

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

**Activity Report
2018**

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This document also serves as an Annual Report within the meaning of section 44 of the North-Rhine Westphalia Fiscal Code (LHO NRW)

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All links in the activity report refer to the website as of the end of June 2019. Following the upcoming relaunch of the website, a revised version of the activity report will be made available with updated links.

Activity Report 2018

Reporting period: January – December 2018

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Foreword

In an impressive show of the ability of the sixteen German states to get things done, all states parliaments ratified the Interstate Treaty in the course of 2017, thus meeting the **requirements of the Federal Constitutional Court ruling** of early 2016 on the future organisation of external quality assurance in higher education. The Interstate Treaty on the Organisation of a Joint Accreditation System to Ensure the Quality of Teaching and Learning at German Higher Education Institutions (**Interstate Study Accreditation Treaty, henceforth the 'Interstate Treaty' in this report**) entered into force on 1 January 2018. The new legal framework for the accreditation system was complete.

Based on the **Specimen Decree** adopted by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the states towards the end of 2017, the states proceeded with the adoption of decrees of their own. Ten of the sixteen states had issued such decrees by the end of 2018, and I am confident that the remaining six will follow in the course of 2019.

The 'new' Accreditation Council was able to start work. In February 2018, the now 23-member body met for the first time and, as it would in subsequent meetings during 2018, began by addressing numerous fundamental matters such as the Statutes, rules of procedure, fee schedule, specified report structure and internal working methods. The Accreditation Council also dealt with the accreditation of agencies that under the new legal framework continue to have the important task of conducting assessments. A new feature is that the Accreditation Council now authorises agencies on the basis of their listing in the EQAR register and no longer performs an assessment of its own.

The Accreditation Council's responsibility under the new legal framework is to decide applications for accreditation. Its September

2018 meeting saw the Council deal for the first time with three applications for accreditation under the new framework. As has been seen, the new role constitutes a challenge for the Accreditation Council. It is necessary to strike a balance between the trust that has to be placed in the work of review panels and agencies and the need for thorough scrutiny of accreditations so that the Accreditation Council is awarded on a sound basis and with a clear conscience. From the discussions in the Accreditation Council, I have been able to see that all members are aware of their great responsibility for ensuring quality in higher education. I am very grateful for that and for the spirit of teamwork among members.

These questions have been and remain closely linked to that of the volume of work that the Accreditation Council (and of course its Head Office) expects to face in its new main task. A central role is played here by the new electronic application processing system (christened ELIAS at the end of 2018), which supports the process of making decisions on the accreditation of study programmes and higher education institutions' own quality assurance systems. A trial version of ELIAS was presented in September 2018 and the system was about to go live at the end of the year. I am optimistic that ELIAS will be fully up and running when the first major 'wave' of applications reaches the Accreditation Council.

On behalf of all members of the Accreditation Council, I would like to thank our national and international partners in the accreditation system for their great support during the transition phase. I look forward to continuing our good working relationship.

Bonn, June 2019



Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm

Overview

1st Quarter 2018

95th meeting of the Accreditation Council in Bonn on 20 February 2018

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Election of the Chairperson
- Election of the Deputy Chairperson
- Business plan 2019
- Accreditation Council Statutes and Rules of Procedure: working group
- Specified report structure: establishment of a working group
- Authorisation of agencies
- Transitional rules for agencies accredited under the prior legal framework
- Rules of procedure for members of the Accreditation Council
- International matters
- Monitoring in relation to the experimentation clause and Münster University of Applied Sciences

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system
- Work programme 2019
- Fee schedule

2nd Quarter 2018

96th meeting of the Accreditation Council in Frankfurt on 14 June 2018

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Specified report structure
- Adoption of the report on the cross-sectional sample survey

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system
- Work volume and working methods of the new Accreditation Council
- Accreditation Council Statutes and Rules of Procedure

3rd Quarter 2018

97th meeting of the Accreditation Council in Potsdam on 24 September 2018

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Assignment of members of the Accreditation Council to specific academic subjects
- Accreditation Council Statutes and Rules of Procedure; mandate for the Statutes Working Group
- Applications for accreditation
- Reporting obligations for system-accredited higher education institutions

