

# *Introducing the German accreditation system*

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German Accreditation Council

# Outline

- I. Higher Education in Germany
- II. Agents & Players –  
The German accreditation system within the (inter-)national context
- III. The Big Picture –  
Quality approach of accreditation & the mission of the GAC
- IV. Zooming in – Central quality standards in practice
- V. Making good things better

I.

# Higher Education in Germany

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# I. Higher Education in Germany

## Federal structure of Germany

16 states – 'Bundesländer'

responsibility resides in the states

academic freedom and autonomy of HEI

and:

- framework laws on the federal level
- some specific decrees on state level





# I. Higher Education in Germany

## Different Types of Higher Education Institutions

differentiated as to the scope of study programs and qualification objectives

108  
Universities

211  
Universities of  
Applied Sciences

52  
Art and  
Music  
Colleges

Berufsakademien<sup>1</sup>, Duale Hochschulen<sup>1</sup>  
Verwaltungsakademien<sup>2</sup>,  
Pädagogische Hochschulen<sup>3</sup>, ...

<sup>1</sup>universities of cooperative education

<sup>2</sup>academies for administration and economics

<sup>3</sup>pedagogical universities

# I. Higher Education in Germany

## Different Types of Higher Education Institutions

differentiated as to legal forms

public-law university  
or public university<sup>1</sup>

private university,  
state-recognized<sup>2</sup>

church-affiliated,  
state-recognized  
university<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>staatliche Hochschule

