



Approaches to Social Transformation

Palestinian - German Educational Dialogue and Student Exchange – Development and Implementation of a Joint University Module

2014-2016





The University

- Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences
- founded in 1991 and currently has a total of 2,500 students
- four departments offer courses in more than ten different subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- we work in close association with businesses and institutions from within our region
- the campus is near the city centre and located close to Lake Tollense





Our Courses of Study

- each of our 4 departments offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses
- courses leading to B.Sc./B.A. and M.Sc./M.A.
- include a practical semester and/or provide practical work experience





Our Faculties

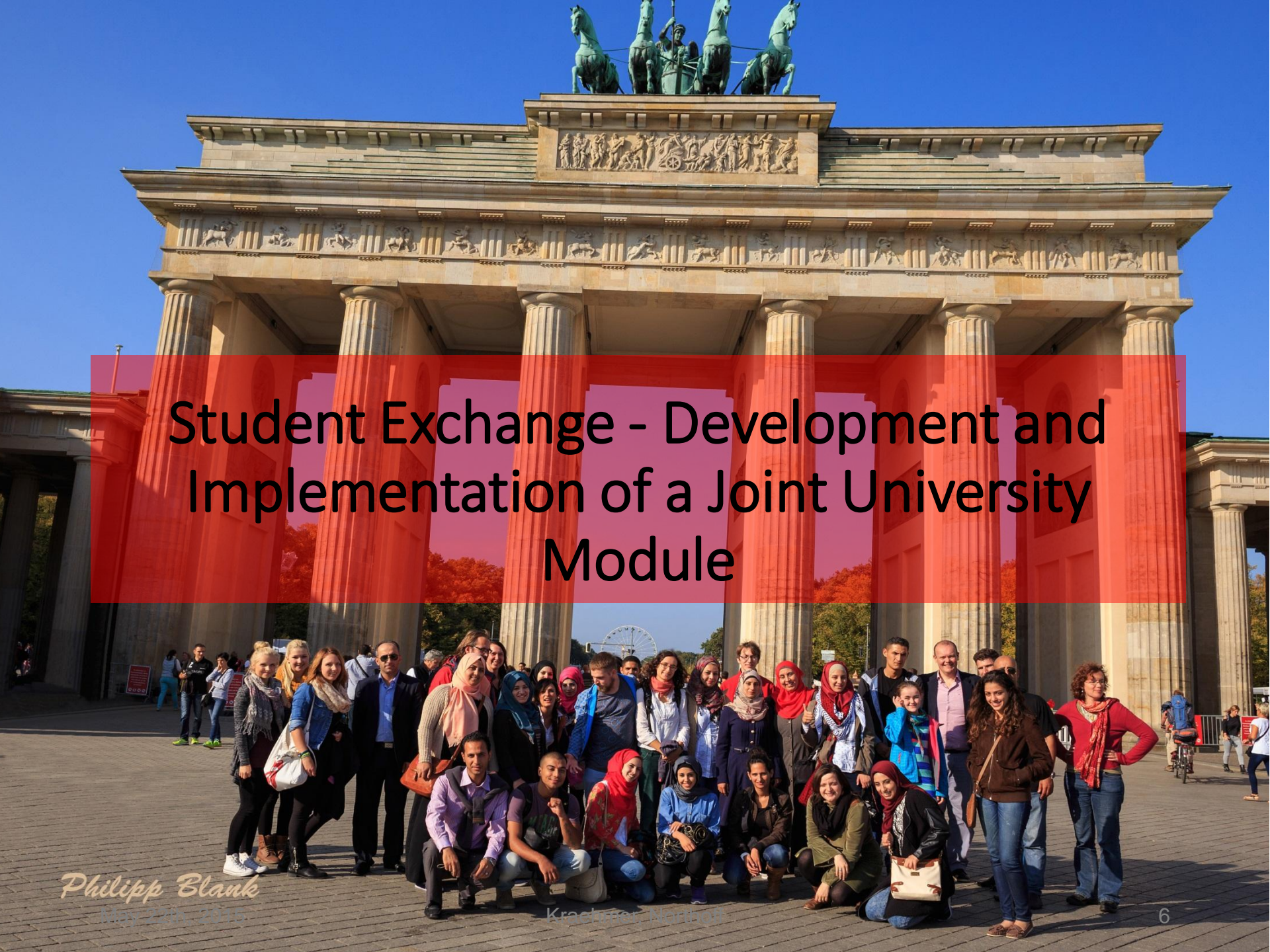
- Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
- Faculty of Landscape Sciences and Geomatic
- Faculty of Social Work and Education
- Faculty of Health, Nursing, Administration



