

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat 

2018 Annual Report



Publication AR 64/2019

Office of the Accreditation Council Foundation
Adenauerallee 73, 53113 Bonn

Tel.: 0228-338 306-0
Fax: 0228-338 306-79

Email: akr@akkreditierungsrat.de
Website: <http://www.akkreditierungsrat.de>

Editor: Sandra Schulmeister, M.A., Dr. Olaf Bartz Bonn,
June 24, 2019

Also serves as a factual report within the meaning of § 44 LHO NRW

Reproduction and use in electronic systems—including in part—only with prior written permission from the Accreditation Council Foundation.

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

All links in the annual report refer to the website as of the end of June 2019. Following the upcoming relaunch of the website, a new version of the annual report with updated links will be made available.

Activity Report 2018

Reporting period: January to December 2018

Contents

Foreword	4
Overview	5
1. Current Developments	6
1.1 The New Accreditation Council and Its New Responsibilities	6
1.2 Transformation Process: The Accreditation Council Goes Digital	7
2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in 2018: Tasks and Results	7
2.1 (Re)accreditation of degree programs and quality assurance systems	7
2.2 Requests for extensions and batch approvals	8
2.3 Approval of agencies	8
2.4 Decisions of the Accreditation Council	9
2.5 Review of Accreditation Procedures	9
2.6 Events	9
2.7 Working Groups	9
3. International Cooperation	10
4. Information and Communication	12
4.1 Presentation, Information, and Counseling	12
4.2 Publication of Accreditation Data	12
4.3 Communication with the agencies	14
4.4 Statistical data	14
5. Resources	15
5.1 Finance	15
5.2 Staffing, Facilities, and Equipment	15
Appendices	17

Foreword

The association of states has impressively demonstrated its ability to act: After all state parliaments approved the State Treaty in the course of 2017, thereby fulfilling the [requirements of the Federal Constitutional Court](#) from early 2016 regarding the future structure of external quality assurance in studies and teaching, the *State Treaty on the Organization of a Joint Accreditation System for Quality Assurance in Studies and Teaching at German Universities (State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation, StAkkStV)* enter into force on January 1, 2018. The new legal basis for the accreditation system had been established!

Based on the [Model Statutory Ordinance \(MRVO\)](#) adopted by the KMK at the end of 2017, state ordinances on accreditation [were](#) drafted. By the end of 2018, 10 of 16 states had enacted their ordinances, and I am confident that the remaining six will follow in the course of 2019.

Thus, the “new” Accreditation Council was able to begin its work: In February 2018, the now 23-member body met for the first time and initially addressed—as it did at subsequent meetings in 2018—many fundamental issues, including the bylaws, rules of procedure, fee schedule, evaluation grid, and internal working procedures. The Accreditation Council also addressed the accreditation of agencies, which continue to bear the important responsibility of conducting evaluation procedures under the “new law.” A new development is that the Accreditation Council accredits agencies based on their EQAR registration and no longer conducts its own technical review.

Under the “new legislation,” it is the Accreditation Council’s responsibility to decide on applications for accreditation. At its September 2018 meeting, the Council considered for the first time

three applications for accreditation under the new law. As it turned out, this new role presents a challenge for the Accreditation Council. There is a tension between the trust that must be placed in review panels and agencies and the need to thoroughly examine the procedures in order to award the Accreditation Council’s seal of approval with confidence and a clear conscience. From the discussions in the Accreditation Council, it was clear to me that all members are aware of their high level of responsibility for ensuring quality in academic studies and teaching. I am very grateful for this and for the collegial cooperation among the members.

These issues were—and remain—closely linked to the workload that the Accreditation Council (and, of course, its secretariat) faces in light of its new primary responsibility. A central role is played by the new electronic application processing system (christened “ELIAS” at the end of 2018), which supports the decision-making process regarding the accreditation of degree programs and university-specific quality assurance systems. After a test version of ELIAS was demonstrated in September 2018, it was on the verge of being launched by the end of the year. I am optimistic that ELIAS will be fully operational by the time the first major “wave of applications” reaches the Accreditation Council.

On behalf of the members of the Accreditation Council, I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our national and international partners in the accreditation system for their tremendous support during this period of transition. I look forward to continuing our excellent collaboration!