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system, presentation of a trial version
- Application for an alternative accreditation procedure

4th Quarter 2018

98th meeting of the Accreditation Council in Berlin on 6 December 2018

Accreditation Council resolutions:

- Application for reaccreditation of AKAST
- Adoption of business plan for 2020
- Application for accreditation
- Appeals procedure
- Reporting system
- Rules of procedure for alternative accreditation procedures: Establishment of a working group

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system
- Internal quality assurance

1. Current Developments

1.1 The new Accreditation Council and its new tasks

With the legal framework of the new accreditation system now in force (Interstate Treaty, Specimen Decree and the North Rhine-Westphalia Accreditation Council Act), the new Accreditation Council was able to convene for the first time in Bonn on 20 February 2018. A mutual dinner the preceding evening, 19 February, provided an opportunity for the former and new members to become acquainted and share ideas. A list of members is provided [here](#).

The largest change in the composition of the Accreditation Council related to the group of representatives of higher education institutions, which now consists of eight members (previously four). Another new feature is that a representative of the German Rectors' Conference forms a group of their own among the members. In total, nine of the 23 members were already members of the 'old' Accreditation Council, thus ensuring continuity. In February 2018, the Council (re)elected Professor Grimm as its Chairperson, with Professors Burckhart as Deputy Chairperson.

Throughout 2018, the Accreditation Council had the ongoing task of implementing the new legal framework for accreditation. Besides reorganising internal processes in the new Accreditation Council, the members also addressed fundamental matters such as the Statutes, Rules of Procedure, fee schedule, mission statement, internal quality assurance and establishment of an Appeals Commission. While the Statutes, rules of procedure and fee schedule were adopted or were able to enter into force during 2018, other discussions will continue in 2019.

At its 97th meeting in September 2018 – its third meeting under the new arrangements – the Accreditation Council decided for the first time on applications for accreditation under the new legal framework. It decided two of the three applications positively; a further application was considered and decided at the December meeting. Without going into the details of the discussions, it is sufficient to note that in all applications dealt with, the Accreditation Council has always considered the question of how much information accreditation reports must contain in order to serve Accreditation Council members as a good basis for decision-making. In some cases, members (and incidentally also Head Office staff) have also had to consult higher education institutions' self-evaluation reports in order to arrive at a (positive) assessment outcome. From the outset, the guiding principle has always been that higher education institutions must not be placed at a disadvantage, for example, by resolutions being delayed. The guiding rule was therefore not to penalise higher education institutions if reports were not sufficiently informative. It becomes essential for accreditation reports to exhibit a reliable standard of quality as soon as application volumes begin to mount up. Estimates for application volumes were included in the business plans presented by the Accreditation Council in 2018 for 2019 and 2020. According to those estimates, approximately 400 programme accreditations are expected in 2019 and up to 1,600 in 2020. As well as handling large numbers of applications, a further challenge for the Accreditation Council lies in developing a consistent decision-making practice.

1.2 Transformation process: the Accreditation Council goes digital

Considerations surrounding the workload on Accreditation Council members were a constant companion in initial and further development of the IT-based application processing system whose introduction was decided in 2017. By the end of 2018, the Electronic Information and Application System (ELIAS) was ready to go live, and members had already been able to satisfy themselves of its progress at the September and December meetings. In autumn 2018, five higher education institutions and all agencies took part in a trial phase and provided valuable pointers about the system.

Consulting firm INFORA supported the Foundation Accreditation Council in implementation of the system in terms of public procurement law from mid-2017 and continuously throughout 2018; ProUnix Software GmbH was commissioned with implementing the system.

The aim of ELIAS from the outset has been to enable efficient, paperless, end-to-end, reliable submission and processing of large volumes of applications. It provides the Accreditation Council and its Head Office with an effective tool to screen applications for programme and system accreditation and make decisions on the basis of plausibility testing.

