

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

Annual Report 2022

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Activity Report 2022

Reporting Period: January through December 2022

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Foreword

At the start of 2022, the Accreditation Council began its new legislative term: its second term under the new legislation. I am very pleased that the majority of members are continuing their work with dedication—this contributes to the continuity of the accreditation system. In September, following the pandemic years, the Accreditation Council was able to meet in person for the first time again; in Mainz, a city tour and a joint dinner the evening before provided not only an opportunity for personal exchange after a long time, but also a chance to bid farewell to the former long-standing chair, Professor Grimm, as well as Professor Zintl, who served for many years as the agencies' representative on the Accreditation Council.

In 2022, after four years as *an affiliate member*, the Akkreditierungsrat Foundation regained full membership in the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)*. This was followed by its listing in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR). This demonstrates that the Akkreditierungsrat Foundation's activities under the new system also meet European standards. I would like to thank everyone involved in this demanding evaluation process, and especially the international panel of experts for their valuable input.

These insights serve, among other things, as the starting point for the Accreditation Council's strategic process, through which it aims to identify the key issues it will focus on in the coming years.

For the Accreditation Council, 2022 was once again marked by a high number of applications in the accreditation system under the new legislation. In program accreditation, the number of applications once again exceeded the high figures from the previous year, and in system accreditation, nearly twice as many applications were submitted as in 2021, so that, regrettably, the

has exacerbated the “backlog of applications.” Many universities had to wait a very long time for their applications to be processed, even in 2022. I would like to thank the universities for their patience and for the understanding they have consistently shown toward the office. I am very grateful that, starting in January 2023, we will be able to fill new positions at the office to first work through the “backlog of applications” and then process applications more promptly in the not-too-distant future. I would like to thank all full-time and volunteer staff at the Accreditation Council and its office for their constructive and pragmatic cooperation in this monumental effort.

In addition, I would like to thank all individuals and institutions working on a volunteer basis for the Accreditation Council for their commitment, which far exceeds what could reasonably be expected. This is evident not only in the quarterly Council meetings and the careful preparation of meeting materials, but also in the work for the various committees, in the intensive communication between the Secretariat and Accreditation Council members, and in the representation of the Accreditation Council at external events.

Our event formats “Quality Dialogue” and “Accreditation Council in Dialogue” were once again very well received in 2022: Both the Quality Dialogue on teacher education and the “Accreditation Council in Dialogue” format—which took place three times in 2022—were very well attended, with up to 250 online participants. We recognize and take seriously the high demand for an exchange of views with the Accreditation Council and look forward to continuing this dialogue in the future!

Bonn, July 2023



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim Bargstädt

Overview

1. Quarter 2022

112. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on March 31–April 1, 2022, online

AR Resolutions:

- Election of the Chair
- Election of the Vice Chair
- 194 applications for program accreditation (covering 498 degree programs due to bundling)
- 7 applications for institutional accreditation

201 applications, including 1 return and 3 negative decisions

- (Re)approval of the FIBAA and ACQUIN agencies for their activities in Germany
- Appointment of the Diversity Working Group

2. Quarter 2021

113. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on June 9–10 June 2023, online

AR resolutions:

- 154 applications for program accreditation (covering 404 degree programs due to bundling)
- 5 applications for program accreditation

159 applications, of which 2 degree programs within bundles were rejected

- (Renewed) authorization of the agencies AQAS and ZEvA to operate in Germany
- Requirements for the publication practices of system-accredited universities (Drs. AR 61/2022)
- On-site visits in accreditation procedures starting in the summer semester of 2023 (Drs. AR 62/2022)

3. Quarter 2022

114. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on September 22, 2021, Mainz

AR Resolutions:

- 238 applications for program accreditation (covering 673 degree programs due to mergers)
- 7 applications for institutional accreditation

