

nexus projects 2010-2020

PLA Learning Outcomes

Vienna, 25.4.2023

Tilman Dörr, German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

German Rectors' Conference (HRK)



- members: 269 public and government-recognised universities representing >90% students)
- tasks:
 1. opinion-shaping and political representation
 2. development of principles and standards in the HE system
 3. services to HEI and the public

nexus I+II



nexus I + II (2010-2020)

- 2010-2014:
nexus I - concepts and good practice in higher education
- 2014-2020:
nexus II - forming transitions, promoting student success

www.hrk-nexus.de/projekt-nexus/information-in-english/

nexus projects



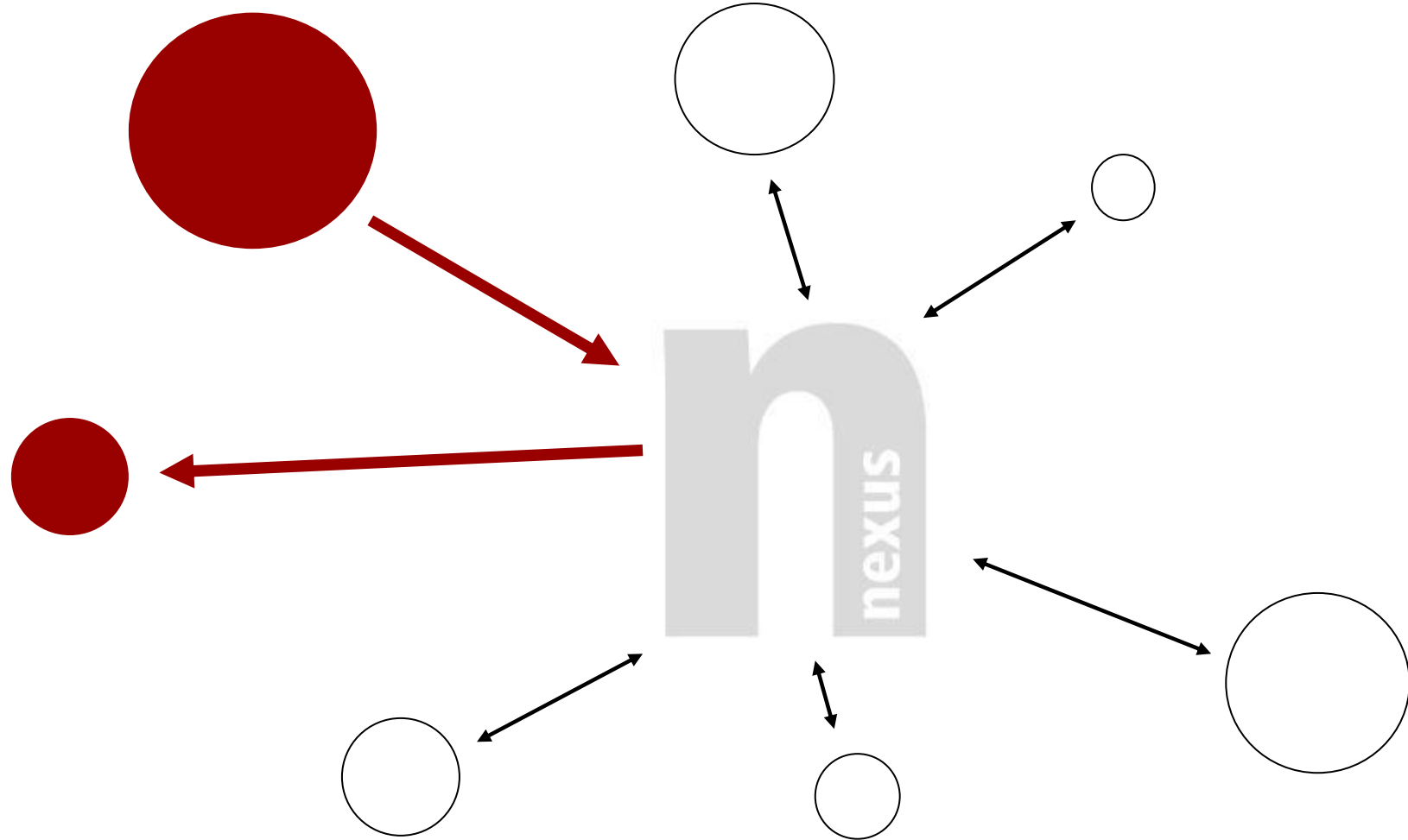
HRK German Rectors' Conference
Project nexus

