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FIBAA

Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation

The Role of Accreditation Agencies in the Implementation of Higher Education Reforms

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HICA – Visita de estudio a Alemania

March 28th, 2017



OUTLINE



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- I. Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**
- II. Quality Assurance in Germany**
- III. Agencies Activities**





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I) Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)



QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA



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- Quality Assurance (QA) has been central to the Bologna Process and the creation of the EHEA
- The ESG and the EQAR are key change drivers for institutional and national QA developments:
 - ESG (STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA, 2015): provide guidance, covering the areas which are vital for successful quality provision and learning environments in higher education
 - EQAR: European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education is a register of such agencies, listing those that substantially comply with a common set of principles for quality assurance in Europe.
- An increasing number of institutions have institutional QA policies and processes that are used for institutional planning and improvement.

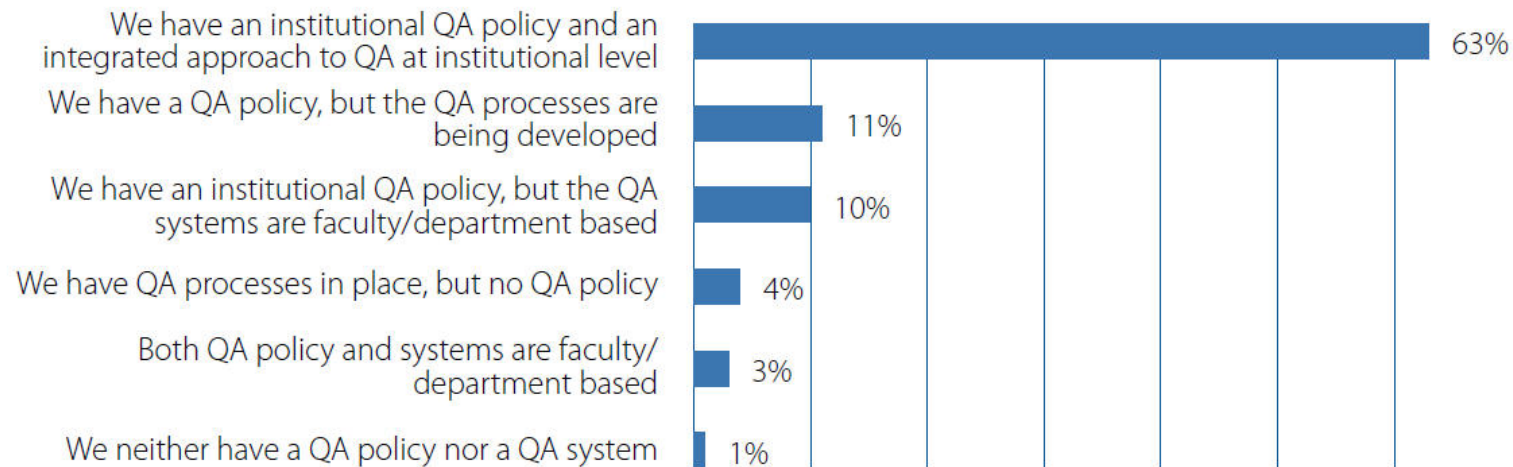
QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA



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Figure 9: Does your institution have an institutional quality assurance policy and system? (Q51)

Institutional quality assurance policy and system



Source: European University Association. 2015. Trends 2015: Learning and Teaching in European Universities by Andree Surssock. Brussels, Belgium

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA



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Table 2: Country data on institutions with an “institutional QA policy and an integrated approach to QA at institutional level” (Q51)

25%-49%	50%-74%	75%-100%
Czech Republic	Denmark	Austria
France	Germany	Belgium
Sweden	Greece	Finland
Turkey	Italy	Hungary
	Latvia	Ireland
	Netherlands	Lithuania
	Poland	Norway
	Portugal	Romania
	Russian Federation	Spain
	Slovakia	Switzerland
	Ukraine	United Kingdom

Source: European University Association. 2015. Trends 2015: Learning and Teaching in European Universities by Andree Sursock. Brussels, Belgium

