



## **Perspectives of Cooperation between the European Chemistry Thematic Network Association and ASIIN**

### **- Abstract -**

The presentation will begin with a brief introduction of ASIIN outlining the development of the organization and the fields and disciplines in which ASIIN carries out the accreditation of study programs. Other issues are the organization's legal form, its membership base and the role of the members, and its organizational structure. Most importantly, the membership of ASIIN is characterized by a large diversity: its membership is composed of networks of universities and universities of applied sciences in Germany, federations and trade associations, scientific societies and umbrella organizations from industry and trade unions providing ASIIN with expertise and ensuring that its accreditation criteria and standards are supported by all relevant stakeholders. The organizational structure of ASIIN emphasizes the competences of experts in the relevant subject areas while ensuring that a general and interdisciplinary point of view is also taken into account. The financial side of ASIIN's operations will also be addressed (sources of revenue, costs of accreditation procedures). These aspects will be addressed within the context of the German system of higher education.

In a second step, the ASIIN system of quality assurance for the accreditation of study programs in chemistry will be described. Here, the functions of the different bodies will be outlined in greater detail, with an emphasis on their function in the quality assurance process and the process itself.

The accreditation decisions themselves are based on the accreditation standards and criteria formulated by ASIIN. The general standards and criteria of ASIIN are supplemented by subject-specific standards which are formulated based on the educational standards established in the respective scientific community. General as well as subject specific criteria combine an output-oriented approach with a set of input criteria – a strong emphasis is placed on general and subject specific learning outcomes formulated as a set of competences students should have acquired by the time of their graduation. Overall, the structure of the ASIIN Accreditation Standards and Criteria are modelled after the rationale of the educational process in an academic program. Both types of sets of standards and criteria are regularly revised to take into account recent developments in the respective academic field(s) and the legal framework.

The final part of this presentation will focus on the international activities of ASIIN. ASIIN is part of international accreditation networks covering various subject disciplines and geographical and economic regions. Accordingly, the ASIIN standards and criteria are developed taking a wider international context into account. The integration of ASIIN in these networks promotes the international recognition of the ASIIN Accreditation Standards and Criteria and of the qualifications of students graduating from ASIIN-accredited programs. At the same time, it promotes the incorporation of the high quality standards applied by ASIIN into national and international standards developed by its partners.