

Stiftung zur Akkreditierung von Studiengängen in Deutschland

Akkreditierungsrat ■■

**Activity Report
2014**

Stiftung zur Akkreditierung von Studiengängen in Deutschland

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At the same time, it is an annual Report within the meaning of Section 44 of the State Budget Code for North-Rhine Westphalia (LHO NRW)

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Activity Report 2014

Reporting period: January to December 2014

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For easier readability, gender-neutral is not used throughout the text. In accordance with the principles of equal treatment, corresponding terms always refer to men and women.

Foreword

In the previous year of 2014, the Accreditation Council has fulfilled its assigned core tasks as usual. These include, above all, the reaccreditation of agencies, and the assessment of accreditation processes conducted by the agencies. In 2014, the assessment measures have been refined: in addition to random sample assessments, assessments focusing on a certain topic were introduced. Additional formats are being tested which include the perspective of the respective HEIs.

The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes will provide a fresh impetus in international relations in coming years. The agreement between the Accreditation Council and the Dutch-Flemish accreditation organisation NVAO is one of the first steps with regard to Joint Programmes.

Also, 2014 brought changes with respect to the new monitoring procedures. Taking up the German Council of Science and Humanities' suggestion, the Accreditation Council developed the "trial clause" and asked HEIs for proposals outlining trial clause projects. These involve testing new quality assurance processes to strengthen the autonomy of HEIs. Thus, the Accreditation Council underlines the responsibility of the universities and the universities of applied sciences for the quality of their study programmes and teaching.

By offering room for creativity with regard to teaching and learning, the Accreditation Council regards the trial clause as promising to try out innovative approaches in quality development and hopes to gain further impulses for the impending revision of the criteria and processes of accreditation in Germany. This revised version of the accreditation rules, brought about in a comprehensive consultation process with all quality assurance stakeholders, will place

greater emphasis on quality development in the Accreditation Council's activities: The Accreditation Council's criteria are intended to provide a basis for HEIs as generally recognised standard of quality, and as a catalogue of the significant quality characteristics in the area of teaching and learning. The results of the Accreditation Council's various working groups, such as on the topics of academic subjects and occupational preparation, can offer an important impetus in this regard. The revision of the accreditation rules will also take into account the changes to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area agreed upon in May 2015.

Fortunately, system accreditation has become an accepted form of accreditation. Countless HEIs have taken on this new path of quality development which gives them an opportunity to set impulses and to develop their own profile regarding teaching and learning within the framework of the national and European rules. It will be necessary to promote cooperation and dialogue among system accredited HEIs, agencies, and the Accreditation Council, and to exchange information on intentions, effects, and the potential of system accreditation.

On behalf of the members of the Accreditation Council, I would like to thank our partners in the accreditation system and look forward to continued good cooperation.

Bonn, June 2015



Professor Reinhold R. Grimm

Overview

1st Quarter 2014

78th Accreditation Council Meeting on 25/02/2014 in Berlin

Accreditation Council Resolution: Accreditation of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany

Accreditation Council Resolution: Fulfillment of the conditions by AQ Austria

Accreditation Council Resolution: Further development of the process to monitor accreditations executed by the agencies

2nd Quarter 2014

79th Accreditation Council Meeting on 10/06/2014 in Berlin

Accreditation Council Resolution: Observing participation of the members of the Accreditation Council in accreditations of agencies

Round table discussion between Accreditation Council and agencies

Expert seminar: Preparatory briefing of experts on 24-25/06/2014 in Zurich

16th Foundation Council Meeting on 15/05/2014 in Berlin

3rd Quarter 2014

80th Accreditation Council Meeting on 17/09/2014 in Berlin

Accreditation Council Resolution: Process to test out new approaches in quality assurance and improvement in studying and learning (trial clause)

Accreditation Council Resolution: Accreditation of evalag

Accreditation Council Resolution: Fulfilling of the conditions by Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany

Accreditation Council Resolution: Process to revise regular work pursuant to strategic planning for the years 2015/16

4th Quarter 2014

81st Accreditation Council Meeting on 02/12/2014 in Berlin

Accreditation Council Resolution: Agreement with the NVAO on accreditation of Joint Programmes

Accreditation Council Resolution: Fulfilling of the conditions by Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Science (AHPGS)

