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NICE NETWORK
New Initiatives and Challenges in Europe
33rd Annual Meeting 2024
Nordhausen, 16 - 18 June 2024

Dear NICE Network Member,

On behalf of the NICE Network Steering Committee and Hochschule Nordhausen, we would like to cordially invite you to the 33rd NICE Network Annual Meeting to be hosted by the

Hochschule Nordhausen
in Nordhausen, Germany
between 16th and 18th June 2024.

Please find attached the agenda, which was elaborated by the Steering Committee of the network. All members of the network are invited to contribute to the conference as speakers, promoters of new ideas and projects or in any other role, which they feel would be beneficial for all of us.

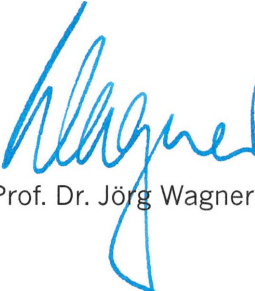
You are kindly invited to fill in the online registration form by April 30th, 2024.

Please find enclosed practical information about registration, accommodation, traveling to Nordhausen, annual meeting fee as well as the agenda for this year's meeting.

We will be at your disposal whenever questions arise, please contact us via e-mail or phone:

Thomas Hoffmann thomas.hoffmann@hs-nordhausen.de, +49 3631 420-135/Jenny Ettrich jenny.ettrich@hs-nordhausen.de, +49 3631 420-131.

We are looking forward to hosting you in Nordhausen!


Prof. Dr. Jörg Wagner




Thomas Hoffmann
Steering Committee

→ REGISTRATION

To register for the 33rd NICE Network Annual Meeting as a Participant please use the following link:

<https://forms.gle/r7RfndL2ZSjef2UH6>

Accompanying persons should also register under the same link.

Deadline for registration is **30th April 2024**.

→ ANNUAL MEETING FEE

The Annual Meeting fee is **€ 200** for participants, which should be paid before **May 22nd 2024** by bank transfer. You will receive an invoice by the beginning of May indicating the bank references.

The Annual Meeting fee covers the costs for all sessions, workshops, plenaries, the meeting facilities and meals during the meeting as well as the Sunday and Tuesday afternoon trips.

Accommodation, travelling & transfer costs and further expenses such as the pre-meeting excursion on Saturday have to be covered by each participant.

→ ERASMUS

We will be pleased to sign relevant Erasmus documents before and upon your arrival in Nordhausen. Please send them to international@hs-nordhausen.de.

TRAVELLING TO NORDHAUSEN

1. By rail

Nordhausen is at the intersection of the Halle - Kassel and Erfurt - Göttingen railway lines. There is one train an hour in each direction on both lines from approx. 5.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. Railway is a convenient mean of transport in Continental Europe - if the total travel time does not exceed a day.

Details of timetables and other information may be obtained on the web site: <https://int.bahn.de/en>. Please be aware that there might be some short term timetable changes because of railworks. That is why we recommend to check your rail link online always shortly before departure.

2. By air

The four main airports near Nordhausen are Frankfurt/Main (FRA), Berlin (BER), Hanover (HAJ), and Leipzig-Halle (LEJ). But it is also possible to fly to Hamburg (HAM), Munich (MUC) or Dusseldorf (DUS), and even Amsterdam (AMS) or Basle (BSL). In any case, you should continue by public transport (<https://int.bahn.de/en>). That is why we recommend to choose a direct flight (as early as possible in the day) to any airport nearby and to continue by train. Usually, best links are to Frankfurt.

3. By road

If you like travelling by car, you will be pleased, that the motorway A38 Göttingen – Leipzig links Nordhausen to the world wide road net.

If you prefer travelling by coach, it might be useful to look at <https://shop.global.flixbus.com/>. Once a day, there is a direct bus link Bruxelles – Nordhausen – Wrocław – Katowice – Kraków.

ACCOMMODATION

We recommend all participants to stay in [Hotel Fürstenhof](https://www.nordhaeuser-fuerstenhof.de/en/nordhaeuser-fuerstenhof-design-hotel-in-nordhausen.html) which is good standard and centrally located opposite the railway and bus station. Please find more information at <https://www.nordhaeuser-fuerstenhof.de/en/nordhaeuser-fuerstenhof-design-hotel-in-nordhausen.html>.

The negotiated price for the Nice Network is 80 EUR p.n. Copious breakfast buffet in the hotel is 19,90 EUR extra, or – if you wish only a small snack - you can have a coffee or tea in a nearby bakery.

