



**CONSEJO NACIONAL DE ACREDITACIÓN (CNA)
MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN NACIONAL**

Dra. Cecilia Dolores Correa de Molina
Coordinadora

Calle 19 No. 6 - 68. Piso
Bogotá - Colombia

Statement by the INQAAHE Board on the review of CNA Colombia

Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), I extend my congratulations to the Consejo Nacional de Acreditación (CNA) de la República de Colombia, for completing a successful review against INQAAHE's Guidelines of Good Practice (GGP).

The INQAAHE Board supports the conclusion of the panel that carried out the review that states that "considering the current context of the CNA and the evaluation just carried out, **the panel proposes CNA as aligned with the GGP**, in view of the following main factors:

- Since 2012 important positive steps have been taken, in spite of CNA's dependency on other entities and the intrusion of external priorities into the CNA's agenda (e.g. by means of the recent law that requires the compulsory accreditation of bachelor degrees for future teachers (*Licenciaturas* in Education) by the CNA.
- The CNA is not only an intensively active and recognised institution; it is also fully aware of the need to progress and willing to move in this direction; there is a clear and shared diagnosis of the changes in structure and functions that are necessary for the CNA to achieve the impact expected from it.
- The CNA needs —and deserves— more time to make the necessary strategic and functional adjustments; there is already a solid platform for this, based on current work that is already well —or very well— done and generates the necessary confidence in the CNA's ability to adapt and grow provided it is empowered to play its full role for the development of an advanced tertiary education system; **the CNA does well what it does, but it is prevented from making the changes required** for the development of a quality assurance framework encompassing all the segments of the system and benefitting the great majority of students.
- The CNA needs —and deserves— 5 additional years during which it can get the Ministry to undertake the necessary structural reforms; the panel could observe that the Ministry shares the diagnosis about the growth crisis of the Agency and demonstrates its



willingness to move towards more autonomy and resources for the CNA, within the framework of the new policy of promotion of an integrated system of tertiary education.”

The INQAAHE Board also endorses the panel recommendations and suggestions regarding areas of enhancement that are paired with the respective GGP (See Annex 1 to this letter).

In closing, as a result of this generally positive review, the INQAAHE Board has concluded that the CNA can be recognized on the INQAAHE website as being a GGP aligned agency; however, it was agreed that a follow-up report on the 5 standards marked as substantially compliant is recommended. The INQAAHE Board respectfully asks that the report be submitted within two years of this notice and that it specifically address what CNA has done to come into full compliance with these standards. By addressing these concerns, the recognition status that has been granted will be continued for the full five-year period, at which point another review will be required.

Congratulations again on this successful review.

Sincerely,

Martí Casadesús Fa
INQAAHE Secretary

Barcelona, 23 August 2017

Annex 1

The INQAAHE Board endorses the following panel recommendations and suggestions paired with the respective GGP:

- Empowering the CNA with greater autonomy of government on the subject of planned growth of its capacity for the evaluation of the quality of higher education, its financial autonomy in budget management, its autonomy in subcontracting and in human resources management.
 - GGP 1.4.2 and 1.3.2

- Formally involving students and representatives of the labour market in the activities of the CNA, especially in the definition of the objectives of education and training programme and in the evaluation of the achievements of programmes and HEIs.
 - GGP 1.3.1

- Broadening the CNA's mission and purpose to encompass all of the HEIs in the nation and to foster the emergency of an integrated system of tertiary education in Colombia.
 - GGP 1.2.1

- Redesigning the evaluation processes to make them more efficient (saving time for the HEIs and for the CNA) and more sustainable.
 - GGP 1.3.3; 3.1.3

- In the accreditation processes, giving more significance to the achievement of the competences established in the programmes; that are shown in students' learning outcomes.
 - GGP 3; 3.2.6.

- Making more explicit the criteria applied by the Council in its decision-making process.
 - GGP 5.1.3; 3.3.3.

- Consider the possibility that appeals regarding resolutions issued by the MEN could be resolved by an *ad hoc* Committee that should include two CNA Counsellors (different from the Counsellor involved in the appealed procedure) and one foreign expert evaluator.
 - GGP 5.2.3



- Publishing CNA's external evaluation reports.
 - GGP 4.1.2; 4.2.1 (refers both to the EQAA publishing the reports on its institutions and to publishing the report on its own external review)
- Establishing mechanisms to ensure the systematic updating of public information.
 - GGP 4.1.3; 4.1.1.
- Establishing mechanisms for the CNA to manage —or more closely control, on its own— his website hosting service and updating.
 - GGP 4.1.3.; 1.4.2.
- Clarifying the CNA's strategy with regard to its relationships with the international quality assurance community.
 - GGP 6.2
- Merging into a single improvement plan the inputs received from the different quality processes carried out.
 - GGP 1.3.4.; 3.3.3.
- Promoting internships of CNA's staff to other prestigious quality assurance agencies
 - GGP 1.41; 1.43; 6

Suggestions:

- Involving the Labour Observatory for Education in the accreditation processes.
- Giving feedback to the peers on the outcome of the evaluation procedures.