The Accreditation Council's decisions are then published in its 'new' database, which is likewise a central component of the application processing system. The database will enable positive and negative accreditation decisions to be made publicly available and provide an 'accreditation history'. Unlike the old database, it will operate independently of the Higher Education Compass provided by the German

Rectors' Conference, although it will continue to be connected to that via an interface. An interface with DEQAR, the European quality assurance database, will also be provided.

The Accreditation Council's accreditation decisions are to be automatically published in the database at the push of a button. Database entries from system-accredited higher education institutions (and from agencies) are approved by the Accreditation Council without substantive review. One of the major challenges in this connection is the quality of 'legacy' data migrated into the new database. That challenge will continue to occupy the Accreditation Council in 2019 when the legacy data is reviewed.

2. Accreditation Council activities in 2018: responsibilities and outcomes

Since 1 January 2018, the former Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany has operated under the name Foundation Accreditation Council. The Foundation has been assigned new tasks under the Interstate Treaty (Article 5 of the Interstate Treaty). The following is a report on the activities carried out in 2018. Some of these relate to the completion of tasks under the prior legal framework.

2.1 Accreditation and reaccreditation of study programmes and quality assurance systems

The Accreditation Council Head Office received four applications under the new legal framework in 2018, two of which were cluster accreditation applications. In two cases, the Accreditation Council declined to endorse the reviewers' assessment in whole or part. In this situation, the higher education institution was

given the opportunity to comment before the final decision was made.

So that the Accreditation Council can efficiently process the accreditation reports from currently ten different accreditation agencies, the reports need to be comparable in structure and follow a uniform outline across all agencies. To facilitate this, the Accreditation Council specified a report structure for the following categories of application in March and June 2018: [Report structure for programme accreditations](#), [report structure for combined study programmes](#), [report structure for cluster accreditation applications](#) and [report structure for system accreditation applications](#). PDF documents are provided on the Accreditation Council website; the agencies are provided with editable Word documents.

The Accreditation Council also began to consider standards to be followed by future review reports. Discussion on this will continue in 2019, also with the involvement of the agencies.

2.2 Applications for extensions and cluster approvals

In the course of 2018, the Accreditation Council received numerous applications for extensions and cluster approvals, the latter being mostly decided with the aid of members with close ties to the academic subjects involved. In this connection, the Accreditation Council consulted on the size of review panels in cluster accreditations on several occasions in 2018. The aspiration was to strike a balance between the need for smaller clusters with closely related academic subjects and the general desire to reduce costs. This discussion will continue in 2019.

2.3 Authorisation of agencies

Under the new legal framework, accreditation of Bachelor's and Master's study programmes (programme accreditation) and of higher education institutions' internal quality assurance systems (system accreditation) conclude with a decision by the Accreditation Council; the accreditation process continues to be conducted by accreditation agencies – currently ten in number – that are authorised for this purpose.

The accreditation of agencies by the Accreditation Council will be replaced in future by formal authorisation on the basis of an agency's listing in EQAR (the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education). As a condition for authorisation, the Interstate Treaty stipulates that an agency must demonstrate that it is reliably able to exercise the tasks of assessment and of preparation of review reports; for EQAR-listed agencies, there is a rebuttable presumption that this is the case.

The Accreditation Council has authorised all EQAR-listed agencies that were accredited as of 31 December 2017 to conduct accreditations under the new legal framework (see ► [Resolution of 20 February 2018](#)). In the same connection, the Accreditation Council also adopted transitional rules for agencies accredited under the prior legal framework (see ► [Resolution of 20 February 2018](#))

The last accreditation of an agency under the prior legal framework was carried out in 2018, the agency concerned, AKAST, having already applied for reaccreditation in 2017 before the new legal framework entered into force. At its 98th meeting in December 2018, the Accreditation Council accredited AKAST for a further five years:

- ▶ **Resolution on AKAST:** Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung kanonischer Studiengänge in Deutschland (AKAST) was reaccredited without conditions until 31 December 2023.

2.4 Accreditation Council resolutions

The Accreditation Council passed the following key resolutions in the reporting period:

- ▶ Election of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

At its 95th meeting, the Accreditation Council elected Professor Grimm as its Chairperson – who has held this office since 2007 – and Professor Burckhart, representative of the German Rectors' Conference on the Accreditation Council, as its Deputy Chairperson.

