - offering a *Meesterschap in Kwaliteitszorg* professionalisation course and providing further support and training to the participation bodies, and
 - developing a quality management system.
- **Programme structure** describing the responsibilities of the core team, supervisory group, lead group and other bodies.
- **Phases and timeline** showing key milestones over the duration of the programme.
- **Budget** with an explanation of the main cost items and intended coverage.

Follow-up process

- Following the Executive Board’s approval of the composition of the supervisory group (*bestuurlijke begeleidingsgroep*), the suggested members will be invited on behalf of the EB to join regular consultation meetings and advice on the (implementation of the) programme plan.
- Following approval from the vice-deans on the composition of the first cohort joining the *Meesterschap in Kwaliteitszorg* professionalisation course (in mid-June), participants will be invited on behalf of the supervisory group.
- The adopted programme plan will provide the framework for the various sub-project plans and development of the quality assurance vision (to be discussed with UC in the September 2024 cycle).
- A sounding board session with a lead group consisting of representatives of the various schools (selection of vice-deans, programme directors and QA policy advisors), the UC and the chairs of EUR Examination Boards (OVE) is scheduled for 13 June 2024. The focus will be on developing the EUR quality assurance vision, identifying good practice to feed into the vision, and performing a GAP- and post-mortem analysis focusing on potential challenges in realizing the proposed vision.

Specifics

- Please note that the strengthening of the positioning of the participation bodies, in particular the programme committees, is presented as integral part of the programme plan to emphasize its relevance for the overall functioning of the system of quality assurance and quality culture, but further details of this action line are laid out in a separate project plan that the UC already consented to in 2022-2023.
- Please note that implementation of the action lines in the programme plan does not require any allocation of funds, other than those funds that have already been earmarked for strengthening EUR quality assurance in the Academic Affairs Department plan (*AZ Afdelingsplan*), consented to by the Executive Board, and the €100k that has been set aside from HEQA funds

for the development of the 'ABC Dashboard'. See chapter 6 of the programme plan for further details.

Documents to be attached

1. Programme Plan for Strengthening EUR Educational Quality Assurance 2024-2027, Academic Affairs, Team Education & Quality Assurance, April 2024.
2. Annex 1: Guiding principles EUR quality assurance vision (DRAFT).