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HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities

CONCEPT NOTE for the DIES-Seminar:

Enhancing Internationalisation and Managing Partnerships between Higher Education Institutions in Germany and Jordan

Amman, 12/13 November 2012

Background

During the course of advancing globalisation, the international dimension of universities' work has not only gained in importance, but has also experienced major changes. In the globalisation process, universities are expected to be "agents of change", while they are in turn influenced by global economic, social, and political developments. They are embedded in complex interrelationships that each university, due to their unique characteristics, experiences differently. These diverse interactions, within their regional, national, and international contexts, present risks for universities, but also opportunities. Only an internationalised university can take an active role in the globalisation process and maintain its competitiveness.

One crucial field of internationalisation are international relations and international partnerships. But how should internationalisation strategies be developed and implemented? How can universities be enabled to establish sustainable internationalisation structures and processes, and thus to anchor internationalisation firmly within the institution? How are university partnerships managed?

The DIES-Seminar tries to find some answers to these questions.

Objectives

- Take stock of cooperation in higher education between Germany and Jordan
- Sharing experiences on implementation of internationalisation strategies in Germany and Jordan
- Identify potentials and obstacles for improving university partnerships
- Foster and support opportunities for further strategic cooperation

Target Group

- German and Jordanian university presidents
- Heads of international offices of German and Jordanian universities
- Regional experts in internationalisation of higher education

Logistics

- **Venue:** Center for Strategic Studies/University of Jordan, Amman, accommodation in Hotel "Holiday Inn"
- **Organisers:** HRK and Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan
- **Language** of the Conference: English

DIES-Seminars support explicitly national initiatives for the improvement of quality assurance systems and create a forum in order to discuss the consequences of the Bologna process. The scope of themes is broad, including topics such as evaluation, accreditation, compatibility of study programme structures and diplomas or international mobility and exchange. The didactic approach behind this compact information tender lies in promoting the exchange between experts and policy makers, in addressing not only representatives at University level but especially at ministerial level. Practically, the programme uniquely combines lectures of well-known international and national experts with numerous practice oriented activities.



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German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

The German Rectors' Conference is the voluntary association of state and state-recognised universities in Germany. It currently has 267 member institutions at which more than 96 per cent of all students in Germany are enrolled. The HRK is the political and public voice of the universities and the forum for the higher education institutions' joint opinion-forming process.

Center for Strategic Studies (CSS)

The **Center for Strategic Studies (CSS)** was established in 1984 as an academic unit of the **University of Jordan** concerned mainly with research in the fields of regional conflicts, international relations and security. With the initiation of the country's democratization process in 1989, the center expanded its scope of activities to include planning and research in such new fields as democracy, political pluralism, the economy and the environment. Over the past few years, the CSS has organized numerous conferences, seminars and workshops, and has conducted several opinion polls aimed at providing researchers and decision-makers with valuable material and data.

DIES stands for "**Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies**". DIES supports higher education institutions in developing countries to develop strategies, which improve the university management as well as the quality and relevance of study programmes. The DIES Programme is jointly conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK).