



HRK

Current Higher Education and Research Policy Issues in Germany

German-Taiwanese Higher Education
Policy Forum 2016

Berlin, 28/29 November 2016

Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler
German Rectors' Conference

Structure of the Presentation

- **The German University System & the HRK**
- **Current Issues I:** Higher Education in High Demand
- **Current Issues II:** Sharpening of Institutional Mission & Profile
- **Current Issues III:** Enhanced Interconnectedness between University Research & Extra-University Research
- **Current Issues IV:** Increasingly Strategic Approach in Internationalisation

The German University System

Legal Framework:
Federal government
and state
governments

Core funding
provided by state
governments

Research funding
predominantly
provided by federal
government, but also
by EU and industry



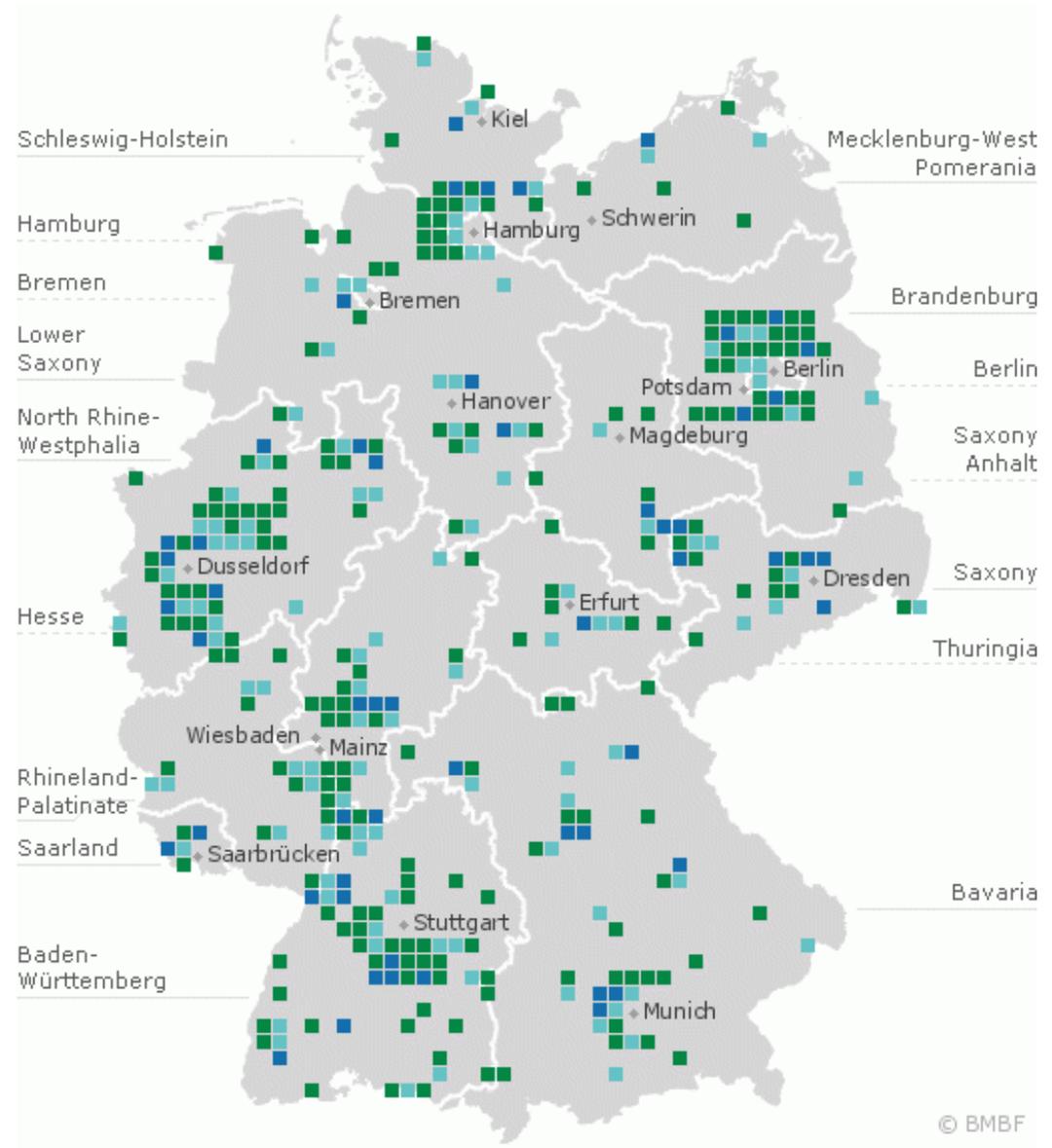
The German Rectors' Conference

Member Institutions