Faculty of Social Work and Education

- Social Work (Bachelor of Arts)
- Early Education (Bachelor of Arts)
- Social Work – Social Sciences, Project Planning and Development (Master of Arts)
- Counselling (Master of Arts)
- Organization development and inclusion (Master of Arts)





Student Exchange - Development and Implementation of a Joint University Module

Philipp Blank
May 22th, 2015

Krautler, Northall

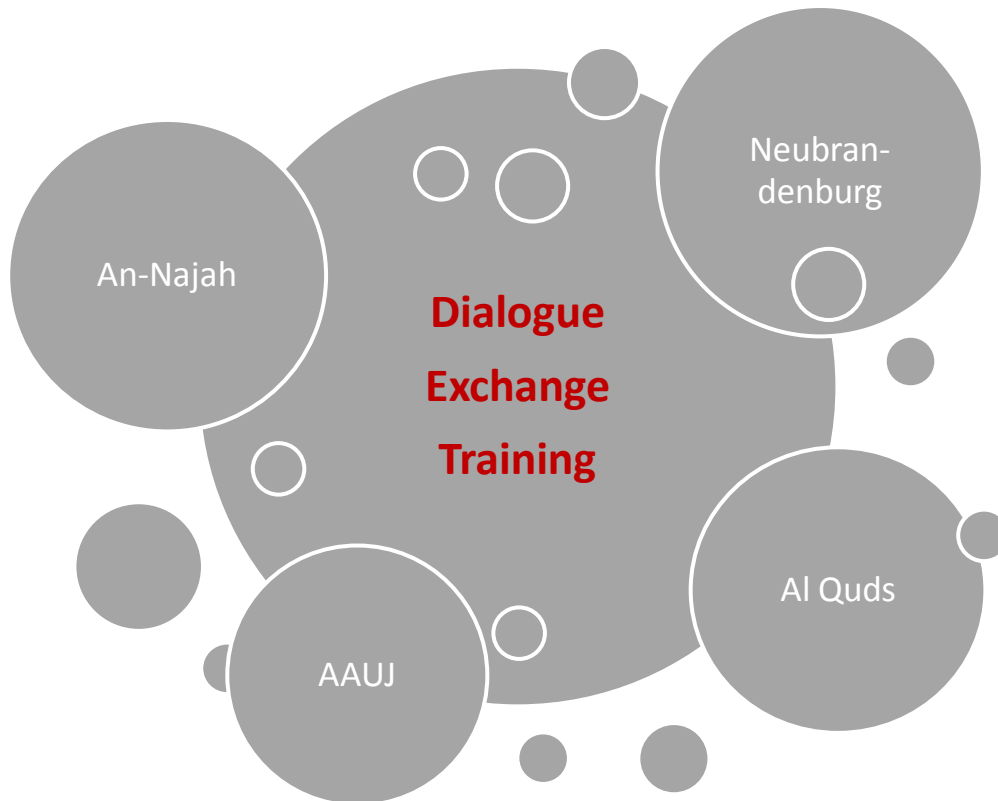


Why Social Work?

- Social Work is an approach to social transformation
- Social workers look at singles, groups, communities, societies
- Transnational nature of conflicts and issues:
violence, refugees, migration, poverty etc.
- Social work has become a global profession
- Social workers can learn by international partnership,
get broader perspective and new tools
- there is a great demand



Partners



Our project:

Palestinian - German
Educational Dialogue and
Student Exchange

Our topic:

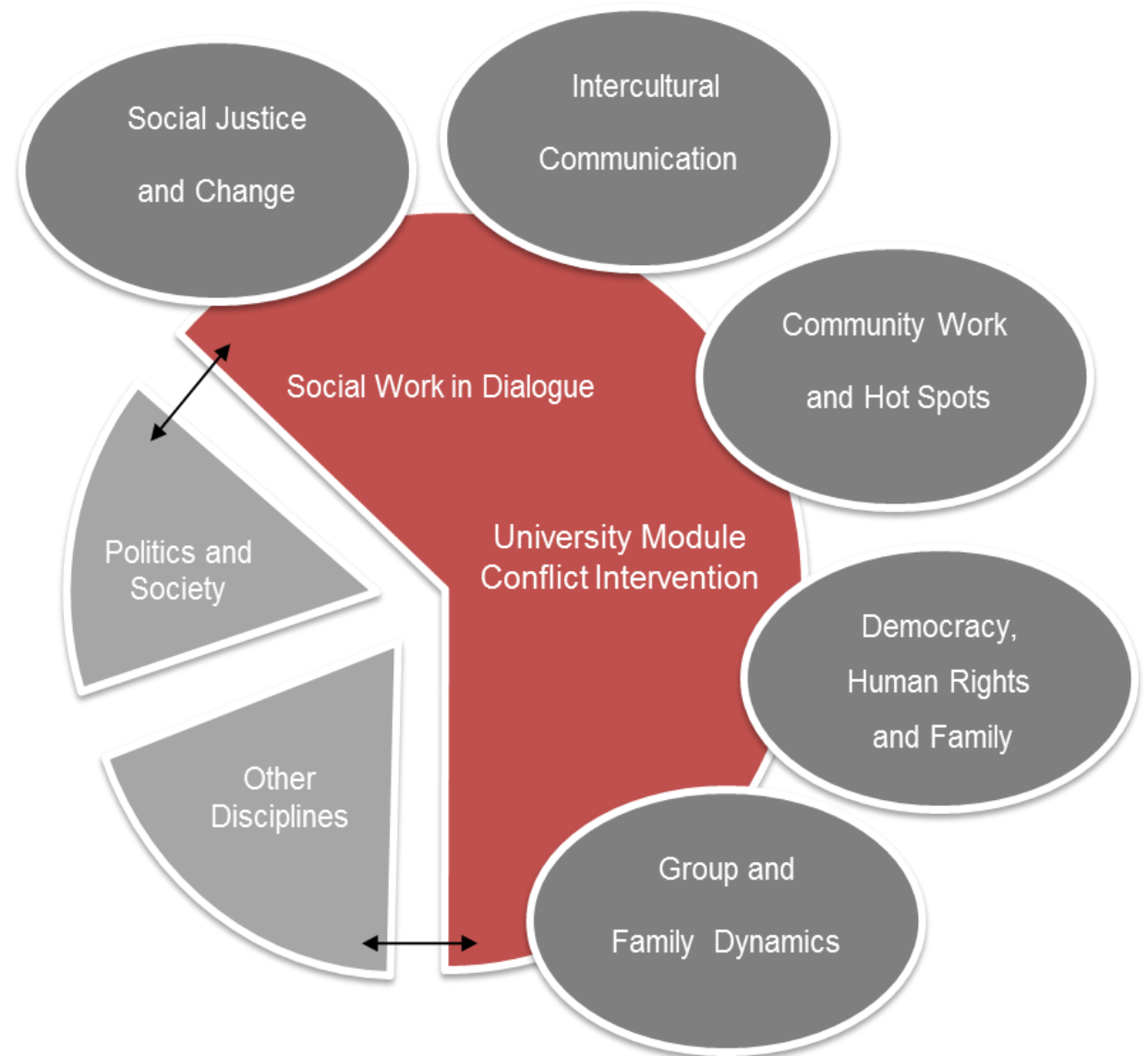
Dealing with conflicts

Our goal:

Development and
implementation of a joint
university module

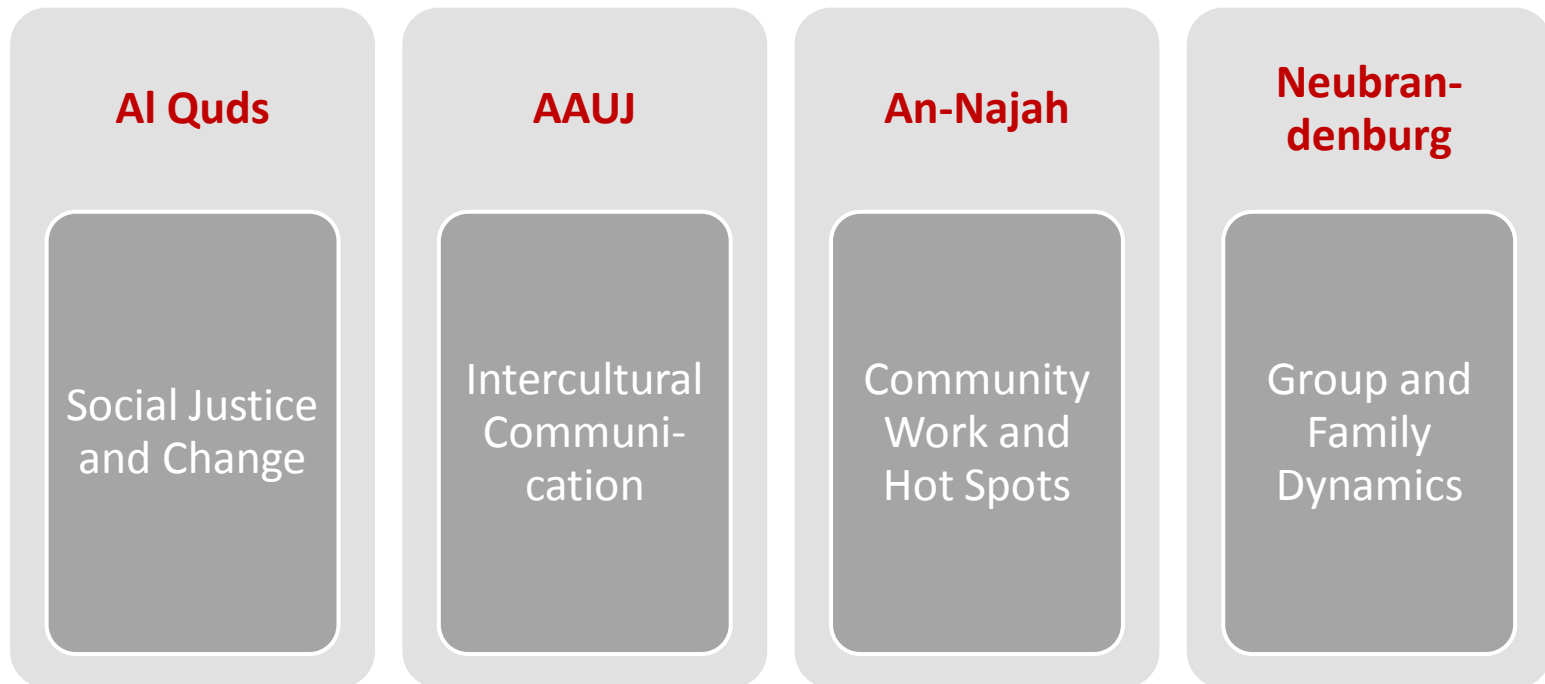


Five Topics



Modules

- The modules have been developed in co-operation between different partners; our actual partners are:





Milestones and Timetable

1. milestone	Dialogue and planning	after 3 months
2. milestone	Preparations/materials	after 6 months
3. milestone	Summer School	after 9 months
4. milestone	Continuation of project	after 12 months
5. milestone	Exchange and curriculum	after 24 months
6. milestone	Analysis and sustainability	after 36 months



Overview of the main topics

Dialogue & Exchange	Study Program & Book	Congress and Sustainability
A dialogue that is directed on deepening the German-Palestinian higher education cooperation and on providing support for networking amongst Palestinian academic institutions	Development of a study program and materials on conflict intervention, to teach the students new skills, competences and methods which are also applicable to the civil society	Organizing a congress in Palestine to build a platform for discussions and public transfer, mainly done by our Palestinian partners
Student Exchange as a contribution to the development of intercultural dialogue and to the improvement of students competences in both countries	Publication of a joint book of all partners about the experiences in the project and the developed materials	Organizing sustainability, by building a lasting communication, an international network, and study cooperation

The project consists of three columns:

- Dialogue, cooperation and networking between German and Palestinian higher education institutions
- Student exchange as a contribution towards developing intercultural dialogue
- A joint “curriculum” and study material on conflict intervention, also useful for the civil society.

Palestinian-German

Educational Dialogue and Student Exchange

Dealing with Conflict:
A Joint University Module





Main results (2014, 2015, 2016)

- PAGED academic network
- four summer schools
- Curriculum Reader
- Students' network
- Book

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website of Hochschule Neubrandenburg. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.hs-nb.de/fachbereich-soziale-arbeit-bildung-und-erziehung/forschungen-und-projekte/pro>. The page features a red navigation bar with the university logo and name, and menu items for 'Studium', 'Forschungen und Projekte', and 'Organisation und Struktur'. The main content area is titled 'Fachbereich Soziale Arbeit, Bildung und Erziehung' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Fachbereich Soziale Arbeit, Bildung und Erziehung > Forschungen und Projekte > Projekte > Palestinian-German - Educational Dialogue and Student Exchange'. The page is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Educational Dialogue / Student Exchange' and describes the 'Development and Implementation of a Joint University Module about Conflict Intervention'. Below the text is a photograph of three people sitting on a stone ledge outdoors. The right column is titled 'Kontakt' and provides contact information for Hochschule Neubrandenburg, including the address 'Brodaer Straße 2, 17033 Neubrandenburg' and email addresses for Prof. Dr. Steffi Kraehmer and Prof. Dr. Robert Northoff. A 'Partner Institutions' section lists: Al-Quds University, An-Najah National University, The Arab American University, and Hochschule Neubrandenburg. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 29.10.2016 and the time as 09:54.

<http://www.hs-nb.de/...>



Main results (2016)

- two summer schools
- international symposium
- Textbook (in English)
- Articles from both regions
- ideas for a new project





Summer School Experience

two summer schools (October 2014 and spring 2015) for 12 days

- First in Neubrandenburg
- Second in Palestine



Summer Schools are a Laboratory for

- new ideas
- creative discussions
- promoting identity driven intercultural understanding
- improving professional knowledge, competencies and practice
- lectures, small group discussions, agency visits and informal interaction





Outline of the Summer School (2014)

- Different lectures (8h per day)
- Adding social program
- Teaching in Pal-Ger groups
- “Buddy program”: students built tandems (one German one Palestinian student)
 - interviewed each other about their personal experiences related to our main topic: “dealing with conflicts”
 - storytelling and interviewing each other about personal history and experiences related to our main topic „dealing with conflicts“
 - providing unique insight into the „others“ culture, tradition and identity

Outline summer school courses, 2-12 October 2014, Neubrandenburg

Date	Morning courses	Afternoon Courses
4.10. Sat.	Plenum 9:00-12:00 o'clock All participants (students and professors)	Courses 13:00-14:30 o'clock group A: profs from AGU , group B: profs from NB 15:00-16:30 o'clock group A: NB , group B: AGU
5.10. So	Trip (Ostsee)	
6.10. Monday	Courses 9:00-10:30 o'clock group A: Hebron , gr. B: An-Najah 11:00-12:30 o'clock group A: An-Najah , gr. B: Hebron	Courses 13:30-15:00 o'clock group A: NB , group B: BZU 15:30-17:00 o'clock group A: BZU , group B: NB Public Lecture 19:00–21:30 o'clock BZU
7.10. Tuesday	Voice training workshop (external course constructor) 9:00-15:30 o'clock All participants (students and professors)	Courses 16:00-17:30 o'clock group A: AGU , group B: NB Discussion 19:30-21:00 o'clock BZU
8.10. Wednesday	Schwerin 7:00-14:00 o'clock All participants (students and professors)	Courses 17:00-18:30 o'clock group A: NB , group B: AGU
9.10. Thursday	Courses 9:00-10:30 o'clock group A: BZU , group B: Hebron 11:00-12:30 o'clock group A: Hebron , group B: BZU	Courses 13:30-15:00 o'clock group A: AGU , group B: An-Najah
9.10. Friday	Courses 9:00-10:30 o'clock group A: An-Najah , group B bei AGU 11:00-12:30 o'clock group A: Hebron , group B: An-Najah	Courses 13:30-15:00 o'clock group A: An-Najah , group B: Hebron Evaluation discussion 15:30-16:30 o'clock All participants (students and professors)



Results of the First and Second Summer School

- many opportunities to reflect one's own activities, from a global to a local view and to the personal perspective
- Learning about the different social welfare systems as well as social work services
- Exploring environmental and cultural treasures in both countries
- Improving university networking and personal contacts
- Establishing new dimensions of intercultural perceptions and reflections
- Improving the awareness of dealing with conflicts on intercultural levels
- Practicing and reviewing the curricula materials



Conclusions and future perspectives

- We have found partners and friends
- We want to continue the summer school model
- We will monitor and review courses, materials, methods
- We will evaluate the project and listen to the students' feedback
- We look for possibilities of future cooperation



Public influence: articles in the local press

NORDKURIER-NEUBRANDENBURGER ZEITUNG
MITTWOCH, 8. OKTOBER 2014
- SEITE 19 -

Für kurzen Besuch war langer Atem nötig

Von Ingrid Nehls
und Ria Rückheim

Für palästinensische Studenten ist es sehr schwer, internationale Kontakte zu knüpfen. Darum sind sie besonders froh, jetzt in Neubrandenburg sein zu dürfen.

NEUBRANDENBURG. „Ich fühle mich hier geliebt, wie zu Hause“, sagt der palästinensische Student Majed Sawalha und lächelt. Es ist sein erster Besuch in Deutschland und er ist fasziniert. „Der Lebensstil der Deutschen und die Höflichkeit, aber auch die Disziplin sind eine neue Erfahrung für mich“, erzählt der Palästinenser, der Englische Literatur studiert.

Er gehört zu einer Gruppe von 24 palästinensischen Studenten, die gerade die Summer School vom Fachbereich Soziale Arbeit, Bildung und

Erziehung an der Hochschule Neubrandenburg besuchen. Gemeinsam mit 24 deutschen Studenten nehmen sie an Workshops, Vorlesungen und Ausflügen teil. Die Summer School ist ein Schwerpunkt im deutsch-palästinensischen Projekt „Dealing with Conflicts“, das der Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) initiiert hat und an dem die Hochschule Neubrandenburg sowie vier palästinensische Universitäten aus dem Westjordanland beteiligt sind.

Mitgereist nach Neubrandenburg sind auch sechs Professoren, darunter Sami Alkilani, der Soziale Arbeit an der An-Najah National University in Nablus lehrt. „Wir sind sehr offen für internationale Beziehungen und das Verständnis der anderen Kulturen“, sagt der Professor aus Palästina.

Durch die spezielle Situation Palästinas ist es für die jungen Studenten nicht leicht, internationale Kontakte aufzubauen, auch wenn sie daran sehr interessiert sind. Allein der Flug nach Deutschland hat die Projektleiter auf beiden Seiten viel Ausdauer und Vorbereitungszeit gekostet, erzählt Prof. Robert Northhoff. Mit einem Stopp über Jordanien waren die Studenten zwei Tage unterwegs. Sie brauchten mehrere Pässe, denn es ist für sie nicht möglich, auf kurzem Weg von Israel nach Deutschland zu fliegen.

Dennoch habe sich der Aufwand gelohnt, meint Studentin Anwar Amro. „Obwohl ich ein Kopftuch trage, sind die Menschen offen und grüßen mich auf der Straße oder fragen mich unvoreingenommen, woher ich komme“, erzählt sie glücklich.

Wenn die Förderanträge bewilligt werden, soll die Zusammenarbeit drei Jahre dauern. Schon im nächsten Frühjahr ist ein Gegenbesuch der Neubrandenburger in Palästina geplant. „Wir sind optimistisch, dass das gelingt“, sagt Robert Northhoff. Um in der gemeinsamen Zeit in Neubrandenburg einen möglichst intensiven Austausch zu erleben, hat jeder palästinensische Student einen deutschen Studenten als „Buddy“ zugeteilt bekommen. „Wir haben das gleiche Alter, die gleichen Interessen und verbringen viel Zeit miteinander. Wir teilen unsere Geschichten, wie mit Freunden“, sagt Majed Sawalha.

Die engen Beziehungen zu Palästina könnten ein Alleinstellungsmerkmal für die Hochschule sein, findet Sabine Hofmann, Koordinatorin des Projektes: „Gleichzeitig sei aber auch viel Eigeninitiative gefragt. Ein erster Erfolg war es, die Nahost-Expertin Helga Baumgarten für einen öffentlichen Vortrag nach Neubrandenburg zu holen. „Das Interesse der Studenten an dem Projekt ist sehr groß“, hat Sabine Hofmann festgestellt.

Derzeit sind 75 Studierende aus dem Ausland an der Hochschule eingetragen. Besonders reisefreudig sind die Neubrandenburger Studenten jedoch nicht. Denn im Durchschnitt gehen pro Semester nur etwa 10 der 2200 Studenten ins Ausland. In diesem Wintersemester studieren sie zum Beispiel in Tschechien, Lettland, Brasilien, Schottland, Indien, Rumänien und Estland.



Anwar Amro, Prof. Steffi Kraehmer, Prof. Sami Alkilani, Prof. Robert Northhoff und Majed Sawalha in der Mensa der Hochschule. FOTO: INGRID NEHLS

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Excursion 2015: Exploring Schwerin and the Baltic Sea



“I think an adjuvant way to intensify the cross-culturally exchange and building on intercultural competencies and widening our horizons.” - student

“I am deeply thankful for the amazing experiences the Summer School has given me so far, and believe I speak in unison with all participants on that.” - student





Excursion 2015: Exploring Berlin and Mecklenburg





Excursion 2015: Exploring Palestine and the People





Excursion 2016: Exploring the Countryside and the People





Proposal 2017 to 2019

Social entrepreneurship

Social innovation in education and practice

- based on the **cooperation** with the Palestinian universities of Al Quds, Nablus and Jenin, and the University of Applied Sciences in Neubrandenburg/Germany
- **aim** of the project is to build **competences** in the field of **Social Entrepreneurship** to students in Social Work and adjacent studies

Submodule				
creative approach Entrepreneurial Spirit and Self Reflection	psychological approach and Intercultural Communication	economical approach and Personal Entrepreneurial Map	law based approach Ethical Codes and Legal Issues	Practical approach Internship and Entrepreneurs@work



Goals of the project

The project aims to empower students to create innovative ideas and processes for solving social problems within their surroundings and enable them to implement them independently.

Collegial exchange and higher education dialogue during reciprocal meetings, getting to know new colleagues, a shared planning and adaptation of the project ideas by the local level.

Development of an Entrepreneurship Education Module, with submodules that can be connected and complemented in various possibilities.

Acquiring social, personal, methodical and professional competences during four Summer Schools in Palestine and Neubrandenburg, and a build-up of studential networks and clusters.

Support of individual students during the creation of personal maps and business plans, and help during potential practical works and implementation of project ideas putting them into practice.

Documentation of results through the construction of a script/textbook with teaching content, individual portfolio and evaluation by collecting best practice examples and possible dissemination in seminars and panels.



Partners, responsibilities and organisation

- Respectful and advantageous Dialogue on an equal footing is the basis of the cooperation between all partners
- The project responsibility is carried out by the University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg, however, many tasks are transferred to the full responsibility of the team and single partners.

Social entrepreneurship - Social innovation in education and practice

Neubrandenburg

Al Quds

Nablus

Jenin



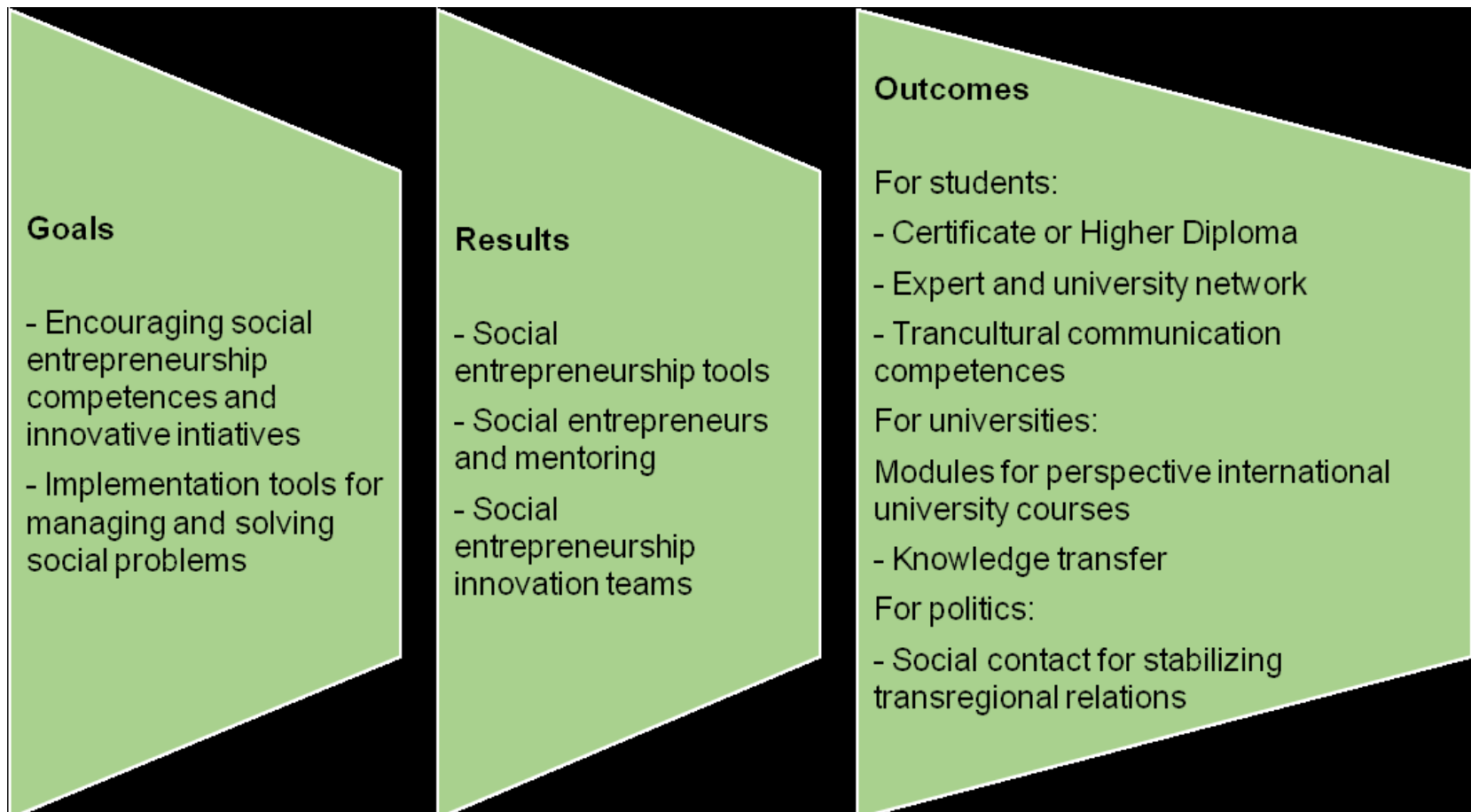
Each year is connected to a certain central event for the implementation of the project goals

Summer School autumn 2017
Innovation Lab and Psychological Approach,
Project teams 1 and 2
(most likely in Neubrandenburg/Germany)

Summer School spring 2018
Economical and Juridical Approach,
Project teams 3 and 4,
(most likely in Palestine)

Short Summer School and Meeting 2019
Presentation of best practice examples
(most likely in Palestine and Neubrandenburg/Germany)

goals, results and outcomes





Thank you!

The Palestinian German Team