Moving between cultures
OAQ‘s Cross-Border External QA activities

EQAR Seminar
Bayreuth, 29./30. April 2014
- WHO we are
- WHAT we do
- WHY we do it
WHO
we are
OAQ
Swiss Center Quality Assurance in Higher Education

- Currently „between“ laws:
  - Universitätsförderungsgesetz of 1999
  - Hochschulförderungs- und Koordinationsgesetz of 2011

- Public organisation, jointly owned by the Swiss Cantons and the Swiss Federation
  ➔ tax funded NPO

- External QA on the institutional level, focusing on the QA systems of the HEI

- Provision to perform services for third parties
  ➔ at full cost

- 9 FTE, 13 staff, plurilingual (d,f,i,e)
Governance Structure

Council of Higher Education
- defines the frame of reference with the accreditation guidelines
- nominates the members of the accreditation council

Accreditation Council
- takes decisions
- monitors the agency

Agency
- plans and conducts procedures; warrants integrity of procedures:
  - Guidelines
  - Points of reference
  - FAQs
  - Synthesis reports
WHAT
we do
Fields of Activity

Higher Education Institutions (HFKG)
- Universities (UFG)
  - Type of procedures:
    - Quality Audit
    - Beitragsrechtliche Überprüfung
    - Accreditation
  - Scope:
    - Institutions on university level
  - Decision:
    - University Conference
    - Ministry

Universities of Applied Science (FHSG)
Type of procedures:
- Accreditation
- Evaluation
Scope:
- Institutions on AUS level
Decision:
- OAQ

Germany / Austria
Type of procedures:
- Accreditation
- Quality Audit
Scope:
- Universities (public)
- AUS (public)
Decision:
- Ministry

Medical Professions (MedBG)
Type of procedures:
- Accreditation
Scope:
- Undergraduate study programmes
- Postgraduate study programmes
Decision:
- Swiss Accreditation Council
- Ministry

Psychological Professions (PsyG)
Type of procedures:
- Accreditation
Scope:
- Postgraduate study programmes
Decision:
- Ministry
# Cross border external QA

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Switzerland</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Germany</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal basis</td>
<td>UFG / HFKG</td>
<td>HS-QSG</td>
<td>„Rules“</td>
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<td>Format</td>
<td>Quality Audit</td>
<td>Quality Audit</td>
<td>Accreditation of QA System w/ respect to education</td>
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<td>Focus</td>
<td>QA System (all processes)</td>
<td>QA System (all processes)</td>
<td>Implementation of Bologna Reform</td>
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<td>Access</td>
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Why
we do it
## Benefits and Challenges

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<tr>
<th>„External QA on international level“</th>
<th>„false friends“: cultural differences</th>
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<tr>
<td>Development of formats</td>
<td>Finances</td>
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<td>Staff development</td>
<td>Logistics</td>
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Thank you!