




The Role of Agencies in the German Accreditation System



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Legal Status and Tasks of Agencies

As defined in the Interstate Treaty and Specimen Decree

Experts

- Composition of Panel
(Criteria by German Rectors' Conference)
- Briefing and support

Site Visit(s)

- Coordination and Conduction of site visit with HEI and experts
- Experts can decide to dispense with site visit in some cases

Accreditation Report

2 Parts:

- Formal Report, written by the Agency
- Review Report, written by the Experts



European Approach

Joint Degrees only (so far):

- Agency decides
- GAC recognizes decision

GAC

- Licenses Agencies based on EQAR registration
- Agencies elect one (advisory) member

Quality Improvement Process

- (As yet) informal expectation to allow HEIs to remedy deficiencies
- Goal: conditions as the exception



Changing Roles - From Gatekeepers to Critical Friends

Until 2017:

Agencies conducted entire procedure, internal commissions took final decision on accreditation and fulfilment of conditions

Agencies were accredited and monitored by GAC

For HEIs, Agencies were a controlling body and acted as gatekeepers for accreditation

HEIs and Agencies perceived to be on opposite sides, as agencies had the power to refuse accreditation and to impose conditions

Appeals of decisions aimed at agencies

Since 2018:

Agencies conduct procedure up to the accreditation report, GAC decides on accreditation and fulfilment of conditions

Agencies are formally licensed on the basis of their listing in the EQAR

Agencies are still a controlling body but without final say

HEIs see Agencies as partners, preparing them for GAC application, so Agencies act more as service organizations and “critical friends”

Decisions have to be appealed at GAC

Accreditation Procedure – Part 1

Agency and HEI enter into a contract

HEI provides a self-evaluation report

Optional: pre-check and subsequent revision of the SER

Agency nominates an expert group (HEI can raise objections)

Agency prepares draft formal report

On-site visit(s) (1 in programme, 2 in system accreditation)

Experts prepare draft review report

HEI can suggest formal corrections

Optional: Quality Improvement Process

Agency sends finalized accreditation report to HEI

HEI applies for accreditation at GAC

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Agencies in Germany

AQAS

AQ Agentur für
Qualitätssicherung
und Akkreditierung
Austria

MUSIQUe
Music Quality Enhancement

ACQUIN

AKAST

evalag
EVALUATIONSAGENTUR
BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

STIFTUNG
Akkreditierungsrat

FIBAA

AHPGS

aaq 
schweizerische agentur
für akkreditierung
und qualitätssicherung

ZEVA
Zentrale Evaluations- & Akkreditierungsagentur

ASIIN

4

Membership
Organizations

5

Subject-specific

2

Public bodies

3

Based outside
Germany

11

Agencies

10

Operate
internationally

1

Non-profit limited
company

2

Specialized on
system
accreditation

4

Foundations
(public/private)

Organization of Agencies

About ZEvA



100

ACCREDITATIONS
PER YEAR



5300

ACCREDITED STUDY
PROGRAMMES



+25

SYSTEM
ACCREDITATIONS



29

YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE



+3000

EXPERTS



+180

INTERNATIONAL
PROCEDURES



+20

COUNTRIES

Structure and History of ZEvA

Founded 1995 as a public body for evaluation of teaching and learning in Lower Saxony

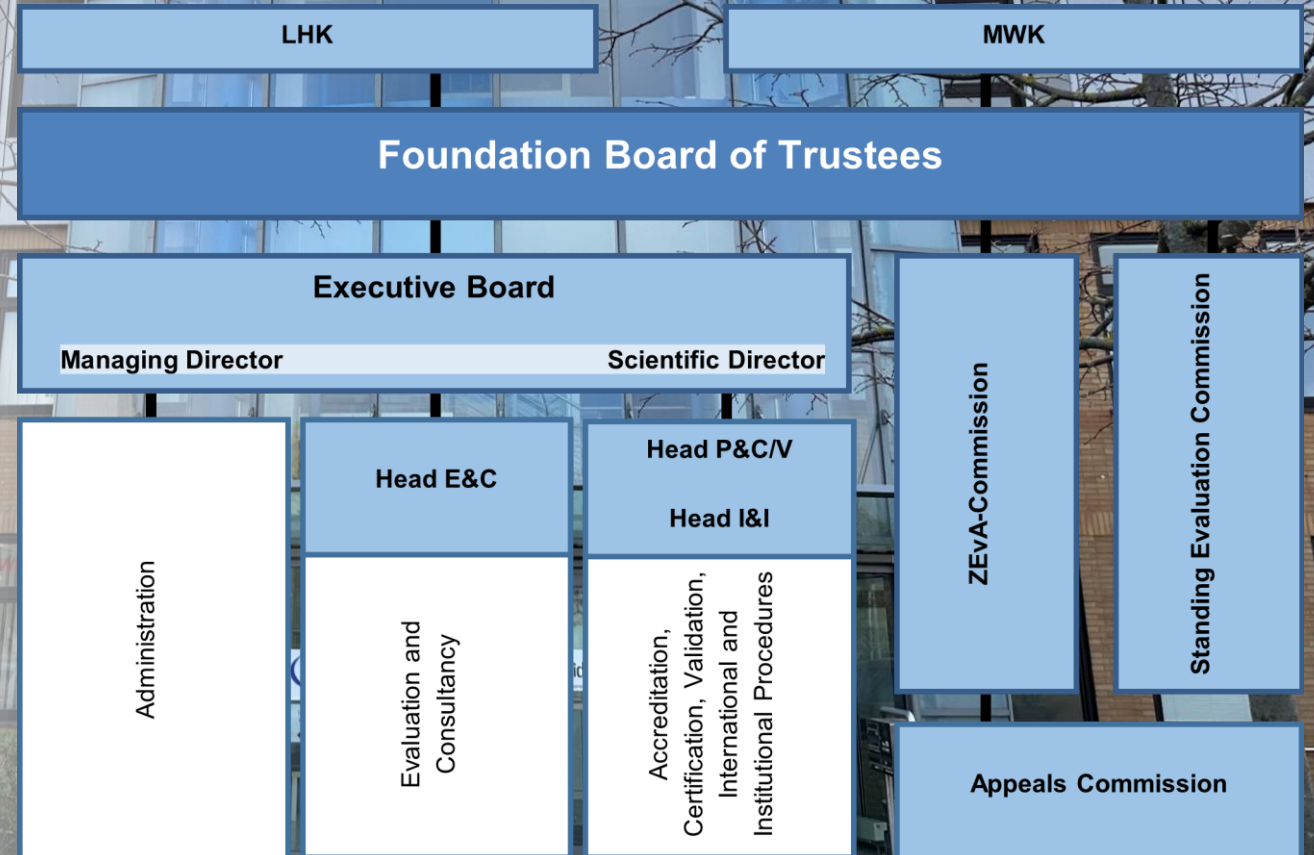
Started accreditation 1998

First accredited by GAC 2000

ENQA member since 2000

Transformed into a foundation under public law 2009, with public funding for evaluation

Listed in EQAR since 2011



Countries where ZEvA has been active

Germany	Austria	China	Ethiopia
Iraq (Kurdish Autonomous Region)	Kenya	Paraguay	Russia (suspended)
Saudi Arabia	South Korea	Sweden	Switzerland
Tanzania	Uganda	Ukraine	United Arab Emirates

...and more countries as partners in cross-border education





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Any Questions?