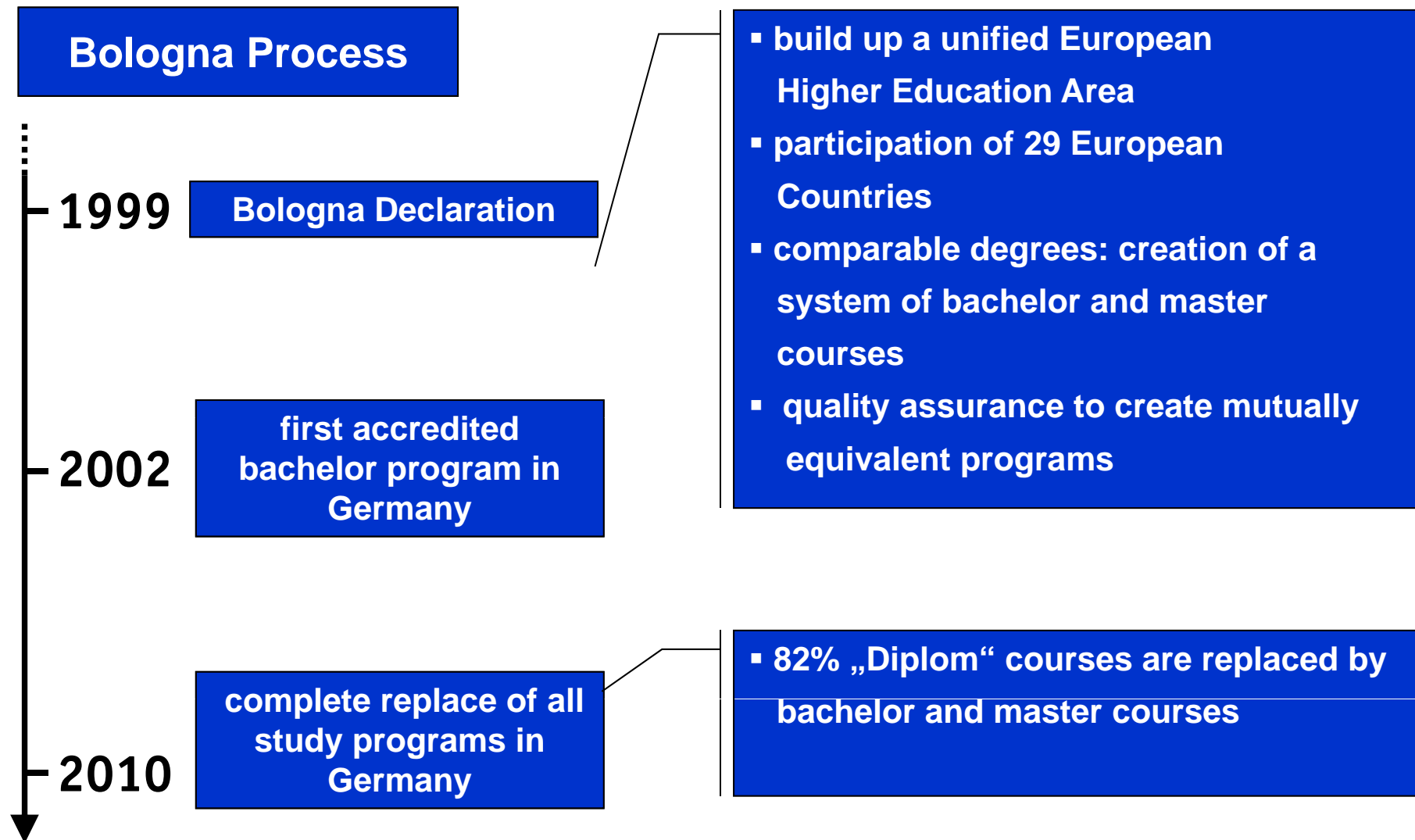




# GERMAN STUDY PROGRAM ACCREDITATION AT DEAD END?



- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. GERMAN ACCREDITATION SYSTEM**
- 3. ACCREDITATION UNDER GERMAN LAW**
- 4. CONCLUSION**



