

## ED 4 – Toward a Research-Oriented Approach

### Research, development and innovation activities (R&D&I) at PH OÖ Linz / Upper Austria

For this investigation Sonja and me have been using the activities of Pädagogische Hochschule OÖ (in the following PH OÖ) in its areas for research, development and innovation (R&D&I) and we found out many interesting details and facts in these promising fields. Following we will present you some basics in a nutshell:

Professionalism, humanity and internationalism play a fundamental role in the central concept of the PH OÖ. These keywords have to be interpreted in a double meaning, in fact content related as well as process related (professionalism & professionalisation, humanity & humanization, internationalism & internationalisation).

Humanity refers to the right to education of the European Enlightenment and the PH OÖ complies with this demand within its teacher training especially through its commitment to further education.




Even lessons in religion, ethics and philosophy are keystones of teacher education.

Internationalism is understandable in a qualitative and quantitative sense. The enhanced mobility within a boundless Europe, the contribution to several international programmes, the possibility of participation in European Bachelor's- and Master's degree-programmes reflects the mobility of students and tutors in geographical, intellectual and cultural domains.

A basic principle of the schooling at PH OÖ is the wide range of education and further education as well at PH OÖ as on its partner universities within Europe.

Research and development are parts of the working focus of PH OÖ. The emphasis of scholarship contains the whole continuum of all pedagogical spheres of activity and pedagogical professions.

The centre for research and development at PH OÖ shall be understood as profession related research institution with its three core areas:

-  Education and further education of teachers
-  Quality research in context of teaching and learning methods
-  Development research in context of school organisation

Referring to the international layer PH OÖ is integrated in a network of tertiary education. An international communication concerning experiences, interstate research as well as overarching cooperation and research e. g. project sharing on the institutional sector are essential components of its quality management.

Students as well as teachers have – thanks to these international mobility programmes – lots of possibilities to look beyond the horizon. This enables them a mining of their personal development and furthermore it supports the PH OÖ in its future trend.

PH OÖ welcomes both “incoming students” and “outgoing students”. The student exchange in both directions takes place in the ERASMUS-development plan (= EEC-programme in the field of education). Each semester approximately 15 to 20 students complete their studies at PH OÖ. They participate in interesting programmes concerning their teacher education and furthermore they benefit from the geographical location of the city of Linz – in the heart of Europe.

On the other hand Austrian students get the possibility to do a part of their studies at a foreign partner institution of PH OÖ. This ERASMUS-development plan enabled Sonja and me our 3 monthly studies at Haaga-Helia University in Helsinki, too. This kind of experience is an enormous enrichment for the development of job-related and personal skills and additionally it enables a profound exchange of experiences with colleagues from different universities abroad.

The team in the international office of PH OÖ develops together with the students an exchange study programme which credits all ECTS-points. So students who decide for an exchange study don't suffer any loss of time in their total duration of study.

The PH OÖ has also been involved in ongoing projects and events, workshops aso which happen time and again.

### Ongoing project:

#### **EPTE** (European Primary Teacher Education): ERASMUS-Development Programme

This programme has been started in the academic year 2009/10 and lasts for two years. Seven institutions for teacher education organise together a project for the education of a “European Primary school teacher”.

Participants: HAN University NL, University of Umea, University of Ljubljana, Politecnico Porto, University of Nitra, University of Lublin, PH OÖ Linz;

## Completed project:

### ✚ ELTE (European Leader's Training in Education)

The ELTE consortium designed a training programme for persons who want to become head teachers, inspectors, mentors, supervisors or other leading personnel in the field of education with respect to national needs including the European dimensions. Important parts of the curriculum cover organisation and management competences, problem solving skills, leadership and experience in the “state of the art” teaching methods, school development strategies as well as the analysis of the national and international education systems.

## Activities (abstract):

- ✚ On November 18, 2010 the PH OÖ invited to an event with the topic “**un er HÖRT**” in the hotel “Kolping” in Linz. “**un er HÖRT**” means that scandalous behaviour is often the consequence of “not to be heard”. Teachers with special skills have been supporting adrift pupils and have been giving respect at the same time to disrespectful pupils already for 25 years. This symposium resulted in an examination of the own image of humanity, challenged the role of scandalous youth in school and in society and it showed the tasks of the Upper Austrian teachers with special skills and their important function in education in several perspectives.
- ✚ On November 23, 2010 the “FIRST LEGO LEAGUE” happened the fourth time at PH OÖ. FLL is a support programme for children and youth which gives them an understanding of science and technology in a sporty atmosphere.
- ✚ From January until the beginning of April 2011 the PH OÖ presents some works of the Austrian painter Alois Moosbacher (born in the Styria in 1954).

## Important trends for the future:

- ✚ E-Learning (self-organized learning)
- ✚ Lifelong learning as main key for professional and social success
- ✚ Standardisation (certification is becoming more and more an essential point in an economical education system)