



SCHWEIZERISCHER AKKREDITIERUNGSRAT
CONSEIL SUISSE D'ACCRÉDITATION
CONSIGLIO SVIZZERO DI ACCREDITAMENTO
SWISS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

2015 activity report

June 2016



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1 Preface

2015 is the first year of accreditation in accordance with the Higher Education Funding and Coordination Act (HEdA): appointed by the Swiss Conference of Higher Education Institutions on 28 February 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council convened its first meeting on 12 March 2015. The first meetings mainly involved working on the accreditation guidelines, implementing decrees and organisational issues. In the second half of the year, the number of decisions made during procedures increased significantly. In addition to two decisions on admission for institutional accreditation, there were procedures under the repealed University Funding Act and the repealed Universities of Applied Sciences Act (UASA) as well as procedures of the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ) on behalf of third parties.

The first year of existence of the Swiss Accreditation Council showed that the ex ante budget had been too tightly calculated as it only included the attendance fees and expenses associated with meetings. No funds had been set aside for the website, translations or printed matter. In light of this development, it is pleasing that the 2015 financial statement only ended up slightly in the red.

2 Activity report

The Swiss Accreditation Council is an accreditation body as defined in the HEdA. In this capacity, it makes a decision on institutional accreditation according to the HEdA. As an accreditation body, it is also responsible for implementing decrees to the HEdA.

The Swiss Accreditation Council is also the supervisory body responsible for overseeing the AAQ. In this capacity, it approves expert groups and reports to be submitted to external decision-making bodies or makes decisions on accreditations or certifications.

In the year under review, the presidency of the Swiss Accreditation Council convened five times; the Swiss Accreditation Council convened four meetings.

Decrees, organisational duties and resources of the Swiss Accreditation Council

Preparing the accreditation guidelines pursuant to the HEdA and issuing the implementing decrees to the HEdA and organising the tasks made up a large part of the Swiss Accreditation Council's work in 2015.

Guidelines of the Higher Education Council for the accreditation within the higher education sector

At its first meeting on 12 March 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council adopted the draft of the *Guidelines of the Higher Education Council for the accreditation within the higher education sector (HEdA Accreditation Guidelines)* for the attention of the Swiss Higher Education Council. It based its decision on a draft which a workgroup had drawn up under the leadership of the OAQ (the predecessor organisation to the AAQ) in 2013 and 2014.

The Higher Education Council adopted the HEdA Accreditation Guidelines on 28 May 2015 and implemented them as of 1 July 2015. The Higher Education Council adopted the Swiss Accreditation Council's draft unchanged; however, it instructed the Swiss Accreditation Council to make a proposal within two years on a simplified procedure for the renewal of the institutional accreditation for higher education institutions, which have been accredited without conditions.

On 18 September 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council formed a project organisation team to develop a proposal for simplified accreditation renewal. The proposal should be discussed by

the Swiss Accreditation Council at its meetings on 6 June and 9 December 2016 and be adopted at its meeting on 24 March 2017 for the attention of the Higher Education Council.

Implementing decrees to the HEdA

At its meeting on 12 March 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council discussed and adopted three implementing decrees prepared by the Presidency:

Organisational Regulations of the Swiss Accreditation Council (OReg-SAC)

Organisational Regulations of the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (OReg-AAQ)

Fee Regulations of the Swiss Accreditation Council (FeeReg-SAC)

At the same meeting, it discussed the first draft of the *Organisational Regulations of the Appeals Commission (OReg-AC)*; at its meeting of 5 June 2015, it adopted these regulations and implemented them as of 1 July 2015.

At its meeting of 18 September 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council discussed the first draft of the *Guidelines of the Swiss Accreditation Council on the recognition of agencies for the accreditation according to HEdA (Recognition Guidelines)*. At its meeting on 11 December 2015, it adopted the Recognition Guidelines and implemented them as of 1 January 2016.

Organisational structure of the Swiss Accreditation Council

The Swiss Accreditation Council is the accreditation body for accreditation procedures according to HEdA (Article 21(3) HEdA). In its capacity as the supervisory body responsible for overseeing the Swiss Agency of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AAQ) (Article 22(2) HEdA), the Swiss Accreditation Council is also responsible for quality assurance and, as the case may be, the decisions of procedures of the AAQ on behalf of third parties. As third-party assignments sometimes need specific specialist knowledge, at its meeting on 5 June 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council deployed three committees to which it assigned the tasks of performing quality assurance on the AAQ's work and preparing the Council's decisions on behalf of third parties:

- Committee for institutional proceedings in Germany (system accreditation) and Austria (quality audit)
- Committee for programme accreditation pursuant to the Psychology Professions Act
- Committee for programme accreditation pursuant to the Medical Professions Act

It added two external members to each of the two committees responsible for regulated professions (psychology professions and medical professions) (see also section 3.2 below), who bring specific specialist knowledge to the committee in their capacity as experts. Their attendance fees are borne by the AAQ and charged to the relevant procedures account.

