



Public Private Partnership in Civil and Structural Engineering Education

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Summary

This paper provides information about the legal basis and development of public private partnerships (PPPs) in civil and structural engineering education. It informs about advantages, disadvantages and the experience with partners in civil and structural engineering programs at Leipzig University of Applied Sciences. German universities in their current situation need public private partnerships to ensure the high quality in civil and structural engineering education and to develop new attractive programs in the interests of the students.

Keywords: Civil and Structural Engineering Education, Public Private Partnership, International Programs.

1. Introduction

Under the influence of the European Bologna Process the German Higher Education System has significantly changed over the past 15 years. While adopting many aspects of the Anglo-American higher education system, the legal situation for universities has hardly changed. In many German Federal States universities are not allowed to charge tuition fees for undergraduate study programs although the public sector gradually withdraws from the universities' funding. Further, the reduction of scientific and administrative staff by 2016 and beyond is planned. The government and society expect universities performing more and more with less and less resources.

In order to provide the highest educational standards and to develop interesting new study offers for the students, universities must go unconventional, demanding and creative ways. Especially in creating international programs universities are dependent on innovative solutions, which allow them to offer the best possible student's service to foreign students.

One of the creative solutions can be the use of advantages of public private partnerships in civil and structural engineering education. In other fields of daily business the public private partnership is an effective mean for cooperation between state-financed institutions and third parties. Exploiting the opportunities of a PPP, the university and the private institution can share the responsibility for higher educational tasks imposed on universities. The Faculty of Civil Engineering at Leipzig University of Applied Sciences practices this kind of cooperation for many years in two civil and structural engineering programs.