- ▶ Code of conduct

To avoid potential conflicts of interest between membership of the Accreditation Council and members' other activities, the Accreditation Council adopted **Rules of conduct for members of the Accreditation Council** (▶ Resolution (updated) of 26 February 2019).

- ▶ Appeals Commission

On 6 December 2018, the Accreditation Council resolved to establish an Appeals Commission and adopted **information on possibilities for comment, appeal, complaint and legal action** (▶ Resolution (updated) of 26 February 2019).

2.5 Monitoring of accreditations

Monitoring of accreditations ceased to be among the Accreditation Council's tasks from 2018. Concluding its monitoring work, in June 2018, the Accreditation Council published findings of a cross-sectional sample survey on conditions imposed in accreditations of study programmes, which is available [here](#).

Until all new accreditation decisions are made under the new legal framework, the Accreditation Council will continue to perform ad-hoc monitoring of accreditations under the prior legal framework when there are indications of deficiencies in performance of an accreditation or of an incorrect accreditation decision. The reporting period saw the commencement of two ad-hoc monitoring procedures and the completion of one ad-hoc monitoring procedure commenced in 2017. In addition, one procedure was completed in 2018 for which a reassessment was decided in connection with the thematic sample assessment.

The Accreditation Council was informed of the outcomes of the monitoring procedures in the form of reports (and on request also of Board resolutions).

2.6 Events

Due to the transition, there were no events other than council and working group meetings.

At its 97th meeting, the Accreditation Council decided on a Best Practice Award for solutions in study programmes and quality management systems. Under the Specimen Decree (section 24 (3) and (4)), "the review report can also name best-practice models for the study programme". In this way, accreditation contributes to quality development and to the discussion of quality issues beyond the level of the individual study programme. Details will be elaborated in 2019.

2.7 Working groups

▶ Statutes Working Group

The Statutes Working Group appointed at the February meeting convened a total of three times during the reporting period. The Working Group produced drafts of the new Statutes and Rules of Procedure for the Foundation

Accreditation Council that the Accreditation Council respectively discussed and adopted at subsequent meetings. The Foundation Council adopted the Statutes at its meeting of 23 October 2018; the **Statutes** entered into force in December 2018 and the **Rules of Procedure of the Foundation Accreditation Council** the next day (as provided for in the Statutes).

The Statutes Working Group also discussed the procedure for complaints and appeals and produced a draft process description for the reporting system.

The Statutes Working Group completed its work during the reporting period.

► **Report Structure Working Group**

The Report Structure Working Group met once in the reporting period. It discussed the draft **report structure for applications for programme accreditation**, which was presented at the 95th meeting of the Accreditation Council and adopted and published following the first meeting of the Report Structure Working Group on 29 March 2018. The report structures for the remaining reports were revised on the basis of the discussions at the first meeting and approved by the Accreditation Council at its June meeting (see **Section 2.1**).

► **Rules of Procedure Working Group**

At its 98th meeting on 6 December 2018, the Accreditation Council resolved to establish a working group to draw up rules of procedure, in particular governing application requirements.

Alternative procedures are the third category of accreditation procedures alongside programme and system accreditation and represent a continuation of the experimentation clause under which alternative quality assurance procedures could be tested in the prior accreditation system.

3. International Cooperation

Quality assurance and quality development are key to making the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) a reality. Promoting international cooperation and collaboration therefore continues to be one of the central responsibilities assigned to the Accreditation Council by the states under the new legal framework. The main aim of international cooperation must be to promote mutual understanding of quality assurance systems, develop comparable quality assurance criteria, methodologies and standards, and improve transparency in study programmes to aid mutual recognition of qualifications and thus foster student mobility.

The respective European and international quality assurance networks consequently play an especially important role.

► **Networks, conferences and talks**

The Accreditation Council was a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) until September 2018 and since 2018 has been an ENQA affiliate. It is also a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and the CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG).