Foundation Council Resolution: Amendment to statutes of fees

Joint Meeting of Accreditation Council and Agencies

1. Introduction of the trial clause

Programme and system accreditation are two instruments of quality development available to the HEIs that have been favourably assessed by both the German Council of Science and Humanities as well as by international experts within the context of the previous evaluation of the Foundation. In its recommendations regarding accreditation as an instrument of quality assurance, the German Council of Science and Humanities indicated that system accreditation is a particularly suitable instrument for establishing HEI's responsibility for their own study programmes. In order to open up new ways to develop and certify quality for HEIs with ambitions going beyond this, and in order to strengthen the dynamic nature of the accreditation system, the German Council of Science and Humanities also encouraged the Accreditation Council to complement the existing processes by a so-called trial clause.

This proposal was explicitly welcomed not only by the Accreditation Council, but also by the Länder. Thus, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder agreed to include the trial clause in its position paper on quality assurance.

The Accreditation Council took the recommendations of the German Council of Science and Humanities as an opportunity to resolve in September 2014 a procedure to test new approaches of quality assurance and improvement in teaching and learning (trial clause).

In order to strengthen the experimental character of the process and to promote the development of innovative systems and processes, the Accreditation Council decided to forego the formulation of detailed guidelines.

Instead, it defined, for the approval of initially up to five applications, comparably general prerequisites for admittance and selection criteria.

In principle, HEIs should be able to use the trial clause in relation to both programme and system accreditation. The trial should, however, also refer to the execution of the expert opinion.

For admission to this pilot process, the applying HEI – or alternatively, an association of several HEIs – must initially verify that their intended quality aims relate, above all, to the academic quality, and that their activities in areas such as student support, research-related teaching, study-related administration, or the organisation of the further education area, extend far beyond the standard level of quality. At the same time, it must become clear from the application which added value the planned project demonstrates compared to the standard processes of programme or system accreditation.

In order to guarantee the international recognition of the process, the HEI must also demonstrate that an external institution within the meaning of Part 3 of the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG) will assess and evaluate the submitted project.

External institutions include not only the agencies accredited by the Accreditation Council, but also other internationally recognised, independent quality assurance agencies, preferably also registered in EQAR or signed as an ENQA member. The institution commissioned by the HEI must be demonstrably identified in the regular implementation of external quality assurance procedures, and must take into account the relevant interest groups (academia, students,

and professional practice) in their review procedure within the context of the trial clause.

It is the task of the external assessment institution to assess the project submitted by the HEI, and then present an expert report on the basis of which the Accreditation Council, depending on the design of the project, can reach a decision regarding the accreditation of a study programme, a collection of study programmes, or an HEI-internal quality assurance system.

The Accreditation Council established a project group at its 81st Meeting on 2 December 2014 for the assessment of the applications. It will be the project group's task to evaluate the submitted applications, and to suggest to the Accreditation Council the initial implementation of up to five trials, under the consideration of the admittance and selection criteria.

The Accreditation Council's expectation regarding the trial clause includes a valuable impulse both for the overall area of quality assurance and development at HEIs as well as for the accreditation system and its further development. In this sense, the evaluation of the first trial clause processes may find its way into the revision of the accreditation rules of the Accreditation Council (see Chapter 2.3) pending for 2015/16.

☞ *Resolution on the trial clause (in German only)*

2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in the year 2014: Tasks and results

2.1 Accreditation of agencies

The review procedures for accrediting Bachelor's and Master's programmes within the framework of programme accreditation and for the accreditation of HEI-internal quality assurance systems within the framework of system accreditation are carried out by accreditation agencies with the certification to do so. The agencies receive their certifications (accreditation or reaccreditation) from the Accreditation Council, which ascertains the quality requirements for accreditation agencies, and regularly monitors their fulfilment.

These admission procedures are one of the Accreditation Council's key legal tasks.

In the reporting period, the Accreditation Council approved the Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) for five more years until 31/03/2019 and linked its approval to two conditions.

evalag (the Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg) was also accredited for five more years. The admittance is limited to 30/09/2019, and is also associated with two conditions.

