



HAC International Advisory Board Meeting 25-26 October 2019

Meeting Summary and Recommendations

Meeting Summary

The International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC) held its annual meeting at the HAC offices on Friday and Saturday, **25-26 October 2019**. The meeting was chaired on both days by **Valéria Csépe**, HAC President. The IAB members present were **Tove Bull**, **Liudvika Leisyte**, **Lučka Lorber**, **Bert Roebben**, **Norma Ryan**, and **Mieczyslaw Socha**. **Guy Haug** and **Achim Hopbach** sent regrets.

The Friday meeting was held jointly with the Hungarian Advisory Board, represented by **Gábor Szabó**, member of the R&D and Innovation College of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former rector of Szeged University. Also attending was HAC Vice-President **László Hunyady**, chair of the Medical and Health Education Expert Committee, and **László Kóczy**, HAC member and chair of the Expert Committee for Engineering. **József Berács** represented the HAC's Expert Committee for Quality Assurance and Development. Participants from the HAC staff were **Péter Lakatos**, Deputy Director, **Mária Pécsi**, **Pálma Porrogi** and **Zsófia Zimányi**, and **Christina Rozsnyai** acting as meeting secretary on both days. The topic of discussion was the participation of external stakeholders from business and industry in the work of the HAC, for which participants received a brief background document. The Friday discussion fed into the Saturday topic on the work of the HAC in the past year and going forward, and it is thus included in the recommendations below.

Saturday was the business meeting of the IAB, with President Csépe, Zsófia Zimányi and Christina Rozsnyai attending. Board members received the meeting documents by e-mail prior to the meeting. They comprised the agenda, the Annual Report 2018-2019 and a HAC follow-up report on the IAB Recommendations 2018.

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda. The President again welcomed the participants and the agenda was accepted.

Concluding the meeting, the Board formulated its recommendations with the assistance of the meeting secretary.

Recommendations of the HAC's International Advisory Board

The IAB congratulates the HAC for having been accepted into the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) for the first time. The IAB also compliments the HAC for the notable developments it has achieved in the past year. Although a number of initiatives still need to be carried through, the HAC is well placed to provide a meaningful follow-up report to ENQA by mid-2020. The IAB hopes that the recommendations that follow will be of benefit for the HAC to achieve its goals.

1. In the discussions concerning external stakeholder involvement in the work of the HAC, the contribution of students has been a central point. The IAB recommends to continue to develop the HAC's fruitful relations with the national student union but also to seek other possible channels to foster a relationship of mutual trust and support between students and HAC, whereby both parties recognize the benefit of their collaboration in establishing a quality culture at HEIs and ultimately enhancing the quality of higher education that contributes to preparing students for a fulfilling life in society.
2. In order to strengthen the voice of students in HAC, the IAB recommends soliciting a separate report written by students, possibly as a thematic analysis, on students' experiences in recent



HAC evaluations, with identified strengths and weaknesses and innovative suggestions for improvement.

3. The IAB notes that the HAC is working to involve stakeholders from business and industry in its committee and evaluation work. It recommends expanding its reach in soliciting participation by this group by contacting the human resources departments of companies; associations of medium and small enterprises (MSEs); local governments; professional associations, including pedagogical and art societies; and voluntary organizations.
4. In order to boost the work of the Hungarian Advisory Board and to recruit additional members, the IAB recommends contacting colleges and universities providing applied training, e.g. business schools.
5. In order to increase the visibility of the HAC and thus raise its credibility and prestige among both the Hungarian and international public, the IAB recommends broadly disseminating HAC activities and publishing thematic analyses in both Hungarian and English on the HAC website. Such analyses could cover the mentioned student perceptions and perspectives; institutional accreditation and experiences to date; the pilot on doctoral school accreditation; or the accreditation of theological colleges.
6. The IAB recommends continuing the professionalization of the HAC reviewer pool and all levels of the HAC organization by increasing their training and building their professional quality assurance capacity, in line with the recommendation of the ENQA review panel.
7. The IAB commends the HAC for building up its human resource capacity, with an increase in the quantity and quality of its staff. At the same time, the IAB continues to note that the workload the HAC faces still exceeds staff capacity and recommends continuing efforts to obtain additional resources for staff expansion, or to review strategically the ongoing activities with a view to reducing them or their frequency.
8. The IAB commends HAC for producing a strategic plan and linked action plan. It recommends embedding in its internal quality assurance a periodic follow up on the actions achieved in the plan in order to ensure the achievement of set goals.
9. The IAB recommends that the next annual meeting be held with both employers' representatives and students.

The next meeting of the IAB will be held on **30-31 October 2020**.

14 November 2019

Recorded by Christina Rozsnyai

Amended and approved by the HAC International Advisory Board via electronic mail