DIGI-FACE Project Overview

The Digital Initiative for African Centres of Excellence (DIGI-FACE) is a three-year DAAD funded project with the possibility of a two-year renewal period after 2022. The project aspires to support the digital needs and enhance the digital capacities of all members and alumni of DAAD African Centres of Excellence and their networks via the development of e- and blended learning modules and digital tools.

Project Objectives

- Strengthen cross sectoral skills of lecturers, students, researchers and alumni of Centres of Excellence using digital tools

- Connect geographically separated learners, teachers and supervisor via the digital platform

- Improve teaching and learning conditions by offering e-, m- and blended learning

- Initiate/improve technically adapted sustainable solutions for digitalisation at African Centres of Excellence

- Promote networking among the African Centres of Excellence

Project structure:

The project is structured in five work packages, namely:

WP 1: Platform Development
WP 2: Development of generic e-learning modules and tools for PhD and research students
WP 3: Capacity building on e-learning tools, procedures and design of new digital training courses
WP 4: Development and set up of business models for long-term sustainability of Centres of Excellence and the DIGI-FACE project
WP 5: Overall management and coordination

Platform development:

The DIGI-FACE platform will provide several tools and functions, for example the teaching and learning management system Moodle, collaborative tools, a project management tool for research and PhD-projects, as well as a research and publish space. In order to meet the online and offline e-needs of the Centres of Excellence a dedicated server will be located at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth. A back-up and second server is planned.

Development of generic e-learning modules:

Generic postgraduate level courses will be generated using innovative methods and cutting-edge online teaching and learning methods. These generic courses, such as technology enhanced teaching and learning and research methodologies, will be used as exemplars for the Centres of Excellence to create and integrate their own courses into the platform using the equipment provided for producing digital content.

Capacity building:

Capacity building measures on e-learning tools and the design of digital courses for academics, media and IT staff are a key aspect of the DIGI-FACE project. Emphasis will be on curriculum design, storyboarding, scriptwriting, scenario writing, videography, formatting, editing techniques, use of digital tools and affordances, etc. Workshops on developing digital and online competencies for 3-4 participants per Centre (Project Leader, Academic leader, multimedia/ICT staff) will be held this year. However, due to the current situation, the exact dates cannot be communicated at this stage, but will be in due time.

Long-term sustainability:

The project aims at developing sustainable e-environments and business models at and across DAAD Centres of Excellence so that the project, the platform and its developed content will continue at each Centre beyond the funding period. To reach this goal, a tool to calculate the cost of setting up e-learning for each Centre, a toolkit on how to set up a business model for each Centre, and a business model for the whole project, will be developed.

Partners and role of the Centres of Excellence:

While a consortium based at the University of Applied Sciences Kehl coordinates DIGI-FACE, the University of Oldenburg, the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and the Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth coordinates the project, its success relies on the active participation of all Centres of Excellence in Africa and Germany.

> The Centres are invited to start producing digital content, to integrate their courses online and to shape the project according to their needs.

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