



Subject-Specific QA Checks & Balances

Good Practices in External Quality Assurance



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ASIIN e.V.

- Not-for-profit organization (1999)
- Cooperation between HEIs, professional societies and industry
- Expertise of more than 1000 peers and around 200 committee members
- **Programme accreditation:** around 5000 study programmes in 43 countries, national seals and international field specific labels
- **Institutional accreditation:** nationally and internationally

ASIIN Consult GmbH

- 100% affiliate of ASIIN e. V.
- Founded to complete portfolio and to avoid conflict of interests
- ASIIN certificate for modules and courses in continuous education
- Trainings & workshops
- Evaluations
- Consulting for organisation development
- Process management third party seals

- **International / European projects:** capacity building, development of field specific qualification frameworks, learning outcomes / competence profiles

Background: German Accreditation System

- German Accreditation Council as central decision-making body
- Authorised agencies conduct accreditation procedures
- Focus and internal structure of agencies can greatly vary

ASIIN exclusively evaluates degree programmes in the STEM areas

Accreditation Criteria

- ASIIN conducts accreditation procedures for different labels that come with different criteria
 - Label of German Accreditation Council
 - ASIIN Label
 - Various European labels (e.g. EUR-ACE)
- Several labels can be awarded based on the same procedure

Subject-Specific Accreditation

Framework and organisational structure

Membership Structure

Coordination Group
of (Technical)
Universities/Deans
Conferences

Technical and
Scientific
Associations,
Professional
Organizations,
Chambers

Coordination
Group
of Universities
of Applied
Sciences/Faculty
Associations

Employer's
Federations, Trade
Unions, Industry
Associations



The ASIIN Technical Committees (TCs):

TC 01 Mechanical Engineering/ Process Engineering	TC 02 Electrical Engineering/ Information Technology	TC 03 Civil Engineering, Geodesy and Architecture	TC 04 Informatics/ Computer Science	TC 05 Physical Technologies, Materials and Processes
TC 06 Engineering and Management, Economics	TC 07 Business Informatics/ Information Systems	TC 08 Agriculture, Nutritional Sciences and Landscape Architecture	TC 09 Chemistry, Pharmacy	TC 10 Life Sciences
TC 11 Geosciences	TC 12 Mathematics	TC 13 Physics	TC 14 Medicine	

Subject-Specific Accreditation

Subject-Specific Bodies

Function of the Technical Committees

- Connection to the various disciplines
- Forum for discussion of current developments in the discipline
- Link between disciplinary and interdisciplinary issues
- Standardisation of expert assessments

Main responsibilities

- Suggest experts for accreditation procedures
- Develop subject-specific criteria
- Discuss and take a stance on accreditation reports

Composition

- 3 representatives of universities
- 3 representatives of universities of applied sciences
- 3 representatives of the professional world
- 1 student representative

Subject-Specific Accreditation

Development of Criteria

Recap: ASIIN accredits with regard to different labels

-> Different criteria (national German criteria, ASIIN criteria, European subject-specific criteria)

-> ASIIN criteria:

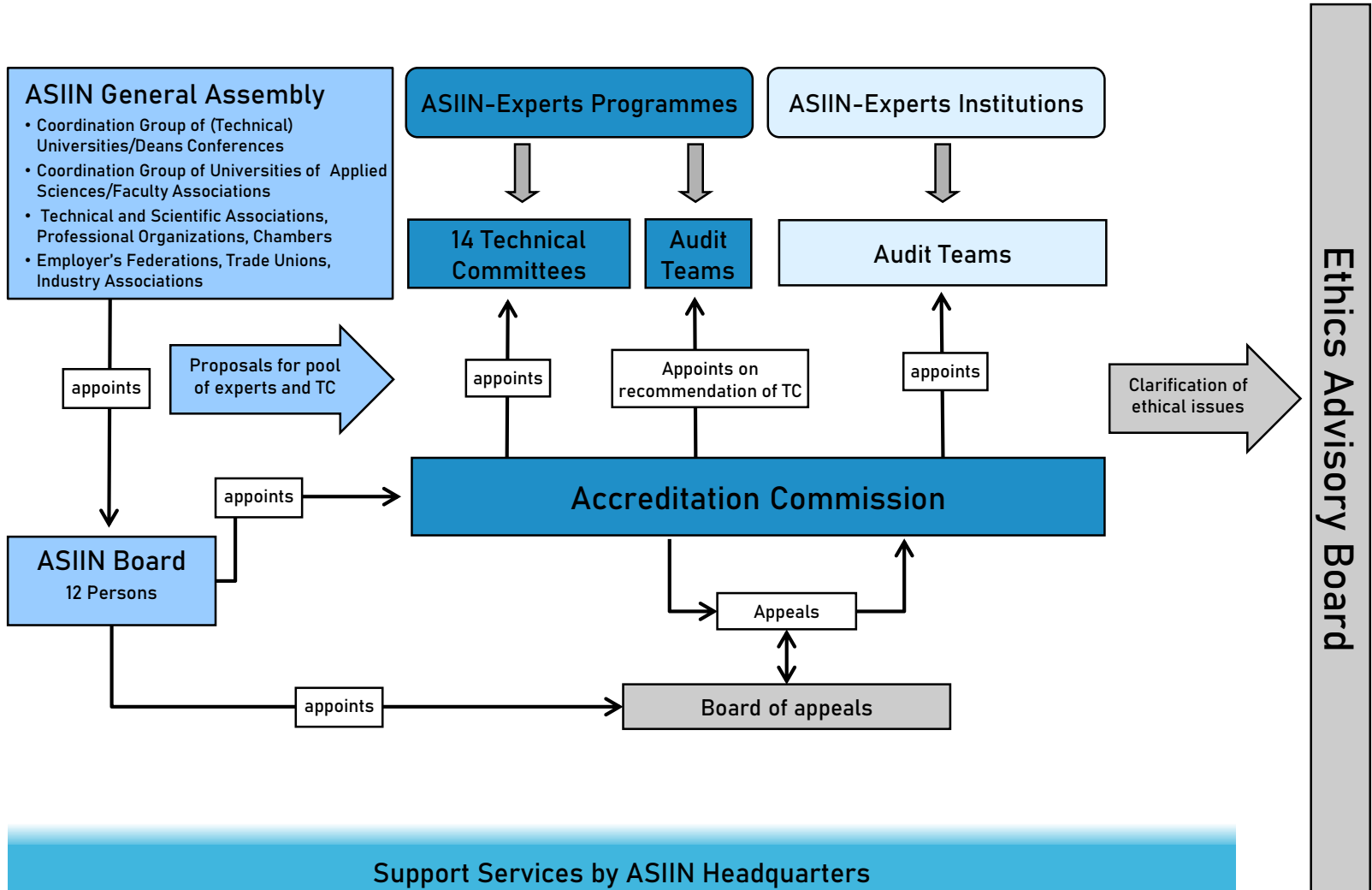
- Criteria for institutions
- General criteria for degree programmes
- Additional criteria for structured doctoral programmes
- Subject-specific criteria for all 14 TCs

Regular process of revision

1. Articulate instructions
2. Constitute a working group
3. Develop a proposal
4. Discuss with relevant academic and professional organisations (only SSC)
5. Discuss and decide in our bodies

General criteria for degree programmes

The ASIIN seal		Accreditation Council (AC) seal	
ASIIN Requirements		Corresponding "European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)"	Corresponding Requirements of the German Accreditation Council ⁵
1	THE DEGREE PROGRAMME: CONCEPT, CONTENT & IMPLEMENTATION		
1.1	<p>Objectives and learning outcomes of a degree programme (intended qualifications profile)</p> <p>The objectives and learning outcomes of the degree programme (i.e. the intended qualifications profile) are described in a brief and concise way. They are well-anchored, binding and easily accessible to the public, i.e. to students, teaching staff and anyone else interested.</p> <p>The aims and learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → reflect the level of academic qualification aimed at⁶ and are equivalent to the learning outcome examples described in the respective ASIIN Subject-Specific Criteria (SSC); → are viable and valid; → are analysed on a regular basis and developed further if necessary. <p>The intended qualifications profile allows the students to take up an occupation which corresponds to their qualification (professional classification).</p> <p>The relevant stakeholders were included in the process of formulating and further developing the objectives and learning outcomes. [Documentation/supporting records: guidelines, website, Diploma Supplement, student handbooks, alumni surveys etc.]</p>	<p>ESG 1.2⁷</p> <p>ESG 1.3</p> <p>ESG 1.7</p> <p>ESG 1.8</p> <p>ESG 1.9</p>	<p>2.1 Qualification Objectives of the Study Programme Concept</p> <p>2.2 Conceptual Integration of the Study Programme in the System of Studies</p>



Principles of Checks & Balances:

- **Clear separation of responsibilities**
 - Audit teams: assessment in individual cases
 - Technical Committees: disciplinary standardisation and control
 - Accreditation Commission: interdisciplinary standardisation and control
 - Board of appeals: quality assurance

- **Institutional links between different levels and bodies**
 - Project managers transmit information and provide knowledge about criteria, similar cases and precedents
 - One expert is normally taken from a TC to connect the discussions
 - Chairs of audit teams can be invited to join the discussion in AC in difficult cases

Thank you for your attention!

**Any questions and comments are
welcome.**

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