

## Decision<sup>1</sup>



The Executive Committee of FIBAA Foundation Council decides maxims for the separation between consultancy services and assessment in line with ESG<sup>2</sup>

FIBAA

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## Principles for the separation between consultancy services and assessment in line with ESG

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FIBAA separates clearly between assessment and consultation in order to ensure the impartiality and objectivity of the assessors and of FIBAA in each assessment procedure.

In order to ensure this separation and to ensure impartiality, FIBAA establishes that an assignment for the implementation of a quality assurance procedure is neither carried out parallel to a consultation nor promptly after prior consultation. Particularly for its areas of activity for awarding the Accreditation Council Seal FIBAA regulates the following:

1. The activity of FIBAA in a programme or system accreditation procedure is inconsistent with a previous or current activity outside of this programme or system accreditation, which is advisory or otherwise supporting the establishment, introduction or further development of the accredited course of studies or its internal quality assurance system at the same HEI. This incompatibility includes organizations that are affiliated with FIBAA in legal, institutional, organizational, financial or personnel matters.
2. The activities of FIBAA experts in programme or system accreditation procedures shall be inconsistent with any previous or current activity outside of this programme or system accreditation procedure which, in an advisory capacity or otherwise, supports the establishment, introduction or further development of this programme accredited course of studies or quality assurance system at the same HEI.

Generally must be noted that examinations are made by experts in the context of accreditation decisions. Since the reviewers explain their impartiality in writing, their objectivity is assured.

If external experts are commissioned in the scope of consulting services, they also regularly assure their impartiality so that the objectivity is ensured here as well, and a mixture of consultancy and assessment is excluded.

FIBAA's employees, who have advised HEIs in the design of course offers, are not applied for corresponding assessment procedures. Additionally, FIBAA employees sign a declaration of confidentiality with regard to an advisory activity, which applies internally and externally of FIBAA. Documents submitted by HEIs for consultation are not accessible to auditors.

It is unmistakably pointed out in FIBAA's publications, as well as in correspondence with interested parties, that this strict separation is always respected.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to simplify the legibility of the decision, no gender-neutral distinction is made in the following text, but the male form is used exclusively. Of course, its orientation is, in any case, gender-independent.

<sup>2</sup> Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). (2015). Brussels, Belgium.