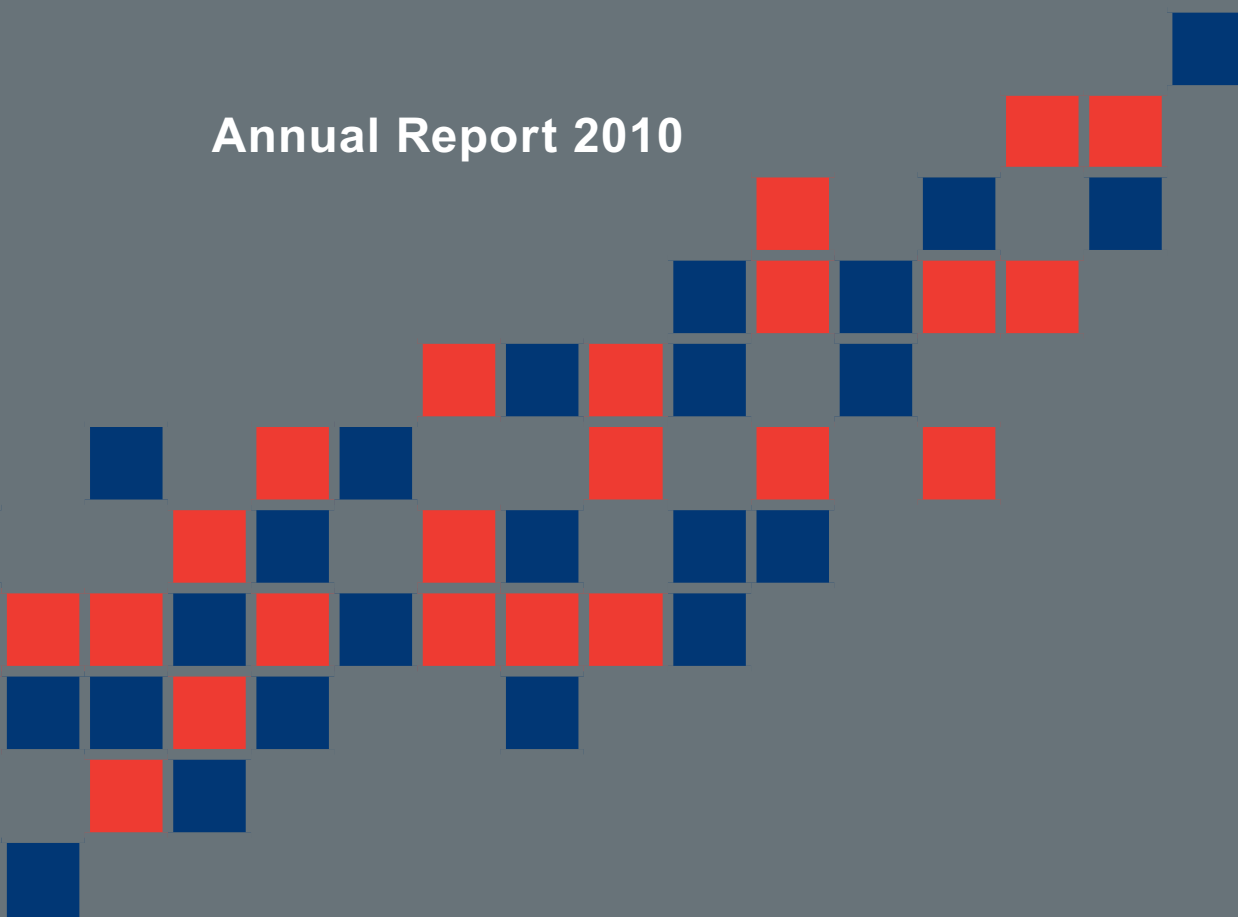




swiss center of accreditation and
quality assurance in higher education

Annual Report 2010



Swiss Center of Accreditation and
Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ)

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Abbreviations

AEC:	European Association of Conservatoires
ANQAHE:	The Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
BAG:	Federal Office of Public Health
BBT:	Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology
BFH:	Bern University of Applied Sciences
CRUS:	Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities
EAEVE:	European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education
ECA:	European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education
EDI:	Federal Department of Home Affairs
EDK:	Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Education
ENIC:	European Network of Information Centres in the European Region
ENQA:	European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
ESG:	European Standards and Guidelines
ESU:	European Student's Union
EUA:	European University Association
EURASHE:	European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
EVD:	Federal Department of Economic Affairs
FHNW:	University of Applied Sciences North Western Switzerland
FHO:	University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland
FHSG:	Federal Act on Universities of Applied Sciences
FHSG:	St. Gallen University of Applied Sciences
HES-SO:	University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland
HFKG:	Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and Coordination in the Swiss Universities Sector
HSLU:	University of Lucerne
IIEP:	International Institute for Educational Planning
JOQAR:	Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of Degrees Awarded
INQAHE:	International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
KFH:	Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences in Switzerland
MedBG:	Federal Law on University Medical Professions
NARIC:	National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union
QAST:	Quality Assurance as a Tool for Strategic Management
SBF:	State Secretariat for Education and Research
SUK:	Swiss University Conference
SUPSI:	University of Applied Sciences of Italian-speaking Switzerland
UFG:	Act on the Promotion of Universities
VSS:	Federation of Swiss Students' Unions
ZHAW:	Zurich University of Applied Sciences

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Preface

The reporting year 2010 saw changes in the management of the OAQ and a great many procedures.

