



Strengthening Universities, Enhancing Capacities – Higher Education Management for Development Bonn, 28./29.11.2011

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DIES project 2008-2011

Project Title:

Initiation, Building-up and Improvement of International Cooperation Structures at the Institutes of Higher Education in India and Germany



Participants

Since 2008:

VIT University Vellore, India

Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

Since 2010:

VIT University Vellore, India

Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

Symbiosis International University, Pune, India

University of Madras, India

DIES Project



Why this project? (1)

- Today **internationalization is a key factor for success** in a more and more globalized market of higher education.
- A dense **network of international contacts will help universities:**
 - to keep up to date with the worldwide scientific community,
 - to have access to the latest scientific methods and findings both in research and teaching.
- To establish **better conditions on the teaching level.**
- Many Indian and German universities have expressed a keen interest in organizing mutual exchanges in teaching and research.

DIES Project



Why this project? (2)

- The **increasing worldwide competition** between the institutions of higher education to attract the best students and researchers, forces the institutions to develop well organized and well funded management and administrative structures.
- The capacity to initiate, build up and sustain international relationships depends on **available management skills and corresponding administrative structures**.
- There is a high demand to **establish and enhance central university facilities and administration in the field of internationalization**.



International Office

DIES Project

How this project developed, 1st phase VIT – LUH (08/09)

- The cooperation has started in November 2006, Dr. Birgit Barden, Director of International Office, Leibniz Universität Hannover, visited and discussed with top management of VIT University.
- From May 2007, LUH and VIT have become partners in exchange of students, cooperating in research projects and development of excellence centres in the fields of biotechnology, waste management, automotive engineering and e-learning.
- Both institutions are very keen to develop and improve international relations.
- To improve the cooperation both partners agreed in the project.



DIES Project

How this project developed, 2nd phase, VIT, LUH, SIU, UNoM (2010/2011)

New partners selected by VIT and LUH:

- partner universities,
- one private university, one state university



DIES Project

Main objective(s):

We are pursuing the **general goal** to improve the structural conditions for a further internationalization of all partner institutions of higher education participating in this project. To achieve the general goal of improved international capacities at all partner institutions of higher education we are focussing on the following **specific goals**.



DIES Project

Specific Goals:

1. To compare different IO-systems of the participating partners and to analyze the requirements for a coherent internationalization strategy at VIT.
2. To build up a system of education and training to qualify staff for international relations.
3. To launch a process of assessing, reforming, and rebuilding international management structures.
4. To establish a system of sustainability that builds on a permanent process of quality management and networking beyond the project duration.

DIES Project, 1st phase, VIT - LUH

Project Structure (2008 - 09)

- First meeting in April 08
- Inauguration workshop in July 08
- 4 Workshops and 4 training courses in 08 and 09, starting September 08.
- Workshops: strategic planning (internationalization strategy), structural planning of IRO
- Training courses: training for staff of IRO in e.g. how to deal with international students/outgoing students, how to establish international cooperation, intercultural communication, quality management, funding, etc.
- 1 Internship (4 weeks) for 2 staff members of VIT IRO



DIES Project, 2nd phase LUH, VIT, SIU, UNoM

Project Structure (2010 - 2011)

- Inauguration workshop in March 2010
- 12 Workshops and 3 Training Courses
- Workshops: needs assessment, internal cooperation, internal communication, reflection on tasks and structures of the International Offices
- Training Courses: research service and European funding possibilities, teaching and study programmes at German Universities, international marketing
- Review meeting - Phase 1 and 2 in November 2011
- 4 Internships (4 weeks) for 5 staff members (2 from VIT, 2 from SIU, 1 from UNoM)

What did we (LUH) learn? What did we achieve?



- ❖ intercultural communication skills
- ❖ to run a four years project on institutional building
- ❖ learned about Indian higher education system
- ❖ restructured our IO (regional coordinators)
- ❖ improvement of tasks distribution at the IO
- ❖ improved the cooperation with Indian partners, strengthened cooperation with partners (VIT, SIU) and new partner (UNoM)

What did we learn?

- ❖ Absolute support from head of the institution, should be involved from the first up to the last minute of the project
- ❖ Participating staff should be well selected, motivated, dedicated, willing to improve the structure
- ❖ Cooperating institutions learn from each other; looking for the individual way of improvement;
- ❖ Change in participating staff could happen, but should be handled
- ❖ Mediator who knows both cultures is very helpful

What we liked the most: Highlights – to name only a few



- To work with Indians: open minded, motivated, willing to improve the situation
- Intercultural communication training at VIT
- Internships at Leibniz Universität Hannover
- Moderation technique





Future (1)

❖ Sustainability:

- Project Core Group: regular meetings and communication (video conference), feedback, supporting each other
- Continuation of the project with new format
- To reach more Indian institutions of higher education

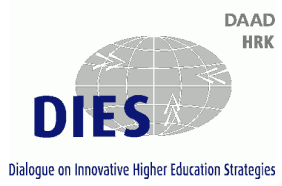




Future (2) Project, 3rd phase VIT, LUH, SIU, UNoM

2012 – 2013

- 4 workshops
- 4 training courses
- Internships at VIT, SIU, UNoM and LUH



Thank you!

தங்க யு
थंक यौ
धन्यवाद

Vielen Dank!