

## Commentary of the IBAR research consortium on the MAP-ESG project outputs

The research consortium of the IBAR project composed of seven countries (UK, PT, NL, CZ, PL, SK, LT) welcomes a release of the final report on the MAP-ESG project as a timely and relevant contribution to higher education research and policy practice. In principle, the IBAR consortium endorses the MAP-ESG findings. However, relatedly, the IBAR consortium wishes to draw attention to three aspects. The first one is that the recognition of the new policy issues that have risen in prominence since 2005, namely transparency, student-centred learning, and widening access, might be *specifically referred to* in the ESG, rather than all be swept up into a reformulation of existing standards. Second, the final recommendation, especially the phrase “*a thorough revision of the ESG*”, seems not entirely in correspondence to all the findings mentioned in the preceding text of the report. This, perhaps too strong a wording, might possibly cause concern among stakeholders in Bologna signatories, be they representatives of higher education institutions or quality assurance agencies. Third and more generally, outputs of other, subject-matter related projects, such as “Examining Quality Culture in Higher Education Institutions”, can be gainfully employed to achieve greater cross-fertilisation of findings when making suggestions to the BFUG or ministers of the EHEA countries.