

HRK

The German Higher Education Landscape

Christian Tauch
German Rectors' Conference

Structure of the Presentation

- The German Rectors' Conference
- Higher Education System & University Governance
- Teaching & Learning

Member Institutions

The German Rectors' Conference is the association of state and state-recognised universities in Germany.

The HRK currently has 268 member institutions which account for 92 per cent of matriculated students in Germany.

- 102 Universities
- 121 Univ. of Applied Sciences
- 45 Colleges of Art and Music



Mission

The HRK is the political and public voice of the universities and provides a forum for the process of forming joint policies and practices.

- Agenda setting and advocacy at national and international level
- Service for member institutions

HRK Resolutions and Recommendations (selected)

- Guidelines and standards in international university cooperation (2020)
- Women in higher management positions in academia (2019)
- Funding programme for applied research (2019)
- Towards a culture of sustainability (2018)

HRK's International Agenda

- Policy recommendation on all fields of internationalisation
- Strategic exchange in the framework of university leaders' meetings & symposia
- Joint policy recommendations on European & international higher education and research policy
- Agreements on higher education cooperation and mutual recognition

Higher Education System & University Governance

Legal Framework:

Federal government and
state governments

Core funding provided by
state governments

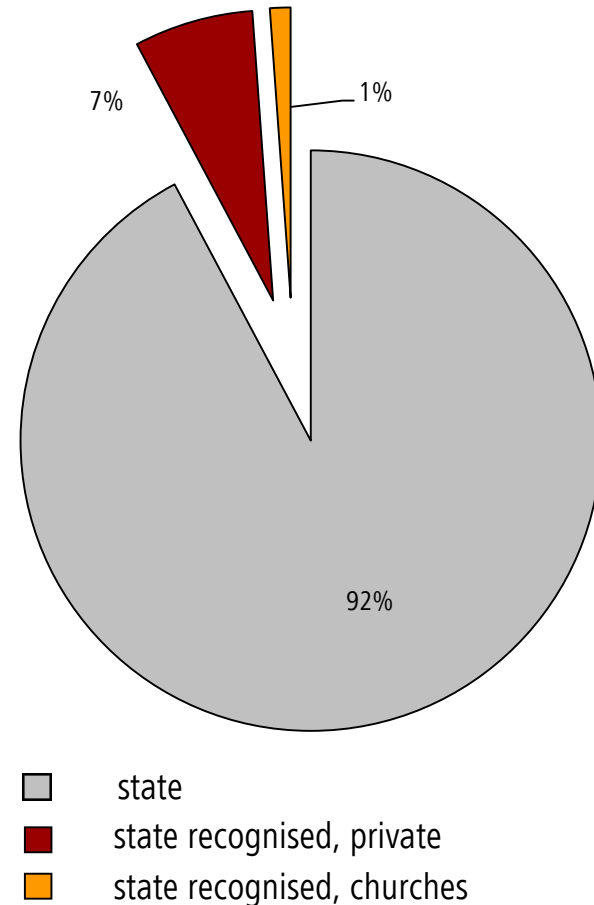
Research funding
predominantly provided by
federal government, but
also by EU and industry



Universities in Germany

- Largely state-funded system
- 2.8 million students, (thereof 505,000 new university entrants = 57% of first-year students among the same age population)
- Only 8% of students in private higher education; private institutions focussing on a limited range of subjects

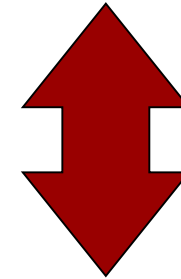
According to student numbers



Excellence and Diversity Need to be Balanced

“Academic and Competitive Agenda”

