

## **Current developments in higher education in Germany**

**Polish-Ukrainian-German Rectors' Meeting**

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# Structure – Legal Framework

The **16 Federal States** (*Laender*) of the Federal Republic are constitutionally responsible for education and culture ('competitive federalism') within a framework of federal legislation.

The Federal States have to provide core funding of the universities.

No sustainable funding by the **Federal Government** is allowed by the German Constitution by now. Only funding via projects is possible.



# Types of higher education institutions

## Altogether **391 higher education institutions**

- 238 state-controlled institutions
- 153 private-controlled institutions (6,5% of total students' population)  
of which are
  - 40 church-controlled
  - 113 private-controlled

## Types

- 110 Universities and Technical Universities (incl. Teacher Education Universities, Seminars of Theology, ...) – 67 per cent of students population
- 224 Universities of Applied Sciences ((Fach-)Hochschulen) – 32 per cent of students population
- 57 Academies of Art and Music – 1 per cent of student population

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

Source: Higher Education Compass

# Higher Education Institutions: Student Numbers

**2.7 million students in November 2014 – another all time high after 2.6 million students in November 2013**

- 500,000 first-year students (Autumn 2014)  
(currently almost 50% of an age-group start education in HE-sector)
- forecast 2015 - 2020:
  - plateau of about 0.5 million first-year students per year
  - 2.7 million students in total will grow up to 3.0 million students in total in 2020
- forecast 2021 – 2025:
  - 2% per year less of first year students resulting in 0.46 million first year students in 2025
  - Still 2.8 million students in total in 2025

# Current Situation

- Public core funding is stagnant in real terms, e.g. between 2000 and 2011 expenditures per student/year decreased from 7,000 € to 6,000 €
- About 10% cuts of (permanent) staff positions took place
- In 2011 – 2015, Higher Education Pact of Federal Government and Laender supports the HEIs with additional about 14 billion €;  
**but** 2 billion € are still missing because of fast growing number of students
- In 2015 – 2020 a new Higher Education Pact with 17.5 billion € is needed
- The share of research funding by third-party (essentially public money) has increased between 1995 and 2008 from 11% to 20%;  
**but** successful gaining third-party financed research demands sufficient core funding
- In some Laender tendencies to reduce the existing autonomy of HEIs
- No tuition fees

# Current Discussions

- Change of the Constitutional Law (Grundgesetz) and involvement of the Federal Government in the core funding of the HE system aiming at the improvement of the cooperation between the Federal Government and the Governments of the Laender – approved by the Parliament (Bundestag) in November 2014 – the Lander Chamber (Bundesrat) will decide this week; **but** a concept for realisation is still missing
- The Science Council (Wissenschaftsrat) demands a yearly increase of the core funding of 1% above the expected increase of HEIs' expenditures; **but** visible efforts of the Laender are still missing
- To support the HEIs' coping with the increasing number of students, the Higher Education Pact of Federal Government and Laender is to be assured and increased for the time period 2015 -2020
- The overheads within the third party-funding have to be increased significantly, at least to 25%

# Role of the Rectors' Conference

- A strong voice of the Rectors' Conference is needed to assure the functionality of the higher education system
- The Rectors' Conference has to define its own position and strategies
- The Rectors' Conference needs allies and alliances in Germany and outside of Germany especially within the European Union

# Internationalization

- 282.000 foreign students in 2013 – 11,3 per cent of total student population
- Among this number about 205.000 own a foreign secondary school credential
- Despite the rising number of German students the aim is to increase the number of foreign students ab to 350.000 in 2020
- The universities are developing structures to wellcome foreign students, young researchers, academic teachers and researchers
- The universities are developing structures aiming at „internationalazation at home“



# Thank you very much for your attention

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