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National Report “Learning and Guidance in Germany ULLL”

A. Frame conditions

The German frame law for universities defines ULLL as a core issue for universities since 1976.

ULLL refers to formal or non-formal learning of individuals, who are qualified either through an academic certificate or through their vocational experience. Teachers are highly qualified in an academic sense. Teaching can be characterised as research-based and is aiming to a critical and analytical distance to the learning object.

ULLL is strictly divided from basic degree studies at universities. ULLL is normally offered by a private company governed by the university. Basic degree studies are public and mostly without fees for the students. ULLL is private and demands fees.

The problem is, that ULLL as an issue by law is not provided with necessary resources at the universities:

- the universities get no public financing – therefore it is private
- ULLL has a low priority for professors
- incentives for university teachers are missing.

ULLL comprehends only 2 % of the general ULLL in Germany.

B. Learning and Guidance

In our TWG we are regarding the gap between research and practice in ULLL along 5 dimensions:

1. structures
2. planners
3. teachers
4. enterprises
5. students



Bridges between research and practice are built in Germany along three dimensions:

1. Structures

Actually the facilities for continuing education at universities are involved in several organisational development processes. One of the aims of these development processes is a closer connection between research and the vocational practice respectively the practice of enterprises. The actual development processes of the facilities have been analysed by a scientific work group in 2011 (http://www.dgwf.net/age/age_frueh_2011_programm.html).

2. Planners

The most important place for building bridges between research and practice for planners is the annual conference of the DGFW. Round about 150 scientists and practitioners change their experience and research results.

In 2010 the DGWF makes a pedagogical advanced training offer to planners and leading staff in facilities. The participants learned relevant results of educational sciences belonging to planning and implementing programs and courses.

4. Enterprises

A close connection between ULLL and enterprises is a very important strategic aim for many facilities of ULLL. Some research projects analyse and create bridge-concepts between research and enterprise-practice:

Fritsch, Michael; Henning, Tobias; Slavtchev, Viktor; Steigenberger, Norbert (2007): Hochschulen, Innovation, Region. Wissenstransfer im räumlichen Kontext. Berlin: Ed. Sigma (Forschung aus der Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, 82). Online verfügbar unter <http://www.gbv.de/dms/bs/toc/526542853.pdf>.

Ludwig, Joachim (Hg.) (2008): Interdisziplinarität als Chance. Wissenschaftstransfer und Beratung im Lernenden Forschungszusammenhang. Bielefeld: wbv.

Wilkesmann, Uwe (2007): Wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung als gemeinsame Wissensarbeit an der Grenzstelle von Universitäten und Unternehmen. In: *Arbeit* (4), S. 269–281.