

Mutual recognition agreement between Akkreditierungsrat (AR) and Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO) regarding accreditation results of joint programmes

The Akkreditierungsrat (AR) and Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie (NVAO):

- Taking into account the cooperation between NVAO and German agencies admitted by the Akkreditierungsrat in several accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes,
- As well as mutual cooperations and observations in the framework of the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA) and the Multilateral Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Accreditation Results regarding Joint Programmes (MULTRA),
- Conclude on the basis of these cooperations, observations and comparisons that the accreditation systems of Germany, The Netherlands and Flanders are comparable,
- And therefore agree to, within their own competences, mutually recognise accreditation decisions concerning joint programmes, as specified below:

1. A consortium of higher education institutions which includes at least one German and one Dutch higher education institution or at least one German and one Flemish higher education institution can choose to be accredited by:

- a. NVAO following the (initial) accreditation frameworks and joint degrees protocols set by NVAO, or by
- b. one of the agencies admitted by AR following the accreditation framework set by AR („Regeln für die Akkreditierung von Studiengängen und für die Systemakkreditierung“) including the rules for the accreditation of joint programmes.

2. AR and NVAO agree to mutually recognise the accreditation decisions :

- a. If a joint programme mentioned in article 1 is accredited as stated in article 1.a. then AR will grant its accreditation seal to this joint programme on the condition that the experts in the accreditation procedure have assessed the feasibility of the study programme and in particular the instruments of the joint programme to evaluate the work load regularly.
- b. If a joint programme mentioned in article 1 is accredited as stated in article 1.b. then NVAO will accredit this joint programme on the condition that the accreditation contains an assessment of the realised level of the programme.

3. The experts' report should normally be written in English.

4. AR and NVAO agree to investigate whether and under which conditions in the future:
 - a. A German higher education institution having obtained the AR „Systemakkreditierung“ and providing a joint programme in cooperation with a Dutch and/or Flemish higher education institution can obtain NVAO accreditation of that joint programme.
 - b. A Dutch or Flemish higher education institution having obtained a positive NVAO institutional audit decision and providing a joint programme in cooperation with a German higher education institution can obtain AR recognition of that decision.

5. AR and NVAO agree to mutually observe a procedure of “Systemakkreditierung” (AR) and an institutional audit procedure (NVAO).

6. If an accreditation procedure takes place as outlined in article 1 then the involved agency (NVAO or the respective agency admitted by AR) will inform AR and/or NVAO. AR and NVAO have the right to send an observer to the site visit conducted under the responsibility of the other party and to examine the documents concerning this procedure.


7. The following definition of joint programmes applies to this agreement: “Joint programmes” are understood as an integrated curriculum coordinated and offered jointly by different higher education institutions from different countries, among them Germany and the Netherlands and/or Flanders, and leading to a joint degree.

8. This agreement will be evaluated jointly by AR and NVAO no later than 5 years after the date of signature.

Signed in The Hague on 8 July 2015



Dr. Olaf Bartz
Board Member
Akkreditierungsrat
Germany



Dr. Anne Flierman
Chairperson
NVAO
The Netherlands & Flanders