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Current Higher Education Policy Reform in Germany

HRK – KCUE Higher Education Policy Forum

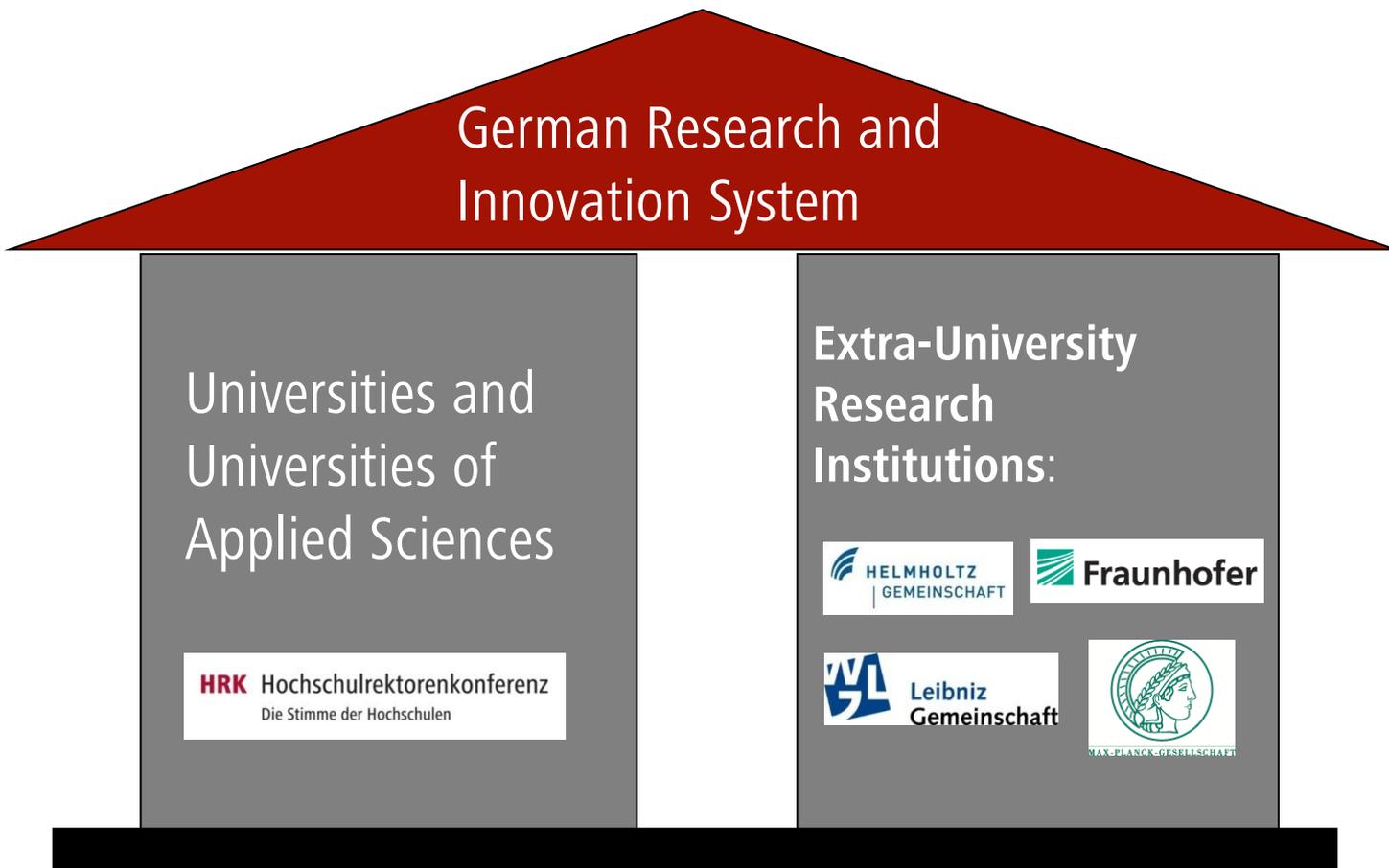
Bonn, 4 July 2013

Professor Dr Horst Hippler

President, German Rectors' Conference

The German Research and Innovation System

University Research and Extra-University Research as the Pillars of the German Research System



