

The MRVO 2024

Amendment for Quality Development at Universities – the
Model Statutory Ordinance 2024

January 28, 2025

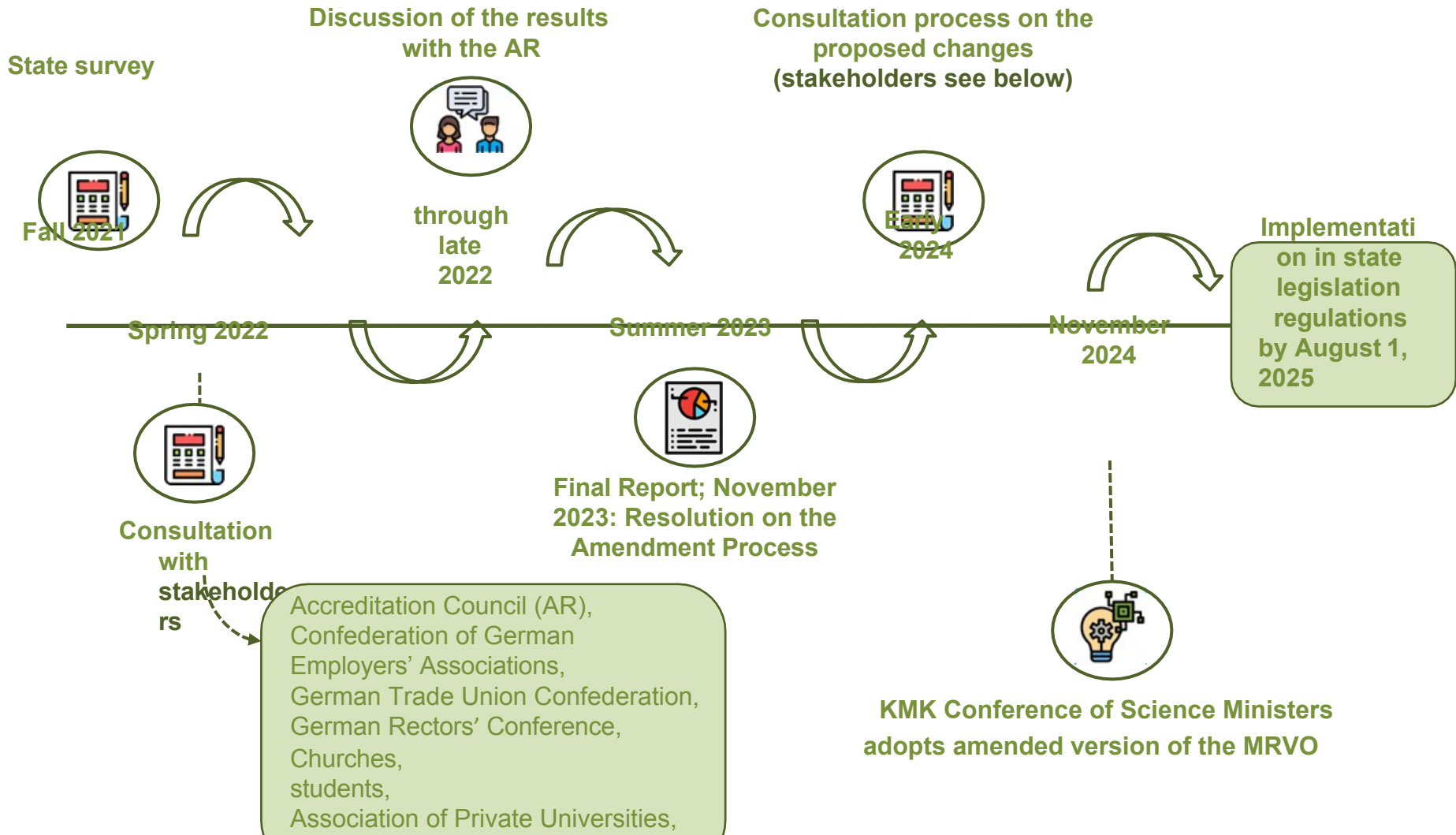
The Evaluation Process

Research Question:

How have the responsibilities and regulations in the accreditation system fared since 2018?