Together with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Council is represented in the Working Group on Implementation of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) and regularly participates in international working groups, seminars and conferences. In 2018, these included:

- The European Quality Assurance Forum (Vienna, 15-17 November 2018)
- The ENQA Members' Forum (Zaragoza, 19-20 April 2018)

- The ENQA General Assembly
(Astana, 18-19 October 2018)

The annual meeting of the Quality Audit Network was hosted this year by the Catalan accreditation agency AQU Catalunya and took place in Barcelona on 8-9 May 2018. These network meetings serve the purpose of regular exchange between European quality assurance agencies whose procedures are geared to various different aspects of internal quality management in higher education institutions.

On 9 February 2018, a delegation from the Japanese quality assurance organisation National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of University Education (NIAD-QE) visited the Accreditation Council Head Office during a study trip to Germany.

On 15-16 February 2018, the Head Office took part in a UNESCO conference held in Geneva, The Role of Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Challenges, Developments and Trends.

On 29 October 2018, Head Office staff gave a presentation for a Jordanian delegation invited by GIZ.

The first meeting of the BFUG Peer Group on Quality Assurance took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 3-4 December 2018. The Peer Group is one of three groups established by BFUG to support new Bologna states, in particular in implementing the key commitments set out in the Paris Communiqué (quality assurance, recognition, and a three-tier degree system). The aim of the meeting was to forge initial contacts with potential cooperation partners.

International cooperation enables the Accreditation Council to share its expertise and learn from the experience of its foreign partners.

► ENQA membership

The Accreditation Council has been a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) since 2005; its membership was most recently renewed for five years in 2013. It became apparent during the course of 2017 that the application for membership renewal due in 2018 would no longer be able to be made as planned. The Council therefore switched to 'affiliate' status in September 2018.

According to article 9 of the ENQA Statutes, affiliate status is open to bodies that do not wish to, or are unable to, apply to become members but have demonstrable involvement in the higher education quality assurance. Under article 11 of the ENQA Statutes, affiliates are entitled to attend ENQA events and the General Assembly, but do not have voting rights.

► DEQAR European database project

To pool all quality assurance results for agencies that feature in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), EQAR has established a European Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR). This enables a broad range of users to easily access quality assurance results on study programmes and institutions assessed according to ESG in the European Higher Education Area. EQAR announced the official launch of the **public DEQAR database** at the Bologna ministerial conference in Paris on 23 May 2018.

The project began in autumn 2017; the Accreditation Council is a project partner together with the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). Data on study programmes accredited in Germany was not yet published in DEQAR in 2018. Once the digital application pro-

cessing system and the public database of accredited study programmes are available, a program interface will be provided for DEQAR to access the Accreditation Council database and regularly export accreditation data from it.

4. Information and Communication

4.1 Presentation, information and consultation

The Accreditation Council regularly publishes information on its resolutions and all other matters concerning the accreditation system.

Alongside [press releases](#) published via the German Science Information Service (idw), accreditation data and information for the states, higher education institutions, students and agencies are provided on the Foundation's [website](#).

An agency was commissioned at the end of 2018 to reprogram the website. This work will be completed in 2019. The website address will continue to be www.akkreditierungsrat.de. An archive site created in 2018 with information about the accreditation system under the prior legal framework is available at archiv.akkreditierungsrat.de.

Among other things, the website provides an overview of all published Accreditation Council resolutions. Users can find the resolutions together with related legislation and information on submitting applications under the new legal framework. The website also contains information on the German accreditation system, the members of the Foundation's bodies and committees, and the agencies authorised by the Accreditation Council.

Agencies and system-accredited higher education institutions are sent occasional email [announcements](#) on matters such as the

continued application of rules or the Electronic Information and Application System (ELIAS).

In its [newsletter](#), the Head Office also reports on the outcome of Accreditation Council meetings, provides news of recent developments in the German accreditation system and notifies readers about personnel changes, important dates and events.

In spring 2018, the Accreditation Council added an **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)** section to its website. This provides answers to frequently asked questions about interpretation of the Interstate Study Accreditation Treaty and the Specimen Decree.

4.2 Publication of accreditation data

From 2018, under the Specimen Decree and Interstate Treaty, the Accreditation Council itself is responsible for publishing accreditation data (article 3 (6) of the Interstate Treaty and section 18 (4) sentence 2 and section 29 of the Specimen Decree). Setting up a dedicated database provided the ideal opportunity to define the requirements arising from the Specimen Decree in more detail and to lay the technical foundations for implementation.

The 'old' database of accredited study programmes remained online until 3 December 2018, after which the data was migrated to the new database. Higher education institutions and agencies were requested to update the database records on accreditations under the prior legal framework in order to further improve data quality. Further measures to improve data quality are planned for 2019.

► **Study programmes:** Study programmes bearing the Accreditation Council's quality seal continued to be published in the database of accredited study programmes for the time being over the course of 2018. This 'old' database, which is linked to the German

Rectors' Conference Higher Education Compass, was able to be accessed via the Accreditation Council website until December 2018 and provided information on accreditation periods, conditions attached to accreditation, the participating peer reviewers and their external review reports. Accreditation decisions under the new legal framework will be (automatically) published in the database by the Accreditation Council itself.

► **System-accredited higher education institutions**: Accredited study programmes at system-accredited higher education institutions were also contained in the 'old' database of accredited study programmes. System-accredited higher education institutions were able to make entries in the database themselves. As the database entries from system-accredited higher education institutions tended to be non-uniform (partly for reasons of database structure), the Accreditation Council took the opportunity of launching the new database to adopt a set of reporting requirements for system-accredited higher education institutions in September 2018. The new Accreditation Council database has new required fields to ensure greater uniformity. However, so as not to constrain the diversity of the quality assurance systems, system-accredited higher education institutions do not necessarily have to prepare accreditation reports on the basis of the report structure specified by the Accreditation Council.

The entity responsible for making an entry in the database of accredited study programmes is the entity that decides on accreditation of a study programme or quality management system. The Accreditation Council Head Office remains responsible for formal verification and approval of individual additions to the database.

► **Agencies**: All agencies that are entitled to carry out accreditations following authorisation by the Accreditation Council are listed on the Council's website. The website also contains (old) Accreditation Council resolutions, conditions attached to accreditation, accreditation periods, external review reports, self-evaluation reports and agencies' comments.

► **Statistical data**: Until the end of 2018, in addition to study programme-related accreditation information, the Foundation's website also provided users with statistics on the current number of accredited study programmes. The data provided was able to be sorted by study programme duration, degree name, subject groups, type of higher education institution and states. Similar features are planned for the new database.

4.3 Communication with agencies

Constructive collaboration in a spirit of partnership between the Accreditation Council and accreditation agencies is one of the fundamental requirements for an effective accreditation system in Germany, under both the prior and the new legal framework.

Agency participation in Accreditation Council working groups and having a representative of the agencies as a member of the Accreditation Council in an advisory capacity have proven effective in ensuring reliable exchange of information between the parties involved.

A circular from the Chairperson of the Accreditation Council informs the agencies of new or amended Accreditation Council resolutions. Under the prior legal framework, this also applied to changes in common or specific states requirements. The Chairperson thus informed agencies in this way on matters such as application of the new legal framework

in accreditation and options for extensions under both the prior and the new legal framework.

No joint meeting was held with agencies in 2018 due to the transition. However, an annual (and thus regular) exchange with agency representatives is planned for the beginning of each year and is scheduled to take place for the first time in February 2019.

In the meantime, it has proven helpful for the Chairperson or individual members of Head Office staff to be invited to agency meetings in order to exchange views on specific topics relating to the new legal framework. On several occasions, these discussions have served the purpose of gaining input from agencies' own experiences, among other things with a view to the Accreditation Council's new (own) database. Agency representatives visited the Accreditation Council Head Office in Bonn on 17 September 2018.

4.4 Statistical data

At the end of December 2018, a total of 5,912 Bachelor's and 5,936 Master's study programmes offered by state or state-approved higher education institutions in Germany carried the Accreditation Council quality seal.¹ A total of 75 state or state-approved higher education institutions had also completed system accreditation. This represents 19 percent of Germany's higher education

institutions² – a year-on-year increase in the number of system-accredited higher education institutions by about 19%. A further 16 higher education institutions were in the process of system accreditation at the end of the year. How many higher education institutions have applied for system accreditation under the new legal framework is not known to the Accreditation Council as this no longer has to be reported under the new framework.

According to the Higher Education Compass, the share of accredited study programmes among all Bachelor's and Master's study programmes on offer at the end of 2018 amounted to almost 62 percent and has remained more or less unchanged compared with the previous year. The actual number is higher, however, as the accreditation information in the database contains omissions that will be addressed in the course of database migration.

In all information and communication activities, the Accreditation Council complies with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which entered into force in May 2018. Further information is provided in the [data protection notice](#) on the Accreditation Council website.

5. Resources

5.1 Finances

In accordance with section 4 (1) of the Act Establishing the Accreditation Council (Accreditation Council Act), funding of the Accreditation Council is a shared responsibility of the 16 German states. Under section 4 (4), the Foundation may charge fees, as specified in its fee schedule, in order to cover its

¹ The figures cited are based on the data contained in the Accreditation Council database. The database contains a list of all accredited study programmes and study opportunities entered into the database by the accreditation agencies. These include study programmes that have received the Accreditation Council's quality seal in system accreditation. The number of system-accredited higher education institutions was determined for the purposes of this report.

² 393 higher education institutions according to statistics contained in the HRK Higher Education Compass www.hochschulkompass.de

administrative expenses; it implemented this in the **fee schedule** adopted on 11 July 2018. This provides for an annual basic fee tiered according to size of higher education institution and procedure fees for each accreditation decision. The basic fee is paid by each higher education institution that has at least one currently accredited study programme (including Bachelor's programmes at schools of cooperative education). The amount of the basic fee and all remaining fees are listed in the ► **fee schedule** (from page 3).

For fiscal year 2018, the German Finance Ministers' Conference (FMK) set the annual amount of states-provided funding for the Accreditation Council at €487,000. In accordance with the recommendations of the Budget Commission (written conclusions dated 27 October 2017), the Ministers of Finance approved the draft supplement to the Foundation's 2018 business plan. The Foundation was consequently granted an increased allocation from the states in the amount of €1,275,000 (an increase of €788,000 on the previous Finance Ministers' Conference resolution).

This figure includes funding for collectively agreed pay increases, an increase in staffing by 0.5 full-time equivalents, the cost contribution of approximately €12,000 that the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) has received since 2016 for linking the database of accredited study programmes to the Higher Education Compass, and in particular the cost of establishing the ELIAS Electronic Information and Application System.

The Foundation's 2018 annual financial statements show income of €1,344,735.18 (states allocations and revenue from fees) and total expenditure of €1,344,570.52. This leaves a remainder in the amount of €164.66.

5.2 Human, spatial and material resources

In line with the official staffing plan, the human resources at the Foundation's Head Office comprise a managing director (full-time), five programme managers (4.25 full-time equivalents), an administrative assistant and a secretary (both 50% part-time). The Foundation also employs a student assistant who works 20 hours per month. With the exception of the student assistant, all employees have a higher education institution degree and their pay is based on the tariff provisions of the framework collective wage agreement for civil service employees in the states (Tarifvertrag für den Öffentlichen Dienst der Länder (TV-L)).

At its Head Office located at Adenauerallee 73, Bonn, the Accreditation Council has rented office space comprising nine separate offices, since April 2018 on two storeys, with a total of 17 work spaces and a meeting room, and total floor space measuring approximately 240 sqm.

Recruitment for the programme manager and clerical positions approved for 2019 started in autumn 2018 and was completed before the end of the year.