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA



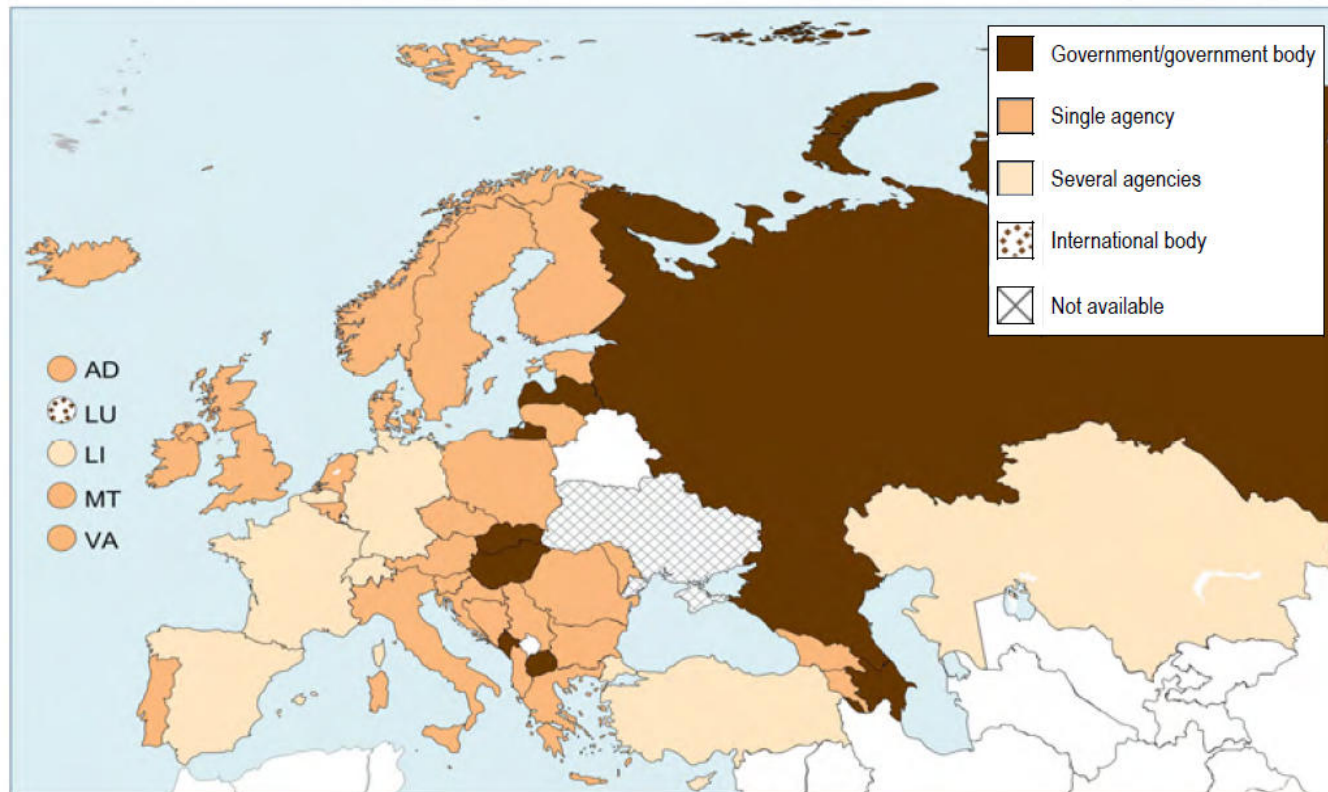
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- The rise of Quality Assurance agencies has been a major trend. Only a few countries retain a system where a ministry or ministry body has direct responsibility for quality assurance.



QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA

Figure 3.2: Responsibility for external quality assurance, 2013/14



Source: European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice. 2015. The European Higher Education Area in 2015: Bologna Process Implementation Report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA



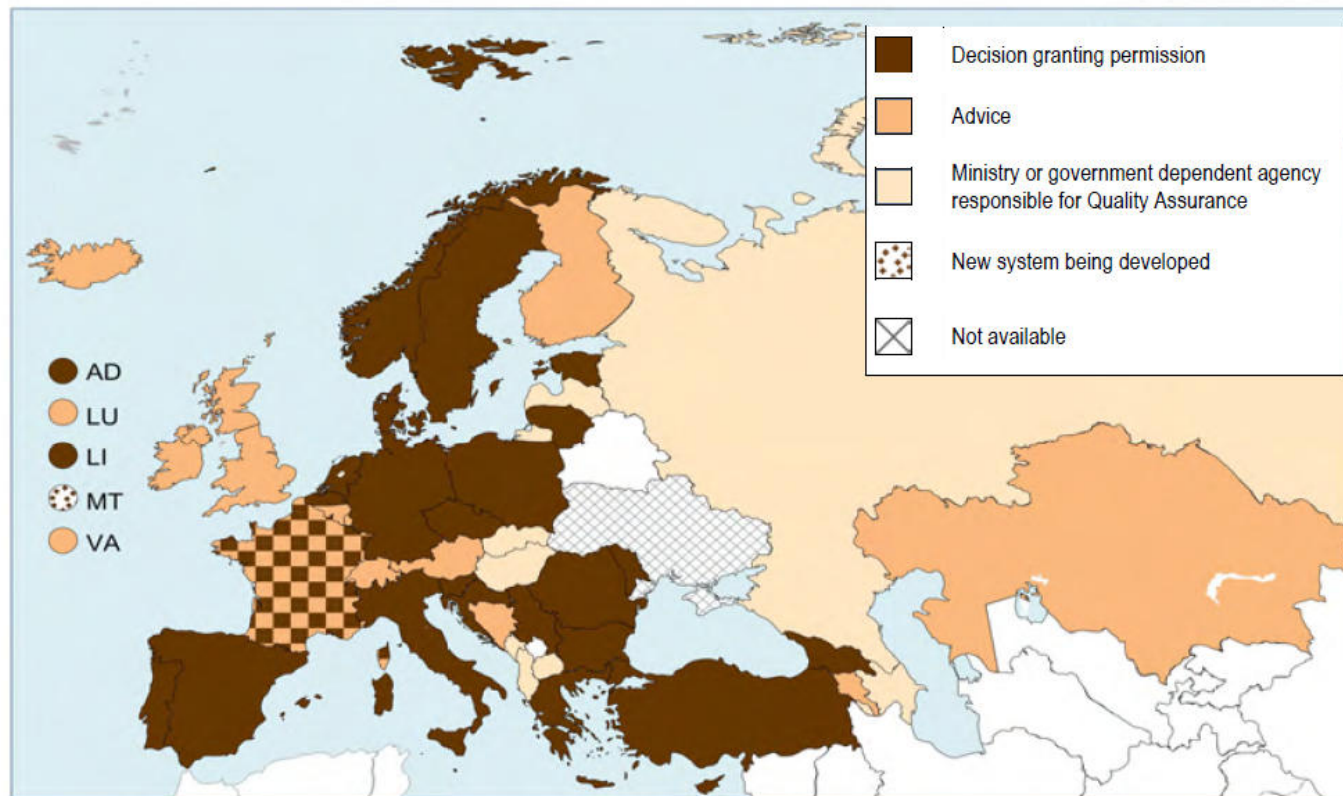
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- In the EHEA the majority of countries have established agencies with decision-making powers. The minority installed agencies with advisory and more enhancement-oriented in character.



QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EHEA

Figure 3.3: Main outcome of external evaluation by QA agency, 2013/14



Source: European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice. 2015. The European Higher Education Area in 2015: Bologna Process Implementation Report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.



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II) Quality Assurance in Germany

(A FIBAA perspective)



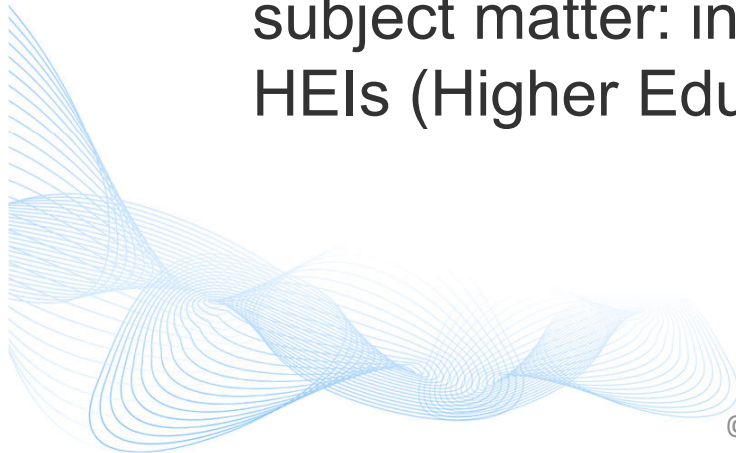
QUALITY ASSURANCE IN GERMANY



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In general there are two options for accreditations:

