

Guidelines for Quality Reports of System-Accredited Universities

5 Resolution of the Accreditation Council dated September 17, 2019, as amended on September 29, 2020

1 Legal Basis

Section 29 of the Model Statute (MRVO) stipulates that accreditation decisions
10 and accreditation reports must be published both in program accreditation and in the internal procedures conducted by system-accredited higher education institutions. This provision is in line with the requirements at the European level defined in Section 2.6 of the European Standards and Guidelines.

Section 29, sentence 3 of the MRVO notes that the requirements for publication practices in
15 of program accreditation applies *accordingly* to internal accreditation decisions made by system-accredited institutions of higher education. However, the differences between the relatively standardized program accreditation process and the procedures of various internal quality management systems—which vary to a greater or lesser extent—can lead to ambiguities in the application of the aforementioned requirement. To ensure consistent publication
20 In its resolution “Reporting Requirements for System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions” dated September 24, 2018, the Accreditation Council deemed it necessary to adopt an interpretation of § 29, sentence 3 MRVO. In particular, reference is made to § 18(4) MRVO, which specifies the requirements for the documentation of the evaluation and the provision of information to the public by system-accredited higher education institutions.

25 In its resolution “Reporting Requirements for System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions” dated September 24, 2018, the Accreditation Council has already specified the requirements that system-accredited higher education institutions must take into account when entering their internally accredited degree programs into the Accreditation Council’s database. These include, among other things, a so-called quality report in which system-accredited higher education institutions present the evaluation results of their internal
30 Document procedures. The quality report is the subject of this resolution.

2 Guidelines for Quality Reports

System-accredited universities may prepare their quality reports based on the reporting templates provided by the Accreditation Council or use the templates as a guide. However, there is no obligation to use the templates, as system-accredited universities should be allowed a form of reporting that takes into account the individual design of their QM systems.

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With reference to § 18(4) in conjunction with § 29 MRVO, the following guidelines must be observed when preparing quality reports:

- 1) Quality reports must document the evaluation of the degree programs and consequently include statements regarding the evaluation and fulfillment of the formal and subject-specific criteria.
- 2) Quality reports must include the evaluation by external stakeholders, taking into account any dissenting opinions. According to § 18(1) MRVO, students, academic experts, representatives
representatives from the professional field, and graduates.

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In accordance with Section 2.6 of the European Standards and Guidelines, the names of the participating evaluators must also be appropriately documented.

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- 3) Quality reports must provide an overview of the measures that the institution has implemented in accordance with Section 18(1) MRVO if, during the evaluation of the degree programs.
- 4) Quality reports must include a brief description of the process for awarding the seal and information on the frequency of internal evaluation/accreditation in order to properly contextualize the assessments contained in the report.
- 5) Quality reports must include a brief profile and a summary evaluation of the respective degree program to accommodate the interest of the various target groups in easily accessible brief information on content and evaluations.

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3 Transition Period

Higher education institutions that have been system-accredited under the old legislation are required, pursuant to Sections 6.3 and 6.6 of the Rules for the Accreditation of Degree Programs and for System Accreditation, as amended on February 20, 2013, to inform the public in an appropriate manner about procedures

- 5 and the results of quality assurance measures in the area of study and teaching, and to publish expert reports on the external evaluation as well as the follow-up measures.

The aforementioned universities are granted a transition period of 18 months to implement the *guidelines for quality reports*. This means that internally accredited study

- 10 may be entered into the Accreditation Council's database no later than March 31, 2021¹ only in conjunction with a quality report that implements the *guidelines for quality reports* adopted by the Accreditation Council.

¹ The deadline was originally set for September 30, 2020, in the initial version of the resolution and was extended by six months to March 31, 2021, by a resolution of the Accreditation Council on September 29, 2020, in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.