The **German Rectors' Conference** is the **association** of state and state-recognized universities in Germany.

The HRK currently has **268 member institutions** which account for **94 per cent of matriculated students** in Germany.

- 102 Universities
- 121 Univ. of Applied Sciences
- 45 Colleges of Art and Music



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

HRK Resolutions and Recommendations (selected)

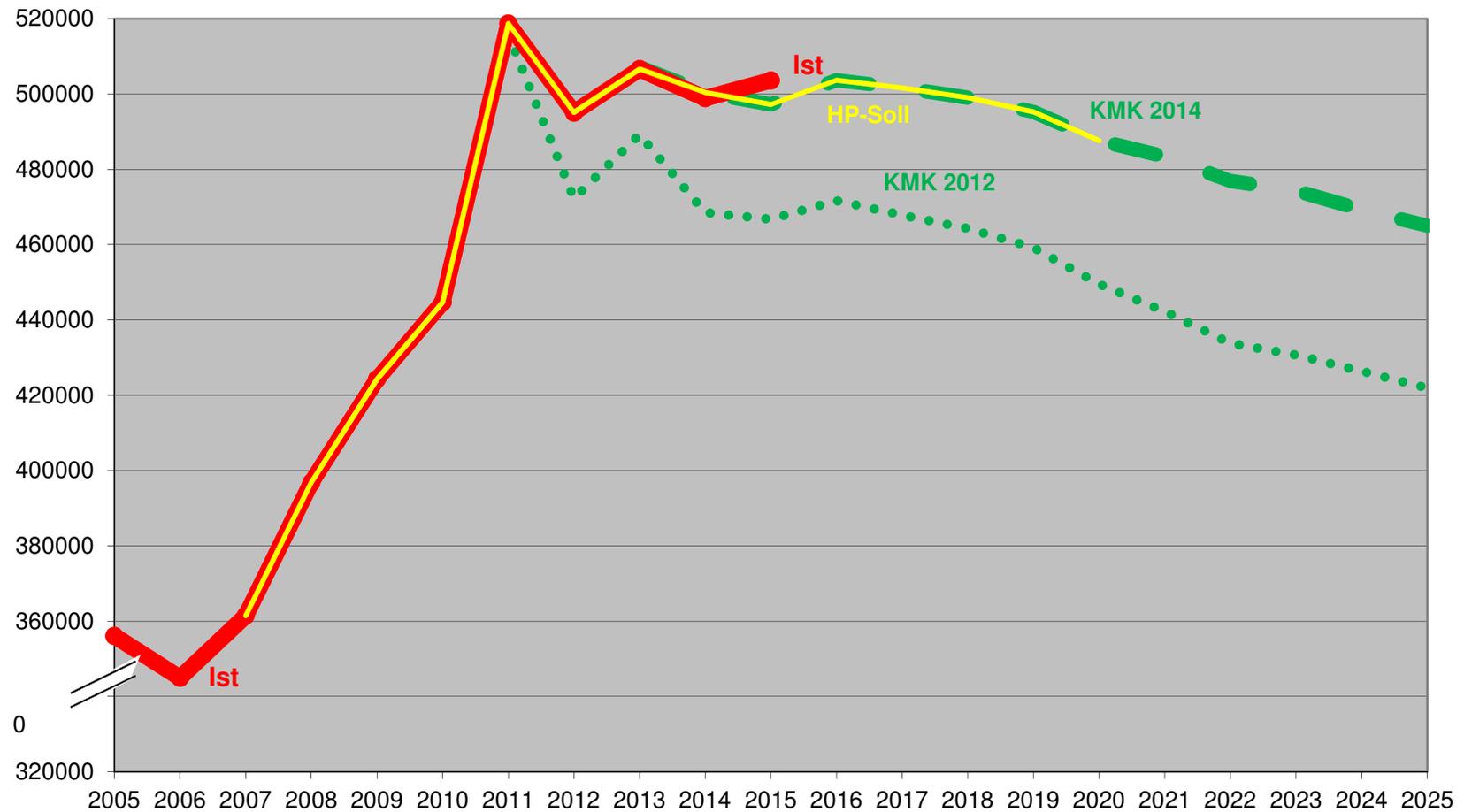
- „On Studying Part-Time“ (2016)
- „Creating a European Education, Research and Innovation Community“ (2016)
- “On the Further Development of the Accreditation System” (2016)
- “On Continuing the Excellence Initiative” (2015)
- “European Study Reform” (2015)
- “Managing Cooperative Doctoral Degree Programmes” (2015)
- “Franchising Models in Medicine and Medical Schools” (2015)
- “On Basic and Project Funding for the Universities” (2014)
- “MOOCs in the Context of Digital Teaching” (2014)
- “Recommendations on Teacher Education” (2013)