Bonn, June 2019



Professor Dr. Reinhold R. Grimm

Overview

1. First Quarter 2018

95. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on February 20, 2018, in Bonn

AR Resolutions:

- Election of the Chair
- Election of the Vice Chair
- 2019 Budget
- AR Bylaws and Rules of Procedure – Establishment of a working group
- Template for accreditation reports – Appointment of a working group
- Accreditation of agencies
- Transitional rules for agencies accredited under previous law
- Rules of Procedure for Members of the Accreditation Council
- International Affairs
- Support within the framework of the experimental clause and Münster University of Applied Sciences

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system
- 2019 Work Program
- Fee Schedule

2. 2018 Q1

96. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on June 14, 2018, in Frankfurt

AR Resolutions:

- Template for Accreditation Reports
- Adoption of the report on the cross-sectional sample “Requirements”

Discussions:

- Status of the application processing system
- Responsibilities and Procedures of the New Accreditation Council
- Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of the Accreditation Council

3. Third Quarter 2018

97. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on September 24, 2018, in Potsdam

AR Resolutions:

- Assignment of Accreditation Council members to subject areas
- Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Accreditation Council; Mandate of the Statutes Working Group
- Applications for accreditation
- Reporting requirements for system-accredited institutions of higher education

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system, presentation of a test version
- Request for an alternative procedure

4. Quarter 2018

98. Meeting of the Accreditation Council on December 6, 2018, in Berlin

AR resolutions:

- Application for reaccreditation of the AKAST agency
- Adoption of the 2020 budget
- Application for accreditation
- Complaint procedure
- Rapporteur system
- Rules of Procedure for Alternative Procedures: Appointment of a Working Group

Consultations:

- Status of the application processing system
- Internal Quality Assurance

1. Current developments

1.1 The new Accreditation Council and its new responsibilities

Once the legal framework for the new accreditation system (the State Treaty, the Model Statute, and the North Rhine-Westphalia Accreditation Council Act) had come into effect, the new Accreditation Council was able to convene for the first time in Bonn on February 20, 2018. To mark the occasion, a joint dinner was held the evening before, on February 19, where old and new members had the opportunity to get to know one another and exchange ideas. An overview of the members can be found [here](#).

The most significant change in the composition of the Accreditation Council concerned the group of university representatives, which now consists of eight (instead of the previous four) members. Another new development is that a representative of the German Rectors' Conference now forms a separate group among the members. In total, nine of the 23 members were already members of the "old" Accreditation Council; this ensured continuity. In February 2018, the council (re)elected Professor Grimm as its chair; Professor Burckhart serves as vice-chair.

Throughout 2018, the Accreditation Council was continuously engaged in implementing the new legal framework for accreditation. In addition to reorganizing internal processes within the new Accreditation Council, the members addressed fundamental matters, including the bylaws, rules of procedure, fee schedule, mission statement, internal quality assurance, and the establishment of an appeals committee. While the bylaws, rules of procedure, and fee schedule were adopted or came into effect in the course of 2018

were able to take place, other discussions will continue in 2019.

At its "third" session under the new law, the Accreditation Council ruled for the first time on applications for accreditation under the new regulations. Of the three applications, it approved two; at the December meeting, a further application was discussed and a decision was reached. Without listing the discussion points in detail, it can be summarized that, in reviewing the applications, the Accreditation Council consistently addressed the question of how informative accreditation reports must be in order to provide a sound basis for decision-making by the Council members. In some cases, the members (as well as the administrative staff) also had to consult the institutions' self-reports in order to reach a (positive) evaluation outcome. The guiding principle was always that the institutions should not suffer any harm, for example due to a delay in decision-making. The overriding premise was therefore not to hold the institutions accountable for reports that lacked sufficient substance. Reliable quality in accreditation reports is indispensable as soon as the number of applications rises significantly. In its 2018 budget plans for 2019 and 2020, the Accreditation Council estimated the expected volume of applications: According to these estimates, it anticipates approximately 400 program accreditations in 2019 and up to 1,600 in 2020. In addition to processing large numbers of applications, the development of consistent adjudication and decision-making practices also poses a challenge for the Accreditation Council.

1.2 Transformation Process – The Accreditation Council Goes Digital

Considerations regarding the workload of Accreditation Council members were a constant factor in the (further) development of the IT-supported application processing system, the introduction of which was decided in 2017. By the end of 2018, it was nearing launch, and members were already able to see the progress of the “Electronic Information and Application Processing System (ELIAS).” In the fall of 2018, five universities and all agencies participated in a test phase and provided valuable feedback on the system.

