The HRK-Audit
“Internationalisation of Universities”
Aims and Benefits for Universities

Event: “Promoting the International Attractiveness of European Higher Education – German Perspectives and Strategies”
Brussels, 7 June 2011

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Universities in the Process of Globalisation

- Role of universities in the modern „knowledge society“: Higher education is the key for the individual and for society as a whole to balance the risks and opportunities of globalisation.

- Universities are not only „agents of change“, but also objects of globalisation.

- Only an internationalised university will be able to meet societal expectations, actively shape the globalisation process and guarantee its own competitiveness.
Internationalisation of Higher Education: the Transnational University

• **Holistic approach**: In all dimensions of its work and business, a university must perceive of itself as a creative part of a world higher education system.

• **Planned action**: A university must pursue internationalisation as an intended, systematic shift towards internationalised contents, methods, personnel and structures.

• **Professional management**: For the university’s executive board internationalisation is to be understood as a strategic task.
Internationalisation in Practice: Motives and Approaches

Internationalisation

• is context-dependent: there is no “one size fits all”-solution

• has to account for all relevant institutional and external factors: a “tailor-made” internationalisation strategy is required

• is not an end in itself: it needs to be pursued goal-oriented and with a focus on quality enhancement
The HRK-Audit: What does it offer?

⇒ Independent consulting service supporting German universities in developing and implementing an individual international profile

The HRK-Audit offers:

- Identification of the **status quo** of internationalisation
- Support for the identification of the institution’s **goals**, or the further development of already defined goals
- Assistance for the (further) development of an **internationalisation strategy**
- Recommendation of **instruments** for implementing the strategy
The HRK-Audit: How does it work?

• Exercise for self-improvement, combining elements of **self-reflexion** with **external consultancy**

• **Individualised approach**, based on the actual needs

• **Holistic perspective**, comprising all fields of international activity

• **Milestones** of the Audit process (about 10 months in total):
  • self-evaluation report of the university
  • site visit/peer-review at the university

• A team of **independent experts with outstanding expertise** conducts the consultancy and formulates recommendations
Findings from the Pilot Phase 2009/2010
Feedback from participating institutions

Do the recommendations support the process of internationalisation of the HEIs?

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Would you recommend the Audit to other HEIs?

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“The external perspective was particularly valuable: The experts addressed aspects of internationalisation that were not taken into consideration by the university.”
Participating Universities 2009 - 2011

- U Hamburg
- FH Kiel
- U Rostock
- FH Magdeburg-Stendal
- HU Berlin
- BTU Cottbus
- TU Berlin
- U Bielefeld
- FH Dortmund
- U Bremen
- U Göttingen
- U Erfurt
- FH Magdeburg-Stendal
- U Göttingen
- FH Gießen
- FH Darmstadt
- FH Mainz
- HS Mannheim
- FH Saarbrücken
- HS München
- FH Augsburg
- FH Reutlingen
- PH Heidelberg
- KIT
- U Konstanz
- HS Mannheim
- HS Mannheim
- U Erlangen-Nürnberg
- U Konstanz
- FH Saarbrücken
- FH Dortmund
- FH Kiel
- U Bremen
- U Hamburg
The HRK-Audit: What’s next?

- **50 audits** until the end of 2013
- Further development of the concept:
  - Re-Audit
  - Quality certification
Thank you!

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