Current Issues I: Higher Education in High Demand

- **Increasing demand for higher education:** In the framework of various funding schemes („Higher Education Pacts“) Federal and state governments are investing additional funds in the expansion of study opportunities.
- **Change of the Basic Law as a „window of opportunity“ for the universities:** A recent change to the Basic Law now allows the Federal Government (again) to extend basic financing for universities directly and on a long-term basis.
- **Nevertheless: 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.

Current Issues I: Higher Education in High Demand

University Entrants: KMK Forecast, HEP Set and Actual Performance



Current Issues II: Sharpening of Institutional Mission & Profile

Growing **institutional autonomy** and the increasing establishment of **competitive structures** lead to a permanent process of **profile building** and **differentiation** in the national university sector.



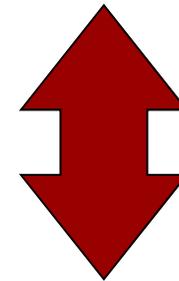
Heike Zappe CC BY-SA 3.0



Hallmark of the German University System: A Sound Balance between Excellence and Diversity

„Academic and Competitive Agenda“

- Develop and support strong researchers/ fields/ departments
- Become internationally visible



„Academic and Social Agenda“

- Maintain and develop high level of research and teaching across wide range of subjects/ areas/ departments
- Cater for the needs of internal and external stakeholders (students, community, society as a whole)