<sup>2</sup>private, staatlich anerkannte Hochschule

<sup>3</sup>kirchliche, staatlich anerkannte Hochschule

## II. Agents & Players

The German accreditation system  
within the (inter-)national context







## II. Accreditation in Germany within the national context

**Interstate Study Accreditation Treaty<sup>1</sup>**

**Specimen Decree<sup>2</sup>**  
as a catalogue of criteria



**16 individual Länder Decrees<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Studienakkreditierungsstaatsvertrag

<sup>2</sup>Musterrechtsverordnung

<sup>3</sup>Rechtsverordnungen der 16 Bundesländer



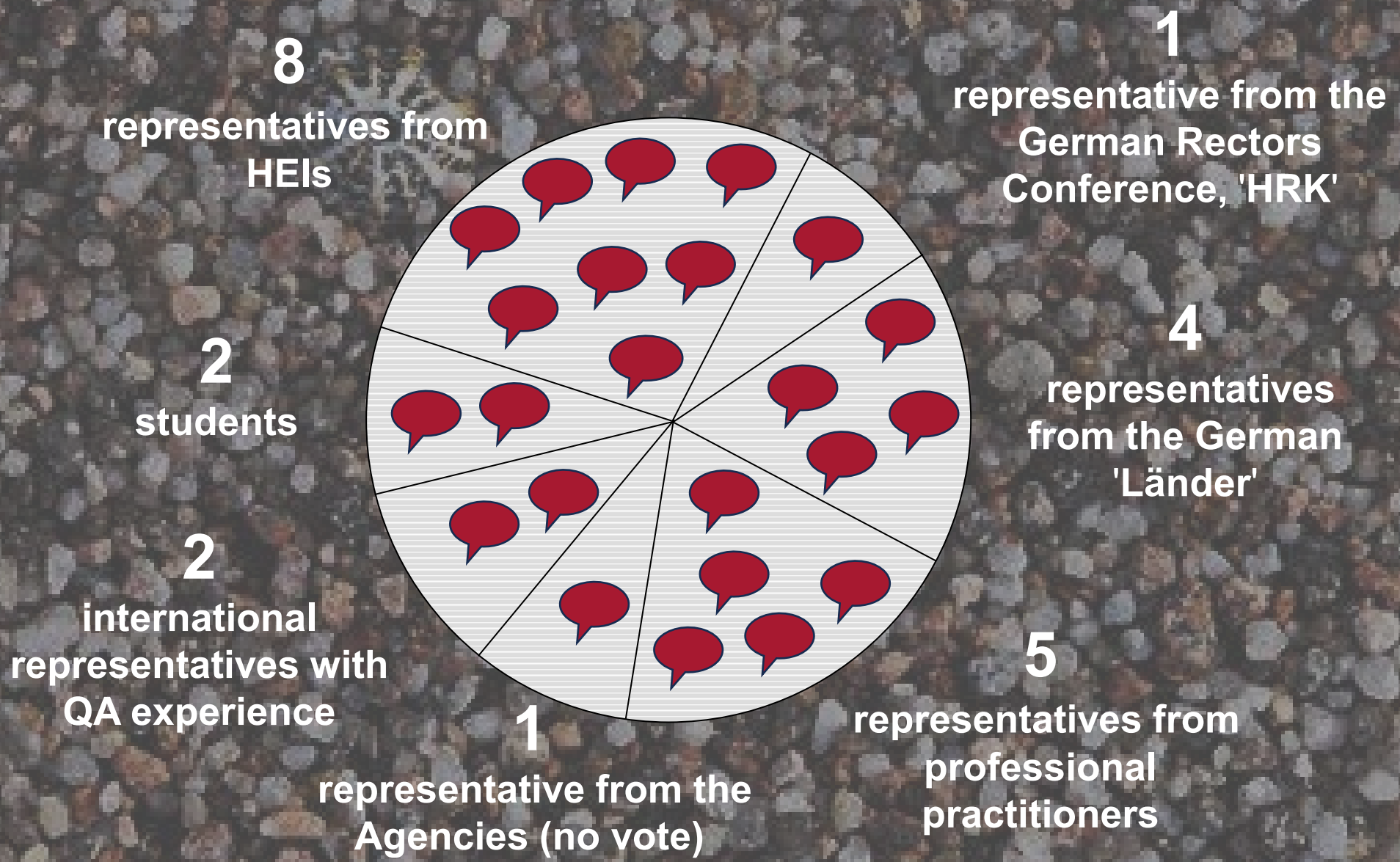




## II. Accreditation in Germany within the national context



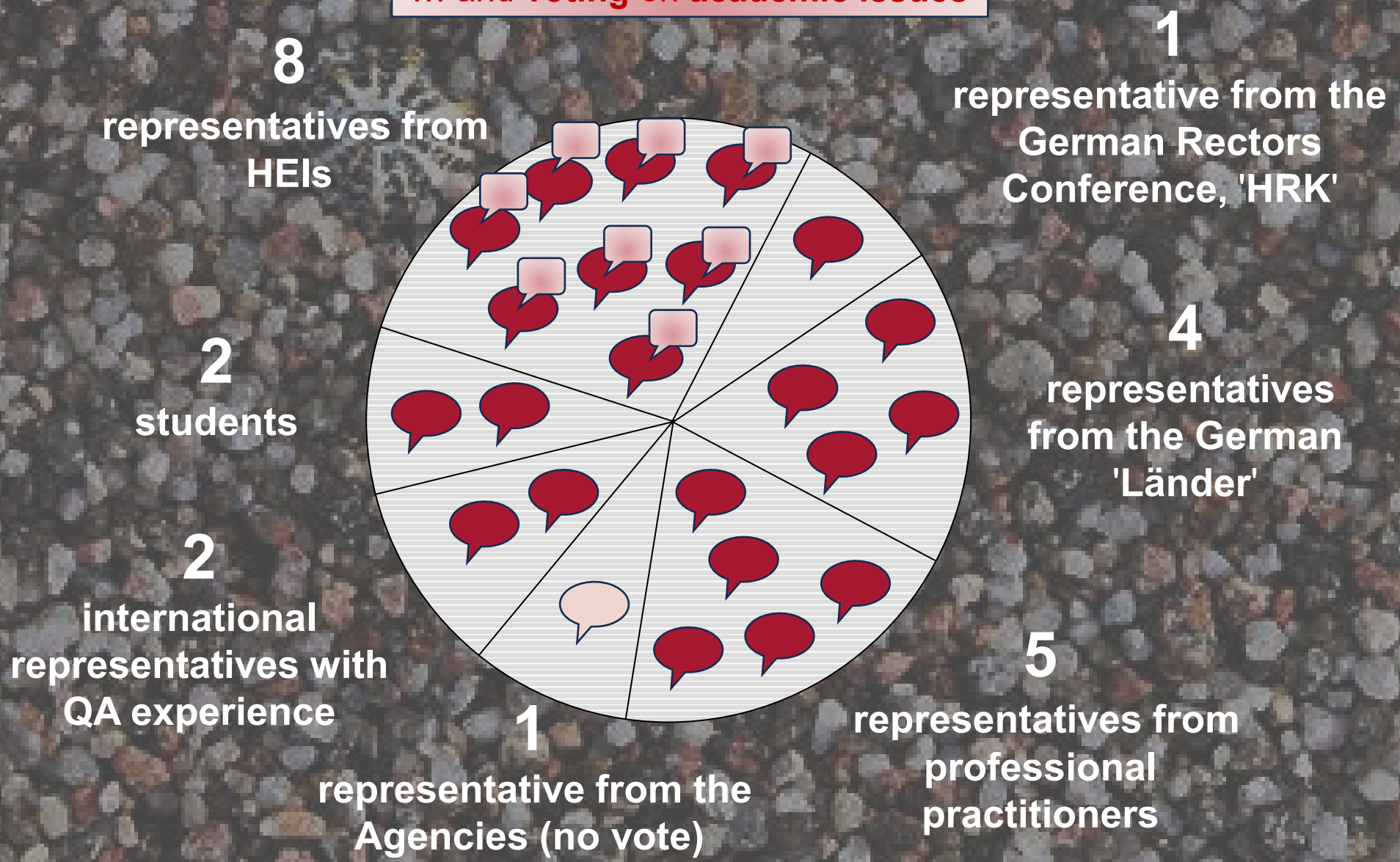
# Composition of the Accreditation Council





