Quality Assurance German Experience

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Quality assurance: Object and objectives

- The object of quality assurance is the core product of a university:
  - the responsible
  - warranty
  - on a successful study process
  - for all enrolled students

Quality assurance: Who has to do what?

- quality aspects have to be defined – this is the task of the departments / faculties of a university who define the desired contents of a study programme

- quality assurance is an empirical process – empirical data about the courses offered and the the progress of individual students have to be collected and analysed

Quality relevant data

- subjective evaluation of courses by students

- data about the progress of individual students

- distribution of students per study programme and semester, of marks given in each module, of general marks at the final examination, numbers of students in each course, drop-out rates
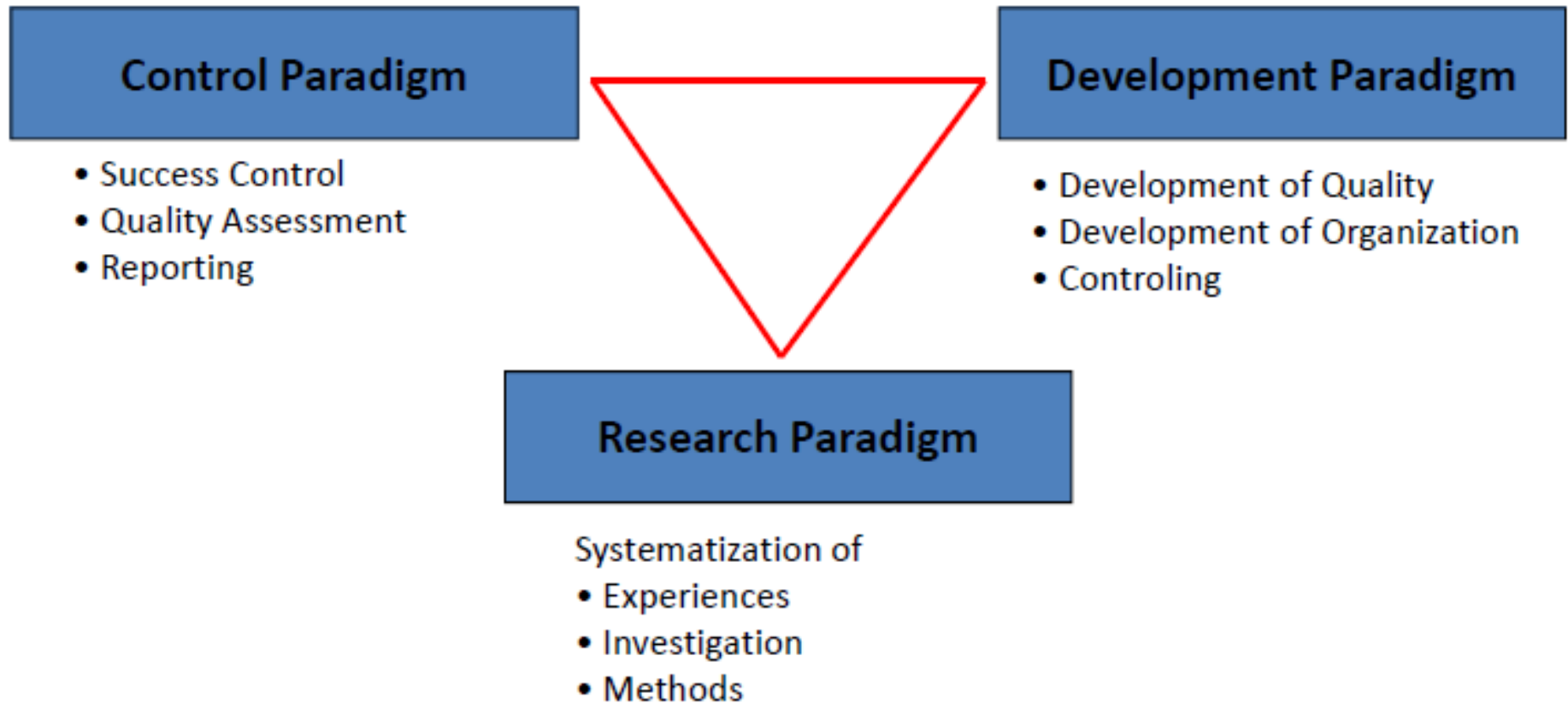
What to do with the data

- discuss the student evaluation results among faculty members

- offering help to faculty members with negative evaluation results

- finding out which students need mentoring

Indicators and instruments

- warranty: workload questionnaire (standardised)
- responsiveness:
  - achievement questionnaire (standardised)
  - narrative interviews and focus groups (non-standardised)
  - discussion among the faculty members of a study programme
- study process: statistical data of the examination office
- students: entrance questionnaire

German System of Accreditation in HE

Control Paradigm

- Success Control
- Quality Assessment
- Reporting

Development Paradigm

- Development of Quality
- Development of Organization
- Controling

Research Paradigm

Systematization of
- Experiences
- Investigation
- Methods

Accreditation

Accreditation follows the control paradigm of evaluation.

Accreditation assesses **minimal standards** of institutions or study programs. The goals are prescribed from **outside**.

Accreditation Council

The **accreditation** of study programs in Germany is coordinated by the

> "**Foundation for the Accreditation of Study Programmes in Germany**",
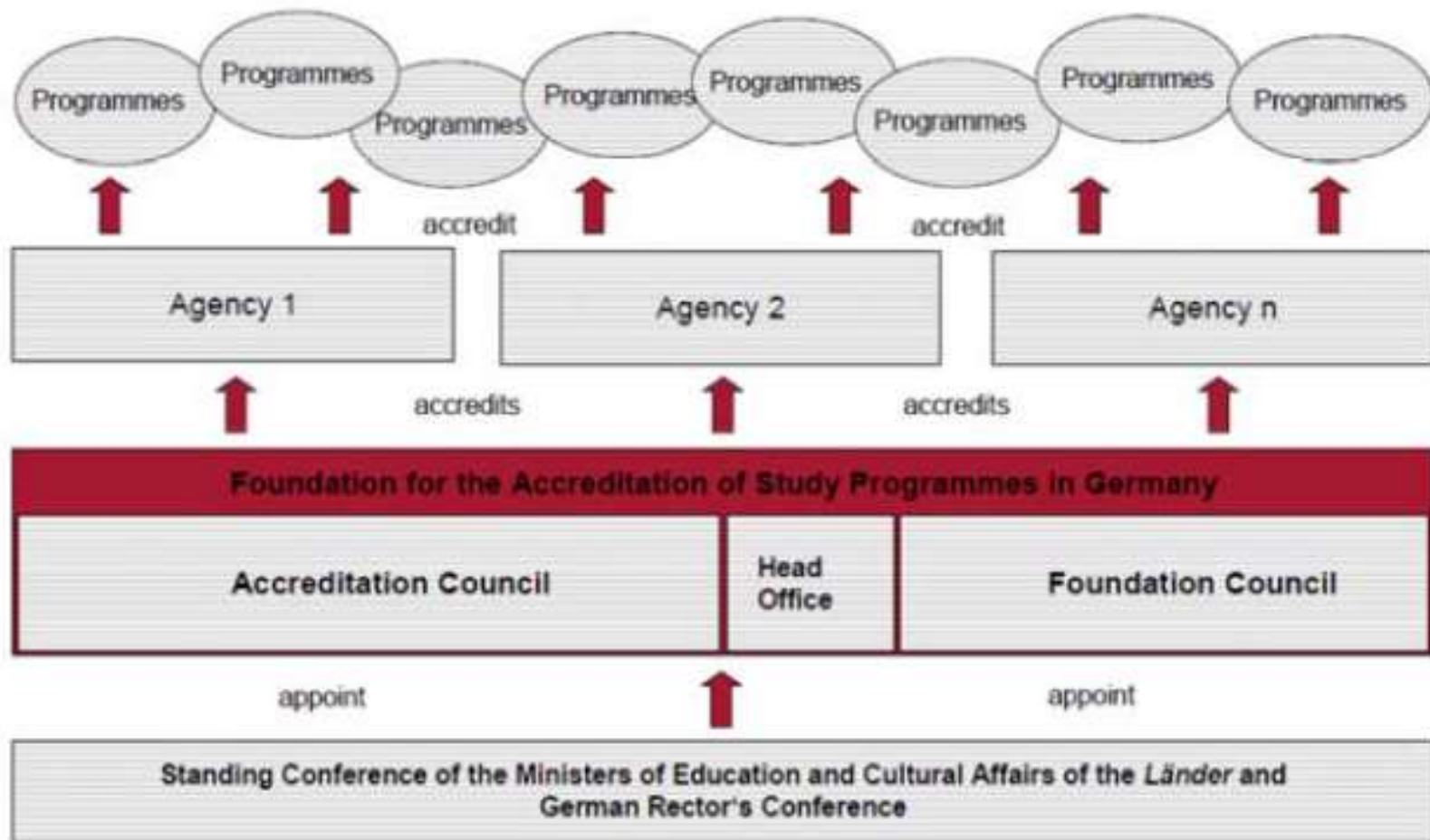> (short "Accreditation Council")
>
> [www.akkreditierungsrat.de/]

The foundation is **under public law** and was established in **2005.**

Accreditation Council

The council **certifies** „**agencies**" to carry out the processes of accreditation of study programmes at higher educational institutes.

The **agencies** are given the authority to award the **Quality Seal** of the council.

