

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

Activity Report 2024

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Activity Report 2024

Reporting period: January to December 2024

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Foreword

In 2024, the Accreditation Council successfully concluded the strategic process initiated in 2023 with the adoption of a “Mission Statement” defining both the “Mission” and the “Vision.”

As a key event in 2024, the 1st Conference of Science Ministers on November 21, 2024, adopted an amended version of the Model Statute (MRVO 2024). To examine the resulting implications, members of the Accreditation Council formed a task force in October 2024 to prepare the content for a hybrid event on January 28, 2025, in Bonn. There, the changes and their consequences will be discussed before a diverse audience.

In 2024, the numbers in program and system accreditation declined slightly. Nevertheless, due to staff changes and subsequent vacancies at the Secretariat, as well as a high number of “follow-ups” on applications—particularly applications for substantial changes—processing times, especially for reaccreditations, have unfortunately increased again.

At its 120th meeting, the Accreditation Council established an internal working group to assess the workload required for the preparation of the 2026 budget. In September 2024, it was decided to commission an external study to determine staffing needs for 2027 and beyond.

We continued the dialogue—with all stakeholders, but especially with the universities—through virtual events: We were able to engage in discussions with 200 and 230 participants, respectively, during the two editions of the “Accreditation Council in Dialogue” series.

The quality dialogue on “Accessibility, Dropout Rates, and Academic Success” was once again prepared by a working group of the Accreditation Council. Nearly 300 participants in the keynote

, the panel discussions, and a panel discussion confirmed the relevance of the topic.

In 2024, we also took this joint dialogue to another level: I was able to hold discussions with the State Conference of Rectors and Presidents of Berlin’s Universities (LKRP), the State Rectors’ Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia, and the Thuringian State Presidents’ Conference (TLPK). These were extremely fruitful meetings that not only addressed the universities’ questions and requests regarding accreditation but also served to enhance the transparency of the Accreditation Council’s work.

At the 122nd meeting, Prof. Dr. Holger Burckhart was bid farewell after more than 13 years on the Accreditation Council. As a representative of the agencies, a university representative, and finally as

As a “representative of the HRK” since 2018, he has consistently worked to further develop the quality management system at universities.

This year, too, I would like to express my gratitude to him and all other members of the Accreditation Council, as well as the secretariat, for their trusting, open, and constructive cooperation. While some carry out their volunteer work with great personal dedication and a significant time commitment, others ensure, through their work, the smooth running of the Accreditation Council’s meetings and the Council’s decision-making processes.

We have also maintained various communication and exchange formats with the agencies. For this, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the agencies.

Bonn, July 2025



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim Bargstädt

Overview

1. Quarter 2024

120. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on March 13–14, 2024, in Fulda

AR Resolutions:

- 209 applications for program accreditation (these encompassed 527 degree programs due to bundling)
- 10 applications for system accreditation

219 applications; one application was rejected

- Further regulations regarding the complaint and appeal procedures
- Establishment of a working group to determine staffing needs at the office for the preparation of the draft 2026 business plan
- Approval of the AKAST agency to operate in Germany

2. Q1 2024

121. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on June 27, 2024, online

AR resolutions:

- 180 applications for program accreditation (these encompassed 455 degree programs due to bundling)
- 8 applications for system accreditation
- 1 application for an alternative procedure

189 applications, of which 2 were rejected

- Adoption of a “Mission Statement” in which the Accreditation Council supplemented its guiding principles with a “Vision” and a “Mission” (Drs. AR 72/2024)
- Resolution on the revision of FAQ 10 “Combined and Partial Degree Programs”

3. Quarter 2024

122. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on September 25–26, 2024, in Münster

AR resolutions:

- 204 applications for program accreditation (these encompassed 479 degree programs due to bundling)
- 14 applications for institutional accreditation

218 applications; one application was rejected

- Approval for the implementation of an alternative procedure at Pforzheim University

4. Quarter 2024

123. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on December 12, 2024, online

AR resolutions:

- 134 applications for program accreditation (which, due to bundling, covered 284 degree programs)
- 5 applications for system accreditation

139 applications

- Establishment of a working group on evaluation grids

1. Current developments

1.1 Completion of the Accreditation Council Foundation's strategic process

The Accreditation Council has concluded its strategy process, which began in spring 2022, with the adoption of its "Mission Statement," which encompasses the guiding principles adopted in 2019 as well as the "Vision" and "Mission" of the Accreditation Council. University faculty, students, representatives of the federal states, the professional sector, and the agencies, as well as the German Rectors' Conference and the international higher education community, were involved in the development of the concept.

1.2 New Model Regulation (MRVO) II

Following a multi-stage participatory process, the 1st Conference of Science Ministers adopted an amended version of the MRVO on November 21, 2024. The new MRVO II aims to streamline procedures, increase the consistency and clarity of regulations, and create greater flexibility for universities; the fundamental aspects of the reform are:

- An adjustment to the obligation to provide information to the public and the Accreditation Council leads to a streamlining of the publication requirements for system-accredited universities, without, however, compromising transparency regarding the quality assurance of the academic programs offered.
- The strengthening of competency-based examinations through the introduction of greater didactic freedom for the implementation of the competency-based examination principle, as well as qualitative objectives for the frequency and organization of examinations.
- Clear requirements for dual degree programs through transparent requirements

a systematic integration of learning environments in terms of content, organization, and contracts.

- The expansion of the *European Approach*, particularly with regard to joint programs, now enables a simplified procedure and a streamlined set of criteria.

1.3 Departure of Prof. Dr. Burckhart

After more than 13 years, Prof. Dr. Holger Burckhart, most recently "Representative of the German Rectors' Conference" and Vice Chair, stepped down from the Accreditation Council in September 2024 at the 122nd meeting. He participated in Accreditation Council meetings starting in June 2011, initially as a representative of the agencies and, from 2013 onward, as a university representative. He contributed to several working groups of the Accreditation Council, including the Working Group on the Further Development of System Accreditation (2012), the Working Group on Teacher Education (which, among other things, prepared the 2022 Quality Dialogue on teacher education), the Working Group on Diversity (which, among other things, prepared the 2023 Quality Dialogue on the topic of diversity), and most recently the Working Group on Staffing Needs since 2024 (see attachment).

1.4 Determination of Staffing Needs

At its 120th meeting, the Accreditation Council decided to establish a working group to determine the appropriate staffing needs at the Secretariat as a prerequisite for preparing the 2026 budget. The Chair of the Foundation Board, State Councilor Dr. Gumbel, also attended the working group's first meeting.

1.5 Thematic Analysis

A member of the Secretariat prepared a thematic analysis on **the feasibility of study programs and academic success in self-evaluation reports**.

1.6 Number of Applications

For the year 2024, a decline in the high number of applications can be observed in both program and system accreditation. While the number of degree programs for which a program accreditation application was submitted remains above the 1,000 mark for the fourth consecutive year, at 1,083 it is significantly lower than in the previous year (2023: 1,237).

In system accreditation, the number of applications fell by 15% compared to the previous year to 18.¹

In 2024, an alternative procedure was newly approved. This corresponds to the average for new applications in recent years.

The collaboration between the volunteer members of the Accreditation Council and the full-time staff at the secretariat who support them continued to be very well-coordinated and can be seen as a key factor in successfully handling the surge of applications over the past two years.

1.7 Applications for Accreditation 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 and review process is efficient and reliable. ELIAS is available to the public at <https://antrag.akkreditierungsrat.de/>.

ELIAS supports the entire application process: from submission by the higher

and other institutions, through processing by the Accreditation Council's secretariat and the preparation of meetings of the Accreditation Council's members, to the accreditation decision and its announcement.

As of January 2025, 542 applicant organizations (including ten agencies²) were registered in ELIAS. This figure has remained virtually unchanged since the end of 2023.

To also record accreditations under the old law in ELIAS, the agencies (for program accreditations) and system-accredited institutions of higher education (for internal accreditations) have the option of using corresponding application types. This ensures that these are also published in the new database. (See [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 mid-2024, two new application types for reporting significant changes were implemented: in program accreditation, the application type "07. Notification of (Significant) Change" and, for internally accredited degree programs at accredited institutions of higher education (system accreditation or alternative procedure), the application type "Registration of a Significant Change (Internal)." Through these two application types, nearly 200 significant changes to degree programs were already submitted in 2024.

¹ All information here and below is based on the ELIAS database as of January 2, 2025. Minor discrepancies in historical annual (application) figures may arise, for example, due to corrections to the data set.

² An agency licensed to operate in Germany does not yet have an account.