For the purposes of quality improvement, recommendations and conditions may be attached to the accreditation of an agency. as a follow-up measure to the accreditation, assessing the fulfilling of the conditions is one of the core tasks of the Accreditation Council. An agency is generally given nine months to fulfil the conditions. In the reporting period, the fulfilling of the conditions was deliberated respectively concluded in the following cases:

AQ Austria: The Accreditation Council ascertained that both conditions associated with the admittance had been fulfilled.

Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Programmes of Studies in Germany (AKAST): The Accreditation Council ascertained that the agency had fulfilled one out of four conditions; the deadline for fulfilling the further three conditions was extended to February 2015.

Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Science (AHPGS): The Accreditation Council ascertained that the agency had not fulfilled either of the two conditions associated with admittance. The Accreditation Council will take up the matter in June 2015.

Comprehensive information on the individual decisions is available on the Accreditation Council's website.

☞ www.akkreditierungsrat.de

2.2 Inspection of accreditation processes

Apart from the regular admission of accreditation agencies, another core legal task of the Accreditation Council is the assessment of accreditation procedures both for study programmes and for system accreditation carried out by the agencies. This task is fulfilled by the Accreditation Council, amongst others, in the form of random sample as well as specific-purpose and thematic sample assessments of accreditation decisions.

► Random sample assessment

Random sample assessments aim at ensuring both in programme and system accreditation, that the criteria set out by the Accreditation Council, as well as the process and decision rules are used properly and in a sufficiently

uniform manner across all agencies. In this way, the certification by the Accreditation Council contributes to establishing process standards which perspective increase process quality and, where necessary, avoid damage to affected parties.

► Thematic sample assessments

In the autumn of 2014, the Accreditation Council carried out the first so-called thematic sample assessments (see Chapter 2.3). Specific questions formed the basis of the selection of the procedures. In accordance with the Accreditation Council's strategic plan, accreditation procedures of Joint Programmes and reaccreditations were the focus of the first round. Here, the agencies' suggestions were also taken into account.

The thematic random samples are characterized by a stronger emphasis on dialogue. This procedure focuses on the agencies' way of handling the respective thematic issues and challenges as well as on which accreditation rules are perceived as useful or rather as hindering it.

► Ad-hoc monitoring

Ad-hoc monitoring of programme and system accreditation procedures is carried out upon indications of inadequate execution of an accreditation procedure or an incorrect accreditation decision.

In the reporting period, a total of 17 programme samples and four system samples, 13 thematic samples, two ad-hoc monitorings of programme accreditations, and one ad-hoc monitoring of a system accreditation procedure were conducted. A specific-purpose assessment from the year 2013 was concluded without any objection. The four system accreditation assessments, the three specific-purpose assessments, and three of the 30

programme accreditation samples could not be concluded in 2014.

Many processes could be concluded without objections, particularly in the thematic random samples. To a lesser extent, this applies to the programme samples as well. In some assessment procedures, objections led to the subsequent granting of a condition, or made a renewed assessment of the study programme necessary, under consideration of individual criteria. In one of the evaluated programme accreditation procedures, the affected agency was prompted to withdraw the accreditation decision.

In three cases, complaints were submitted against the decisions of the Accreditation Council as part of the monitoring procedures in 2013 by two of the affected agencies. Two complaints were rejected by the Accreditation Council and one was allowed. The latter decision resulted in the withdrawal of a complaint, prompting the adjustment of the agency's accreditation decision.

2.3 Resolutions of the Accreditation Council

Apart from the resolution on the trial clause (see Chapter 1), the Accreditation Council adopted further resolutions in the reporting period:

► Implementation of a strategy for the years 2015/16, here: Process to revise the sets of rules (resolution of the Accreditation Council of 17/09/2014)

The Accreditation Council has therefore agreed on a revision of the Rules for the Accreditation of Study Programmes and for System Accreditation, as well as the Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies.

The guiding principles from the Accreditation Council's strategy shall be incorporated into the revision of the rules as well as the revised European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). The results of the deliberations of the Accreditation Council's project groups shall be taken into account, too. In addition, the knowledge gained from the assessment procedures, the application process for the "trial clause" and the results of the forum on system accreditation (see Chapters 1 and 2.5) shall be used in revising the rules.

The Accreditation Council decided to involve the HEIs, accreditation agencies, professional practice, students, and the "Länder" in the revision process.

