

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

2019 Annual Report

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For the sake of readability, gender-neutral language has been omitted in some instances. In the spirit of equal treatment, the terms used apply equally and universally to both women and men.

2019 Activity Report

Reporting Period: January through December 2019

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Foreword

For the Accreditation Council, 2019 was marked by the theme of digitalization. At the beginning of 2019, the independent accreditation database went live. It is part of the Electronic Information and Application System (ELIAS), which, in addition to its database function, also enables paperless application submission for higher education institutions seeking (re)accreditation. Since ELIAS supports the entire application processing workflow, members of the Accreditation Council and staff at the Secretariat also utilize these technical capabilities when processing applications.

The Accreditation Council's new responsibility under the 2016 State Treaty—to decide on applications for program and system accreditation, as well as applications for alternative procedures—came into full effect for the first time in the second half of 2019. After only a few applications were received in 2018, the number of applications (submitted via ELIAS alone) rose to 222.

There was much discussion in this context about how to ensure that the working capacity of the Accreditation Council members remains guaranteed even against the backdrop of numerous applications and how to prevent the Accreditation Council from becoming a "bottleneck." The requirements for plausibility checks and report quality were central points of discussion. To my great delight, it was found that the application system proved its worth under full load!

I was also pleased that the HRK decided at the beginning of 2019 to appoint alternates and permanent guests. The Accreditation Council can certainly make good use of this additional expertise. Especially given the continuing rise in the number of applications submitted from all disciplines, this represents a major

to our work. Several other member groups are now also taking advantage of the opportunity for representation.

Much has changed within the Secretariat in 2019. Not only have many processes been simplified through the use of ELIAS, but the Secretariat has also expanded considerably in 2019, both in terms of space and staff. With a staff of 14, the office is now well-positioned to meet the challenges associated with the Accreditation Council's new responsibilities and to support the members of the Accreditation Council in their work.

In light of the Accreditation Council's new role in the accreditation process, the Foundation has sought advice on a (new) communication strategy. With its implementation, which will extend into 2020, the Accreditation Council's decisions will be communicated transparently to all stakeholders.

I would like to thank the universities and agencies in particular for their valuable feedback, questions, and constructive suggestions regarding the design of the new accreditation system, for their patience and curiosity in working with ELIAS, and for their willingness to embark on this new (digital) path with us.

We have now reached the halfway point of the first legislative term of the "new" Accreditation Council, and—based on the Model Statute and the State Treaty—we have laid further foundations. We can look back with pride on what we have achieved and look ahead with confidence. I look forward to our continued collaboration!

Bonn, July 2020



Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm

Overview

1. Quarter 2019

99. Meeting of the Accreditation Council
on February 25–26, 2019, in Berlin

AR Resolutions:

- 4 applications for program accreditation (covering 5 degree programs due to bundling)
- Expansion of the Code of Conduct for Alternates and Permanent Guests of the Accreditation Council
- Establishment of an Appeals Committee
- Extraordinary approval of deadline extensions in alternative proceedings

Retrospective decision-making:

- Size of review panels in cluster procedures
- Requirements for accreditation reports

Consultations:

- Award for effective solutions in degree programs and quality management systems
- Handling of accreditation applications in program accreditation: Prioritization of applications; division of labor between rapporteurs and the secretariat

2. Quarter 2019

100. Meeting of the Accreditation Council
on June 4, 2019, in Bonn

AR resolutions:

- 11 applications for program accreditation (covering 15 degree programs due to mergers)
- Rules of Procedure for Alternative Procedures
- Mission Statement of the Accreditation

Council Foundation Deliberations:

- Size of review panels in bundled procedures
- Status of the transformation process
- Internal *governance* in the quality management of studies and teaching

3. Quarter 2019

101. Meeting of the Accreditation Council
on September 17, 2019, in Frankfurt

AR resolutions:

- Foundations for Internal Quality Management Based on the Mission Statement of the Accreditation Council Foundation and the *European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)*
- Requirements for quality reports from system-accredited institutions of higher education
- 86 applications for program accreditation (covering 105 degree programs due to mergers)
- 2021 Budget
- Establishment of an Appeals Committee

Discussions:

- Digitalization in accreditation. Implementation of the KMK's "Recommendations on Digitalization in Higher Education"

4. Q1 2019

102. Meeting of the Accreditation Council
on November 21–22, 2019, in Berlin

AR resolutions:

- 71 applications for program accreditation (covering 229 degree programs due to mergers)
- Resolution to avoid temporary gaps in accreditation
- Resolution on a more detailed description of the data fields in the evaluation grids
- Establishment of a "Quality Development Award"

1. Current developments

1.1 Applications for accreditation in ELIAS

Since January 2019, the Accreditation Council Foundation has made an Electronic Information and Application Processing System (ELIAS) available. ELIAS was developed primarily with the aim of making the application submission and review process efficient and reliable.

From the very start of ELIAS, all types of applications in program accreditation (individual, bundled, and combined degree programs) and system accreditation were programmed into the system. These include applications for initial, conceptual, and reaccreditation.

In addition, ELIAS is used to process other types of applications, some of which are still being (further) developed. These include applications

- for deadline adjustments/extensions;
- for bundle approval;
- for recognition of accreditation decisions for joint degree programs;
- for approval to implement alternative procedures;
- applications for decisions on significant changes to degree programs and quality management systems (to be implemented in 2020).

By the end of 2019, 276 higher education institutions had registered for an account in ELIAS and were using it—a gratifying result.

ELIAS is available to the public at <https://an-trag.akkreditierungsrat.de/>.

The Accreditation Council has held numerous meetings to review its working procedures, thereby ensuring that it can effectively process and handle the large number of accreditation applications expected starting in 2019.

ELIAS supports the entire application process: from submission by the university or other institutions, through processing by the Accreditation Council's office and preparation for the Accreditation Council's meetings, to the accreditation decision and its announcement.

1.2 The new database of accredited degree programs

Connected to ELIAS is the **database of accredited degree programs and higher education institutions** (hereinafter "Accreditation Database"). Once the Accreditation Council has approved an application for (re)accreditation, the (accredited) degree programs and quality assurance systems are automatically published in the database—if necessary, after the comment period has expired.

What is new about it is that it is programmed independently and separately from the Higher Education Compass. Unlike the Higher Education Compass, where institutions can enter information about the degree programs they offer themselves in order to provide prospective students with an information platform, the Accreditation Database focuses on mapping degree programs as objects of accreditation (i.e., all degree programs, including combined and partial degree programs).

This makes the "accreditation history" of individual degree programs visible for the first time, so that the public (students, graduates, and employers) can obtain reliable information about whether a degree program is accredited or was accredited at a specific point in time.

Teacher training and combined degree programs pose a particular challenge in the database's representation, as they

cannot yet be fully represented in the accreditation database. This is due to the specific structure of these programs and the database logic, which differs from that of the Higher Education Compass. Unlike the Higher Education Compass, the accreditation database distinguishes between three types of programs: “single-subject program,” “combined program,” and “partial program.” In 2019, the groundwork was laid for the “Database 2021” project, which aims, among other things, to supplement the Accreditation Database with information on the programs of study affected by this.

To enter accreditations under the old law, the agencies (for program accreditations) and system-accredited higher education institutions (for internal accreditations) have the option to use corresponding application types so that these are published in the new database. (See also [Chapter 4.2](#))

The activities to complete and correct existing accreditation information, which serve to improve data quality, are carried out in constructive cooperation with higher education institutions and agencies.

2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in 2019: Tasks and Results

2.1 (Re-)accreditation of degree programs and quality assurance systems, as well as applications for alternative procedures

While the first few applications under the new law were received by the Accreditation Council's office in the second half of 2018, the number of applications submitted in 2019 rose to 222 by the end of the year.

In 2019, the Accreditation Council ruled on a total of 172 applications, which, due to bundling, covered 445 degree programs.¹

In some cases, the Accreditation Council deviated from the proposal of the agency or the review panel. In such instances, the institution was given the opportunity to comment before the final decision was made.

The first application for institutional accreditation under the new law was also submitted in ELIAS in 2019 and approved at the November meeting.

For the third category of procedures—alternative procedures—in addition to program and system accreditation, the Accreditation Council established [rules of procedure for alternative procedures](#) in a working group in March 2019, which were adopted at the 100th meeting. (See also [Chapter 2.7](#))

In addition to the technical support provided by ELIAS, a standardized reporting structure (and quality) is a prerequisite for the efficient processing of applications. To ensure that the accreditation reports from (currently) ten accreditation agencies can be efficiently processed by the Accreditation Council, the reports must be structurally comparable and follow a uniform format across agencies. The comparability and readability of the accreditation reports are ensured by the standardized structure of the report templates. Currently, there are four report templates ([report template for program accreditation](#), [report template for combined degree programs](#), [report template for applications for bundle accreditations](#), and the

¹ The discrepancies in the application figures are due to the fact that applications were received after the last meeting.

report templates for applications for system accreditation) serve as the basis for the accreditation reports and are also used for the self-reports.

A revision of the reporting templates is planned for 2020.

The Accreditation Council and the agencies are in constant communication regarding report quality, including at the first joint meeting at the beginning of 2019.

2.2 Applications for deadline extensions and bundled approvals

Throughout 2019, the Accreditation Council received numerous requests for deadline extensions and approvals for bundled reviews; in the latter case, decisions were generally made with the input of members with relevant expertise.

The discussion regarding the size of review panels in bundled procedures, which began in 2018, continued in 2019. These considerations were incorporated into the resolution on the “Size of Review Panels in Bundled Procedures” (see ► [Resolution of March 21, 2019](#)). In addition, at its 100th meeting, the Accreditation Council determined that in the event of a subsequent objection to the size of the review panel, the entire review does not become invalid, but rather there is the possibility of rectification through a supplementary review.

Applications for deadline extensions and bundled approvals could already be submitted in ELIAS in 2019; however, the decisions were still sent outside of ELIAS. Full digitization is planned for 2020.

2.3 Accreditation of Agencies

Under a new legal framework, the Accreditation Council allows the accreditation bodies operating in Germany to

accreditation agencies for their activities, namely the conduct of accreditation procedures. The basis for the formal authorization procedure is an agency’s listing in the EQAR (*European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education*). According to the State Treaty, the prerequisite for the agency’s authorization is proof that it is reliably capable of performing the tasks of evaluation and preparing the evaluation report; for agencies listed in the EQAR, this is presumed to be the case unless proven otherwise. In 2018, the Accreditation Council approved all—currently ten—agencies registered in the EQAR as of December 31, 2017, to conduct procedures under the new law. In 2019, the Accreditation Council did not approve any additional agencies for their activities.

2.4 Decisions of the Accreditation Council

During the reporting period, the Accreditation Council made the following fundamental decisions:

► Code of Conduct

To avoid potential conflicts of interest that might arise from membership on the Accreditation Council and other activities of its members, the Accreditation Council adopted a [code of conduct for its members](#), which was extended in 2019 to include alternate members and permanent guests. (► [Resolution of March 21, 2019](#))

► New Mission Statement

At its 100th meeting on June 4, 2019, the Accreditation Council adopted a [new mission statement](#) that reflects the changed legal landscape and the new core area of responsibility. It replaces the previous mission statement from 2007. It now defines the Accreditation Council’s self-image, tasks, and approach to quality development in the accreditation of

degree programs and internal university QM systems.

► Internal Quality Management

At its 101st meeting on September 17, 2019, the Accreditation Council adopted the **framework for an internal quality management system** based on the **mission statement of the Accreditation Council Foundation** and the **European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**.

► Complaints Commission

Quality management includes an externally appointed Appeals Commission, which the Accreditation Council established at its meeting on September 17, 2019 (► **Members of the Appeals Commission**, see **Appendix 1**). It deliberates on objections and complaints and submits a recommendation for a decision to the Accreditation Council for a final ruling.

► Automatic Extension of Accreditation Deadlines for the Duration of the Administrative Procedure

If a higher education institution submits an application for accreditation in a timely manner—i.e., so that the accreditation decision can be made before the deadline expires—but the procedure is not completed before the deadline expires, then, based on a decision made by the Accreditation Council in November 2019, it is possible for the accreditation deadline to be extended for the duration of the administrative procedure. (► **Resolution of November 22, 2019**) This is intended to prevent any potential disadvantages for students and graduates.

2.5 Review of the accreditation procedures

Since 2018, the review of accreditation procedures (“monitoring”) has no longer been part of the Accreditation Council’s responsibilities. However,

until decisions on accreditation procedures under the new law are available, the Accreditation Council may, however, continue to initiate ad hoc review procedures for procedures under the old law if there are indications of improper conduct of a procedure or an erroneous accreditation decision.

During the reporting period, one ad hoc procedure was initiated and one ad hoc review procedure initiated in 2018 was concluded.

2.6 Events

First Quality Dialogue: Continuing Education

On September 16, 2019, the day before the 101st meeting of the Accreditation Council, the first Quality Dialogue of the Accreditation Council Foundation took place in Frankfurt; the event was organized in collaboration with the University of Oldenburg. The topic of the Quality Dialogue was quality standards and quality assurance in academic continuing education.

Mr. Bartz gave a detailed interview on the topic of **accreditation and academic continuing education** independently of the Quality Dialogue.

Award for Quality Development

At its 101st meeting, the Accreditation Council decided on the details regarding the award of the Quality Development Award: it is to be awarded for the first time in 2020.

According to the Model Statute (§ 24, paras. 3 and 4), “the report may also identify best-practice models for the program.” In this way, accreditation aims to contribute to quality development and to the discussion of quality issues beyond the scope of the individual program.

To avoid competition between program and system accreditation, the awards should be presented separately in these two categories. Members of the Accreditation Council and the Executive Board (i.e., the Secretariat through the Executive Management) are eligible to submit nominations. This group has an overview of all accreditation applications submitted during the application period and is best suited to make a preliminary selection.

The decision on the awarding of prizes is made by a jury, which will consist entirely of external members starting no later than the 2021 awards ceremony.

2.7 Working Groups

► WG Rules of Procedure

Alternative procedures constitute the third category of procedures alongside program and system accreditation and represent a continuation of the experimental clause, under which alternative quality assurance procedures could be tested in the old accreditation system.

Requirements for alternative accreditation procedures, as well as the mandate for the Accreditation Council to develop rules of procedure for this type of procedure, are defined in the Model Regulation.

At its 98th meeting on December 6, 2018, the Accreditation Council had already decided to establish a working group to draft rules of procedure for alternative accreditation procedures. (see Annex 1) The working group met on March 18, 2019, and drafted a set of procedural rules, which the Accreditation Council adopted at its 100th meeting (► **Procedural Rules for Alternative Accreditation Procedures**, Resolution of June 4, 2019).

In this category of procedures, the subject of accreditation is the alternative procedure itself.

► Advisory Committee

The monitoring committee, established by the Accreditation Council at its meeting on September 17, 2019—initially on a trial basis—met in Hanover on October 21, 2019, to discuss the topics delegated to it: “Standard periods of study in part-time degree programs,” “Guidelines vs. Requirements,” and “Supervision Ratios, especially at distance learning universities.” It was decided to continue its activities beyond 2019. (Members of the Advisory Committee, see Appendix 1)

3. International cooperation in quality assurance and quality development is a key prerequisite for the realization of the European Higher Education Area. Therefore, the promotion of international cooperation remains one of the central tasks entrusted to the Accreditation Council by the federal states, even under the new legal framework. At its core, international cooperation must aim to promote mutual understanding of quality assurance systems, develop comparable criteria, methods, and standards for quality assurance, and improve the transparency of study programs in order to thus facilitate the mutual recognition of qualifications and, consequently, student mobility.

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

► Networks, conferences, and discussions

The Accreditation Council has been a member since 2005 and *an affiliate* of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*

(ENQA). It is also a member of the *International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education* (INQAAHE) and the *CHEA International Quality Group* (CIQG).

Together with the DAAD, it is represented in the “Implementation” working group of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) and regularly participates in international working groups, meetings, and conferences. In 2019, these included, among others,

- the annual CHEA/CIQG conference (January 29–31, 2019, Washington, D.C.)
- the *ENQA Members’ Forum* (April 24–26, 2019, Tallinn),
- the *European Quality Assurance Forum* (November 21–23, 2019, Berlin),
- the ENQA General Assembly (October 17–18, 2019, Yerevan).

This year’s annual meeting of the *Quality Audit Network* was hosted by the Irish accreditation agency QQI; it took place on May 13–14, 2019, in Dublin. The network meetings serve as a forum for regular exchange among European quality assurance agencies whose procedures focus on various aspects of internal quality management at higher education institutions. Among other topics, the meeting discussed the “Trends Analysis” developed by two member organizations, a (shorter) updated edition of the 2014 publication “*Quality Audit in the European Higher Education Area*.”

On May 25–26, 2019, Mr. Bartz attended the Volkswagen Foundation conference “Bologna—The Surprising Success of an Educational Vision.”

On January 7, 2019, Mr. Grimm, Mr. Bartz, and Ms. Mayer-Lantermann from the

Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO). Together with Anne Flierman and Ann Verreth from the NVAO Board, as well as the directors of the Dutch and Flemish divisions and the heads of international affairs at the NVAO office, they discussed current topics such as the new German accreditation system, the ESG evaluation of the Accreditation Council Foundation planned for 2021, and the recognition of joint degree programs.

