




University Lifelong Learning in Austria

Nino Tomaschek
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OVERVIEW

- AUCEN – National Network: Mission, Focus on Continuing Education and Staff Development, Structure, History, Members and Activities
- UCE in Austria: Facts & Figures
- Best practise: University of Vienna and UCE

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National Network - AUCEN

Austrian University Continuing Education and Staff Development Network

- AUCEN is the first network for universities continuing education and staff development in Austria
- AUCEN is a workgroup of persons for continuing education and staff development at Austrian universities

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AUCEN ...

AUCEN promotes Continuing Education and Staff Development at Universities

- at policy level – through involvement and lobbying at national and European level to establish adequate conditions in these areas
- at organisational level – through networking and professionalization of the experts and persons in charge at the universities
- at content level – through quality development in continuing education and staff development

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AUCEN Mission Statement

Knowledge-based societies are faced with the challenge of organising Lifelong Learning. For universities, this means providing differentiated learning programmes for target groups in different phases of life. Lifelong Learning has an impact on the competencies, profile and role of the university staff in terms of teaching, research, and services and, consequently, on staff development. Furthermore, Lifelong Learning requires a change in and a broadening of the picture of the student. As a platform, AUCEN deals with the organisation and design of the required transformation processes.

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AUCEN – Why Continuing Education?

Continuing Education offered by Universities:

Next to research and teaching, **Continuing Education** is a **central task of the universities** and covers a wide range of activities. In promoting Lifelong Learning, continuing education offers **various formats and programmes** for **different target groups** in order to establish a fruitful interchange of research-based "state of the art" with the requirements of practice.

Continuing Education offered by universities includes activities that make the university accessible to an interested public. Academic programmes awarding a range of certificates/degrees up to international master's degrees are aimed at graduates of higher education institutions and **practitioners with adequate professional experience**.

The **interaction of theory and best practice** facilitates university continuing education programmes. Tailor-made programmes for specific target groups, e.g. "corporate programmes" for companies and public institutions, complete the spectrum.

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AUCEN – Why Staff Development?

Staff Development at Universities:

The **university as an organisation of experts** has the key task of providing access to, developing, and communicating knowledge and art. To achieve this task, the **know-how and the creative potential** of the university staff is a **central factor**; this is why staff development at universities is of great importance.

Staff development facilitates the achievement of the organisation's goals and is the responsibility of the administration of each individual department/unit. The central unit for staff development assists and gives advice to the administrators and develops target-oriented measures.

These measures need to comply with the strategic goals of the universities and the ensuing objectives for the organisational units, as well as with the development options and goals of the university's staff.

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AUCEN and it's history

- The first initiative was started in 1996. In the course of the implementation of the UOG 93 (Universities Organisation Act) in March 1996, the then Vice-Rector for CE and HR at the University of Agricultural Sciences Vienna invited colleagues from other universities to a round table to exchange experiences of UCE and HR.
- The round table developed into a network. 1998 the name AUCEN and the aims and guidelines were established and a representative as "Sprecher" designated (former Chairmen: Prof. Walter Schiebel, Prof. Ada Pellert, Prof. Christa Schnabl).
- AUCEN is a forum for the common interests and specific needs of both subject areas, university continuing education and staff development. From Oct. 2002 to Jan. 2005, the AUCEN Office was provided with staff resources financed by the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture to advance the network.
- Up to October 2005, AUCEN was an informal network of universities for universities. Since then, AUCEN is a registered, formal association with its office financed by the member universities.

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AUCEN and it's structure

- AUCEN has its own statutes and regulations as required by Austrian Association law.
- Steering Committee: It is composed of six professionals (three working in university continuing education, three in university staff development) from different member universities. The members of the Steering Committee are elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. Externally the AUCEN network is represented by a Spokesperson and a Vice-Spokesperson.
- AUCEN General Assembly: The General assembly meets twice a year at the AUCEN Meetings. It elects the steering committee.
- AUCEN Meetings: are held twice a year - at one of the member universities. AUCEN Workshops are usually held within the Meetings and/or separately.
- Since 01. January 2012: Chairman and Head of Coordination Office of AUCEN are from the University of Vienna (Postgraduate Center)

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Members of AUCEN

Membership is institutional only and all public Austrian universities are potential members. Each university nominates and delegates representatives for university continuing education and university staff development. Membership is subject to a fee. AUCEN currently has 20 members.

