Sub-measure 4.1: Global Digital Learning Centre

1. Introduction and Target groups

Building on given strengths and in acknowledgement of weaknesses the Global Digital Learning Centre will "diversify, improve and internationalise teaching for all students in Freiburg and also at our partner universities in the European Campus and at our key transatlantic partner universities."

Freiburg University is a pioneer with complementary competences at 2 institutions:

(1) The E-Learning Dept. at the University's Computer Centre is responsible for Digital Learning technical infrastructure and services, including a Learning-Management System and a virtual classroom server for onCampus-E-Learning. In collaboration with the Dept. for Didactics, it offers an E-Learning qualification certificate program for lecturers.

(2) The Media Centre at Freiburg University Library provides digital content at the central level, state-of-the-art video technology, expertise in the production and handling of audio and video material (cameras, cutting stations, studios), and services for recording and livestreaming lectures.

Target Groups of the Measure "Global Digital Learning Centre": All students and instructors of

(1) undergraduate and graduate degree programmes at Freiburg University, as well as continuing education programmes (Online Master Study programmes),

(2) coordinated or cooperative study programmes at the European Campus,

(3) coordinated study programmes with global key partners.

2. Identified Strengths and Weaknesses and Resulting Objectives for the Centre

Strengths

- The University has a functional technical infrastructure and the necessary support services
- Furthermore, it offers an E-Learning qualification program with a certificate of completion.
- Furthermore, it has established incentives for instructors to use E-Learning in their programs and courses (e.g. an E-Learning prize and up to four Instructional Development Awards (IDA) per year for innovative teaching projects, often based on digitalized teaching).

Weaknesses

- The capacity of services is too low to satisfy the increasing needs from all faculties.
- Digital teaching happens more or less accidentally, mainly depending on the interest and the engagement of the individual instructor.
- To produce videos and podcasts of lectures is by far not enough; innovative formats should be student-centered, activate students' learning capacities, and be of interest also for our the partners.

The Centre will build on the strengths, experiences and existing structures and address identified weaknesses in order to further develop and consolidate blended and digital study programmes in and beyond Freiburg. More concretely and at Freiburg University, the Centre will

- expand the (decentral) digital infrastructure and support services in technical and didactical matters at the University of Freiburg, including tailor-made advice and solutions for E-Learning at the level of individual study programmes and of individual courses,
- establish a mutual learning and transfer platform for study programmes, instructors, and students on successful digital teaching formats ("digital teaching lab"),
- establish a combined central-decentral E-learning content catalog based on the University's OER (Open Educational Resources) and including support for decentral content production (esp. images, videos),
- enhance the integration of an increasingly diverse student body and staff.

In order to promote internationalisation and teaching cooperation at the levels of the European Campus, the European University, and with our global key partners, the Centre will:

- establish compatibilities with foreign collaboration partners and their respective technical systems and E-Learning experiences,

- enable interfaces between the Freiburg E-learning content catalog and similar catalogs and databases at the partner institutions,
- enable the development and implementation of blended and digital learning scenarios with partners at the levels of the European Campus, the European University, and globally, including the establishment of such full-fledged study programmes.

3. Implementation

The Centre will pool activities of the abovementioned institutions and take digital learning and teaching to a new level. Infrastructure and support are to be focused on the actual users, i.e. instructors and students, and be driven by their experiences and requirements. We therefore propose a **Co-Creation Group** for the Centre's development and implementation, consisting of students, technicians, administrative staff, non-professorial instructors, professors, the directors of the University Library and the Computer Centre, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Preparatory Time Table

March/April 2019	Co-Creation Group Workshop "Global Digital Learning Centre"
Spring 2019	Constitution of the Governing Board and 3 Subgroups for (1) Digitalization of On-Campus-Study programmes, (2) Creation of blended learning formats for bi- or trinational study programmes within the European Campus, (3) Digital formats for transatlantic and global cooperation
Summer 2019	Participation of one or two representatives of the Global Digital Learning Centre in the blended-learning leadership development program 2019 of the IELOL 2019 and/or organization of an international workshop at Freiburg University, with the help of Larry Ragan (Penn State University)
Autumn 2019	Peer counseling about the internationalization of digital learning formats/the specific conditions of producing digital learning material for internationalization purposes/transnational teaching
December 2019	Establishment of the Global Digital Learning Centre