Academic Further and Distance Education as Part of the European Lifelong Learning Strategy

CULT Public Hearing, European Parliament, Brussels, 24.01.2017

Digitalization shapes the Future

Statement

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Title of the hearing describes 2 different topics:

- **Academic Further Education**

  and

- **Distance Education**

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Academic Further Education

- Describes the level of the content

- Has special target groups

- Students have already a (first) academic degree

- Range from modules (certificates) to full degree programs (Master (Further Education))

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Distance Education

- Describes the method of teaching and learning, not the content or its level

- Has special target groups

- From school via university to lifelong learning

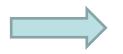- Range from modules to full degree programs

From this follows:

- *Academic Further Education* can be done in

    - Face to face teaching
    - Distance teaching

- **Distance Education** offers

    - Modules (certificates)
    - Undergraduate degree programs (Bachelor)
    - Postgraduate degree programs (Master)
    - Academic further education (from certificates to Master degrees)

Conclusion

- **Academic Further Education** = integral part of lifelong learning

- **Distance Education** = modern study system,
  well suited for lifelong learning,
  especially for employed people

Both stand for equal opportunities in the educational sector in our recent society

Commonness

- **<u>Digitalization</u> will shape the future of *Academic Further Education* as well as of *Distance Education***

- **<u>Digitalization</u> is the key factor for their further development**

Digitalization means for both:

- More flexibility and interactivity by virtual learning enviroments (content, communication, cooperation)
    - Distance Education: e.g. greater mobility, mobile devices
    - Further Academic Education: better linking together of working and learning enviroment

- Reaching new target groups

- More individualization and personalization for the students (diverse educational biographies, individual goals)

- Access to more resources (OER, MOOCs)

Reaching the full Potential of Digitalization in Education

requires

- Excellent student services
- Media and information literacy (teachers and students)

but also

- **Clear and transparent European legal framework:**

    - Property and author rights
    - Rights of use
    - Data security and privacy protection
    - eAcessability

For Degree Programs (European) Standards are needed

for

- Crediting courses from <u>outside</u> the universities
  (formal learning)

- Recognising learning achievements from <u>outside</u> the universities
  (non-formal learning)

Solving the Problems described:

- Cannot be done by the universities alone

- Is also the responsibility of the European politics

- Must therefore become an integral part of the European Lifelong Learning Strategy