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I. Latest decisions

In the plenary meeting on 23/24 June 2008 the ÖAR decided on the following applications for accreditation:

MODUL University Vienna Privatuniversität:

- The application for accreditation of the academic programme „Master of Business Administration in Public Governance and Management“ has been approved.
- The application for accreditation of the academic programme „Master of Business Administration in New Media and Information Management“ has been approved.

The decisions are not yet legally binding since they still need the approval of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research.

II. Internal complaints commission

To ensure a fair procedure in the event of complaints the ÖAR established an internal complaints commission. The Commission mediates in cases in which the applicant sees his/her interests and rights violated.

On 14 April 2008 the commission-members have been elected for a two-year term. The members are:

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Evelies Mayer
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Johannes Michael Rainer
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Erich Hödl (substitute member)

For more information please visit:

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/downloads_engl_08/Internal_complaints_commission.pdf

III. Student participation

In the plenary meeting on 14 April 2008 the ÖAR put student participation in the internal quality management of private universities on record in a new guideline:

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/downloads_engl_08/student_participation_QM.pdf

Furthermore the ÖAR plans to involve students as student experts in accreditation procedures.

IV. Policy paper on quality assurance

In the plenary meeting on 23/24 June 2008 the ÖAR passed a policy paper on principles and perspectives of quality assurance in Austria.

The full-text version is available as PDF on the ÖAR website (German only):

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/downloads_08/Positionspapier_QS_%20240608.pdf

V. ENQA-membership

Last year the ÖAR underwent an external evaluation by an international expert panel. As an outcome the full membership status of the ÖAR in the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA: www.enqa.eu) was reconfirmed on 11 June 2008.

VI. ÖAR: Commitment to external evaluation

In the course of the follow-up of ÖAR's external evaluation the plenary meeting of the ÖAR on 23/24 June 2008 decided on the commitment to external evaluation of the ÖAR which will take place at 5-years intervals.

VII. Tip: Database for recognition of foreign degrees

Anabin (**A**nerkennung und **B**ewertung ausländischer **B**ildungsnachweise: www.anabin.de) is a database compiled by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB), the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, the Recognition Information Centre of the Austrian Ministry of Science and Culture and the Recognition Information Centre of the Luxembourgian Ministry of Science.

The database offers information on foreign university degrees, the requirements of their issuance and details on their classification compared with German degrees.

Thus the appropriate ministries, the universities and other authorities who are responsible for the recognition of foreign degrees and last not least the public can be informed about foreign university systems.