# Composition of the Accreditation Council

... and voting on academic issues





### III. The Big Picture

Quality approach of accreditation  
&  
mission of the GAC



### III. The Big Picture – Quality approach of accreditation & mission of the GAC

## Statutory tasks of the German Accreditation Council (GAC)

accreditation of study programmes<sup>1</sup>

accreditation of quality management systems of HEIs  
based on the QA agencies' external review reports<sup>2</sup>

accreditation of alternative procedures<sup>3</sup>



### III. The Big Picture – Quality approach of accreditation & mission of the GAC

determine and certify  
achieved **quality**

foster **equivalence** of  
academic degrees  
while respecting  
**diversity**

guarantee the  
**consistency** of  
decisions

**advancement and further  
development of an  
experience-based quality  
assurance system**

commitment to  
**academic  
freedom &  
autonomy** of HEI

increase **mobility**  
on the (inter)national level

**&**

**the application of  
procedures in accordance  
with its legal mandate**

enhance the  
**transparency** of  
study programmes

**consumer  
protection**



### III. The Big Picture – quality approach of accreditation & mission of the GAC

promotion of **dialogue**

contribution to a trustful **co-operation** of all represented stakeholders

**reflection** on the implementation of its tasks

&

regular **evaluation** of feedback from HEI and agencies

### III. The Big Picture – Quality approach of accreditation & mission of the GAC

~ 1.250

program accreditations

(annual submissions<sup>1</sup>)

responsible for all bachelor  
and master study programs

(except medical programs and  
pure law degree programs)

~ 20

system accreditations

(annual submissions<sup>1</sup>)