1.8 Finalization of the interface between Hochschulkompass and ELIAS

Programming of the HSK interface has been completed: Accreditation information for degree programs can now also be accessed via Hochschulkompass. The link to the ELIAS page can be found on the Hochschulkompass page for each degree program under the heading "Additional Basic Information."

2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in 2024: Tasks and Results

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

In 2024, 456 applications for (re)accreditation of degree programs were submitted. This represents a decrease compared to 2023 (514 applications).

During the reporting year, the Accreditation Council reviewed 445 program accreditation applications for the first time. Due to necessary multiple reviews (consultation procedures pursuant to §22(3) MRVO, and the fulfillment of requirements pursuant to §27 MRVO), the total number of applications processed amounted to 727 program accreditation applications. Due to bundling, these 727 applications cover 1,745 (2023: 2,233) degree programs. This represents a decrease compared to 2023.

Fewer applications were also submitted for system accreditation than in the previous year: 18 system accreditation applications were received by the Secretariat in 2024 (in 2023: 21). The Accreditation Council processed 17 applications for system accreditation for the first time and, including multiple reviews and carryovers from the previous year, a total of 37 applications.

In the area of major changes, one application for a degree program was reviewed at a meeting in 2024. All other major changes in program accreditation were decided by the Executive Board.

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

In the procedural category of alternative procedures, the Accreditation Council determined that requirements had been met in an alternative procedure, granted an extension for meeting requirements in an alternative procedure, approved the initiation of an alternative procedure, and deliberated on two reports from the monitoring of an alternative procedure. In addition, the accreditation decision regarding an alternative procedure was suspended and its review process extended.

In addition to technical support from ELIAS, a standardized report structure 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 should be structurally comparable and follow a common template across agencies. The comparability and readability of the accreditation reports are ensured by the standardized structure of the report templates, which follows the MRVO. Currently, four **report templates** and, in program accreditation, an additional **Excel spreadsheet** (with **explanations**) for data entry serve as the basis for the accreditation reports and are also used for the self-reports.

The Accreditation Council and the agencies are in constant communication regarding the requirements for accreditation reports, including at the joint meeting at the beginning of 2024 and in exchange sessions between the Secretariat and the agencies.

2.2 Requests for deadline extensions and bundled approvals

In 2024, the Accreditation Council received numerous requests for deadline extensions and group approvals; in the latter case, these were generally decided by the Executive Board 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 2024, 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 applications for extraordinary deadline extensions, which were temporarily established until September 30, 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, could be created in the system; however, 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

approval is proof that the agency is reliably capable of performing the tasks of evaluation and preparing the evaluation report; for agencies listed in the EQAR, this is presumed unless proven otherwise. In 2018, the Accreditation Council accredited all ten agencies registered in the EQAR as of December 31, 2017, to conduct procedures under the new legislation. Most recently, in 2021, the agency Mu-siQuE was added as the eleventh. During the reporting period, there were no additions or departures among the approved agencies.

2.4 Decisions of the Accreditation Council

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

► Complaints and Appeals Procedures

At its 120th meeting, the Accreditation Council, following a recommendation from the ENQA expert group, further formalized its complaint and appeal procedures. The already established practice is now codified, and the experience gained from previously conducted complaint and objection procedures has been incorporated into the new regulations, which serve to further increase the transparency of the process, particularly for the universities concerned, but also for third parties. (► [Resolution of March 14, 2024](#))

► Mission Statement

At its 121st meeting, the Accreditation Council adopted a mission statement in which it expanded its guiding principles to include a "vision" and a "mission." (► [Resolution of June 27, 2024](#))

► Revision of the FAQ on Combined and Partial Degree Programs

Due to an increase in inquiries, the Accreditation Council has decided to revise its FAQ 10 to

Revise combined and partial degree programs. The process for this began at the 120th meeting of the Accreditation Council and was concluded in June 2024 with a resolution adopted at the 121st meeting. Six FAQs now address fundamental questions regarding the definition of combined and partial degree programs as distinct from major and minor structures, as well as academic disciplines; FAQ 10.1 addresses the basic definition. The title of the FAQ has changed from “Combined Degree Programs – Deadlines and Application Submission” to “Combined and Partial Degree Programs.” (► [FAQ 10 Combined and Partial Degree Programs](#))

2.5 Review of Accreditation Procedures

The review of accreditation procedures (“monitoring”) has not been part of the Accreditation Council’s responsibilities since 2018. However, until decisions on accreditation procedures under the new law are available, the Accreditation Council may continue to initiate ad hoc reviews of procedures under the old law if there are indications of improper conduct of a procedure or an erroneous accreditation decision.

