

Strategic Benchmarking of Universities of Music

Insights into the Work of a Benchmarking Club

Benchmarking in Higher Education. International Benchmarking Conference $13^{th}/14^{th}$ September 2012, Hannover

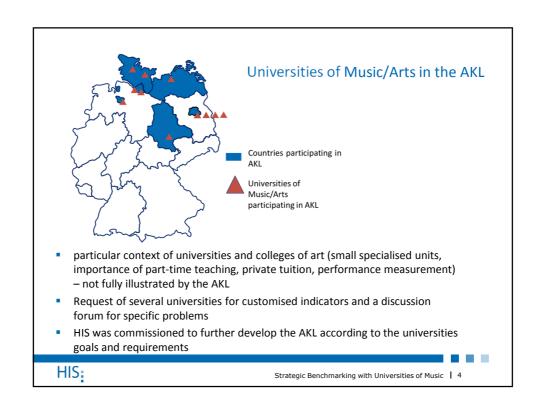
Dr. Axel Oberschelp/Dr. Thomas Schröder

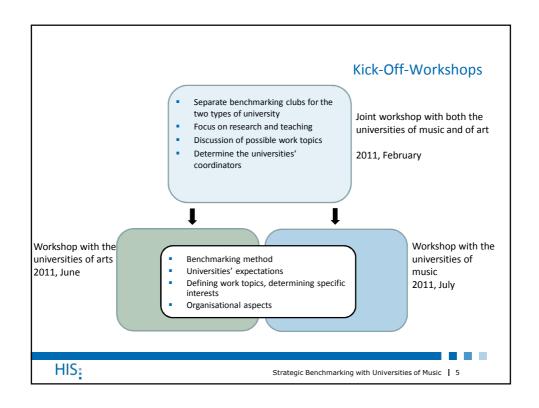
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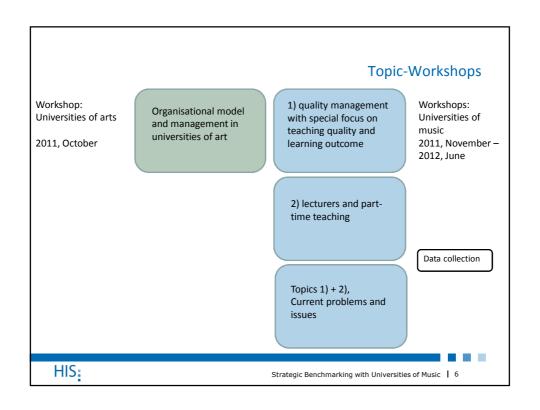
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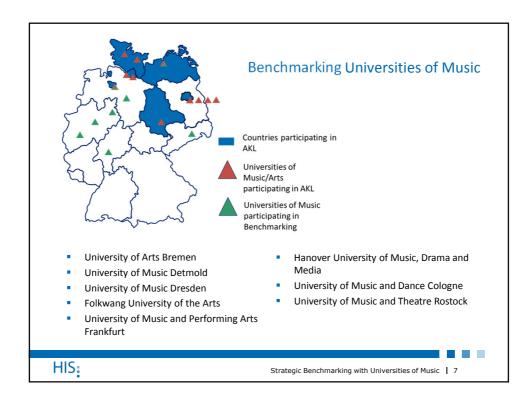
Internal cooperation projects at HIS HIS Higher education research Higher education development social science research on students indicator and process-oriented and graduates benchmarking techniques for higher education institution's long-term survey projects (paneladministrations studies) evaluation of administrative benchmarking-projects (projectstructures and processes centre: steering, funding and evaluation) organisational analysis and consulting for HEIs HIS: Strategic Benchmarking with Universities of Music | 2

Project incentive - Comparisons of equipment, costs and performance (AKL) Cooperation between federal Abbildung 3.15: Drittmittel je Professor - Fächergruppen Mathematik/Naturwissenschaften, Agrar-, Forst- und Ernährungswissenschaften sowie Ingenieurwissenschaften states, higher education institutions and HIS FH Westküste in Heide Specialised indicator HS Wismar 151 % comparison for universities, HS Bremen 144 % universities of appl. sc. and universities of music/arts HS Merseburg 118 % FH Stralsund High quality data gained in a Mittelwert sophisticated survey and data reconciliation procedure HS Magdeburg-Stendal FH Kiel Not a benchmarking project as HS Harz HAW Hamburg such, as no discussion of HS Bremerhaven results planned, but following a general benchmarking FH Lübeck HWR Berlin 0 % approach 20.000 30.000 10.000 HIS: Strategic Benchmarking with Universities of Music | 3









Objectives and topics

Main objective of the participating institutions was

- to answer relevant strategic questions by means of a systematic comparison as well as a continuous exchange
- to directly transfer the findings into day-to-day processes and usual business
- to trigger an ongoing learning process between the participating institutions

Two relevant topics to start off with were identified:

- quality management with special focus on teaching quality and learning outcome
- lecturers and part-time teaching

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Framework

- Workshop-length: 1 ½ days
- Participants: Mainly heads of administration (chancellors), partly lecturers, quality assurance representatives and administrative staff
- Prerequisite: structured timetable and agenda
- Venue: Alternately in premises of participating universities
- Professional supervision and moderation by HIS to secure quality of the process, unbiased views and external input



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Code of conduct

- Confidentiality
 - everything being said stays within the benchmarking group
- Teamwork
 - everybody is responsible for the results of the workshop
 - engagement is indispensable
 - $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{-}}\xspace$ dissatisfaction with methods should be manifested
- Fairness
 - to let someone finish speaking
 - there is no right or wrong
 - fairness towards each other and respect
- Discipline
 - make it short
 - no excursions consistently keep to the defined topic

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Topic I: Teaching Quality and Learning Outcome

, Quality' as hardly tangible subject matter for higher education institutions was main focus

- clarification what is meant by "quality" for universities of music
- overview about methods to secure quality and about quality management systems
- identification of suitable/unsuitable activities and measures to secure teaching quality
- presentation of well-suited approaches to implement these measures and activities (good-practice/best-practice) and to improve quality



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Definition of key questions

The definition of key questions is preceding the following discussion and work of the benchmarking group

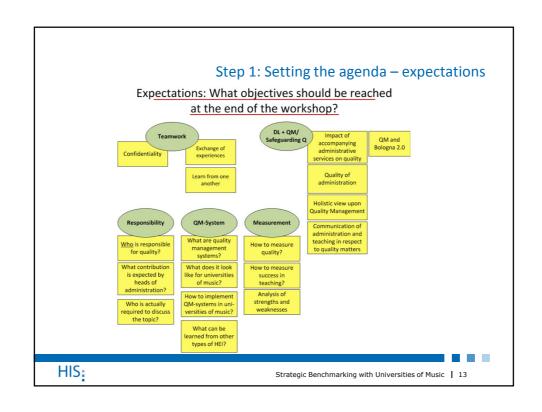
Key questions on "Quality management"

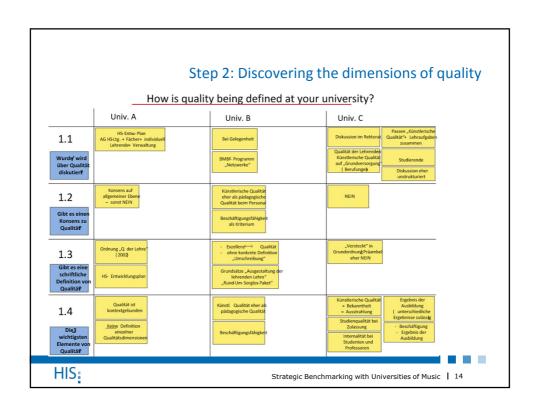
- How do we define teaching quality?
- What type of criteria is suited to precisely describe quality and success in teaching activities?
- What organisational measures exist at your university to safeguard quality?

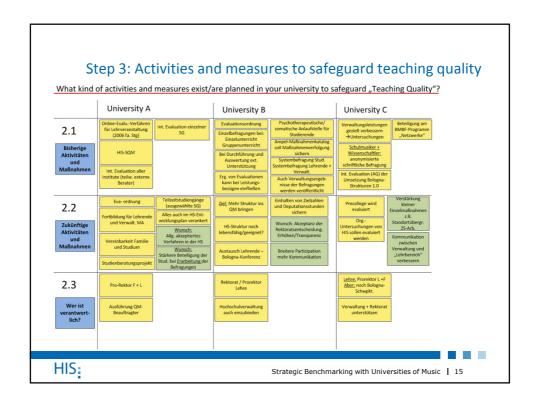
Benchmarking as a step-by-step approach to learn about benchmarking partners, their concepts, ideas, experiences and measures to finally identify good or best practices

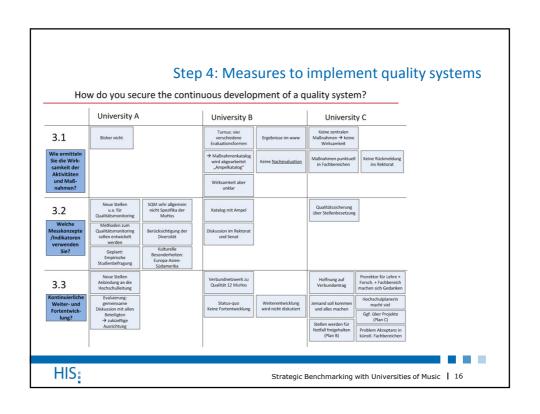
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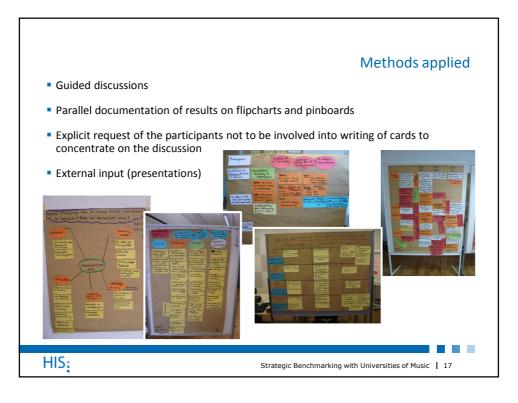
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Topic II: Contract lecturers and part-time teaching

