

Research questions for WP 8: Quality and Management/Governance

The research questions for WP8 are the result of combining the more relevant original questions in the package (questions 1, 2 and 3) with the relevant questions suggested by Don Westerheijden in his draft of the conceptual framework for IBAR:

- 1) What is the institutional context of governance? (Data)
 - a) What are the main changes for institutional governance and quality in the national framework and how they affect the governance structures and processes within the institution? (Data/SSI)
 - b) What is in general characteristic in the decision-making culture in the institution: strongly bottom-up or strongly top-down? (Data/SSI)
 - c) How strong or weak is, in general, the top administration in the higher education institution: e.g. does it regularly take initiatives for changing institutional policies? (SSI)
- 2) How does the institutional governance relate to quality assurance (ESG standard 1.1)? (Data)
 - a) To what extent do governance structures and processes affect the quality culture of your institution? Give examples. (SSI)
 - b) To what extent have the mechanisms for the approval, periodic review and monitoring of study programmes increased the control of central/middle level administration over academic staff/director of study programmes? (SSI)
 - c) How regularly are curricula reviewed in this higher education institution, as a rule? How strongly is the quality function (quality office, senate committee, etc.) involved in vetting reviewed curricula? (ESG Standard 1.2) (SSI)
 - d) What are the authorities/responsibilities/freedoms on quality assurance, curriculum renewal, etc. of:
 - i) Senior managers/leaders and representative bodies of the higher education institution? (SSI)
 - ii) Middle level managers/leaders (faculty Deans, Heads of Departments) and representative bodies at these levels? (SSI)
 - iii) "Street level" teaching staff? (SSI)
 - iv) Students? (SSI)
- 3) To what extent does institutional governance take into account quality assurance of study programmes in particular with respect to:
 - a) Development and publication of learning outcomes (ESG standard 1.2)? (Data/SSI)

- b) Curriculum and programme design content; modes of delivery and institutional profile (ESG standard 1.2)? (Data/SSI)
 - c) Availability of appropriate learning resources and student support (ESG standards 1.2 and 1.5)? (Data/SSI)
 - d) Periodic reviews of programmes including feedback from employers and alumni (ESG standard 1.2)? (Data/SSI)
- 4) The views of students, academics and decision-makers on ESG (SSI):
- a) How well are students, academics and decision-makers familiar with the ESG?
 - b) How do students, academics and decision-makers see the ESG impacting on curricula and quality assurance? (Give examples)
 - c) How do students, academics and decision-makers assess the level of implementation of Part 1 ESG standards?
 - d) What barriers do students, academics and decision-makers see when implementing Part 1 ESG guidelines?

SSI to include:

- a) Institution: members of central administration (Rector, Vice-Rector or Pro-Rector), Representatives of central office/structure for quality, senate or structure responsible for study programmes, student support services
- b) Faculty/School: middle level-management: Dean (or equivalent), Head of pedagogic council (or similar), Representatives of office/structure in charge of quality, Academics (different ranks), students (different study cycles)