University of Graz	Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
Graz University of Technology	Medical University of Vienna
Medical University of Graz	University of Vienna
University of Music and Performing Arts Graz	Vienna University of Technology
University of Innsbruck	Vienna University of Economics and Business
Innsbruck Medical University	University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
University of Klagenfurt	University of Applied Arts Vienna
Danube University Krems	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
Johannes Kepler University Linz	University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
University of Arts and Design Linz	
University of Salzburg	

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AUCEN – Activities

- AUCEN depends on the commitment and the voluntary contributions of its members and their willingness to **share experiences and good practice**. It is up to the members to form **task groups** to work on specific topics of current interest. These results are presented at the **network meetings** and provide impetus for both subject areas.
- Communication and Dialogue: AUCEN is a platform where persons responsible for continuing education and staff development at Austrian universities can exchange their experiences.
- **Development of Quality and Quality Assurance:** To develop and assure quality standards is a constant challenge. Members of the AUCEN network work on the advancement and assurance of quality criteria in both subject areas.
- **Common Forum for University Continuing Education and University Staff Development:** Both address different target groups. The common interest is to exchange experiences and ideas and to strengthen the position of both subject areas through joint strategies.
- **Contribution to New Developments at the Universities:** Since the Austrian universities became autonomous at the beginning of 2004, the AUCEN network pursues joint strategies and stimulates the implementation of new concepts.

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AUCEN – International Networking

- AUCEN has had close links with EUCEN, the European University Continuing Education Network and has been a full member since 2010. Andrea Waxenegger, President of EUCEN was founder member of AUCEN and steering member until 2011.
- Members of AUCEN regularly take part in EUCEN activities, such as European conferences (and within these, the National Networks Meetings) and projects. Information on topics on the European agenda is distributed via AUCEN to the network members, feedback of AUCEN members is fed into the work of EUCEN.
- AUCEN has still a link to the EUA (European University Association). University of Vienna was a part of the SIRUS Project (Shaping Inclusive and Responsive University Strategies).

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UCE-Programs (HE) in Austria (1/2)

Legal Framework (UCE) for Universities:

- Austrian universities are required by law to include Continuing Education in their performance objectives: “continuing education, particularly post-graduate training” (Austrian Universities Act 2002, fully implemented on 1 January 2004).
- The Austrian Universities Act 2002 explicitly allows – in order to provide financial and organisational support – cooperation with other legal entities.
- University Continuing Education (UCE) provision is not part of the regular (under)graduate degree programs of the universities.

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UCE-Programs (HE) in Austria (2/2)

