# **IFAC Accountancy Education**

**IPAE** from a member point of view

Thorben Ehrlich Member of International Panel on Accountancy Education (IPAE) November 4, 2022





#### Landscape where I come from

- As the representative of the entire profession of auditors in Germany, Wirtschaftsprüferkammer (WPK) represents their professional interests towards the public and articulates these interests towards lawmakers, competent courts and other authorities.
- The Wirtschaftsprüferkammer (WPK) has been responsible for the examination procedure since 2004.
  WPK established an "Examination Unit for the Professional Examination at the Wirtschaftsprüferkammer" (Examination Unit). The unit acts autonomously. WPK's regional offices support the work of the unit.





#### Landscape where I come from

- Institute of Public Auditors in Germany, Incorporated Association (IDW) is a privately run organisation established to serve the interests of its members who comprise both individual German Public Auditors and German Public Audit firms.
- High focus on tax advisor degree with an additional PAO for taxation profession





#### Value of the panel for our profession

- Strategic advice, access to knowledge, and advocacy provided by the IPAE
- Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Framework to inform fit-for-future strategy
- Nominated by IFAC Members and Forum of Firms Members
  - Individuals well-suited to provide strategic advice, facilitate access, and advocate
  - Diverse in geographical representation; developed, emerging, and developing economies
  - Diverse in expertise and experience; representative of key stakeholders
- Interaction with board of PAO on a regular basis established to learn for the development of the audit & accounting profession



#### IES fit for purpose in Germany?

- The appointment as Wirtschaftsprüfer (auditor) requires the successful completion of an examination.
- PAO has concretised the content of the examination areas by break down the examination-relevant topic complexes and thus create transparency with regard to the examination material.
- It is to be understood as a recommendation for all those involved in the auditing examination and in auditor training (especially examination candidates, repetiteurs as well as task and examination committees).
- International Education Standards (IESs) express the benchmarks that IFAC member bodies are expected to meet in the preparation and continual development of professional accountants.
- They establish the essential elements of the content and process of education and development at a level that is aimed at gaining international recognition, acceptance and application



#### Value for accounting & audit education

- Heterogenous landscape of universities, business schools and universities of applied science on accounting degree programs
- Diverse programs with similar basic courses, but high variety of majors
- Curriculae of universities rely in many cases on IES principles
- IPAE thought leadership spread by professional organisations (WPK, IDW) in "professor round tables"





# Thank You!

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