245 applications, of which 3 resulted in negative decisions

- Promoting Quality Development through Accreditation – A Focus on Teacher Education Programs (Drs. AR 82/2022)

4. First Quarter 2022

115. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on December 8–9, 2023, online

AR resolutions:

- 170 applications for program accreditation (covering 374 degree programs due to bundling)
- 4 applications for system accreditation

174 applications, of which 7 degree programs in 4 applications were rejected, 1 was deferred

- Compliance with requirements in the alternative procedure of Harz University
- Suspension of the three-month deadline for application submissions (Drs. AR 107/2022)

1. Current developments

1.1 New legislative term

A new term of office began at the start of 2022. The majority of the 23 members will continue their volunteer work for another four years. Only two members were newly appointed, ensuring continuity.

To develop a strategic plan for the issues on which the Accreditation Council will focus during the new legislative period (2022 to 2025, and possibly beyond), the Accreditation Council has established a working group. (See also [Chapters 1.3](#) and [2.7](#)) The ENQA report provided an important impetus for the strategic process.

1.2 ENQA-Vo II-member schaft

The Accreditation Council has once again achieved full membership in the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA) and, for the first time, listing in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

To this end, the Accreditation Council Foundation successfully completed the rigorous evaluation process, which began as early as 2021. The ESG evaluation constitutes an implementation of Article 15 of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation. The subject of the evaluation was the Accreditation Council Foundation as an organization within the context of its integration into an accreditation system in which the federal states define the criteria for accreditation and the agencies conduct the evaluation procedures.

1.3 Strategy Process of the Accreditation Council Foundation

As part of the start of its 2022–2025 term, the Accreditation Council resolved at its 112th meeting to use a

strategy process to identify the topics it wishes to address over the next few years.

First, a working group tasked with preparing the strategy process drafted a concept, which was adopted at the 115th meeting of the Accreditation Council. At this meeting, the Accreditation Council established the internal “Strategy Working Group” (members, [see Appendix 1](#)) and tasked it with preparing the strategy process as well as the closed-door meeting.

The goal is to develop a medium-term (approx. 5 years) and a long-term (approx. 12 years) strategy. The preparation and development of the individual strategic goals as well as the mission and vision of the Accreditation Council will be carried out with the assistance of an external team of facilitators.

1.4 Evaluation of the Model Statutes

Following a survey of the federal states conducted in the second half of 2021 to evaluate the Model Legal Regulation, stakeholders—including the Accreditation Council—were consulted in early 2022 in order to subsequently reach an agreement on amendments to the MRVO (“revisions”). At its 112th and 113th meetings (March and June 2022)—in part thanks to the preceding discussions in the accompanying committee (see [Chapter 2.7](#))—held deliberations on the evaluation of the Model Statute and, at the 113th meeting in June 2022, adopted the requested statement to the states. In doing so, areas for refinements were identified and additional discussion points were summarized.

1.5 Number of Applications

Since the 2020/21 winter semester, the new accreditation system has been in an

the high volume of applications in program accreditation and the increased number of applications in system accreditation in 2021/2022, the new accreditation system has been in an “ultra-marathon.” In 2022, the number of degree programs for which a program accreditation application was submitted reached a new record high of nearly 1,500 in total and (after 2021) surpassed the 1,000 mark for the second time. In system accreditation, the number of applications rose to 28, nearly doubling compared to the previous year.

The collaboration between the volunteer members of the Accreditation Council and the full-time staff at the secretariat who support them continued to be highly effective in handling the significant increase in numbers compared to 2021.

1. 5 Accreditation Applications in ELIAS

The Electronic Information and Application Processing System (ELIAS), which has been in operation since January 2019, continues to serve as a digital application platform, ensuring that the application submission and review process is efficient and reliable.

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

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

As of January 2023, 533 applicant organizations (including ten ^{agencies}¹) had

account in ELIAS. Compared to the end of 2021, this number has remained virtually unchanged.

