

International Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

I am often astounded to see how diverse research at a university of applied sciences can be, as is once again evident from the articles presented in this issue of our international newsletter. For instance, Frankfurt UAS professors focus on urban water management, the prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases in prisons, or new forms of mobility. Besides discovering our broad spectrum of research you can also learn about Frankfurt UAS' further steps towards internationalization, an example being a joint U!REKA proposal for the Erasmus+ Program of European Universities under participation of our university. Finally, please read our report on a recently held panel discussion on the occasion of the European Parliament election and learn about some of the opinions held by the invited representatives of political parties. Please enjoy!

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Frank E. P. Dievernich

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Connecting Learning and Voluntary Commitment: Service Learning at Frankfurt UAS

Process design in a workshop for people with disabilities, optimization of storage rooms in a refugee accommodation, or development of a new mobility and housing concept for refugees in Hanau (near Frankfurt): These are only a few examples of the concrete implementation of service-learning as a teaching and learning format. Service-Learning combines professional learning with voluntary commitment. By dealing with partially socially disadvantaged groups and experiencing their living conditions, Frankfurt UAS students learn and expand their key competences in the areas of tolerance, respect and empathy. They improve the situation of socially disadvantaged groups through their work as part of the university course and make a contribution to society and coexistence. Frankfurt UAS is currently establishing a coordination office for service learning, which is regarded as contact and a networking partner for students and partner organizations. Interested NGOs and NPOs are invited to contact Frankfurt UAS.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

New Research Lab for Urban Transport Has Taken off

The recently founded “Research Lab for Urban Transport” (ReLUT) represents an interdisciplinary research team working on current and future challenges of urban transport, and especially on the development of economic and ecological solutions for delivery and freight services. ReLUT’s research focuses on the Courier-Express-Parcel (CEP) industry, but particularly on sustainable solutions for last mile delivery. This is due to the surge in e-commerce and the resulting increase in commercial traffic. The location of the delivery zones and the associated length of stay of deliverers have impacts on the inner-city traffic situation and the corresponding emissions of pollutants. In cooperation with partners from the scientific community, companies, and public administration, ReLUT develops and tests various last-mile solutions to improve the quality of life in cities. Building on established networks, including the House of Logistics and Mobility (HOLM), in Frankfurt, ReLUT is expanding its network of experts in the fields of transport planning and logistics to examine the challenges of urban transport worldwide and to develop appropriate solutions. For further information please visit www.ReLUT.net

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Cargobike © Ilan Amith | Fotolia.com

NEWS AND EVENTS

Active for Diversity, Equal Opportunities and Inclusion in Europe



students © Ralf Braum | Frankfurt UAS

Frankfurt UAS stands for diversity and opportunities through education, as becomes evident in a substantial number of practical examples such as the ‘Welcome Year for Refugees’ and a program for languages of origin for native Turkish-speaking students. Moreover, Frankfurt UAS pursues a systematic approach to develop a diversity strategy through the Diversity Audit “Shaping Diversity”. The university also conveyed this notion to a focus group of the European University Association (EUA), which compiled a publication as a result: ‘Universities’ strategies and approaches towards diversity, equity and inclusion’. This publication presents seven case studies from EUA member universities which are particularly committed in this area, thus showing how universities can combine various smaller-scale projects into a comprehensive strategy eventually constituting an integral part of the institutions’ missions. Please find this publication at <https://ogy.de/publication-diversity-eua>

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NEWS AND EVENTS

A Platform for Political Discourse: Frankfurt UAS Hosts European Election Event



In light of the upcoming European elections (May 23-26, 2019), the Frankfurt UAS-based Center for Applied European Studies (CAES) invited politicians of all political parties currently represented in the German Bundestag to engage in a

lively discussion with citizens on April 5, 2019. More than 600 guests took the opportunity to critically reflect Europe's current challenges and the parties' approaches to tackle those issues in the university's main lecture hall. The panel consisted of top politicians at the federal and European level as well as leading candidates for the 2019 European election. The event focused on "Europe as a project to ensure peace and democracy". In this context fundamental values of the EU, such as the rule of law, freedom of the press and media, and human rights, were addressed as well as questions of security, migration and asylum, and international cooperation and defense. The upcoming elections are expected to set the course for either a closer union of member states or an increasing disintegration of the EU. For additional information please refer to the website: www.europe-center.de

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovative App Helps to Find Missing Children



CHILD RESCUE

Geo-specific targeting is utilized as part of the EU-funded project "ChildRescue" in order to create a technological solution that will help to locate missing children more time-efficiently. The research team intends to create an app that will use algorithms to determine likely locations where missing children may be found based on data provided by friends and family. The app will then alert people living

in the vicinity of these localities to look for the missing children with the aid of photos and basic information. Prof. Dr. Barbara Klein and Isabelle Brantl, both based at Frankfurt UAS, are in charge of conducting and analyzing international expert interviews on relevant information for different cases as well as the scientific monitoring of the pilot phase of the app. The project takes place in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, and Germany and involves various disciplines, such as engineering and social sciences. For further information please visit <https://www.childrescue.eu>

