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Setting up a New Culture of Teaching:

Ways of enhancing the quality in teaching and learning at Technische Universität Berlin

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With 30.000 students, about 100 study programs, 296 professors and 7 faculties – the Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin) is the third largest institute of technology in Germany. By 2008 the TU Berlin completed the transformation of its entire syllabus into a Bachelor/ Master degree system that fits to the European Higher Education Area. The challenge of the forthcoming years is imposed by social change in Germany: a rising number of students entering universities in the next years, an increasing heterogeneity arising from the different educational and biographical backgrounds of students and a shortage of qualified employees at the labour market. With regard to this frame conditions the Federal Ministry of Education and Research released the third pillar of the federal Higher Education Pact [1]. In this frame, the TU Berlin applied for and got 10.5 Million € funding. The university will use the money for implementing a bunch of measures that will foster teaching and education in engineering and natural sciences in the following five years.

In 2012 the TU Berlin initiated the program “First class for our students” in order to improve the conditions of studying and teaching. Common to all measures the TU Berlin is the focus, first, on the undergraduate studies, in particular on the first-year students and, second, on the so-called MINT – subjects, that i.e. **M**athematics, **I**nformatics, **N**atural sciences and **T**echnical subjects (e.g. engineering).

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The overall aim of the project is to enhance the culture of teaching and learning. The program supports a better academic staffing for all status groups (student tutors, academic members of the staff and full professors) as well as measures for didactic qualifications and counseling. The following picture summarizes the eight subprojects:

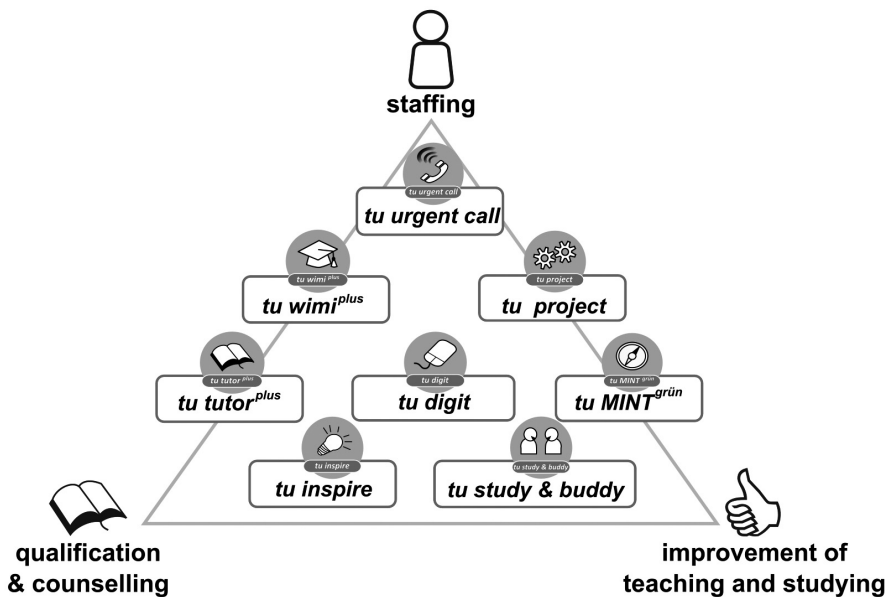


Fig. 1. Overview of the program "First Class for our Students" with subprojects

Clearly, the improvement of quality in teaching and studying is a multidimensional task that needs to put on at various levels within a university. Therefore, the eight subprojects involve different status groups across all faculties and the central administration. In order to maximize the effect of so far local projects all personnel measures are linked to measures of further qualification, supervision or counseling. ■

REFERENCES

- [1] Higher Education Pact of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research: <http://www.bmbf.de/en/6142>,
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