

Cooperation in Online Teaching

Success Factors for Sustainability

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Presentation structure

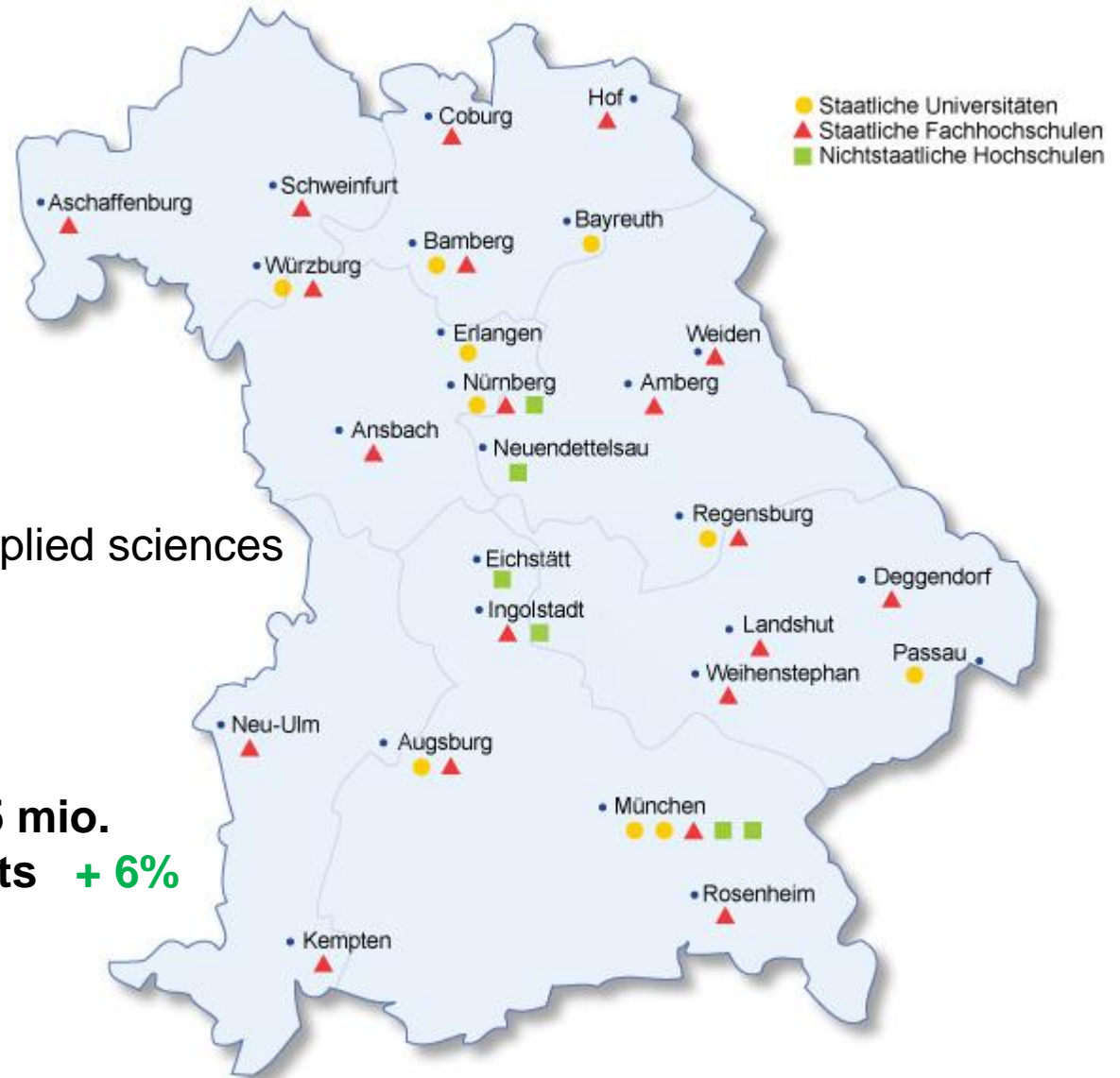
- 1. An update on the Bavarian Virtual University
- What has happened since Warsaw 2010?**
- 2. Prospects for the near future**
- 3. Lessons learned regarding sustainability**

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The Bavarian Virtual University (VHB = Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern)

- An institute formed by all the universities and the universities of applied sciences in Bavaria (not an independent university!)
- In operation since May 2000
- In 2005, identified as one of Europe's „mega providers of higher education online“
(cf. http://nettskolen.nki.no/in_english/megatrends)

Member universities



9 state universities
17 state universities of applied sciences
5 further universities

Bavaria:

- population appr. 12.5 mio.
- appr. 290,000 students + 6%

The aim of the BVU

- To complement the programmes of the traditional universities, not to replace them
- No degrees, only credit points (2 to 6 credits per course)
- Supporting member universities
 - in educating growing numbers of students while state funding does not grow proportionally
 - in providing better services, especially to non-traditional students

Once again:

„Blended learning“ –

Micro level vs macro level

Blended learning: micro vs macro level

- Blended learning at **micro** level:

face-to-face and online elements combined
in each individual course

- pedagogical benefits
 - „import“ of courses less attractive
 - costs higher than for traditional or online-courses
- ▶ hardly suitable for cooperation between universities

Blended learning: micro vs macro level

- Blended learning at **macro** level:

online courses are part of a programme which mainly consists of traditional face-to-face courses

- „import“ of courses easy and attractive
 - pedagogical and economic advantages combined
- ▶ suitable for cooperation between universities

Blended learning: micro vs macro level

The experience of the BVU shows:

macro level blended learning is

- attractive,**
- effective,**
- economically feasible.**

Macro level blended learning is an excellent instrument for universities cooperating in teaching.