Please **book your room directly** at hotel@nordhaeuser-fuerstenhof.de **before 15th May 2024** by mentioning the code **NICE150624**.

→ ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

OPTIONAL PRE-PROGRAMME

Saturday, June 15th 2024

13:00 – 17:00 **Visit of [Mittelbau-Dora](#) concentration camp memorial**

Meeting Point: *in front of Hotel Fürstenhof*

18:00 – 20:00 **Walk through Nordhausen**

Meeting Point: *in front of Hotel Fürstenhof*

20:00 **Informal get-together**

Meeting Point: *in front of Hotel Fürstenhof*

Venue: [Pizza Pub La Stazione](#), (same building as the hotel, entrance around the corner)

START OF OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Sunday, June 16th 2024

10:00 **Discover the Mystical Harz**

[Steam trains, iron curtain, grottos, castles and half-timbered houses](#)

Meeting Point: *in front of Hotel Fürstenhof*

19:30 **Informal Dinner with possibility to participate for late arrivals**

Meeting Point: *in front of Hotel Fürstenhof*

Venue: *Restaurant Sadhu, Bahnhofstraße 19a, Nordhausen (5 min walk)*

Monday, June 17th 2024

Venue: [Hochschule Nordhausen, Campus](#), Audimax (building 11)

08:23 or 08:43 **Bus A from bus platform n° 7 to “Hochschule” (direction “Pferdemarkt”)**

- 08:45 – 09:00 **Registration**
- 09:00 – 10:00 **Plenary 1: Opening Plenary** (Chairs: Thomas Hoffmann, DE | Banu Durukan, TR)
- Welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Jörg Wagner, President
 - Presentation of HS Nordhausen, University of Applied Sciences
 - Introduction of the “old” members (name, institution, function)
 - Introduction of the “new” members (presentation, 5 min each)
 - Presentation of the agenda
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee and Tea Break**
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Workshop Session 1**
- **Workshop 1.1: Are you interested in organising a successful International Week that captivates the guest lecturers and the students?**
Isinsu Atalay, TR | Thomas Hoffmann, DE
Chair: Banu Durukan, TR
 - **Workshop 1.2: ‘Systemic approach to educational and/or organisational issues’: the magic of constellations in a professional context**
Ilja van Tongeren, NL | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL
- 12:15 – 12:40 **Plenary 2: How to talk with the Z generation?**
Gordana Nikolic, HR | Andrea Milic, HR
Chair: Joanna Bednarz, PL
- 12:45 – 13:45 **Lunch**
- 13:45 – 15:15 **World Café 1: Initiatives and Challenges in Internationalisation – The Nice Network as a stock exchange, how do we maximise its value?**
Ferdinand Hofstede, NL | Isinsu Atalay, TR | Karin Pfister, CH
Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL
- 15:15 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 – 16:15 **Spotlight Sessions**

- **Spotlight 1: Intercultural competence @home for Staff members at the University of Hamburg**
Elena Sheynfeld, DE | Chair: Jenny Ettrich, DE
- **Spotlight 2: How to Make unpopular subjects more accessible to students of Management and Economic**
Bedrich Zimola, CZ | Chair: Banu Durukan, TR
- **Spotlight 3: Update: International Sustainability Certificate for students - a joint project of 5 Nice Network partners**
Andrea Meyenburg, DE | Chair: Joanna Bednarz, PL
- **Spotlight 4: How to coach students in personal development?**
Faith Fung, NL | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL

16:30 – 17:00 **Plenary 3: Supporting Young (women) on their career path**
Katia Kraskovic, SI | Chair: Joanna Bednarz, PL

17:00 – 17:30 **Plenary 4: Regional and historical impact of Nordhausen**
N.N. | Chair: Thomas Hoffmann, DE

17:53 *Bus A from "Hochschule" to Bahnhofplatz (direction "Salza")*

18:30 Colourful **Dinner at Restaurant [Kalkhütte](#)**

Meeting point: 18:30 In front of Hotel Fürstenhof

Tuesday, June 18th 2024

Venue: Hochschule Nordhausen, Campus, Audimax (building 11)

08:43 *Bus A from bus platform n° 7 to "Hochschule" (direction "Pferdemarkt")*

09:00 – 11:00 **World Café 2: The Future of Higher Education – where do we stand in terms of International Relations?**

