



General Policy on Continuous Quality Improvement EHESP

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Policy directions

The implementation of a continuous improvement initiative based on the internal management of quality is among the values of the French School of Public Health (EHESP – *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique*). The school aims to assess and develop its performance in its educational, research and expert investigation roles, with special attention given to the needs of the different beneficiaries. It also aims to obtain the highest possible recognition at the national, European and international levels. Finally, the initiative helps meet the requirements of the European Higher Education Area that is currently being developed.

These policy directions have been clearly stated in the institution's 2008-2011 goals and resources contract. EHESP is committed to continuous development of the quality of its services (including logistical and administrative aspects) using a comprehensive evaluative approach. EHESP is preparing to meet the requirements of AERES (*Agence d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur* – French Agency for the Assessment of Research and Higher Education) and the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). It is also pursuing efforts in initiating a European accreditation system.

Principles and Goals

Continuous improvement of quality applies to all of EHESP's activities, resources and operation. The goal is to meet external quality assurance requirements, but also to position EHESP internationally in order to make the institution a center for excellence in public health education and research.



EHESP has the attributes of various types of institutions: a university, a higher education institution with an international mission, an engineering school, one of France's "Grandes Ecoles", a school of public service. It strives to meet the requirements of multiple quality frameworks in a consistent and non-segmented manner:

- AERES - *Agence d'Évaluation de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur* (French Agency for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education) ;
- CEPH - Council on Education for Public Health ;
- ASPHER - Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region ;
- CTI - *Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur* (French Commission on Engineering Degrees) ;
- *Conférence des Grandes Ecoles* (Platform of French "Grandes Ecoles");
- RESP - *Réseau des Ecoles de Service Public* (Schools of Public Service Network) ;

The quality assurance approach selected is thus founded on a quality framework that synthesizes and integrates the different external frameworks and is enriched with references specific to EHESP.

EHESP's commitment to continuous quality improvement based on an open quality management model is a testament to its efforts to continuously meet the needs of the different beneficiaries of its activities, first and foremost its students, and to aim for excellence.

The management of quality as carried out by EHESP's Management aims for the participation of the greatest number of internal players. The development of quality involves everyone, both in terms of implementation and in making new proposals for improvement. Communication regarding the quality framework and the process is an essential condition for the success of any quality-related measures taken.

The continuous quality improvement policy, the frameworks used, and the assessments and improvements made are important elements of the external communication system of a higher education institution. Enhancement efforts have been made in particular on the EHESP web site.



Organization

The EHESP Management Committee approves the internal quality framework. It can be amended or revised according to the application of a new external reference system or internal proposals.

EHESP regularly assesses how well the demands and requirements of this framework have been answered. Each year, a report is made on the activities designed to improve quality and defines the improvement priorities for the following year.

A steering committee for continuous quality improvement is set up with representatives of internal stakeholders (6 administrators, 6 faculty, 6 students). This committee draws up internal quality assurance proposals, steers the implementation of improvement projects, evaluates them and reports on the progress of work to the Management Committee.

A list of objectives accompanied by a work schedule is drawn up for each improvement initiative and a project leader is appointed to report before the steering committee on the progress of the initiative, on difficulties encountered or new options that had not been previously identified.