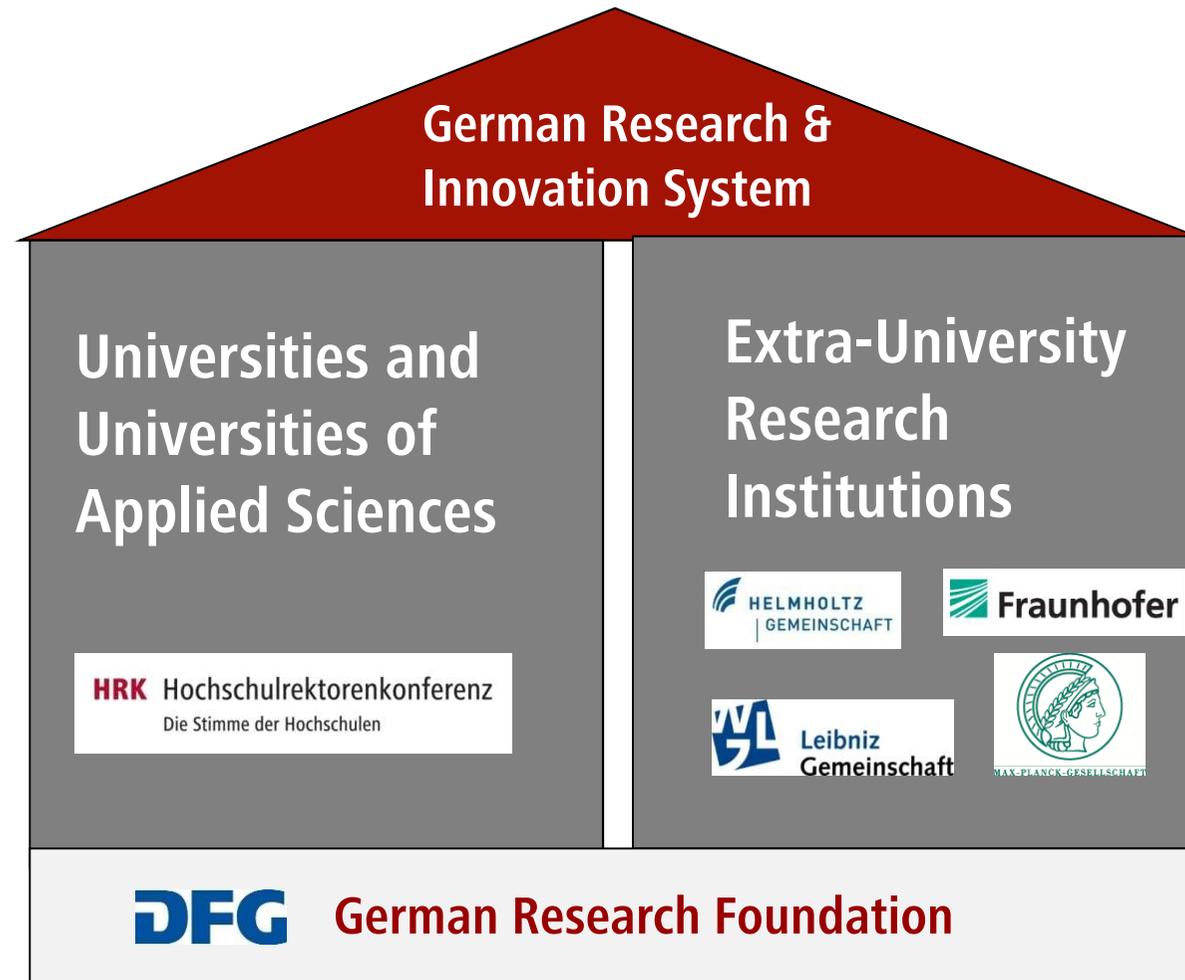
HRK Research Map

- Universities inform a broad international audience about their **research priorities** (interactive database)
- **344 key research priorities** of German **universities**; up to eight research priorities per university (with at least **25 professorships** each)
- Parallel research map for **universities of applied sciences** was launched in 2014: **153 key research priorities**



