

The Danish Accreditation Institution

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Agenda

- The Danish higher education system
- External QA of Higher Education
- Hot topics within the Danish HE sector



The Danish Higher Education System



The Danish Higher Education System

Institutions

- 8 Universities – 152,491 students (61% of total)
- 7 University Colleges – 67,530 (27%)
- 9 Business Academies – 20,813 (8%)
- 11 Artistic higher Education institutions – 3,176 (1%)
- 11 Maritime Education Institutions – 2,267 (1%)
- Danish School of Media and Journalism – 1,747 (1%)



The Danish Higher Education System

Students

Projections for cohort currently aged 17-18:

- 99% to start secondary education and 93% will graduate
 - 67% upper secondary school
- 62% to complete tertiary education
- 29% to obtain post-graduate (university) degree

Government ambition of 60% post-secondary and 25% post-graduate graduation rate on track to be fulfilled.



The Danish Higher Education System

Funding

- Free to the student
- Yearly HE funding of 21,254 USD/student
 - OECD avg. 13,958 USD/student
- Monthly grant of DKK 5,800 (USD 1,150)
 - Yearly total cost: DKK 18.5 billion (USD 3.2 billion)



External QA of Higher Education



The Accreditation System

2007-2013

- External QA based on **accreditation** of programmes
- Two operators: *ACE Denmark* (Universities) and the *Danish Evaluation Institute (EVA)* (remaining institutions)
- 85% of the accredited programmes received a positive accreditation



Was this an appropriate QA system?

Criticism:

- Too costly for HEIs
- Too focused on documentation and detail
- Based on mistrust of institutions
- Focus on control rather than development of quality



New Accreditation System

Control and development

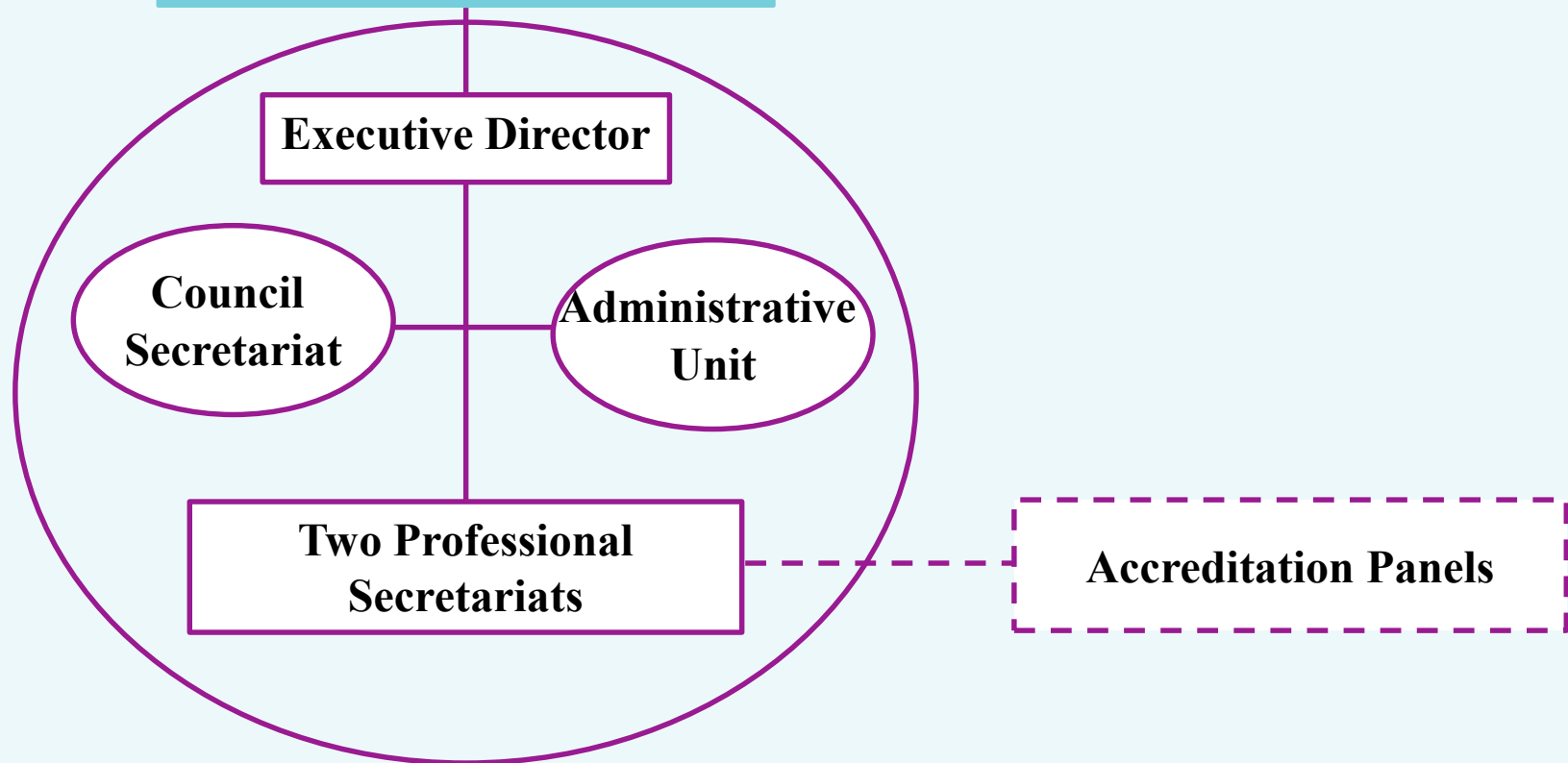
New system effective as of 1 July 2013

- Main focus on **accreditation of institutions**
 - HEIs responsible for internal QA
- Programme accreditation in transitional phase
- Focus on programmes with special challenges
- Cross-sector evaluations (by EVA)
- All accreditation joined in new **Accreditation Institution**
- **Pre-qualification** of new programmes:
 - Ministerial screening
 - Independent advisory committee



Organisational structure

Accreditation Council



The Accreditation Council



- **Independent** - appointed by the Minister for Higher Education and Science
- Makes accreditation **decision** based on a report and a recommendation by the Accreditation Institution
- Nine members
 - Two members nominated by *student bodies*
 - The council must have experience with and knowledge: about QA within HE, research, development and graduate employment



The Accreditation Panel

The Panel comprises:

- Expertise within QC at institutional level
- Expertise from the HE sector broadly
- Knowledge of job market for graduates
- Student representation
- National and international experts



Institutional accreditation

5 criteria

1. Quality assurance policy and strategy
2. Quality management and organization
3. Knowledge base of educational programmes
4. Academic level and content
5. Relevance of educational programme



The Accreditation Process

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Documentation

Assessment

Decision

Start-up meeting

Self-evaluation report

Accreditation panel is set up
- Training day

Preliminary meeting (the panel)

1st visit to the institution

2nd visit to the institution
(audit trails)

Accreditation report

Decision by the Council

Decision letter to the institution

14 November 2013

11 December 2014



Institutional accreditation

AUDIT TRAILS ^{1/2}

Purpose

- To see how the QA work functions in practice

Number

- From 1-6, depending the size and organizational setup

Selection criteria

- Selected by the accreditation panel
- Based on the self-evaluation report
- Input from meetings with students, teachers and other stakeholders at the first site visit
- KPIs on programmes
- Suggestions by management at the institution
- Other factors, e.g. accreditation history



Institutional accreditation

AUDIT TRAILS *2/2*

Documentation

- Existing material in the form of:
 - Minutes from study board meetings
 - Programme management reports
 - Internal teaching evaluations and programme evaluations
 - Reports from external examiners
 - Student grades
 - Graduate surveys, etc.



Decisions on institutional accreditation

And what they mean for the institution

Positive institutional accreditation:

- Can establish new programmes (through pre-qualification)
- Existing programmes *not* accredited

Conditional positive institutional accreditation:

- New programmes must be *accredited* (after pre-qualification)
- Can adapt existing programmes
- Existing programmes *not* accredited

Denied institutional accreditation

- Cannot establish new programmes
- Existing programmes must be accredited (according to rota plan)

Institutions that have **not yet been accredited**:

- New programmes must be *accredited* (after pre-qualification)
- Existing programmes must be accredited (according to rota plan)



Hot topics in the Danish HE Sector



Hot topics and new directions

Within the Danish HE sector

Hot topics:

- Caps on student intake based on graduate employment
- Quality of education
- Graduate unemployment
- Suitability of graduate skills to labour market

New directions:

- Risk-based monitoring
- National student survey
- Improving information available to prospective students





Thank you!

For more information, see: <http://en.akkr.dk/>

