



**REAC Meeting, Wednesday 16 November 2022, 9:30-12:00, on Zoom**

**In attendance:** Philip Winn (Chair), Elín Díanna Gunnarsdóttir, Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Skúli Skúlason, Anna Guðrún Edvardsdóttir, Sigrún Lilja Einarsdóttir, Christian Schultze, Halldór Jónsson (replacing Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir), Kristján Kristjánsson, Crichton Lang (QB observer).

**Guest:** Sara Stef. Hildardóttir

**Apologies received:** Bjarki Þór Grönfeldt, Finnborg Salóme Steinþórsdóttir, Margrét Helga Ögmundsdóttir.

**Minutes:** Ólöf Gerður Sigfúsdóttir (QB Secretariat)

**(1) Minutes of the last meeting (22 September 2022) and Matters Arising (Annex 2).**

The minutes were accepted without modification.

News on the REAC membership: Anna Guðrún Edvardsdóttir is now the HU's representative. Skúli Skúlason will continue representing the QC.

Sara Stef. Hildardóttir has been fully co-opted as a member of the REAC from this meeting on.

**(2) For information**

- i. Update on PURE – verbal.

The implementation plan is on schedule.

There are 40 institutions within the consortium who are required to do research by law. Many of these lie outside the HE domain and many of them are rather small. Sara will be presenting on IRIS at the annual Rannís conference on research (24 Nov).

Some of the universities are planning to apply to the new Collaborative Funding Programme for HEIs (Samstarfssjóður háskóla) with a deadline on 5 December. The aim is to join forces on the implementation of IRIS into their own institutions.

- ii. Update on revision of Evaluation System of the Public Universities – verbal.

No update.

- iii. Update on the work of Ministerial committee charged with proposing changes to the funding model of the universities (chaired by Sigríður Logadóttir) – verbal.

No updates.

This item was discussed in relation to the Minister's recent publication of her vision on 'Progress for Iceland' (Árangur fyrir Ísland), where one of the actions are the development of a performance-based funding model for all universities in Iceland. The committee is keen on following this work at the ministry, particularly in relation to the societal impact of research.

- iv. News for the Science and Innovation Council – verbal.

No updates.

### **(3) Research Assessment webinar and workshop**

- i. Planning for 2022 webinar. Notes of the meeting held online on 19 October 2002 are attached as Annex 3.

The committee discussed ideas for a title, target group and speakers. As said in Annex 2, the aim is to underline what the system can do for research in Iceland and its societal impact.

Speaker suggestions: Cassidy R. Sugimoto (US) on the democratisation of research; and Bo Alroe (DK). Sara is already confirmed as a speaker. A fourth speaker could be someone who is already a user of IRIS within the national context (Sara will make a suggestion).

The committee stressed the importance of ensuring the involvement of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (both Minister and Ministry staff) in the webinar. It also stressed the importance to engage the sector (smaller research institutions) and other stakeholders, i.e., Rannís, the Science and Technology Policy Council as well as individual users and academics across the sector.

This will be further developed by the webinar subgroup.

### **(4) For decision**

- i. None.

### **(5) Items for discussion**

- i. Structure and function of REAC in QEF3

The committee discussed matters in relation to research strategies and how these are understood within the Universities, at different levels of the whole institution, Schools and Faculties.

Key discussion points were:

- *Academic freedom is an important topic for academics in the context of institutional research strategies.*
- *A research strategy should reflect research objectives and be accompanied by an action plan. It should describe aims and plans for the research environment, infrastructure, data management, research ethics, research dissemination, recruitment of research staff, access to resources etc.*
- *Research strategy can be at the institutional, faculty, departmental or individual levels.*
- *A strategy is a tool to create a feasible environment for research. And to set goals for the research.*
- *The difference between research management and research strategy.*

- ii. Assessing the societal impact of universities.

This item was left for the next meeting.

**(6) Update from the Quality Board**

- i. Verbal report from QB members.

Crichton Lang (Vice-chair of the QB) reported on the QB meeting Nov 14-15, focusing mainly on the framing of the QEF3. He emphasised that QEF3 will be appropriately contextualised within the Icelandic HE environment. CL also reported on the theme for the next annual QB conference, to be held in May 2023, on the theme of digital learning and online provision. CL also reported on changes in the QB membership, with Norman Sharp leaving the Board and Liv Teresa Muth entering as a Student Board Member.

**(7) Dates for Future Meetings (provisional)**

Wednesday 08 February 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 12.00.