In May 2010, the interim director, Dr. Paul Zinsli, handed a well-ordered house over to the undersigned. The OAQ used this change as an opportunity to review its strategy and aims at a chaired workshop, one of its objectives being to become fit for purpose after the entry into force of the Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and Coordination in the Swiss Universities Sector (HFKG).

True to the principle that controllers must themselves be controlled, the OAQ will undergo a stringent external evaluation in 2011: in August 2010, the OAQ applied for the renewal of its membership of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). One criterion for ENQA membership is an external assessment of the OAQ for compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines in Quality Assurance (ESG), which set out the minimum requirements for quality assurance and accreditation at European level.

In the year under review, the procedures focused on accreditation of postgraduate medical programmes on the basis of the Medical Professions Act and on behalf of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH). During the year, the OAQ conducted a total of 50 procedures in the medical sector.

A second area on which the procedures focussed was that of the universities of applied sciences with a total of 16 procedures.

In the universities sector, the OAQ conducted three procedures in 2010. The synthesis report on the Quality Audits 2007/8, which the OAQ completed in December 2010 in order to be considered for the meeting of the Swiss Universities Conference (SUC) in January 2011, brought the second cycle of Quality Audits to a conclusion as far as the role of the OAQ was concerned.

After the OAQ had obtained definitive recognition by the German Accreditation Council for Procedures in Germany, negotiations were put in hand with two prestigious universities on a system accreditation. Both procedures are expected to begin in the second half of 2011.

Dr. Christoph Grolimund

Director

1 Concise portrait OAQ – Activity area

1.1 Universities

The Act on the Promotion of Universities (UFG) and the inter-cantonal Concordat on university coordination and the agreement between the Confederation and the university cantons on cooperation in the university sector both entrusted the Center for Accreditation and Quality Assurance OAQ with the task of safeguarding and improving teaching quality at Swiss universities.

The OAQ performs various quality assurance and accreditation tasks on behalf of the Swiss University Conference (SUC): it draws up guidelines and quality standards for accreditation in the Swiss university sector and performs accreditation procedures for Swiss universities of all kinds. In addition, the OAQ assures international networking and cooperation in the area of accreditation and quality assurance.

For the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER), the OAQ determines eligibility for recognition under contribution law based on the procedures laid down in the act on the promotion of universities. In this connection, quality audits take place at the cantonal universities once every four years.

1.2 Universities of Applied Sciences

The accreditation system for universities of applied sciences is based on the Federal Act on Universities of Applied Sciences (FHSG). That act prescribes the accreditation of universities of applied sciences and the courses offered by them. Since January 2008, the OAQ has been recognized by the Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA) for the performance of accreditation procedures. The decisions are taken by the FDEA.

1.3 University medical professions

The accreditation of basic and postgraduate medical programmes which lead up to a Swiss Federal diploma or a postgraduate title in human, dental and veterinary medicine and also in chiropractic and pharmacy is compulsory under the provisions of the Federal Law on the University Medical Professions (MedBG).

Decisions on medical training (Bachelor's, Master's degree) fall within the terms of reference of an independent accreditation entity set up specially for this purpose, the Swiss Accreditation Council and the SUC. Decisions on postgraduate medical programmes fall within the scope of responsibility of the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA).

1.4 Accreditation in Germany

At the invitation of the German Accreditation Council, the OAQ applied for authorization in Germany in 2009 and became the first foreign agency to be licensed to perform system accreditations and the accreditation of study programmes in Germany.

Decisions on the procedures at German universities are taken by the accreditation commission of the OAQ.

1.5 Official bodies of the OAQ

The business office of the OAQ is assisted in several activity areas by professional scientific advisory bodies. These advisory bodies (see Annex 1) are responsible for assuring scientific quality and ensure that the procedures used comply with international standards. Procedures under the Federal Law on the University Medical Professions are additionally accompanied by the Medical Professions Commission for which provision is made in the Act.

2 Universities: retrospective and prospects

2.1 Summary report on the quality audit cycle 2007/8

Regular assessment of the internal quality assurance systems of the public university institutions in Switzerland is a compulsory quality assurance measure. At the same time, it is also a requirement to qualify for contributions from the Federal authorities.

