

YOUR PARTNER FOR EXCELLENCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION



FIBAA

FIBAA Annual Report 2019

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FIBAA

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Editorial



Dear friends and partners,

With the FIBAA Annual Report 2019 I once again have the opportunity to pass on our best wishes for the New Year on behalf of the entire FIBAA team. As in the first edition of the Annual Report 2018, we would like to shortly review the past year in order to focus on the tasks and challenges ahead. In the following I would like to mention some of FIBAA's most important projects with international partners, and inform you about some of FIBAA's activities in Germany.

FIBAA was able to expand its international network in 2019. We have carried out accreditation procedures among others in Indonesia, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Egypt and Luxembourg. FIBAA has also been recognised as an international accreditation agency by the Higher Education Quality Council of Turkey (HEQC) and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. We were also able to successfully continue our international projects: In the past year, the *Erasmus+ - Jean Monnet - project "European Quality Assurance for Students (EQAS)"* has enabled an exciting experience exchange and enriching dialogue on quality enhancement in higher education with Russian university representatives and students as well as with the National Accreditation Agency (NAA) of the Russian Federation.

In Germany, FIBAA continued the implementation of its processes according to the new accreditation law and focused on assistance of Higher Education Institutions as partners on this path. In 2019, FIBAA conducted workshops on procedures and requirements for programme and institutional accreditation under the new legal basis, among others in cooperation with the Association of Private Universities (VPH). In addition, a training webinar on this topic was held for FIBAA experts.

Within the framework of the new FIBAA Annual Report, we concentrate on selected aspects from the head office to strengthen FIBAA's ties to you, our friends and partners, and to increase our transparency. We want to continue the tradition by informing you about the daily business of the office. After we reported on FIBAA's quality management last year, this year's

Editorial

report will focus on international aspects and the organisational unit FIBAA Expert Management. This is followed by a brief outline of the growing international activities and a summary of FIBAA activities in 2019. At the end of the FIBAA Annual Report, we would like to point out some events in 2020.

Finally, at the end of this editorial, I would like to thank all partners and stakeholders for the close and trustful cooperation. I wish you a successful year 2020!

With kind regards,



Professor Dr. Kerstin Fink
Chief Executive Officer of FIBAA

Enhancements in FIBAA's Expert Management

Already in the first FIBAA Annual Report (for the year 2018) we presented one area with FIBAA's internal quality management. This year we want to take the opportunity again to provide readers with more detailed information about the day-to-day business of some other FIBAA areas. This contributes to the transparency and further enhancement of internal processes, furthermore the report is intended to strengthen FIBAA's connection to stakeholders and partners in higher education. For this purpose we have selected this year the area FIBAA Expert Management.

Task of FIBAA's Expert Management and activities in 2019

The primary task of FIBAA's Expert Management is to find and ask experts for all procedures in Germany and abroad. FIBAA complies with the legal requirements, such as the *guidelines on the appointment of experts and the composition of expert panels for accreditation procedures of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK-Benennungsleitlinien)*,¹ the ESG (i.e. § 2.4) as well as its own quality criteria for the selection and appointment of experts. Each expert panel consists of representatives from science, professional practice and the student body. The composition of the panel takes into account professional expertise, diversity and international orientation. In justified cases, HEI's have the right to raise an objection against the expert panel. FIBAA tries to consider the customer's wishes and to adapt the composition of the expert panel in accordance with the legal framework.

Last year the FIBAA Expert Management has compiled about 100 expert panels for accreditation and certification procedures in Germany and abroad. A total of 83 new experts were appointed to meet this challenge. FIBAA always takes into account the gender balance in the expert panels and also dedicated a thematic analysis to this topic in the FIBAA Annual Report 2018. In terms of the new appointments of experts, FIBAA's proportion of women is consistently over 40%. FIBAA was also able to increase the proportion of women in the pool of experts overall. FIBAA currently has 750 experts, of which about one third are women.

2019 was also a year of quality enhancement with regard to the information material. The Expert Management has prepared new guidelines for FIBAA experts and also offers brief

¹ Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Leitlinien zu der Benennung von Gutachterinnen und Gutachtern und der Zusammenstellung von Gutachtergruppen für Akkreditierungsverfahren, 2017, online: https://www.hrk.de/fileadmin/redaktion/hrk/02-Dokumente/02-01-Beschluesse/HRK_MV_Entschliessung_Benennung_Gutachter_Akkreditierungsverfahren_2017_2018.pdf, p. 7 & 10.

Enhancements in FIBAA's Expert Management

information for the acquisition of new experts to inform about the tasks in accreditation and certification procedures. The FIBAA Expert Management is also responsible for the expert training courses, which are regularly offered by FIBAA. In the following you will find some information about the last expert training course, which was offered as a webinar.

Expert Training: Webinar 2019

On 24 October 2019, FIBAA held a webinar for expert training. On the basis of an online training course, the aim was to reach as many experts as possible on this day. Numerous experts from science and practice as well as student experts took part in the interactive event. Dr. Tino Shahin (Division Head for Expert Management) and Anna Hadwiger (Project Manager for Expert Management) informed the participants about the formal requirements for an expert activity for FIBAA as well as the composition of the expert committees in accordance with the guidelines on the appointment of experts and the composition of expert panels for accreditation procedures of the German Rectors' Conference. Elisabeth Rosenthal (Division Head for Programme Accreditation) explained the expert activities within the framework of an accreditation procedure and explained in particular the process and objectives of the procedure. Prior to the event, there was the opportunity to send open questions to FIBAA, which could be clarified and discussed during the webinar. The participants were also able to ask their questions directly during the training. This gave the opportunity to discuss the tasks and requirements of the experts in accreditation procedures with the trainers of FIBAA, but also with the other participants.

The basis for expert training is *The Standards and guidelines* for quality assurance in the *European Higher Education Area (ESG)*, in which the following can be read under point 2.4: "In order to ensure the value and consistency of the work of the experts, they are carefully selected; have appropriate skills and are competent to perform their task; are supported by appropriate training and/or briefing." In section 6.1, the guidelines of the German Rectors' Conference also prescribe such expert trainings to ensure that the experts are adequately prepared for procedures. The FIBAA webinar enabled a good exchange between FIBAA and the participants and promoted interesting discussions and exchange of views. The next expert trainings are planned for January and February 2020.

FIBAA's Growing International Activities

FIBAA is recognised as an accreditation agency in a large number of countries and was able to expand its international network in 2019. In this Annual Report we want to report on the successful recognition by two further states.

Successful Recognition of FIBAA as an international accreditation agency in Turkey

At its meeting on 3 April 2019, the Higher Education Quality Council of Turkey (HEQC)² officially recognised FIBAA as an international accreditation agency in Turkey. In the application process FIBAA has successfully proven that its quality standards meet the HEQC requirements for foreign accreditation agencies. Today, FIBAA is one of only three international agencies, among them AACSB, that have been awarded recognition for five years. HEQC is a public Turkish institution that evaluates the quality of education and research activities as well as administrative services of Higher Education Institutions according to national and international quality standards and is responsible for the recognition of external accreditation agencies. FIBAA is more than pleased about the recognition and the possibility to support Turkish Higher Education Institutions in quality assurance and quality enhancement.

FIBAA's Recognition by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

In July 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine decided to include FIBAA to the Register of foreign Accreditation Agencies. This means that FIBAA's decisions on accreditation of Ukrainian higher education institutions and study programmes are thus officially recognised by the Ministry of Education and Science. FIBAA is more than pleased about the recognition and the possibility to support Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions in quality assurance and quality enhancement. Thus, FIBAA's international network continues to grow dynamically: From the Russian-speaking and Central Asian markets to the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region FIBAA collaborates with stakeholders from tertiary education sector.

² For further information: <https://yokak.gov.tr>.

FIBAA's Growing International Activities

Erasmus+ - Jean Monnet project "EQAS": FIBAA's partnerships in the Russian Federation

The cooperation between FIBAA, the National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation (NAA) and Mari State University continued within the framework of the Jean Monnet project "European Quality Assurance for Students" (EQAS) in 2019.



On several occasions, representatives of FIBAA, NAA and Mari State University met, in Germany and in Russia. The intensive exchange provided a good

From left to right: Jana Bekker (FIBAA Special Representative), Dr. Lemka Izmaylova (Director of the NAA), Prof. Dr. Kerstin Fink (CEO of FIBAA), Mrs. Natalya Naumova (Deputy Director of the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science), representative of the Federal Service for Supervision in Education and Science and Mikhail Shvetsov (Rector of Mari State University)

opportunity to discuss the best practices and methods for involving students in internal and external quality assurance processes in the Higher Education Area.

All events enabled a significant experience exchange on quality assurance and quality enhancement in the tertiary sector. FIBAA is very impressed by the interest and commitment of the various stakeholders from the Russian higher education sector.

FIBAA's Growing International Activities

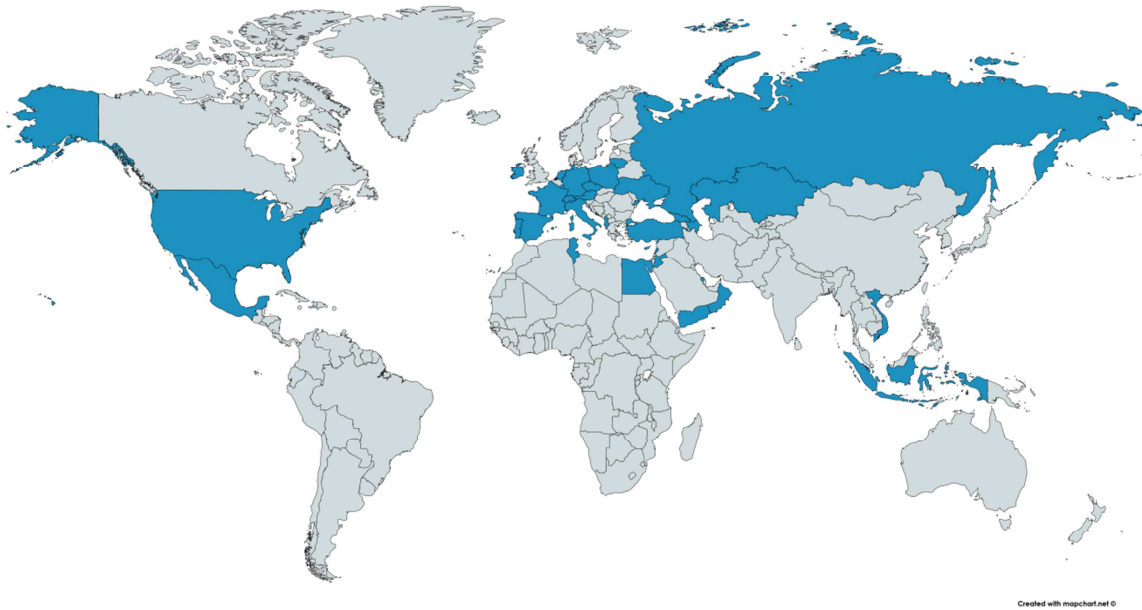


Figure: FIBAA's worldwide activities

Thus, FIBAA's international network continues to grow dynamically: From the Russian-speaking and Central Asian markets to the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region FIBAA collaborates with stakeholders from tertiary education sector.

In order to take account of FIBAA's international orientation, the FIBAA head office has established an International Relations Department with its own staff a long time ago. Our team is available for inquiries from all over the world!

Summary: Accreditation Activities

In total, FIBAA was involved in the accreditation of 175 study programmes in 2019. This number includes the assessment of 33 study programmes in Germany that have been extended in their existing accreditations. 137 study programmes had been accredited at HEI's in Germany and 38 abroad. Within Germany, 27 study programmes were accredited on the basis of the quality criteria of FIBAA and 110 study programmes were assessed according to national requirements. As before, most study programmes have been carried out in accordance with the legal situation valid until 2018, as many contracts between HEI's and FIBAA had been concluded before the last major change in the German accreditation system: There were 63 study programmes according to the legal situation valid until 2018 and 24 procedures according to the legal situation valid today

It is to be expected that this number will soon be changing. For the current year, considerably more accreditation procedures can be expected, which will be carried out in accordance with the current legal situation. The total number of accreditation procedures is within a solid range: After 2017, in which 160 study programmes were accredited, the number reached a peak in 2018 with 204 procedures because the number of requests for accreditation had increased in the phase before the legal changes. The current number of 175 therefore reflects a significant value because it continues the positive trend of recent years. With regard to institutional accreditation, FIBAA carried out four procedures in 2019. In addition, a first on-site visit was carried out for the first time at FIBAA in accordance with the currently valid legal situation.

A glance at the past year shows that FIBAA has been able to massively expand its experience in accreditation procedures under the legal basis in force since 2018. FIBAA is looking forward to continuing the successful cooperation with its partners in higher education in 2020.

Notes on Dates and Events

Meetings of FIBAA Committees

- FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Programmes (F-AC PROG): November 22nd, 2019 / March 20th, 2020 in Bonn / June 5th, 2020 / September 4th, 2020 / November 27th, 2020 (Further details will be announced in time)
- FIBAA Certification Committee for Continuing Education Courses (F-CC CERT): January 30th, 2020
- FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Institutional Procedures (F-AC INST): To be announced

The latest information about meetings of the FIBAA Committees can always be found on the [FIBAA website](#).

Workshops

- Introduction to accreditation procedures: 11 February 2020; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm
- Recognition of competences (Higher Education Law): 4 March 2020; 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Examination law (May 2020)

For information about the FIBAA workshops please have a look at the FIBAA website or contact consult@fibaa.org.

Expert Trainings (only for FIBAA Experts)

- Webinar for introduction and refresher (programme accreditation): 6 February 2020; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar for system accreditation according to the guidelines of the German Accreditation Council: 2 March 2020; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Further details on all events can be found in the [Newsletter archive](#). The FIBAA Newsletter is published quarterly. For subscribing please send us a mail to info@fibaa.org.

Imprint

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