The second meeting of the *BFUG Peer Group on Quality Assurance* took place in Limassol, Cyprus, from May 26–29, 2019. The Peer Group is one of three groups established by the BFUG to support, in particular, new Bologna countries in implementing the *key commitments* outlined in the Paris Communiqué: quality assurance, recognition, and the three-cycle degree system. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen ties with potential cooperation partners.

International cooperation enables the Accreditation Council to share its expertise while also learning from the experiences of its foreign partners.

► Membership in ENQA

From 2005 to 2018, the Accreditation Council was a full member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA); its membership was last renewed in 2013 for a five-year term. In September 2018, the status was changed to “affiliate” because the Foundation was unable to submit the application for renewal of full membership in time due to the restructuring of the new system, which coincided with this period. However, following the consolidation of the new system, the Accreditation Council is now considering seeking full membership in ENQA again

and also a listing in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

► European Database Project DEQAR

In order to map all quality assurance results of the agencies listed in the European Register (EQAR) on a single platform, EQAR has established the European database DEQAR (*Database of External Quality Assurance Results*). The goal is to provide the general public with open access to the quality assurance results of degree programs and institutions that are evaluated according to the ESG within the European Higher Education Area.

In 2019, a one-time export interface was set up between DEQAR and ELIAS. This made it possible to export the accreditation results for degree programs stored in ELIAS to DEQAR as CSV files. The export was carried out on August 26, 2019. The results can be found [in DEQAR's public database](#).

The implementation of DEQAR was completed in November 2019 with a two-day conference in Madrid; an automated web interface between the two databases is currently in development.

► EU Twinning Project “Strengthening capacities for quality assurance and governance of qualifications”

A two-year EU Twinning project was launched in July 2019, focusing on the institutional and human resources development of the Georgian National Accreditation Agency (NCEQE). The project partners are Germany (represented by the DAAD, BMBF, and the Accreditation Council) and Estonia (represented by the Estonian Accreditation Agency EKKA).

The project addresses the following three topics:

- Strengthening quality assurance of education and training from a lifelong learning (LLL) perspective;
- Contribution to the implementation of the new National Qualifications Framework;
- Contribution to an improved model of governance, monitoring, and dissemination of the NCEQE's outputs.

During the project period, various workshops are planned for each of the three components; these are referred to as expert missions within the project and are designed to address different topics. In addition, two *study visits* (to Germany and Estonia) will be organized for the staff of the Georgian Accreditation Agency.

As a rule, one expert from Germany and one from Estonia is nominated for each mission. Mr. Bartz participated in a mission that took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, from December 2–6, 2019.

4. Information and Communication

In 2019, the Accreditation Council sought advice on its public image and developed a communication strategy in collaboration with the agency TRIO Service GmbH. Some of the measures outlined in this strategy were already implemented in 2019, with others to follow in 2020.

4.1 Presentation, Information, and Consulting

The Accreditation Council regularly provides updates on its decisions and all other matters related to the accreditation system. The Accreditation Council makes accreditation data available in its new [database of accredited degree programs](#) (see [Chapter 4.2](#)).

In addition to using the Information Service Science (idw) to publish **press releases**, the **Foundation's website** serves as an important tool for disseminating information to the federal states, higher education institutions, students, and agencies. A new, technically revamped website has been online since September 2019.

Furthermore, the website includes, among other things, an overview of all published **decisions of the Accreditation Council**. The decisions, as well as the relevant legal basis and **instructions for submitting applications** under the new law, are available to users of the website. In addition, the site provides information on the German accreditation system, the members of the Foundation's bodies and committees, and the agencies approved by the Accreditation Council.

Information on the accreditation system under the old legal framework can still be found at archiv.akkreditierungsrat.de.

The **FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions** section, available since spring 2018, is constantly being expanded. It contains answers to frequently asked questions arising from the interpretation of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (StAkkStV) and the Model Statutory Ordinance (MRVO).

Since October 2019, the Accreditation Council has been sharing current events and developments on its Twitter channel ([@StiftungAR](https://twitter.com/StiftungAR)). To this end, staff members at the executive office received training in a Twitter workshop.

On an ad hoc basis, agencies and system-accredited universities were informed via

A redesign of **the newsletter** is planned for 2020.

