

Programme of the NOQA Meeting 2026 on the 7–8th of September

Nordic QA: Independence and Responsibility with Developing Methods

VENUE: Hammarbybacken 31, Johanneshov, Stockholm. [Map here.](#)
Closest metro station: Gullmarsplan.

Monday 7th of September 2026

09.00–09.30 DROP-IN REGISTRATION AND WELCOME FIKA

09.30–10.00 OPENING OF THE MEETING

UKÄ's Director General Martin Norsell opens the meeting.
Participant introductions.
Information about practical arrangements.

10.00–11.00 SESSION 1. KEYNOTE SPEECH - Independence, Responsibility and Trust: (Nordic) Quality Assurance at a European Crossroads

Bjørn Stensaker, Professor in Higher Education, University of Oslo and President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) offers us some reflections on emerging challenges and the future of European quality assurance.

11.00–12.00 SESSION 2. AGENCY UPDATES - DAC, FINEEC, IAQA, NOKUT, UKÄ

Max. 10-minute presentation per agency (please refer to the guidelines), each followed by a short Q & A session.

DAC update: David Metz

IAQA update: Ólöf Gerður Sigfúsdóttir

NOKUT update: Hege Brodahl

UKÄ update: Martin Norsell

FINEEC update: Hannele Seppälä

12.00–13.15 LUNCH

Buffet lunch in the same building as the meeting room.

13.15–14.30 SESSION 3. USES OF GENERATIVE AI IN QA OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Philipp Emanuel Friedrich, NOKUT initiates the discussion by presenting their experiences, starting in their current report: Store språkmodeller i analyseprosesser 2026 (15–20 min).

Following NOKUT:s report presentation each Nordic agency gives a brief (max 5 min) presentation of the current state of their work (or lack thereof) with generative AI. This is followed by a general discussion about common challenges and possibilities.

14.30–15.00 FIKA

Including group photo.

15.00–16.15 SESSION 4. PREPARING THE PANEL: CREATING STRUCTURE AND SUPPORTING REVIEWERS

The focus of the session is how different agencies prepare and train the members of our review panels for their tasks.

- *Ida Hughes Tidlund, UKÄ* presents the agency's online course for assessment panel members, including considerations, experiences and revisions since it was launched in 2025.
- *Þorgerður Edda Hall, IAQA* presents the agency's approach to panel orientation and training, including considerations and challenges that come with fully international review panels for assessing HEIs in Iceland.

Following these two presentations a general discussion is held on the subject based on some prepared questions.

17.30 Cultural programme (Stockholm City Museum/Stadsmuseet, Södermalmstorg)

The museum is located in a 17th-century palace next to Slussen in central Stockholm. It is dedicated to preserving Stockholm's shared memory and cultural heritage. During the visit we will be given a guided tour of the exhibition "City Faces" by Rebecka Lennartsson, associate professor of ethnology and Head of Research at the Stockholm City Museum. The project, funded by the Swedish Research Council and conducted in cooperation between cultural heritage institutions and universities, highlight how 19th-century faces can be brought to life combining historical photographs, biographical data and digital facial recognition.

The museum opens especially for us on an otherwise closed day. The programme needs to start at 17:30 when we gather on Södermalmstorg outside the north exit of the metro station Slussen to be let in as a group to the museum. If you arrive by metro to Slussen take the north exit marked Södermalmstorg.

Note! As we are let in as a group you need to be at the meeting point no later than 17:30. After the museum visit we will walk (10 min.) together to the restaurant.

19.00 Dinner at Tavernan Rival, Mariatorget 1D

Tuesday 8th of September 2026**08.30–09.00 Morning coffee****09.00–10.00 SESSION 5. ACCOMMODATING DIFFERENCES IN INSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS**

The focus of this session is how agencies design fit-for-purpose institutional reviews that account for differences between HEI:s whilst assuring equivalence across the evaluation processes.

- *Christel Sølvehjelm, DAC* gives a presentation of the agency's considerations of this perspective in their ongoing preparation for their third cycle of institutional reviews.
- *Torsten Blomkvist, UKÄ* presents the agency's ongoing developments in approaching institutional reviews and assuring relevant equivalence.

Following these two presentations a general discussion is held on the subject based on some prepared questions.

10.00–10.30 FIKA**10.30–11.45 SESSION 6. INTERNATIONAL CHANGES: UPDATES AND RESPONSES**

- *Director Kristin Vinje, NOKUT* gives a general update and answers questions from the perspective of ENQA Vice-President (circa 20–25 min).
- *Maya Wikse, UKÄ and Hege Brodahl, NOKUT* present a joint project on the ESG revision and adapting to the new ESG (circa 20–25 min).
- *Mirella Harri and Eerikki Vainio, FINEEC* opens up a discussion on the QA of European Universities alliances. Given recent developments regarding the European Degree and European Degree Label, what will happen with the next focus of the European Commission (circa 20–25 min).

11.45–12.15 SESSION 7. TAKE AWAYS AND CLOSING THE MEETING

Feedback discussion on the NOQA 2026 meeting – what do we take home?

Feedback on the programme, practical arrangements and ideas for the NOQA 2027 meeting.

Closing the meeting.

12.15–13.15 LUNCH at UKÄ

Salads will be served in the UKÄ lunch room where it will be possible to eat together with UKÄ staff. Those who are in a rush to travel will be able to take it on the go.

12.15–13.15 SESSION 8. LEADERSHIP LUNCH

Lunch and open discussion in a chambre séparée for the Heads of the Evaluation Agencies/Units.