German-Jordanian Partnerships as Part of Strategic Internationalisation at BTU Cottbus

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DIES Seminar Amman/ Jordan
13th of November 2012
Discussion Panel: How to Manage University Partnerships?
OUTLINE

1. BTU Cottbus at a Glance
2. Strategic Institutional Approach Towards Internationalisation
3. German-Jordanian Partnerships
4. Outlook – Opportunities and Challenges
01. BTU at a Glance

foundation: 15 july 1991 · 6,844 students, including 1,190 international students from 93 countries · 119 professorships · 594 scientific staff (313 externally funded) · 566 non-scientific staff, (51 externally funded)
University Budget 2011 (including reinforcement of staff funds): 51.8 million €
external Funding 2011: 34.0 million €

FACULTIES

- Faculty 1 – Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Faculty 2 – Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning
- Faculty 3 – Mechanical, Electrical and Industrial Engineering
- Faculty 4 – Environmental Sciences and Process Engineering

THE CAMPUS
Total campus area: approx. 300,000 m² · Main working space: approx. 82,000 m²
Scientific research at BTU is strategically concentrating on five focal areas: Environment, Energy, Materials, Building, as well as Information and Communication Technology. These five areas of academic focus constitute, however, only one component of BTU’s overall research activities, in which more than one hundred university Chairs are actively involved.

FOCAL AREAS

- Environment
- Building
- Energy
- Materials
- Information and Communication Technology

Nature’s secrets revealed: BTU has the lead in the German Research Foundation (DFG) collaborative special research programme Transregio 38, which explores the origins of ecosystems. BTU has its own six-hectare openair laboratory on a section of the former open cast mine Welzow-Süd.
The University maintains scientific co-operation with around 145 universities across the world, whilst fostering student and academic exchanges with over 110 partner universities.

- In charge of contract management: International Office
- All institutional agreements signed by the President (no faculty agreements)
- Precondition to start new agreement: at least two 2 BTU professors involved
01. BTU at a Glance

High Share of International Students
• 17.4 % of our student population come from abroad
• Main countries of origin: China, Poland, India, and Russian Federation

9 International Study Programmes
• First BSc in Environmental and Resource Management 1998
• Innovative Programmes: Environmental and Resource Management, World Heritage Studies, Forensic Sciences and Engineering
• 33% of international students

Internationalisation of Teaching
• 2008 internationalisation strategy
• 2010 participation in the HRK-internationalisation audit
• 2011 catalogue of measures/ ERASMUS monitoring
BTU has an internationalisation strategy since 2008.
02. Strategic Institutional Approach towards Internationalisation

HRK Audit „Internationalisation of HEI“

Scope of Service
- Service offered by the German Rectors’ Conference for its member institutions
- Aim: to help HEIs in developing and improving their internationalisation strategy
- Individual approach

BTU Participation 2010-2013
- Participated as one of six HEIs in a pilot stage
- From July 2012 onwards: participation as one of five HEIs in the re-audit internationalisation
02. Strategic Institutional Approach Towards Internationalisation

Structural Changes upon HRK Audit 2010

International Office → President → Board of International Affairs

Faculties ≫ Dep. Research ≫ Int. Office

BIS ≫ Language Center

advice + support → advice → send
02. Strategic Institutional Approach towards Internationalisation

- Six Objectives/ more than 30 measures
- Senate Decision to be expected 12/2012
The MENA Region is one of the selected geographical region in BTU's internationalisation strategy.
University Partnerships in the MENA Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Since</th>
<th>Area of Cooperation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Cairo University</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Helwan University Cairo</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Heritage Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>University of Aleppo</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Architecture, Urban Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>WIU Wadi International University</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Architecture, Dual Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>University of Damascus</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Architecture, Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>German Jordanian University</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Student Exchange (ERM), Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>University of Jordan, Amman</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Yarmouk University Irbid</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
03. German-Jordanian Partnerships

Example of a project with Yarmouk University Irbid

Topic: „Establishing a Teaching Center for Cultural Heritage in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan“

Coordinators: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. (NMU Dnepropetrovsk) Michael Schmidt, Chair for Environmental Planning and Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Process Engineering, Prof. Ziad Al-Saad, Yarmouk University

Institutional Partners: Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus, Yarmouk University Irbid, UNESCO World Heritage Center Paris

Funding: 2003-2006 TEMPUS

Source: http://www.erm.tu-cottbus.de/tempus/activities.html
Cultural Heritage Management Cooperation

Aim of the Project: „Establishing a Teaching Center for Cultural Heritage in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan“

1. Establishment of an MA programme Cultural Resource Management at Yarmouk University
2. Training courses for heritage professionals
3. Develop teaching modules in cultural heritage management for schools
4. Preparation of a conservation and management plan for the site of Abila
5. Preparation of guidelines for an integrated concept for archaeological and natural sciences

Source: http://www.erm.tu-cottbus.de/tempus/photo/Thumbnails.html
03. German-Jordanian Partnerships

GJU – BTU Example of Student Exchange

|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
Cooperation between Jordanian and German partners

**Opportunities**

- Good funding situation allows start of new initiatives
- Improved management structures
- Highly-appreciated senior partner in regional (MENA) network projects
- Safe environment
- Academic level/ foreign language competency
- Attractive destination for BTU students

**Challenges**

- Personalised approach → continuity less embedded into structures
- Hierarchical Approach
- Sustainability of third-party funded projects after funding period
- Political stability – funding rather available for more instable countries
- Market cycle/ presence of funding institutions
- Student Exchange: attractiveness for Jordanian students?
Thank you very much for your attention!

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