Regarding the implementation in accordance with public procurement law, the Accreditation Council Foundation has been supported by the consulting firm INFORA since mid-2017 and continuously throughout 2018; the company ProUnix Software GmbH was commissioned to implement the system.

The goal was and remains to enable efficient, paperless, seamless, and reliable application submission and processing of large volumes of applications in ELIAS. This is intended to enable the Accreditation Council and its secretariat to effectively review applications for program and system accreditation and—based on a plausibility check—make decisions.

The decisions of the Accreditation Council will then be published in its “new” database, which also forms a central component of the application processing system. The database will be able to make both positive and negative accreditation decisions available to the public and display an “accreditation history.”

Unlike the old database, it will operate independently of the HRK’s Hochschulkompass, but will remain connected to it via an interface. A link to the European quality assurance database DEQAR will also be established.

Accreditation decisions by the Accreditation Council are to be automatically transferred to the database “at the push of a button.” The Accreditation Council approves entries for system-accredited institutions (or agencies) in the database without conducting a substantive review. One of the major challenges in this context, which will continue to occupy the Accreditation Council in 2019, is the data quality of the “legacy data” that has been migrated to the new database and is to be optimized in 2019.

2. Activities of the Accreditation Council in 2018: Tasks and Results

Since January 1, 2018, the former *Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programs in Germany* has been operating under the new name “Accreditation Council Foundation.” As stipulated in the State Treaty (StAkkStV), the Foundation has new tasks to fulfill (see Art. 5 StAkkStV). The following report covers the activities that have already taken place in 2018. Some of these also relate to the completion of tasks under the old legal framework.

2.1 (Re-)Accreditation of degree programs and quality assurance systems

In 2018, the Accreditation Council’s office received four applications under the new regulations, two of which were for bundled accreditations. In two cases, the Accreditation Council did not fully concur with the expert’s recommendation.

In these cases, the institution was given the opportunity to comment before the final decision was made.

To ensure that the accreditation reports from the current ten accreditation agencies can be efficiently processed by the Accreditation Council, the reports should be structurally comparable and follow a uniform format across agencies. To facilitate this, the Accreditation Council adopted reporting templates in March and June 2018 for the following types of applications: [report templates for program accreditation](#), [report templates for combined degree programs](#), [report templates for applications for bundled accreditations](#), and the [report template for applications for system accreditation](#). PDF documents are available on the Accreditation Council's website; editable Word documents are available to the agencies.

The Accreditation Council also began considering standards that future reports should follow. The discussion on this topic will continue in 2019—with the involvement of the agencies.

2.2 Applications for Deadline Extensions and Bundle Approvals

Over the course of 2018, the Accreditation Council received numerous requests for deadline extensions and bundled approvals, which—in the latter case—were generally decided upon with the involvement of members with relevant expertise. In this context, the Accreditation Council discussed the size of review panels in bundled procedures on several occasions in 2018. The challenge was to reconcile the call for smaller, highly specialized bundles with the general aim of reducing costs. This discussion will continue in 2019.

2.3 Accreditation of Agencies

Under the new legal framework, the decision of the Accreditation Council marks the conclusion of a process for the accreditation of bachelor's and master's degree programs (in program accreditation) as well as of internal institutional quality assurance systems (in institutional accreditation); the procedures will continue to be carried out by accredited agencies—currently ten in number.

In the future, the Accreditation Council will no longer accredit agencies; instead, a formal authorization procedure will be implemented based on 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 unless proven otherwise.

The Accreditation Council has approved all agencies accredited as of December 31, 2017, that are registered with EQAR to conduct procedures under the new law (see [►Resolution of February 20, 2018](#)). In this context, the Accreditation Council has also adopted transitional rules for agencies accredited under the previous law. (see [►Decision of February 20, 2018](#))

In 2018, a procedure for the accreditation of an agency under the old law was also carried out for the last time, as the agency AKASt had already applied for reaccreditation in 2017—and thus before the new legal framework came into force. At its 98th meeting in December 2018, the Accreditation Council approved the agency AKASt for another five years:

- ▶ **AKAST Decision:** The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Degree Programs (AKAST) has been reaccredited without conditions until December 31, 2023.

2.4 Decisions of the Accreditation Council

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

- ▶ Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

At its 95th meeting, the Accreditation Council elected Professor Grimm, who has held the office since 2007, as its Chair, and Professor Burckhart, the HRK's representative on the Accreditation Council, as its Vice Chair.

- ▶ Code of Conduct

To avoid potential conflicts of interest that could arise from membership in the Accreditation Council and other activities of its members, the Accreditation Council adopted **rules of conduct for members of the Accreditation Council** (▶ Resolution (updated) of February 26, 2019).

- ▶ Complaints Commission

On December 6, 2018, the Accreditation Council decided to establish an Appeals Commission and adopted **information regarding opportunities for statements, objections, appeals, and legal remedies** (▶ Resolution (updated) of February 26, 2019).

2.5 Review of the Accreditation Procedures

Since 2018, the review of accreditation procedures ("monitoring") has no longer been part of the Accreditation Council's responsibilities. To conclude its review activities, the Accreditation Council presented the "Cross-sectional Sample of Conditions" in June 2018, which is [available here](#).

Until decisions on accreditation procedures under the new law are available exclusively, the Accreditation Council will 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, two ad hoc review procedures were initiated, and one procedure initiated in 2017 was concluded. Furthermore, a procedure for which a follow-up assessment was decided upon as part of the thematic sample was concluded in 2018.

The Accreditation Council was informed of the results of the review procedures in the form of reports (and, upon request, also through Executive Board resolutions).

2.6 Events

Due to the transitional situation, no events other than committee and working group meetings took place.

At its 97th meeting, the Accreditation Council decided to award a prize in the future for exemplary solutions in degree programs and quality management systems. According to the Model Statutory Ordinance (§ 24, paras. 3 and 4), "the expert opinion may also identify best-practice models for the degree program." In this way, the accreditation process aims to contribute to quality development and to the discussion of quality issues beyond the scope of individual degree programs. The details will be worked out in 2019.

2.7 Working Groups

- ▶ **AG Statutes**

The Working Group on the Bylaws, appointed at the February meeting, convened for a total of three meetings during the reporting period. The working group drafted the new bylaws and the new

rules of procedure for the Accreditation Council Foundation, which were discussed and adopted at subsequent meetings of the Accreditation Council. The Foundation Board approved the bylaws at its meeting on October 23, 2018; the bylaws entered into force in December 2018, and one day later (in accordance with the bylaws), the rules of procedure for the Accreditation Council Foundation also entered into force.

The Statutes Working Group also discussed the procedure for handling complaints and appeals and drafted a process description for the rapporteur system.

The Statutes Working Group completed its work during the reporting period.

► Grid Working Group

The Grids Working Group met once during the reporting period. It discussed the draft grid for program accreditation applications presented at the 95th meeting, which was adopted and published following the first meeting of the Grids Working Group on March 29, 2018. The other reporting templates were revised based on the discussions at the first meeting and adopted by the Accreditation Council at its June meeting. (see Chapter 2.1)

► Working Group on Rules of Procedure

At its 98th meeting on December 6, 2018, the Accreditation Council decided to establish a working group to draft rules of procedure, which would specifically regulate the application requirements.

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

3. International cooperation in quality assurance and quality development is an important 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 key role.

► Networks, Conferences, and Discussions

The Accreditation Council was a member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA) until September 2018 and has been an “affiliate of ENQA” since 2018. 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).

Together with the DAAD, it is represented in the “Implementation” working group of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) and regularly participates in international working groups, meetings, and conferences. In 2018, these included, among others,

- the *European Quality Assurance Forum* (November 15–17, 2018, Vienna),

- the *ENQA Members' Forum* (April 19–20, 2018, Zaragoza),
- the ENQA General Assembly (October 18–19, 2018, Astana).

This year's annual meeting of the *Quality Audit Network* was hosted by the Catalan accreditation agency AQU Catalunya and took place on May 8–9, 2018, in Barcelona. 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.

On February 9, 2018, a delegation from the Japanese quality assurance institution *National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of University Education* (NIAD-QE) visited the Accreditation Council's office as part of a study tour to Germany.

On February 15–16, 2018, the Secretariat participated in the UNESCO conference "*The Role of Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Challenges, Developments, and Trends*" in Geneva.

On October 29, 2018, members of the Secretariat gave a presentation to a Jordanian delegation invited by GIZ.

The first meeting of the *BFUG Peer Group on Quality Assurance* took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, on December 3–4, 2018. The Peer Group is one of three groups established by the BFUG to support, in particular, new Bologna countries in implementing the *key commitments* outlined in the Paris Communiqué: quality assurance, recognition, and the three-cycle degree system. The aim of the meeting was to establish initial contacts with potential cooperation partners.

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

► Membership in ENQA

The Accreditation Council has been a member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA) since 2005; its membership was last renewed in 2013 for a five-year term. In the course of 2017, it became apparent that the application for membership renewal scheduled for 2018 could not proceed as planned due to changes in the accreditation system. Consequently, a transition to "affiliate" status took place in September 2018.

According to Article 9 of the ENQA Statutes, "affiliate" status is open to trustworthy organizations that do not wish to or cannot apply for ENQA membership but are demonstrably involved in quality assurance in higher education. According to Article 11 of the Statutes, *affiliates* may participate in ENQA events and the General Assembly, but do not have voting rights.

► European Database Project DEQAR

To present 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 evaluated according to the ESG within the European Higher Education Area. On May 23, 2018, the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) announced the official launch of **the public**

DEQAR database during the Bologna Ministerial Conference in Paris.

The project was launched in the fall of 2017; the Accreditation Council is involved as a partner alongside the HRK. In 2018, data on degree programs accredited in Germany had not yet been published in DEQAR. Once the digital application processing system and the public database of accredited degree programs are available, a program interface will be developed that enables DEQAR to access the Accreditation Council's database and regularly export the relevant accreditation data.

4. Information and Communication

4.1 Presentation, Information, and Counseling

The Accreditation Council regularly provides information about its decisions and all other topics related to the accreditation system.

In addition to using the Information Service for Science (idw) to publish [press releases](#), the [Foundation's website](#) serves as an important tool for publishing accreditation data and preparing information for the federal states, universities, students, and agencies.

At the end of 2018, an agency was commissioned to technically revamp the website, which will be implemented in the course of 2019. The website will continue to be accessible at www.akkreditierungsrat.de. The "Archive Page" established in 2018, which provides information on the accreditation system under the previous legal framework, will continue to be available at archiv.akkreditierungsrat.de.

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

On an ad hoc basis, the agencies and system-accredited universities were informed via electronically distributed [notices](#), for example, regarding the continued validity of rules or guidance on the electronic information and application processing system ELIAS.

In its [newsletter](#), the Secretariat also provides information on the outcomes of the Accreditation Council's meetings, recent developments in the German accreditation system, as well as personnel news, dates, and events.

In the spring of 2018, the Accreditation Council established the [FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions](#) section on its website. The FAQs are intended to provide answers to frequently asked questions arising from the interpretation of the State Treaty on Study Program Accreditation (StAkkrStV) and the Model Statutory Ordinance (MRVO).

4.2 Publication of Accreditation Data

Since 2018, the Accreditation Council has been responsible for publishing accreditation rates in accordance with the Model Regulation and the State Treaty (see Art. 3(6) StAk-krStV, as well as § 18(4), sentence 2, and § 29 MRVO). The establishment of its own database presented the ideal opportunity to

define the requirements of the MRVO in greater detail and to create the technical foundation for their implementation.

The “old” database of accredited degree programs remained online until December 3, 2018, after which the data was migrated to the new database. Until that point, universities and agencies were required to intensively maintain the data records for accreditations under the old law in order to achieve (even) better data quality. Further optimization measures to improve data quality are also planned for 2019.

► **Degree** Programs: Degree programs bearing the Accreditation Council’s seal continued to be published in the database of accredited degree programs throughout 2018. This “old” database, linked to the Higher Education Compass of the German Rectors’ Conference, was accessible via the Accreditation Council’s website until December 2018 and provided information on accreditation deadlines, the conditions associated with accreditation, the participating evaluators, and the assessment they conducted. In the future, under the new law, accreditation decisions will be published (automatically) in the database by the Accreditation Council itself.

► **System-accredited institutions of higher education**: Accredited degree programs offered by system-accredited institutions of higher education were also listed in the “old” database of accredited degree programs. System-accredited institutions of higher education were able to make entries in the database themselves. Since the entries made by system-accredited institutions of higher education in the database had been very heterogeneous in the past (due, among other things, to structural reasons related to the database), the Accreditation Council has now taken the opportunity and, as part of the introduction of a new database

in September 2018, adopted “Reporting Requirements for System-Accredited Institutions of Higher Education.” New mandatory fields in the (new) database of the Accreditation Council ensure more uniform entries. However, to avoid restricting the diversity of quality assurance systems, system-accredited higher education institutions are not required, for example, to prepare their accreditation reports based on the Accreditation Council’s evaluation grids.

The institution responsible for making the decision on the accreditation of a degree program or a quality management system is also responsible for entering that information into the database of accredited degree programs. The Accreditation Council’s secretariat will continue to be responsible for the formal review and approval of individual database entries.

► **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. There, users can also find the (previous) decisions of the Accreditation Council, the conditions and deadlines associated with accreditation, the expert reports, the justifications for applications, and the agencies’ statements.

► **Statistical data**: In addition to program-specific accreditation data, users had access to statistics on the Foundation’s website until the end of 2018 that provided information on the number of currently accredited study programs. The displayed data could be sorted by program duration, degree title, subject groups, types of higher education institutions, and federal states. It is planned to make comparable functionalities available for the new database as well.

4.3 Communication with the Agencies

Constructive and cooperative collaboration between the Accreditation Council and the agencies—under both the old and new legal frameworks—is one of the fundamental prerequisites for an effective accreditation system in Germany.

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

To date, the Accreditation Council has informed the agencies of new or amended resolutions in the form of circulars issued by the Chair. Under the old legal framework, this also applies to changes in joint state or state-specific requirements. For example, the Chair has informed the agencies about the application of existing and new laws in accreditation, as well as about options for extending deadlines under both the previous and new legal frameworks.

Due to the transitional situation, no joint meeting with the agencies took place in 2018. However, an annual (and thus regular) exchange with the representatives of the agencies is planned at the beginning of each new year, with the first such meeting scheduled for February 2019.

In the meantime, it has proven effective for the chair or individual staff members of the secretariat to be invited to agency meetings

¹ The figures cited here are based on the data in the Accreditation Council's database. The database lists all accredited degree programs and study options, provided they have been entered into the database by the accreditation agencies. This also includes degree programs that have been awarded the Accreditation Council's seal

to discuss specific issues related to the new legal framework. On several occasions, the discussions served to gather the agencies' experiences, including with regard to the Accreditation Council's new (in-house) database. On September 17, 2018, representatives of the agencies visited the Accreditation Council's office in Bonn.

4.4 Statistical Data

As of the end of December 2018, 5,912 bachelor's and 5,936 master's degree programs offered by state or state-recognized higher education institutions in Germany bore the Accreditation Council's seal of quality.¹ A total of 75 state or state-recognized higher education institutions had successfully completed a system accreditation process by that date; which corresponds to approximately 19% of all higher education institutions.² This represents an increase of approximately 19% in the number of system-accredited higher education institutions compared to the previous year. Another 16 institutions were in the process of system accreditation at the end of the year. The Accreditation Council does not know how many institutions have applied for system accreditation under the new law; the reporting requirement was eliminated under the new law.

According to the HRK Higher Education Compass, the proportion of accredited degree programs out of the total number of bachelor's and master's programs offered stood at just under 62% at the end of 2018 and remained virtually unchanged from the previous year. In fact, the actual rate is higher; there are gaps in the entries

received in the course of system accreditation. The number of system-accredited institutions of higher education was determined on a case-by-case basis.

² According to the data in the HRK Higher Education Compass www.hochschulkompass.de, 393 institutions

of accreditation information, which will be addressed during the database migration.

In all information and communication measures, the Accreditation Council complies with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which entered into force in May 2018. Further information can be found in the [data protection section](#) on the Accreditation Council's website.

5. Resources

5.1 Finance

The Accreditation Council is jointly funded by the 16 states in accordance with Section 4(1) of the Act on the Accreditation Council Foundation (Accreditation Act). Pursuant to Section 4(4), the Foundation may impose fees to cover its administrative expenses in accordance with the provisions of the fee schedule; which it did in the [Schedule of Fees](#) issued on July 11, 2018. It provides for an annual base fee (base flat rate) for higher education institutions, graded 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 ► [Schedule of Fees](#) (see p. 3).

For the 2018 fiscal year, the Conference of Finance Ministers (FMK) set the annual contributions from the states to the Accreditation Council at 487,000 euros. In accordance with the recommendations of the Budget Committee (minutes of the meeting dated October 27, 2017), the finance ministers

approved the draft supplement to the Foundation's 2018 business plan. Accordingly, the Foundation was granted an increase in state contributions amounting to 1,275,000 euros (change from the previous FMK decision + 788,000 euros).

