Current Higher Education Policy Reform in Germany

HRK – KCUE Higher Education Policy Forum
Bonn, 4 July 2013
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The German Research and Innovation System

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

The German Research and Innovation System

Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences

Extra-University Research Institutions:
- Helmholtz Gemeinschaft
- Fraunhofer
- Leibniz Gemeinschaft
- max-planck-gesellschaft
The German Higher Education System

393 Universities in Germany

110 Universities
226 Universities of Applied Sciences
57 Colleges of Art and Music
HRK

2.5 million students
490,000 university entrants
The German Higher Education System

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
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.
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
government spending: 1.2 % of GDP
The German Higher Education and Research System

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
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
HRK

€ 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
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).
감사합니다
Vielen Dank!