- **Programme Accreditation**
subject matter: single study programme
- **Institutional (System) Accreditation**
subject matter: internal quality assurance system of HEIs (Higher Education Institutions)

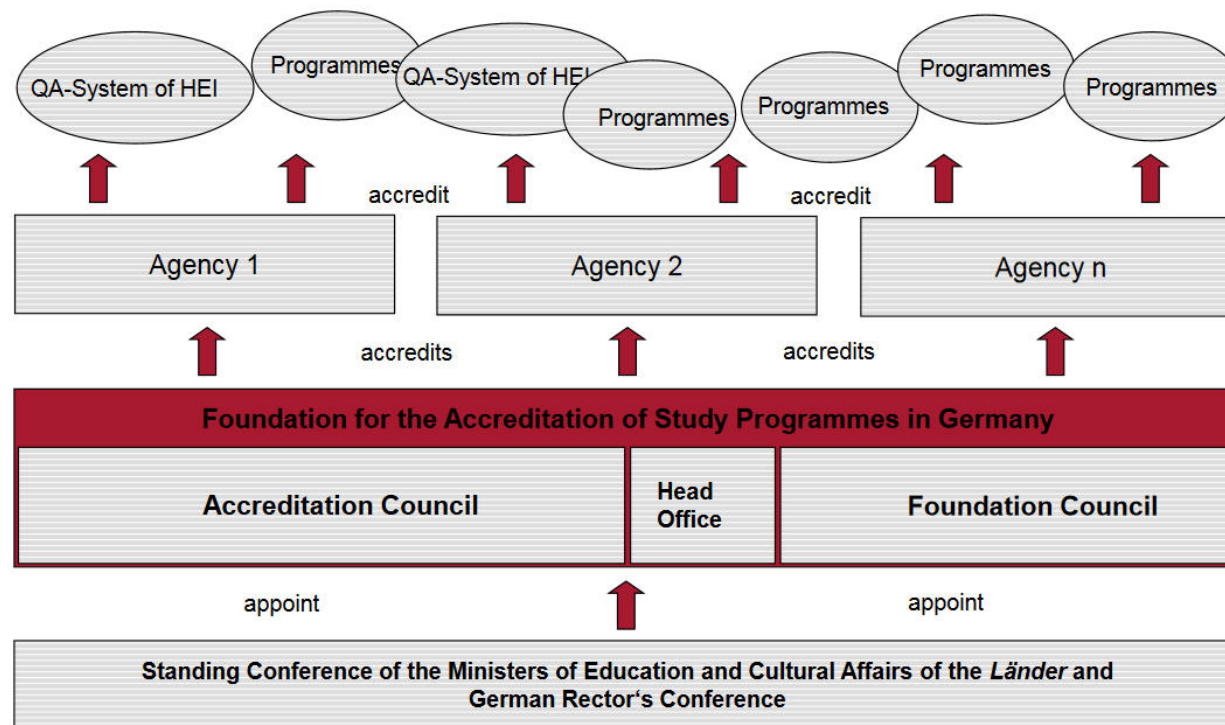


QUALITY ASSURANCE IN GERMANY



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The Accreditation System in Germany II



Source: Olaf Bartz. 2015. The German Accreditation System. ASEM-Education Process: Peer Learning Activity Conference “New Approaches to Quality Assurance in the ASEM Countries”. Belgium

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN GERMANY



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10 Accreditation Agencies in Germany