To enter accreditations under the old legislation, the agencies (for program accreditations) and system-accredited higher education institutions (for internal accreditations) have the option of using the appropriate application types so that these can be published in the new database. (See also [Chapter 4.1](#))

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

In 2019, the groundwork was laid for the “Database 2021” were laid, whereby information on teacher training and combined degree programs will first be added to the new database, followed later by all degree programs, and corrected as necessary. Due to the significant overall workload involved in data cleansing at individual institutions and the current staff shortage at the office, the project completion date was extended to June 2023 and the project was renamed “Database 2023.” By early December 2022, 400 universities had received an Excel file along with the guidelines for correcting program data. 247 corrected Excel tables were returned to the office by the universities.

In 2022, two new application types were configured: Since then, applications for the recognition of accreditation decisions under the *European Approach* and applications for deadline extensions for internally accredited degree programs can be submitted in ELIAS.

¹ An agency authorized to operate in Germany does not yet have an account.

2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in 2022: Tasks and Results

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

In 2022, 585 applications for (re)accreditation of degree programs were submitted. This represents a further increase compared to 2021 (503 applications). In 2022, the Accreditation Council reviewed a total of 756 program accreditation applications in its meetings, 520 of which were first-time applications. Due to bundling, these 756 applications encompass 1,949 (2021: 1,072) degree programs. Here, too, a significant increase is evident compared to 2021.

In system accreditation, more applications were again submitted than in the previous year: 28 system accreditation applications reached the Secretariat in 2022 (in 2021: 16). The Accreditation Council reviewed 23 applications for system accreditation, 12 of which were first-time applications.

In a number of applications (program and system accreditation), the Accreditation Council deviated from the proposal of the Agency or the review panel. In these cases, the institutions were given the opportunity to comment before the final decision was made.

In the alternative procedures—the third category of procedures alongside program and system accreditation—the Accreditation Council reviewed compliance with requirements for one application.

In addition to technical support from ELIAS, a standardized reporting structure (and quality) is a fundamental prerequisite for the efficient

Efficiency in application processing. To ensure that the accreditation reports from (currently) eleven accreditation agencies can be processed efficiently by the Accreditation Council, the reports must be structurally comparable and follow a common template across all agencies. The comparability and readability of the accreditation reports are ensured by the standardized structure of the report templates. Currently, four **report templates**—and, in program accreditation, an additional **Excel spreadsheet (with explanations)**—serve as the basis for data collection in the accreditation reports and are also used for the self-reports.

The Accreditation Council and the agencies are in constant dialogue regarding the requirements for accreditation reports, including at the joint meeting at the beginning of 2022 and in exchange sessions between the Secretariat and the agencies.

2.2 Requests for Deadline Extensions and Bundle Approvals

In 2022, the Accreditation Council received numerous requests for deadline extensions and bundled approvals, which—in the latter case—were generally decided upon with the consultation of relevant Accreditation Council members.

In addition to the regular requests for deadline extensions, the Accreditation Council also received a few requests for extraordinary deadline extensions in 2022, e.g., due to unexpected delays in the accreditation process that were beyond the university's control.

Since 2020, regular requests for deadline extensions and batch approvals have been fully processed in ELIAS; these decisions are also generated and sent within the system. The requests for extraordinary deadline extensions, which were temporarily established until

September 30, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, could be created in the system, but the decisions were sent outside the system.

2.3 Accreditation of agencies

Under a new legal framework, the Accreditation Council authorizes accreditation agencies operating in Germany to carry out 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 ten agencies registered in the EQAR as of December 31, 2017, to conduct procedures under the new law. Since then, the MusiQuE agency has been added as the eleventh. In 2022, the Accreditation Council continued to authorize the agencies FIBAA, ACQUIN, AQAS, and ZEvA to operate in Germany based on their renewed registration in the EQAR.

2.4 Decisions of the Accreditation Council

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

- ▶ Return to normal operations following the COVID-19 pandemic

At its 113th meeting on June 9–10, 2022, the Accreditation Council decided that, as a rule, on-site visits should resume starting in the summer semester of 2023.

The reasoning behind this is that, with the removal of conflicting legal provisions, on-site visits will largely be reinstated in accreditation procedures. (▶ [Resolution of June 10, 2022](#))

- ▶ Requirements for the Publication Practices of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions

At its 113th meeting on June 9–10, 2022, the Accreditation Council adopted a resolution on requirements for the publication practices of system-accredited universities.

The resolution summarizes the content of the resolutions

“Reporting Requirements for System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions” of September 24, 2018, and “Guidelines for Quality Reports of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions” of September 17, 2019 (latest version dated September 29, 2020) as well as a series of explanations from the Accreditation Council's information portal ([Frequently Asked Questions](#)) into a single, comprehensive resolution document that addresses all aspects of the publication obligations of system-accredited higher education institutions.

The content of the resolution does not go beyond the previously applicable resolution. The guidelines for preparing quality reports under Section 3.2—formerly “Guidelines for Quality Reports of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions”—have been supplemented with explanations intended primarily to serve as a source of information and guidance for the institutions. (▶ [Resolution of June 10, 2022](#))

- ▶ Suspension of the three-month deadline for application submission

The Accreditation Council has suspended the decision made in 2021 regarding the three-month deadline upon submission of an application. The rule now in effect is that applications for reaccreditation in program accreditation are automatically extended until

are extended pending the Accreditation Council's decision, provided that the decision is not made before the accreditation period expires. (► [Resolution of December 8, 2022](#))

2.5 Review of 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 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, there was one ongoing procedure and no new procedures.

2.6 s

ELIAS Training Courses

In April/May 2022, three ELIAS training sessions for rapporteurs and two additional ELIAS training sessions for members of the Accreditation Council (via Zoom video conference) were held, as well as various ELIAS training sessions for the onboarding of university staff. Further sessions are planned.

Quality Development Award

The Quality Development Award, established in 2019, was suspended in 2022 due to an insufficient number of nominations.

Quality Dialogue 2022

On June 8, 2022, the 2022 Quality Dialogue took place on the topic of teacher education. The response to the virtual event was once again strong, with up to 146 participants.

The Accreditation Council in Dialogue

In September 2021, the Accreditation Council launched a new series of events: Through the "Accreditation Council in **Dialogue**" format, it aims to engage in mutual exchange with higher education institutions. The series will cover a wide range of topics, all of which are relevant to accreditation. The first event on September 8, 2021, was dedicated to the topic of "dual degree programs"; in 2022, three events took place in this series:

- "The Importance of Qualification Goals for the Accreditation of Degree Programs" (February 17, 2022)
- "Topic of the Day: System Accreditation" (May 5, 2022)
- "Topic of the Day: Role and Self-Conception of Review Panels" (November 21, 2022)

Further information [can be found here](#).

2.7 s Working Group

► **Teacher Education Working Group**

The Teacher Education Working Group, chaired by the Vice Chair of the Accreditation Council, Siegen University Rector Prof. Burckhart, which held its inaugural meeting virtually on May 21, 2021, met twice (virtually) in 2022.

The focus of the 5th meeting on January 31, 2022, was the preparation of the quality dialogue on teacher education; at the 6th meeting on June 24, 2022, the insights from the quality dialogue were incorporated into the guide. (Members of the Teacher Education Working Group, [see Appendix 1](#)) The [guide Promoting Quality Development through Accreditation – A Focus on Teacher Education Programs](#) was approved at the September meeting and subsequently published. With this, the working group fulfilled its mandate and was dissolved.

