

Printed matter AC 57/2016

Resolution on the application by the Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes of Engineering, Information Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics (Reg. Assoc.) (ASIIN e. V.) from 28 May 2015 for accreditation and for verification of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

Resolution of the Accreditation Council dated 22 June 2016

I.

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany (Foundation) accredits the Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes of Engineering, Information Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics (Reg. Assoc.) (ASIIN e.V.) pursuant to § 2 Para. 1 No. 1 of the Law on the Establishment of a Foundation “Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany” subject to the provisions below and thus in this respect grants it authorisation to accredit study programmes and internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions by awarding the seal of the foundation.

II.

The decision comes into effect pursuant to point I. above on 22 June 2016. However it becomes void if the agency does not sign an agreement by 30 September 2016 pursuant to § 3 of the Law on the Establishment of a Foundation “Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany” in the version adopted by the Accreditation Council on 22 June 2016.

III.

The accreditation and the authorisation pursuant to point I. above is granted for a period of five years; revocation is reserved as per point V. below.

The Accreditation Council decided at its 83rd meeting on 18 June 2015 to schedule the reaccreditation procedure so that the assessment can be made based on the version of the ESG adopted on 14/15 May 2015. ASIIN has therefore been temporarily accredited until 30

June 2016 according to section 3.3.1 of the Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies; the length of the temporary accreditation must be included in the applicable term according to section 3.2.

According to section 3.2.1 in conjunction with section 3.3.1 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” dated 8 December 2009 in the version adopted on 10 December 2010 the accreditation expires on 31 March 2021.

IV.

The Accreditation Council establishes that ASIIN has not fulfilled a few quality requirements; these defects must be rectified according to section 3.1.3 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” dated 8 December 2009 in the version adopted on 10 December 2010 within six months. Accreditation is therefore granted under the following conditions:

Condition 1: ASIIN demonstrates an amendment to the agency’s internal stipulation, according to which the deviation from the advisory guideline contained in Cl. 1.3 of the “Framework Guidelines for the Introduction of Credit Point Systems and Modularisation of Study Programmes” (Annex to the KMK structural guidelines), of 30 ECTS credit points per semester must not be more than 10 %, so that the flexibility laid out in the KMK regulation is reflected (criterion 2.2.1).

Condition 2: ASIIN demonstrates through an amendment to its rules of procedure that all the interest groups including students are involved as a rule in appointing the expert groups (criterion 2.2.2).

Condition 3: The agency demonstrates the formalisation of its internal quality management by defining core processes, depicting the mechanisms for feedback used by the agency and by regularly analysing the findings reached through feedback processes (criterion 2.5).

The Accreditation Council explicitly refers to the recommendations contained in the report.

V.

If ASIIN does not demonstrate that the conditions have been fulfilled within the respective term or if the conditions prove to be unfulfilled after the respective term has elapsed, the foundation may revoke the accreditation according to section 3.5.3 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” dated 8 December 2009 in the version adopted on 10 December 2010.

VI. Rationale

General:

Based on the report and in light of the agency’s position paper, the Accreditation Council came to the understanding that the Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes of Engineering, Information Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics (Reg. Assoc.) (ASIIN e.V.) fulfils the criteria in large part pursuant to Chapter 2 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” dated 8 December 2009 in the version adopted on 10 December 2010.

Condition 3 was amended based on the allocation of responsibilities submitted by the agency with the position paper (see the explanations in Section “On Condition 3” for rationale).

On Condition 1: According to criterion 2.2.1 the agency must guarantee the correct and consistent application of the “Rules for the Accreditation of Study Programmes and for System Accreditation” and with that also of the guidelines of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder for accreditation. Regarding ASIIN the Accreditation Council shares the assessment of the experts that the agency’s concerned internal regulation (landmark decision of the programme accreditation commission) restricts the design leeway laid out in the KMK regulation.

On Condition 2: According to criterion 2.2.2 the agency involves academia, students and professional practice. As the appointment of experts is according to section 1.1.3 of the “Rules for the Accreditation of Study Programmes and for System Accreditation” one of the elementary tasks of the agency, all status groups must participate in this. The experts have established that according to the rules of procedure of ASIIN’s decision-making committees, the appointment of the experts through the programme accreditation commission and the system accreditation commission is delegated to subgroups, in which students are not represented as a rule. But the agency has stated in the position paper that their approach indeed complies with criterion 2.2.2 in practice. For this reason a student representative was in fact added to the appointing commission of the Accreditation Commission for Degree

Programmes some time ago. The corresponding fundamental decision to expand the appointing commission shall also be valid in future. In the systems area, the experts for a procedure are appointed at a meeting in connection with the certification of a higher education institution for system accreditation. This means that all members of the accreditation commission are involved in appointing the experts. However there is a lack of evidence that this practice is also observed as a rule.

On Condition 3: According to criterion 2.5 the agency continually uses a formalised internal quality management system. Because of similar requirements in ESG standard 3.6 the assessment is done as per this standard. According to what the experts established, the agency is involved in the development of a quality management system encompassing multiple levels. However this development is not yet complete; it still lacks the necessary degree of formalisation. Since the agency submitted a document with the position paper, in which the process managers responsible for the individual processes are named, one aspect (allocation of responsibilities) of the condition recommended by the expert group becomes void.

VII. Compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

The Accreditation Council establishes that ASIIN has substantially fulfilled the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” (ESG).

The following two standards are fulfilled: 3.2, 3.7

The following eight standards are substantially fulfilled: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.3, 3.5

The following four standards are partially fulfilled: 2.4, 2.7, 3.4, 3.6