A revision of the newsletter is planned for 2020.

4.2 Publication of Accreditation Data

Since 2018, the Accreditation Council has ^{been} responsible for the publication of accreditation data in accordance with the Model Statutory Ordinance and the State Treaty². The Accreditation Council's own database has been online since January 8, 2019. (see **Chapter 1.2**)

► **Degree** Programs: Degree programs bearing the Accreditation Council's seal were published in ELIAS at the beginning of 2019. This includes information on accreditation deadlines, the conditions associated with accreditation, the participating reviewers and their evaluations, as well as the Accreditation Council's decision.

► **System-accredited institutions of higher education**: Accredited degree programs offered by system-accredited institutions of higher education can also be found in the new ELIAS database. System-accredited institutions of higher education can enter data into the database themselves, which is then activated (following a formal review) by the Accreditation Council's office.

To standardize the entries for system-accredited institutions in the database, there are (new) required fields. For example, system-accredited institutions are not required to prepare their accreditation reports based on the Accreditation Council's evaluation grids, which accounts for the diversity of

² See Art. 3(6) StAkkStV and § 18(4) sentence 2 and § 29 MRVO

quality assurance systems. (See the “[Reporting Requirements for System-Accredited Universities](#),” ► [2018 decision](#).) Section 29 of the MRVO stipulates that reports from system-accredited universities must be published. In 2019, the Accreditation Council “formulated guidelines for quality reports at system-accredited universities” (► [Resolution of September 17, 2019](#)). Key elements for the reports mentioned therein are evidence, plausibility, and transparency.

► **Agencies:** All agencies that are authorized to conduct accreditation procedures following successful approval by the Accreditation Council are listed on the [Accreditation Council's website](#).

4.3 Communication with the agencies

Under the new legal framework, constructive and cooperative collaboration between the Accreditation Council and the agencies is more than ever a fundamental prerequisite for an effective accreditation system in Germany.

The participation of the agencies in the Accreditation Council's working groups and the advisory membership of a representative of the agencies on the Accreditation Council have proven to be effective tools for reliable mutual information exchange among the stakeholders.

The annual (and regular) exchange with representatives of the agencies took place for the first time in February 2019 and will henceforth occur regularly at the first meeting of each year. This year, the principles of future cooperation between the Accreditation Council and the agencies were discussed, and (optimal) timelines for accreditation procedures were jointly

. The agencies also shared their (initial) experiences with the new accreditation system.

To date, the Accreditation Council has informed agencies of new or amended resolutions through letters summarizing the results sent by the Chair. Agencies are notified of changes to the FAQs—some of which directly affect them—via the Twitter news service (see [Chapter 4.1](#))

For communication during the rest of the year, it has proven effective for the Chair or individual staff members of the Secretariat to be invited to agency meetings from time to time to discuss specific topics related to the new legal framework. On several occasions, these discussions served to gather feedback from the agencies, including regarding the Accreditation Council's new database, or to exchange views on the structure of the accreditation reports and how the agencies handle them. To this end, several bilateral meetings with individual agencies took place in 2019.

4.4 Statistical Data

As of the end of December 2019, 6,354 bachelor's and 6,138 master's degree programs offered by state or state-recognized higher education institutions in Germany bore the Accreditation Council's seal of quality.

These figures are based on the data in the Accreditation Council's database.

In accordance with the requirements of the new legal framework, the accreditation results

- in program and system accreditation by the Accreditation Council, published in the database following the adoption of a resolution,

- the degree programs to which a (partially) system-accredited institution has been awarded the Accreditation Council's seal are entered into the database by the (partially) system-accredited institutions,
- the degree programs whose accreditation procedures were conducted under the old law are entered into the database by the agencies.

A total of 93 state or state-recognized higher education institutions had successfully completed a (partial) system accreditation process at that time; this corresponds to approximately 20% of all higher education institutions.³ Some higher education institutions are in the process of obtaining system accreditation; the exact number is not known to the Accreditation Council, as the reporting requirement was eliminated under the new law. One institution of higher education has already submitted an application for system accreditation under the new law to the Accreditation Council in 2019 (see [Chapter 2.1](#)).

