



ERASMUS+ Staff Week 2021

Developing Digital Learning and Teaching Frameworks in the Era of Covid-19:

Challenges, successes, and lessons learned at Freie Universität Berlin

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Agenda Day 3

Today's Topics: Digital Teaching, Learning and Examinations

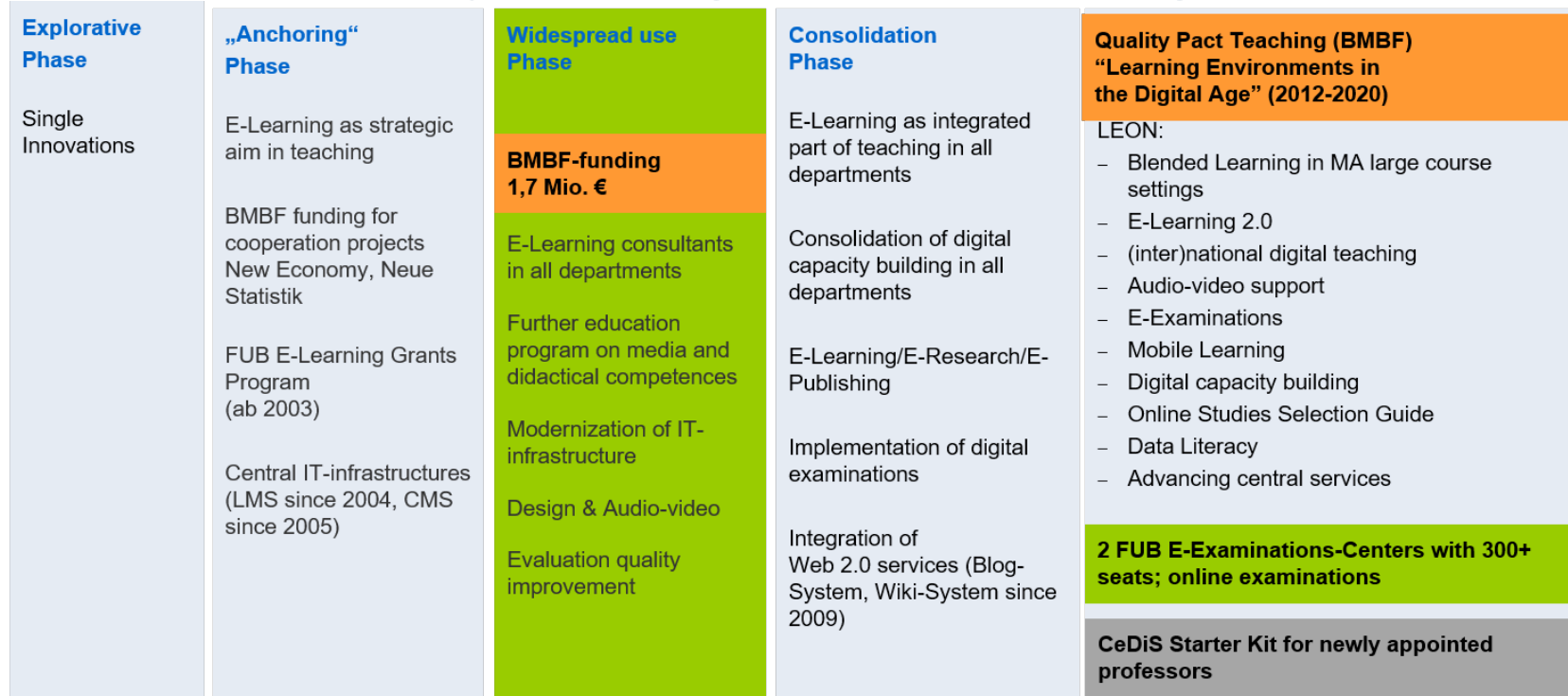
1. *Digital Teaching and Learning at FUB: History, Strategic Development...*
2. *COVID-19: Full Online Teaching and Learning since March 2020*
3. *COVID-19: International Online Teaching and Learning*
4. *E-Learning and E-Examinations at FUB*

Warm-Up

*What comes into your mind when you think back to March 2020
with regard to your home institution?*

→ Please name max. 3 issues / key words in the chat here on the right hand side!

CeDiS: History of Digital Teaching at FUB



Digital Teaching, Learning, Examinations

Use of digital technologies and media in teaching, learning and examinations as strategic and integrated part of studies and research at Freie Universität

→ Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS) is the competence center responsible for all according central services - since end 1990s:

- Fully established digital infrastructure (LMS, CMS, Wikis, Blogs, Publishing...)
- Central consulting and support services for all departments and staff
- FUB internal E-Learning Grants Program since 2003
- Large further education program focussing digital media and IT competence for staff and students
- Large online self-study materials for digital / didactical teaching
- Audio-video and media design services for visualization / processing teaching and learning materials
- *International digital teaching: virtual learning environments/mobility*



Digital Teaching Infrastructure in Place

Blackboard



since 2004 the central learning management system for blended learning and online teaching

<http://lms.fu-berlin.de>

Blog



WORDPRESS

since 2008 the central blog service for teaching, learning and research

<http://blogs.fu-berlin.de>

Wiki



Confluence

since 2009 the central wiki service for teaching, learning, research and administration

<http://wikis.fu-berlin.de>

CMS

CMS **FIONA**

since 2005 the central content management service for teaching, research and administration

