

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Joint DIES-Seminar of German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU):

#### International Academic Cooperation in Humanities and Social Sciences: Enhancing Internationalisation and Managing Partnerships between Universities in Germany and Iran

Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, 3/4 July 2017

#### Background

During the course of advancing globalisation, the international dimension of universities' work has not only gained in importance, but has also experienced major changes. In the globalisation process, universities are expected to be "agents of change", while they are in turn influenced by global economic, social, and political developments. They are embedded in complex interrelationships that each university, due to their unique characteristics, experiences differently. These diverse interactions, within their regional, national, and international contexts, present risks for universities, but also opportunities. Only an internationalised university can take an active role in the globalisation process and maintain its competitiveness.

One crucial field of internationalisation are international relations and international partnerships. But how should internationalisation strategies be developed and implemented? How can universities be enabled to establish sustainable internationalisation structures and processes, and thus to anchor internationalisation firmly within the institution? How are university partnerships managed?

The DIES-Seminar tries to find some answers to these questions.

#### Objectives

- Take stock of cooperation in higher education between Germany and Iran
- Sharing experiences on implementation of internationalisation strategies in Germany and Iran
- Identify potentials and obstacles for improving university partnerships
- Foster and support opportunities for further strategic cooperation

#### Target Group

- German and Iranian university leadership
- Heads of international offices of German and Iranian universities
- Regional experts in internationalisation of higher education

#### Logistics

- **Venue:** Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU), Tehran
- **Organisers:** HRK and ATU with support of IC-DAAD Tehran
- **Language** of the Seminar: English

DIES-Seminars support explicitly national initiatives for the improvement of quality assurance systems and create a forum in order to discuss the consequences of the Bologna process. The scope of themes is broad, including topics such as evaluation, accreditation, compatibility of study programme structures and diplomas

or international mobility and exchange. The didactic approach behind this compact information tender lies in promoting the exchange between experts and policy makers, in addressing not only representatives at University level but especially at ministerial level. Practically, the programme uniquely combines lectures of well-known international and national experts with numerous practice oriented activities.

**DIES** stands for "**Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies**". DIES supports higher education institutions in developing countries to develop strategies, which improve the university management as well as the quality and relevance of study programmes. The DIES Programme is jointly conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).

### **German Rectors' Conference (HRK)**

The German Rectors' Conference is the voluntary association of state and state-recognised universities in Germany. It currently has 268 member institutions at which more than 96 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled. The HRK is the political and public voice of the universities and the forum for the higher education institutions' joint opinion-forming process.

### **Allameh Tabataba'i University (ATU)**

Allameh Tabataba'i University was established in 1984 as a result of merging 24 independent colleges and universities, the oldest one being founded in 1957. ATU is named after a great Iranian contemporary philosopher, the late Mohammad Hossein Tabataba'i. Specialized in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Media Sciences, ATU offers academic courses at all levels. Being the largest Iranian public university specialized in Humanities, ATU is under the supervision of the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and is well-known for its academic and research activities as well as regional and international relations.

### **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is the largest funding organization in the world supporting the international exchange of students and scholars. Apart from awarding grants and scholarships, the DAAD supports the internationalisation of German universities, promotes German studies and the German language abroad, assists developing countries in establishing effective universities and advises decision makers on matters of cultural, education and development policy.