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

nexus projects



nexus I



Characteristics of the traditional study organisation model

- Orientation towards "normal" full-time students in attendance studies with compulsory attendance spread over the entire week
- Admission requirement was the regular university entrance qualification („HZB“) to ensure the ability to study
- Work experience was irrelevant for the degree programme
- Possible work activities of students were limited to semester breaks
- Model of consecutive degrees (BA/MA) predominant
- Professional activities only "worthwhile" after Master's degree (especially at universities)

National need for reform

Need for reform in the German higher education system:

- Little structure and orientation in the degree programme
- Long study times and high dropout rates
- Lack of practical relevance
- Lack of internationality in education
- Lack of international compatibility of degrees
- Lack of quality assurance or development
- Rising student numbers
- Increasingly heterogeneous reasons and prerequisites for studying

Challenges

- Further development of **teaching**:
Consistent orientation towards learning outcomes and competences
- **Employability**: Improve practical relevance
- **Mobility**: transparent recognition procedures
- Greater **permeability** between vocational and
and higher education: part-time study courses,
more flexible curricula
- Improve **orientation for** first-year students:
Information and advice



nexus I: objectives

Project objective: To support HEI in continuing and deepening the study reform ("Bologna 2020") in two thematic fields:

1. Study quality
2. Opening HEI



Study quality

- Professional modularisation; learning outcome and competence orientation
- Labour market relevance: Strengthening practical references
- Differentiation of the Master's degree programmes
- Diversity Management Bachelor's/Master's (in particular in Arts and Music Colleges, Law, Teaching Profession)



Opening HEI

- Promote permeability to vocational education and training
- Facilitate recognition of international study achievements
- Create framework conditions for cross-educational and international recognition



Measures and communication

Measures

- Conferences, workshops and meetings
- publication of guidelines, handouts and brochures
- collecting, evaluating and disseminating expert opinions, surveys and studies
- information and counselling (on demand)

Communication

- Dissemination of the project results
- press and public relations work
- Monitoring the implementation of reforms at HEI

