

*Drs. AR 78/2015***Application of the European Approach to the German System for Joint Degrees**

Resolution by the Accreditation Council agreed on 30 September 2015

The Accreditation Council welcomes the common understanding of the European ministers for higher education on the "European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes" (hereinafter referred to as the "European Approach").

The Accreditation Council hereby confirms the European Approach to be applicable with immediate effect. Joint Programmes with the participation of at least one German higher education institution which have been successfully assessed in accordance with the European Approach shall receive the seal of the Accreditation Council. This initially applies to any Joint Programmes that lead to a joint degree.

Section C of the European Approach determines that the EQAR-listed agency selected should¹ appropriately communicate with the competent national authorities in the countries in which the cooperating higher education institutions are based. The Accreditation Council defines the following as appropriate:

- 1) The Accreditation Council should be notified whenever the European Approach is applied, whether to programme accreditation or by a system accredited higher education institution, promptly and informally at the beginning of the procedure.
- 2) Study programmes which have been successfully assessed under application of the European Approach should be entered in the database for accredited study programmes within six weeks.
 - 2a) If the entry is made by an agency accredited by the Accreditation Council or by a system accredited higher education institution, this takes place in the usual way; the application of the European Approach should be indicated.
 - 2b) If the entry is made by another EQAR-listed agency, the necessary information should be transmitted in German within the specified deadline to the Accreditation Council office, which then deals with entry and activation. An expenses contribution of €250.00 per entry applies.

¹ The resolution makes use of the common English usage of "should" which has the connotation of prescription and compliance.

The Accreditation Council welcomes the resolution of the KMK higher education committee agreed on 17/18 September of this year. It will commission the Accreditation Council working group "Joint Programmes" to develop suggestions regarding the conditions under which the application of the European Approach in Germany would also be conceivable for study programmes with an integrated curriculum that lead to double and/or multiple degrees.