four-eyes principle,  
principle of rapporteurs

—

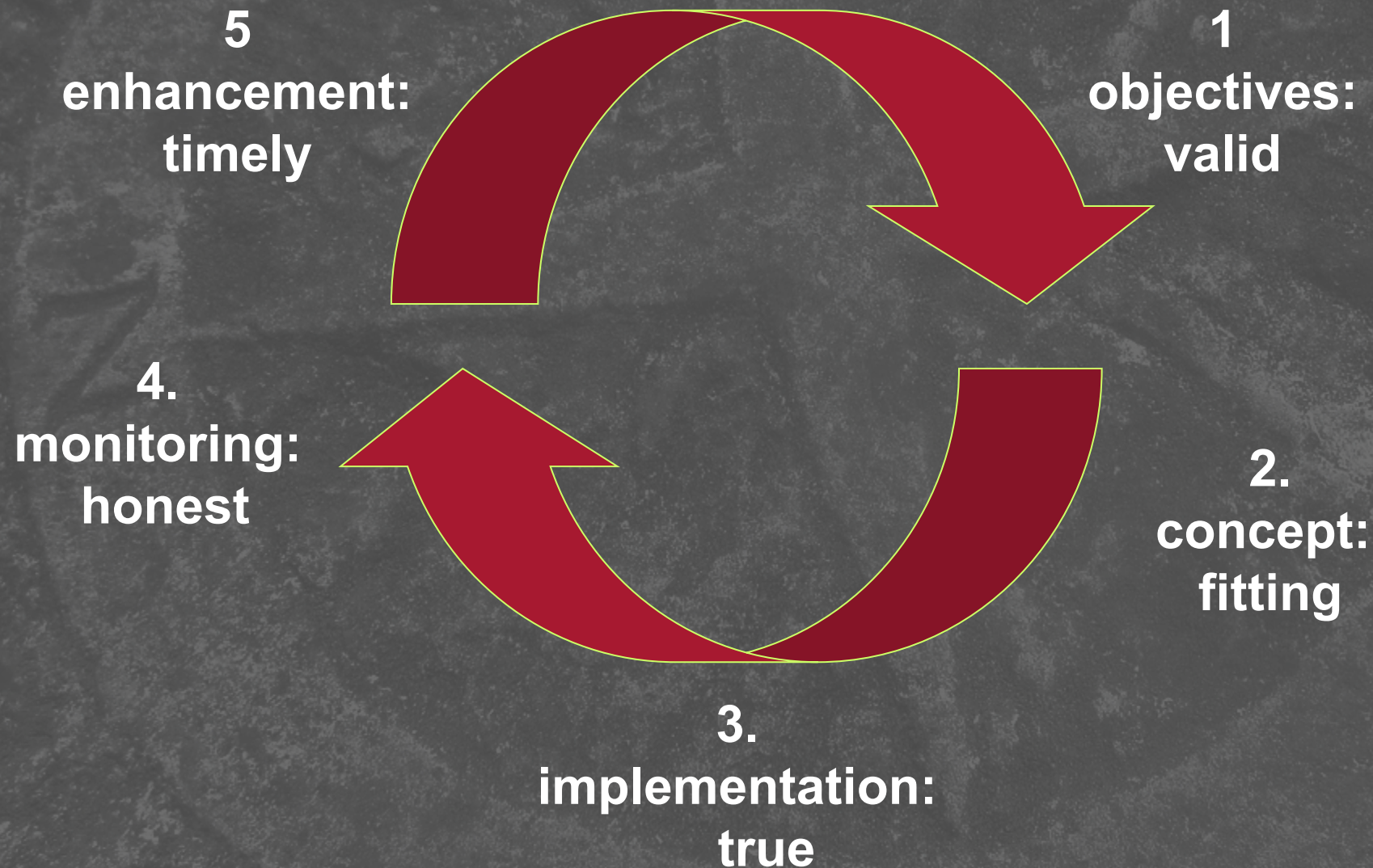
checks and balances

partner in dialogue

'Qualitätsdialog',  
'Akkreditierungsrat im Dialog'



### III. The Big Picture – quality approach of accreditation & mission of the GAC





# IV. Zooming in

Central quality standards in practice

## IV. Zooming in – Central quality standards

### Formal Standards

structure and duration of HE programmes

study programme profile

admission requirements & transfer between  
study programmes

qualifications and qualification designations

modularisation

credit point system

special criteria for co-operations with  
non-university institutions





## IV. Zooming in – Central quality standards

### Academic standards

qualification goals and levels

coherent study concept and adequate implementation

subject-content organisation of the study programmes

academic success

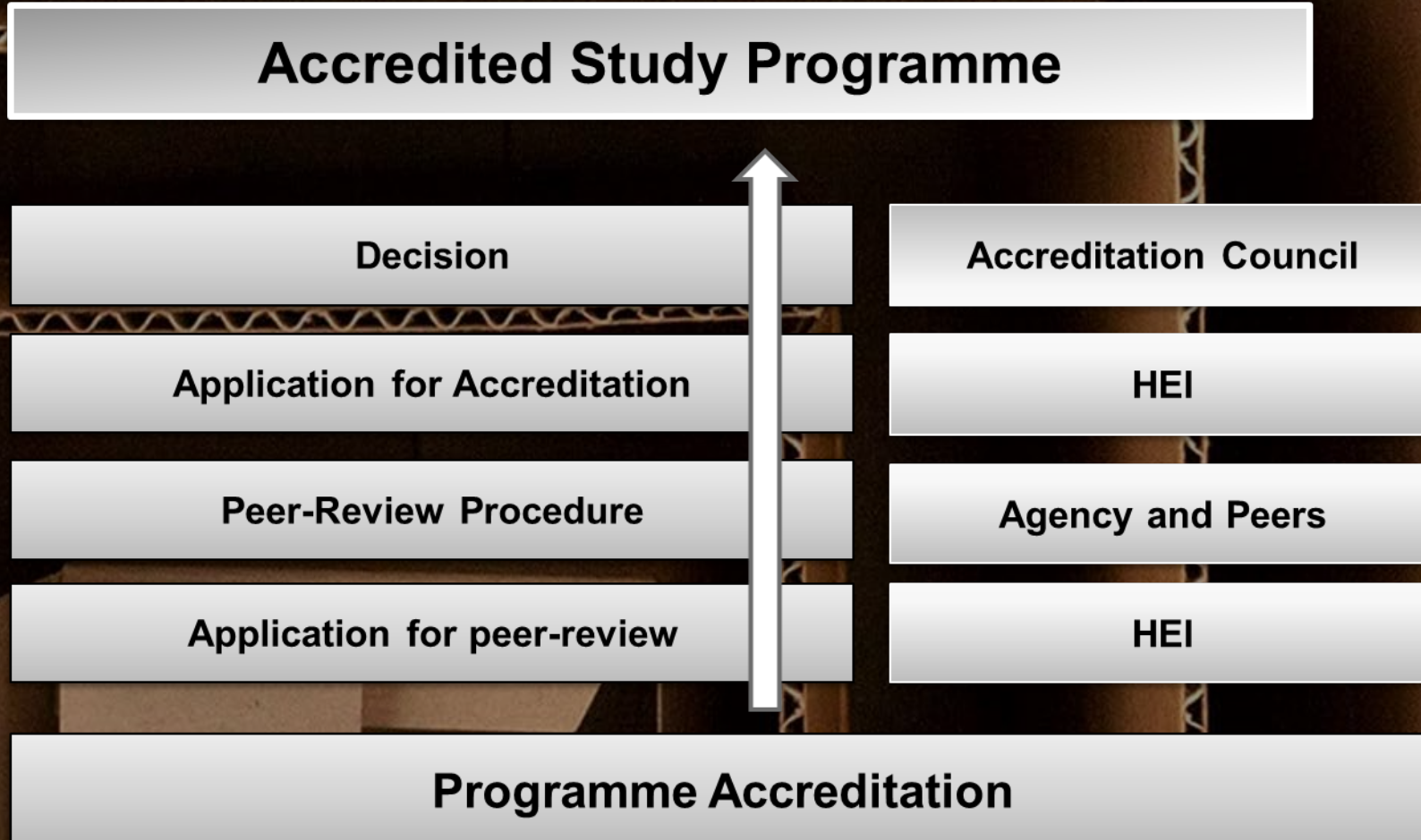
gender equality & compensation of disadvantages