► Accreditation Council procedures to monitor accreditations conducted by the agencies (resolution of the Accreditation Council of 21/09/2006, last amended on 25/02/2014)

The Accreditation Council has resolved to take on its legal monitoring duties with the help of an expanded spectrum of assessment instruments. Thus, in the years 2015 and 2016, thematic random samples, procedural observations, and feedback discussions with agencies and HEIs shall be carried out alongside the standard (file-based) assessments.

With these new instruments, the Accreditation Council hopes not only to better evaluate the procedures and accreditation rules characterized more strongly by dialogue but also get perspective on accreditation practice which extends beyond the individual procedure and above all a greater inclusion of the HEIs' perspective.

In order to achieve a better alignment of the assessment procedures with the Accreditation Council's strategic and work planning, the

scope and instruments of the regular assessment shall be defined in two-year intervals each. The consequential flexibility of the assessment practice will allow the Accreditation Council to address current topics and specific challenges within quality assurance from within the accreditation processes, and to use the knowledge gained here to adjust or further develop its rules.

The thematic sample assessments (see Chapter 2.2) on Joint Programmes and reaccreditation procedures were chosen in anticipation of the newly created assessment instruments.

Furthermore, the Accreditation Council has decided to intensify the procedure observation by members of the Accreditation Council, and to use this as an assessment instrument. By participating in site visits and accreditation commission meetings, the members gain direct insight into the accreditation practice, and can thus get a concrete idea of the execution of procedures and how rules are taken into consideration in individual accreditation procedures.

In 2014, members of the Accreditation Council observed two accreditation procedures.

The results of the various assessment procedures are evaluated and presented to the Accreditation Council for discussion. The evaluation of the thematic samples conducted in 2014 was concluded in 2015.

► Procedure observation of members of the Accreditation Council in accreditation procedures of agencies (resolution of the Accreditation Council on 10/06/2014)

In order to improve communication between the Accreditation Council and the expert groups established by the Council, a member of the Accreditation Council will participate in

both the preparatory briefing of experts, and the site visits in future procedures for accrediting Agencies.

In order to guarantee separation of review and decision, the member of the Accreditation Council will only participate in an observatory role but is not involved in the review report. The member will report to the Accreditation Council in the subsequent Accreditation Council Meeting, but will refrain from voting on the agency's accreditation.

☞ *Resolution of the Accreditation Council about the process to monitor accreditation executed by the agencies (in German only)*

2.4 Internal quality assurance

The focus of the Foundation's internal quality assurance is the systematic and critical reflection on its own activities by an independent project group which evaluates periodic feedback from the relevant interest groups.

Basic acceptance of the criteria and process rules became visible, for example, through the feedback from the experts, the members of the Accreditation Council as well as from the newly (re)accredited agencies.

The quality assurance project group produces a quality report every two years which provides information on the implementation of the measures defined in the Foundation's quality policy, and contains suggestions for improvement where applicable. The report for the years 2013 and 2014 was approved by the Accreditation Council on 18/06/2015.

☞ *Quality report 2013/2014 (in German only)*

2.5 Events

► Seminar for the preparation of experts

Intense preparation of the experts is of key significance to the quality of the accreditation procedures. Therefore, the preparatory seminars, generally lasting one day, have been a fixed component of the accreditation process for many years.

During the seminars, experts gain comprehensive knowledge in preparation to the site visit of the assessment criteria as well as the process rules and their application. The focus is on the joint elaboration of a uniform understanding of the criteria, as well as reflection on the experts' own tasks and role during the procedure. Moreover, the participants of the preparatory briefing will be informed about the main aspects of the German accreditation system and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

In 2014, the Accreditation Council held an expert seminar within the context of the reaccreditation of evalag.

► System Accreditation Forum

On the initiative of the Accreditation Council and the German Rectors' Conference, a "System Accreditation Forum" took place in January 2015. The central aim of the forum, held for the first time, was to promote cooperation and dialogue between system-accredited HEIs, agencies, and the Accreditation Council, and to exchange information on intentions, effects, and the potential of system accreditation.

2.6 Project groups

► Project group on Expertise and Professionalism

As early as 2012, the Accreditation Council, at the instigation of students and professional practice, established a project group on *Expertise and Professionalism*. It consists of representatives from the Accreditation Council's individual member groups and a representative from the agencies.