# Types of Accreditation

## System Accreditation

➤ **Evaluation of  
university's quality  
management**

## Program Accreditation

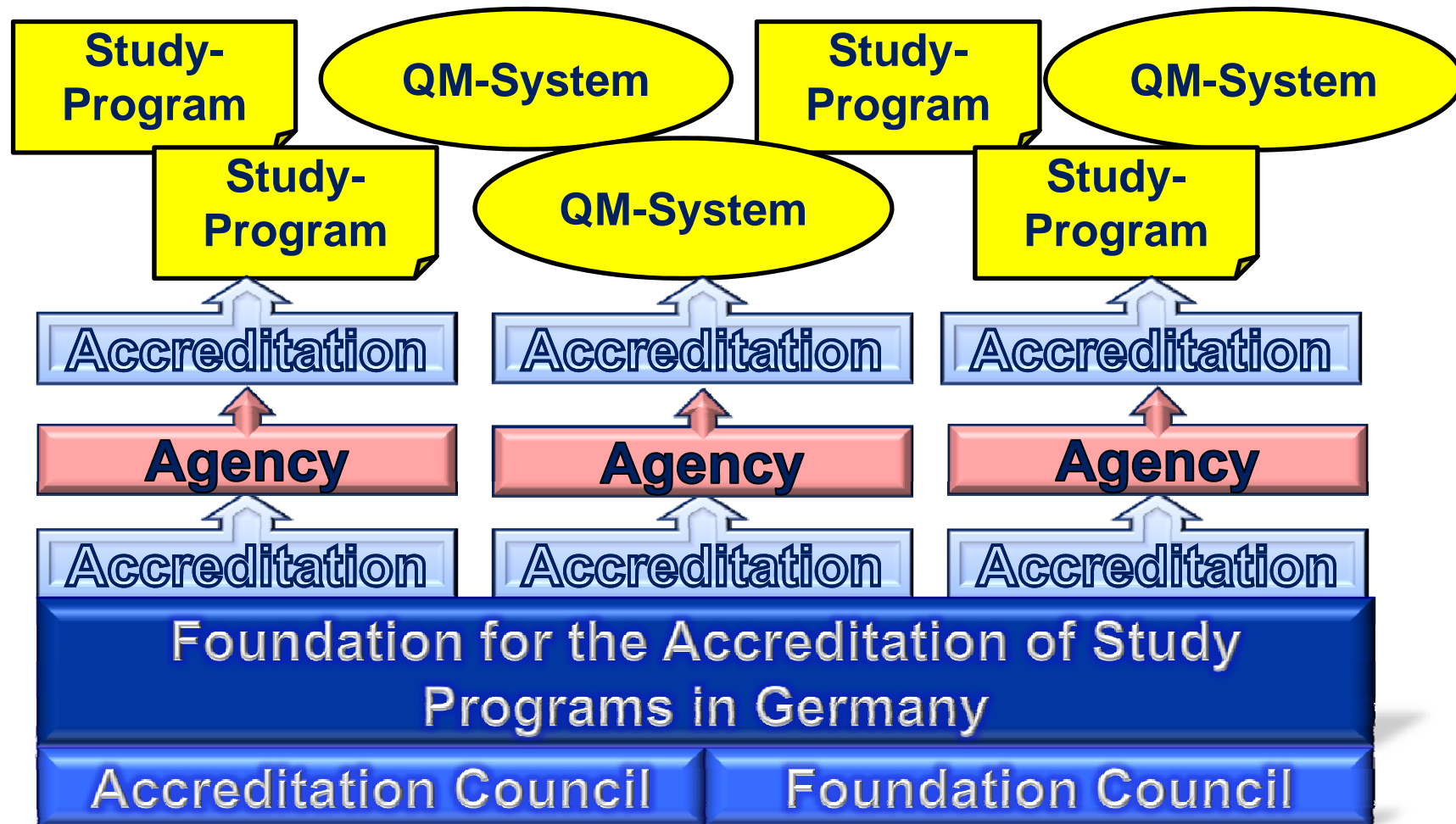
➤ **Evaluation of  
courses of studies**

# Questions

Improves  
Quality?

Conformity  
with law?

# German Accreditation System





## Range of program accreditation

- **didactic concept**
- **program contents**
- **modularization**
- **size of ECTS in modules**
- **human resources (number and reputation of lecturers)**
- **educational equipment (lecture rooms, labs)**
- **stimulation of interests in interdisciplinary fields**
- **program's relevance for labor market**
- **self development support for students**



## Conformity with German Law?

### No basis under German Law

- accreditation is no obligation in some federal states
- accreditation system bases on state law of one of the federal states
- requirements not set by a lawmaking body

### Infringement of professors basic rights

- basic rights are guaranteed and enforceable
- some of them can be delimited by law if their essential content stays untouched

# Freedom of Sciences

## Article 5 [Freedom of expression, arts and sciences]

(1) ....