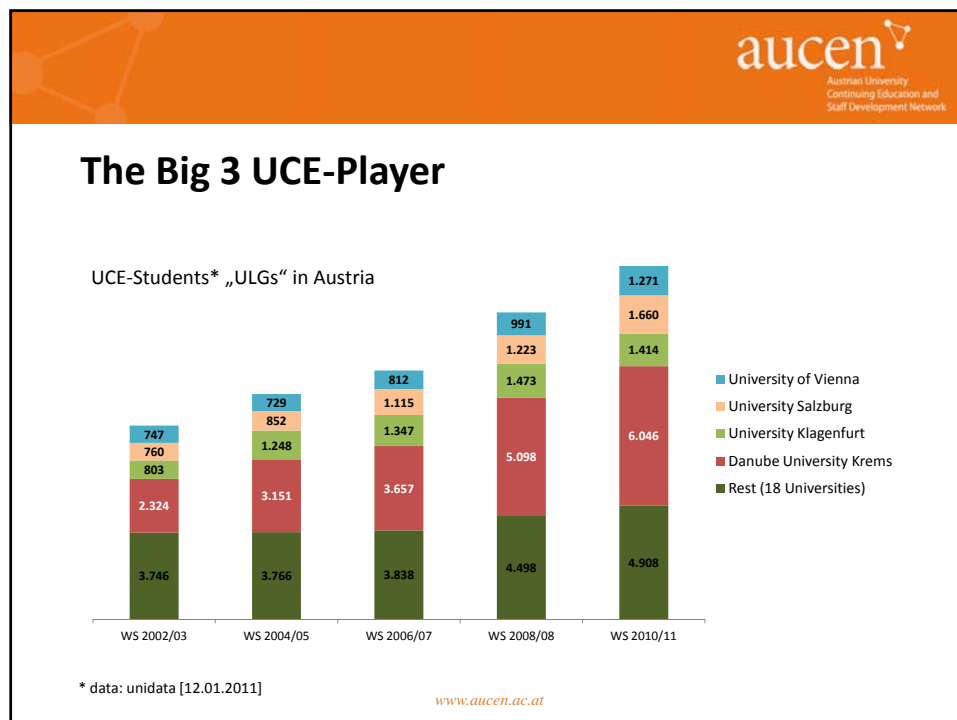
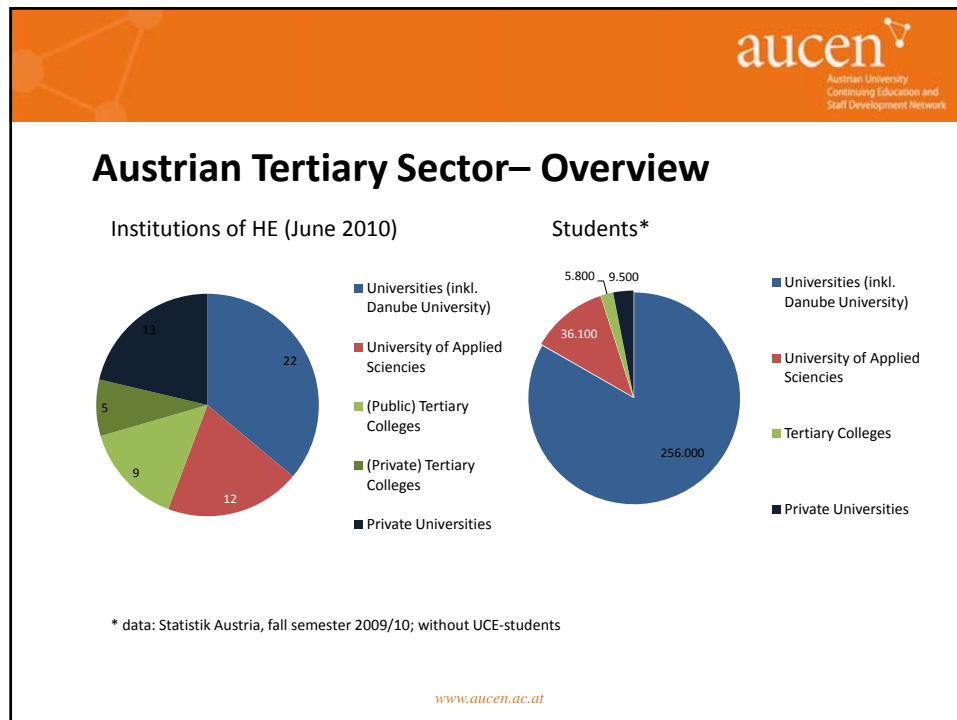
Universities – formal (by university act):

- (regular) study programs (Bachelor, Master, PhD...)
- (non-regular) study programs („Universitätslehrgänge“) leading to an academic degree, academic-term or without formal degree (MBA, MA, MSc, „academic expert“...)

Universities – additional UCE-programs (no legal basis)

- certificate courses (with/without ects)
- summerschool (with/without ects)
- corporate programs (with/without ects)
- seminars/workshops etc.

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University of Vienna



1848

2012



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The University of Vienna (1/2)

- is the oldest university in the German-speaking world founded in **1365** by Duke Rudolph IV, „*Alma Mater Rudolphina*“
- was established with four faculties: The School of Law, the Medical School as well as the School of Arts and Sciences were established in 1365, the Theological Faculty in 1384. The university developed rapidly and was the largest of its kind in the Roman Empire of German Nationalities during the 15th century.
- occupies nearly 100 locations in Vienna
- encompasses a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines in the following fields of research and education: theology, law, economics, computer sciences, humanities, social and natural sciences

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The University of Vienna (2/2)

- is one of the largest universities in Central Europe and the largest teaching and research institution in Austria:
 - more than **90.000 students** (20.000 internationals) are enrolled at the University of Vienna
 - more than **7.500 students graduate** every year
 - more than **130 studies** (Bachelor, Master, Diploma and Doctorate)
 - **9.500 employees** (340 of them are full professors; 6.600 have a position in reasearch and teaching and 2.900 work in the administration/management of more than 200 research and management units)
 - has **18 faculties** excluding Medical School, engineering, music and arts etc. By the new university law of 2002 it gained its autonomy and is still in a restructuring process of making this autonomy fully come true.