5. Resources

5.1 Finances

The Accreditation Council is jointly funded by the 16 federal states in accordance with Section 4(1) of the Act on the Accreditation Council Foundation (Accreditation Act). Pursuant to Section 4(4), the Foundation may impose fees to cover its administrative expenses in accordance with the provisions of the fee schedule; which it did in the [Schedule of Fees](#) issued on July 11, 2018. It provides for an annual base fee (flat-rate fee) for higher education institutions, graded according to institution size, and procedure-related fees

(flat-rate fees) for each accreditation decision. The basic fee is payable by every institution of higher education that offers at least one currently accredited degree program (including bachelor's programs at vocational academies). The amount of the basic flat-rate fee and all other fees can be found in the "Fee Schedule" appendix in the ► [Fee Schedule](#).

For the 2019 fiscal year, the Conference of Finance Ministers (FMK) has set the annual contributions from the states to the Accreditation Council at 969,000 euros. In accordance with the recommendations of the Budget Committee (minutes of the meeting dated August 22, 2018), the finance ministers approved the draft supplement to the Foundation's 2019 budget.

This includes funding for salary increases, an increase in staffing of 5.5 full-time equivalents for 2019, and the contribution of approximately 12,000 euros requested by the HRK since 2016 for the database of accredited degree programs as part of the Higher Education Compass, but above all the costs for the further development of the digital application processing system ELIAS.

The Foundation's annual financial statement for 2019 shows revenues of 1,368,514.71 euros (allocations from the federal states, fee revenues, and revenues from third parties) and total expenditures of 1,368,449.91 euros. This leaves a balance of 64.80 euros.

Universities, administrative colleges, and specialized higher education institutions.

³ For 460 institutions documented in ELIAS. These include vocational academies, universities of applied sciences/HAWs, art and music colleges, music academies, police academies,

5.2 Staffing, Premises, and Equipment

According to the staffing plan, the Foundation's administrative office is staffed by a managing director (100%), nine program officers (8.0 full-time equivalents), two administrative assistants (1.75%), and a secretary (100%). In addition, the Foundation employs a student assistant for 20 hours per month and, starting in December 2019, a research assistant for 20 hours per month. Employees are compensated in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Public Service of the Federal States (TV-L). The program officers selected in the hiring process at the end of 2018, the administrative assistant, and the secretary began their duties on February 1 and April 1, 2019, respectively.

With its office at Adenauerallee 73 in Bonn, the Accreditation Council has 12 leased office spaces, spread across three floors since January 2019, with a total of 17 workstations and a meeting room covering a total area of approximately 360 square meters.

Attachments

Appendix 1	Members of the Organs and Committees
Appendix 2	Meeting Dates

Members of the bodies and committees

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chair (since February 20, 2018)

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Vice Chair (since February 20, 2018)

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

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Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

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University of Cologne

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Representative of the German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

State Representatives

Deputy State Secretary Jürgen **Gerber**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg (until September 19, 2019)

Senior Ministerial Advisor Daniel **Köfer**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts

Dr. Michael **Lehmann**, Ministry of Economics, Science, and Digitalization of Saxony-Anhalt

Senior Ministerial Director Ralf **Thönnissen**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia

Senior Ministerial Director Markus **Wiedemann**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg (since September 19, 2019)

Representatives from the professional sector

Dr. h.c. Josef **Beutelmann**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Barmenia Versicherungen Senate

Director Rolf **Fischer**, Senate Administration for the Interior and Sport of the State of Berlin (as of May 16, 2019)

Dr. Christina **Gommlich**, Senior Manager, Economic, Trade & Social Policy, Corporate Communications & Government Relations, BASF SE

Dr. Andreas **Keller**, Vice President of the Education and Science Union (GEW)

Dr. Hans Jürgen **Urban**, Member of the Executive Board of IG Metall

Jörg **Wollny**, Ministry of the Interior and Local Government of the State of Brandenburg (until May 16, 2019)

Students

Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University of Freiberg (from October 18, 2019) Franziska

Raudonat, TU Kaiserslautern (until October 18, 2019)

Tillman **Schade**, Kiel University (until February 1,

2019) Jasmin **Usainov**, TU Dresden (as of

February 1, 2019)

International Representatives

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Prof. Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Representatives of the agencies (in an advisory capacity)

Professor Dr. Reinhard **Zintl**, Otto Friedrich University of Bamberg (emeritus)

► Alternate members of the Accreditation Council

Deputy for the Group of University Faculty Members (since February 7, 2019)

Prof. Dr. Christine **Bescherer**, Ludwigsburg University of Education

Prof. Dr. Peter **Buttner**, Munich University of Applied Sciences Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joaquin

Díaz, Technical University of Central Hesse

Prof. Dr. Birgit **Friedl**, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel Prof.