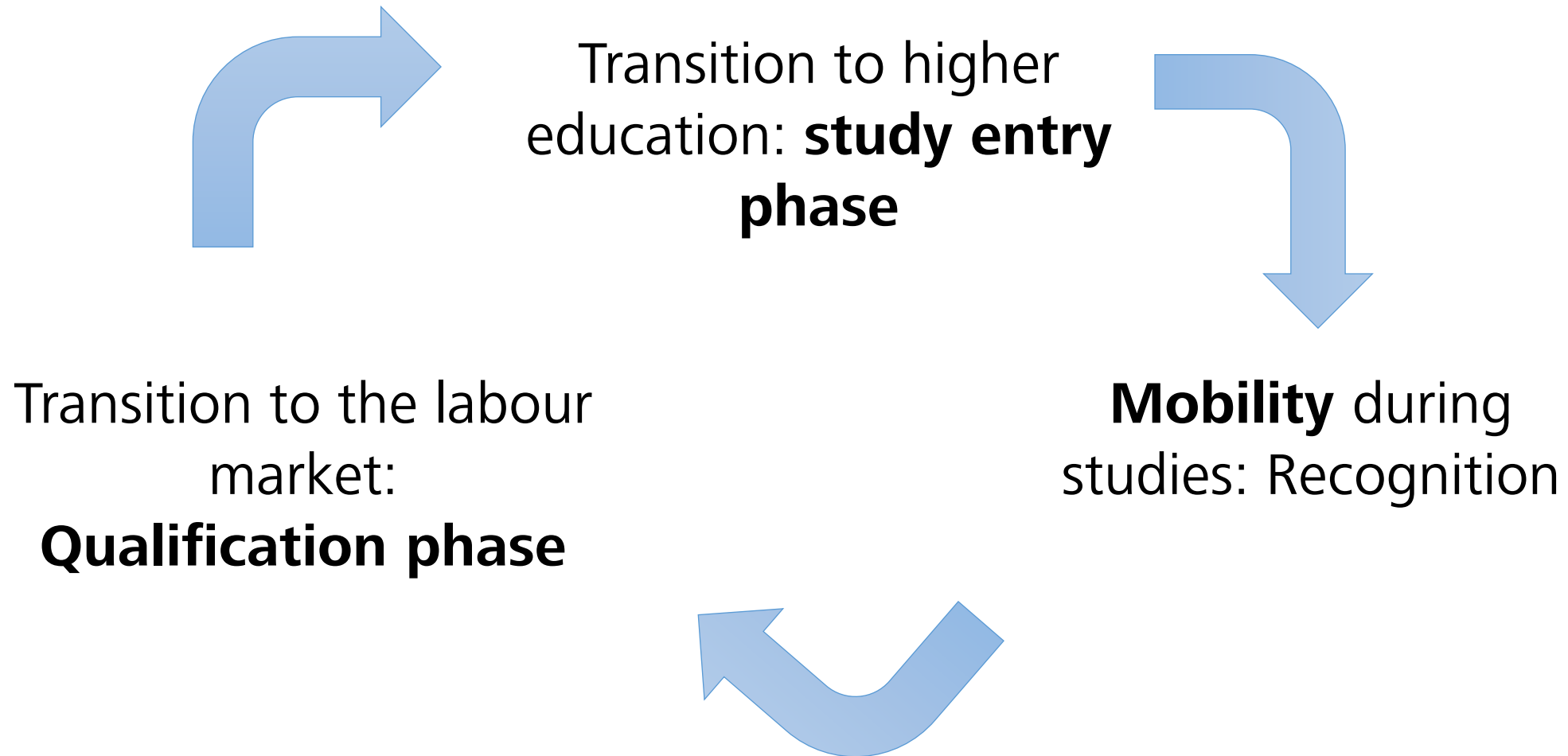
nexus II



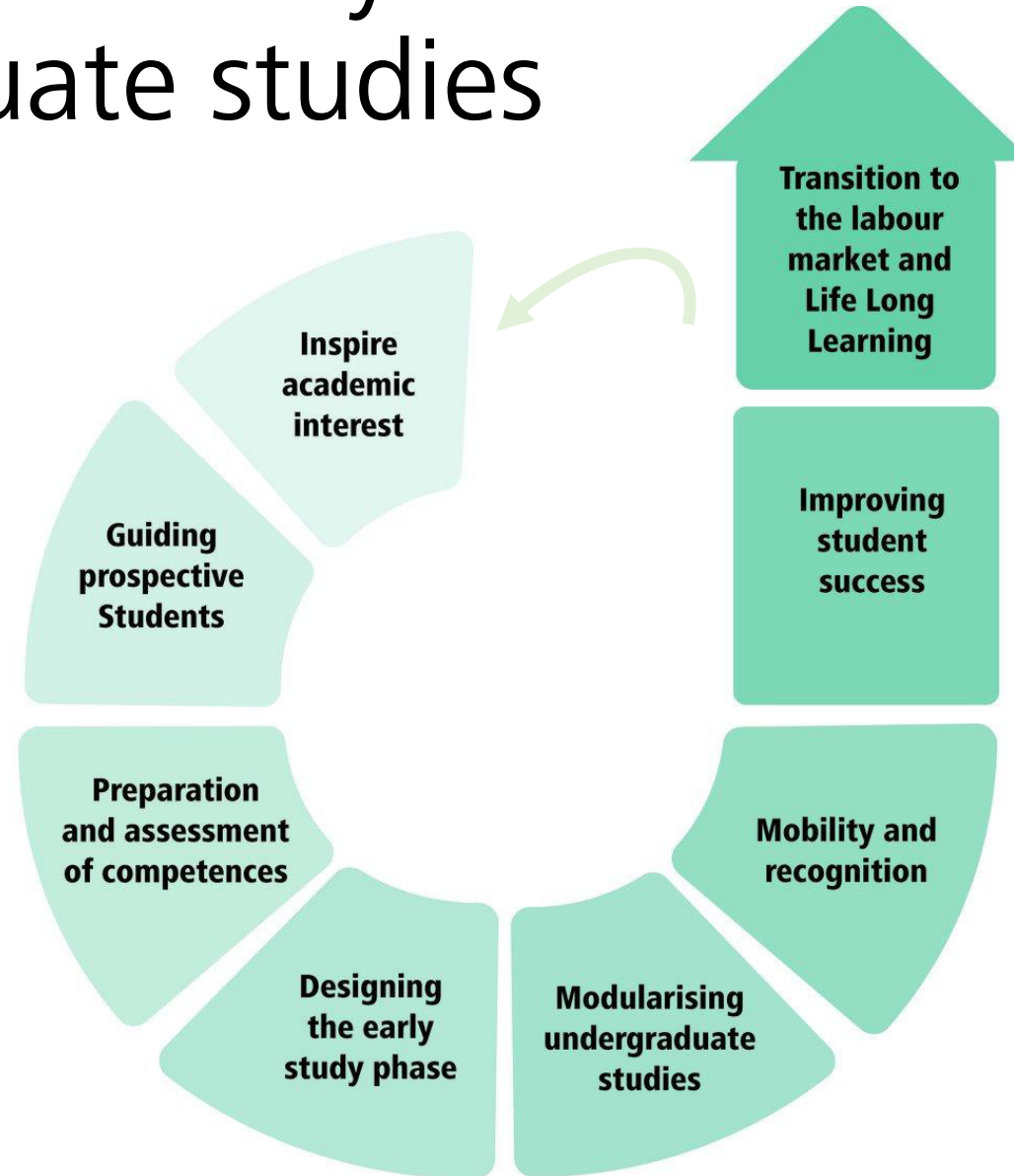
"Study Reform 2020": Recommendations for action (2013)

- Comprehensive introduction of Bachelor's/Master's degrees (exceptions: law, medicine, pharmacy, liberal arts)
- Improve mobility and recognition
- Flexible design of BA/MA programmes to enable individual educational biographies (not only consecutive)
- Employability of the polyvalent Bachelor
- Competence transfer through learning outcome orientation
- Using the diversity of student biographies as an opportunity
- Redesigning the study orientation phase
- Developing a culture of quality in the universities

Orientation point "Student Life Cycle"



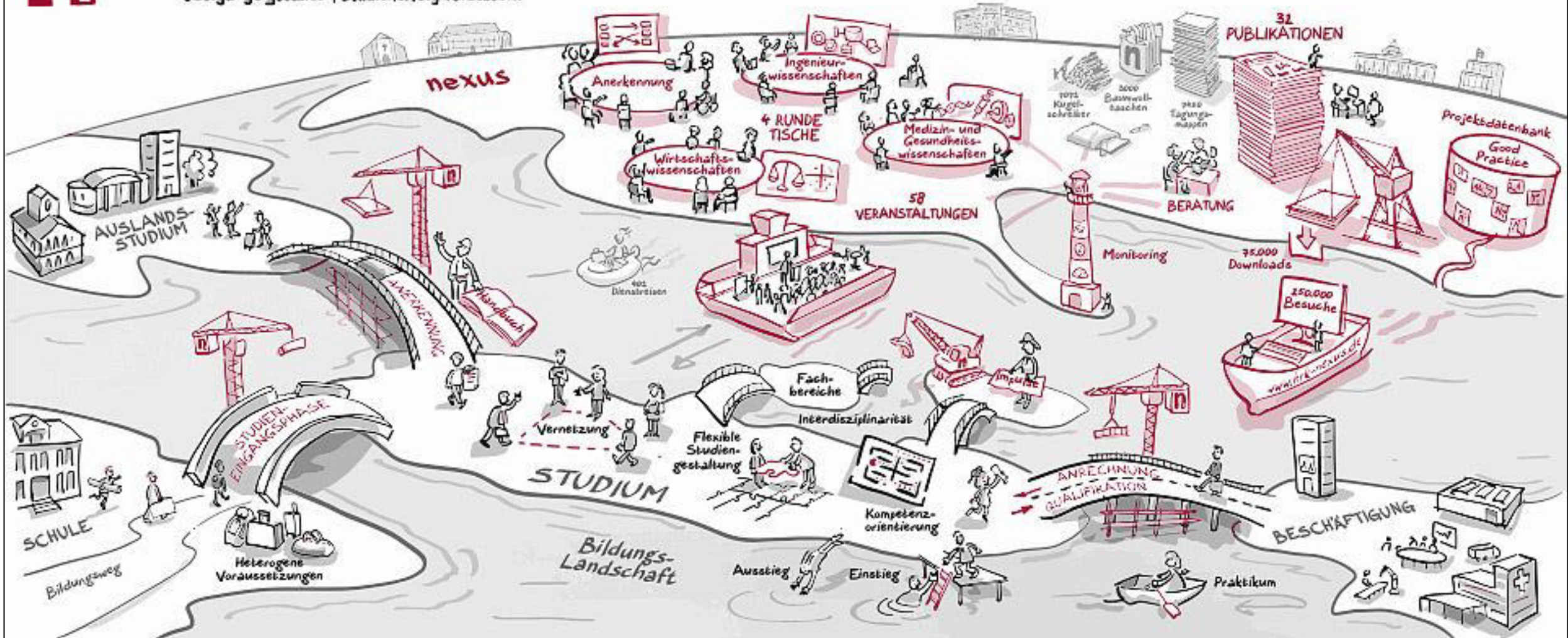
The Student Life Cycle: Measures in undergraduate studies





HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

Projekt **nexus**
Übergänge gestalten, Studienerfolg verbessern



Project structure

Cross-cutting themes for subject-specific round tables

Study entry phase
Qualification phase

**4 Round tables
15-20 experts**

Medicine & Health sciences	Economics	Engineering sciences
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Mobility during studies: Recognition


Project Advisory Board

Evaluation of the overall project

Thematic focus: Study entrance phase

Demand	Goals	Measures
<p>Increased need for counselling due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Heterogeneity of the students▪ younger students▪ Complexity of the study programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Promotion of activating teaching, learning and testing (research- and problem-based learning, service learning)▪ Development of subject-specific forms of counselling▪ Improving the success of studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Needs analysis▪ Networking of interested groups / transfer conferences▪ Round tables: develop subject-specific concepts▪ Dissemination of the results

Thematic focus: Qualification phase

Demand	Goals	Measures
<p>Mediation between educational/scientific aspirations on the one hand and employability and labour market relevance of the degree programme on the other hand</p>  <p>Competence orientation of the study programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving the polyvalence of the Bachelor• New / redesign of study programmes and courses of study• Promote subject-specific employability concepts• Strengthening the practical relevance of studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further training events on subject-specific learning outcomes/ catalogues of learning objectives• Events for "employability" concepts appropriate to the type of higher education institution (key objective)

Thematic focus: Recognition

Demand	Goals	Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removing obstacles to mobility• Create legal certainty• Observe accreditation rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving the application of the Lisbon Convention• Further development of criteria for good recognition• Introduce institutional procedures• Learning outcomes orientation in study programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information and training events• Advisory and training services• Survey• Manual/Guide• Expert opinion• Overall: improve recognition