Annexes

Annex 1: Members of Foundation bodies and committees

Annex 2: Dates of meetings

Members of Foundation bodies and committees

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chairperson (from 20 February 2018)

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Deputy Chairperson (from 20 February 2018)

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Higher education institution representatives

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Braunschweig University of Technology

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Jena University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of Music

German Rectors' Conference representatives

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

states representatives

Jürgen **Gerber**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art

Daniel **Köfer**, *leitender Ministerialrat*, Hesse Ministry of Science and Art (from 2 November 2018)

Dr. Michael **Lehmann**, Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Economy, Science and Digitalisation

Barbara **Lüddeke**, *leitende Ministerialrätin*, Bavarian Ministry of Education and Culture, Science and Art (to 2 November 2018)

Dr. Dietmar **Möhler**, *Ministerialdirigent*, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science (to 12 June 2018)

Ralf **Thönnissen**, *Ministerialdirigent*, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science (from 12 June 2018)

Representatives of professional practice

Dr. h.c. Josef **Beutelmann**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Barmenia Versicherungen

Dr. Christina **Gommlich**, Senior Manager Economic, Trade & Social Policy Corporate Communications & Government Relations, BASF SE

Dr. Andreas **Keller**, Vice-President, German Trade Union for Education and Research (GEW)

Dr. Hans Jürgen **Urban**, Executive Board, Metal Workers' Trade Union (IG Metall)

Jörg **Wollny**, Brandenburg Ministry of the Interior and for Municipal Affairs

Students

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern

Tillman **Schade**, CAU Kiel

International representatives

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Agency representatives (in advisory capacity)

Professor Dr. Reinhard **Zintl**, Otto-Friedrich University Bamberg (emer.)

► Members of the Foundation Council

Chairperson

Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, *Staatsrätin*, Hamburg Ministry of Science and Research

Deputy Chairperson

Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary-General, German Rectors' Conference

states representatives

Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, *Staatsrätin*, Hamburg Ministry of Science and Research

Professor Dr. Ulrike **Gutheil**, State Secretary, Brandenburg Ministry of Science, Research and Culture

Dr. Oliver **Grundeis**, State Secretary, Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

Dr. Peter **Müller**, *Ministerialdirektor*, Bavarian Ministry of Science, Research and Art

Sebastian **Schröder**, State Secretary, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

Annette **Storsberg**, State Secretary, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Higher education institution representatives

Prof. Dr. Peter-André **Alt**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (from 11 October 2018)

Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary-General of the German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Horst **Hippler**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (to 11 October 2018)

Professor Dr. Karim **Khakzar**, President of Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Professor Dr. Ulrich **Radtke**, Rector of the University of Duisburg-Essen

Prof. Dr. Johanna Eleonore **Weber**, Rector of the University Greifswald

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Chairperson

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Members

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Managing Director of the Foundation Accreditation Council

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

► Appeals Commission

The Accreditation Council has not yet appointed members of the Appeals Commission in 2018.

► Statutes Working Group

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar

Prof. Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Braunschweig University of Technology

Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Dr. Verena **Kloeters**, AQAS

Dr. Michael **Lehmann**, Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Economy, Science and Digitalisation

Barbara **Michalk**, German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Georg **Reschauer**, AHPGS

Tillman **Schade**, CAU Kiel

► Report Structure Working Group

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Kerstin **Fink**, FIBAA

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Jürgen **Gerber**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art

Barbara **Lüddeke**, *leitende Ministerialrätin*, Bavarian Ministry of Education and Culture, Science and Art (to 2 November 2018)

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern

Dr. Isabel **Rohner**, BDA

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Barbara **Michalk**, German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Henning **Schäfer**, ZEVA

► Rules of Procedure Working Group

Michael **Ficker**, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Jürgen **Gerber**, *Ministerialdirigent*, Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Dr. Stefan **Handke**, ACQUIN

Franziska **Raudonat**, University of Kaiserslautern

Dr. Isabel **Rohner**, BDA

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Stefani **Sunday**, GEW

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Jena University of Applied Sciences

Ralf **Thönnissen**, *Ministerialdirigent*, North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry of Culture and Science

Dates of Meetings

► Accreditation Council Meetings

94th meeting, Bonn, 20 February 2018

96th meeting, Frankfurt, 14 June 2018

97th meeting, Potsdam, 24 September 2018

98th meeting, Berlin, 6 December 2018

► Meetings of the Foundation Council

21st meeting, Berlin, 26 March 2018

22nd meeting, Hannover, 18 October 2018

► Meetings of the Statutes Working Group

20 April 2018

4 September 2018

30 October 2018

► Meetings of the Report Structure Working Group

20 March 2018