



**nexus – concepts and good practice
in higher education**

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Project **nexus**
concepts and good practice in higher education



About us

“nexus – concepts and good practice in higher education” is a project run by the German Rectors’ Conference. It supports higher education institutions in Germany in implementing key aspects of the European study reform (“Bologna 2020”), such as curricular development and quality enhancement in teaching and learning. The project, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, will continue until 2014. The word nexus means “connection”, “bridge” or “hub”, and the latter is precisely what the project will provide: it will draw together experience, ideas and examples of “good practice” from various universities; it will systematize the concepts and pass them on to others.

What nexus offers

- Good-practice seminars and workshops run by experts
- Information: surveys and specialist publications
- A forum for the exchange of concepts and approaches

Our main aim is to create and maintain an intensive dialogue with and between higher education institutions (HEIs). From the very outset, students and teachers have been involved in setting the project’s agenda, and play an integral role in nexus conferences and workshops. We provide information tailored for specific groups and develop targeted, strategic communication concepts.

What nexus supports

- Modularization appropriate to subject in Bachelor’s and Master’s study programs
- Structured assessment of learning outcomes and competencies
- Integration of skills relevant to the job market in study programs (“employability”)
- Increased permeability between academic education and vocational training
- Optimized procedures for evaluating prior learning and ensuring improved credit mobility
- Diversity management and the widening of participation
- Dissemination of information on the European study reform (“Bologna 2020”) to stimulate change management

Learning from each other

The main goal of nexus is to promote “good practice” in teaching and learning. Our aim is to encourage quality enhancement through learning by doing. As a hub, nexus offers an opportunity to communicate and connect existing solutions in higher education to the particular needs of individual HEIs. We engage intensively with German universities and their European networks to learn about and document innovative and practical responses to specific challenges.

Good examples discovered in and communicated from any one institution can thus provide inspiration and ideas for many others, opening up new perspectives and supporting individual HEIs in finding their own approaches to improving teaching and learning.

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