



hochschulforum
digitalisierung

Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation: starting signal for "The Digital Turn" theme week

Digitalisation is penetrating all social spheres as well as the realms of education and science. With this in mind, the Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation is inviting guests to a theme week entitled "The Digital Turn", which takes place between 4 and 11 September. Over 1,000 participants will discuss the potential for digitalisation in teaching at various events.

Berlin, 4 September 2015. "The Digital Turn" will present innovative and practical examples of digital media in higher education and put forward recommendations for action to ensure the future viability of the German higher education system.

"The theme week will bring digitalisation in higher education to the attention of universities and politicians. Renowned national and international experts will also be invited to Berlin for the open exchange," said Volker Meyer-Guckel, Deputy Secretary-General of the Stifterverband. "With 'The Digital Turn', the Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation is offering a special opportunity to discuss the challenges facing the German higher education system and demonstrating specific methods for making the most of the opportunities and potential that digitalisation can offer universities."

EduCamp is the pre-conference prelude taking place from 4 to 6 September 2015. The focus here is on using media in education in schools, universities and businesses. An unusual element of this event is the BarCamp format: there is no fixed programme and all participants can contribute with proposals for talks, discussions or workshops, and thus make an active contribution to organising the conference.

The pinnacle of the themed week is the half-time conference entitled **The Digital Turn - Universities in a Transformation Process** on 9 September. The experts at the Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation will present their results from the six workgroups after the first year and a half of their work and take stock in a position paper. The potential for and challenges of digitalisation for academic teaching, university development and the necessary political framework conditions will be summarised for the first time in this paper. Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, will give a keynote speech at the conference.

"The Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation also sees itself as a partner of politics," said Jörg Dräger from the Centre for Higher Education (CHE). "Our experts' analyses and recommendations form the basis for a dialogue on specific political measures in federal and state governments."

The themed week is being organised by the Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation and its partners, i.e. universities, companies, state initiatives and politicians. More than 1,000 participants will spend a week discussing relevant topics at six different events with more than 60 experts in the fields of science, politics, the economy and civil society. You can find in-depth information about the theme week's programme here (available in German only): www.hochschulforumdigitalisierung.de/digital-turn. All live streams of events will also be broadcast on this website.

"The dynamics of digitalisation cover all areas of social life and challenge all levels of our higher education system. This has also been confirmed by the great interest shown in the themed week. Our task now is to set the right course for the future of higher education. It is this premise that is the theme for the week," explained Joachim Metzner, a delegate of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) in the Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation.

The Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation is a joint initiative by the Stifterverband, the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). It is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Split into six themes, approximately 70 experts are working on pressing questions concerning digitalisation in university teaching.

You can find more information on the Higher Education Forum on Digitalisation here (available in German only):

www.hochschulforumdigitalisierung.de

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