<http://cms.fu-berlin.de>

Very good starting point at FUB with all CeDiS services on digital teaching, learning and examinations when COVID-19 „hit“ the universities → 3rd fully digital semester

Digital Examination Infrastructure in Place

E-Examination Center



- Computer based / online examinations on site (e-examination centers) as well as online distance examinations

- Software: LPlus

<http://www.e-examinations.fu-berlin.de>

**New 2020 E-Examinations@Home:
written online distance examinations**

Further information in the following presentation today

Digital Teaching Infrastructure new 2020

Audio/Video



- FU video platform Vbrick
- Green-screen studio
- Lecture recording “on demand” in lecture halls
- Manual recordings individually for teaching staff

<https://fu-berlin.eu.vbrickrev.com>

Webconferencing



- Cisco webex: central video conference service for all university members
- Online teaching, research, digital conferences...

<https://fu-berlin.webex.com>

COVID-19: Transition to Online Teaching

Friday, 13th of March 2020, Freie Universität Berlin was closed

Monday, 20th of April 2020, start of the summer semester (2 weeks later than usual)

→ Less than 3 weeks for the transition to fully online teaching

1. New website with „focussed“ access to fast track in online teaching published 20th of March

www.cedis.fu-berlin.de/online-lehren-lernen: how many hits in the first 4 weeks?

Make a guess! 300.000

2. New central mail address in place 20th of March

digitale-lehre@fu-berlin.de: how many mails per week?

Make a guess! 4.000

Ad-hoc Transition Blended to Online Teaching

Massive support for audio-video-based lectures (recording, streaming...)

Didactical and technical consulting/support for teaching staff:

- Live online lectures via videoconferencing (Webex) for synchronous teaching
- Creation/production of audio-video-contents for asynchronous teaching: screencasts, podcasts, vodcasts
- Online communication tools: synchronous + asynchronous
- Online self tests
- Online examinations: E-Examinations@Home

International + Digital (+ COVID-19)

Apart from COVID-19:

Certain cooperation models in international contexts are **only** enabled by digital scenarios!

„Internationalization@Home“:

Inclusive international teaching and learning for target groups that *cannot travel* for financial, political, structural, family or health reasons

International Teaching and COVID-19

Alternative formats for physical mobility in international student exchange

- **Virtual/blended mobility**

Digital preparation and online coaching for mobility windows (short and long-term), i.e. online coaching portal „Distributed Campus“

Alternative formats for on-site teaching and learning

- **Digital cooperation in lectures**

Integration of international expertise in a lecture/module/seminar, i.e. language tandem

- **Digital cooperation in studies programs**

International program with teachers/students from all over the globe, i.e. online MA program

- **Digital cooperation in international consortia**

- Virtual teaching and learning environment for international consortia, i.e. UNA Europa; German-Israeli Virtual Campus (GIVCA)

→ Formats: virtual synchronous/asynchronous teaching, blended learning...

International Events and COVID-19

Alternative for physical visits to international events/conferences

- **Event re-design/new event concept**
Blended concept between asynchronous and synchronous presentations and discussion, i.e. „inverted classroom model“
- **Reduce parallel sessions**
Focussing on linear event organization
- **Moderation concept**
Enabling formal and informal discussion and communication, i.e. „digital coffee break“



Source: Peter Himsel

Blended Mobility

Online coaching portal „Distributed Campus“ for international academics – optimized digital preparation and support for international target groups at FUB

Before study abroad stay at FUB	During...	After...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • General information on studies, orientation in Berlin... • Academic, intercultural preparation • German language support • Faculty specific information • Buddy, language tandem • ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support during studies: deadlines, academic work, cultural and social life... • Connection to student initiatives • ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni • Career Service • BA → MA • MA → Promotion • ...



<http://opendc.distributed-campus.org/>

Digital Language Tandem

Project seminar: language tandem in Japanese Studies

- Online coopation between Dokkyo University in Soka and Freie Universität Berlin
- **Communication** via **video conference system**
 - To different focus areas
 - In student working groups
- Final student presentations via **video conference**
- **Languages: Japanese and German**



Source: Peter Himsel

International Consortia/Partnerships I

- German-Israeli Virtual Campus (GIVCA)
- „Teaching tandems“ from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Freie Universität (strategic partnership)
- Teaching tandems responsible for curriculum development of the digital lectures/seminars
- Digital readiness of teaching staff
- Different digital formats in teaching pilots, with/without physical mobility



Source: CeDiS Media

International Consortia/Partnerships II

Lecture live streaming included in on-site lectures

- Live lecture alternate between Berlin and Jerusalem, students take part via video conference in specially equipped rooms on site; moderation and discussion on site
→ model not possible in COVID-19 times

Video lectures combined in blended learning

- Pre-produced lectures of both universities set together according curriculum in LMS; tele-tutor support; live discussion via web conference



Source: CeDiS Media



<http://www.givca.org>

Challenges

Apart from COVID-19

- Technology: hardware, software, internet connection/bandwidth, IT support...
- Teaching: international curriculum development, digital readiness, quality assurance
- International setting: intercultural online communication/moderation, lecture/semester periods, time zones, „teaching tandems“
- Studies' organisation: examinations, credit transfer, mobility windows
- Legal issues: data protection, copyright



Source: Cristian Pirjol

With regard to COVID-19

- Blended scenarios: synchronous combined with asynchronous scenarios

Thank you very much!

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