

<b>Members of the Agency's Steering Committee and Secretariat</b>	<b>Independence</b>	Agency members represent a certain type of education, student organisations, trade unions, the Directorate General for Non-Compulsory Education, and professional, social and cultural associations. This broad scope enables a wide range of perspectives and discussions of general interest, opening up possibilities for improving training and educational practices in the area of higher education in the French-speaking Community of Belgium as a whole, without favouring any particular interests. A member of the Steering Committee shall not, during his or her period of office, act as an Agency expert.
	<b>Fairness</b>	Agency members shall serve with consistency, objectivity and integrity, respecting the diversity of higher education.
	<b>Transparency</b>	The Agency provides regular information on the status of its various missions, publishing bi-annual activity reports and a self-assessment report every five years, as well as issuing regular bulletins on its missions and operations. Steering Committee members help increase transparency by facilitating communication between the Agency and the higher education institutions they represent.
	<b>Confidentiality</b>	Agency members undertake to respect the confidentiality of any information or documents sent to them.
	<b>Involvement</b>	Each member is actively involved in the Agency's various activities, taking part in discussions and working groups.
<b>Executive staff</b>	<b>Independence</b>	Executive staff is responsible for upholding the Agency's independence vis-à-vis all players in the area of higher education. No member of staff may handle a case in which he or she has a personal interest, whether direct or indirect.
	<b>Fairness</b>	Executive staff treats all institutions with consistency, objectivity and integrity, respecting the diversity of the various constituent parts of higher education.
	<b>Transparency</b>	Executive staff provides clear and objective information, as comprehensive as allowed by professional ethics, to higher education institutions and other players in this area.
	<b>Confidentiality</b>	Executive staff undertakes to respect the confidentiality of all Agency information or documents. In addition, the staff guarantees the confidentiality of the self-assessment reports compiled by institutions and the contents of any discussions taking place during inspections.
	<b>Involvement</b>	Executive staff implements the resolutions of the Steering Committee and the Secretariat, carrying out the work with diligence and professional dedication. Staff members formulate their opinions, reports and options in a precise and practical manner.

## Experts

<b>Independence</b>	<p>The experts are independent of the institutions assessed. In this respect, the Agency has developed a number of precedents defining the limits of such independence. In particular, experts shall not have maintained any contractual relationship with the assessed institutions during the two years prior to the inspection period.</p> <p>Experts also act independently of the French-speaking Community's official structures and its organising authorities.</p>
<b>Integrity</b>	<p>The integrity of the experts represents the basis for the trust placed in them and the credibility attached to their judgement. Experts perform all aspects of their assessments fairly, not letting their judgment be influenced by their own interests or those of anyone else. They undertake to have no personal contact with the institutions during their period of office.</p>
<b>Objectivity</b>	<p>Experts gather, assess and communicate, in a rigorous and relevant manner, the information related to the activity or process examined. The judgements they pronounce are supported by aspects identified in the self-assessment reports, in the relevant documentation or in the interviews. They make reference to the current status of knowledge and best practice in the areas described.</p>
<b>Consistency</b>	<p>Experts examine with equal attention the various parts of a curriculum within an institution or between institutions inspected. Each external assessment uses similar organisational and management criteria, thereby achieving the greatest possibly equality.</p>
<b>Respect for diversity</b>	<p>Experts respect the diversity of the projects and institutions, as well as the diversity of course objectives, inasmuch as they meet the overall objectives of higher education and quality.</p>
<b>Personal involvement</b>	<p>Experts subscribe to the Agency's missions and objectives, using their skills to meet their responsibilities and contribute fully to the success of their mission.</p>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<p>Experts undertake to guard the confidentiality of all information they receive, as well as the contents of any confidential or restricted-use documents which they need to consult for the purpose of their duties or in the execution thereof.</p>