



Virtual mobility preparing real-life mobility within international student exchange in Germany:

Online coaching platform Open DC at Freie Universität Berlin

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Karoline von Köckritz

# Welcome at Freie Universität Berlin (FU)



# Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS)

## E-Learning Competence Center

### Coaching

- international students/scholars
- international researchers
- teaching staff



### E-Learning Technology

- training and consulting
- software operation
- software development

**Blackboard**  
das Learning Management System  
der Freien Universität Berlin



### Training

- e-learning technologies
- content production
- pedagogical issues



### E-Examinations

- technical infrastructure
- support in implementation

### E-Learning Grants Programme

- administration
- consulting and support

powered by **FUe-Learning**

### Authoring software

- training and consulting
- rapid e-learning



### Evaluations

- improving quality of e-learning
- online surveys
- university wide student surveys



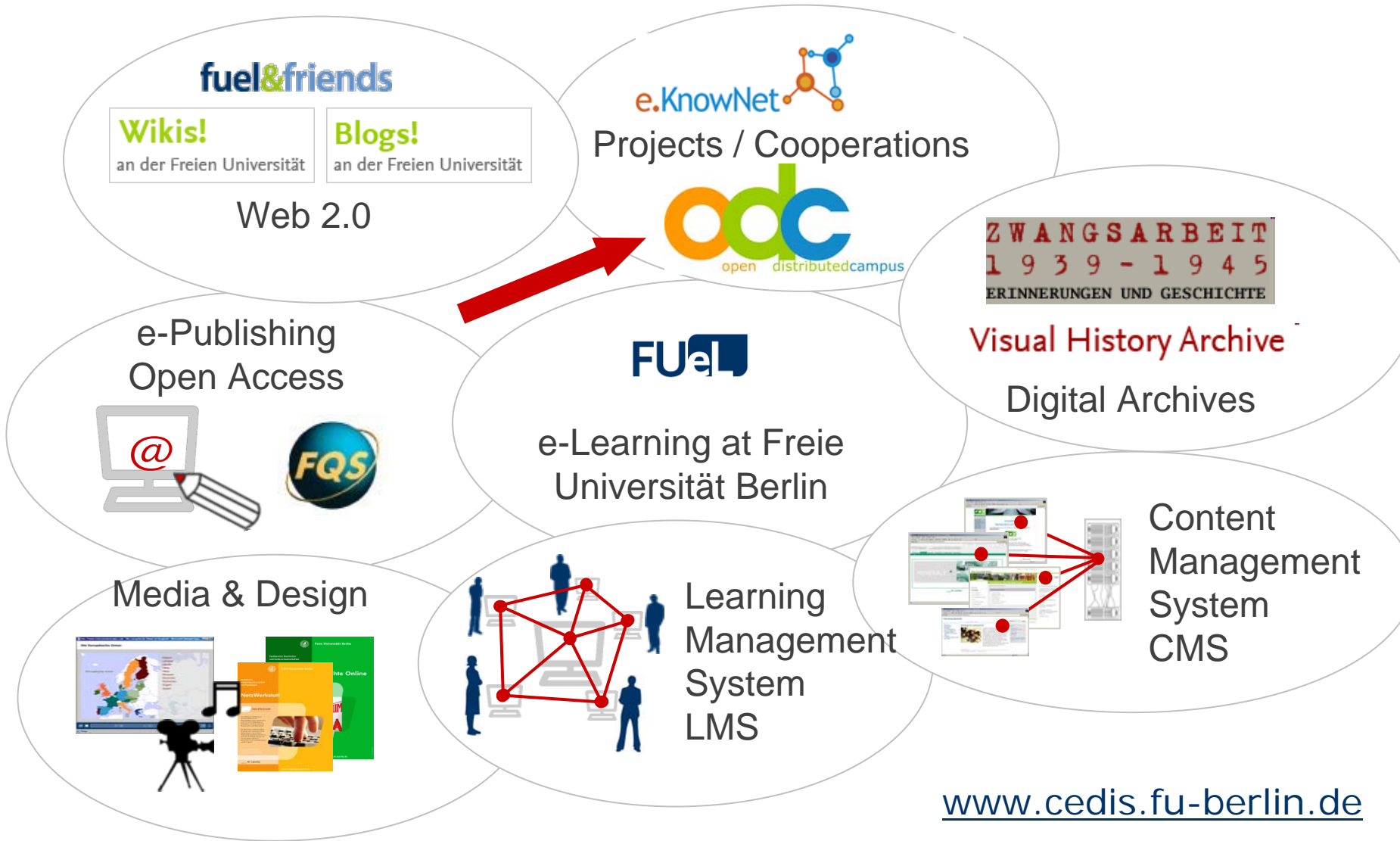
### Legal issues

- FAQs, leaflets
- trainings
- legal advice (ind.)