- AAQ (Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance)
- ACQUIN (Accreditation-, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute)
- AHPGS (Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Special Education, Care, Health Sciences and Social Work)
- AKAST (Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Canonical courses of Studies in Germany)
- AQAS (Agency for Quality Assurance in the course of the Accreditation of Study Programmes)
- AQ Austria (Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria)
- ASIIN (Accreditation Agency specialised in accrediting Degree Programs from the fields of Engineering, Informatics/Computer Science, the Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
- FIBAA
- Evalag (Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg)
- ZEvA (Central Evaluations- and Accreditation Agency)



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III) Agencies activities

(Example FIBAA)





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INFORMATION ON THE AGENCY

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- Established in 1994 as a foundation by **employers associations** and **chambers of industry and commerce** of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland
- **Registered as a Foundation in Switzerland** / Zurich, Headquarter in Bonn, Germany
- FIBAA is a legally and professionally **independent non-profit organisation**
- FIBAA is **accredited by the GAC (German Accreditation Council)**, registered in **EQAR** and member of **ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education)**

AGENCIES ACTIVITIES



FIBAA

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Agencies (FIBAA) offer(s)

- **Institutional** accreditation (Germany: system accreditation)
- **Programme** accreditation
- **Consulting**
- **Certifications** of continuing education courses

All evaluation activities are in line with the **ESG!**



ACCREDITATION PRINCIPLES



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- FIBAA has available **assessment guides** for the institutional accreditation, for the strategic management accreditation and for programme accreditation.
- Procedures are **transparent** and **individual**.
- FIBAA includes specially and **well trained review experts**.
- FIBAA continuously reflects on the methodology of its procedures and develops these further = **continuous improvement** of the agency



INSTITUTIONAL (SYSTEM ACCREDITATION) ACCREDITATION



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System Accreditation assesses whether the following areas of the HEI correspond with criteria of GAC (German Accreditation Council):

- Qualification Objectives
- Internal Management in Teaching and Learning
- Internal Quality Assurance
- Reporting System and Data Collection
- Responsibilities
- Documentation
- Cooperation

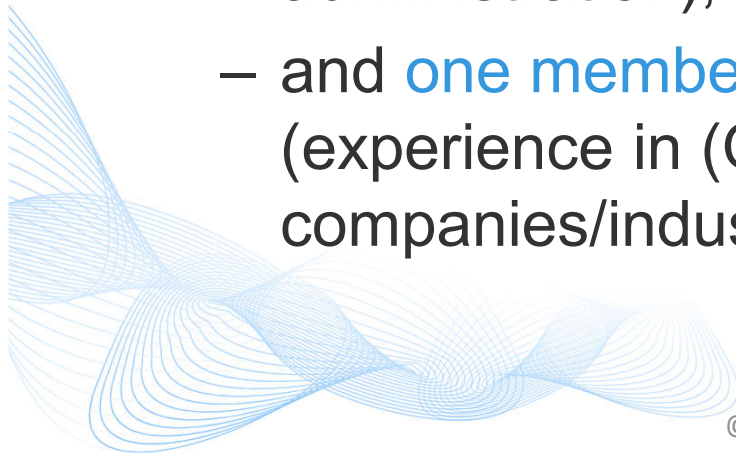
THE REVIEW PANEL



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System Accreditation: Five experts

- **three members from HEI** (expertise in Management of HEI/Business Schools, Quality Management, Development of Studies/Teaching/research) including one **international expert**
- **one student member** (experience in HEI self-administration),
- and **one member from the professional field** (experience in (Quality) Management in companies/industry).



PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION



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The **Programme Accreditation** gives the HEI a detailed evaluation on its study programmes. The following criteria are assessed:

- Qualification Objectives of the Study Programme Concept
- Integration of the Study Programme in the (German) System
- Study Programme Concept
- Academic Feasibility
- Examination System
- Programme-related Co-operations
- Facilities
- Transparency and Documentation
- Quality Assurance and Further Development
- Study Programmes with a Special Profile Demand
- Gender Justice and Equal Opportunities

THE REVIEW PANEL



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Programme Accreditation: Four to five experts

- two members from HEI with expertise in the specific field(s) of the study programme(s) and additional experts in case of special profile demand,
- one student member studying in the specific field of the/one study programme,
- and one member from the professional field of the study programme(s).
- In cluster accreditations (more than one programme) one or two additional experts can be involved.

