

Programme for the INSPIRE Study Visit in Heidelberg:

Study of the German and European Quality Assurance Systems in Higher Education

30 September – 2 October 2026

EVALAG – Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg | Venue: Europaplatz 11, 69115 Heidelberg, Germany



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Online-Participation:

<https://evalag-de.zoom.us/j/61374507052?pwd=I9RQDawg3w5Mk5oj5riJI4hQrUJSqB.1&from=addon>

Meeting-ID: 613 7450 7052 // Kenncode: 593796

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

DAY 1 — “Understanding”: Overview of the German and European QA Systems in HE

09.00-09.30	Welcome & Opening Session - Welcome by EVALAG - Introduction of participants - Presentation of objectives and expected outcomes of the study visit	Aletta Hinsken & Sibylle Jakubowicz (CEO EVALAG) Theodor Leiber, Stefanie Kröner, Miriam Chebbah (online), Galina Novikova (online) (INSPIRE-Team Heidelberg) Mariusz Mazurkiewicz (INSPIRE Lead)
09.30-10.00	Keynote: Structure of the German Quality Assurance System in Higher Education - Roles of state ministries, the Accreditation Council, QA agencies - Overview of responsibilities, legal foundations, and institutional autonomy - Systemic introduction to the German QA landscape - Institutional accreditation/ “system accreditation”	Aletta Hinsken (EVALAG) or Sibylle Jakubowicz (EVALAG)
10.00-10.30	Coffee Break	
10.30-12.00	Session: European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) – Principles and Practice - Core elements of ESG - Standards for internal and external QA - Standards for QA agencies - European developments and alignment practices (e.g., ENQA, European Approach) - ESG draft for consultation 2027 - Q&A	Stefanie Kröner (EVALAG) Theodor Leiber (EVALAG)
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break	



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13.30-15.00	Session: Meeting with Internal QA Units of German Universities • Internal QA structures and processes • Annual monitoring, data usage, reporting obligations • Examples from established QA cultures in HEIs • Q&A	Martina Mohrbacher (Head of Quality Management Studies and Teaching, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences) Sonja Kiko (Managing Director heiQUALITY, Heidelberg University) Mathias Hinkelmann (former Vice President Teaching of Stuttgart Media University) Moderation: Theodor Leiber
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30-16.30	Workshop: EU-Ukraine Comparative QA Analysis • Group exercise to identify key similarities, differences, and strategic and practice gaps of Ukrainian and EU QA systems • Inspired by international QA review practices and comparative analyses • Brief look at comparison of NAQA model/ policy paper and INSPIRE D2.2	Theodor Leiber Stefanie Kröner INSPIRE partners & colleagues
17.30-19.00	Guided Walk Tour through Heidelberg Old Town (funded) Starting point: Marktplatz	Theodor Leiber INSPIRE partners & colleagues
19.30-21.30	Welcome Dinner (funded) Venue: Hemmingway's Restaurant Fahrtgasse 1, 69117 Heidelberg-Altstadt Please note: Each participant will receive a voucher worth €30 for the Welcome Dinner and may order à la carte. Any costs exceeding this amount can be paid directly to Hemmingway's in cash or by card.	Theodor Leiber INSPIRE partners & colleagues

Thursday, 1 October 2026

DAY 2 — “Experiencing”: External QA, Accreditation Procedures, Case Studies

09.00-10.30	Session: External Quality Assurance in Germany: A Journey Through Accreditation Pathways at INSPIRIA University • Accreditation pathways in Germany at a glance • Following INSPIRIA University's path from programme accreditation to system accreditation: setting the stage for the workshop • Key drivers, opportunities and challenges when preparing for system accreditation • Building and demonstrating an effective internal quality assurance system • Key stages of a system accreditation procedure: Choosing an accreditation agency, self-evaluation, expert panel composition, peer review, site visit preparation, site visit, reporting, follow-up • Accreditation criteria, quality standards and decision-making • Q&A	Ana-Maria Bodo-Hartmann (EVALAG)
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.00	Meeting with German Accreditation Council (GAC): Insights into the Accreditation Process • Presentation by Anja Grube (GAC) System Accreditation in Germany: Decision-Taking, General Trends and Future Goals • Exchange with GAC on QA in the German higher education system – Political Dimensions, Processes in Relation to System Accreditation • Q&A	Anja Grube (Deputy Head of the System Accreditation Department, Officer for Agency Affairs at the German Accreditation Council) Moderation: Aletta Hinsken
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break	
13.30-15.00	Workshop: Accreditation Case Study • Analysis of a real or anonymised accreditation case • Role-play: institution, reviewer panel, student representative	Ana-Maria Bodo-Hartmann



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15.00-15.30	Coffee Break	
15.30-16.30	Panel Discussion: Quality Assurance in Times of Transformation Topics: academic freedom; digitalisation; AI; governance; benefits, challenges and dilemmas of QA; modernization of QA processes	Moderation: Theodor Leiber (EVALAG) Anja Grube (Deputy Head of the System Accreditation Department, Officer for Agency Affairs at the German Accreditation Council) Aletta Hinsken (CEO EVALAG) Vitaly Kukharsky (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Deputy Project Lead, INSPIRE Project) Maryna Mruha (Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine) Ivan Nazarov (Vice Head NAQA)
17.30-19.00	Optional Activity (weather-dependent): Networking Walk along the river Neckar	Theodor Leiber INSPIRE partners & colleagues

Friday, 2 October 2026

DAY 3 — “Transferring”: Transfer to Ukrainian Context, Framework Design & WP Integration

09.00-10.30	Session: Different Perspectives on Designing Institutional Accreditation Frameworks • Student Engagement in Quality Assurance • Institutional Quality Culture • Quality Culture and Diversity	Miriam Chebbah & Stefanie Kröner (EVALAG) Florian Lamert (German Student Accreditation Council)
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.30	Group Work: Drafting Components of the Ukrainian Model of Institutional Accreditation • Criteria development • Process mapping • Stakeholder engagement mechanisms • Preparation for WP3 deliverable	Theodor Leiber & Stefanie Kröner (EVALAG) INSPIRE(d) partners & colleagues (from Ukraine)
12.30-13.30	Lunch Break	
13.30-14.00	Outlook: Preparation for WP3 Deliverables • Procedural guidelines • Self-assessment report template • Evaluation protocols • On-site visit guidelines • Based on EU standards, ESG, and good practices from external QA mechanisms	Theodor Leiber & Stefanie Kröner (EVALAG) INSPIRE(d) partners & colleagues (from Ukraine)
14.00-15.00	INSPIRE Coordination Session (PMB 6)	Mariusz Mazurkiewicz INSPIRE partners & colleagues
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break	



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15.30-16.00	Closing Session: Final Reflection & Next Steps • Summary of key insights • Follow-up tasks in WP2 and forthcoming tasks in WP3 • Planning of expert review phase and validation	Theodor Leiber Mariusz Mazurkiewicz
16.00-16.15	Official Closing & Farewell Remarks	Theodor Leiber
16.15-17.00	Farewell Coffee / Tea A final informal gathering for: • Final questions • Exchange of contacts • Coordination of follow-up steps	
	Optional (self-organised): Short Walk to Heidelberg Castle Viewpoint	