► **Steering Committee**

The Monitoring Committee met virtually on January 13, 2022, for its 7th meeting to discuss the handling of foreign-language program titles in accreditation as well as the evaluation of the Model Statutory Ordinance (in particular the topics of module sizes, gender equality, compensation for disadvantages, human resources, cross-module examinations, composition of the review panels, and system accreditation). On May 11, 2022, it met for its 8th meeting and discussed the questionnaire from the federal states regarding the evaluation of the Model Statute. (Members of the Monitoring Committee, [see Appendix 1](#))

► Diversity Working Group

At its 112th meeting on March 31–April 1, 2022, the Accreditation Council decided to establish the Diversity Working Group and tasked it with preparing the content for the quality dialogue on the same topic in June 2023. With the involvement of external experts, the topics of diversity and equality are to be discussed in the context of Section 15 of the MRVO. On October 11, 2022, the members ([see Appendix 1](#)) met to agree on the working group's future work and to raise initial questions (including what expectations the Accreditation Council has regarding diversity at universities). At the working group's second meeting on December 7, 2022, the working group discussed which concept of diversity it would pursue and which specific questions should be addressed and discussed in the quality dialogue.

► Working Group for Preparing the Strategy Process / Strategy Working Group

The preparatory group of the Strategic Planning Working Group met virtually on August 25, 2022, and November 10, 2022, and prepared a draft concept for a strategy process. ([see Chapter 1.3](#)) This was adopted at the

115th meeting on December 8, 2022, and a working group was established to prepare the strategy process and the closed-door meeting. (Members of the (preparatory group of the) Strategy Working Group, [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

Networks, Conferences, and Discussions

The Accreditation Council was a member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA) from 2000 to 2018 and has been a member again since 2022. Between 2018 and 2022, it was an *Affiliate Member*. It is also a member of the *International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education* (IN-QAAHE) and the *CHEA International Quality Group* (CIQG).

It is represented in *Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance of the Bologna Follow-Up Group* (BFUG) and regularly participates in international working groups, meetings, and conferences. These included, among others,

- the *ENQA Members' Forum* on June 23 and 24, 2022, in Cardiff,
- the ENQA General Assembly on October 27 and 28, 2022, in Stockholm

The Accreditation Council also participates in a working group on microcredentials within the framework of *Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance*.

The Accreditation Council was unable to participate in the annual meeting of the *Quality Audit Network* in 2022. 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.

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

► Membership in ENQA

See [Chapter 1.2](#).

► European database project DEQAR

In order to present all quality assurance results from 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

the general public to the quality assurance results of degree programs and institutions that are evaluated according to the ESG within the European Higher Education Area.

Since 2019, the accreditation results for degree programs displayed in ELIAS have been manually exported to DEQAR as CSV files; at the end of 2021, an export process via nightly updates to DEQAR was implemented, so that data on program and system accreditation is now transmitted automatically. The results can be found in [DEQAR's public database](#).

4. Information and Communication

The communication strategy developed in 2019 continues to be implemented. Since 2021, it has been supplemented by information and dialogue events; see [Chapter 2.6](#) for details.

4.1 Publication of Accreditation D

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 1.5](#))

► **Degree** Programs: Degree programs bearing the Accreditation Council's seal will be published in ELIAS beginning in 2019. This includes information on accreditation deadlines, the conditions attached to accreditation, the participating reviewers and their evaluations, as well as the Accreditation Council's decision.

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

► **System-accredited institutions of higher education:**

Accredited degree programs from system-accredited institutions of higher education can also be found in ELIAS. System-accredited institutions of higher education may make entries in the database themselves, which are then (following a formal review) activated by the Accreditation Council's office.

In June 2022, the Accreditation Council adopted "Requirements for the Publication Practices of System-Accredited Higher Education Institutions," which summarize the guidelines from the 2018 and 2019 resolutions on quality reports. The goal is and remains the uniform and clear organization of entries for system-accredited universities in the database. The diversity of quality assurance systems is to continue to be taken into account; key elements for the reports remain evidence, plausibility, and transparency. The requirement that reports from system-accredited universities must be published is governed by § 29 of the MRVO.