The project group's task was to investigate in what way expertise and professionalism are taken into account in accreditation procedures.

The project group came together at four meetings in 2014, and in February 2015 presented a summary report which contains suggestions and recommendations for the further development of the accreditation procedures.

On 18 February 2014, the project group organised an expert workshop titled "Reference systems for considering professionalism and expertise in the accreditation system". The aim of this workshop was to present two reference systems the project group considered interesting – the Subject Benchmark Statements in the British system of quality assurance and the Quality Seal introduced in various subject cultures – and to discuss their significance for the further development of the German accreditation system. The workshop was conducted by the head office of the Accreditation Council, the German Employers' Associations, the German Trade Union Network of Experts (Gewerkschaftliches Gutachternetzwerk), and IG Metall.

► Project group "Trial Clause"

At its 81st meeting on 02/12/2014, the Accreditation Council set up the working group

"Trial clause" (read more about the trial clause in Chapter 1). The project group's task was to inspect the submitted applications and suggest to the Accreditation Council, considering the aims of the trial clause and the support criteria, the implementation of initially up to five trials. Within the framework of the acceptance process, the project group's task was also to gather recommendations for the Accreditation Council to see how the individual trials can be supported.

The Accreditation Council also commissioned the project group with preparing the decisions of the Accreditation Council and evaluating the knowledge and experience gained from the observants' perspective.

☞ *Summary report and recommendations of the project group "Expertise and professionalism" of the Accreditation Council on 06/02/2015 (in German only)*

☞ *Resolution on the trial clause (in German only)*

3. International cooperation

Quality assurance and quality development represent an important prerequisite for the realisation of the European Higher Education Area. The continuous promotion of international cooperation is therefore one of the core duties assigned to the Accreditation Council by the Länder. The international cooperation must aim above all at the mutual understanding of the systems of quality assurance, at developing comparable criteria, methods, and standards of quality assurance, and at improving the transparency of teaching activities so as to ultimately facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications, and therefore, student mobility.

In this respect, the relevant European and international networks of quality assurance play a prominent role.

► **International networks:** For many years, the Accreditation Council has been an active member of important European and international networks for quality assurance such as the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). Within the framework of its opportunities, the Council regularly takes part in international working groups, meetings, and conferences, and is represented by members of the head office in the European working group on Structural Reforms, in the European Quality Assurance Forum, the European Audit Network, the ENQA projects groups "Internal Quality Assurance" and "Impact of Quality Assurance".

The Foundation's Managing Director was also active as a member of the National Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Committee.

These international cooperations allow the Accreditation Council to bring its expertise to the international stage, and at the same time to learn from the experience of foreign partners:

On 24-25/03/2014, the meeting of the "Quality Audit Network" took place in Glasgow, where the Accreditation Council was represented by its head office. The network meetings serve as a regular opportunity to exchange information among European quality assurance agencies, whose procedures are aimed at various aspects of the internal quality management of HEIs. From the perspective of the Accreditation Council, the publication "Quality Audit in the European Higher Education Area" offered above all the opportunity to report on the status of the implementation and

particularly the further development of system accreditation.

Together with international partners in over 50 countries, the Accreditation Council took part in the EU-funded project "QACHE – Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education". The aim of the project is the development of mutual standards for transnational teaching activities, i.e. study programmes which can be studied in a country different from the country where the institution is located. Within the framework of the project, the Accreditation Council has already presented a report on the situation in Germany, and in 2015 will support a collaborative effort in building a "tool kit" for agencies and HEIs. The results will be published after the project is completed in December 2015.

► **Cooperation project GAC – NVAO:** The (German) Accreditation Council has used the international strategy of the Federal Government and Länder as an opportunity to carry out a pilot project, together with its Dutch-Flemish partner organisation NVAO. Simplification of cross-border accreditation procedures is the goal. The Accreditation Council has agreed upon a joint agreement with NVAO which gives the HEIs the option to choose between the Dutch and German accreditation regulations and a corresponding accreditation agency when accrediting joint degrees. The agreement has been approved by the Accreditation Council and NVAO. It is not yet signed by the Managing Directors of the institutions.

