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HRK President says BMBF initiative encourages the right approach

The President of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) has applauded the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) for "encouraging the right approach" with its initiative "Starke Fachhochschulen - Impuls für die Region" ("Strong universities of applied sciences – Impetus for the region").

Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler said, "This new initiative, which was launched today, highlights the significance of the research carried out at universities of applied sciences for the regions. The universities of applied sciences are particularly important partners for the regional economy. I am pleased to see the Federal Government using this new funding programme to acknowledge this role and foster its development.

Partnerships of this nature can advance an entire region, paving the way from findings of research to innovative products and business services. This creates jobs, strengthens the economy and in turn has an impact on the students and on the practical relevance of their studies.

Small and medium-sized companies in particular still need incentives to investigate the potential offered by collaboration with university research and to create the infrastructure they need to do this. The BMBF initiative is the perfect approach. I have no doubt that the funding will attract many interesting applications."