In the years 2003/4 and 2007/8, the OAQ, acting on behalf of the State Secretariat for Education and Research, performed quality audits designed to assess the internal quality assurance systems of the public universities.

Reflecting its own quality assurance principles, the OAQ drew up a summary report at the conclusion of the second cycle which analyses the outcomes and evaluates feedback on content and procedural techniques by various stakeholders. The report is based upon standardized feedback forms which are completed by the universities and by the experts participating in the procedures, as well as subsequent discussions between the OAQ and the universities. In addition, feedback from the Swiss Q-Network was incorporated into the summary.

The most important finding must surely be that the universities have accepted the quality audits overall and regard them as a contribution to institutional quality improvement. The experts for their part noted substantial development by comparison with the first quality audit cycle dating back to 2003/4.

The quality assurance (QA) strategy was therefore embodied almost everywhere in a high level strategy for the universities. The creation of QA commissions and the appointment of QA managers, together with the implementation of coordinated QA mechanisms, must be regarded as the expression of a real cultural change.

Room for improvement was found to exist in the knowledge and understanding of the persons who were questioned during the site visits about the procedures themselves and the role of the OAQ. More intensive efforts will have to be made by the OAQ to publicize the Swiss system of external quality assurance and the way in which it is embedded in the European QA landscape. In this context, the OAQ is also endeavouring to facilitate publication of the outcomes.

A second aspect with which the OAQ will deal differently in future procedures is the composition of the groups of experts. In future, the presence of QA specialists in the expert teams will be smaller. This is because expert groups are to consist of peers, i.e. experts who benefit from comparable professional knowledge, comparable experience and perform comparable tasks in a comparable context.

All in all, the second round of the Quality Audits confirmed the fact that external quality assurance is successful thanks to an institutional approach which respects the autonomy of the universities. The experience gathered from the 2007/8 cycle also provides an important contribution to the development of institutional accreditation for which provision is made in the draft text of a Federal Act on the Promotion of Universities and Coordination in the Swiss Universities Sector (HFKG).

The summary report is published at www.oaq.ch

2.2 2010 procedures

In the year under review, the OAQ conducted three accreditation procedures and two formal reviews of compliance with imposed conditions.

In addition, the OAQ undertook preliminary reviews of private institutions and three procedures for the purpose of recognition under contribution law pursuant to the Act on the Promotion of Universities (UFG) for the State Secretariat for Education and Research.

On behalf of the Principality of Liechtenstein, the OAQ also performed an institutional evaluation of the University of Liechtenstein which ended with a positive outcome.

3 Universities of applied sciences: a dynamic accreditation landscape

3.1 Accreditation procedures

The OAQ conducted 16 programme accreditations at universities of applied sciences pursuant to the accreditation directives of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs for universities of applied sciences.

Because of the statutory requirement which stipulates that most master's degree courses must be accredited by 2011, several universities of applied sciences submitted applications in the year under review to the OAQ for accreditation of their master's courses. Two major cooperation projects were a special feature here:

Firstly, the MSc in Engineering (MSE), a course developed jointly by the seven Swiss universities of applied sciences established under public law (Bern University of Applied Sciences - BFH, University of Applied Sciences North Western Switzerland - FHNW, University of Applied Sciences Eastern Switzerland - FHO, Lucerne University - HSLU, University of Applied Sciences of Italian-speaking Switzerland - SUPSI, Zurich University of Applied Sciences - ZHAW, and the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland -

HES-SO) under which students are able to pursue their studies at the university of applied sciences of their own choice.

However, the accreditation procedure only concerned the BFH, FHNW, ZHAW, FHO, HSLU and SUPSI; the MSE course modules offered at the HES-SO will be accredited at a later date.

For this accreditation procedure, the OAQ appointed four teams of experts. On the first assessment day, the “central” modules of the MSE were discussed in Zurich. On the following days, the groups of experts travelled to the various sites of the other universities of applied sciences in order to assess aspects of the in-depth specialized studies.

The MSc in social work is another course of study developed jointly by four universities of applied sciences in the German-speaking part of Switzerland (Bern University of Applied Sciences – BFH, Lucerne University – HSLU, University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen – FHSG and Zurich University of Applied Sciences – ZHAW). The assessments of the different sites were conducted in the space of a single week by the same group of experts. These two major accreditation projects not only presented the participating universities of applied sciences with considerable challenges, but also gave the OAQ an opportunity to take part in innovative university course offerings in the external quality assurance framework. Experience gained through these procedures, which remains to be the subject of a definitive analysis, will help to allow further development of the methodology of complex quality assurance procedures.

In the year under review, the OAQ also examined a number of music programmes in combined procedures: at the SUPSI Conservatoire (4 Masters), at the HES-SO (4 Masters), and at the FHNW Music or Basel University of Music and Scuola Cantorum Basiliensis (4 Masters, 1 Bachelor). These procedures were implemented jointly with the European Association of Conservatoires (AEC) in line with the particular needs of the participating institutions.