Since March 31, 2021, internally accredited degree programs can only be entered into the Accreditation Council's database in conjunction with a quality report.

► **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](#).

4.2 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 agencies in the Accreditation Council's working groups and the advisory membership of agency representatives on the Accreditation Council have proven to be

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

The annual (and regular) exchange with representatives of the agencies took place at the 112th meeting of the Accreditation Council on March 31–April 1, 2022. This was preceded by a morning of discussions between the agency representatives and the Chair and Executive Director of the Accreditation Council on February 11, 2022. Potential for improvement in connection with accreditation reports in program and system accreditation was discussed, with a focus, among other things, on the autonomy of the evaluators. The role of the agencies in the MRVO evaluation as well as the perception of accreditation as a catalyst for quality development were also addressed.

To date, the Accreditation Council has informed the agencies of new or amended resolutions in the form of letters from the Chair.

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 the agencies' experiences—including regarding the Accreditation Council's new database—or to exchange views on the design of accreditation reports and their handling by the agencies.

The exchange between agencies and the Accreditation Council at the administrative office level, newly introduced in 2022, also promotes

understanding of various topics and provides insights into the challenges faced by both sides.

4.3 Statistical Data

In January 2023, 7,609 bachelor's and 7,798 master's degree programs offered by state or state-recognized universities 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 in the database after a decision has been made,
- 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 117 state or state-recognized higher education institutions had successfully completed a (partial) system accreditation procedure or an alternative procedure 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 unknown to the Accreditation Council, as the reporting requirement was eliminated under the new law. 28 institutions

³ Of the 526 institutions documented in ELIAS. These include vocational academies, universities of applied sciences/HAWs, art and music colleges, and

submitted an application for system (re)accreditation under the new law to the Accreditation Council in 2022 (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 has done in the [Schedule of Fees](#) issued on July 11, 2018, and amended in 2020 and 2022. It provides for an annual base fee (base flat rate) for higher education institutions, scaled according to institution size, and procedure-related fees (case-based flat rates) 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 and all other fees can be found in the Fee Schedule appendix in the ► [Fee Schedule](#).

For the 2022 fiscal year, the Conference of Finance Ministers (FMK) set the annual contributions from the states to the Accreditation Council at 1,062,100 euros. Fee revenue amounted to 944,150 euros.

The foundation's annual financial statements for 2022 show revenue of 2,007,450

academies of science, police academies, universities, administrative colleges, and specialized higher education institutions.

euros (allocations from the federal states, fee revenue, and revenue from third parties) and total expenditures of 2,003,285 euros. This leaves a surplus of 4,165 euros.

5.2 Staffing, facilities, and equipment of the office

According to the staffing plan, the Foundation's administrative office is staffed by a managing director (1.0 full-time equivalents/FTE), program officers (10.4 FTE), and administrative staff (3.75 FTE), as well as a secretary (1.0 FTE). In addition, from July 2021 to December 2022, the Foundation employed a student assistant for 15 hours per week, and from December 2019 to December 2022, a research assistant for 20 hours per month. From March 1, 2022, to November 30, 2022, the Foundation also once again utilized the legally regulated temporary staffing arrangement. As of January 1, 2023, the employee hired under this arrangement was hired as an administrative assistant.

Since mid-2021—and continuing into 2022—external staff members have been engaged on a fee basis to handle the persistently high volume of applications in program accreditation.

Employees are compensated in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Public Service of the Federal States (TV-L). A program officer was hired effective July 1, 2022.

In 2022, the Budget Committee approved additional positions starting in 2023, some of which were marked as temporary (1.0 FTE EG 15, 5.0 FTE EG 14, 1.0 FTE pay grade 11, 5.0 FTE pay grade 10). The recruitment procedures were initiated immediately.