Role of the Council

Accreditation Council

The council is **constituted** from members of different ‚stakeholders':

- **Higher Education Institutions**

- **German States**

- professional **practitioners**

- **foreign** experts

- **students**

- **accreditation agencies**

Accreditation Council

Board

Composition:
Chairperson of Accreditation Council
Vice-Chairperson of Accreditation Council
Managing Director

Function:
Executes the Accreditation Council's resolutions

Accreditation Council

Composition:

Four representatives from Higher Education Institutions

Four representatives from the *Länder*

Five representatives from among professional practioners

Two foreign representatives with accreditation experience

Two students

One representative from the agencies in a consultative capacity

Function:

Makes decisions on all matters of the Foundation, especially accreditation and reaccreditation of agencies

Foundation Council

Composition:

Five representatives from German Rector's Conference

Six representatives from the *Länder*

Function:

Monitors the lawfulness and efficiency of the Foundation activities carried out by the Accreditation Council and the Board

Head Office

Function:

Supports the execution of Foundation business

Accreditation

The objects of the **Accreditation Process** are study programmes for Bachelor and Master Degrees from state, or state recognised, Higher Education Institutions in Germany.

Where any study programmes are combined in a logical and justified way, the accreditation can also be carried as a combined package (**Cluster**).

Agencies

German Accreditation Agencies (July 2012)

- **ACQUIN**   Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Insitute
- **AHPGS**   Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Sciences
- **AKAST**   Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical Study Programmes
- **AQA**   Austrian Agency for Quality Assurance
- **AQAS**   Agency for Quality Assurance by Accreditation of Study Programmes
- **ASIIN**   Accreditation Agency for Degree Programmes in Engineering, Informatics/Computer Science, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- **evalag** - evaluation agency Baden-Württemberg
- **FIBAA**   Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation
- **OAQ**   Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of the Swiss Universities
- **ZEvA**   Central Evaluation- and Accreditation Agency Hannover

Number of accreditations

Study Programs Accredited by German Accreditation Agencies (July 2012)

	Bachelor	Master	Sum
ZEvA	874	1042	1916
FIBAA	307	279	586
ACQUIN	835	731	1566
AHGPS	183	125	308
AQAS	879	868	1747
ASIIN	795	681	1476
others	19	20	39

ASIIN

ASIIN (Accreditation Agency for Degree Programmes in Engineering, Informatics/Computer Science, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics) is a German **accreditation agency** for

- engineering (**I**ngenieurwissenschaften)
- computer science (**I**nformatik)
- natural sciences (**N**aturwissenschaften)
- mathematics
- all interdisciplinary areas including one of these subject areas
- teacher training programmes

Programme vs. System Accreditation

ASIIN performs

- (single) **programme accreditation** for single study programs

- **cluster programme accreditation** for groups of study programs

- **system accreditation** for institutions

Outline of the procedure

1. Preparation and application

- **University** submits request to ASIIN, including the accreditation request and a short curricular overview.

- **ASIIN** accepts the reviews the preliminary information with regard to the responsibilities, possible clustering, and the number of peers required. ASIIN generates an offer for the accreditation procedure containing a request for confirmation of costs.

Outline of the procedure

2. Review

- **University** generates a self assessment report in accordance with the suggested structure. (**ASIIN** offers a preliminary meeting to review the report wrt. formal completeness.)

- ASIIN selects **an Audit Team**.

- The Audit Team conducts an **on-site visit** at the university (one and a half days).

- **ASIIN** submits the accreditation report to the university for review of technical errors and statement.

- **University** issues a statement and makes possible corrections and changes to the accreditation report.

Outline of the procedure

3. Decision and completion

– **ASIIN** passes final evaluation report on with recommendations.

– Relevant **Technical Committee** comments on it.

– The ASIIN **Accreditation Commission** for Degree Programmes decides on it.

– **ASIIN** communicates the decision to the applying university and the German Accreditation Council.

– ASIIN publishes a of a summary on the internet according to the provisions of the Accreditation Council.

Outcome of the procedure

The responsible **Accreditation Commission** from the Agency decides

- either to **grant** an accreditation for the relevant study programme,
- to **grant** an accreditation **with conditions**,
- to **abandon** the process,
- or to **reject** the accreditation.

The accreditation is awarded for a **limited period** and carries the Quality Seal of the Foundation for the duration of this period.

Seal

In the course of an ASIIN programme accreditation procedure the **ASIIN seal** is aquired for each degree programme accredited by the ASIIN Accreditation Commission.

In the area covered by the German Accreditation Council, ASIIN additionally awards the **seal of the Council**.

Complaints

An HEI directly may lodge a **complaint** (objection) against the decision of the Accreditation Commission.

– within a month after receipt of the decision

– based on the fact that the decision of the Accreditation Commission violates the "General Criteria"

The complaint will be discussed by the agency's separate **Board of Complaints**.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTANTION !