

DGWF

The German Association for University Continuing and Distance Education

Contact details

<http://www.dgwf.net>

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Background

- The German Association for University Continuing and Distance Education (Deutsche Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung und Fernstudium e.V - former: Arbeitskreis Universitäre Erwachsenenbildung e.V.) was founded in 1970 and is a national non-profit association.
- Today about 315 institutions and individuals (mostly from Germany or other German speaking countries) including universities and continuing education bodies belong to the DGWF.
- The Steering Committee consists of 17 persons, one of which is responsible for international relations.

Focus

- According to its statutes, the aim of this registered non-profit association is the promotion, co-ordination and representation of continuing and distance education sustained by universities and other institutions of the higher education system. Part of this is also the promotion of research and lecturing in this field. The DGWF is recently paying increased attention to the role of new media in its fields and to university lifelong learning.
- The DGWF is not only an association representing its members. It is also a working group, exercising numerous public tasks, especially in the field of information and counselling. Part of this is, of course, an engagement in the further extension and improvement of the continuing education facilities of its members. Another part is the attempt to influence processes of decisions in the field of educational politics in the direction of better general conditions for a further development of the supply of UCE.

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*projects
conferences
seminars
networking
resources
publications*

Core activities

Through regular meetings, networking sub-groups, newsletters and professional engagement with colleagues throughout Germany and in Europe, the DGWF tries to achieve these aims by:

- Editing publications (information and documentation)
- Participating at and organizing conferences, workshops, meetings and symposia
- Offering advice to institutions and individuals
- Providing recommendations and comments
- Carrying out investigations and project work

Current issues

- Reorganization of HE
In Germany the Higher Education sector is in the process of changing, mainly because of the differentiation of the universities. The political demand for an increasing number of students places the universities in a position of having to meet higher requirements. UCE and ULLL are part of this process and are seeking new positions.
- Organization and funding of UCE
The organizational structure of UCE in Germany is highly discussed and differs a lot from one university to another. In Germany, universities are mainly financed by public money, but the demand that UCE should be financed by the participants goes along without any support from public funds. However, the UCE representatives emphasize that UCE is part of the main responsibilities of universities like teaching and research and has therefore tasks, like offering courses to disadvantaged target groups, which have to be supported financially.
- Access to HE for employed persons
The access to HE for employed persons is a political demand which challenges the universities to reassess the permeability between vocational education and UCE. It raises questions concerning addressing new target groups and RPL. In Germany, the states decide on access to HE, that is why there are very different models for RPL from one state to another. In the context of the Bologna Process, it is a necessity to develop common regulations on access, referring to the RPL policy in Europe.