

Inter- und intra-institutional Exchange-Strategies: Strategies for qualifying Personnel and Content

While individual institutions of tertiary education attempt to formulate and institutionalise e-learning strategies in order to gain a competitive advantage, fnm-austria's mission is to focus on strategic topics that need dialog and cooperation across institutional boundaries. In this particular project, recommendations for quality assurance of e-teaching activities, the role and remuneration of e-teaching in educators' careers will be prepared and a framework for developing reusable content will be established. A web-portal will serve educators with legal advice concerning e-learning. The project will also provide advice for institutions aiming at a tailor made e-learning strategy.

fnm-austria (Forum Neue Medien in der Lehre österreichischer Universitäten und Fachhochschulen) is a network of Austrian universities and universities of applied sciences dedicated to e-learning and to improvement of teaching activities. As trans-disciplinary forum, it offers expertise in the area of high quality teaching and learning with "new media". Its strategic mission is to institutionalise innovative media-didactics on the tertiary level. Most Austrian institutions of tertiary education are members of fnm-austria. The scientists active in these member-organisations constitute the "community" to be served by fnm-austria. Its activities are controlled by delegates from those member organisations.

In this project fnm-austria focuses on strategic topics that need cooperation across institutional boundaries in order to raise the overall level of the e-teaching culture in the country. Likewise, topics of interest to whole "community" are addressed. These aims in mind, the project focuses on quality assessment and improvement, remuneration and career-relevancy. It will also develop a framework and associated rules to support exchange of reusable e-learning content across institutions. A web-portal providing educators with up-to-date legal advice on e-teaching is also on the agenda. Establishing and keeping it up-to-date requires broad attention. At the same time it is of high general interest. Supporting institutions in developing their specific e-learning strategies will be especially in the interest of smaller members.

With these topics the project establishes conditions to raise and strengthen the motivation of teachers to serve as producers of e-learning content or to serve as its disseminators in blended learning situations. Therefore, the project's topics can be seen as elements of an Austrian e-learning strategy. As the topics are inter-related, fnm-austria coordinates the proceedings of the project. It is supported by its member organisations within the individual work packages. The results will be available for all tertiary educational institutions.

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