# E-Learning: Services and Projects



# Mobility Definitions

## Virtual Mobility

“The use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to obtain the same benefits as one would have with physical mobility but without the need to travel.”

*Source: elearningeuropa.info*

## Blended Mobility

Combination of virtual and physical mobility in order to make the „real live exchange“ more effective and more fruitful by building online preparation and e-coaching structures for internationally mobile students and researchers.



# Open DC: Blended Mobility

## Online coaching in different orientation phases

### Virtual Mobility

#### Online coaching *before* studies at home

- intercultural preparation: critical incidents, everyday life, personal contacts...
- academic orientation: immatriculation, study focus, transcript of records...
- practical / administrative support: insurance, apartment search
- online communication, web 2.0 features

### Physical Mobility

#### Online coaching *during* studies on site in Germany

- campus life
- finding friends
- orientation on site: city, university
- events, concerts
- web 2.0

### Virtual Mobility

#### Online coaching *after* studies at home

- Follow-up and evaluation of exchange
- Keeping contact to students
- Alumni network
- web 2.0

B L E N D E D M O B I L I T Y with O P E N D C

# Open DC at Freie Universität Berlin

## International Office:

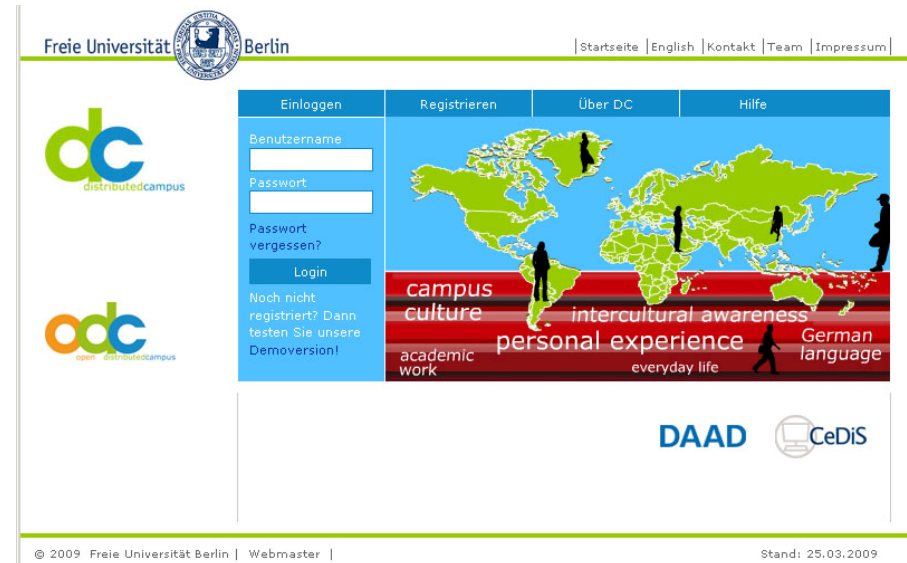
- » ERASMUS
- » ERASMUS Mundus
- » Direct exchange programs
- » Scholarship programs...

## Master Programs:

- » MAVMA (Political Sciences)
- » LL.M. (Law)
- » Joint VPH Programme (Vet Med)...

## Exchange Programs:

- » Duke in Berlin Program
- » Stanford Overseas Campus
- » FU Berlin Summer University...



