

# Impact of EQA on the Icelandic HE Sector

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# QEF2 (2017-2024) – evaluation

- Survey among stakeholders (external expert)
- Alignment of the QEF2 Handbook with ESG and International Good Practice (external expert)
- Student focus groups (with the NSU)
- Various meetings between Board and stakeholders (QC, RC and Ministry)
  
- Thematic analysis of QEF2 is yet to come

# QEF2 – what did we learn?

- Growing institutional ownership of IQA.
- Added value in external experts in IQA (formative feedback).
- QA of research management appreciated (enhancement theme).
  
- Handbook and guidance material not very user-friendly.
- Review reports are too long and need better editing.
- Lead quality staff (and senior management) need more training in QA.

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# Impact (from QEF2 survey)

- SER exercise drew in staff and students from beyond the narrow QA community.
- SER helped sharpen the sense of past achievement and shape future visions.
- Some regretted senior management's failure to use the SER effectively when determining future institutional strategy.
- IWR was a valuable contribution to quality enhancement – for all stakeholders, including the ministry.
- IWR yielded clear directions for institutional development.

# Sectoral Development of QA in Iceland

- Embedding QA in the HE sector through QEF1 (2011-2017) and QEF2 (2017-2024).
- A national quality system rather than 7 separate HEIs.
- More than EQA.
- REAC and QC as sub-committees very functional.
- Maturing sector – from baseline to enhancement.
- Increased ownership by the HEIs in QA (yet precarious).
- QB to become a full agency.

# Maturing Quality Culture

- Open cross-sectoral considerations of quality culture.
- EQA as a shared space for learning and enhancement.
- Willingness to share problems rather than accomplishments only.
  
- Effective stakeholder relations (students, rectors, quality leads, research leads, ministry).
- The Secretariat as translator between the Board and the sector.
- Trust-based and enhancement-led.

# QEF3 (2024-2029)

- Binary model: Pass / Follow-up review required.
- Four evaluation themes (one selected by the HEI).
  - Management of learning & teaching.
  - Management of research & innovation.
  - Management of IQA and governance.
  - Management of societal engagement (enhancement theme).
- More autonomy of IQA to the HEIs, with regular monitoring by QB.