

# **Towards a personal, flexible and engaged way of studying: the Studium Individuale as an example of making European HE more relevant and contemporary.**

**Volker Balli (PhD)**

*Academic Director*

**Presidency Conference “Contemporary Approaches to Learning and Teaching”**

***Tallinn, 19/ 20 September 2017***



## Introduction: Setting the Science

- The demand to modernise Higher Education
- The challenge: to combine economic, civic, and personal relevance
- The Studium Individuale as one example how to achieve this



# I. Basic Buildings Blocks of the Studium Individuale

- Significant choice in designing the curriculum (about 2/3 of the modules can be chosen freely)
- Addressing a question or problem of contemporary relevance by drawing on modules of the entire Leuphana Bachelor
- Cultivation of essential academic skills, especially in the core modules



6	Complementary Studies	Complementary Studies	Analysing Contemporary Societies	Bachelor-Thesis incl. Colloquium		
5	Complementary Studies	Elective	Research Project	Elective	Minor	Minor
4	Complementary Studies	Elective	Culture and Critique	Elective	Minor	Minor
3	Complementary Studies	Elective	Understanding Knowledge	Elective	Elective	Minor
2	Complementary Studies	Elective	Analysing Global Orders	Elective	Elective	Minor
1	Science and Responsibility		Introduction: Modern Freedom	Science and Understanding	Methods of the Studium Individuale	
					Methods I	



## II. Educational Aims of the Programme

- Higher motivation for and engagement in one's studies
- The ability to understand and address relevant problems – and thus to be prepared for active citizenship as well as work life
- Cultivation of essential generic academic skills, not the least of making informed, responsible decisions



### III. Necessary Conditions for a thriving programme

- An Enabling environment: A supportive, innovative university + Bologna process + liberal education as the extended family
- Reassuring Structures : Some elements, and goals, must be given
- A Supportive Culture: Engaged students (important of recruitment) and teachers, who give support, especially through advising



## IV. Misunderstandings that are to be avoided

- A Studium Generale: rather, it combines breadth and personalised depth in skills and knowledge
- Solitary self-realisation: rather, the learning depends on the community of fellow students and teachers
- A return to the Humboldtian pre-Bologna Magister: rather, it consciously used the Bologna-Framework



## Conclusions: Wider relevance for HE in Europe

- Taking student-centredness seriously: to allow for flexibility and a more personal curriculum
- Promoting *co-creation*: Higher engagement + more in line with most later jobs
- Rethinking what we mean by key competences





# Further Information and contact details

## Website

[www.leuphana.de/bachelor-studium-individuale.html](http://www.leuphana.de/bachelor-studium-individuale.html)

## New Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership

[www.europe-creates.eu](http://www.europe-creates.eu)

## Contact

[volker.balli@leuphana.de](mailto:volker.balli@leuphana.de)