With its office at Adenauerallee 73 in Bonn, the Accreditation Council occupies 15

rented office space, spread across four floors since January 2022, with a total of 18 workstations and two meeting rooms covering a total area of approximately 520 square meters. Plans for 2023 include the establishment of meeting rooms, workstations for remote work, and a permanent office workstation.

Members of the Governing Bodies and Committees

The bodies and committees are always supported and assisted by staff members from the administrative office, with the number of staff varying as needed.

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chair

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**

Vice Chair

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

University faculty members

Prof. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Ph.D., Bauhaus University Weimar Prof.

Stefan **Bartels**, Ph.D., Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Technical University of Braunschweig

Prof. Dr. Petra **Gromann**, Fulda University of Applied Sciences (until September 30, 2022) Prof. Dr. Óscar **Loureda Lamas**, University of Heidelberg

Prof. Dr. Ulrike **Oehmen**, Protestant University of Applied Sciences Nuremberg (since October 1, 2022) Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena Prof. Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of Music

Representative of the German Rectors' Conference

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

State Representatives

Dr. Christine **Burtscheidt**, Senior Ministerial Director, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts (until May 30, 2022)

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

Director General Silke **Tannapfel**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts (since May 30, 2022)

Markus **Wiedemann**, Senior Ministerial Officer, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg

Deputy Minister Dr. Hans-Peter **Zils**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Representatives from the professional field

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

Dr. Katharina **Höhn**, Member of the Executive Board of the German Insurance Industry Education Association (BWW e.V.) and Managing Director of the German Insurance Academy (DVA) GmbH

Senate Director Rolf **Fischer**, Senate Administration for the Interior and Sports of the State of Berlin

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

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

Students

Milan N. Grammerstorf, University of Bielefeld (since May 30, 2022)

Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University of Freiberg (until May 30, 2022) Lina **Irscheid**,
University of Freiburg

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)

Dr. Verena Kloeters, Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programs (AQAS e.V.)

► Alternate members of the Accreditation Council

Alternates from the group of university faculty members

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.

Dr. Carmen **Leicht-Scholten**, RWTH Aachen University

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

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

Schubert, University of Leipzig

Deputy for the Group of States

Dr. Gisa **Austermühle**, Ministry of Economics, Science, and Digitalization of the State of Saxony-Anhalt (since December 8, 2022)

Dr. Imke **Buß**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg

Senior Government Advisor Natascha **Lohöfer**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts (until January 20, 2022)

Annette **Münch**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts (since January 20, 2022)

Government Councilor Katharina **Schrader**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Deputy for the Professional Practice Group

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

Metall

Student Group Representative

Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg (effective May 31, 2022)

Deputy Representative of the Agencies (in an advisory capacity)

Georg Reschauer, Accreditation Agency for Health and Social Services (AHPGS)

► Permanent guests on the Accreditation Council

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

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

Marcelo **da Veiga**, Alanus University

► **Members of the Foundation Board**

Chair

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

Vice Chair

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

State representatives

State Secretary Susanne **Bowen**, Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

State Secretary Tobias **Dünow**, Ministry of Science, Research, and Culture of the State of Brandenburg

State Secretary Dr. Oliver **Grundeis**, Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of Schleswig-Holstein (until October 16, 2022)

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

State Secretary Dr. Dirk **Günnewig**, Ministry of Culture of North Rhine-Westphalia (January 20, 2022–October 16, 2022)

Head of Office, Ministerial Director Dr. Rolf-Dieter **Jungk**, Bavarian State Ministry of Education and Culture, Science and the Arts

State Secretary Annette **Storsberg**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (until October 16, 2022)

State Secretary Gonca **Türkeli-Dehnert**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (since October 16, 2022)

State Secretary Guido **Wendt**, Ministry of General and Vocational Education, Science, Research, and Culture of the State of Schleswig-Holstein (since October 16, 2022)

