

**From Localization to Internationalization  
through Accreditation:  
(The Case of Arab World Educational Institutions)**

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# Outline

- Formal Definition of Accreditation)
- Local & International Accreditation
- Need for External/International Accreditation
- Transition from Local (National) to External (International) Accreditation
- Some Statistics on Internationally Accredited Programs and Institutions in the Arab World
- Conclusions and Recommendations

# Formal Definition of Accreditation

According to **UNESCO** definition:

**accreditation** is *“the process by which a nongovernmental or private body evaluates the quality of a higher education institution as a whole or of a specific educational program”*

Accordingly it is an effective and practical way to demonstrate that */the program or the institute meets the minimum required ingredients of educational quality assurance/*

# Local & International Accreditation

## ***Local Accreditation:***

accreditation of the program or the institution by a national accrediting body, whether it is governmental or non-governmental in the same place or country, where it issues its certificates to the graduates.

## ***International accreditation:***

is the type of accreditation carried out by a foreign, internationally recognized accrediting body, such as ABET, to accredit the program and/or institution

# Benefits of Accreditations in General

- ✎ Increased reputation of the academic institution or program among its counterparts and the public at large.
- ✎ The certificates, and accordingly, the graduates of the institution/program will be stamped as being graduates of an accredited institution/program
- ✎ Prospective students of better academic background can be attracted.
- ✎ More talented and qualified faculty and support staff are attracted.

# Need for External/International Accreditation

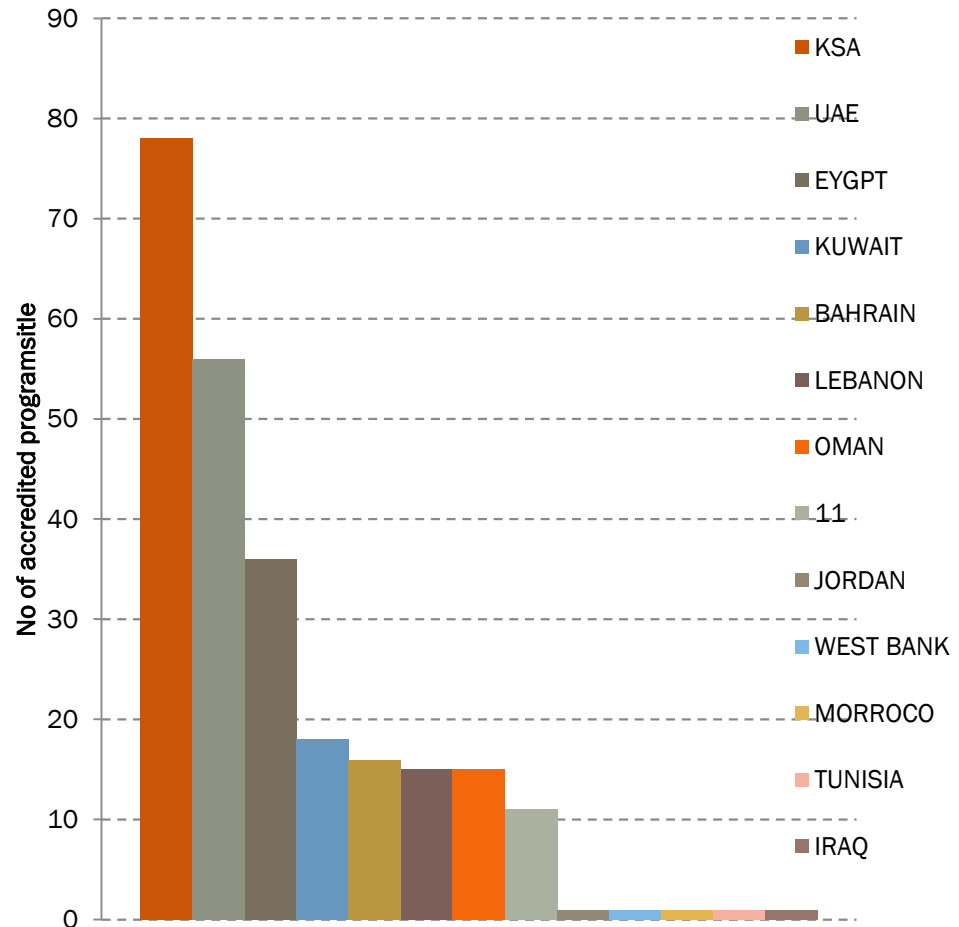
- ☞ **Globalization** of higher education market :  
implications high world-wide competition to attract across-borders students.
- ☞ **Prospective students**  
seeking institutions that can offer certified and degrees recognized elsewhere.
- ☞ **Mobilization** of graduates and professional  
seeking job opportunities study for further qualification, outside their home country.
- ☞ The need for an easy and way of **transferring credits**  
earned from one institution or program to another institution in another country.

