

## **Historical reference**

ZEvA was established in 1995 as the Central Evaluation Agency by the government of Lower Saxony. ZEvA is among 8 German agencies that have been licensed by German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for conducting accreditation activities. Its activities are strictly controlled by supervising public authorities. The accreditation decision is made by a special commission which consists of independent experts that are not related to the agency.

Since 1995, the agency has been actively involved in international networks and is a founding member of The European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA), The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and The Joint Quality Initiative (JQI). The agency is also listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). Since the mid-90s when the Bologna process was introduced, ZEvA has taken an active part in its implementation and bases its accreditation activities on the principles of the Bologna declaration (1999).

The priority of ZEvA is conducting activities aimed at ensuring quality of education through evaluation, programme and system accreditation in Europe and beyond. The agency has accumulated considerable expertise by working with higher education institutions in Austria, Switzerland and other countries in Europe, as well as universities of Saudi Arabia, Vietnam etc. For more than 15 years ZEvA has accredited thousands educational programmes at universities in Europe and Asia.

Methods and assessment criteria used by ZEvA are based on the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) that have been widely spread in higher education institutions beyond Europe. The policy of the agency is to constantly promote adherence to existing internationally-recognized standards. Full-fledged consultations are provided during all the procedure.

Detailed information can be found on the official website: [www.zeva.org/](http://www.zeva.org/)