

Guiding Principle

Self-image and Targets

The Bologna Centre of the German Rectors' Conference continues to give priority to the successful implementation of the academic reforms taking place under the Bologna Process. It wants to increase the creative capacities for strengthening teaching at German higher education institutions, for improving the qualification profiles of bachelor and master graduates and for enhancing the international dimension. This modernization process represents an enormous challenge to German higher education institutions. However, by no means have all the questions referring to the process of implementation of the academic reforms been solved, and obstacles are yet to be overcome. The credibility and the success of our commitment depend on the effective support of the higher education institutions, to find interdisciplinary solutions for quality assurance of learning and teaching which may be applied to all higher education institutions.

Hence, the Bologna Centre of the German Rectors' Conference will provide target-oriented support and practical and continued assistance to help the higher education institutions manage these major tasks. The Centre represents a central authority providing advice, coordination and mediation to German higher education institutions. These measures coincide with our goal to counteract soon enough any undesirable fragmentation tendencies in higher education institutions or among the individual German *Länder* or States. The mission of the Bologna Centre includes providing comprehensive advice on the central aspects of the Bologna Process, thereby considering special questions of relevance to individual subject cultures. The project interlinks the Bologna actors and partners, to improve the basic conditions required for successful academic reforms; it accompanies the implementation process in the higher education institutions with a critical eye by employing empirical data analyses, and gives impetus for further monitoring of the academic reforms. Various activities as to organization, publications and advice will support the higher education institutions in embedding a policy of quality development in teaching and learning, and in establishing convincingly the innovation capacities of higher education institutions for society.

In the long term, the Bologna Centre aims at defining the vision of a common European Higher Education Area beyond 2010 with individual reform concepts. This includes encouraging the higher education institutions in making alterations, to be able to properly meet their educational duties in a knowledge society changing very quickly. They are assisted in permanently improving teaching in the different subjects, with respect to more transparency, flexibility, quality assurance and sustainability.* Upon discussing the German Qualifications Framework in various educational areas, we commit to a stronger evaluation of scientific approach and research orientation. To improve employability of higher education institutions graduates, the project promotes an understanding for the practical procurement of methods and key competences in addition to academic qualification. The Centre contributes to the reform process of teaching and learning contents through the following:

- Identifying new approaches for "good practice" in teaching, e. g. by implementing interdisciplinary teaching and learning forms and academic further education
- Promoting measures for the development of students' competences
- Optimizing the internal organizational structures and procedures in higher education institutions.