

### MANAGING HIGHER EDUCATION IN SAXONY

POLITICAL MECHANICS AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

QFORTE | Study Visit

March 14, 2022 | Office for Quality Management in Teaching and Learning

### 0. AGENDA

- Fundamental Mechanics
- 2. A decade of negotiations
- 3. Paradigm of (guided) Self-Regulation
- 4. University Development Plan: The Leipzig Way
- 5. University Development Plan: Research Excellence
- 6. University Development Plan: Quality in Teaching and Study

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# 1. FUNDAMENTAL MECHANICS

a. Saxon University Development Plan

b. University Development Plan of Leipzig University

c. External Target Agreements

d. Internal Target Agreements

e. (Individual Target Agreements)

- a. Saxon University Development Plan
- Transition from ministerial micromanagement to <u>autonomy</u> and self-determination
- Management by defining political guidelines and strategic <u>outcomes</u>
- Reliable basis for long-term <u>financial planning</u>
- Coordination and interlinkage of the individual development of 14 universities
- Framework for self-determination, self-regulation and autonomy of 14 universities

- b. University Development Plan of Leipzig University
- Strategic goals up to 2025 in research, teaching, transfer and administration
- Instruments and parameters for systematically planning the development of Leipzig University
- Source of <u>orientation</u> and <u>motivation</u> for members of Leipzig University
- Guidelines for internal decision-making processes

- c. External Target Agreements
  - Contract between Ministry of Higher Education and Leipzig University
  - Specific goals and (key performance) indicators
- Financial <u>incentives</u>/<u>sanctions</u> for each goal

- d. Internal Target Agreements
- Contract between the Rectorate and the Faculties of Leipzig University
- Specific goals and indicators
- Financial incentives/sanctions for each goal
- Established in the mode of a mutual experiment

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# 2. A DECADE OF NEGOTIATIONS



- a. Coupling and Complexity
- Ministry of Higher Education
- Rectorates of 14 Universities
- Faculties of 14 Universities
- (Appointed Professors of 14 Universities)

a. Coupling and Complexity

Ministry of Higher Education
Rectorates of 14 Universities
Faculties of 14 Universities
(Appointed Professors of 14 Universities)

a. Coupling and Complexity

Ministry of Higher Education

Rectorate of Leipzig University

Faculties of Leipzig University

(Appointed Professors of Leipzig University)

b. Managing of / via contexts

### Regulation/Control

- Objectives and outcomes
- Indicators and procedures
- Incentives and sanctions

### <u>Information</u>

- Goal attainment/self-regulation
- Locally suitable/applicable approaches
- Accountability, responsibility, agency

- c. Exit | Voice | Loyalty (Albert O. Hirschmann)
- Stimulates the reflection on the <u>vision</u> and <u>mission</u> of higher education per se
- Provides a <u>framework</u> for joining a conversation and engaging in <u>negotiations</u>
- Promotes the definition of (mutual) expectations and (common) strategic goals
- Facilitates the specification of goals and the derivation of (performance) indicators

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- a. Balance: Autonomy vs. Political Prerogative of the State
- State: reliable (long term) funding
- Universities: transition from institution to organisation (standards and practices of management)
- b. Regional integration and functional differentiation of universities in Saxony
- Legitimation by specific and measurable contributions to science, society and regional economy
- Coupling of major regional dynamics and the development of the respective university
- c. Cultivating the broad variety of subjects in Saxony
- Teaching profiles of universities in line / in interaction with demands of (regional) labour market
- Interlinkage and coordination of the range of courses and research fields across the federal state

- d. Cooperation, interconnection, synergy
- Regionally nationally internationally
- Universities non-university research institutions private sector

- Continuity of the range of courses, BUT
  - local and regional <u>specialization</u> of teaching profiles
  - driven by regional and national demands
  - interlinked and coordinated across the state

- Stability of (long term) funding, BUT
  - capped budget
  - facing an increase of obligations with an increase of efficiency

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4. University Development Plan: The Leipzig Way

# 4. University Development Plan: The Leipzig Way



Emergence and Self-Organisation

- Aggregation and Coupling

Synthesis and Resonance

Diversity and Interdisciplinarity

- 4. University Development Plan: The Leipzig Way
- a. Strategic Goals
- (1) An integrated programme for research excellence
- (2) Quality, stability, internationality and innovation in teaching and study
- (3) Expanded transfer with regional integration and supra-regional visibility
- (4) Autonomy, Administration and Management in Service of Academia

4. University Development Plan: The Leipzig Way

b. Cross-sectoral goals

(1) Internationalization

(2) Digitization

(3) Equality and diversity

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5. University Development Plan: Research Excellence

# 5. University Development Plan: Research Excellence

a. Research profile – strategic research fields

- Changed order in a globalized world
- Intelligent methods and materials
- Sustainable principles for life and health

"By 2025, we will have succeeded in further developing our most important research fields […] beyond the connections or collaborative status of individual Collaborative Research Centers."

- 5. University Development Plan: Research Excellence
- b. The Leipzig Way
- New research fields / emerging fields (Emergence)
- <u>Targeted combination</u> of emerging fields (Coupling)
- Interdisciplinary research networks with overarching research questions (Aggregation)
- Internationally visible integrated research centers: <u>iCenters</u> (Synthesis)

# 6. University Development Plan: Research Excellence

c. Integrated research centers (iCenters)

iDiv: drastic loss of biodiversity

iGlobe: impact of diverse <u>globalization</u> processes and projects

iOb: <u>obesity</u> pandemic as a disease of modern civilization

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6. University Development Plan: Quality in Teaching and Study

- 6. University Development Plan: Quality in Teaching and Study
- a. Fundamental principles in teaching and learning
- Unity of research and teaching
- Community of teachers and learners
- Mutually formative interconnection of research and teaching

- 6. University Development Plan: Quality in Teaching and Study
- b. Teaching profile
  - Research-led teaching
  - Interdisciplinary interaction across a wide range of subjects
- Producing graduates for state and public tasks

# 6. University Development Plan: Quality in Teaching and Study

c. Goals in teaching and study

(1) Misssion Statement for teaching and learning

### (2) to consolidate and shape the profile of each degree programme

- interdisciplinarily enriched
- internationally interconnected
- digitally enhanced
- innovatively spirited
- professionally taught

c. Goals in teaching and study

(3) to enroll only in <u>accredited degree programmes</u>

(4) to accentuate our profile as <u>center for producing graduates for state and public tasks</u>

(5) to continuously enhance the quality management system for teaching and learning