

Call for Papers

The Section for Distance Education (AG-F) within the German Association for University Continuing and Distance Education (DGWF) will host its annual spring conference from May 30 to June 1 in cooperation with the Center for University Continuing Education of Hamburg University (AWW). The conference will look into the following theme:

Distance Education as a Concept for Success: Student Support, Individualization, Mix of Methods and Virtuality

There will be two strands: one in German and one in English. The keynotes will be held in English. The sessions will be either in German or in English. The following keynote-speakers have confirmed their participation:

- Prof. Dr. Alan Tait, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Open University, UK, will talk about „Student support“
- Prof. Dr. Ada Pellert, President of the Berlin University for Professional Studies will talk about „Individualisation“
- Prof. em. Dr. Heinz Mandl, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, will talk about „Mix of Methods and Virtuality“

These keynote themes will be addressed in detail in sessions. Presentations will provide more input on these topics. We welcome theoretical considerations, presentations of research results, evaluation results or contributions about concepts, models or examples of best practice. The latter needs to have aspects of general validity.

Against this background we want to discuss the following aspects and lines of discourse in the following subsections:

1. Student support

Is student support really key to success in distance learning? Are there research results which proof the predominance of well supported distance learning? What is the meaning of support in times of webbased learning / elearning? Which concepts have been proven valuable and transferable? What are the essential qualifications moderators, tutors, mentors need for a subject-specific support, what is necessary for student support beyond subjects? How can the quality of student support be evaluated and further developed?

2. Individualisation

Are distance teaching concepts and webbased arrangements more appropriate to serve the individualisation of learning paths than the traditional instructional designs? Is supported distance learning the future? What is needed in order to develop the individual learner to become an expert in his or her individual learning process? What are the follow-up changes in the teacher's and tutor's roles and tasks? What are the competences needed and who qualifies the students by what means? How can individualization with web 2.0 and user generated content be brought in line. What significant value should e-portfolios provide regarding documentation and recogni-



tion of prior learning and acquired competences? Which concepts are in place to secure and develop quality of individualized learning processes and/or can be recommended?

3. Mix of methods and virtuality

Is mix of methods a set part of the recipe for success in distance learning? Is the good old written course material disused and has virtuality taken over when it comes to transfer content? What are the consequences of virtuality with regard to student support. What is/what will be the role of face-to-face meetings between teachers and students and students among themselves? How can we make sure that mix of methods will not end in itself but stay part of a didactical concept? Which steps of quality assurance and development are appropriate, evaluated and exemplary with regard to mix of methods and virtuality?

We welcome contributions and answers to the questions above from your own research, evaluations, concepts, models or practical work. Please send us your abstract (between half and one A4 page, max. 500 words) including the following information:

- surname, first name, title of speaker or speakers
- institution
- street
- postcode / town
- telephone number
- email
- title of the presentation
- classification into one of the 3 areas
- short abstract (max. 500 words)
- technology needed

The language used for your abstract will be the language of your presentation and subsequently appear in the appropriate section.

Closing date is March 15, 2012.

Please send your proposal to:

agf-tagungsbeitrag@dgwf.net

The programme committee will decide by mid-April about the acceptance or non-acceptance of your proposal. You will be promptly informed about the decision.

Dr. Annette Strauß
(Vorsitzende des AG-F-Sprecherrates)

Helmut Vogt
(Leiter der AWW der Universität Hamburg)

Basic information about the conference can be found under www.dgwf.net/tagungen/2012/AG-T-Tagung/00631-12017-en.pdf.