Procedure and Participants



Results of the evaluation

- 100% response rate
- More than 550 responses regarding specific sections, of which approximately 50% required clarification
- Beyond the specific sections, potential for improvement at the process level, and
 - a. Interaction between universities, agencies, and the Accreditation Council

However: The criteria and procedural regulations of the MRVO are generally considered suitable for ensuring the quality of degree programs.

Objectives of the MRVO amendments

- **Simplification of procedures** (e.g., regarding international cooperation or documentation requirements)
- **Simplification of the application** of the MRVO
- Improving the **consistency** and **clarity** of regulations
- **Reducing friction losses** at the process and procedural levels
- Maintaining and expanding **autonomy for universities**

Key changes



Source: pixabay

Deadline extensions: Protection for students, relief for universities

Objectives:

Avoiding gaps in accreditation to **protect graduates**. **Providing relief to universities** in exceptional situations that are wholly or partially beyond their control.

- **Automatic deadline extension** for the duration of the administrative procedure (timely submission of the application to the Accreditation Council until the accreditation decision is made)
- Possibility of **deadline extensions** in program and system accreditation in **justified exceptional cases**

International degree programs: Facilitating accreditation

Objectives:

Streamlining of procedures through full implementation of the European Approach. Clarification of **which criteria** of the MRVO do not apply to **joint programs**.

- Universities may **optionally** apply for **recognition of accreditation decisions** in accordance with the European Approach
- **Also possible:** degree programs with dual and multiple degrees based on mutual recognition of academic achievements with a lower degree of integration

System-accredited universities: Streamlining of publication requirements

Objectives:

Reducing the burden on system-accredited higher education institutions while ensuring **transparency for the public** regarding relevant information on the quality assurance of degree programs.

- **Minimum:** Entry of data on (re)accreditation in ELIAS (master data, program profile, accreditation period, any conditions and their fulfillment status, reviewers, and summary of the quality assessment)
- **Optional:** e.g., expert reports, rationale for the accreditation decision, description of the institution's internal quality management procedures

Examination system: Strengthening competency-based examinations

Objectives: Creating pedagogical freedom regarding the implementation of the principle of competency-based assessment.

- **Removal of the quantitative limit** (one exam per module)
- **Instead, a qualitative goal:** an appropriate and manageable exam frequency and organization



Clarifications



Not all feedback was acted upon

Reasons:

Individual misunderstandings of the text of the regulation or the rationale behind the MRVO. After careful consideration, no improvement in accreditation practice is expected.

Examples:

- Scope of the regulations for **cooperation with non-higher education institutions**
- Workload / ECTS in **intensive degree programs**

Criteria and procedures: What applies to whom?

Objectives:

Clearly distinguish between requirements for program and system accreditations to ensure **procedural certainty**.

- **Clarification** through the addition of headings
- Clarification of requirements for **mission statements**
- **Validity periods and deadlines** for internal accreditations at system-accredited universities

Dual degree programs: Three-way integration of learning environments

Objectives:

Clarification of requirements both for program design by the institution and for accreditation. **Transparency** for prospective students and employers.

- Systematic integration of learning locations **in terms of content, organization, and contracts**

Publication requirements: Increasing transparency

Objectives:

Transparency for prospective students and current students **in all phases of the student life cycle.**

- Change based on the **requirements** of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (**ESG**)
- **Applies to:** Course of study, examination requirements, module descriptions, admission requirements, and regulations for compensating for disadvantages

Effective date

Planned:

Entry into force of the respective
state regulations: **August 1, 2025**

Transitional provisions planned

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Thank you very much!

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