There were no ongoing or new proceedings during the reporting period.

2.6 s

Training Sessions and Workshops on ELIAS

In 2024, the ELIAS database team conducted training sessions for eleven universities, during which the functionalities and process flows were explained and specific situations at universities (such as cooperative degree programs with other universities) were addressed. In addition, three workshops on ELIAS were held with agencies

, during which the agencies’ specific questions were discussed and the data held by each agency in ELIAS was reviewed and, in some cases, subsequently revised. These training sessions and workshops for external users are an essential component in ensuring the transparency and reliability of data on universities and their degree programs within the system.

Quality Dialogue 2024

On June 26, 2024, the Quality Dialogue 2024 took place on the topic of “Accessibility, Dropout Rates, and Academic Success.” With approximately 380 participants, the response to the virtual event was once again significantly greater than in the previous year.

Further information can be found [here](#). [The Accreditation Council in Dialogue](#)

On February 14, 2024, an Accreditation Council in Dialogue session was held on the “Topic of the Day: Cooperation with Non-Higher Education Institutions,” attended by approximately 230 people.

The Accreditation Council in Dialogue on November 14, 2024, was dedicated to the “Topic of the Day: Alternative Procedures” and had around 200 participants.

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

2.7 Working Groups

► Study Feasibility Working Group

The working group (see Appendix 1), which was tasked with preparing the Quality Dialogue on Study Feasibility, met virtually twice in 2024 (February 5, 2024; March 18, 2024).

► Steering Committee

No meetings of the Monitoring Committee took place in 2024.

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

After holding two meetings in 2023, the working group met again virtually via Zoom on February 29, 2024.

► Working Group on Staffing Needs

At its 120th meeting on March 13–14, 2024, the Accreditation Council established an internal working group to determine staffing needs at the Secretariat for the preparation of the draft 2026 Business Plan.

The working group (see Appendix 1) convened for three meetings: on May 2, 2024, in Hamburg, and on June 10, 2024, in Frankfurt am Main; a third meeting took place virtually on September 5, 2024. It presented its report at the 122nd meeting of the Accreditation Council on September 25–26, 2024. The Accreditation Council resolved to conduct a staffing needs assessment with an external service provider based on these deliberations.

► Working Group of Reviewers

At its 120th meeting on March 13–14, 2024, the Accreditation Council established an internal working group (see Appendix 1) to address the issue of jointly recruiting evaluators.

The working group met once on October 11, 2024, in Frankfurt am Main. The report on this was presented at the 123rd meeting of the Accreditation Council on December 12–13, 2024. The Accreditation Council opposed the use of ELIAS by the Accreditation Council Foundation to establish a central evaluator database, primarily for data protection and cost reasons.

► Task Force MRVO II

On November 21, 2024, following a multi-stage evaluation process, the federal states adopted a new model regulation. As the basis for the respective state regulations on study program accreditation, it serves as a central document in accreditation procedures.

Since the MRVO 2024 will also change the basis for decision-making and the practices of the Accreditation Council, the Accreditation Council plans to present the key points of the changes.

Following a call for participation at the 123rd meeting of the Accreditation Council, a Task Force MRVO II was formed (see Appendix 1), which met virtually on October 14, 2024, November 18, 2024, and December 18, 2024, and prepared the hybrid **event “Amendment for Quality Development at Universities – the Model Statutory Regulation 2024,”** which is scheduled for January 28, 2025.

3. International Cooperation Quality assurance and quality development are essential prerequisites for the realization of the European Higher Education Area. Therefore, even under the new legal framework, the promotion of international cooperation remains one of the central tasks entrusted to the Accreditation Council by the federal states. At its core, the International cooperation aims to promote mutual understanding of quality assurance systems, to identify and jointly develop comparable criteria, methods, and standards for quality assurance, and to improve the transparency of study

programs, thereby facilitating 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 was a member from 2000 to 2018 and has been a member again since 2022 of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA). Between 2018 and 2022, it was an *ENQA Affiliate*. 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 EHEA Dialogue on Recognition and Quality Assurance in African Countries on January 17–19, 2024, in Barcelona
- the ENQA Members' Forum on April 17–19, 2024, in Hanover
- the Ministerial Conference of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) on May 28–30, 2024, in Tirana
- the Bologna Hub Peer Support II Final Conference on October 7–8, 2024, in Athens
- the ENQA General Assembly on October 23–25, 2024, in St. Julian's, Malta
- the final conference of the ENQA-coordinated project "Quality Assurance Fit for the Future (QA-FIT)" on November 7, 2024, in Brussels

The Accreditation Council is also participating in a working group on microcredentials as part of *Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance*.