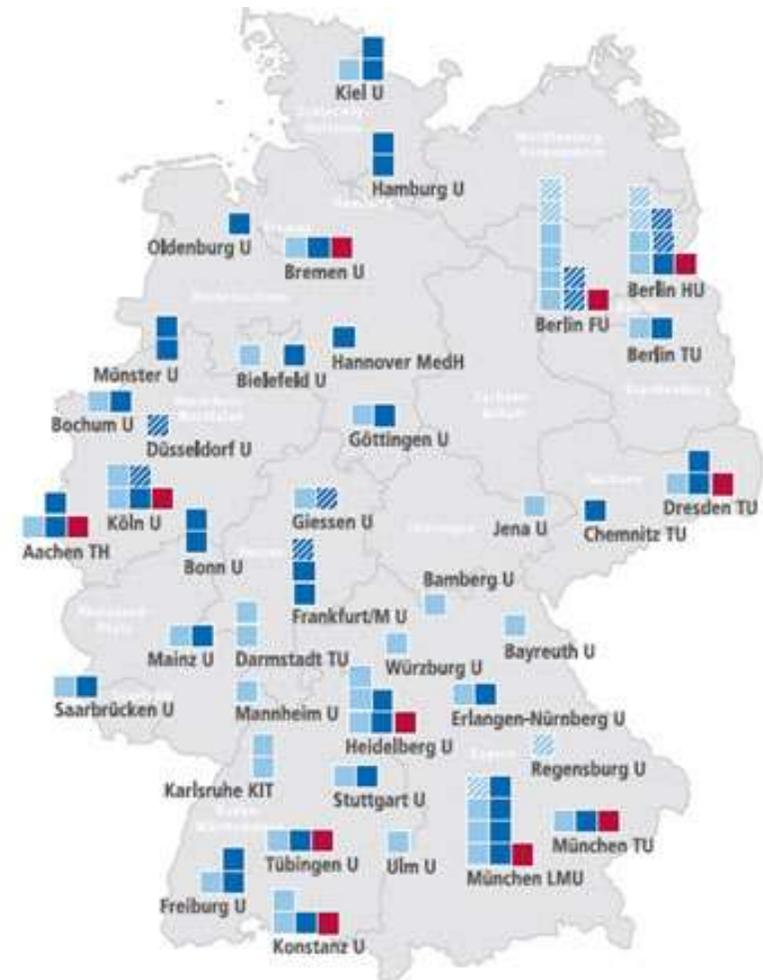
www.researchmap.de

Current Issues III: Enhanced Interconnectedness between University Research & Extra-University Research



Promoting Top-Level Research: the Excellence Initiative

- **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



Ensuring Sustainability in Promoting Top-Level Research: the Excellence Strategy

- Starting from **2019**
- **€ 5.3 billion** for ten years, to be continued afterwards
- Funding for **45 – 50 excellence clusters** and a **limited number of excellence universities** or **university consortia**
- **Allocation of funds:** excellence clusters (€ 3 – 10 m p. a.) and excellence universities / university consortia (€ 10 – 15 m p. a.)
- Successful application for **two clusters of excellence** is a **prerequisite** for an application as a university of excellence.
- The **general goals** and the **basic structure** of programme are welcomed by the **HRK**.

From Basic Research to Development and Application

In 2014 German universities spent more than **€ 14.9 billion** on **research and development**:

- Third-party funded R& D accounted for **€ 7.4 bn** (2014).
Thereof, third-party funding for R & D by business/industry amounted to **18.9 %**.
- The **universities** are the preferred partner for business – science collaboration in Germany (3/4 of collaborative activities). In this respect, German universities hold a **top position worldwide** (Source: OECD 2016).

Current Issues IV: Driving Internationalisation

- Germany has become a „**global player**“ in transnational education. It is the **third most popular host country** for internationally mobile students worldwide (third only to the US and the UK, thus the No. 1 non-English speaking country).
- The number of **international students** has risen to **322,000** in 2015 (11.9% of all students; TOP 5 sending countries*: China, India, Russian Federation, Austria and France). Roughly **25,000 students** study in German higher education projects abroad.
- At the same time, the number of **mobile German students** has risen to **134,500** in 2013 (Top 5 destinations: A, NL, CH, GB and the US).

Increasingly strategic approach to internationalisation

- The German universities perceive of themselves as **transnational actors** within a **world higher education system**. They maintain **34,000 partnerships** with over **5,000 partner universities** worldwide.
- Most German universities have developed or are currently in the process of formulating an institutional **internationalisation strategy**.
- Also, importance of „**internationalisation@home**“ as opportunity for international and intercultural learning on campus is growing.



Summing Up: Universities as the core of the national research & innovation system

The universities' mandate in

- **teaching & learning**
- **research & innovation** and the
- **training of early career researchers**

makes them function as **crystallisation points** of the national research and innovation system.

HRK

Vielen Dank!
Thank you!

謝謝