# Transition from Local (National) to External (International) Accreditation

- ✎ **Decision at top institution administration level** - facilitates allocation of financial and other related resources needed.
- ✎ **Decision on accreditation Model** - based on the local accreditation practice (model) adopted in the country
- ✎ **Survey of International Accrediting bodies in the field** - based on discipline, accreditation model adopted, cost of accreditation other requirements.
- ✎ Check accreditation **Eligibility Criteria** required
- ✎ **Collection** and **Analysis** of data required - plan on a **time-scale** - schedule for each required activity.
- ✎ Formal **Request** for **Application** to the chosen accreditation body
- ✎ On approval, **Follow** the normal accreditation **Steps** different from steps followed in local accreditation.

# Number of Programs/institutions Internationally Accredited in some Arab Countries

Ser.	country name	Institutions	% Institutions	Programs	% Programs	Total
1	KSA	18	19	78	81	96
2	UAE	25	31	56	69	81
3	EYGPT	4	10	36	90	40
4	KUWAIT	4	18	18	82	22
5	BAHRAIN	0	0	16	100	16
6	LEBANON	9	38	15	63	24
7	OMAN	0	0	15	100	15
8	QATAR	1	8	11	92	12
9	JORDAN	0	0	8	100	8
10	WEST BANK	0	0	7	100	7
11	MORROCO	0	0	4	100	4
12	TUNISIA	0	0	1	100	1
13	IRAQ	0	0	1	100	1





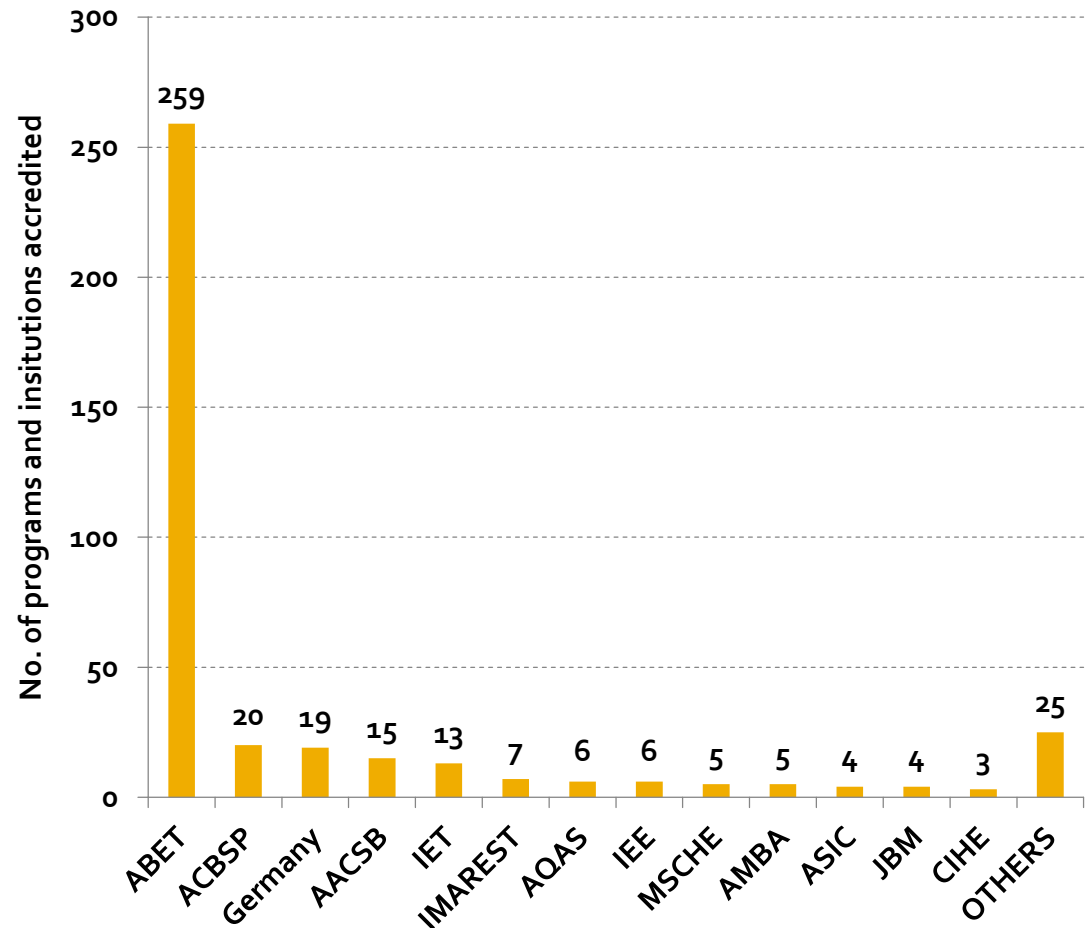
# Accreditation agencies took part in program/institutions accreditation