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Prof. Dr. Oscar **Loureda Lamas**, University of Heidelberg

Prof. Dr. Oliver **Müller**, University of Applied Sciences

Kaiserslautern

Prof. Dr. Rolf **Sachsse**, Saar College of Fine Arts

Deputy Representative of the Group of States (since December 13, 2019)

Senior Government Official Dr. Jana **Blasius**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg

Senior Government Advisor Natascha **Lohöfer**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts

Government Councilor Dr. Michael **Ficker**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Deputy for the Professional Practice Group (since July 11, 2019) Stefani

Sonntag, Union for Education and Science (GEW) Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

► **Permanent guests on the Accreditation Council (since February 7, 2019)**

Prof. Dr. Andreas **Musil**, University of Potsdam

Prof. Dr. Uwe **Schmidt**, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Prof. Dr.

Marcelo **da Veiga**, Alanus University

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State Representatives

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State Councilor Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, Hamburg Ministry of Science and Research

State Secretary Professor Dr. Ulrike **Gutheil**, Ministry of Science, Research, and Culture of the State of Brandenburg

State Secretary Dr. Oliver **Grunde**, Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of Schleswig-Holstein

Head of Department, Ministerial Director Dr. Rolf-Dieter **Jungk**, Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and the Arts (since March 25, 2019)

Ministerial Director Dr. Peter **Müller**, Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts (until March 25, 2019)

State Secretary Sebastian **Schröder**, Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (until October 10, 2019)

State Secretary Annette **Storsberg**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

University Representatives

Prof. Dr. Peter-André **Alt**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (as of October 11,

2018) Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary General of the German Rectors' Conference

Professor Dr. Horst **Hipler**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (until October 11, 2018)

Professor Dr. Karim **Khakzar**, President of Fulda University of Applied Sciences

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Prof. Dr. Johanna Eleonore **Weber**, Rector of Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald

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Chair

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Members

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Executive Director of the Accreditation Council Foundation

Professor Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

► Appeals Commission

In 2019, the Accreditation Council appointed the members of the Appeals Commission: Prof.

Dr. Ute von Lojewski, Münster University of Applied Sciences (faculty member),

Liv Teresa Muth, Ghent University (student member), and

Dr. Anke Rigbers, evalag (agency representative) (alternate in case of conflict of interest: Prof. Dr. Kerstin Fink, FIBAA)

► AG Raster

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied

Sciences Prof. Dr. Kerstin **Fink**, FIBAA

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

Jürgen **Gerber**, Senior Ministerial Officer, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg (until September 19, 2019)

Franziska **Raudonat**, Technical University of Kaiserslautern

(until October 18, 2019) Dr. Isabel **Rohner**, BDA

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck

Barbara **Michalk**, HRK

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel Henning

Schäfer, ZEvA

► Working Group on Rules of Procedure

Michael **Ficker**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Deputy State Secretary Jürgen **Gerber**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of

Applied Sciences Dr. Stefan **Handke**, ACQUIN

Franziska **Raudonat**, Technical University

of Kaiserslautern Dr. Isabel **Rohner**, BDA

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Stefani **Sonntag**, GEW

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena

Ralf **Thönnissen**, Senior Ministerial Officer, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

► **Steering Committee**

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Accreditation Council

Prof. Dr. Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Dr. Michael **Ficker**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia Timo

Gayer, IG Metall

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of

Applied Sciences Prof. Dr. Carola **Jungwirth**,

University of Passau Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**,

University of Innsbruck Barbara **Michalk**, HRK

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, Rector of the University of Neuchâtel

Franziska **Raudonat**, TU Kaiserslautern

Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Henning **Schäfer**, ZEvA

Nina **Ulbrich**, GEW

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN

Meeting Dates

► Meetings of the Accreditation Council

- 99. Meeting on February 25–26, 2019, in Berlin
- 100. Meeting on June 4, 2019, in Bonn
- 101. Meeting on September 17, 2019, in Frankfurt
- 102. Meeting on November 21–22, 2019, in Berlin

► Meeting of the Foundation Board

- 23. Meeting on November 11, 2019, in Hamburg

► Meetings of the Rules of Procedure Working Group

- Meeting on March 18, 2019, in Bonn

► Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

- 1st meeting on September 21, 2019, in Hanover

There were no meetings of the Working Group on Grids in 2019.