University representatives

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

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

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

Prof. Dr. Dorit **Schumann**, President of Trier University of Applied

Sciences Prof. Dr. Anja **Steinbeck**, Rector of the University of Düsseldorf

► Members of the Executive Board

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**

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

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

► Appeals Commission

Members

Prof. Dr. Ute von **Lojewski**, Münster University of Applied Sciences (faculty member) Liv Teresa **Muth**, Ghent University (student member) (until March 31,

2022) Dr. Alexander **Rudolph**, ACQUIN (agency representative)

Julian **Wiedermann**, University of Freiburg (student member) (since March 31, 2022)

Alternate Members

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans **Gruber**, University of Regensburg (faculty member) Felix

Kettenbeil, University of Göttingen (student member) (since March 31, 2022) Dr. Iring

Wasser, ASIIN (agency representative)

► Teacher Education Working Group

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

Holger **Burckhart**, University of Siegen

Prof. Dr. Marcelo **da Veiga**, Alanus University

Phillip **Glanz**, Dresden University of Technology (student member)

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

Dr. Simone **Kroschel**, AQAS

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

Martina **Österle**, Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg Prof. Dr.

Hans-Joachim **Roth**, University of Cologne

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

Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of Music

► Steering Committee

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Accreditation Council

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans Joachim **Bargstädt**

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

Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

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

(until September 30, 2022) Prof. Dr. Oliver **Günther**, University of

Potsdam (until February 2022) Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University

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

Barbara **Michalk**, HRK (until September 2022)

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

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

Henning **Schäfer**, ZEVA

Nina **Ulbrich**, GEW (until 01/13/2022)

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN

Dr. Peter **Zervakis**, HRK

► Diversity Working Group

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**

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

Dr. Aletta **Hinsken**, evalag

Loreen **Kaiser** (student member) Fabian

Körner (student member)

Prof. Dr. Carmen **Leicht-Scholten** (Chair of the Diversity Working

Group) Harriet **Leischko**

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**

Bernadette **Maul**

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

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

Steinweg, GESIS

Fay **Uhlmann** (student member)

Prof. Dr. Martin **Ullrich**, Nuremberg University of Music Dr.

Peter **Zervakis**, HRK

► Preparatory Group and Working Group for the Strategy Process

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt** (Chair) Dr.

Olaf **Bartz** (preparatory group only)

Prof. Dr. Christine **Bescherer** (university faculty) Prof. Dr.

Heike **Faßbender** (university faculty) Milan **Grammerstorf**

(students)

Dr. Andreas **Keller** (Professional Practice)

Dr. Verena **Kloeters** (representative of the agencies)

Prof. Dr. Óscar **Loureda Lamas** (University Faculty) Annette

Münch (Federal States)

Georg **Reschauer** (Alternate for the Agency Representative) Prof.

Dr. Charlotte **Schubert** (University Faculty)

Stefani **Sonntag** (Professional Practice)

Meeting dates

► Meetings of the Accreditation Council

112. Meeting on March 31/April 1, 2022, via Zoom video conference

113. Meeting on June 9–10, 2022, via Zoom video conference

114. Meeting on September 22, 2022, in Mainz

115. Meeting on December 8, 2022, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Foundation Board

26. Meeting on October 27, 2022 via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Teacher Training Working Group

5. Meeting on January 31, 2022, via Zoom video conference

6. Meeting on June 24, 2022, via Zoom video conference

► **Meeting of the Monitoring Committee**

7. Meeting on January 13, 2022, via Zoom video conference
8. Meeting on May 11, 2022, via Zoom video conference

► **Meeting of the Diversity Working Group**

1. Meeting on October 11, 2022, via Zoom video conference
2. Meeting on December 7, 2022, via Zoom video conference

► **Meeting of the Working Group on Preparing the Strategy Process**

1. Meeting on May 25, 2022, via Zoom video conference
2. Meeting on November 10, 2022, via Zoom video conference