

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK GENERAL STUDIES



**Developing Global Competence
in a Changing Working World.**

The International Network General Studies

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The Centre for Cultural and General Studies (ZAK) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany, together with 15 representatives of the General Studies programmes of German and international universities and colleges, laid the foundations of the International Network General Studies in November 2009. Within the framework of the educational reforms of the European Bologna Process, the director of the ZAK, Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha, invited participants to exchange concrete perspectives for the future of General Studies programmes.

White Paper

In founding the network, the participants gave themselves the task of drawing up a „white paper“ with recommendations. The primary goals of this white paper will be to discuss the social relevance of General Studies programmes and the educational challenges pertaining to them, to share suggestions for further action, and to demonstrate just how much the programmes have to offer.

Contents:

- General Studies – relevance and state of the art
- global and national challenges in education policy and society
- modularisation and quality standards of General Studies programmes
- internationalisation and facilitation of mobility
- best practice examples
- practical recommendations



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Requirements in a globalised working world

- knowledge of the global community
- international experience
- flexibility and mobility
- work in international teams – at home and abroad
- intercultural competence

= global competence

Global competence needs to become a key skill for engineering, economic, and scientific undergraduates and graduates. It is necessary to impart knowledge focussing intercultural communication and competence, transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. The expert's view must be supplemented with complementary knowledge.