Banu Durukan, TR | Roelijn Kok, NL | Joanna Bednarz, PL | Jenny Ettrich, DE |

Chair: Thomas Hoffmann, DE

11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:25 – 12:25 **Workshop Session 2**

- **Workshop 2.1: Enhancing Internationalisation at Home: Best Strategies for an International Projects Office to Secure European Funding**

Eva Garea Oya, ES | Chair: Jenny Ettrich, DE

- **Workshop 2.2: Certificates of Cultural Competences**

Kate Urban-Greatorex, DE | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL

- 12:30 – 13:00 **Plenary 5: Final Plenary** (Chair: Thomas Hoffmann, DE)
- Organisational Aspects
 - Presentation of 2025 venue
 - Thanks and farewell
- 13:00 – 13:45 **Lunch**
- 13:53 *Bus A from "Hochschule" to Bahnhofplatz (direction "Salza")*
- 14:15 – 16:00 **Walk through Nordhausen** (ending 16:00 at the distillery)
- Meeting point: 14:15 In front of Hotel Fürstenhof
- 16:00 – 18:00 **Visit of the [Traditional Distillery](#) with degustation, guided by Hardy Schönau**
- Meeting point: 15:30 In front of Hotel Fürstenhof

→ CONTENT OF SESSIONS

WORLD CAFÉS

World Café 1: Initiatives and Challenges in Internationalisation – The Nice Network as a stock exchange, how do we maximise its value?

Ferdi Hofstede, NL | Isinsu Atalay, TR | Karin Pfister, CH | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL

Monday, 13:45 – 15:15

The World Café session titled "Exploring Initiatives and Challenges in Internationalisation: The Nice Network as a Stock Exchange – Maximizing its Value" dives into the significance of internationalisation in education. Participants share best practices and success factors, learning from each other's triumphs and strategies. Challenges and obstacles are openly discussed, with a focus on identifying common hurdles and innovative solutions. The concept of an internationalisation stock exchange is explored, contemplating virtual versus physical manifestations and opportunities for collaboration within and beyond the NICE network. Brainstorming sessions generate ideas for future platforms to facilitate knowledge sharing and networking. Insights from each table are synthesized, highlighting key takeaways and actionable next steps. The session concludes with a reflection on the collective wisdom shared and the potential of the Nice Network to drive

internationalisation efforts in education. Overall, the World Café fosters collaboration, innovation, and a shared vision for maximising the value of internationalisation initiatives

World Café 2: The Future of Higher Education – where do we stand in terms of International Relations?

Chair: Thomas Hoffmann, DE

Tuesday, 09:00 – 11:00

Higher education has undergone rapid change in recent years. The student generations have changed significantly, various crises have affected studying and teaching, hybrid formats are widespread, and artificial intelligence threatens traditional academic processes. The effects of these change processes on the internationalisation of higher education will be discussed at four tables. The topics and hosts are:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Banu Durukan, TR
- Generational changes (Z & Alpha) – Roelijn Kok, NL
- Distance Learning – Joanna Bednarz, PL
- Crisis & Disasters (wars, natural disasters, economic crisis, etc.) – Jenny Ettrich, DE

PLENARIES

Plenary 1: Opening Plenary (Chairs: Thomas Hoffmann, DE | Banu Durukan, TR)

Monday, 09:00 to 10:00

- Welcome speech by Prof. Dr. Jörg Wagner, President
- Presentation of HS Nordhausen, University of Applied Sciences
- Introduction of the “old” members (name, institution, function)
- Introduction of the “new” members (presentation, 5 min each)
- Presentation of the agenda

Plenary 2: How to talk with the Z generation?

Gordana Nikolic, HR | Andrea Milic, HR | Chair: Joanna Bednarz, PL

Monday, 12:15 – 12:40

In recent years, an increasing number of empirical studies emerged allowing us to consider unique characteristics of Gen Z and better prepare to meet their educational needs.

To understand their reality, preferred communication style and motivation it is necessary to keep in mind that their childhood and formative years were different than of any other previous generation. They are true digital natives that do not know a world without Internet. Their senior high school years are the years of lockdowns, interaction through social media and online lectures. They are children of Generation X.

Initial research indicates that Gen Z seems to be highly entrepreneurial and very able to make pragmatic decisions. They are often referred to as “identity nomads” with high need for authenticity and freedom of expression. They are comfortable with “flowing” between cultures and will appreciate mobility during their schooling. They are more comfortable with online knowledge transfer than traditional one, but for them digital does not mean impersonal. Nevertheless, they do enjoy a “personal” touch and face-to-face interaction. Moreover, studies demonstrate that personalization seems to be a key that unlocks their motivation to interact.

