Arbeitsstelle Kleine Fächer

Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur | Mainz

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HRK German Rectors' Conference
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To the
National Rectors' Associations
for the attention of the Secretaries General

By E-Mail

Bonn, Brussels, Mainz, Paris, February 22, 2023

Invitation to the Transfer-Workshop: "European Perspectives on Rare Disciplines: The German-French Mapping of Rare Disciplines: a Model for Europe?"

May 25, 2023, Brussels, Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot-Curie, 100 rue du Trône

What do we mean by "rare disciplines" and why do we lay a focus on them?

By rare scientific disciplines, we designate those disciplines within the higher education system with a usually low number of professorships per university. Quite often, the disciplines we talk about are very seldom and small with regard to their structures at universities. At the same time, rare disciplines offer an enormous potential for example for internationalization and profiling of universities. As their disciplinary scientific community is small, it is essential for rare disciplines to build strategic networks and to cooperate in research and teaching.

Rare disciplines can be young innovative fields at the beginning of their institutionalization within the higher education system or fields with long traditions. The disciplinary spectrum of rare disciplines reaches from Arts and Humanities to natural science and engineering.

Within the context of the Bologna reforms, financial restrictions, the specialization of higher education institutions and the increasing of their autonomy, these disciplines can quickly be under vital pressure because of local decisions at universities, as we observed in France and Germany. Since these disciplines are of great importance, regarding their topics in teaching and research for science, economy, culture, and society, France and Germany decided independently to identify rare disciplines within the national higher education systems and to strengthen them structurally. A database, which maps rare disciplines at higher education institutions, should enable to observe and strategically analyse the situation of rare disciplines, and hence to make founded decisions on different levels of responsibility. A mapping of rare

disciplines was established in Germany in 2007 and in France recently. The cooperation "German French Model Mapping of Rare Disciplines" (since 2018) emerged from an initiative of European rectors' conferences in 2017.

What are the objectives of the transfer workshop in May 2023?

Our objectives for the conference are to increase the awareness of the potentials and challenges of rare disciplines and to inform about the Franco-German cooperation in mapping rare disciplines. We want to share and discuss our project results with national representatives of the European Higher Education policy. Intention of the transfer workshop is to initiate further cooperations on the topic between the countries within the European higher education area.

Target group

Target group of the workshop are representatives of national rectors' associations or people proposed by them as suitable participants. The participants should be able to speak for and about the national higher education policy and should be multipliers to their countries.

Registration-Formular: https://befragung.uni-mainz.de/evasys/online.php?p=EY32E, Password/TAN/Losung: EY32E

Contact: Katharina Haas, German Office for Research on Small Disciplines/Arbeitsstelle Kleine Fächer, kleinefaecher@uni-mainz.de, Tel. +496131-39-28404

Hosts

- Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche (MESR) (Prof. Dr. Sébastien Chevalier, Dr. Caroline Calmus-Censier)
- France Universités (until 2021: Conférence des présidents d'université, CPU) (Prof. Dr. Paul Indelicato)
- German Rectors' Conference/Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK) (Constanze Probst)
- German Office for Research on Small Disciplines/Arbeitsstelle Kleine Fächer, University of Mainz (Prof. Dr. Uwe Schmidt)
- Digital Academy of the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature (AdW) (Prof. Torsten Schrade)
- European University Association (EUA) (Dr. Monika Steinel)

For further information on rare disciplines in France and Germany:

- German Office for Research on Small Disciplines/Arbeitsstelle Kleine Fächer: Prof. Dr. Uwe Schmidt and team, E-Mail: kleinefaecher@uni-mainz.de, Website: www.kleinefaecher.de (in German)

- German Rector´s Conference (HRK): Constanze Probst, E-Mail: probst@hrk.de, Website: https://www.hrk.de/themen/hochschulsystem/kleine-faecher/ (in German)~~,~~

- Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche (MESR): Dr. Caroline Censier-Calmus, E-Mail: disciplinesrares@enseignementsup.gouv.fr, Website: https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/cartographie-des-disciplines-rares-46362 (in French)

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Transfer-Workshop

„European Perspectives on Rare Disciplines.

The German-French Mapping of Rare Disciplines: a Model for Europe?"

Brussels, 25th of May 2023, 9:00-14:30 h

Programme

time	*content*
9:00-9:10	Welcome, Dr. Monika Steinel, Deputy Secretary General, European University Association
9:10-10:20	**"Why to lay a policy focus on rare disciplines? – Experiences from Germany and France"** - NN, France Universités - Prof. Dr. Horst Hippler, former president of the Germans Rectors' Conference **"How to define (rare) disciplines? A common definition to work with."** - Prof. Dr. Uwe Schmidt/Annemarie Deser, Office of Rare Disciplines, University of Mainz, Germany
10:20-10:35	Break
10:35-11:15	**"Challenges and impact of the implementation of a mapping of rare disciplines in France and Germany"** - Prof. Dr. Sébastien Chevalier, Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, France - Katharina Haas, Office of Rare Disciplines, University of Mainz, Germany
11:15-12:15	Time for questions, discussion about the results and exchange about the situation in each of the participating European countries
12:15-13:15	Lunch-Break
13:15-13:45	**"How to implement a (European) database for rare disciplines** - Possibilities and requirements to adapt the German "Portal Kleine Fächer" to the European needs" - Prof. Torsten Schrade, Academy of Science and Literature, Mainz, Germany
13:45-14:15	Further interests, networking, collaborations, common goals
14:15-14:30	Summary of the transfer-workshop and farewell