The German Higher Education System

393 Universities in Germany



110 Universities

226 Universities
of Applied
Sciences

57 Colleges of
Art and Music

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2.5 million

students

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490,000

university entrants

Students and Staff

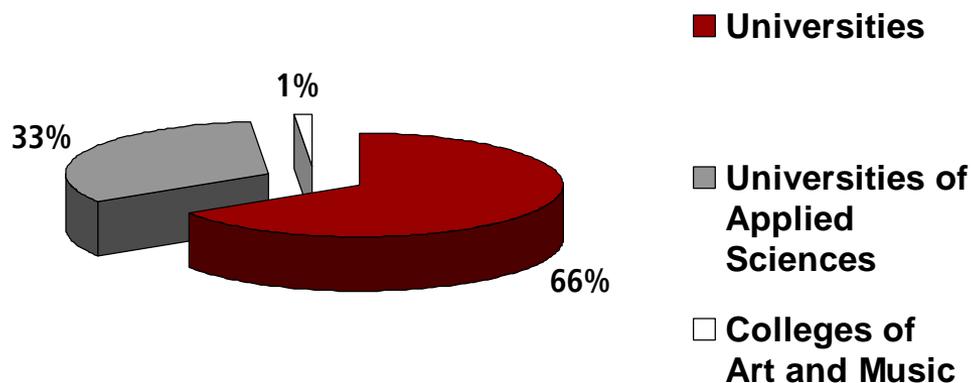
- **2.5 million students**

thereof 490,000 new university entrants (= 54.7% of first-year students among the same age population), thereof 252,000 international students (= 11,3 % of student population)

- **27,000 completed doctorates**

- **619,000 academic staff in total**, thereof 337,000 academic, research and artistic staff (including 43,000 full professors)