In addition, formal verifications of compliance with the stipulated conditions were also performed: courses which are accredited subject to compliance with certain conditions must satisfy these requirements within the statutory period (generally, 12 months after submission of the ruling of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs). If the outcome of the review is positive, the course will be accredited without reservation. If the requirements are not met, accreditation will be cancelled. For this purpose, the OAQ mandates two experts in each case who analyse the report on compliance with the requirements by the particular university of applied sciences and draw up an expert opinion on such compliance for the attention of the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET). In the year under review, the OAQ performed a total of 9 formal procedures of verification of compliance with conditions; in three cases, a one-day on-site visit was made in addition to a review of the dossier.

3.2 Evaluation procedures

The quality assurance procedures covering courses of advanced education at the universities of applied sciences are not accreditation procedures in the strict sense of the term as there is no statutory basis for an accreditation decision. Instead, continuing education

programmes which have successfully undergone a review qualify for an OAQ quality label ("OAQ evaluated"). One such evaluation procedure was conducted in the year under review.

4 Medical professions: 49 postgraduate programmes reviewed

The quality assurance procedures covering courses of advanced education at the universities of applied sciences are not accreditation procedures in the strict sense of the term as there is no statutory basis for an accreditation decision. Instead, continuing education programmes which have successfully undergone a review qualify for an OAQ quality label ("OAQ evaluated"). One such evaluation procedure was conducted in the year under review.

4.1 Basic medical education

The university courses which lead up to a federal diploma according to the Medical Professions Act must be accredited by 31 August 2012. This concerns the programmes in the fields of human and dental medicine, chiropractic and pharmacy. The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) entrusted the OAQ with the task of preparing and implementing these accreditation procedures.

After the preliminary work (development of quality standards and guidelines) had been completed in 2009, the OAQ undertook the procedural work as such in medical training in the year under review. A total of 15 procedures at seven universities will be completed on a phased basis and brought to a conclusion at the end of 2012. The procedure in chiropractic at Zurich University is an exception and the accreditation decision is expected to be issued in May 2013.

In a first procedure, the OAQ, working in cooperation with the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), made a joint review of the course in veterinary medicine (Bern and Zurich) pursuant to the provisions of MedBG, UFG and EAEVE. The on-site visit with international experts took place in September 2010, and the decision of the two accreditation authorities (SUC and Swiss Accreditation Council) is expected in April 2011 or May 2011.

4.2 Postgraduate medical education

The performance of the accreditation procedures for advanced medical training was a focus of the OAQ business activity in 2010: all 44 courses of advanced training in human medicine, 4 advanced training courses in dental medicine and one advanced training course in chiropractic underwent a review. To assure completion of the task on schedule, all the scientific staff of the OAQ were involved in the performance of these procedures. For the external review, the OAQ appointed in each case teams of two experts (independent professional experts drawn from the discipline concerned) who prepared an official opinion on the basis of the self-assessment reports of the professional societies. In some

cases, on-site visits were made to advanced training establishments. On the basis of the self-assessment reports and the reports by the experts, the OAQ drafted a final report with an accreditation recommendation for each course of advanced training for the attention of the Federal Office of Public Health. The last reports will be completed in the early part of 2011.

5 Accreditations in Germany: new horizons

Since June 2009, the OAQ has been the first foreign agency authorized to perform system and programme accreditations in Germany and to award the quality seal of the German Accreditation Council. For this new activity area on the international scene, the OAQ dedicated its work intensively to the development of the necessary instruments such as procedural guidelines etc.

An accreditation commission appointed specially for the international procedures accompanied the OAQ in the definition of the instruments and planning of the procedures and will take the necessary accreditation decisions. The commission has an international composition. One representative of the students and two representatives of the professional world have a seat on this commission. To ensure coherence between the national and international procedures of the OAQ, members of the scientific advisory board for universities and for universities of applied sciences were invited to join the commission (see Annex 1).

As the relatively new system accreditation in Germany aims to ensure the conduct of an institutional review and the OAQ has great experience in this particular field through the two Swiss quality audit cycles, a number of enquiries were already made to the OAQ shortly after it was granted authorization. The OAQ has held discussions with a number of German universities and will begin a procedure for system accreditation at the Excellence University in Stuttgart in the summer of 2011. Another system accreditation procedure to begin in the second half of 2011 is currently being planned.

The knowledge which the OAQ will acquire with the preparation and implementation of the procedures in Germany and the lively exchange with the German agencies will prove useful to the development of institutional accreditation in Switzerland within the framework of the HFKG law.

6 National cooperation

6.1 Overview

The main national partners of the OAQ are the Swiss University Conference (SUC), the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS), the Conference of Universities of

Applied Sciences in Switzerland (KFH), the Federation of Swiss Students' Unions (VSS), the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education (EDK) and the appropriate Federal agencies: the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER), the Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology (OPET) and the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH). A tabular summary of national cooperation by the OAQ will be found in Annex 4.

6.2 Swiss Universities Quality Network

The Swiss Q-Network was set up at the initiative of the OAQ in the year 2003 and has received a formal mandate from the CRUS. It is headed up by a member of the Rectorate of Lausanne University and comprises three internal working groups (working groups for institutional accreditation, on the situation of students and on good practices in quality assurance). Members of this network are the quality managers of the cantonal universities and the two ETH (Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology), together with representatives of the CRUS, the students' organizations and the OAQ.

6.3 Cooperation with the VSS and the students' accreditation pool

For a number of years, the OAQ has maintained relations with the Federation of Swiss Students' Unions (VSS). Cooperation is based partly on the regular use of student experts in OAQ procedures. These students are appointed via the students' accreditation pool which was founded jointly by the OAQ and VSS in the year 2007. The pool comprises students in all the disciplines at a number of Swiss universities of all kinds (both general and universities of applied sciences). The student experts are trained jointly by the OAQ and VSS before they take full part in a procedure. A training workshop was held in the year under review 2010.

7 International cooperation

The OAQ is a national agency with a national mandate. To perform this mandate to the requisite standard, international networking and cooperation are of great importance.

The OAQ is very active in European and international networks: since 2004, it has been a member of the European Consortium of Accreditation ECA, a consortium of 17 European accreditation agencies and since 2006 a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). With its 47 members and 21 associated organizations, ENQA represents the interests of quality assurance agencies in Europe. In addition, the OAQ is networked with the European University Association (EUA), which is dedicated to the interests of the European universities and the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), which looks after the interests of European universities of applied sciences.

The motivation for cooperation between the OAQ and the ECA resides in the opportunity for disseminating and exchanging experience in the area of accreditation and in ensuring

international transparency of quality assurance work in the tertiary sector. Through contacts with other ECA members, the OAQ has succeeded in building up a pool of international experts drawn from all kinds of university disciplines. Experience gathered via the ECA working groups enables the OAQ to develop its procedural cycles and instruments constantly in compliance with the international best practices.

Together with EUA, EURASHE and ESU (the European Student Union), ENQA forms the E4 Group which is the representation of the political interests of universities, students and quality assurance agencies in Europe. ENQA therefore provides an essential framework for networking with all the interest representatives and hence for a professional dialogue and exchange. The OAQ plays an active part in ENQA workshops and works to implement European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) in Switzerland. In addition, the OAQ is represented on the Internal Quality Assurance Committee of ENQA which aims to exchange good practices in the area of the internal quality assurance of agencies.

The OAQ is also a member of the global International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), which comprises some 200 organizations from all over the world, including most of the QA agencies. This membership also enables the OAQ to establish important international contacts – and a number of experts have already been involved in procedures in Switzerland.

8 Information and communication

8.1 Performance of the information & communication mandate

The OAQ regards information and communication as an integral part of its work and advocates an open and transparent information and communication. According to this principle, positive accreditation decisions are published on the website. For the procedures concerning universities, the expert opinion and final OAQ report are also published – after consultation with the particular institution concerned. A legal basis is, however, lacking for the publication of negative decisions and the OAQ also gives no information about procedures which have been withdrawn.

The accredited institutions/study programmes receive an electronic version of an accreditation seal from the OAQ for use on their own website or on their printed matter.

The OAQ issues its publications in the three Swiss national languages and in English. All the instruments are available for downloading in PDF format on the four-language website.

9 Finances

9.1 Balance sheet and income statement 2010

Balance sheet as of 31 December 2010

Assets	CHF
Cash	1 030.70
EEK current account, BEKB savings account	672 515.21
Receivables & withholding tax receivables	19 669.30
Valiant Bank, rental guarantee	15 285.55
Expenses prepaid	32 135.80
Work in progress for third party mandates inc. private accreditations	765 817.05
Total assets	1 506 453.61

Liabilities

Payables	-95 098.05
Liability to university cantons	-71 014.80
Advance payments	-846 983.45
Income received in advance	-61 719.55
Balance sheet surplus	-431 637.76
Total liabilities	-1 506 453.61

Income statement 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

Expenditure	CHF
Personnel expenditure inc. social benefits and advisory board fees	-1 550 782.30
Public relations, website, corporate identity	-20 278.35
Business operations	
Rental and maintenance	-96 743.70
Repairs and technical acquisitions (EDP, database, telephone)	-81 089.65
Property insurance, energy, administrative and IT expenditure	-97 085.75
Organization of conferences and workshops	0.00
Costs of accreditation (performance, documents, translations, legal dept.)	-823 403.95
Sundry and contingencies	-22 591.20
Financial result	560.42
Total expenditure	-2 691 414.48
Surplus for the year	-297 524.37
Total	-2 988 938.85

Income

Contributions	
Canton BS	104 279.00
Canton BE	138 267.00
Canton FR	78 420.00
Canton GE	147 064.00
Canton. NE	35 381.00
Canton SG	43 206.00
Canton TI	19 466.00
Canton. VD	101 648.00
Canton ZH	233 411.00
Canton LU	14 063.00
Confederation	915 205.00
Accreditations/evaluations of universities of applied sciences	635 492.65
Accreditations/private sector evaluations	8 608.20
Services to third parties/Medicine agreement	508 805.55
Workshop and contributions	5 622.45
Total	2 988 938.85

The full cost of work performed by the OAQ on behalf of third parties, i.e. not on behalf of the SUC, is billed to the client. This relates in particular to all accreditations under the Federal law on University Medical Professions, accreditations for universities of applied sciences and the accreditation of private university providers.

The OAQ ended the year under review with a positive result of CHF 297,524 (CHF 191,878 in the previous year) on total income of CHF 2,988,939 (CHF 2,358,070 in the previous year). The positive annual financial statement for 2009 was attributable in the first instance to a stringent cost-cutting programme, while the development of work for third parties was a further feature of the financial year 2010. Both staff costs and operating expenditure (excluding accreditations) were higher in 2010 than in the previous year.

At CHF 1,550,782, personnel expenditure is only marginally higher than in the previous year (CHF 1,540,299) because the increased personnel costs brought about by legal stipulations were practically offset by staff turnover.

In the year under review, operating expenditure without accreditations stood at CHF 317,789 (previous year: CHF 290,234).

On the other hand, expenditure on accreditations (all external costs connected with procedures such as costs and fees of experts, translations etc.) reached CHF 823,404 in 2010 (against CHF 340,763 in the previous year). Of this total, CHF 390,937 (CHF 145,896 in the previous year) were incurred for procedures concerning universities of applied sciences, CHF 332,241 (CHF 29,146 in the previous year) for procedures under the Federal law on university medical professions and CHF 500 (CHF 5,000 in the previous year) for the accreditation of private university establishments.

The annual financial statement therefore shows a clear shift of activities towards the sector of universities of applied sciences and the medical professions. While accreditation of postgraduate programmes for specialist physicians in human medicine, dental medicine and chiropractic were budgeted, more demands than expected were received for accreditation of universities of applied sciences and their programmes. Income of CHF 520,000 was stated in the budget, but in fact revenue from accreditations in the sector of universities of applied sciences reached CHF 635,493 (previous year CHF 361,069).

The surplus of CHF 297,524 on the budget for the year 2010 and the balance sheet surplus of CHF 134,113 as of 31.12.2009 result in an overall surplus of CHF 431,638.

At CHF 765,817, the assets side shows a significantly higher amount for work in progress than in the previous year (CHF 429,028). CHF 536,286 alone were accounted for by the accreditation cycle for postgraduate medical education scheduled over a period of two years and ending in the spring of 2011. At CHF 227,480, work in progress in the sector of universities of applied sciences is broadly similar to the previous year's figure (CHF 208,327).



Reg. Nr. 1.11018.325.00349.02

Bericht der Revisionsstelle zur Eingeschränkten Revision

an die Mitglieder der Schweizerischen Universitätskonferenz

Als Revisionsstelle haben wir die Jahresrechnung (Bilanz und Erfolgsrechnung) des Organs für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen Hochschulen (OAQ) für das am 31. Dezember 2010 abgeschlossene Geschäftsjahr geprüft.

Für die Jahresrechnung ist die Geschäftsstelle des OAQ verantwortlich, während unsere Aufgabe darin besteht, die Jahresrechnung zu prüfen. Wir bestätigen, dass wir die gesetzlichen Anforderungen hinsichtlich Zulassung und Unabhängigkeit erfüllen.

Unsere Prüfung erfolgte nach dem Schweizer Standard zur Eingeschränkten Revision. Danach ist diese Revision so zu planen und durchzuführen, dass wesentliche Fehlansagen in der Jahresrechnung erkannt werden. Eine Eingeschränkte Revision umfasst hauptsächlich Befragungen und analytische Prüfungshandlungen sowie den Umständen angemessene Detailprüfungen der beim geprüften Unternehmen vorhandenen Unterlagen. Dagegen sind Prüfungen der betrieblichen Abläufe und des internen Kontrollsystems sowie Befragungen und weitere Prüfungshandlungen zur Aufdeckung deliktischer Handlungen oder anderer Gesetzesverstösse nicht Bestandteil dieser Revision.

Bei unserer Revision sind wir nicht auf Sachverhalte gestossen, aus denen wir schliessen müssten, dass die Jahresrechnung nicht dem Gesetz, der Vereinbarung vom 14. Dezember 2000 zwischen dem Bund und den Universitätskantonen über die Zusammenarbeit im universitären Hochschulbereich (SR 414.205) sowie der Geschäftsordnung vom 22. Februar 2001 des OAQ entsprechen.

Bern, den 9. März 2011

EIDGENÖSSISCHE FINANZKONTROLLE

Eric-Serge Jeannet
Zugelassener
Revisionsexperte

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Zugelassene Revisorin

10 Programme for the year 2011

10.1 Quality reviews 2011

The first re-accreditations in the university sector are due to be performed in 2011 as the accreditations of institutions and study programmes dating back to 2004 will then lapse and have to be renewed.

With a view to the forthcoming entry into force of the HFKG, the Secretariat of State will at least provisionally refrain from the performance of a third round of quality audits in the years 2011/2012; this work is therefore suspended.

In the area of procedures under the Federal law on university medical professions, the emphasis in 2011 will be on the cycle of accreditation of medical education (veterinary medicine, human medicine, dental medicine and chiropractic). The OAQ will be performing a total of 13 procedures with on-site visits; the procedure in the sector of veterinary medicine was already completed in 2010 and the chiropractic procedure is not due to begin until 2012.

In 2011 the OAQ will also put in hand preliminary work (i.e. development of quality standards and guidelines) for the accreditation of postgraduate education in public pharmacies and hospital pharmacies on behalf of the FOPH.

With a view to the entry into force of the law on the psychology professions, the OAQ will accompany preparations in 2011 and 2012 for accreditation of the psychology professions by the FOPH.

The compulsory accreditation of authorized master's study courses at universities of applied sciences will be largely completed in 2011. The testing programme includes an institutional accreditation of a ninth private university of applied sciences, several accreditations of masters' programs and the examination of a series of continuing education programmes (Master of Advanced Studies).

In Germany, the OAQ will be starting a first procedure for system accreditation at the University of Stuttgart in the summer of 2011. Negotiations are in progress on a second procedure due to begin in the second half of 2011.

10.2 International

The review of the OAQ by ENQA is by far the most important international activity in the year 2011. To achieve full membership status of the ENQA, the OAQ must undergo an external evaluation on the basis of the ESG once every five years. The outcomes of the evaluation may be used as the basis for an application for inclusion on the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

The OAQ has been chosen to participate in the EUA QAST (Quality Assurance as a Tool for Strategic Management) research project. The project is due to run from October 2011 to September 2013. The aim is to provide an empirical description of models of the use of quality assurance systems as instruments of strategic management. To do justice to the different structures and profiles of university institutions, several approaches will have to be developed, not just a single model. The outcomes of this project will be communicated to an extensive readership in a separate publication.

In the spring of 2011, the OAQ is also involved in a project of the UNESCO Institut International de Planification de l'éducation (IIPÉ – International Institute for Educational Planning) for quality assurance in the university sector in the Maghreb countries and Middle East. The aim of this project is to train specialists in quality assurance via e-learning. The project is being led by the IIPÉ and ANQAHE (Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education). The OAQ is taking part in this programme with a case study.

The OAQ is also taking part in JOQAR (Joint programmes: Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded) as a partner agency. The aim is to facilitate accreditation and recognition of joint programmes in general and of Erasmus Mundus programmes in particular. Quality assurance agencies are taking part together with ENIC/NARIC bodies (ENIC: European Network of Information Centres in the European Region. NARIC: National Academic Recognition Information Centres in the European Union). The project is being financed by the European Union and runs for three years (2010-2013). The OAQ is represented in the steering group and also in the working group.

Annex 1: Secretariat / Scientific Advisory Board

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Laura Beccari, MA, MAS, scientific collaborator, since 2005
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Malgorzata Keller, administrative collaborator, since 2008
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Andrea Schenker-Wicki, since 1.7.2008
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- *Zimmerli Werner*, Kantonsspital Liestal, Schweiz
- *Zollinger Ulrich*, Consulting für forensische Medizin Utzigen, Schweiz
- *Zurbuchen-Kursova Nina*, Studentin, Schweiz