To talk with Gen Z one needs to communicate through images. One can easily observe a generational shift from text exchanges and elaborated verbal extracts to multiple screens and number of pictures and videos at once, but in bite sizes. Their attention span is wide, but of short duration.

Finally, considering that Gen Z are mostly impacted by their peers, one can understand the popularity of influencer marketing. Consequently, universities need to adapt their information distribution channels; finding successful graduates, showcasing, or livestreaming relevant content, using gaming services and short-course formats.

Plenary 3: Supporting Young (women) on their career path

Katia Kraskovic, SI | Chair: Joanna Bednarz, PL

Monday, 12:15 – 12:40

Today world is changing quickly and life is different as it used to be. Young people live in society with many possibilities and also many obstacles. Creating sustainable career opportunities is complex and difficult task for today’s employers and society. So proper guidance and support on their career path is crucial for young people, and even more for women. Even though we are in 21. Century, women still face many unique challenges around the world. So, we need to guide them into smart career-choices, prevent early leaving from education and training, and help them chase their dreams. We can do that with various activities to support them during studies and this can also be a key to a successful learning path and career. Such support may involve help through mentoring, career panels, group projects, successful transition to the workplace through internship, entrepreneurial endeavour, different workshops and counselling of career centre to empower them or networking into the professional community, among other aspects. All young people should know and feel that they have full potential and that they are as good as anyone.

In this session I will lead you through what we do in this field and also present good practice of others. I will invite you to share your experiences and I hope we have a great discussion about the topic, I hope we also come up with proposals that might help our institutions to deal with young people even better.

Plenary 4: Regional and historical impact of Nordhausen

Chair: Thomas Hoffmann, DE

Monday, 17:00 – 17:30

Discover the secrets of a small town in the middle of-

Plenary 5: Final Plenary

Chair: Thomas Hoffmann, DE

Tuesday, 12:30 – 13:00

The venue and date for the 2025 conference should be confirmed during this session as well as the venue for 2026 should be decided. The steering committee will be completed by the organiser of the 2025 conference and should be completed by another member.

Finally, the venue of the 2025 conference will be presented.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1.1: Are you interested in organising a successful International Week that captivates the guest lecturers and the students?

Isinsu Atalay, TR | Thomas Hoffmann, DE | Chair: Banu Durukan, TR

Monday, 10:30 – 12:00

International Week (IW) is one of the most important tools for internationalisation at home that paves the way for local students, who do not have the chance to be an exchange student, to gain international experience. Moreover, IW provides a chance for the hosting school to promote itself as well as enabling the visiting staff to mingle and network with peers, explore a new destination and acquire an international teaching experience.

Hochschule Nordhausen has been organising its International Project Week (IPW) since 1999, and it has been a growing success. Starting with 7 guest lecturers and only 140 students, Hochschule Nordhausen welcomed during the 10s more than 30 guest lecturers p.a. working with over 500 students p.a.. After two online / hybrid IPWs during the pandemic, the Nordhausen IPW has consolidated to half its size. Many H.E.I.s within the Nice Network and beyond adopted this concept and developed it according to their own needs and standards.

In 2024, the Faculty of Business (FoB) at Dokuz Eylül University will be organising its 17th International Week, which became a hallmark over the years and is a heyday of the academic year. In numbers, 200 teaching staff from partner schools, 1763 FoB students had participated. In addition, we will also talk about how we start IW, from whom we benchmark and the power of the Nice Network. In this workshop, the organisers will discuss the crucial steps of organising a successful international week, bottlenecks, challenges, and crucial issues to take into account while structuring the programme, and discuss how the concept of International weeks can be further developed.

Workshop 1.2: ‘Systemic approach to educational and/or organisational issues’: the magic of constellations in a professional context

Ilja van Tongeren, NL | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL

Monday, 10:30 – 12:00

This workshop offers the chance to dive into -sometimes hidden- dynamics that influence processes and people in an organisational or educational context. Attendees are invited to come up with a case or to take place in a small constellation about a concrete issue/question. You will learn about what ‘systemic’ means, what systemic principles are, how they affect your work and what constellations are as a method. By experiencing the ‘magic’ of the constellation as a very effective method, you’ll look beyond the surface and meet what’s in ‘the undertow’ of the behaviour or challenge as faced on the more visible/perceptible level. We’ll explore 1 or 2 cases from an educational or organisational context, whether it’s a practical classroom situation or on a more organisational or policy level.

