

19.12.2025

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Title

Akkreditierung und Reakkreditierung / Christian von Coelln

Publication year

2017

Source/Footnote

In: Wissenschaftsrecht. - 50 (2017) 3, S. 209 - 233

Inventory number

47308

Keywords

Akkreditierung ; Qualitätssicherung

Abstract

The external accreditation of courses of study aims at ensuring the quality of teaching and studies in the students' interest. However, since its introduction in the context of the so-called Bologna reform accreditation has faced a number of political and legal objections. In February 2016, the Federal Constitutional Court held that the objections were partly justified and declared the hitherto existing rules unconstitutional. At the same time, though, it confirmed an external accreditation to be permitted in principle. The state legislators have decided to basically maintain the accreditation system. The universities are still not allowed to control the quality of their study programs themselves. Instead, they need to involve accreditation agencies that issue a report. The final decision is taken by the Accreditation Council (Akkreditierungsrat) as an organ of the "Stiftung Akkreditierungsrat", established in North Rhine-Westphalia. The legal bases of the accreditation system have been improved. Nevertheless, the new legal situation also faces considerable concerns. Thus, the chance to create legal certainty and legal peace has not been seized by the new regulation. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)