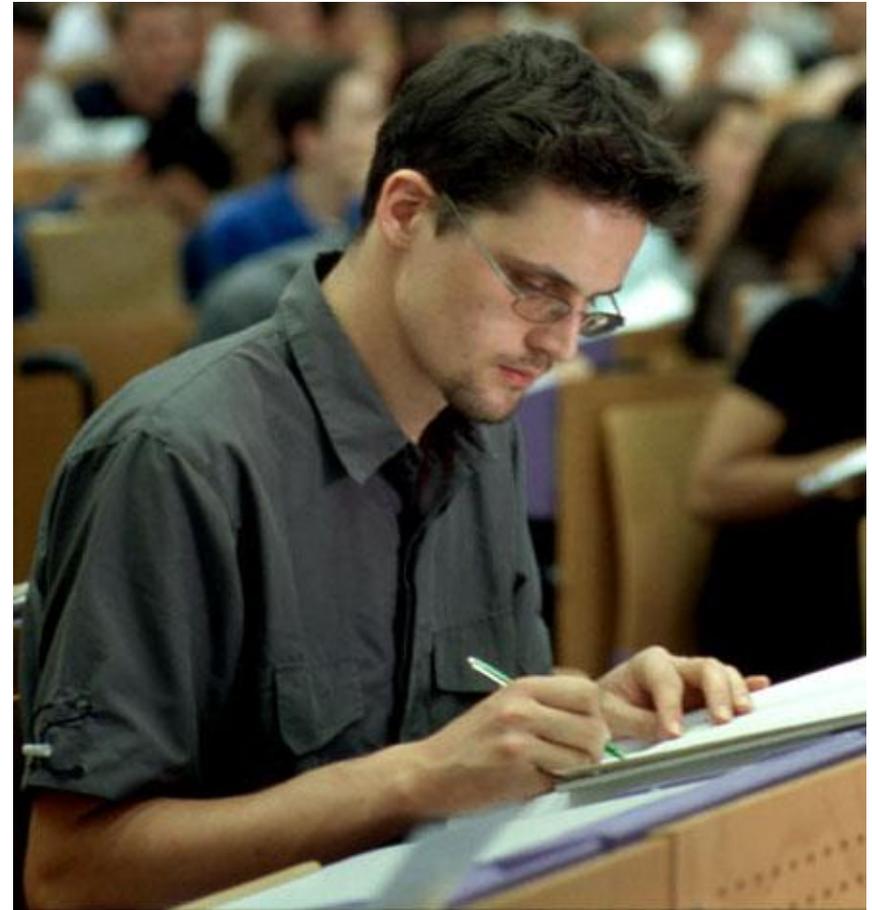
Source: Federal Statistical Office



Member Institutions

The **German Rectors' Conference** is the voluntary association of state and state-recognized universities and other higher education institutions in Germany.

The HRK currently has **268 member institutions** which account for 96 per cent of matriculated students in Germany.



Mission

The HRK is the political and public **voice of the universities** and provides a forum for the process of forming joint policies and practices.

- **Agenda setting** and **advocacy** at national and international level
- **Service provision** for member institutions

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1.2%

government spending: 1.2 % of GDP

Government Expenditure on Education and R&D

- Expenditure on **higher education** („tertiary sector“ acc. to OECD)
1.3 % of GDP (2009)
in comparison: 1.6 % OECD average
- Expenditure **on research and development**
2.82 % of GDP (2009)
in comparison: 2.4 % OECD weighted average



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance and Main Science and Technology Indicators

The German Higher Education and Research System

Legal Framework:

Federal government
and state
governments

Core funding

provided by state
governments

Research funding

provided by federal
government, but also
by EU and industry



Challenges

- **Increasing demand for higher education:** With the Higher Education Pact 2020 Federal and state governments are investing additional funds in the expansion of study opportunities. However, according to HRK estimate the funds will not be sufficient.
- **Insufficient core funding:** Core funding has in real terms hardly increased since the 1990s, third-party funding has more than doubled. Third-party funds cannot compensate for lack in core funding
- **HRK calls for a change to the Basic Law** allowing the Federal Government to extend basic financing for universities directly and on a long-term basis as some federal states are unable to meet their obligations.

Universities as the Core of the Research and Innovation System

- Universities are at the **heart of our research systems**, supporting excellence in individuals and in structures.
- Universities in Germany spend **more than € 12.7 billion** yearly on **R&D**, 1.4 billion of which are from industry.



University Profiles are Changing

There is increasing pressure on German universities

- to specify their mission and sharpen their profile as result of competition for “brains” and funds
→ **horizontal diversity**
- to enhance their academic performance and reputation as a result of performance-based funding, rankings, etc.
→ **vertical diversity**



