

## Decision on the Substantive Change Report by German Accreditation Council (GAC)

**Register Committee**

<b>Decision of:</b>	2026-06-11
<b>Result:</b>	Take note
<b>Report received on:</b>	2026-05-20
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2022-06-01
<b>Last external review report:</b>	10/2022
<b>Registration until:</b>	2027-06-30
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	Liv Theresa Muth
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report, 2026-05-20</a>

**Ref.** RC/C169

**Ver.** 1.0

**Date** 2026-06-11

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1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2026-05-20.
2. The Register Committee took note of the revision of specimen decree coordinating regulations on accreditation procedures in Germany, and of the effect that this has on GAC's external QA activities, as well as external QA activities of other agencies operating in Germany.
3. Based on the detailed information provided in the Substantive Change Report, the Register Committee had no concerns that the ESG are complied with in accreditation procedures conducted by the GAC in line with the revised specimen decree.
4. The Committee expects that the impact of the specimen decree revision on the accreditation procedures in Germany will be analysed in full as part of GAC's next renewal of registration.

## EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	German Accreditation Council
Agency acronym	GAC
Expiry date #1	30/06/2027
Contact #1	Katrin Mayer-Lantermann
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Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	No
C. Changes in EQA activities	2. Substantive changes carried out to one or several existing external QA activities (e.g. changes to their methodology, criteria or procedures)
Description new/changed	<p>Section 36 of the specimen decree, as adopted by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz) on December 7, 2017, stipulated a review of the decree after a period of three years. Consequently, in 2021, the Kultusministerkonferenz launched a comprehensive evaluation process of the specimen decree, involving the federal states and key stakeholders within the accreditation system. As a result of this evaluation process, the amended decree was adopted by the Kultusministerkonferenz on 21.11.2024.</p> <p>The specimen decree must be transposed into national law by each of the 16 German federal</p>

states individually. By 2025, 15 of the 16 federal states had done so. Most of the amendments came into force on 1 April 2026. For further details, see ESG 2.1.

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## 2. Changed EQA activity

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1	programme accreditation
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2	system accreditation
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### ESG 2.1

The mapping (see upload) shows how the criteria of the amended specimen decree in all types of procedures correspond to the standards of ESG part 1.

In the upload you will also find the official English translation of the amended specimen decree as well as the German text of the amended specimen decree. The changes from the previous version are highlighted in this document.

We have also uploaded the 15 state regulations that have already been amended; these are currently only available in German.

It is not the specimen decree, but solely the state regulations on accreditation that are legally binding. The state decrees are based on the specimen decree and are, for the most part, identical to the specimen decree.

In 15 states (in all states except Thuringia) amended state decrees on accreditation based on the amended specimen decree have been adopted already. Accreditation procedures and decision taking already work according to the new decree of the respective state. To be more precise, the new decrees, which are already in

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force in the 15 states, contain transitional provisions stipulating that some of the new rules set out in the new decrees will only apply to accreditation applications received by GAC from the beginning of April 2026 onwards. This gives higher education institutions some more time to adapt to the new regulations.

Procedures and decision taking concerning HEIs in Thuringia still work according to the "old" Thuringia decree and without the elements of the new specimen decree.

Minor deviations from the specimen decree result from the incorporation of...

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... provisions under state law into the state regulations, for example regarding teacher training or colleges of cooperative education. These deviations do not affect the implementation of part 1 of the ESG.

## ESG 2.2

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The states and relevant stakeholders in the accreditation system such as the Confederation of German Employers' Associations, the German Trade Union Confederation, the German Rectors' Conference, the churches, GAC, the Student Accreditation Pool in cooperation with the Free Association of Student Organisations, the Verband der Privaten Hochschulen and the Association of Agencies were involved in the process.

The key findings from the more than 550 responses received from those stakeholders were that the criteria and procedural rules set out in the decree are, in principle, considered suitable for ensuring the quality of degree programmes.

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Goals of the new specimen decree were procedural simplifications (e.g. in international collaborations or documentation obligations), the simplification of the application of the decree, to increase consistency and clarity of regulations and to reduce friction losses in processes and procedures.

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**ESG 2.3**

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|---|---|
| 1 | <a href="https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2026/2024_11_21-Musterrechtsverordnung-engl.pdf">https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2026/2024_11_21-Musterrechtsverordnung-engl.pdf</a> |
| 2 | <a href="https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2024/20241121_%C3%84nderungsfassung_MRVO.pdf">https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/sites/default/files/downloads/2024/20241121_%C3%84nderungsfassung_MRVO.pdf</a>       |
| 3 | <a href="https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/en/accreditation-system-legal-basis/laws-and-regulations/laws-and-decrees">https://www.akkreditierungsrat.de/en/accreditation-system-legal-basis/laws-and-regulations/laws-and-decrees</a>         |

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**ESG 2.4**

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same as before

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**ESG 2.5**

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same as before

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**D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG**

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No

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**File #1**

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[Mapping\\_ESG\\_part\\_1\\_and\\_specimen\\_decree.docx \(32 KB\)](#)

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