

## Decision on the Substantive Change Report by National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)

**Register Committee**

**Ref.** C138

**Ver.** 1.0

**Date** 2025-05-02

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<b>Decision of:</b>	2025-05-02
<b>Result:</b>	Take note
<b>Report received on:</b>	2025-03-04
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2012-11-01
<b>Last external review report:</b>	12/2022
<b>Registration until:</b>	2027-10-31
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	n/a
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report, 2025-03-04</a> 2. <a href="#">Minuted clarification of 2025-04-14</a>

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2025-03-04.
2. The Register Committee noted that ANECA started implementing<sup>1</sup> the Institutional Accreditation of University Centres (AICU) – a procedure for renewal of accreditation of the university centres and their programmes.
3. The Register Committee understood that AICU is an alternative procedure to the institutional accreditation (AUDIT) and programme accreditation (ACREDITA International). Both procedures remain in use, allowing university centres to choose between a combined (AICU) or separate (AUDIT and ACREDITA International) approach.
4. The procedure follows the same review procedure as its other ESG aligned activities, including a self-evaluation report by the centre, an external panel review, and the publication of outcomes in a report. The site visits are, however, primarily conducted on-line, with in-person visits reserved for exceptional cases only.
5. Based on the detailed information provided in the Substantive Change Report, the clarification provided and the last external review (of 2022), the Register Committee had no prima facie concerns that the ESG are

<sup>1</sup> The activity has been established in 2015, hence subjected to the external reviews in 2017 and 2022. Due to legal obstacles, it's implementation, however, commenced in 2024 only.

complied with the newly launched activity Institutional Accreditation of University Centres (AICU).

6. **The Committee expects that the implementation of this activity in practice will be analysed in full (ESG 2.1- ESG 2.7) as part of ANECA's next renewal of registration. The Register Committee further underlined that the panel should look into the fitness of purpose of the online site visits for a re-accreditation procedure that entails both an institutional and a programme review (ESG 2.3).**

## Register Committee

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## EQAR Substantive Change Report

Reference #	28966466
Status	Complete
Login Username	ealba@aneca.es
Login Email	ealba@aneca.es
Agency #1	National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain
Agency acronym	ANECA
Expiry date #1	31/10/2027
Contact #1	Esther Balboa García
Phone #1	+34914178231
Email #1	<a href="mailto:ENQA2022@aneca.es">ENQA2022@aneca.es</a>
Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	No
C. Changes in EQA activities	1. One or several new external QA activities were introduced
Description new/changed	<p>Having completed the first phase of initial institutional accreditation, ANECA has begun a second phase of accreditation renewal through the implementation of the program The Institutional Accreditation of University Centres (AICU).</p> <p>Institutional Accreditation of University Centers is a process through which centers can achieve the renewal of the accreditation of the degrees they offer, through the certification of the implementation of their Internal Quality</p>

Assurance System (IQAS).

ANECA uses the Institutional Accreditation program to evaluate applications for institutional accreditation from university centers. Royal Decree 420/2015, of May 29, established the institutional accreditation of centers as an alternative to the accreditation model for official university degrees and university master's degrees.

<https://www.aneca.es/en/accreditation-of-centres>

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**1. New EQA activity:**

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1

Institutional Accreditation of University Centres (AICU)

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**Focus**

study programmes or higher education institutions

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**ESG 2.1**

Once the initial institutional accreditation has been obtained, and within six years, the University must begin the process of renewing the centre's institutional accreditation. ANECA may agree with the university to carry out a follow-up process of the institutional accreditation of the institutionally accredited centres.

In order to carry out the evaluation, ANECA takes advantage of the synergies of the accreditation of degrees (which in ANECA is carried out through the ACREDITA program), with those of the certification process of the implementation of internal quality assurance systems. ANECA carries out the certification of the implementation of these systems through the AUDIT program).

An annex is attached describing the relationship between the evaluation criteria for each program

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and the ESG.

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## ESG 2.2

All the Agency's programs involve the participation of stakeholders in their design, implementation, review and improvement. In the design, attention is paid to current legislation, the ESG established by ENQA and other agents, as well as other European references.

Finally, the ANECA management gives its final approval. In the case of legally regulated evaluation activities whose application is compulsory throughout the national territory (compulsory programs), the Spanish Network of Quality Agencies for Higher Education acts by coordinating the activities of the quality agencies in the different territories throughout the country.