country name	ACCREDITATION AGENCY
KSA	ABET,ACBSP,ASIIN,AACSP
UAE	ABET,ACBSP,AMBA,THE-ICE,IEE,IET,
	SACSCOC,ICHEME,IACBE
EYGPT	ABET,AQAS,AMBA,ISTRUCT,CIHT,IEE,
	IMAREST,EQUIS,ICE,JMB
KUWAIT	ABET,AACSB,ASIC,ACBSP
BAHRAIN	ABET,IMC
LEBANON	ABET,ACEND,AMBA,CCNE,CEPH,ACPE
	EVALAG,MSCHE
OMAN	ABET,IET
QATAR	ABET
JORDAN	ABET,AQAQ,FIBA
WEST BANK	ABET
MORROCO	AMBE
TUNISIA	AMBE
IRAQ	ASIC

# Accrediting Agencies and Number of Programs/institutions accredited

Table 2. Accrediting Agencies and Number of Programs/institutions accredited

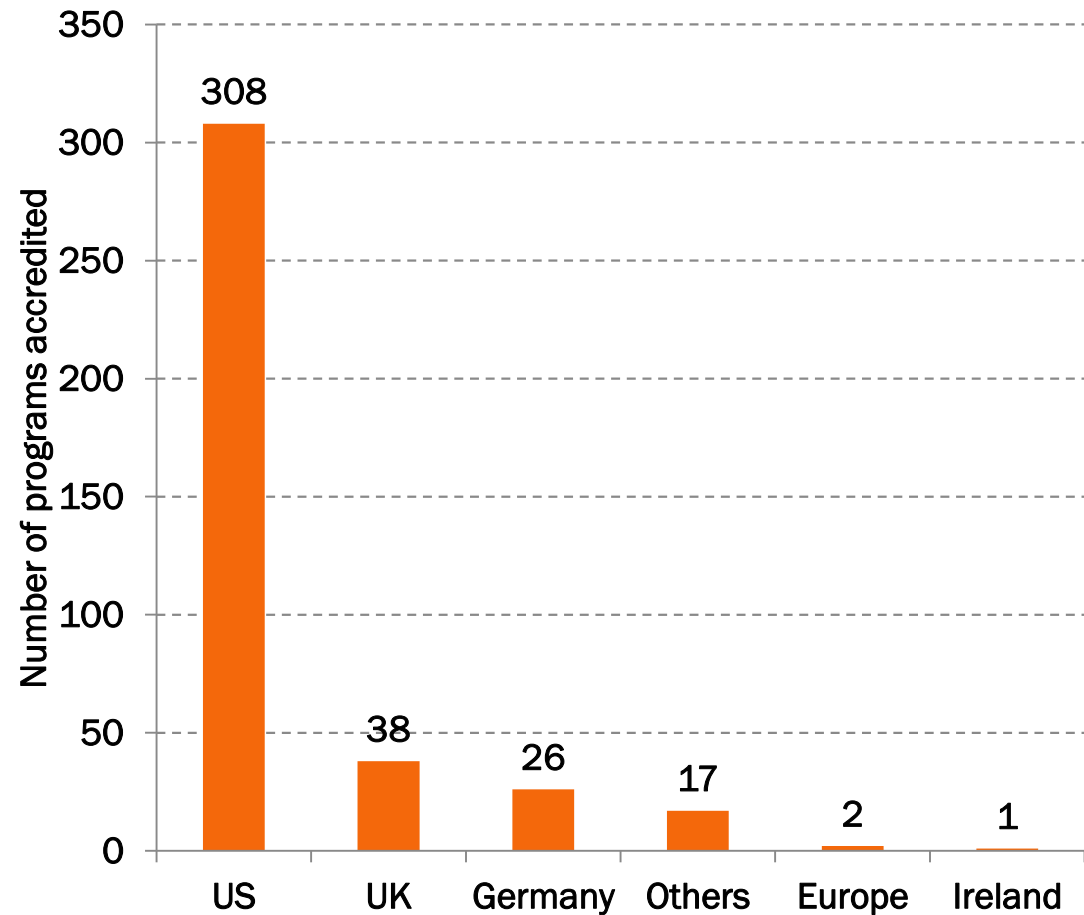
Accrediting Agency	# Progs/Units	%
ABET	259	66.2
ACBSP	20	5.1
ASIIN (Germany)	19	4.9
AACSB	15	3.8
IET	13	3.3
IMAREST	7	1.8
AQAS	6	1.5
IEE	6	1.5
MSCHE	5	1.3
AMBA	5	1.3
ASIC	4	1.0
JBM	4	1.0
CIHE	3	0.8
OTHERS	25	6.4
Total	391	100.0



# Country of origin of accrediting agencies and programs/institutions accredited

Table 4. Country of origin of accrediting agencies and corresponding number of programs/institutions accredited

Country	# programs/Institutions accredited	% accredited
US	308	78.6
UK	38	9.7
Germany	26	6.6
Others	17	4.3
Europe	2	0.5
Ireland	1	0.3
Total	392	100.0



# Summary of Statistical Data

- ✎ Out of the total **22** Arab Countries, only **13** countries (*Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, and Iraq*) have internationally accredited programs, colleges or universities.
- ✎ This represents **only 59%** of total number of Arab World Countries.
- ✎ *The data gives only number of programs and institutions internationally accredited. It doesn't include those locally accredited ones for comparison.*
- ✎ *Example UAE: Total 917 (in 65 licensed Institutions), Int. 56, Percent. **6.1%***

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- ✎ Make a **detailed statistics** about all locally accredited programs and institution in each country to find:
  - **Percentage** of internationally accredited to total accredited.
- ✎ Investigate the **effect** of international accreditation on the programs and institutions concerned, in terms of parameters sa:
  - i) **increase/decrease** in the number of enrollments (if any)
  - li) **degree of reputation** of the institution or program after international accreditation,
  - lii) **ranking of the institutions** ... etc.
- ✎ Work on these lines is underway.

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- ✎ AROQA can compile its own accreditation criteria, based on reputed internationally or regionally recognized agencies, such as to EUR-ACE [<http://www.enaee.eu>] which accredits engineering programs in European countries, and at the same time establish mutual recognition agreements with reputed accords, like Washington Accord [[http://www.washingaccord.org/washington\\_Accord](http://www.washingaccord.org/washington_Accord)] or any other similar Accord.

THANK YOU