

Summary of the ESG framework and value for the Social Dimension PAG

John Storan

Proposal statement

- Explore the value of using the framework provided by the ESG Paper-Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area for the Social Dimension PAG

Main Features – ESG Framework

- Tried and tested advisory framework for quality assurance in the EHEA
- Formally adopted by EHEA in 2015
- Framework applies to and is addressed to Higher Education Institutions
- Framework has a clear structure and separation between standards and guidelines
- Strikes a balance between being permissive and prescriptive.

Scope and the Applicability of the ESG Framework

- The ESG are a set of standards and guidelines for internal and external quality assurance in higher education
- The ESG are not standards for quality, nor do they prescribe how quality assurance processes are implemented, but they provide guidance covering areas which are vital for successful quality provision and learning environment in HE
- The ESG should be considered in a broader context that includes qualifications frameworks, ECTS and diploma supplement that also contribute to promoting the transparency and mutual trust in HE in the EHEA

Three-Part Framework

ESG framework is divided into three interconnected parts:

- Part 1: Internal Quality Assurance-Institution facing
- Part 2: External Quality Assurance-External facing
- Part 3: Quality Assurance Agencies-Agency facing

Subsections of the framework separated between Standards and Guidelines

Questions & Issues

1. Can we make use of the ESG framework and develop a similar one for the social dimension PAG?
2. Who is the readership?
3. Is the language of standards and guidelines appropriate to the social dimension?
4. Does this approach fit well with the other objectives for AG1?
5. Feedback from AG1 members on any experience of using the ESG framework.