Workshop 2.1: Enhancing Internationalisation at Home: Best Strategies for an International Projects Office to Secure European Funding

Eva Garea Oya, ES | Chair: Jenny Ettrich, DE

Tuesday 11:30 – 12:15

As higher education institutions strive to cultivate a globally engaged campus environment, the role of an International Project Office (OPI) becomes increasingly pivotal. This workshop explores the ways in which this type of university structures (OPIs) can serve as a catalyst for Internationalisation at Home (IaH) and, at the same time, secure European funding to support these initiatives. The OPI emerges as a strategic unit prepared to coordinate and implement proposals that facilitate knowledge about EU funding, encompassing internationalisation and training. This workshop delves into strategies for the OPI to successfully obtain European funding, for instance in Erasmus+ KA2. It examines the various funding opportunities offered by European Union programmes such as Erasmus+ or Horizon Europe, emphasizing the alignment of project proposals with the funding priorities outlined by these programmes. Effective collaboration with international partners, the integration of innovative teaching methodologies, and the

incorporation of creativity and emerging technologies are highlighted as essential components to improve the competitiveness of funding proposals. Case studies and best practices at UVigo that have successfully leveraged European funding for IaH initiatives are explored to provide practical insights

Workshop 2.2: Certificates of Cultural Competences

Kate Urban-Greatorex, DE | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL

Tuesday 11:30 – 12:15

The Certificate of Intercultural Competencies at the HTW gives students the opportunity to develop intercultural key competences for their future career through extracurricular activities. These activities are in the international field - stays abroad, language courses, intercultural training and involvement in the integration of fellow students from abroad with the student organisation faranto e.V. and they are all certified. The certificate can be obtained by students from any subject area. My workshop will be to introduce our certificate and the components of it and to give information on how it has been welcomed by students at our university.

SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlight 1: Intercultural competence @home for Staff members at the University of Hamburg

Elena Sheynfeld, DE | Chair: Jenny Ettrich, DE

Monday, 15:45 – 16:15

This spotlight gives an overview of diverse activities on the field of the internationalisation.

The Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Science aims to increase its own internationalisation as part of the internationalisation@home at the University of Hamburg.

In this regard, the Faculty gains intercultural competence in study management when dealing with different stakeholder (students, teachers, employees) and developed a range of activities to reach the higher level of intercultural skills in services and on Campus. One of these activities is, for example, the interactive intercultural training for employees.

The aim is to enable people to reflect together, learn from each other and exchange ideas in training interpersonal groups, regardless of their professional context and role based on individual reflection of personal experiences, values and ideas.

Spotlight 2: How to Make unpopular subjects more accessible to students of Management and Economic

Bedrich Zimola, CZ | Chair: Banu Durukan, TR

Monday, 15:45 – 16:15

Presentation of some final results of the PICEM project (Partnership for Innovation of Exact Supporting Courses in Economics and Management Study Programmes). Selected innovations for Mathematics, Statistics, Quantitative Methods for Decision-making and Econometrics will be described aiming to make these courses more tangible for students and let them use them correctly and to a greater extent during their studies and professional life.

Spotlight 3: Update: International Sustainability Certificate for students- a joint project of 5 Nice Network partners

Andrea Meyenburg, DE | Chair: Joanna Bednarz, PL

Monday, 15:45 – 16:15

Based on the plenary session in Izmir 2023, we would like to give an update about the joint project idea about an International Sustainability Certificate: 5 universities within the Nice Network have worked together to get this programme started. We would like to inform you about the progress of our cooperation project. The basic idea is that this certificate is available for the students by taking part in 4 different components which are offered – jointly or individually – by the participating institutions.

Project members are Par University, Croatia - GEA College, Slovenia -IMC Krems, Austria Universidad de Vigo, Spain -University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer, Germany.

Spotlight 4: How to coach students in personal development ?

Faith Fung, NL | Chair: Roelijn Kok, NL

Monday, 15:45 – 16:15

In our Bachelor programme at Hogeschool Rotterdam, students are in the lead in their personal development. With their curiosity and willingness to learn, students are free to choose the how and what. Our year 2 programme (8ects) is aimed at helping students developing skills to become a young professional. To guide them, we have defined 4 focus areas of development: International, career, personal orientation and society. Activities can vary from taking a short internship at a company and attending a career fair, to volunteer at an elderly home.

This was a pilot this school year. Want to know the lessons learned? Please join this spotlight session.