This includes funding for salary increases, an increase in staffing by 0.5 full-time equivalents, and the cost contribution of approximately 12,000 euros for the database of accredited degree programs—as part of the Higher Education Compass—which the HRK has been requesting since 2016; above all, however, it covers the costs for establishing the digital application processing system ELIAS.

The foundation's annual financial statements for 2018 show revenues of 1,344,735.18 euros (allocations from the federal states and fee income) and total expenditures of 1,344,570.52 euros. This leaves a balance of 164.66 euros.

5.2 Staffing, Premises, and Equipment

According to the staffing plan, the Foundation's administrative office is staffed by a managing director (100%), five program officers (4.25 full-time equivalents), and one administrative assistant and one secretary (50% each). In addition, the Foundation employs a student assistant for 20 hours per month. With the exception of the assistant, all employees hold a university degree; compensation is provided in accordance with the provisions of 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 nine rented office spaces, since April 2018

spanning two floors, with a total of 17 workstations and a meeting room covering a total area of approximately 240 square meters.

The recruitment processes for the specialist and administrative positions approved for 2019 began in the fall of 2018 and were completed before the end of the year.

Attachments

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

Members of the bodies and committees

► Members of the Accreditation Council

Chair (since February 20, 2018)

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Vice Chair (since February 20, 2018)

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

University Representatives

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar Prof.

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

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

Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

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

Applied Sciences 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

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

State Representatives

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

Ltd. Senior Ministerial Advisor Daniel **Köfer**, Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts (as of November 2, 2018)

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

Ltd. Ministerialrat Barbara **Lüddeke**, Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and the Arts (until November 2, 2018)

Senior Ministerial Officer Dr. Dietmar **Möhler**, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia (until June 12, 2018)

Senior Ministerial Director Ralf **Thönnissen**, Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (as of June 12, 2018)

Representative from the professional field

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

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

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

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

Jörg **Wollny**, Ministry of the Interior and Local Government of the State of Brandenburg

Students

Franziska **Raudonat**, Technical University

of Kaiserslautern Tillman **Schade**, Kiel

University

International Representatives

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

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

Representatives of the agencies (in an advisory capacity)

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

► Members of the Board of Trustees

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

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

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

Director General Dr. Peter **Müller**, Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts

State Secretary Sebastian **Schröder**, Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

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

University Representatives

Prof. Dr. Peter-André **Alt**, President of the German Rectors' Conference (as of October 11, 2018) Dr. Jens-Peter **Gaul**, Secretary General of the German Rectors' Conference

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

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

Professor Dr. Ulrich **Radtke**, President of the University of Duisburg-Essen

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

► Members of the Executive Board**Chair**

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Members

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

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

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

► Appeals Commission

The Accreditation Council has not yet appointed any members to the Appeals Commission in 2018.

► Working Group on Statutes

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Joachim **Bargstädt**, Bauhaus University Weimar Prof.

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

Gayer, IG Metall

Professor Dr. Reinhold R. **Grimm**

Dr. Verena **Kloeters**, AQAS

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

Barbara **Michalk**, HRK

Professor Dr. Martine **Rahier**, President of the University of Neuchâtel;

Georg **Reschauer**, AHPGS

Tillman **Schade**, Kiel University

► AG Raster

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

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

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

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

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

Ltd. Ministerial Advisor Barbara **Lüddeke**, Bavarian State Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and the Arts (until November 2, 2018)

Franziska **Raudonat**, Technical University

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

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

Barbara **Michalk**, HRK

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

Schäfer, ZEVA

► Working Group on Rules of Procedure

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

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

Prof. Dr. Reinhold **Grimm**

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

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

Franziska **Raudonat**, Technical University

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

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

Stefani **Sonntag**, GEW

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

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

Meeting Dates

► Meetings of the Accreditation Council

- 95. Meeting on February 20, 2018, in Bonn
- 96. Meeting on June 14, 2018, in Frankfurt
- 97. Meeting on September 24, 2018, in Potsdam
- 98. Meeting on December 6, 2018, in Berlin

► Meetings of the Foundation Board

- 21. Meeting on March 26, 2018, in Berlin
- 22. Meeting on October 18, 2018, in Hanover

► Meetings of the Bylaws Working Group

- April 20, 2018
- September 4, 2018
- October 30, 2018

► Meetings of the Raster Working Group

- March 20, 2018