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## ESG 2.3

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|---|---|
| 1 | <a href="https://www.aneca.es/en/accreditation-of-centres">https://www.aneca.es/en/accreditation-of-centres</a>   |
| 2 | <a href="https://www.aneca.es/documents/20123/78709/ANECA_AI_Documento+Marco+v2.pdf/0c8a4362-f0b1-7ce8-0d3b-12fae6bd4f39?t=1726812064411">https://www.aneca.es/documents/20123/78709/ANECA_AI_Documento+Marco+v2.pdf/0c8a4362-f0b1-7ce8-0d3b-12fae6bd4f39?t=1726812064411</a>                                 |
| 3 | <a href="https://www.aneca.es/documents/20123/78709/AI_Plantilla+Informe+Autoevaluaci%C3%B3n_v2.pdf/fb707843-f774-2beb-3311-6d6a6b364057?t=1727854613707">https://www.aneca.es/documents/20123/78709/AI_Plantilla+Informe+Autoevaluaci%C3%B3n_v2.pdf/fb707843-f774-2beb-3311-6d6a6b364057?t=1727854613707</a> |

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## ESG 2.3

Not applicable

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## ESG 2.4

For AICU, the selection of evaluators is carried out through the call for evaluators that the Agency has published on its website:

<https://www.aneca.es/en/the-selection-process-for-experts>

All the evaluators who participate in these programs sign a code of ethics before starting their work with the agency:

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<https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2023/12/29/pdfs/BOE-A-2023-26713.pdf>

This code establishes a frame of reference for all the collaborators and people who make up the agency, setting out the basic guidelines for the exercise of their activity, good practice and standards of conduct in the interest of the university community. In addition, they must undergo a training process before carrying out any evaluation for the Agency.

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## ESG 2.5

ANECA ensures that all information is accessible and transparent for all stakeholders; to this end, it makes the program documentation public.

<https://www.aneca.es/en/accreditation-of-centres>

In the case of institutional evaluation programs, the information that is published is: support documents and tools, evaluation reports, general guidelines for the processes, evaluators by panels and commissions.

There is an email account to answer any questions that users of the program may have: [aicu@aneca.es](mailto:aicu@aneca.es)

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## ESG 2.6

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<https://www.aneca.es/en/institutional-accreditation-reports>

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## ESG 2.7

The university may present a complaint against the resolution, which will be heard by the Advisory Commission for the Evaluation of Teaching and Institutions

(<https://www.aneca.es/en/composition-advisory-committee-for-teaching-and-institutional-assessment>)

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ESG 3.4/ESG 3.6	Criteria 3.4 and 3.6 are managed in the same way for all the agency's activities.
D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG	No
File #1	<a href="#">Correspondencia_criterios_ESG-AICU.pdf (93 KB)</a>
Submit form?	I am ready to submit the change report form
Last Update	2025-03-04 19:22:50
Start Time	2025-03-04 12:06:40
Finish Time	2025-03-04 19:22:50
IP	192.187.20.100
Browser	Edge
Device	Desktop
Referrer	https://fs22.formsite.com/res/formLoginNew; jsessionid= AE9B3BC68BAE4B10FA989EAAF40015B8; jsessionid= AE9B3BC68BAE4B10FA989EAAF40015B8; jsessionid= 583E22D4F0724BABF52558608F014DCF; jsessionid= 583E22D4F0724BABF52558608F014DCF

# Substantive Change Report by National Agency for the Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)

## Minutes of a Zoom Conversation

Register Committee

**Ref.** C138

**Date** 2025-04-14

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**Date of the conversation:** 14-04-2025

**Representative of ANECA:** José Antonio Pérez de La Calle, Anabel Bonilla Calero

**Representative of EQAR:** Aleksandra Zhivkovikj

1. ANECA has made a Substantive Change Report on 2025-03-04. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on the report, EQAR contacted ANECA via telephone to clarify the matter(s) below.
2. ANECA agreed to clarify the matter(s) by means of a telephone conversation.
3. The newly launched Institutional Accreditation of University Centres (AICU) serves as an alternative to the ACREDITA and AUDIT programs. Both procedures remain in use, allowing university centres to choose between a combined (AICU) or separate (ACREDITA and AUDIT) approach.
4. AICU follows the same review process as the ACREDITA and AUDIT programs, involving a self-evaluation report by the centre, an external panel review (including a student), and the publication of outcomes in a report. However, site visits are primarily conducted online, with in-person visits reserved for exceptional cases only.