4. Information and communication

4.1 Presentation, information, and consultation

The Accreditation Council regularly provides comprehensive information on its resolutions and all other topics affecting the accreditation system.

Apart from the publication of press releases via the Science Information Service (Informationsdienst Wissenschaft, idw), the Foundation's website also represents an important instrument in the publication of accreditation data and the processing of information for the Länder, HEIs, students and agencies. The website contains an overview of all resolutions of the Accreditation Council. The resolutions, as well as relevant documents of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder and the German Rectors' Conference, are also available to the user of the Foundation's website as PDF files. Moreover, the website contains information on the German accreditation system, the members of the Foundation's bodies and committees as well as the agencies accredited by the Accreditation Council.

On occasion, the Accreditation Council will send circular letters informing agencies, and, in future, system-accredited HEIs about rule changes, notes on the interpretation or the application of rules, criteria and structural guidelines.

The Foundation's head office also publishes a regular newsletter which provides information on the results of the meetings of the Accreditation Council, new developments in the German accreditation system, personnel, and appointments or events.

☞ www.akkreditierungsrat.de

4.2 Publication of accreditation data

All accreditation data are available to interested members of the public on the website of the Accreditation Council:

► **Agencies:** All agencies which, following successful certification by the Accreditation Council, are entitled to issue the Council's quality seal, are listed on the website of the Accreditation Council. Here, the resolutions, the conditions and deadlines associated with the admission, the expert report, the explanatory statements for the application, as well as agency's statements.

► **Study programmes:** Study programmes which carry the seal of the Accreditation Council are published in the database of accredited study programmes. This database, linked with the Higher Education Compass of the German Rectors' Conference, is available on the Accreditation Council's website, and offers information on accreditation deadlines, the conditions associated with accreditation where applicable, the experts involved, and the evaluation carried out by the experts.

► **System-accredited HEIs:** Whilst the accredited study programmes of a system-accredited HEI are listed in the database of accredited study programmes, the website offers an additional overview of all system-accredited HEIs.

► **Statistical data:** In addition to accreditation data related to study programmes, the Accreditation Council website also offers statistics which provide information on the number of currently accredited study programmes. The data displayed can be sorted according to duration of study, qualification designation, subject group, HEI type, Bundesland, and standard periods of study.

4.3 Communication with the agencies

A constructive and cooperative collaboration between Accreditation Council and agencies is one of the basic prerequisites for an effective accreditation system in Germany.

Instruments proven to be useful for a comprehensive mutual exchange of information between stakeholders are the involvement of all agency representatives in the working groups of the Accreditation Council, periodic round table discussions between Accreditation Council and agencies, as well as the membership of a representative of the agencies in the Accreditation Council.

The agencies will be informed by the Accreditation Council, in a timely manner and in the form of a circular from the Chairman, of new or amended resolutions of the Accreditation Council, as well as changes to the Common or state-specific structural guidelines of the Länder.

In 2014, the members of the Accreditation Council and the Agencies came together in two round table discussions on 16/05/2014 and 02/12/2014. The second discussion took place in the context of a joint meeting of the Accreditation Council and agencies.

The observation of accreditation procedures by members of the Accreditation Council or the head office also represents a good opportunity for an exchange of information and experience between Accreditation Council and agencies. During the reporting period, four procedures of system accreditation and two of programme accreditation were observed.

4.4 Statistical data

By the end of December 2014, 8,163 Bachelor's and Master's study programmes

offered by state or state-recognised HEIs in Germany carried the quality seal of the Accreditation Council.¹ A total of 25 state or state-recognised HEIs had successfully completed a system accreditation procedure by the same point in time. This corresponds to a share of approximately 6.3% of all HEIs.² At the end of the year, a further 31 HEIs had started a system accreditation procedure.

The proportion of accredited study programmes measured against the number of all Bachelor's and Master's study programmes offered remained relatively stable compared to the previous year at around 52%.

☞ [Statistics on accredited study programmes](#)

5. Resources

5.1 Finances

The Accreditation Council is financed by the 16 Länder, pursuant to Section 4 Paragraph 1 of the Accreditation Foundation Law (Akkreditierungs-Stiftungs-Gesetz). In addition, the Accreditation Council charges fees pursuant to §4 ASG to cover its administrative expenses for fulfilment of the individual tasks. The Länder only grant funding to the extent that the administrative expenses of the Accreditation Council are not covered by fees.

