

Decision on the Substantive Change Report by The Danish Accreditation Institution (AI)

Register Committee
13-14 March 2025

Ref. RC46/C136

Ver. 1.0

Date 2025-03-20

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Decision of:	2025-03-14
Result:	Take note
Report received on:	2025-01-17
Agency registered since:	2010-07-01
Last external review report:	2021-06
Registration until:	2026-06-30
Absented themselves from decision-making:	Steffen Westergård Andersen
Attachments:	1. Substantive Change Report, 2025-01-17

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2025-01-17.
2. The Register Committee learned that as part of a planned legislative changes in Denmark, the Danish Accreditation Institution (AI) is undergoing organisational restructuring. The Committee learned that in 2024 the Danish government announced general reduction in public spending resulting in reduction of employees working in national public entities. Consequently, AI's staff will be reduced from 33 to 15 full time employees as of 31 May 2025.
3. From the Substantive Change Report, the Committee learned, that the reduction of staff will affect mainly administrative and clerical staff of the agency. To compensate for the loss of staff, the agency will receive administrative support by clerical staff that is employed in one of the entities of the Ministry of Education and Science.
4. The Committee, also, learned that as part of the reforms, the current structure of the agency, including the Danish Accreditation Institution (AI) and the Accreditation Council, will change; the new structure will be composed of an Accreditation Council and a secretariat. The Register Committee understood that the new secretariat will continue the accreditation activities of AI and maintain the current methodologies and criteria, as well as the current cycle of institutional accreditation which will continue until 2027/2028.
5. Furthermore, the Committee learned that the new secretariat will report to the Accreditation Council and the secretariat will be situated as an independent entity within the framework of the Ministry of Education and Science.

6. The Register Committee took note of the reported changes by AI and expects that these changes will be analysed in full, within the next targetted review of the agency, including the following:
- ESG 3.3 – where it is expected to be analysed in full how these changes have affected the agency’s organisational and operational independence;
 - ESG 3.5 – whether AI still has adequate and appropriate resources, both human and financial, to carry out its work

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EQAR Substantive Change Report

Agency #1	Danish Accreditation Institution
Agency acronym	DAI
Expiry date #1	30/06/2026
Contact #1	Steffen Westergård Andersen
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Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	Yes
Description	<p>The agency has so far been composed of the Danish Accreditation Institution (DAI) and the Accreditation Council.</p> <p>A draft proposal for change of the legislation on accreditation which has been in public hearing during december 2024 suggests that the new agency will be composed of the Accreditation Council and a secretariat. It is foreseen that the new secretariat will continue the accreditation activities undertaken so far by the DAI, and to do so using the same methodology and same criteria. According to the draft proposal the new secretariat will refer to the Accreditation Council, and the secretariat will be situated as an independent entity within the framework of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.</p> <p>A modified proposal for legislation, taking into consideration the answers received in the public hearing process, is expected to be tabled for negotiations in parliament in spring 2025, and if the typical schedule is followed, it is likely to be adopted by parliament by June 2025.</p>

Accreditation has been a subject of very broad consensus in Denmark since the first law in 2006, and the current legislation was adopted unanimously by all the different parties in parliament.

B. Has the organisational structure changed?

Yes

Description

The government announced in early 2024, that a general reduction in current public spendings was necessary in order to prioritize new public expenses, including welfare activities close to the citizens. To cut actual spendings a broadly targeted reduction of 1000 employees working in national public entities was launched. As part of this reprioritization it was announced that the DAI is being reduced from some 33 to 15 full time employees as of 31st May 2025. Those given notice were informed by the DAI already in September 2024 but only made redundant by 31st May 2025, facilitating the work of transformation of the DAI into the new secretariat. All employees in the new secretariat are current employees in the DAI, and the head of secretariat is the outgoing director of DAI. The senior staff in the DAI continue in the new secretariat. The key change involve in particular administrative and clerical staff which will not be part of the new secretariat. Instead, it is foreseen that administrative support will be rendered by administrative and clerical staff that is employed in one of the entities of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

The current methodology and criteria will be continued unchanged, and the current cycle of institutional accreditation will be continued until 2027/2028. The length of the accreditation period is proposed in the draft law to be extended from six to eight years retroactively, which must be

assumed to reduce the burden of work of the staff in the new secretariat.

C. Changes in EQA activities

4. Not applicable, no new activities/no changes

D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG

No

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