Figures for the academic year 2010 / 2011

- **463 courses conducted** + 56 courses / + 13.8%
- **approx. 77,000 course enrolments** + 16%
by more than
- **30,000 individual students** + 17%

(Total enrolment appr. 210,000 semester credit hours)

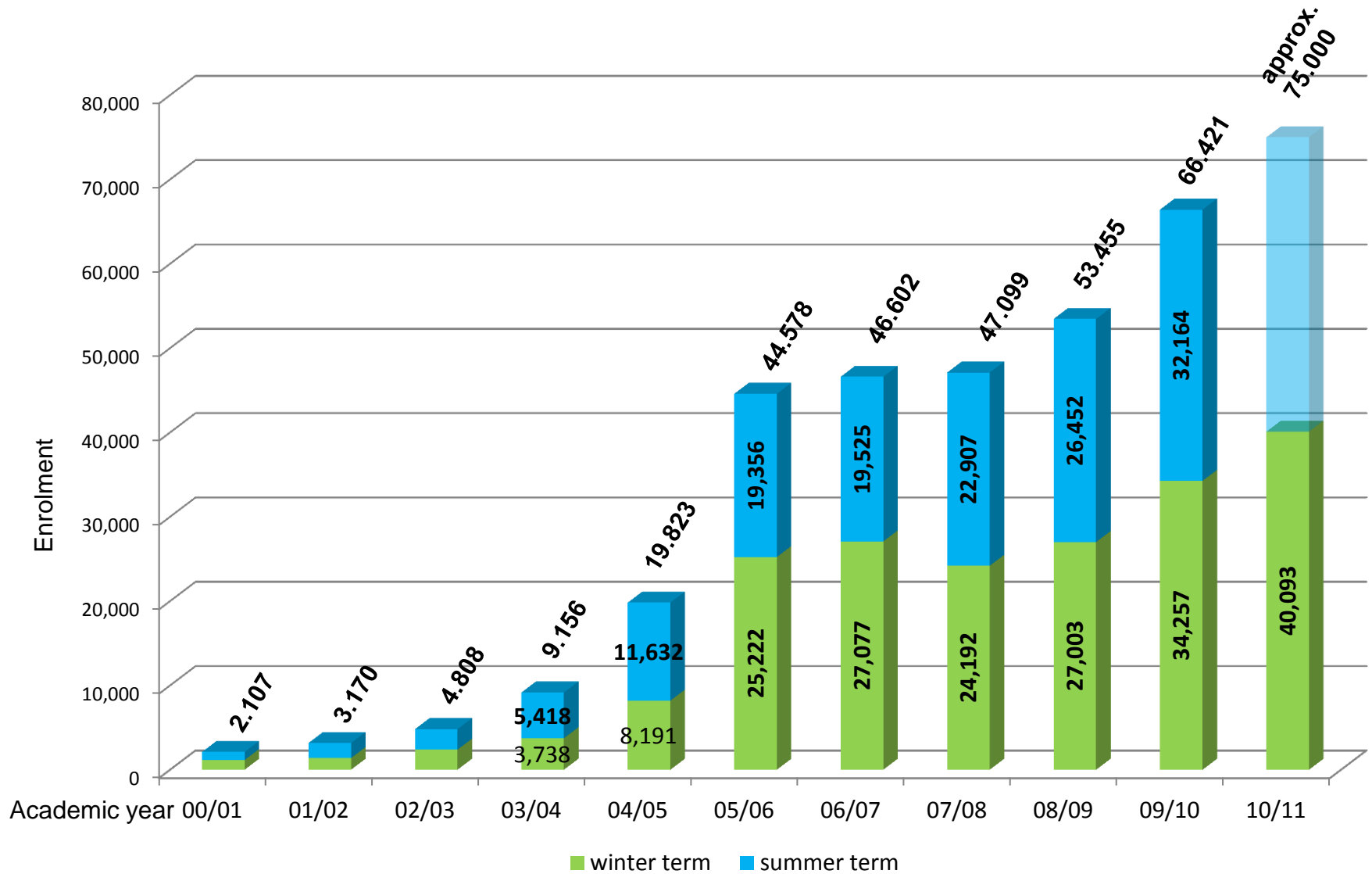
- **more than 50% participation in the final course examinations**

Programme structure

summer term 2011; amount of courses in brackets)

- Business Sciences (34)
- Computer Science (11)
- Cultural Studies (6)
- Engineering (20)
- Health Care / Health Management (4)
- Key Skills (18)
- Languages (43)
- Law (27)
- Medical Science (39)
- Natural Sciences (2)
- Social Sciences (1)
- Social Work (14)
- Teacher Training (24)

Student enrolment



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Additional demand for online courses

New extra occupational programmes with a maximum of flexibility for the students:

- Extra occupational MA programmes for students with BA
- Extra occupational BA programmes
- Flexible courses in all forms of lifelong learning

Additional benefits from cooperation

- Cooperation in the development of online courses
(One university develops a course for the whole consortium)
→ more efficient use of material resources
- Cooperation in the operation of online courses
(One university provides the tutors for the whole consortium)
→ more efficient use of teaching capacities

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Factors influencing the sustainability of cooperation in online teaching - 1

- Organisation of HE system (public vs private)
Methods and ways of financing online teaching should be the same as for financing HE in general
- If public financing of HE: cooperation should be **stimulated**
- Orientation towards actual **demand**
(R&D interest of teachers is not enough!)

Factors influencing the sustainability of cooperation in online teaching - 2

- Conflict of ideals in state financed HE systems:
autonomy of universities

vs

cost-efficient central management of public
ressources
- „Human factor“

Try to find allies and stakeholders to create win-
win situations

Thank you, EUNIS
Thank you, Dublin
Thank you, Trinity College

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Courses in operation