special regulations for joint degree programmes

co-operations with non-university institutions

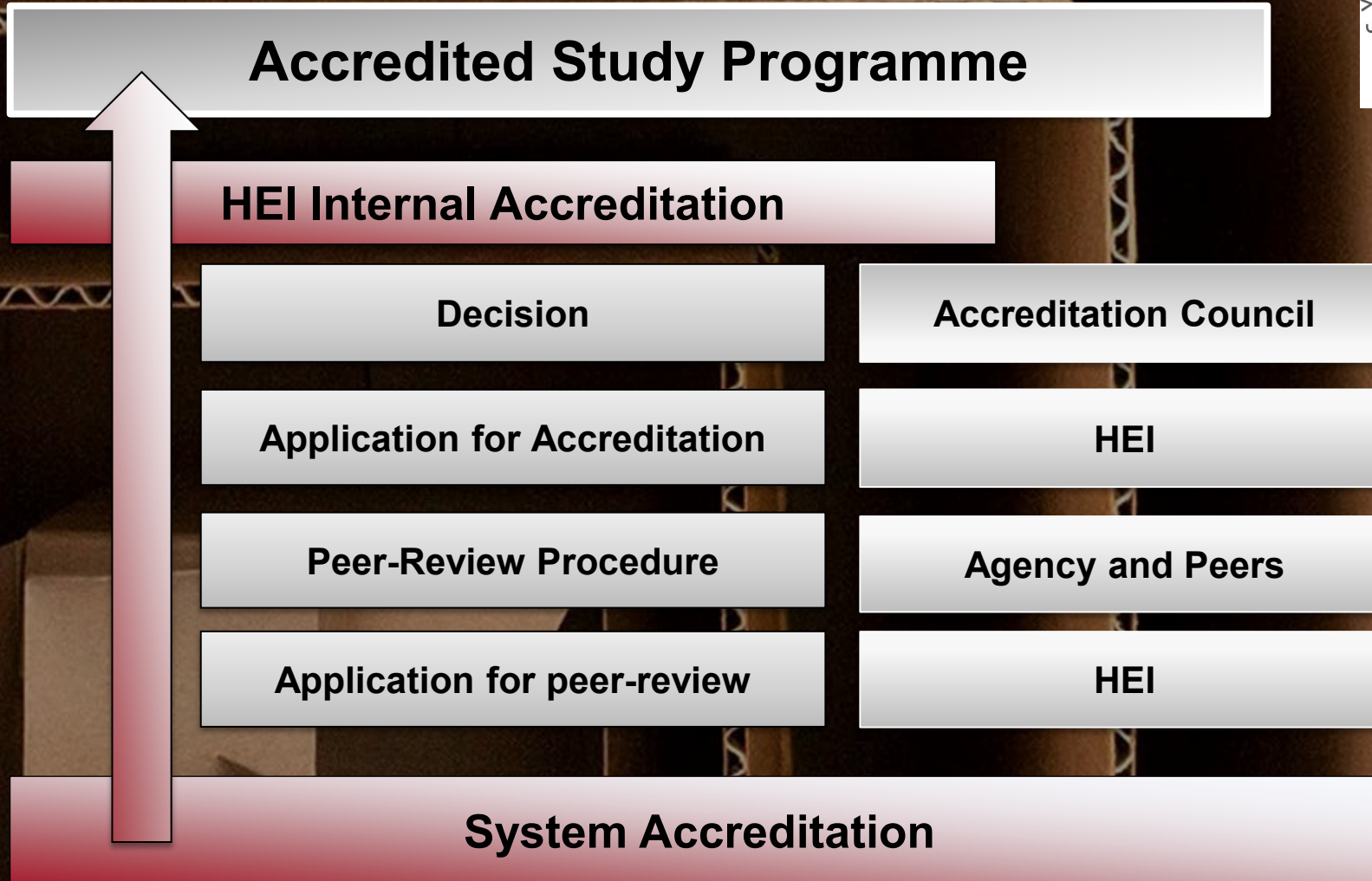
co-operations between HEI

# IV. Zooming in – Central quality standards



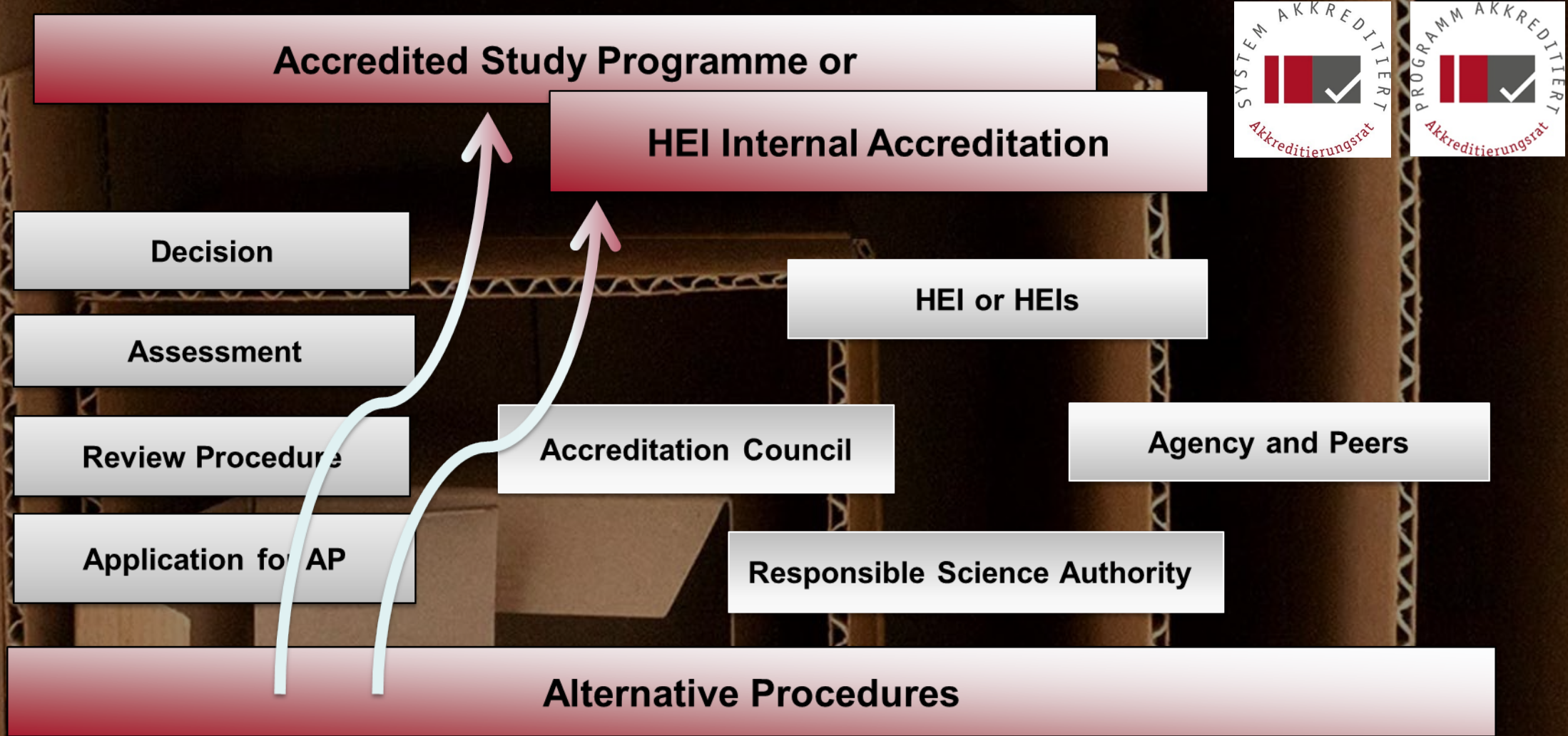


## IV. Zooming in – Central quality standards





# IV. Zooming in – Central quality standards





V.  
Making good things better



9 septembre 1887



8 octobre 1887



10 novembre 1887



14 décembre 1887



15 mars 1888



10 avril 1888



10 mai 1888



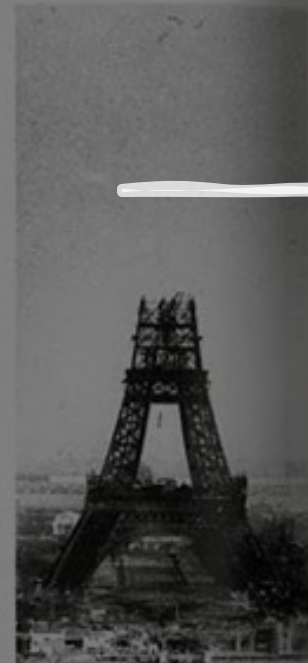
juin 1888



14 août 1888



14 septembre 1888



14 octobre 1888



14 novembre 1888



26 décembre 1888



20 janvier 1889



12 février 1889



12 mars 1889



9 septembre 1887



8 octobre 1887



10 novembre 1887



14 décembre 1887



15 mars 1888



10 avril 1888



10 mai 1888



juin 1888

# Evaluation of the Specimen Decree ('Musterrechtsverordnung' 2017)

...work in progress ...

evaluation of standards and procedures

improvement of clarity & consistency

promoting internationalization

14 août 1888

14 septembre 1888

14 octobre 1888

14 novembre 1888

26 décembre 1888

20 janvier 1889

12 février 1889

12 mars 1889



# Strategic planning

defining goals and implementation of formats  
"further development of the accreditation system"  
"transparency and dialogue"  
"(international) cooperation with stakeholders"

9 septembre 1887

8 octobre 1887

10 novembre 1887

14 décembre 1887

15 mars 1888

10 avril 1888

10 mai 1888

juin 1888



14 août 1888



14 septembre 1888



14 octobre 1888



14 novembre 1888



26 décembre 1888



20 janvier 1889



12 février 1889



12 mars 1889

# mission statement



9 septembre 1887



8 octobre 1887



10 novembre 1887



14 décembre 1887



15 mars 1888



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14 août 1888



14 septembre 1888



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