



Agència  
per a la Qualitat  
del Sistema Universitari  
de Catalunya



***Specific collaborative Agreement for the application of the Framework Collaboration Agreement on the incorporation of the certification of subject-specific quality labels issued by the Accreditation agency specialising in undergraduate degree programmes in Engineering, Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics into accreditation procedures by the Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya***

Barcelona, 4th September 2014

Prof. Martí Casadesús Fa, director, as the representative of the Agència per a la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya, of the one part

and

Dr. Iring Wasser, Managing Director, as the representative of the Accreditation agency specialising in undergraduate degree programmes in Engineering, Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, of the other part

Both parties mutually recognise each other as having sufficient legal capacity to execute this framework collaboration agreement and to enter into a binding agreement as representatives of their respective institutions, and

**Agree**

That AQU Catalunya considers that the international components of quality assurance (QA) should form part of the processes to promote and continuously enhance the Catalan model of quality assurance in higher education in order for the universities in Catalonia to be considered among the top universities internationally.

That AQU Catalunya and ASIIN are full members of ENQA and registered with EQAR, amongst other international organisations, and can therefore operate at international level in accordance with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). The current legal framework thus facilitates



the activity in Catalonia of other organisations involved in quality assurance in higher education that comply with these characteristics, with the collaboration of AQU Catalunya, and can incorporate their reviews, evaluations, assessments into the university system in Catalonia.

That, from 2014 onwards, AQU Catalunya will be culminating the *Framework for the validation, monitoring, modification and accreditation of recognised university degree programmes and awards* with the accreditation of recognised degree programmes, which it will henceforth fully implement in compliance with the current regulations.

That, in the programme accreditation procedure, AQU Catalunya has also made provision for the award of a subject-specific quality label. On the basis of the aforementioned international component, AQU Catalunya considers that quality assurance procedures for the issue of subject-specific quality labels by other institutions that comply with the ESG may be incorporated into QA processes carried out by AQU Catalunya.

That AQU Catalunya has established a process for the integration of QA processes whereby the certification of subject-specific quality labels for First Cycle/Bachelor's and Second Cycle/Master's degrees issued by other institutions is possible, together with programme accreditation.

That AQU Catalunya and ASIIN have signed a framework collaboration agreement to provide for the setting up of specific actions in different areas that come under their competence.

For the above reasons the parties

## HEREBY AGREE

### **ONE. Aim:**

AQU Catalunya and ASIIN establish the conditions for carrying out evaluations with the incorporation, where applicable, of subject-specific quality labels by ASIIN in faculties in Catalan universities, in accordance with the stipulations of this Agreement.

The two parties shall, on annual basis, specify the number of evaluations to be carried out.

In each evaluation and certification procedure for a subject-specific quality label, the two parties shall specify the content of the respective evaluation procedure which shall contain at the very least the content specified in points 2, 3 and 4 of this specific collaborative agreement.

### **TWO. Actions and obligations of the parties:**

In addition to the obligations laid down in point 3 of the framework collaboration Agreement, the following obligations are adopted:

1. ASIIN formally undertakes to incorporate the evaluation procedure for the subject-specific quality label into programme accreditation by AQU Catalunya that is agreed on an annual basis.
2. AQU Catalunya is to incorporate the evaluation for the award of the label as arranged by ASIIN and ensure compliance with the established requirements laid down for accreditation and those stipulated in the *Framework for the positioning of AQU Catalunya regarding subject-specific quality labels*.
3. ASIIN is to communicate all proposals for the improvement and enhancement of the Guide and Criteria to AQU Catalunya in relation to the treatment of subject-specific quality labels and, where appropriate, in AQU Catalunya's accreditation procedure.
4. AQU Catalunya is to publish on its website the fact that ASIIN collaborates with the Agency.
5. ASIIN is entitled to obtain sufficient funding to carry out any assignment or task that may be requested, according to the provisions of point four of this specific Agreement.

**THREE. Minimum content requirements as regards the evaluation and certification procedure in order for ASIIN's certificate for subject-specific quality labels to be issued.**

ASIIN and AQU Catalunya are to jointly analyse the evaluation procedure for the subject-specific quality label in order to ensure that there is, at the very least, the following:

- Compliance with the ESG in the evaluation procedure.
- Compliance with the ESG and the document in the selection and training of the experts who are to carry out the site visit.
- The appointment of the interlocutors for the successful implementation of the framework agreement and any addenda.
- The appointment, where appropriate, of observers to better assess good practices and the evaluation procedure.

**FOUR. Funding for the evaluation**

Given that the process of obtaining a subject-specific quality label is voluntary, the university applying for the label will need to directly fund the costs established by ASIIN.

In addition, ASIIN is to communicate the total cost of the evaluation to AQU Catalunya, which shall include, amongst other items: the expenses of the reviewers/evaluators (fees, travel expenses, training, etc.) and the cost of the service by ASIIN.

The definitive cost of the service and the form of payment are to be specified in each certification procedure for the label being applied for.

**FIVE. Evaluation follow-up.**

The two parties are to appoint those in charge of the follow-up and correct implementation of the evaluation procedure for the subject-specific quality label and shall resolve any issue that arises.



In the case of any disagreement that cannot be resolved by these interlocutors, the Follow-up Committee set up under the framework collaboration Agreement is to intervene.

#### SIX. Duration

The duration of this specific agreement is conditional on the duration of the framework Agreement.

#### SEVEN. Termination of the specific Agreement

This Agreement may be terminated:

- a) by mutual agreement of the parties.
- b) due to non-compliance with the obligations of this Agreement.

And, as proof of agreement with the contents of this specific Agreement, the parties hereby sign the agreement in duplicate at the place and date mentioned at the beginning of this document.

For AQU Catalunya

Director

For ASIIN

Managing director