nexus I+II

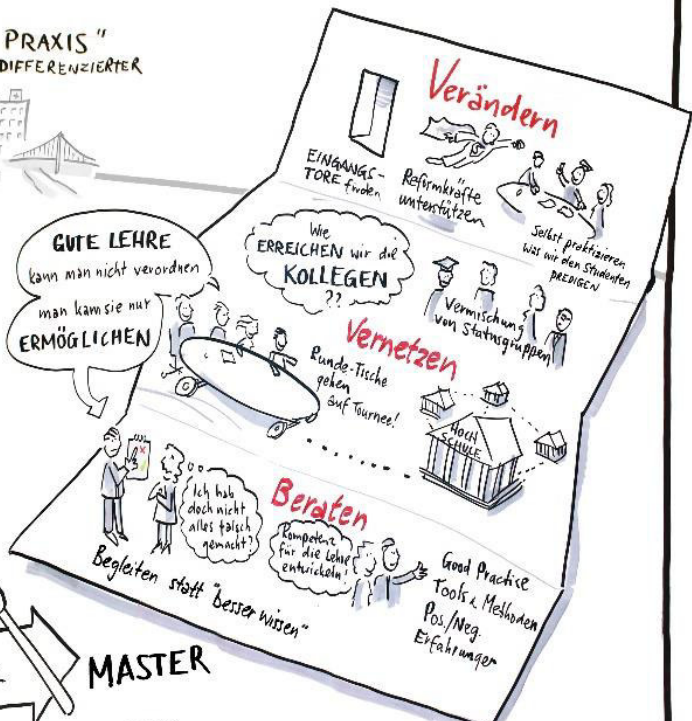
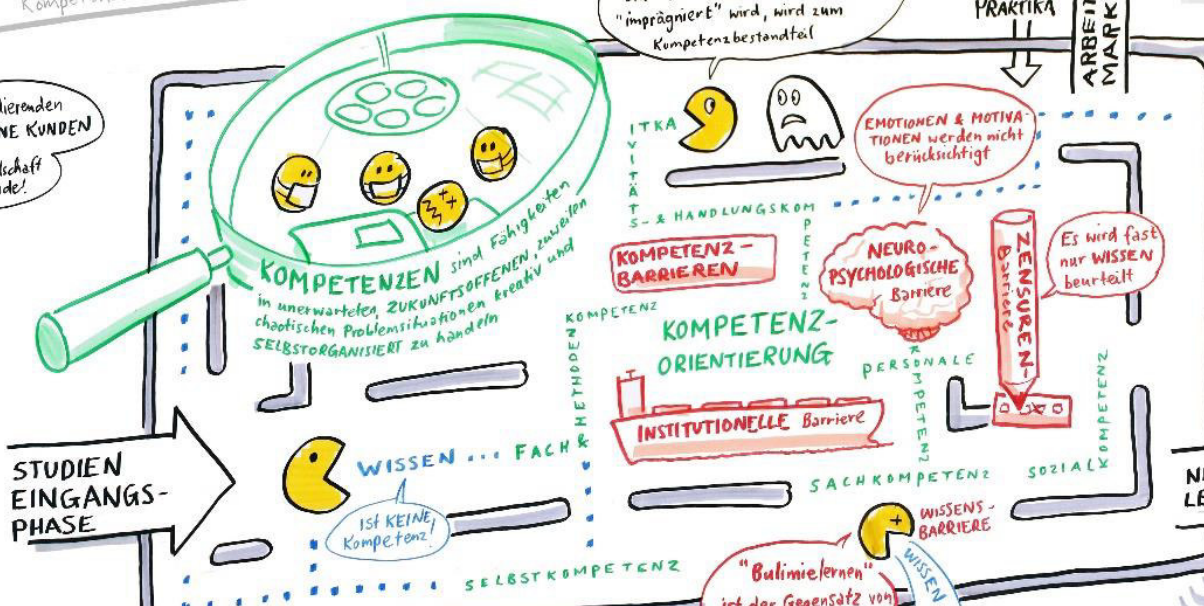
Übergänge gestalten

Kompetenzen sind die Währung des 21. Jahrhunderts

EMPLOYABILITY ≠ Berufsvorbereitung
LEBENSLANGES LERNEN
Gesellschaftliche RELEVANZ
"DIE PRAXIS" ist immer DIFFERENZIERTER geworden

Nur das Wissen, dass durch EMOTIONALE PROZESSE "imprägniert" wird, wird zum Kompetenzbestandteil

Ausbildung oder Studium?
Die Studierenden sind KEINE KUNDEN
Die Gesellschaft ist 'kunde'!



Kompetenzorientierung
SCHULE
Berufsorientierung
Vorpraktika

HETEROGENITÄT
Individualität
KEINE NIVEAUSenkung

Beitrag zur Gesellschaft
Innovationen ermöglichen

So viele Vorgaben
Lebenslanges Lernen
Fachqualifikationsrahmen perspektivisch interprofessionell

STARK
Reglementierte Studiengänge

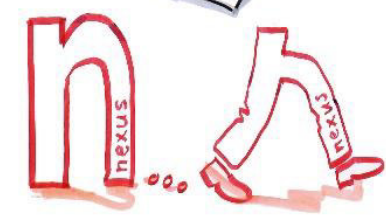
WIRTSCHAFTS-WISSENSCHAFTEN

Was zeichnet Hochschulbildung aus?
Nicht nur "Knete machen"
An Werte und Emotionen anknüpfen
Ein Ökonom soll DIFFERENZIIERT Stellung nehmen können

ANERKENNUNG

Durchlässigkeit & Mobilität
Formulierung von Lernergebnissen ist entscheidend für die Anerkennung