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Potential benefits of Life Long Learning for research universities like the University of Vienna

- Expanding concepts of learning and knowledge
- Making educational structures more innovative and flexible
- Upstream strategies: new subjects, interdisciplinary research
- Non-linearity of the research process: “...by questioning the linearity and predictability of the research process, it called into question definitions of applied as well as pure research...”*
- Knowledge creation is an interactive process between practice and theory
- Strengthening resources

* HELGA NOWOTNY, PETER SCOTT and MICHAEL GIBBONS: *The New Production of Knowledge, The Dynamics Of Science And Research In Contemporary Societies*; Oxford University Press 2003, S. 190

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The Way to UCE at the University of Vienna

- 2008: Fokus on UCE and a „rectorate project UCE“ was established. Beginn of 2009 the „Postgraduate Center“ was founded (3 employees) in order to bundle the activities in the field of UCE at the University of Vienna.
- Central objectives: Establishing a new/efficient PM structure; Expansion of central services (for faculties, etc.); Particular focus on quality assurance; Increase the awareness of UCE an the University of Vienna; Focus on new international research and cooperation projects
- Since 01. January 2012: The Chairman of the board and Head of Coordination Office of AUCEN (The Austrian Network for Continuing Education and Staff Development) are from the University of Vienna (Postgraduate Center).
- Our staff (25 persons): Team of directors; Marketing&Communication; Finance&Controlling; Program Management; Program Assistants ; Scientific Projects; Service Center and Student Staff

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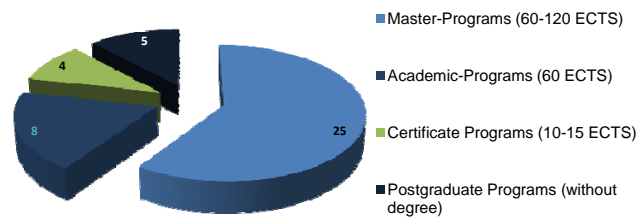
Our Mission Statement – ULLL and UCE

- Besides research and teaching, University Continuing Education (UCE) and Lifelong Learning is seen as a core area at the University of Vienna and will invest
- The University of Vienna follows a broad concept of Lifelong Learning that is reflected in a wide range of programs and activities.
- The University of Vienna invests in the UCE-Sector in order to enlarge the portfolio of Postgraduate Programs.
- UCE must bear its own financial burden, therefore both university training courses and specialised CE-Modules have to be budgeted at full costs.

This points are also positioned in the development plan 2012.

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Our UCE-Programs (1/2)



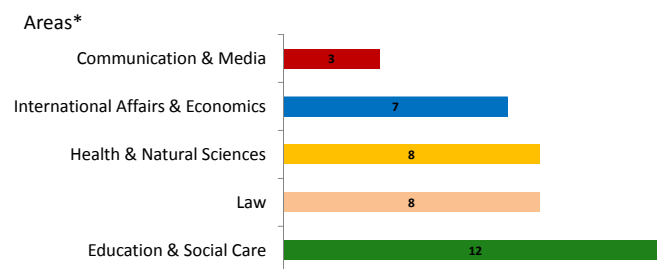
Total basis*: 38 CVET-Programs (ULG) and 4 CP

Since 2006 all UCE-Programs at the University of Vienna are developed in accordance to the Bologna-Process (ECTS, Learning Outcomes, Modules,...)

* data: University of Vienna [January 2012]

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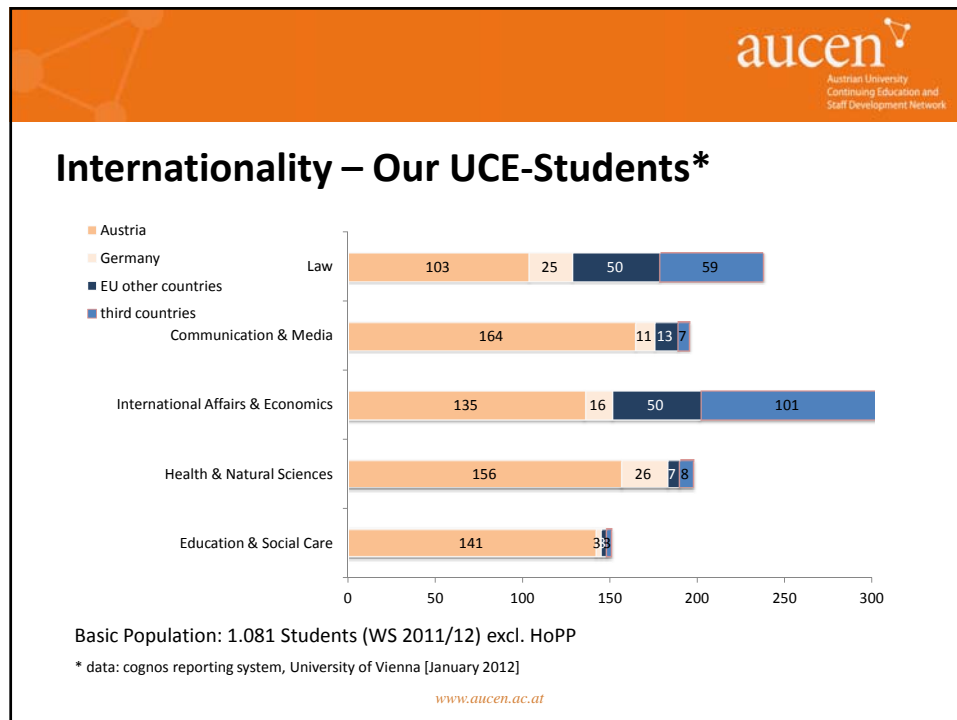
Our UCE-Programs (2/2)