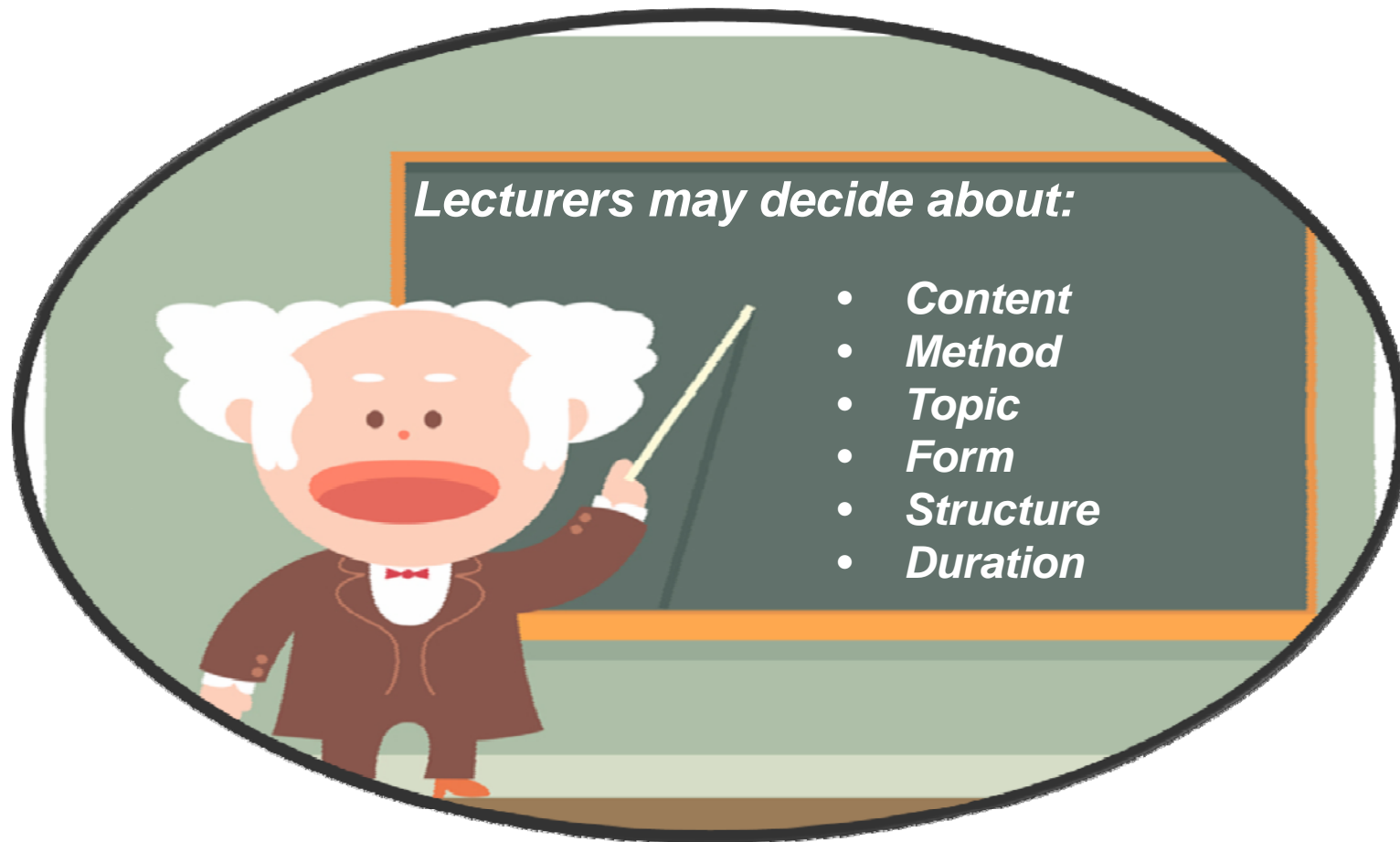
(2) ....

(3) Art and sciences, research and teaching shall be free. The freedom of teaching shall not release any person from allegiance to the constitution.

## Basic Rights

Art. 1	Art. 2	Art. 3	Art. 4	Art. 5	Art. 6	Art. 7	Art. 8	Art. 9	Art. 10	Art. 11	Art. 12	Art. 13	Art. 14	Art. 15	Art. 16	Art. 17	Art. 18	Art. 19
-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

# Scope of protection



## **Range of program accreditation**

- **didactic concept**
- **program contents**
- **modularization**
- **size of ECTS in modules**
- **human resources (number and reputation of lecturers)**
- **educational equipment (lecture rooms, labs)**
- **stimulation of interests in interdisciplinary fields**
- **program's relevance for labor market**
- **self development support for students**

## Constitutional Complaint

- **German University appealed against rejection of accreditation**
- **decision of Constitutional Court is expected with impatience**
- **it is expected that program accreditation will be declared as unconstitutional**
- **in the future there will be system accreditation with much less defined requirements**

## CONCLUSION:

- ➔ **Accreditation is not a suitable mean to assure the quality of study programs**
- ➔ **Program accreditation infringes the basic rights of the lecturers at universities, especially the Freedom of Teaching and thus has no legal basis under the German law**
- ➔ **If the Constitutional Court will decide, that accreditation is unconstitutional, it allows German universities to be much more independent in developing curricula for civil engineering programs without following the guidelines given by the accreditation agencies. That will make it much more difficult to implement a unified European accreditation system. Thus, the result of the decision may have a huge influence on the European idea of common standards and procedures for accreditation.**
- ➔ **As a result, harmonization by binding accreditation requirements will be no longer a mean to create a unified European Higher Education Area.**  
**European universities should rather try to reduce the administrative barriers for foreign students and to implement the European idea at higher education institutions.**



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