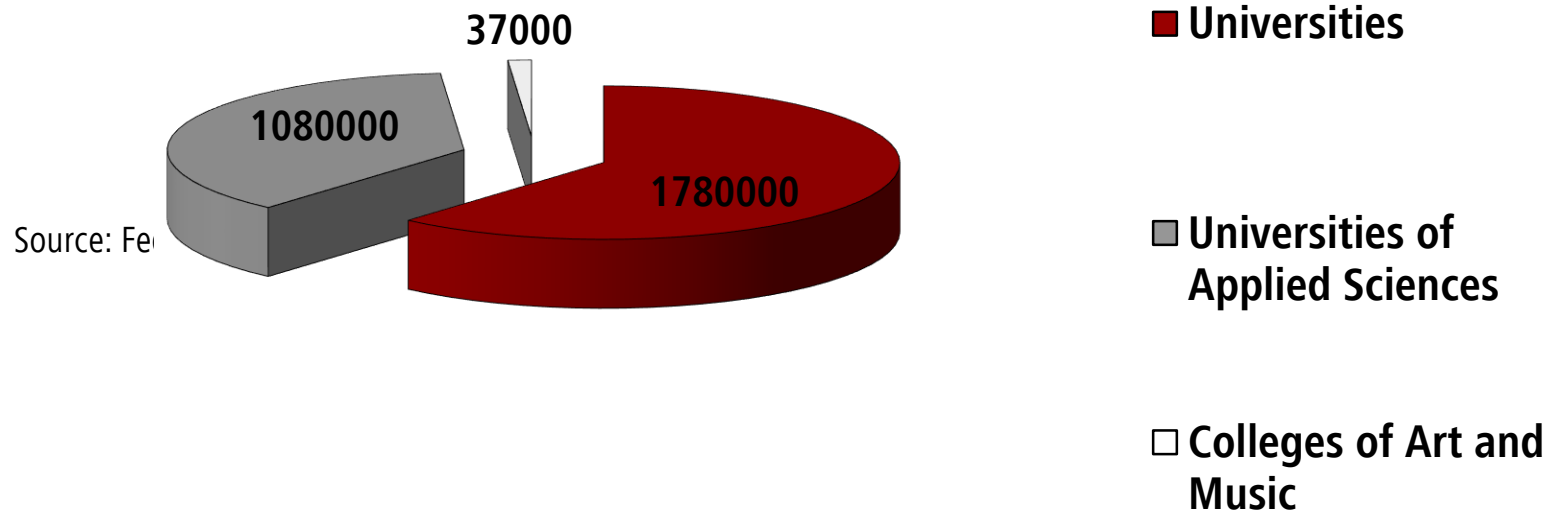
- Develop and support strong researchers/ fields/ departments
- Become internationally visible



“Academic and Social Agenda”

- Maintain and develop high level of research and teaching across wide range of subjects/ areas/ departments
- Cater for the needs of internal and external stakeholders (students, community, society as a whole)

Types of Higher Education Institutions (student numbers)



Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences: Characteristics

	Universities	Universities of Applied Sciences
Programme levels	Bachelor Master Doctorate (research based)	Bachelor Master
Fields of study	all	Engineering (75 % of German engineers are educated at UAS), business, social and health sciences
Degree programmes	theory-oriented, based on fundamental research, unity of teaching and research	Application-oriented, based on applied research; include a practical semester (internship)
Requirement for professorship	Doctorate/PhD <i>Habilitation</i>	Doctorate/PhD Min. three years industry experience
Average number of teaching lessons per week	8-10	18

The European Higher Education Area

The Bologna Declaration

- A system of easily readable and comparable degrees
- A system with two main cycles
- A system of credits
- Promotion of mobility
- Promotion of European co-operation in quality assurance
- Promotion of the European dimension in higher education



Stock-Taking after Two Decades of „Bologna“

- The structural changes of “Bologna” (two-tiered degree system of Ba and Ma) triggered a rethinking of content and methods (student centred teaching, learning and assessment)
- Furthermore, discussion on the future of „Bildung“, personality development, attitudes and competences
- Intensive discussion on the impact of digitalisation on teaching & learning (e. g. open educational resources, MOOCs)
- “Bologna” is the right answer to existing challenges, but there is further work to be done

HRK

Vielen Dank! Thank you!

Comments – questions?

**www.hrk.de
tauch@hrk.de**