

Digitalisation in Germany

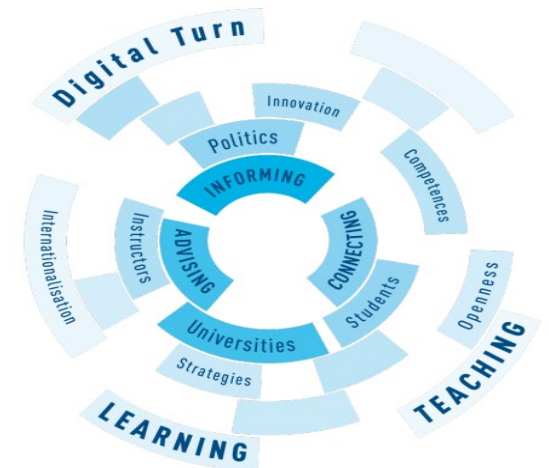
Desk research results

Digitalisation Strategy

In the German context, the digitalization program has been targeted to 3 different perspectives:

- Federal Digital Agenda (2014-2017),
- the think-tank Higher Education Forum on Digitalization (Hochschulforum Digitalisierung),
- German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Any sort of genuine digital transformation needs to come from the strategic level.



Digitalisation Strategy

13 of the 16 federal states in Germany have digital agendas or strategies, all recognize the challenges of digitalization such as data security, and advantages like economic growth

Out of 110 universities in their study, during 2016 and 2018, 13,6% have designed a digitalization strategy for their institution and 40,9% are developing it

Digitalisation and Teaching

For higher education institutions the main goal of their digitalization strategies is the upgrading of the quality of teaching (91,7%).

An important factor in the development of digital higher education is appropriate organizational and professional development.

Drivers to Digitalisation

- Pressure to innovate and bring novelties to different areas of education
- Foster inclusion and access to education
- Foster flexible pathways in education
- Prepare better people for demands of 21st century and digital professions
- Strengthen digital literacy in the digital era
- Include citizens more in education
- Include different stakeholders as co-creators in education

Barriers to Digitalisation

- Lack of strategic commitment on the top level (e.g. lack of Digitalisation Strategies)
- Lack of connectedness, communication and collaboration among different stakeholders who are critical in making digitalisation cross-cut entire institution in a smooth and holistic manner
- Lack of structural support to properly guide students through counselling
- Lack of structural support to properly guide staff in leveraging digital opportunities
- Discrepancy between perceived importance of digitalisation and its implementation
- Scepticism in attitudes
- Resistance to change
- Concerns about data protection and privacy and accent on data austerity
- Marginalised and vulnerable students less likely to be included/use digital services

Future Outlook

- German Rectors Conference for instance logged a request to the German government that all universities get the so-called “digitalization allowance” to allow for stable investments in digital infrastructure at all universities.
- It is expected that many teachers develop more digital skills and do so continuously to stay on the pulse with the latest trends