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Taking a Stand for European Integration: U!REKA Consortium Defines Future Actions



conference participants © Benedikt Bieber | Frankfurt UAS

„Shaping Urban Communities. Smart and Sustainable Solutions“: This was the motto of the U!REKA consortium’s 3rd conference, hosted by Frankfurt UAS in November 2018. Two years after the first conference, collaborative activities across all six institutions, including staff and student mobility projects, yearly academic conferences, departmental visits, and collaborative research projects, have flourished. The conference featured around 100 researchers and 50 members of staff. The participants shared and discussed results and output of the common activities, established new relations, and laid foundations for future projects. And the conference motto already anticipates the next steps the consortium intends to take: In 2019, the alliance will begin to explore a shared approach to education and professional training. It is the consortium’s purpose to use its shared focus on urban topics and pool the expertise of the member

universities in order to achieve intertwined high-quality practice-oriented education and research. Wishing to set an example for the constructive collaboration within the network, Frankfurt UAS participates in the Erasmus+ pilot call for proposals “European Universities” as a part of the consortium. The submitted application, which is coordinated by Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, outlines a concept for a future International University. The innovative model of a U!REKA European University will continue to break new ground for a deeper joint collaboration in the coming years. For further information please visit <http://www.ureka.eu> or <https://www.frankfurt-university.de/ureka>.

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TEACHING AND LEARNING

KompetenzCampus: Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning at Frankfurt UAS

EU Privacy Regulations, Business Administration in Aviation and Tourism Management, and further education for migrants to meet the requirements of the German labor market – all these subject areas are part of the Frankfurt UAS lifelong learning portfolio. In summer 2017, Frankfurt UAS consolidated all continuing education initiatives and programs to establish the lifelong learning department KompetenzCampus. It is the ambition of this department to meet the increasing demand of continuing education in a more complex and international working environment. Being close to university life enables the department to offer high-quality, academic

certificate courses as well as MBA and in-house programs. All courses are designed to be taken avocationally. Providing such a portfolio of lifelong learning courses, Frankfurt UAS strives to become a venue for alumni, professionals and other interested parties to meet in order to refresh their knowledge in their chosen fields. For further information please visit <https://www.frankfurt-university.de/en/continuing-education>.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Condom Summit in Frankfurt: Experts Highlight Importance of Condom Provision in Prisons

On January 24, 2019, Frankfurt UAS hosted a summit on „Condom provision in Prisons“, which was meant to highlight the importance of condom provision in order to prevent infection transmission in prisons and constituted one of the international expert meetings of the project “Joint Action on HIV and Co-infection Prevention and Harm Reduction”. The summit, which attracted participants from eight European countries, opened with an official welcoming speech by Frankfurt UAS Professor Heino Stöver, organizer of the summit, and Ms. Outi Karvonen, project coordinator from the National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland. Five speakers lectured on different aspects of the provision of condoms in prisons such as availability, accessibility, prevention, and costs. Subsequently, the parti-

cipants held a plenary discussion on the existing challenges and optimum models of condom provision in prisons in two focus groups concentrating on details of the implementation and operation of condom programs (with respect to strategies and condom automats, respectively). The results will inform experts on how to introduce and conduct condom programs aiming at the prevention of infectious diseases like HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In Development: New Street Runoff Analysis Method to Improve Urban Water Management



street runoff samples © A. Welker

In March 2019, the Institute of Urban Water Management at Frankfurt UAS hosted the „University Group of Simulation“ (HSGSim) for the second time. The HSGSim is an association of researchers mostly from German-speaking countries who focus on dynamic simulations in urban water management. The group consists of approximately 50 members from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Poland, and the Netherlands and meets twice a year in order to exchange experiences and to develop guidelines for the application of dy-

namical simulations in the field of urban water management in practice. A major topic currently discussed in this group is the development of a laboratory determination method concerning the newly-established test parameter SS63, SS63 being a fine suspended solid less than 63 µm in diameter which can be found in street runoff. This parameter is relevant to the evaluation of ecotoxic effects of street runoff which is discharged to rivers and has recently been included into German test standards. In this context, Frankfurt UAS was in charge of the development of a laboratory comparison test with standard materials (e.g. street dust), nine other research institutes also participating in this project. Objectives of the meeting held in March 2019 were to clarify further steps for the optimization of the laboratory determination method (e.g., street runoff sample division; analytical pretreatment), to publish the laboratory comparison test procedure, and to finally implement the corresponding results into a German DIN standard.

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IMPRINT

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