

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND EXTENSION POLICY

This document lays out the ECTE policy and strategy for stakeholder involvement and extension. This takes place in the context ESG 3.1 related ensuring the involvement of stakeholders in the governance and work of quality assurance agencies.

IDENTIFICATION AND INTERACTION

For the purpose of this document, stakeholders are defined as all those that have a 'stake' to 'hold' in institutions of theological education in Europe and therefore in the quality assurance activities of the ECTE¹. The following three categories of ECTE stakeholders can be identified as they interact with ECTE quality assurance processes:

A. DIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

The following interact directly with the quality assurance processes of the ECTE.

- A1 – HEIs - accredited institutions and member institutions
- A2 – Peer subject-specific agencies
- A3 – European QA authorities
- A4 – Global theological education networks
- A5 – ECTE staff
- A6 – Peer experts (VETs)

B. INDIRECT INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

The following stakeholders interact internally with the quality of their institutions and indirectly with the quality assurance processes of the ECTE.

- B1 – Theology students
- B2 – Academic faculty
- B3 – Institutional leadership
- B4 – Administrative staff
- B5 – Governing boards

C. INDIRECT EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

The following interact externally with the quality of the institutions they are involved with and indirectly with the quality assurance processes of the ECTE.

- C1 – Ecclesial entities
- C2 – Graduate employers
- C3 – Funders and fundraisers

¹ Stakeholders can be understood to cover all actors within higher education institutions, including students and staff, as well as external stakeholders such as employers and external partners of an institution' (EQAR, *ESG Use and Interpretation*, p.2)

C4 – Other external partners

INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The following table lays out the objectives for involvement of the three categories of ECTE stakeholders together with plans to fulfil them. Care is taken to ensure the agency’s independence as stakeholders are involved.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVED	OBJECTIVES	PLAN TO FULFIL OBJECTIVES
<p>A. Direct stakeholders</p>	<p>1. Stakeholders are involved in the design and continuous improvement of the ECTE’s methodologies.</p>	<p>The ECTE General Assembly approves <i>Standards and Guidelines</i>. Major changes in methodology are also submitted to the General Assembly (involves stakeholder A1).</p> <p>Institutions provide feedback following review episodes (involves stakeholder A1).</p> <p>Peer experts provide feedback following review episodes (involves stakeholder A6).</p> <p>The ECTE submits its methodologies for cyclical review to European authorities (involves stakeholder A3).</p> <p>See plans below for greater involvement of stakeholders A2, A5 and A6.</p>
	<p>2. Stakeholders are involved in the governance and work of the ECTE.</p>	<p>The ECTE General Assembly is involved in governance by electing the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and all Council members, approves and agrees on strategic plans, statutes, aims and budgets (involves stakeholder A1).</p> <p>The ECTE Council has representatives from a variety of stakeholders.</p> <p>The ECTE Council has a percentage of members representing HEIs (in 2020 this was 50%). To maintain independence, they do not participate in decisions concerning their institutions (involves stakeholder A1).</p> <p>The ECTE enhances trust by submitting its work for cyclical review by European QA authorities (involves stakeholder A3).</p>

		See plans below for greater involvement of stakeholders A2, A5 and A6.
	3. Stakeholders accept the outcomes of the ECTE's QA processes	See plans below for greater involvement of stakeholders A2 A3, C5, C1, C2,
B. Indirect internal stakeholders	4. Internal stakeholders of ECTE accredited institutions are involved in developing and implementing internal quality assurance policies.	Standard A.2.5 of the ECTE <i>Standards and Guidelines</i> requires that are involved in developing and implementing internal quality assurance policies (involves stakeholders B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5).
	5. Internal stakeholders of ECTE accredited institutions are regularly involved in the review and revision of programmes.	Standard B.2.1 of the ECTE <i>Standards and Guidelines</i> requires that accredited institutions are regularly involved in the review and revision of programmes: (involves stakeholders B1, B2, B3, B4 and B5).
C. Indirect external stakeholders	6. External stakeholders of ECTE accredited institutions are involved in the quality assurance policies of institutions.	Standard A.2.5 of the ECTE <i>Standards and Guidelines</i> requires that accredited institutions are involved in the quality assurance policies of institutions (involves stakeholders C1, C2, C3 and C4).
	7. External stakeholders of ECTE accredited institutions are regularly involved in the design, development, evaluation review and revision of programmes.	Standard B.2.1 of the ECTE <i>Standards and Guidelines</i> requires that accredited institutions are regularly involved in the design, development, evaluation review and revision of programmes (involves stakeholders C1, C2, C3 and C4).

EXTENSION PLANS 2020-2025

The following extension plans will be implemented in the period 2020-2025.

1. The General Secretary to report annually to the Council during the *Annual Internal Review, Improvement and Monitoring* session (AIRIM) on the compliance to standards A.2.5 and B.2.1 in relation to the involvement of indirect stakeholders (both internal and external) in the quality assurance policies of institutions and the review and revision of programmes (involves stakeholders B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, C1, C2, C3 and C4).
2. 2021 – The current ECTE Council is surveyed to define the stakeholder representation.
3. 2021, 2026 - ECTE to be reviewed for listing in the EQAR (involves stakeholder A3).
4. 2022 - A survey to be conducted on ECTE's methodologies and work that involves peer subject-specific agencies, peer experts (VETs), Review Secretary and ECTE staff (involves stakeholders A2, A5, A6).

5. 2021-25 – As new ECTE Council members are recruited attention is given to representing broad categories of stakeholders.
6. 2023 - A MOU to be drafted with ECTE accredited HEIs to accept the outcomes of ECTE's QA processes related to other HEIs (involves stakeholder A1).
7. 2023 - A MOU to be drafted with ICETE peer subject-specific agencies to accept the outcomes of ECTE's QA processes (involves stakeholder A2).
8. 2024 – Strategies and action plans are developed for further involvement of indirect stakeholders.

These plans will appear for monitoring and progress during the *Annual Internal Review, Improvement and Monitoring* session each Spring Council meeting.

This policy has been approved by the ECTE Council, 11 November 2020 and is valid until its revision.

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