For the fiscal year 2014, the Standing Conference of Finance Ministers

(Finanzministerkonferenz) set the annual appropriations of the Länder to the Accreditation Council at €380,000.

The annual financial statement of the Foundation exhibits revenues of €505,096.71 (allocations of the Länder and fees) and total expenditures of €505,082.16 for the year 2014. There remains a remaining amount of €14.55.

5.2 Amendment to statutes of fees

So far, the Foundation has only charged fees for immediate monitoring and accreditation activities.

In 2013, the responsible budget committee instructed the Foundation to assess whether all activities associated with legal fees according to the Accreditation Foundation Law were included in the statutes of fees. The findings concluded, among other things, that the following fee elements had not yet been included in the levying of fees:

- Establishing and revising rules for the accreditation of agencies,
- Concluding agreements with the agencies as compulsory component of the admittance procedure,
- Continuously exchanging information with ENQA and EQAR regarding the prerequisites for recognition of accreditation,
- Evaluating the assessments in regular intervals,
- Observing procedures,
- Maintaining the database of accredited study programmes.

The amended statutes of fees were resolved by the Foundation Council on 06/11/2014 and came into effect on 28/11/2014 following

¹ The figures stated here are based on the master data of the database of the Accreditation Council. The database lists all accredited study programmes or opportunities for study, provided these have been entered into the database by the accreditation agencies. This also includes study programmes which have received the seal of the Accreditation Council in the course of system accreditation. The number of system-accredited HEIs was calculated on an event basis.

² At 399 HEIs according to the information in the Higher Education Compass of the German Rectors' Conference www.hochschulkompass.de

publication in the North-Rhine Westphalia Ministerial Bulletin.

☞ *Statutes of fees (in German only)*

5.3 Human, spatial and material resources

Pursuant to the job chart, the head office of the Foundation includes a managing director (100%), four program managers (3 full-time equivalents), and an office assistant (50%). In 2014, the program manager positions were allocated to 3.5 full-time equivalents. The Foundation also employs a student assistant for 20 hours per month. The employees – with the exception of the student – are all graduates of HEIs; remuneration is made pursuant to the wage regulations of the framework collective agreement for the Länder (TV-L).

At the head office in Adenauerallee 73 in Bonn, the Accreditation Council occupies four rented office spaces with a total area of approx. 120 square metres. Thanks to renovation measures, the office spaces now contain further working space available for the secretariat (50%) to be set up in 2015.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Members of the bodies and committees

Appendix 2 Meeting dates

Members of the bodies and committees

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chairperson

Professor Dr Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Vice- Chairperson

Ministerial Director Dr Simone **Schwanitz**, Ministry for Science, Research and Art for Baden-Württemberg

HEI Representatives

Professor Dr Stefan **Bartels**, University of Applied Science, Lübeck (Fachhochschule Lübeck)

Professor Dr Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen (Universität Siegen)

Professor Dr Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Professor Ute von **Lojewski**, University of Applied Science, Münster (Fachhochschule Münster)

Länder representatives

State Secretary Helmut **Dockter**, Ministry for Innovation, Science, and Research for North-Rhine Westphalia (until October 2014)

State Secretary Rolf **Fischer**, Ministry for Society, Health, Science, and Equality for Schleswig-Holstein (from November 2014)

Dr Susanne **Reichrath**, Representative of the Prime Minister for HEIs, Science and Technology of Saarland

Ministerial Director Dr Simone **Schwanitz**, Ministry for Science, Research and Art for Baden-Württemberg

Ministerial Director Dr Adalbert **Weiß**, Bavarian Ministry of State for Science, Research, and Art

Representatives of professional practice

Dr h.c. Josef **Beutelmann**, Chairman of the Management Boards and General Director of Barmenia Insurance

Petra **Gerstenkorn**, member of the Federal Board of the United Services Union (Bundesvorstand von ver.di)

Thomas **Sattelberger**, former member of the executive board of Deutsche Telekom AG

Dr Regina **Görner**, IG Metal management board

Jörg **Wollny**, Interior Ministry of the State of Brandenburg

Students

Isabella **Albert**, Aachen University of Applied Sciences (FH Aachen)

