AUCEN

Austrian University Continuing Education and Staff Development Network

Contact details
http://www.aucen.ac.at

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Background
AUCEN is a formal network of responsible persons for continuing education and staff development at Austrian universities. Since October 6, 2005, AUCEN is organised as registered association.

- Who are the network partners?
  - All 22 public universities in Austria can become members. To participate in the network a formal membership is required. For further information contact: aucen@univie.ac.at
  - Members delegate persons for university continuing education and staff development.
  - The aim is to build a cooperative network that involves functionaries (rectors and vice-rectors) and experts for continuing education and staff development within the universities.

- Who represents AUCEN?
  - Externally the network AUCEN is represented by a President and vice-chairman. The present chairman is Priz.Doz.Mag.Dr.Nino Tomaschek MAS, Director of the Postgraduate Center at the University of Vienna. The present Vice-President is Mag.Anna Steiger, Vice-Rector for HR and Gender at the Technical University Vienna.
  - The AUCEN-office assists the president and vice president, performs organisational tasks and is the contact point for all members as well as for other institutions and persons.
  - The staff of the AUCEN office is partly financed by the annual fees of the members. The Office is institutionally anchored at the home university of the spokesperson.
How do the members network?

- AUCEN can only exist because of the actions of responsible persons. Therefore AUCEN persists through contributions and commitments of all its members.
- Communication and networking mainly occur virtually, especially via e-mails.
- Face-to-face contacts are made in semi-annual meetings: in plenary sessions and smaller working groups specific requests and topics are followed up.
- In addition to these meetings, several persons and working groups meet each other to work out specific topics if required.

Focus

Communication and Dialogue

- AUCEN is a platform where responsible persons for continuing education and staff development at Austrian universities can exchange their experiences.
- Available competencies and experiences are bunched together. Both subject areas shall be advanced and professionalised jointly and in a division of labour.
- The dialogue between the AUCEN-network and other national and international bodies, institutions and networks shall be stimulated.

Development of Quality and Quality Assurance

- To develop and assure quality standards is a constant challenge.
- Members of the AUCEN-network work on the advancement and assurance of quality criteria in both subject areas.

Common Forum for University Continuing Education and University Staff Development

- University continuing education and university staff development address different target groups.
- The common interest is to exchange experiences and ideas and to strengthen the position of both subject areas by jointly strategies.

Contribution to New Developments at the Universities

- As universities become autonomous at the beginning of 2004, the external universities continuing education and the internal staff development play an important role.
- The AUCEN-network pursues joint strategies and stimulates the implementation of new concepts.