A member of the Secretariat attended the annual meeting of the *Quality Audit Network*, held on May 15–16, 2024, in Stockholm. 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. This international cooperation enables the Accreditation Council to share its expertise while also benefiting from the experiences of its international partners.

► European Database Project DEQAR

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.

Since 2019, the program accreditation results displayed in ELIAS have been manually exported to DEQAR as CSV files; at the end of 2021, a nightly export to DEQAR was set up, 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 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 Treaty³. The Accreditation Council's own database has been online since January 8, 2019. (See [Chapter 1.6](#))

► **Degree** programs: Degree programs bearing the Accreditation Council's seal will be published in ELIAS starting in 2019. This includes information on accreditation periods, the conditions associated with accreditation, the participating evaluators and their assessments, as well as the Accreditation Council's decision.

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

► **Alternative Procedures**: Accreditation data for alternative procedures is available in ELIAS under "Accredited Institutions." Institutions that self-accredit their programs through an alternative procedure

enter the relevant data into the database in the same manner as system-accredited institutions.

► **Agencies**: All agencies 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 agencies is more essential than ever 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 effective tools for reliable mutual information exchange among stakeholders.

The annual (and regular) exchange with representatives of the agencies took place at the 120th meeting of the Accreditation Council. It was preceded by a virtual meeting of the agency representatives with the Chair and the Executive Director of the Accreditation Council on January 29, 2024.

On March 7, 2024, the accreditation agency ACQUIN and the Accreditation Council Foundation offered a joint continuing education event entitled "Three Actors, One Objective (?) – The Roles of Higher Education Institutions, Agencies, and the Accreditation Council in System Accreditation," which was aimed at representatives of quality management departments and university administrations.

³ See Art. 3(6) of the State Agreement on the Protection of Personal Data (StAkkrStV) and § 18(4), sentence 2 and § 29 MRVO.

The event was initially planned to be held in-person at the University of Hannover, which had kindly made its conference rooms available for this purpose. Due to the train drivers' strike, the event had to be moved online at short notice. The approximately 130 participants were able to further their education on the implementation of system accreditation procedures through lectures, workshops, and a panel discussion, and to exchange their experiences with this procedure to date.

On August 27, 2024, staff members of the Secretariat organized the first "Summer Meeting of the Agencies" in the new format at the premises of the Accreditation Council Foundation, to which staff members of agencies operating in Germany had been invited. The meeting focused on the historical context of the accreditation system: In addition to looking back on the history of accreditation to date, four future-oriented workshops facilitated discussions on the further development of accreditation. The event helped to deepen communication between the staff of the agencies and the Secretariat and to initiate discussions regarding the respective areas of work within the jointly managed accreditation procedures. Following the event, the accreditation agency ACQUIN agreed to host the next summer meeting the following year.

In addition, work shadowing opportunities were arranged for three employees of the Foundation at accreditation agencies (AKAST, ACQUIN, AQ Austria), which were intended to provide insights into the agencies' working methods and the challenges they face

conducting the evaluation procedures. In return, the Secretariat would like to enable speakers from the agencies to participate in work shadowing in their own fields of activity whenever possible in the future.

In 2024, exchange meetings took place in February, June, and October in the area of program accreditation; in system accreditation, such a meeting took place in October.

The AKAST agency held a workshop for staff members of the Secretariat on the topic of church approvals.

4.3 Statistical Data

In January 2025, 8,558 bachelor's and 8,700 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 135 state or state-recognized higher education institutions had successfully completed a (partial) system accreditation procedure or an alternative procedure as of the survey date; this corresponds to approximately 30% of all higher education institutions.⁴ Some institutions are in the process of obtaining system accreditation; the exact number is not known to the Accreditation Council, as there is no prior reporting requirement.