Alexander **Buchheister**, RWTH Aachen

International representatives

Dr Sijbolt **Noorda**, former president of Association of Universities in the Netherlands (vereniging van universiteiten- VSNU)

Professor Dr Martine **Rahier**, Rector of University of Neuchâtel (Universität Neuchâtel)

Representative of Agencies (with an advisory vote)

Professor (emeritus) Reinhard **Zintl**, Otto-Friedrich University, Bamberg (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg)

► Members of the Foundation Council

Chairperson

State Secretary Martin **Gorholt**, Ministry for Science, Research, and Culture for Brandenburg

Vice Chairperson

Dr Thomas **Kathöfer**, General Secretary of the German Rectors' Conference

Länder representatives

State Secretary Martin **Gorholt**, Ministry for Science, Research, and Culture for Brandenburg

State Secretary Dr Henry **Hasenpflug**, Ministry of State for Science and Art for Saxony

State Secretary Ingmar **Jung**, Hessian Ministry for Science and Art

State Secretary Dr Knut **Nevermann**, Senate Administration for Education, Science, and Research Berlin

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

State Secretary Marco **Tullner**, Ministry for Science and Finance for Saxony-Anhalt

HEI Representatives

Prof Dr Horst **Hippler**, President of the German Rectors' Conference

Dr Thomas **Kathöfer**, General Secretary of the German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr Dieter **Lenzen**, President of the Free University of Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin)

Professor Dr Micha **Teuscher**, Rector of the University of Neubrandenburg (Hochschule Neubrandenburg)

► Members of the Management Board

Chairman

Professor Dr Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Members

Dr Olaf **Bartz**, Managing Director of Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany

Professor Dr Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Ministerial Director Dr Simone **Schwanitz**, Ministry for Science, Research and Art for Baden-Württemberg

► Complaints commission

Professor Dr Dietmar von **Hoyningen-Hüne**, formerly at the Mannheim University of Applied Sciences (Hochschule Mannheim)

Professor Dr Ute von **Lojewski**, Münster University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Münster)

Alexander **Buchheister**, RWTH Aachen

► Project group for the trial clause

Professor Dr Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Isabella **Albert**, Aachen University of Applied Sciences (FH Aachen)

Dr Olaf **Bartz**, Managing Director

Jan **Bormann**, Technical University of Kaiserslautern (TU Kaiserslautern)

Dr Sijbolt **Noorda**, former president of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (vereniging van universiteiten- VSNU)

Dr Isabel **Rohner**, Confederation of German Employers

Ministerial Director Dr Simone **Schwanitz**, Ministry for Science, Research and Art for Baden-Württemberg

Renate **Singvogel**, United Services Union

► Project group on Expertise and Professionalism

Dr Regina **Görner**, formerly of the IG Metal Management Board (Chairwoman)

Isabella **Albert**, Student at Aachen University of Applied Sciences (FH Aachen)

Professor of Engineering Stefan **Bartels**, University of Applied Science, Lübeck (Fachhochschule Lübeck)

State Secretary Helmut **Dockter**, Ministry for Innovation, Science, and Research for North-Rhine Westphalia

Professor Ulrich **Heiß**, Vice President of the Technical University of Berlin (Technische Universität Berlin)

Thomas **Sattelberger**, former member of the management board of Deutsche Telekom AG

Professor Tassilo **Schmitt**, University of Bremen, Institute for Science of History (Universität Bremen, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaft)

► QA project group

Professor Dr Reinhold R. **Grimm** (Chairman)

Alexander **Buchheister**, RWTH Aachen

Thomas **Sattelberger**, former member of the management board of Deutsche Telekom AG

Meeting dates

► Meetings of the Accreditation Council in 2014

78th meeting on 25 February 2014 in Bonn

79th meeting on 10 June 2014 in Berlin

80th meeting on 17 September 2014 in Berlin

81st meeting on 2 December 2014 in Berlin

► Meetings of the Foundation Council in 2014

16th meeting on 15 May 2014 in Berlin

► Meetings of the project group Expertise and Professionalism in 2014

5th meeting on 15 January 2014

6th meeting on 19 February 2014

7th meeting on 24 July 2014

8th meeting on 17 October 2014