ZIEL
alternative ROUTE



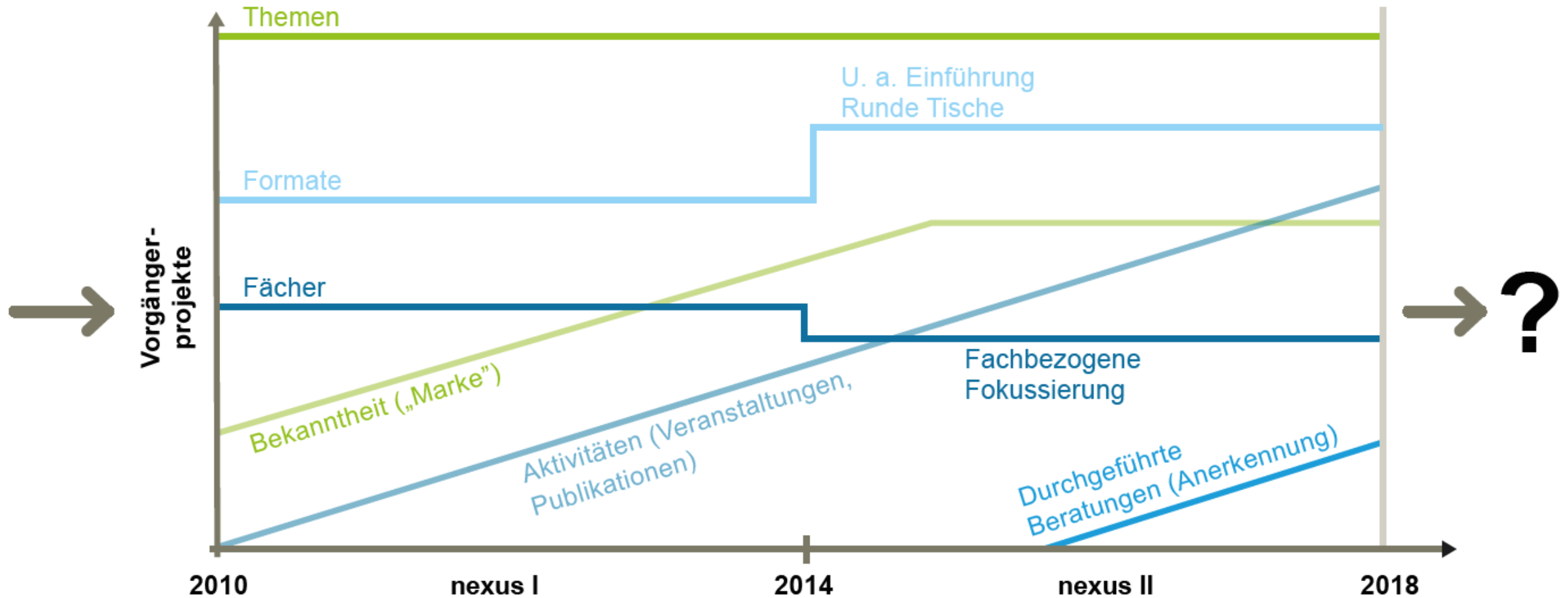
HRK
Hochschulrektoren-Konferenz

Activities

- Numerous conferences, workshops
- Recommendations from expert groups
- Good-practice database
- Blog
- Glossary
- Newsletter
- Public presentation in media
- Publications...



Development of the nexus instrument portfolio



Evaluation nexus - key results (1)

- nexus acted "as a **central exchange platform for** higher education stakeholders among themselves and with stakeholders outside higher education on issues of study reform".
- According to the experts interviewed, nexus has made a significant contribution to **objectifying the discussion** around the European study reform
- Contribute to the **acceptance of** the study reform at the universities by continuously addressing and addressing the issues of the study reform - especially the uncomfortable ones

Evaluation nexus - key results (2)

- Through various formats and publications, nexus also succeeded in providing **orientation** on issues of study reform in the higher education system.
- In the area of competence orientation in study programme design and learning outcomes, nexus has been perceived as a **committed and competent topic driver and as an important player in** knowledge transfer. Through the work of the nexus projects, the principle of competence orientation has become better known and more manageable in higher education institutions.
- Despite the open approach and voluntary nature of participation, the projects have had a **strong impact on the** higher education landscape in their design and implementation.



Current project

MODUS - Enhancing student mobility across educational boundaries through recognition (2020-2025)

www.hrk-modus.de/en

Next conference: "Bilateral permeability: Designing flexible learning pathways together", 23 and 24 May 2023 in Essen (German only)

Save the date: International Conference "Recognition Culture in Higher Education. International Perspectives on Lifelong Learning and Student Mobility", 2nd week in November 2023, Berlin (English)

Thank you for your attention!

Tilman Dörr
Vienna, 25th April 2023

German Rectors' Conference (HRK)

Ahrstraße 39, 53175 Bonn
Phone: +49 (0)228 887-203
doerr@hrk.de
www.hrk.de