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 2024 fiscal year, the Ministry of Finance

The Conference of Ministers (FMK) set the annual contributions from the federal states to the Accreditation Council at 1,503,980 euros. Fee revenue was estimated at 1,055,000 euros.

The foundation's annual financial statement for 2024 shows revenues totaling 2,652,399 euros (allocations from the federal states, fees, and third-party revenues) and total expenditures of 2,622,331 euros. This leaves a surplus of approximately 30,068 euros.

5.2 Staffing, Premises, and Equipment of the Administrative Office

In 2024 (as of December 31, 2024), the Foundation's office staff consisted of a managing director and a deputy managing director (1.75 full-time equivalents/FTE), advisors (13.35 FTE) and administrative staff (5.4 FTE), as well as a secretary (1.0 FTE). In addition, the Foundation employed a student assistant for 15 hours per week in 2024.

Since mid-2021—and continuing into 2024—external staff have been engaged on a fee basis to handle the persistently high volume of applications for program accreditation.

Employees are compensated in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Public Service of the Federal States (TV-L).

With its office at Adenauerallee 73 in Bonn, the Accreditation Council has 15 rented office spaces, 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.

These include vocational academies, universities of applied sciences/HAWs, art and music colleges, music academies, police academies, universities, administrative colleges, and institutions of higher education of a special type.

⁽⁴⁾ For 438 institutions documented in ELIAS as accredited higher education institutions as of the reference date or with at least one accredited degree program.

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 (until November 4, 2024)

University Faculty Members

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jutta **Abulawi**, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (since April 18, 2024) Prof. Dr.-Ing.

Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan **Bartels**, Lübeck University of Applied Sciences (until February

9, 2024) Prof. Dr. Heike **Faßbender**, Technical University of Braunschweig

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

Prof. Dr. Ulrike **Oehmen**, Protestant University of Applied Sciences

Nuremberg 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 (until November 4, 2024)

Prof. Dr. Ulrich **Bartosch**, University of Passau (from November 4, 2024)

State Representatives

MDgt. Prof. Dr. Joachim **Goebel**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (since November 2024)

Dr. Michael **Lehmann**, Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection, and Environment of the State of Saxony-Anhalt

Silke **Tannapfel**, Senior Ministerial Director, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts

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

Deputy Minister Dr. Hans-Peter **Zils**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia (until November 4, 2024)

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 (BWV 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 (until September 4, 2024)

Ministerial Director Rainer **Grieger**, Ministry of the Interior and Local Government of the State of Brandenburg (since September 4, 2024)

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

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

Students

Jeanette **Gehlert**, Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel

Milan N. **Grammerstorf**, Bielefeld University (until March 26, 2025) Florian

Gutt, Ruhr University Bochum (since March 26, 2025)

International Representatives

Prof. Dr. em. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck (until December 31, 2024)

Prof. Dr. em. Martine **Rahier**, University of Neuchâtel

Representative 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

Alternate for 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, University of Applied Sciences Mittelhessen

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

Prof. Dr. Carmen **Leicht-Scholten**, RWTH Aachen University (until

December 31, 2024) Prof. Dr. Oliver **Müller**, Kaiserslautern University of

Applied Sciences

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

Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Deputy for the Group of States

Dr. Gisa **Austermühle**, Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection, and Environment of the State of Saxony-Anhalt

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

State Councilor Katharina **Kommer**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia (since November 4, 2024)

Annette **Münch**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts

State Councilor Katharina **Schrader**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia (until November 4, 2024)

Deputy Representative of the Professional Practice Group

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

Metall

Deputy Representatives of the Student Group

Daniel **Irmer**, Technical University of Freiberg (until March 26, 2024) Luft **Kettenbeil**,

University of Göttingen (since March 26, 2024)

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. Monika **Bessenrodt-Weberpals**, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Prof. Dr. Philipp **Pohlenz**, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (since June 6, 2024)
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, Culture, Federal and European Affairs of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

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

State Secretary Guido **Wendt**, Ministry of General and Vocational Education, Science, Research, and Culture of the State of Schleswig-Holstein

State Councilor Dr. Eva **Gümbel**, Hamburg Authority for Science, Research, Gender Equality, and Districts

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

State Secretary Gonca **Türkeli-Dehnert**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

University representatives

Prof. Dr. Walter **Rosenthal**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (President of Friedrich Schiller University Jena until October 2023)

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

Prof. Dr. Jörg **Bagdahn**, President of Anhalt 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 (until November 4, 2024)

► Appeals Commission

Members

Prof. em. Dr. Ute von **Lojewski**, Münster University of Applied Sciences (faculty member) Dr. Alexander **Rudolph**, ACQUIN (agency representative)

Julian **Wiedermann**, University of Freiburg (student member)

Alternate Members

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

Luft **Kettenbeil**, University of Göttingen (student member) until March 26, 2024, Florens **Förster**, RWTH Aachen University (student member) starting June 27, 2024

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN (agency representative)

► Advisory Committee

Prof. Hans Joachim **Bargstädt**, Ph.D. (Eng.)

Dr. Olaf **Bartz**, Accreditation Council

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

Heike **Faßbender**, Technical University of Braunschweig

Timo **Gayer**, IG Metall

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck (until December 31, 2024) Henning **Schäfer**, ZEvA

Prof. Dr. Burkhard **Schmager**, Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena Stefani **Sonntag** (Professional Practice)

Dr. Iring **Wasser**, ASIIN 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**, Ludwigsburg University of Education Prof.

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

Grammerstorf (Students) (until March 26, 2024)

Dr. Andreas **Keller** (GEW)

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

Prof. Dr. Óscar **Loureda Lamas** (university professor)

Annette **Münch** (Deputy Representative of the States)

Georg **Reschauer** (Alternate for the representative of the agencies) Prof.

em. Dr. Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Stefani **Sonntag** (Professional Practice)

► Working Group on Study Feasibility

Milan **Grammerstorf** (student member) (until March 26, 2024) Dr.

Aletta **Hinsken**, evalag

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

Prof. Dr. Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Prof. Dr. Tilmann **Märk**, University of Innsbruck (until Dec. 31, 2024)

Katharina **Schrader** (Deputy Representative of the Federal States) (until November 4, 2024) Sonja **Bolenius** (Professional Practice)

► Working Group on Personnel Requirements

Dr. Gisa **Austermühle**, Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection, and Environment of the State of Saxony-Anhalt

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

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

Foundation Prof. Ulrich **Bartosch**, German Rectors' Conference

(HRK) / University of Passau

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

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

Annette **Münch**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts Prof. Dr. Burkhard

Schmager, Ernst Abbe University of Applied Sciences Jena

State Councilor Katharina **Schrader**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (until November 4, 2024)

Prof. em. Dr. Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Dr. Peter **Zervakis**, HRK

► **Expert Advisory Group** Prof. Dr.-Ing.

Hans-Joachim Bargstädt (Chair) Timo Gayer, IG

Metall

Sven-Uwe Räß, Gesamtmetall Florian

Gutt (student member)

Dr. Iring Wasser, ASIIN (agency representative)

► **MRVO II Task Force**

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

Prof. Dr. Monika **Bessenrodt-Weberpals**, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Dr. Imke **Buß**,

Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg

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

Gayer, IG Metall

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

Prof. em. Dr. Charlotte **Schubert**, University of Leipzig

Luca **Stephan** (student member)

Dr. Peter **Zervakis**, HRK

Meeting Dates

► Meetings of the Accreditation Council

120. Meeting on March 13–14, 2024, in Fulda
121. Meeting on June 27, 2024, via Zoom video conference
122. Meeting on September 25–26, 2024, in Münster
123. Meeting on December 12, 2024, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Foundation Board

28. Meeting on October 14, 2024, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Monitoring Committee

No meetings of the Monitoring Committee were held in 2024.

► Meetings of the Study Feasibility Working Group

1. Meeting on February 5, 2024, via Zoom video conference
2. Meeting on March 18, 2024, via Zoom video conference

► Meetings of the Working Group on Preparing the Strategy Process

Online workshop on February 29, 2024, via Zoom video conference

► Meetings of the Staffing Needs Working Group

1. Meeting on May 2, 2024, in Hamburg
2. Meeting on June 10, 2024, in Frankfurt am Main
3. Meeting on September 5, 2024, via Zoom video conference

► Meeting of the Expert Working Group

1st meeting on October 11, 2024, in Frankfurt am Main

► **MRVO II Task Force Meetings**

1. Meeting on October 14, 2024, via Zoom video conference
2. Meeting on November 18, 2024, via Zoom video conference
3. Meeting on December 18, 2024, via Zoom video conference