

Expectations towards QEF2 from the perspective of the Quality Council

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Quality Council for Icelandic Higher Education

- 2010-2013: Rectors of Icelandic universities, representatives of the scientific community, representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and student representatives
- 2013- : Heads of quality assurance at the universities, two student representatives (appointed by the Federation of Icelandic Students), the manager of the Quality Board (observer) and a representative of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (observer)

Roles of the Quality Council

- To advise the Quality Board on quality assurance and enhancement in higher education in general and on the implementation of the QEF in particular
- To act as a forum for collaboration between the universities on matters of quality assurance
- Provide a Quality Board comprised of external experts with an Icelandic perspective on quality matters in Higher Education

Roles of the Quality Council (cont.)

- Joint meetings with the Quality Board
- Reports on the implementation of QEF1 and proposals concerning the focus of QEF2
- Take part in conferences on quality assurance and enhancement
- Nominated an impartial foreign expert to take part in a formal review of the QEF1
- Two representatives on the editorial board for the second edition of the Quality Enhancement Handbook

Roles of the Quality Council (cont.)

- Monthly meetings on matters related to the activities of the Quality Board, QEF, quality assurance systems within the universities, Bologna trends, etc.
- These meetings have proven an extremely important forum in which a collegial spirit of collaboration and trust prevails
- Organised a well-attended conference in April 2014 on experiences with the QEF (topics discussed included subject-level reviews, institution-wide reviews, student participation, international benchmarks, the role of foreign experts in the review process and follow-up)

Roles of the Quality Council (cont.)

- Provided joint reports, cf. above
- This month the council will go on its first study trip abroad in order to attend the annual EUA Quality Forum, this year held in London
- Organising formal training for students who take part in quality reviews in QEF2

Lessons learned from QEF1 and expectations towards QEF2

- QEF2 needs better defined criteria and requirements
- QEF2 needs better to define the premises of the grading at the end of the institutional reviews
- QEF2 needs to define the relationship between institutional reviews and accreditation of HEIs and the role of the Quality Board in this respect
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture needs to complete the work on key figures

Lessons learned from QEF1 and expectations towards QEF2 (cont.)

- The second edition of the Quality Enhancement Handbook must be more accessible, and include a glossary and explanations of the main terms and concepts
- In QEF2, more attention will be focused on research quality. The Council is very much behind this change, but considers it important that it not come at the expense of emphasis on teaching and learning
- Just as key figures are necessary for the evaluation of teaching and learning, a standardised cataloguing system for research (CRIS or another comparable system) is up and running from the outset

Future role of the Quality Council

- Increased role of the Quality Council in the Quality Enhancement Framework for Icelandic Higher Education, in order to promote enhanced ownership of quality assurance matters by the sector
- The Council is well-prepared to shoulder such responsibilities
- However, if the Council is to shoulder increased responsibility, it is necessary that it receives increased support

Thank you!