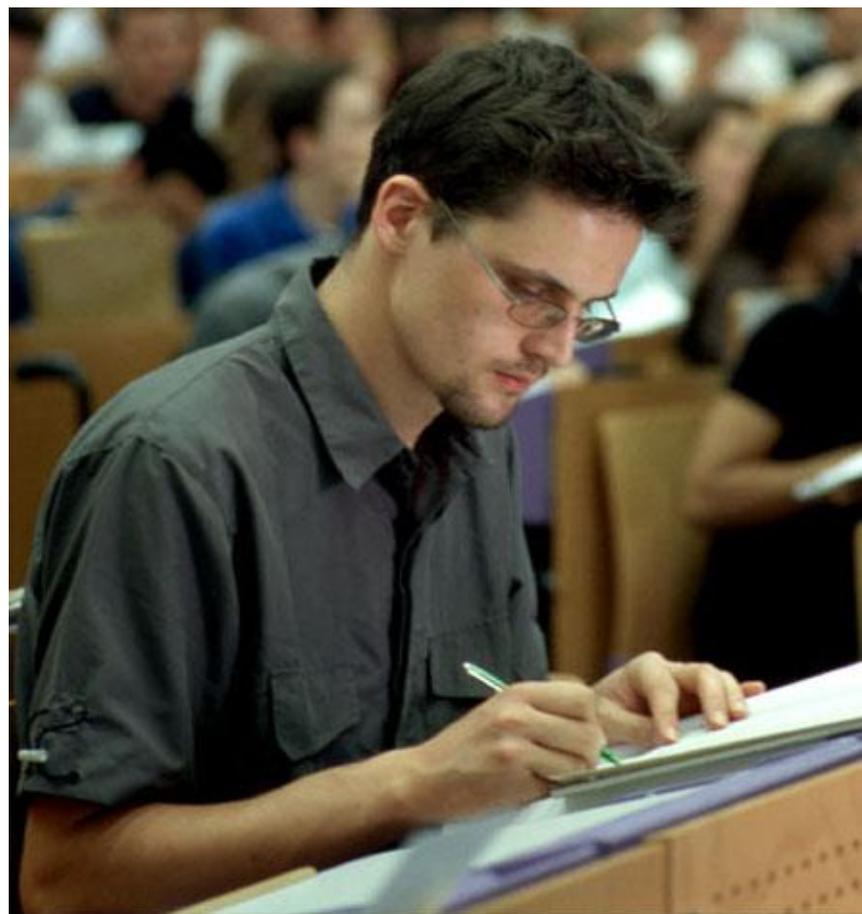
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16,678

degree programmes

Ongoing Reform Process in Teaching and Learning

- Debate about the **quality of teaching**, often linked to debate about the **Bologna reform**
- Governmental funding programme „**Quality Pact for Teaching**“ (based on HRK's recommendations)
- Recently, focus on **teacher education**
- Discussion on the future of „**Bildung**“ and **personality development**



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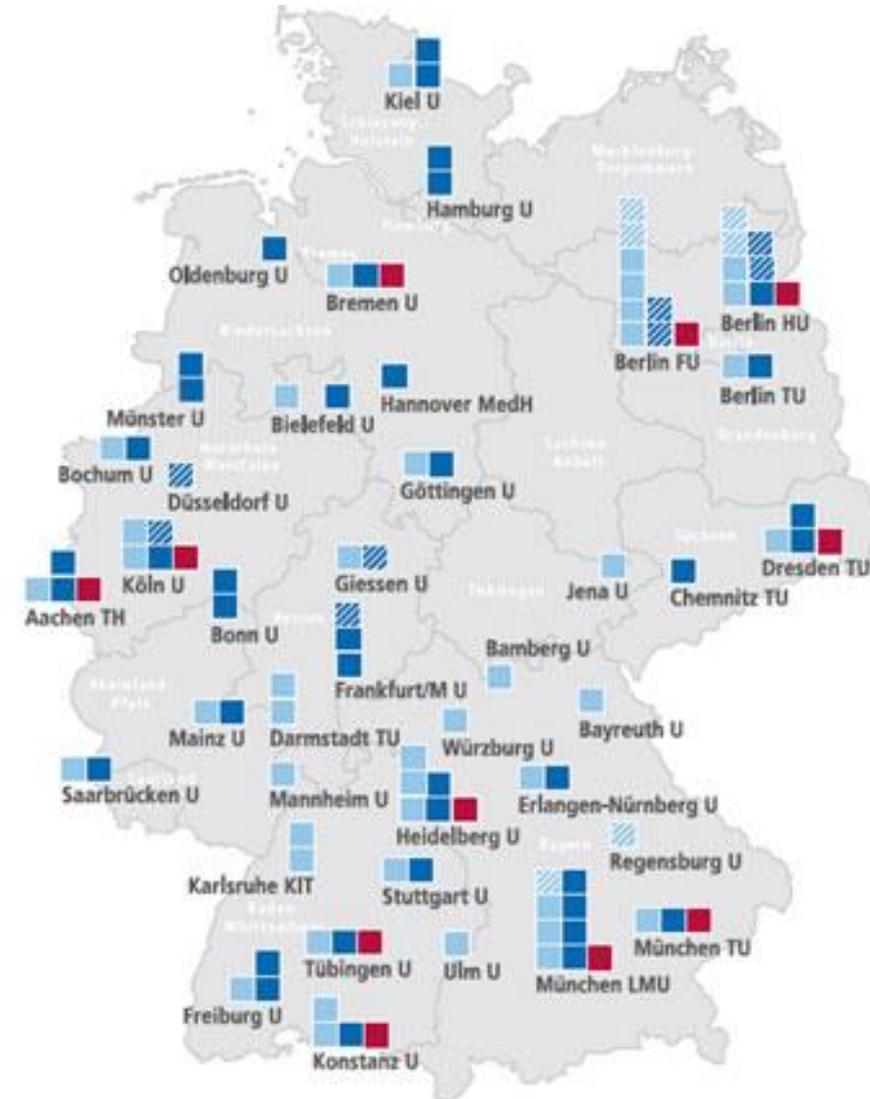
A rocket is shown launching into space, viewed from a low angle. The rocket is white with blue and red accents. It is emitting a large, bright plume of fire and smoke that fills the lower left portion of the frame. The background is a dark blue space with small white stars.

