



Survey on Structure and Organization of University Continuing Education

Findings and Challenges in Austria

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon
Danube University Krems
Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Agenda

- Higher Education System
- Special Features of UCE
- Main Findings
- Challenges

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon
Danube University Krems
Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Higher Education System

➤ HE Institutions in Austria

- 21 universities
- 1 University of Continuing Education (Krems)
- 11 Private Universities (PU)
- 18 Institutions of Applied Sciences (FH)

➤ Universities

- 210.125 students
- 9.829 students in UCE
- 3.124 students at the Danube University Krems

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon

Danube University Krems

Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Higher Education System

➤ Organizational and structural changes in the HE sector

- From governmental bodies to autonomous institutions
- From external governed to self-directed

➤ New challenges through

- Bologna-Process
- European Qualifications Framework for LLL

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon

Danube University Krems

Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Special Features of UCE

- Signal system and gateway for
 - Non-academic professions
 - New demands and requirements
- Diversity in programs/formats
 - Academic Expert (60 ECTS)
 - MA-programs comparable to international MA-programs
 - Courses and Certified programs
 - Open lectures, workshops (widening participation)
- Diversity in Accreditation
 - No obligatory external accreditation at the universities
 - External accreditation for PUs and FHs

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon
Danube University Krems
Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Main findings

- Diversified organization and structure
 - Decentralized in departments/faculties
 - Support through centers or staff units
 - Outsourced as association or Ltd. (GmbH) – executive education
- Diversified Systems of Quality Assurance
 - Wide range of tools embedded in Quality Management Systems
 - Accreditation procedures (PU, FH)
- Diversity in Access
 - Open in „Universitätslehrgang“ - „equivalent qualification“
 - Academic orientation of UCE on MA level vs. professional qualification

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon
Danube University Krems
Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Main findings

➤ Target groups

- Alumni
- (non-)Academic Practitioners
- Companies
- Broad Public

➤ Profiling

- Concentration on main scientific topics of the university vs. concentration on needs and demands
- Scientific focus vs. orientation outwards
- What means „academic“?

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon
Danube University Krems
Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management



Challenges

➤ Integration of UCE in a strategy of Lifelong Learning

- UCE and Bologna
- Change of perspectives – learner orientation

➤ Access and Permeability

- Orientation towards competencies
- Recognition of non-formal and informal learning

➤ New ways of interlocking the different sectors

- Cooperation with companies – corporate programs, in-house trainings

3LUC Site visit, December 4, 2006, Krems

Dr. Eva Cendon
Danube University Krems
Department for Continuing Education Research and Educational Management

