Dear Rector,

The responsibility of the Canton of Valais in relation to the European Graduate School Foundation will change with effect from 1 January 2017. We wish to provide the following observations and clarifications.

EGS is a private school which offers university level programmes and has been established in the Canton of Valais for several decades. The Canton of Valais has been a founding member of the foundation since 2007 and, in compliance with the constitution of the foundation, appoints a representative of the State to the Foundation Board. A proposal will be made to the Council of State that this strategic participation be renewed and that Mr Peter Margelist be appointed as the representative of the State for the period 2017-2020. EGS is in fact regarded by the Canton of Valais as a particularly innovative model of a private school and a major economic player in the Saas-Fee region which the canton wishes to preserve.

Present on the territory of the Canton of Valais, EGS is authorized to pursue teaching activities at tertiary level. The Higher Education Service is responsible for supervising these activities. It is not responsible for inspecting the quality of the educational courses. That responsibility rests with the State of Malta which has accredited these courses since 28 February 2016. The cantonal recognition of the courses will therefore end on 31.12.2016 and will not be renewed.

The Canton of Valais is in fact unable from now on to recognize the EGS courses as accredited by the State of Malta because the titles used are protected by the Federal Act on Funding and Coordination of the Swiss Higher Education Sector (Higher Education Act, HEdA) of 30 September 2011. A further aim is to avoid overlapping powers between the State of Malta and the Canton of Valais to the detriment both of the students and of the credibility of the cantonal authorities with Swiss and international university bodies.
Mr André Fischer, scientific staff member of the Higher Education Service, will be able to give you any further information you may need.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Hélène Gapany Savioz
Assistant

Copy to: Peter Margelist, representative of the Council of State on the EGS Foundation Board
Experts designated by EGS

Rue de Conthey 19, 1950 Sion
Tel. 027 606 41 55 Fax 027 606 41 44 email: helene.gapany-savioz@admin.vs.ch

Attestation

We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge, this is a correct translation of the respective document.


Inter-Translations SA, Bern

Danielle Cesarov-Zaugg