€ 11 billion

expenditure on research and development

The Excellence Initiative

- Aims to promote top-level research at German universities
- 44 participating universities
- Roughly € 4.6 billion (2006 - 2017)
- Three lines of funding:
 - Graduate schools to promote young researchers
 - Excellence clusters to promote world-class research
 - Plans for advancing top-level university research



Source: DFG



HRK Research Map

- **329 key research priorities** of German universities in a standardised format as an interactive database
- Universities inform a broad international audience about their research priorities in laymen's terms
- **Up to eight research priorities** per university (with at least 25 professorships)
- Research map for **universities of applied sciences** to follow



www.researchmap.de

Good Scientific Practice at Universities

- Recommendation of the HRK General Meeting in May 2013
- Emphasizing the **responsibility of universities** whilst also considering the **needs and traditions of academic subjects**
- Core elements:
 - Establishment of an **Ombudsman system** at universities
 - Assuring quality in promoting **early career researchers**
 - fair handling of **intellectual property** and **scientific data**
 - **performance evaluations** and the **quality of assessments**

Towards a European Research Area

- Created in 2009 as consequence of the **Lisbon Treaty**
- **Goal:**
 - A European “internal market” for research, where researchers, technology and knowledge can freely circulate
 - Enhanced research cooperation with other world regions
 - Enhanced cooperation between universities and industry
- **Rationale:**

“Partnership approach”: growing integration of national research policies (national and EU level)

→ Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

Future Development of the Research System

- Recommendations of German Science Council exp. for July 2013
- HRK demands:
 - Enhanced **cooperation between federal and state governments** (currently prohibited by law)
 - **Follow-up financing** for the excellence initiative (lines „graduate schools“ and „excellence clusters“ only)
 - **Full costing** for third-party research funding
 - Step-up of the **higher education pact 2020**
 - Development of **funding and organisational mechanisms** that **balance the different actors** within the system

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250,000



international students

Increasing student mobility

- Germany has become a „**global player**“ in transnational education.
- The number of **international students** has risen to **252,000** in 2011 (11.3% of all students). The largest cohorts come from China, the Russian Federation, Bulgaria, Poland and Austria.
- At the same time, the number of **mobile German students** has risen to **115,000** in 2009. The most popular destinations are Austria, the Netherlands, the UK, Switzerland, the US, France and China.

Increasingly strategic approach

- The German universities perceive of themselves as **transnational actors** within a developing **world higher education system**.
- They maintain **20,000 partnerships** with universities worldwide. Currently **295 cooperative linkages** exist with universities in South Korea.
- Most German universities have developed or are currently in the process of formulating an institutional **internationalisation strategy**.
- **Political support** for internationalisation is high, especially at the federal level (policy support and financial incentives).

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감사합니다
Vielen Dank!

