

Decision on the Application of the Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg (evalag) dated 13.10.2013 for Accreditation and Assessment of the Compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

Resolution of the Accreditation Council of 17.09.2014

I.

The Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany ("Foundation"), as per § 2 para. 1 no. 1 of the German Law establishing a foundation "Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Courses in Germany", accredits the Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg (evalag) subject to the following provisions and thus granting it the entitlement to accredit study programmes and internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions by awarding the Foundation's seal.

II.

The resolution as per item I. above shall come into effect on 17.09.2014. It shall cease to be valid if the Agency does not sign an agreement by 31.10.2014 pursuant to § 3 of the German 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 20.02.2013.

III.

The accreditation and the right as per item I. above are granted for a duration of five years; revocation is reserved as per item V. below. According to section 3.2.1 of the resolution "Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies" of 08.12.2009 as amended on 10.12.2010, the accreditation expires on 30.09.2019.

IV.

The Accreditation Council notes that evalag does not meet some quality requirements. These defects are to be remedied by the Agency within six months according to section 3.1.3

of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” of 08.12.2009 as amended on 10.12.2010. The accreditation is therefore granted subject to compliance with the following conditions:

Condition 1: The agency submits a financial plan for the year 2015 to 2017 and explains how it intends to ensure that the criterion to work on full cost basis in the coming accreditation period is covered. This includes a realistic evaluation of the actual incurred costs (including general costs) and the highlighting of saving potential (Criterion 2.3.2).

Condition 2: evalag provides a statement on how the Agency will attain and analyse empirical information on its own methods during internal quality assurance (criterion 2.5).

The Accreditation Council refers specifically to the recommendations included in the report.

V.

Should evalag not prove the fulfilment of these conditions within the respective time limit, or should such conditions be shown not to be fulfilled on expiry of the respective time limit, the Foundation may revoke the accreditation according to section 3.5.3 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” of 08.12.2009 as amended on 10.12.2010.

VI. Reasoning

In general:

Based on the report and upon appraisal of the statement from the Agency, the Accreditation Council came to the conclusion that Evaluationsagentur Baden-Württemberg (evalag) essentially fulfilled the criteria in accordance with section 2 of the resolution “Rules for the Accreditation of Agencies” of 08.12.2009, as amended on 10.12.2010.

With regard to one point, the Accreditation Council, deviating from the recommendations of the expert group in the evaluation report, issues no requirements:

With the statement, evalag also provided a new version of the handbook for internal quality assurance (evalag IQM handbook dated 13.08.2014). In the new version, the critical notes from the experts on p. 33 et seq. of the report were taken into account and the tools for internal quality assurance were revised. In particular, the “Strengths and Weaknesses Analyses” provided up to now have been replaced by other instruments such as internal reflection or

meetings, for example, which, in some cases, now have a somewhat larger interval than originally intended. In this respect, the first sentence of the second condition proposed by the expert group has lapsed.

Regarding Condition 1:

Pursuant to criterion 2.3.2, the Agency performs the accreditation procedures based upon full costing. As shown on p. 26 et seq. of the report, in the years 2009 to 2011, the deficits accrued in the evalag accreditation department were balanced through reallocation of grants from the state of Baden Württemberg.

The Accreditation Council asserts that this reallocation approved by the state of Baden Württemberg facilitated the development of an accreditation department and entry into the “accreditation market”, which was dominated by stakeholders who had already been active in this area of business for years. In view of this, the Accreditation Council, upon recommendation from the expert group, abstains from requesting repayment of these grants.

Regarding Condition 2:

Pursuant to criterion 2.5, the Agency uses a formalised, internal quality management system, which is suitable for assessing the efficacy of the internal control processes.

Pursuant to p. 34 of the report, at present, evalag’s internal quality management does not yet provide sufficient, empirical information on the work of the Agency.

VII. Compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) and the membership criteria of the European Association for Quality Assurance (ENQA)

The Accreditation Council has determined that evalag substantially complies with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) and the membership criteria of the European Association for Quality Assurance (ENQA).

The following 13 standards are fully complied with: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, criterion 8 of the ENQA membership criteria

The following three standards are substantially complied with: 2.5, 3.1, 3.8

The following standard is partially complied with: 2.8