Total basis: 38 CVET-Programs (ULG)

* data: University of Vienna [January 2012]

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Specifics of Postgraduate Programs („ULG“)

Structure of postgraduate programs

- across faculties organized
- always one scientific program director (has to be professor at the University of Vienna); The scientific program director has the same functions as so-called SPL at the University of Vienna (responsible for the reception/admission, recognition, observance of the scientific quality)
- almost (at Master-Level) a scientific advisory board
- Program Manager/Program Assistant for all operational activities

Costs

- under the Universities Act UCE have to be planned with full costs > tuition fees between € 3.500,-- and € 23.500,--

Duration

- between 2 Semester (30 ECTS) and 6 Semester (120 ECTS); mostly part-time, 6 Programmes are full-time-studies

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Characteristics and Key benefits of the Postgraduate Programs at the University of Vienna

Our Postgraduate Programs

- allow „students“ to upgrade their own professional specialization and discover new job opportunities – gain relevant skills („preparation for leading positions“)
- offer a wide range of career perspectives through interdisciplinary programs
- are aimed at the needs of working students and professionals
- are arranged on a part-time basis (only 6 are full-time)
- enable efficient learning in small groups (limited number of students)
- nearly all are in the teaching/working language german (4 in english)
- some programs are unique throughout Austria

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Current challenges (1/2)

1. Less awareness for recognition of prior learning at the Austrian Universities

- Discussion about open access and study conditions are in the main focus of an Austrian „comprehensive University“ – so RPL is not a main topic
- But there was a very important project „Quality Management in the UCE“ from the AQA, raised by the Bmwf (results are from January 2012), where the University of Vienna was Project member.

All participating Universities have stressed the importance of RPL and noted that there has been no „methods“ in the UCE now.

- AUCEN sees this topic as a main focus in the next 2 years.

UCE-Centres (at Universities) are striving for years, to give this issue more importance
> but the UCE-Centres need professional support, to develop (jointly) these processes

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Current challenges (2/2)

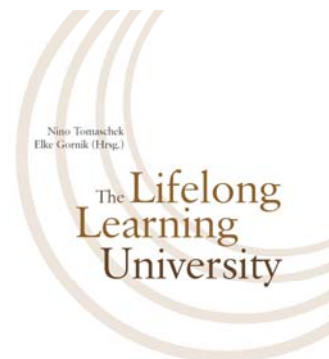
2. **Expansion of target group-specific formats** (e.g. extra-occupational/praxis-oriented BA programs, full-time PhDs) conflicting with the law UG 2002
3. **CVET-Programs are (still) not classified in the EQR/NQR**
4. **UCE-Students are, due the legal framework, disadvantaged**

But finally: UCE at Universities has received in the recent years a higher priority and allows Universities to get better links between science and practice. Many developments (e.g. e-learning, new teaching methods, etc.) have taken their origin from the experiences in the UCE.

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Ideas about „The Lifelong Learning University“

- Perspectives on Lifelong Learning in the field of higher education
- Lifelong Learning Activities at universities: settings, content and challenges
- Lifelong Learning as a challenge for the Management
- Status quo in Austria



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Contact

AUCEN Chairman
Priv.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Nino Tomaschek, MAS
Director of the Postgraduate Center
E-mail: nino.tomaschek@univie.ac.at

AUCEN Office
Mag.a Elke A. Gornik
Deputy Director of the Postgraduate Center
E-mail: aucen@univie.ac.at

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