- Contract lecturers as specific employee group within universities of music
 - usually not employed on a long-term contract
 - engagement dependent of individual needs of students (e.g. type of instrument)
 - payment on basis of working hours provided
- Several problems linked to this form of employment:
 - planning on time hindered by late identification of demands
 - dimensioning of real needs difficult because of limited transparency
 - high administrative costs because of permanently changing contract matter as well as high fluctuation of contract lecturers



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Analysis of the topic

Key questions:

- Differentiation of the group of contract lecturers: are they all the same and how do they differ?
- Identification of administrative and organisational problems: what are reasons for problems and how can they be influenced or prevented?
- Formulation of expectations towards contract lecturers from different groups: what do we expect from contract lecturers and do these expectations differ within the university of music?
- Quality and contract lecturers: how can teaching quality be secured within the group of contract lecturers?

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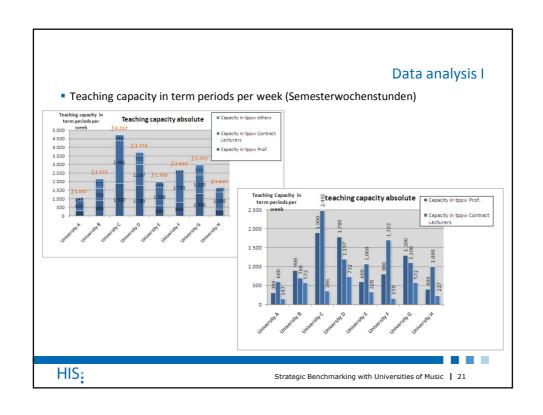
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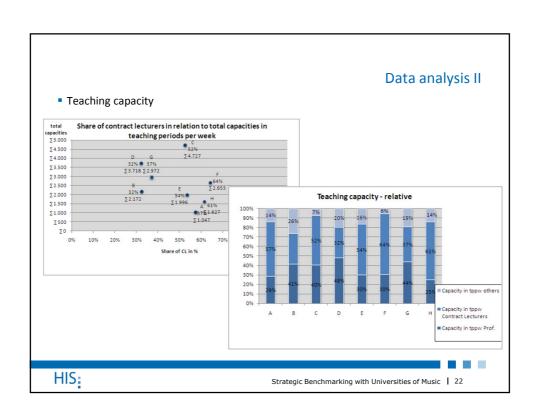
Methods applied

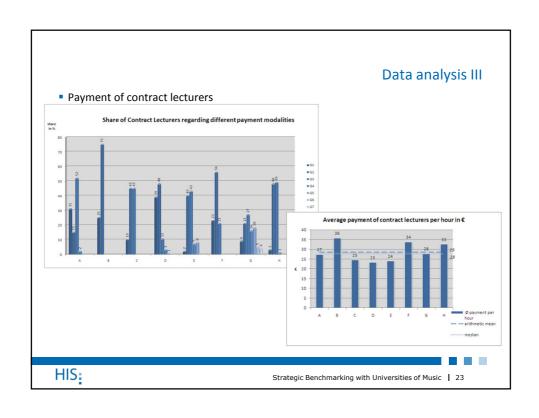
- Presentations and records of innovative approaches to solve existing problems, e.g.
 - presentation of a model to calculate the needs for contract lecturers and part-time teaching based on predictable parameters (input delivered by a participating institution)
 - record from an external speaker about a specific legal arrangement to turn part-time contract lecturers into long-term personnel
- Systematic data collection concerning the employment situation of contract lecturers

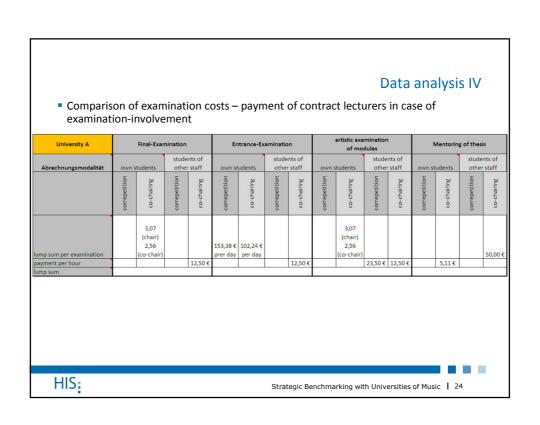
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Get to know where others work ...



... and how they are working

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