The screenshot shows the Open DC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Freie Universität Berlin logo and the text "Freie Universität Berlin". To the right of the logo are links for "Startseite", "English", "Kontakt", "Team", and "Impressum". Below the navigation bar, there are four tabs: "Einloggen", "Registrieren", "Über DC", and "Hilfe". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains the "dc distributed campus" logo, a login form with fields for "Benutzername" and "Passwort", a "Passwort vergessen?" link, a "Login" button, and a message: "Noch nicht registriert? Dann testen Sie unsere Demoversion!". The right column features a world map with silhouettes of people standing on different continents. Below the map, there are several text elements: "campus culture", "academic work", "intercultural awareness", "personal experience", "everyday life", and "German language". At the bottom right of the main content area, there are logos for "DAAD" and "CeDiS". The footer contains the copyright notice "© 2009 Freie Universität Berlin | Webmaster |" and the date "Stand: 25.03.2009".

Per year approx. 2.500 students, next target group: „free movers“

## Open DC: Flexible Customization

- » one central platform as access point for students and organizers
- » web-based infrastructure, editing anytime and anywhere
- » easy online editing, flat hierarchy, transparent workflows
- » flexible user and group management according to program structures for international academics
- » authentic and multimedia content in German and English
- » direct links to university service units
- » transparent ODC-use besides other university infrastructures such as learning management systems or administrative data bases



➔ Verifiable decrease in students' inquiries



## Open DC: Advantages for International Guests

- » „online pre-departure preparation bridge“ between home and host university
- » greater acceptance and attractiveness compared to print products or static websites
- » chronological individualized checklist with all preparation steps
- » interactive content creation (comment, rating)
- » individual preparation independent from time / space
- » online communication with other students and organizers already before arrival at host university



➔ Greater student's satisfaction and success rate

## Students' Voices

Colin Stayton, New York University:

„Distributed Campus is seriously an amazing web-site. It provides you with an answer to every question you may ever have about your stay here in Berlin [...]. More than just a resource, it is a fun and innovative learning tool, portraying real student voices [...].“

Andrea Everett, Stanford University:

„Very useful tool! Best aspects are the student inputs and the preparation timeline!“

Jenna Huber, Roanoke College:

„I am absolutely obsessed with the Distributed Campus web portal! I think it is a brilliant idea and it is helping me so much already. I feel a lot more prepared for Germany than before I began using this great tool.“



➔ Successful blended mobility scheme!

## Open DC for German Universities

Open Distributed Campus (Open DC):  
Online-Coaching-Plattform for increased efficient pre-departure preparation and ongoing support for international students and researchers in Germany

Central interest of German Academic Exchange Service DAAD:  
Transfer of Open DC to German universities



➔ Individual configuration for every university partner

## Open DC Universities since 2008/2009

Universität Potsdam:

- » **UPprepare:** [distributed-campus.de/upprepare/](http://distributed-campus.de/upprepare/)

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena:

- » **Intercampus:** [distributed-campus.org/intercampus/](http://distributed-campus.org/intercampus/)

Universität Bremen:

- » **Newcomer Portal:** [distributed-campus.org/newcomerportal/](http://distributed-campus.org/newcomerportal/)

Technische Universität München:

- » **TUM Welcome Guide:** [distributed-campus.de/tumwelcomeguide/](http://distributed-campus.de/tumwelcomeguide/)

Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz:

- » **JoGuGATE:** [distributed-campus.de/jogugate/](http://distributed-campus.de/jogugate/)



## Open DC Universities since 2010

Jacobs University Bremen:

- » **Jacobs Portal:** [distributed-campus.de/jacobsportal/](http://distributed-campus.de/jacobsportal/)

Universität zu Köln:

- » **Uni Köln International:** [distributed-campus.de/unikoelninternational/](http://distributed-campus.de/unikoelninternational/)

TU Kaiserslautern:

- » **Countdown:** [distributed-campus.de/ukl-countdown/](http://distributed-campus.de/ukl-countdown/)

BTU Cottbus:

- » **BTU Intercoach:** [distributed-campus.de/btu-intercoach/](http://distributed-campus.de/btu-intercoach/)

HS Bonn-Rhein-Sieg:

- » **In preparation**

Universität Mannheim / Universität Kassel:

- » **Open Source development in preparation**





Thank you very much for your interest!

[opendc.distributed-campus.org](http://opendc.distributed-campus.org)

[opendc@fu-berlin.de](mailto:opendc@fu-berlin.de)

Project Coordination: Karoline von Köckritz

[karoline.vonkoeckritz@fu-berlin.de](mailto:karoline.vonkoeckritz@fu-berlin.de)