Resources

At its meeting on 11 December 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council approved its 2017 budget for the attention of the Swiss Conference of Higher Education Institutions.

2.1 Accreditation pursuant to the HEdA (Art. 14 of the Organisational Regulations of the Swiss Accreditation Council (Oreg-SAC))

In its capacity as an accreditation body responsible for making decisions in accordance with the HEdA, the Accreditation Council is also responsible for making decisions in proceedings involving repealed legislation such as accreditation according to the University Funding Act (UFundA) and the Universities of Applied Sciences Act as well as accreditation of medical training pursuant to the Medical Professions Act.

Below is a list of the Swiss Accreditation Council's decisions classified according to their legal basis.

Accreditation according to the University Funding Act

- 12.03.2015 *Istituto Universitario Privato* - Politecnico di Studi Aziendali - Università privata a distanza - rejection of preliminary examination
- 05.06.2015 Approval of the University of Geneva's quality audit report
 Approval of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne's quality audit report
 Accreditation of the University of Geneva's MAS course in children's rights
- 18.09.2015 Rejection of the *Istituto Privato Universitario Svizzero's* (IPUS) preliminary examination

 Accreditation of the University of Geneva's MAS course in *Médecine dentaire esthétique microinvasive* (Cario)

 Accreditation of the University of Geneva's MAS course in *Action humanitaire*

 Accreditation of the University of Geneva's MAS course in *Sécurité de l'information*

Accreditation in accordance with the Universities of Applied Sciences Act

- 05.03.2015 Approval of expert group: BSc HES-SO in *Technique des bâtiments*
- 05.03.2015 Approval of the report for the attention of the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI): accreditation of BSc HES-SO in *Ingénierie des technologies de l'information*
- 27.08.2015 Approval of the report for the attention of the SERI: BSc HES-SO in *Technique des bâtiments*

Accreditation pursuant to the Medical Professions Act (basic education)

- 12.03.2015 Study programmes in Human Medicine of the universities of Lausanne and Neuchâtel; extension of the deadline for meeting the conditions
- 05.06.2015 Confirmation that the conditions for accreditation of the University of Fribourg's BMed study programme have been met
- 11.12.2015 Confirmation that the conditions for accreditation of the University of Lausanne's BMed and MMed study programmes as well as the University of Neuchâtel's first-year BMed study programme

Accreditation according to the HEdA

- 18.09.2015 Consideration of application for admission to institutional accreditation: HWZ University of Applied Sciences in Business Administration, Zurich campus

 Consideration of application for admission to institutional accreditation: University of Applied Sciences of Special Needs Education (HfH), Zurich campus

- 11.12.2015 Approval of expert group: HWZ University of Applied Sciences in Business Administration
- Approval of expert group: University of Applied Sciences of Special Needs Education (HfH)

2.2 Oversight over the AAQ (Art. 15 Oreg-SAC)

Personnel, finance and strategy

After issuing the Organisational Regulations, the Swiss Accreditation Council elected Christoph Grolimund, who had previously been the director of the OAQ, as the director of the AAQ, and Geneviève LeFort, who had previously been the deputy director of the OAQ, as the deputy director of the AAQ. The Higher Education Council confirmed the election in its letter dated 7 May 2015.

At its meeting on 11 December 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council approved the AAQ's 2017 budget for the attention of the Swiss Conference of Higher Education Institutions. It also approved the AAQ's 2016-2019 *Strategic Orientation Paper*.

System accreditation

- 05.06.2015 Approval of the expert group for the system accreditation of the University of Bremen
- 18.09.2015 Approval of the expert group for the system accreditation of TU Darmstadt

Quality audits pursuant to the Austrian Act on Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HS-QSG)

- 05.03.2015 Approval of the expert group: certification of TU Wien
- 05.06.2015 Certification with conditions of *Montanuniversität Leoben*
 Certification with conditions of the University of Vienna
- 11.12.2015 TU Wien; certification according to HS-QSG

Accreditation according to the Psychology Profession Act

- 05.03.2015 Approval of the expert group: further training programme in systemic and cognitive behavioural psychotherapy with a focus on children and young people run by the *Institut für Psychotherapie des Kindes- und Jugendalters der Universitätskliniken Basel, Bern, Zürich IPKJ (Institute of Psychotherapy for Children and Young people of the University Hospitals of Basel, Bern and Zurich)*
- 05.06.2015 Approval of the report for the attention of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH): further training with a systemic solution-oriented focus for individuals, couples and families, wilob AG Lenzburg
- Approval of the report for the attention of the FOPH: further training in psychotherapy with a cognitive behavioural focus, PSP Basel
- Approval of the expert group: further training in existential analytic psychotherapy, Existential Analysis Academy in Zurich
- 11.12.2015 Approval of the report for the attention of the FOPH: further training in existential analytic psychotherapy, Existential Analysis Academy in Zurich
- Approval of the expert group: further training in psychotherapy at the *Schweizer Institut für Logotherapie und Existenzanalyse (ILE)* (Swiss Institute of Logotherapy and Existential Analysis) according to the teachings of Viktor E. Frankl, Chur

Approval of the expert group: further training curriculum on analytic psychotherapy,
C.G. Jung Institute, Küsnacht

Accreditation pursuant to the Medical Professions Act (further education)

11.12.2015 Approval of the expert group: accreditation of the *Schweizerische Institut für ärztliche Weiter- und Fortbildung (SIWF) (Swiss Institute of Medical Further Education and Training)*

Approval of the expert group: accreditation of pharmasuisse

Approval of the expert group: accreditation of Chiro Suisse

Evaluations

05.03.2015 Approval of the expert group: MAS HES-SO en énergie et développement durable dans l'environnement bâti

11.12.2015 Approval of the report: MAS HES-SO en énergie et développement durable dans l'environnement bâti

Approval of the expert group: EMBA HES-SO en Innovation touristique

3 Personnel

3.1 Swiss Accreditation Council

Following her election as Rector of the University of Basel, Prof. Dr. Andrea Schenker-Wicki resigned from her post as Vice-President and member of the Swiss Accreditation Council as of the end of July 2015. At the request of the Swiss Accreditation Council, the Higher Education Council elected Prof. Dr. Sarah Springman as a member of the former.

3.2 Commissions

In order to perform its role as a supervisory body of the AAQ, the Swiss Accreditation Council formed three commissions, which prepare the decisions of the Swiss Accreditation Council and guarantee the internal quality assurance of the work carried out by the AAQ.

The Swiss Accreditation Council engages the services of external experts for two of the committees. Their costs are borne by the AAQ and charged to the procedures account.

The commissions include:

Institutional proceedings in Germany (system accreditation) and Austria (quality audit)

Jean-Marc Rapp (Chair)

Werner Inderbitzin

Norbert Hoffmann

Øystein Lund

Anja Schuler

Programme accreditation pursuant to the Psychology Profession Act:

Jacques Lanarès (Chair)

Michael Zutavern

Franz Caspar, University of Bern

Rainer Richter, Professor Emeritus at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf

Programme accreditation pursuant to the Medical Professions Act:

William Pralong (Chair)
 Reto Müller
 Florian Lippke
 Giambattista Ravano
 Monika Brodmann, *Inselspital Bern*
 Vital Schreiber, *Spital Uster (hospital)*

4 Appeals Commission

At its meeting on 5 June 2015, the Swiss Accreditation Council elected the members of the Appeals Commission:

Paul Richli, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucerne

Achim Hopbach, Managing Director of AQ Austria

Fredy Sidler, former Secretary General of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (KFH)

5 2015 financial statements

Profit and loss account

The financial statements of the Swiss Accreditation Council finished 2015, in the first year of its existence, with a negative result of CHF -8,698. The crucial factor in the negative result is that the budget, which was drawn up by the OAQ on behalf of the SERI prior to the enactment of the HEAdA, did not take into account the costs associated with the establishment of the Swiss Accreditation Council (website, business documents) and the costs associated with the implementing decrees (translations). The result only makes up - 2% of the budget which can be attributed to the fact that the committee fees were only payable from April 2015 and that Prof. Schenker-Wicki, after being elected Rector of the University, resigned from her post as Vice-President as of the end of July 2015.

	2015
Annual result	-8 698
Operating result	-8 068
Revenue	416 000
Funding from the federal government and cantons	416 000
Expenses	424 068
Personnel expenses	375 728
Other operating expenses	48 340
Financial result	-630

Balance sheet

	2015
Assets	19 005
Current assets	10 307
Liquid assets	7 739
Accrued income	2 568
Balance sheet adjustment	8 698
Balance sheet deficit	8 698
Liabilities	19 005
Loan capital	19 005
Current liabilities	10 000
Outstanding expenses	9 005

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