Annexe 3: Procedures 2010

Institution	Object of accreditation	Type of procedure	Decisional authority
Universities			
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	MSc en sciences et technologies du vivant MSc en bioingénierie et biotechnologie	Follow-up	SUK
Institut universitaire Kurt Bösch	Institution	Procedure qualifying for financial support	
Université de Genève	MAS in Interpreter Training MAS in International and European Security	Accreditation	SUK
Universities of applied sciences			
Berner Fachhochschule (BFH) Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI) Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW) Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW) Fachhochschule Ostschweiz (FHO) Hochschule Luzern (HSLU)	MSc in Engineering, Kooperationsmaster	Accreditation	EVD
Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana	MA in Music Pedagogy MA in Composition & Music Theory MA in Music Performance MA in Specialized Music Performance	Accreditation	EVD
Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW)	BSc in Optometrie	Verification of conditions	EVD
Fachhochschule Ostschweiz (FHO) Fachhochschule Zentralschweiz (FHZ) Berner Fachhochschule (BFH) Zürcher Fachhochschule (ZFH)	MSc in Sozialer Arbeit, Kooperationsmaster	Accreditation	EVD
Haute Ecole de Musique (Conservatoire de Musique de Genève-HEM, Conservatoire de Lausanne-HEM)	MA in Music Pedagogy MA in Composition & Music Theory MA in Music Performance MA in Specialized Music Performance	Accreditation	EVD
Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO)	MAS en Direction des institutions éducatives, sociales et socio-sanitaires (MAS-DIS)	Evaluation	OAQ
Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO)	BSc in Tourismus	Verification of conditions	EVD
Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO)	MAS en Design et Industrie du Luxe (MAS-DIL)	Evaluation	OAQ
Haute école spécialisée de Suisse occidentale (HES-SO), Haute école Arc	BSc en ingénieur-e designer	Verification of conditions	EVD
Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Chur (HTW)	BSc Media Engineering	Accreditation	EVD
Hochschule für Technik Zürich (HSZ-T)	BSc in Informatik	Accreditation	EVD
Hochschule für Wirtschaft (HWZ)	BSc FHZ in Wirtschaftsingenieur/Innovation	Accreditation	EVD
Kalaisdos Fachhochschulen	BSc in Pflege	Verification of conditions	EVD
Musikhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW), Musik-Akademie der Stadt Basel	MA in Musikalischer Performance MA in Spezialisierter Musikalischer Performance MA in Komposition und Musiktheorie MA in Musikpädagogik BA in Musik und Bewegung	Accreditation	EVD
Scuola Universitaria Professionale della Svizzera Italiana (SUPSI)	BSc in Fisioterapia	Verification of conditions	EVD
Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (ZHAW)	BSc in Aviatik BSc in Systemtechnik BSc in Wirtschaftswesen	Accreditation	EVD
International universities			
Hochschule Liechtenstein	Institution	Evaluation	

Institution	Object of accreditation	Type of procedure	Decisional authority
<i>Basic Medical Education</i>			
Vetsuisse Fakultäten Bern und Zürich	Basic Study Programme in Veterinary Medicine	Accreditation	SUK Akkreditierungsrat
<i>Postgraduate Education in Human Medicine</i>			
Allergologie/Immunologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Allgemeine Innere Medizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Anästhesiologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Angiologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Arbeitsmedizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Chirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Dermatologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Endokrinologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Gastroenterologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Gynäkologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Hämatologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Herz- und Thorakale Gefässchirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Infektiologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Intensivmedizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Kardiologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Kiefer- und Gesichtschirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Kinder- und Jugendpsychiatrie und psychotherapie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Kinderchirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Klinische Pharmakologie und Toxikologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Medizinische Genetik	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Nephrologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Neurochirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Neurologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Nuklearmedizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Onkologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Ophthalmologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Orthopädische Chirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Pädiatrie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Pathologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Pharmazeutische Medizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Physikalische Medizin und Rehabilitation	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Plastische, Rekonstruktive und Ästhetische Chirurgie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Pneumologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Praktischer Arzt/Praktische Ärztin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Prävention und Gesundheitswesen	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Radiologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Radio-Onkologie/Strahlentherapie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Rechtsmedizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Rheumatologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Tropen- und Reisemedizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Urologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
<i>Postgraduate Education in Dental Medicine</i>			
Kieferorthopädie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Oralchirurgie/Stomatologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Parodontologie	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
Rekonstruktive Zahnmedizin	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI
<i>Postgraduate Education in Chiropractics</i>			
	Postgraduate Study programme	Accreditation	EDI

Annex 4: National and international cooperations (per 31.12.2010)

National

Commission	Domain	Member since	Function OAQ
Projektgruppe Bologna der CRUS	Bologna-Prozess Schweiz	2003	Aktives Mitglied
Qualitätsnetzwerk Hochschulen Schweiz	Erfahrungsaustausch und QS-Projekte	2004	Geschäftsführung
Arbeitsgruppe "nationaler Qualifikationsrahmen"	Erstellen eines nationalen Qualifikationsrahmens	2005	Aktives Mitglied
Fachkommission (KFH) «Qualitätsmanagement und Akkreditierung»	Erfahrungsaustausch	2009	Aktives Mitglied

International

Commission	Domain	Member since	Function OAQ
ENQA	QS in Europa	2002	Vollmitglied seit Dezember 2006
ECA	Länderübergreifende Anerkennung der Akkreditierungsentscheide	2003	Mitarbeit in allen 4 Arbeitsgruppen
Quality Audits Working Group	Internationale Arbeitsgruppe über Quality Audits	2007	Aktives Mitglied
INQAAHE	QS International	2003	Vollmitglied
IQA-ENQA	Internal quality assurance	2009	Mitglied der Steuerungsgruppe

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