ASSESSMENT GUIDES

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FIBAA has (as a service) detailed Assessment Guides for all accreditation procedures

The FIBAA Assessment Guides

- contain questions which have to be answered by the HEI – this ensures that the HEI provides all relevant information,
- contain all relevant quality standards and requirements for the assessment by the review panel – hence, the Guides define clearly the scope of assessment.

ACCREDITATION PERIOD



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- **System Accreditation:**

A successful Accreditation is valid for **6 years** (initial accreditation) or **8 years** (re-accreditation).

- **Programme Accreditation:**

A successful Accreditation is valid for **5 years** (initial accreditation) or **7 years** (re-accreditation).

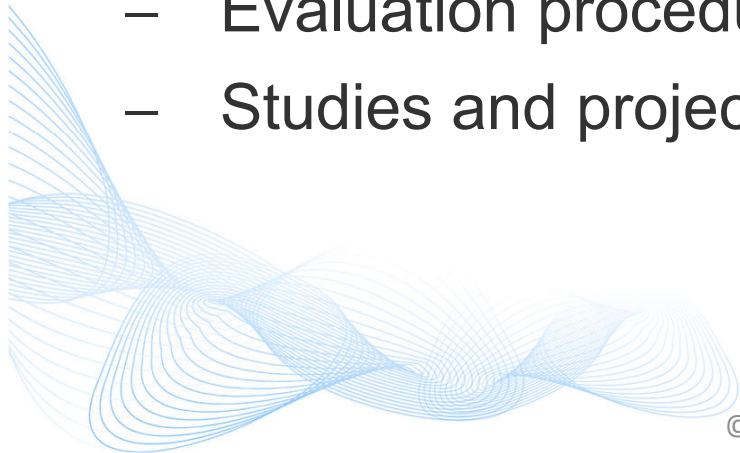
CONSULTING



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FIBAA offers the following **consulting** to HEI:

- Individual consulting services
- Workshops and seminars
- Factory articles and information material
- Evaluation procedures (no decision, no seal)
- Studies and projects



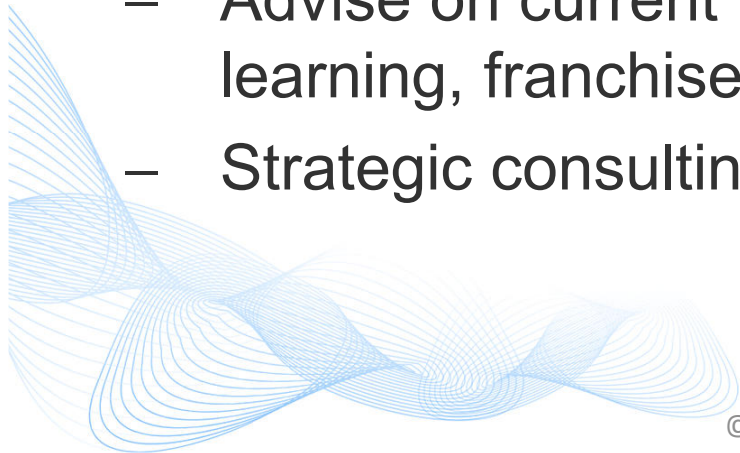
CONSULTING



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Examples of **topics**:

- Preparation for programme and institutional accreditation procedures
- Advancement of study programmes and/or Quality Management Systems
- Advise on current topics such as recognition of prior learning, franchise, eLearning, joint degrees etc.
- Strategic consulting on the development of a HEI



CERTIFICATION



FIBAA offers certification of continuing education courses

- to HEIs or providers of continuing education,
- for continuing education courses at academic level, which do not lead to an academic degree





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Thank you for your attention!

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LITERATURE



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- European Standards and Guidelines: <http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/home/esg/> 18th of March 2017



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ABBREVIATIONS

EHEA = European Higher Education Area

EQAR = European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

ENQA = European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ESG = European Standards and Guidelines

FIBAA = Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation

GAC = German Accreditation Council

HEI = Higher Education Institutions

QA = Quality Assurance