



## **MINUTES of the REAC MEETING of 22 September 2022: 09:30-12:00**

**In attendance:** Elin Dianna Gunnarsdóttir, Finnborg Salóme Steinþórsdóttir, Halldór Jónsson (UI – *for Guðbjörg Linda Rafnsdóttir*), Hulda Stefánsdóttir, Kristján Kristjánsson, Margrét Helga Ögmundsdóttir, Philip Winn (Chair), Skúli Skúlason. Andrée Sursock (QB observer; taking minutes)

**In attendance online:** Bjarki Þór Grönfeldt, Christian Schultze, Sigrún Lilja Einarsdóttir,

**Apologies:** Guðný Zoega

### **(1) Minutes of the last meeting (18 May 2022) and Matters Arising.**

The Minutes were adopted without modification.

The only point arising not covered elsewhere in the minutes is about the use of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) badging in IRIS. It remains a work in progress. The automatic links between specific SDG and publications are checked but further analysis will be required.

*To note: Skúli Skúlason informed REAC that Anna Guðrun Edvardsdóttir will represent Hólar University starting with the next meeting.*

### **(2) For information**

#### **i. Update on PURE/IRIS – verbal.**

*For clarification on naming: PURE is a brand name; IRIS is the use to which it is put – the Icelandic Research Information System. Both PURE and IRIS can be used, appropriate to context.*

IRIS was opened on 15 June 2022. Most of the currently accessible information is on research output, principally that which can be harvested automatically. Data which requires manual entry and other collectible data (such as from RANNIS) are in train. IUA is also implementing UGLA.

Research infrastructure: This includes *inter alia* facilities, equipment, computing, data services, repositories. How can this be mapped to make it visible in IRIS and promote cooperation? The UI strategy is to map large scale infrastructure and piloted with PURE/IRIS, part of a European project, using Lund University as a model. UI will appoint a Head of Infrastructure to manage this.

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

This revision was completed last autumn; there is no new update. There was discussion centred on the relaunch of the European Research Area (ERA). There are several action lines relevant to Iceland, including assessment of research in regard to individual researchers (which should be distinguished from institutional metrics). The ERA and the EUA are promoting DORA, which might be seen as a contrast to the

ESPU which is focused on metrics to evaluate individual performance. The ERA is offering the opportunity to organise national seminars on DORA. Iceland might wish to take this up.

**iii. Update on work of Ministerial committee charged with proposing changes to the funding model of the universities**

There are initiatives under discussion but no decisions have been made.

*NB: this, and the ESPU, are not directly the business of REAC but because of their actual and potential ability to shape the management of research, REAC maintains a watching interest.*

**iv. Proposed legislation on a new Science & Innovation Council**

The new legislation will be presented to Parliament this autumn. The plan is to replace the Science & Technology Council by an inter-ministerial council, chaired by PM, and an Advisory Board, the members of which will be representatives appointed by various organisations. The QB was used as an example of independence for the Advisory Board. A secretariat will be established to analyse data, support the meetings of both bodies and ensure good communication between them. There is political will to enhance the system and to improve research quality. This will be an opportunity for the advisory group to produce policy positions. The objectives are to separate the government from the stakeholders and to emphasise innovation. Although this is a conceptual shift, the concept of innovation is not precisely defined. The council that started last spring will be replaced next spring. The transition will take place this winter. The role of REAC given this change should be discussed in the future.

**ACTION: (PW) REAC definitions of research outputs and review processes to be circulated again to REAC members and Sara Stef. Hildardóttir.**

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

Planning for 2022 webinar. Focus would be on PURE/IRIS and engaging individuals with its development. Sara Stef Hildardóttir was interested in this and so is Ágúst Hjörtur Ingþórsson, the RANNIS director. It will be a 2-hour seminar in early 2023.

REAC needs a working group to develop this and a university to host it. The Board secretariat is short staffed now, and REAC needs help to host the seminar and with the technicality. UI is volunteering to do this. We need to define the title, programme, advertisement and arrange presenters, including international speakers. PW will support the group to the extent possible. Sara Stef Hildardóttir should be invited to the group. The Quality Board Secretariat will be involved in a very limited way.

**ACTION: (PW) Coordinate an initial meeting: Halldor, Kristian Elin, Sara.**

**(4) For decision**

- i. None was presented.

**(5) Items for discussion**

- i. **Societal impact of universities:** REAC will need to discuss how to capture the impact of research in November and discuss a future event (to be distinguished from the webinar on PURE/IRIS). The chair would welcome ideas from REAC members on how to structure this discussion. A seminar on societal impact of universities will take place at UI in October, organised by the Institute of Humanities.
- ii. **Toward QEF3:** The Chair reminded REAC that the management of research has been integrated in QEF2 at the request of the Rectors' Conference. Review of research management in QEF2 concludes with no judgment. QEF2 is coming to an end, and this raises two questions: how QEF3 will look like and what should be the role of REAC?

**Structure and function of REAC in QEF3:** What does REAC add? It will be important to relate the future REAC at the advisory board of the new Science Council. The two bodies should be seen as complementary. The Council addresses strategic questions and helps shape policy. REAC does neither of these but through review of research management within an enhancement framework is able to help develop robust approaches to research management that are important for successful delivery of research. The next steps for REAC to consider are which aspects of management of research need to be emphasised in QEF3; and would it be helpful to feed REAC discussion into the Science Council?

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

The Quality Board (QB) is involved currently in the evaluation of QEF2, based in part on survey that will be processed by an outside expert. QB is also focused on carrying out three reviews this autumn and filling the post of Executive Director, which is currently advertised.

**(7) Dates for Future Meetings (provisional – AM unless specified)**

Wednesday 16 November 2022

Wednesday 08 February 2023