



© www.istockphoto.com

Shaping Social Innovation – Mission Statement of a University of Technology, Arts and Sciences

Keynote FHNW-Conference „Knowledge and technology transfer of universities of
applied sciences: new directions based on proven concepts“

TH Köln at a Glance

Students at TH Köln	26,000
Freshman students per year¹	6,300
International students	4,400
▪ Nationalities	120
PhD students	190
Degree Programs	100
▪ Bachelor	50
▪ Master	50
Faculties	12
▪ Locations	4
Members of Staff	2,000
▪ Professors	440
Budget volume in € million (fiscal year 2021)	200
▪ Research and external funds	23

Campus
Südstadt



Campus
Deutz



Campus
Gummersbach



Campus
Leverkusen



Full member of the European University Association since 2009



¹University statistics 2020/2021

Locations and Faculties



Campus Deutz: Engineering

- Architecture
- Civil Engineering and Environmental Technologies
- Information, Media and Technology
- Automotive Systems and Production
- Process Engineering, Energy and Mechanical Systems
- Spatial Development and Infrastructure

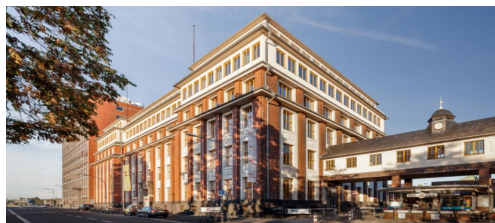


Campus Südstadt: Humanities, Social Sciences

- Applied Social Sciences
- Cultural Sciences
- Information Science and Communication Studies
- Business, Economics and Law



Campus Gummersbach: Engineering, Computer Science



Location Mülheim: Cologne Game Lab, ifs internationale filmschule köln



Campus Leverkusen: Natural Sciences

Mission Statement



**We shape social innovation:
open, cooperative and innovative**

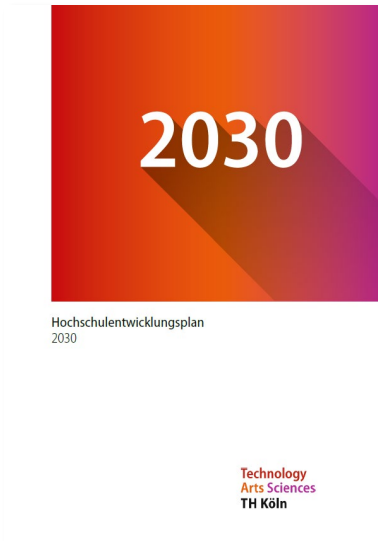
Profile

The TH Köln sees itself as a *‘University of Technology, Arts and Sciences’*, in which teaching and research are inseparable.

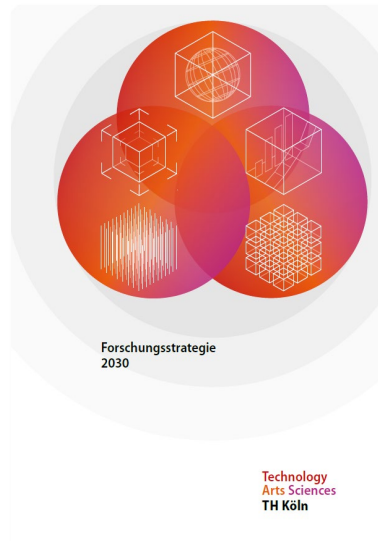
Internationally oriented and regionally anchored, it fulfills a social mission with strong research and sustainable teaching:

We generate knowledge through research and make it effective for business, civil society and culture.

Major Strategic Plans



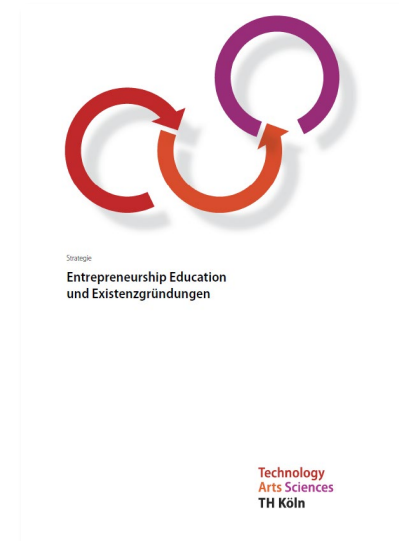
University
Development Plan



Research Strategy



Transfer Strategy



Entrepreneurship
Education and
Start-ups

Social Innovations

„Social innovations are new social practices that address the major social challenges of the 21st century “ (Howaldt)

- More than a normative statement
- Purpose and effectiveness
- Opening the innovation process to society

„new ideas that work“

Shaping Social Innovation

- Societal challenges as the starting point of the research process – 'challenged-led research' (demand side driven)
- Expansion of the science-centred understanding of research
- Opening up the research process (inter- and transdisciplinary co-creation of knowledge and findings, open science, open innovation, empowerment)



Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

Knowledge transfer as a multidirectional and recursive practice

- To which of the SDGs can we provide an answer with our expertise (in the local, regional, international context)?
- Profiling the research areas

University in Research for Social Innovation

- Societal dimension (demand driven) as an inherent part of the research process (not as a 'third mission', but in the sense of 'lateral research')
- Involvement of (civil) society actors in the research and transfer process at an early stage (participatory research)
- Living labs/real labs as exploration and learning spaces for actionable knowledge to establish new social practices
- Usage of transfer channels teaching ("innovation education") and continuing education ("social entrepreneur")
- Transfer and innovation processes as a subject of research
- Courage and risk-taking
 - Legal framework
 - Funding programmes
 - Uncertain research outcome (relevance expectations, prolongation of the research process, etc.)

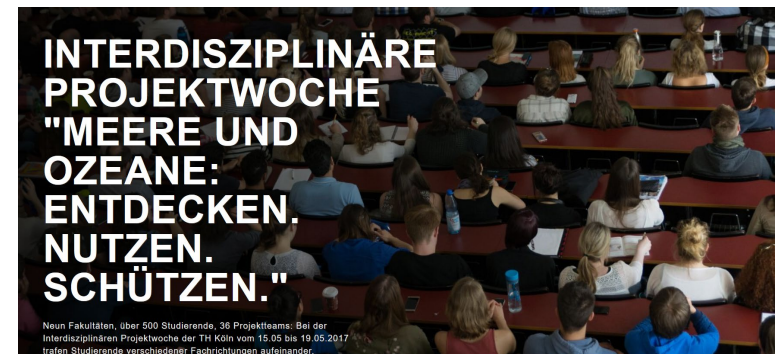


Interdisciplinary, university-wide project week

- Interdisciplinary collaboration of actors from engineering and natural sciences as well as humanities and social sciences.
- Importance and function of interdisciplinary work processes at the forefront and development of an awareness of them.
- Almost the entire spectrum of the TH Köln is represented each semester: 12 faculties, over 700 students, more than 45 project teams and over 70 reviewers and process facilitators from all disciplines.



(Bild: TH Köln)



(Bild: TH Köln)

Transfer fund

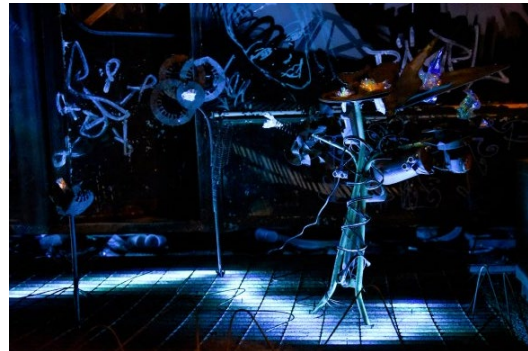
Low-threshold approach for teaching-research projects based on the TH Köln transfer philosophy

Lunch-time Box



(Bild: TH Köln)

Art for all Senses



(Bild: Lasse Scherffig/TH Köln)

Recycling tyre wear instead of flushing it into the sea



(Bild: Danka Katrakova-Krüger/TH Köln)

Research Day 2020

Shaping Social Innovation



(Bilder: Costa Belibasakis/TH Köln)



Science Awards | Research – Transfer – PhD

Criteria – Research

eg. contribution to "Shaping Social Innovation"

Criteria – Transfer

eg. social impact; involvement of actors from civil society, business, culture and/or politics

Criteria – PhD

eg. relevance of PhD thesis for the mission statement „Shaping Social Innovation“



(Bild: Costa Bellibasakis/TH Köln)



(Bild: Thilo Schmüngen/TH Köln)

Entrepreneurship Education and Start-ups

- »StartUpLab@TH Köln«

- Makerspace
- KickStart@TH
- Co-working space



(Bild: TH Köln)

- »Fit for Invest«

- Booster
- Network

Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln



eXIST

Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



(Bild: TH Köln)

- Joint Label »Gateway«



Gateway



Gateway
Gründungsservice
TH Köln

Human Resources Development

- Human Resources Strategy for Researchers

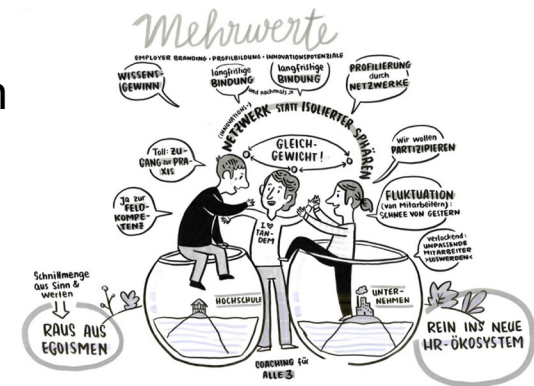
- European Charter for Researchers
- Regular internal and external audit by EU commission
- 50 measures in four categories

- PLAN_CV (TH Köln) Professur-Laufbahn an Hochschulen für angewandte Wissenschaften neu denken: Collaboration und Vernetzung

- Tandem-Program for Post-docs and PhDs
- Focused professorships
- Dedicated development program (Teaching/Research/Practice)
- Cooperation platform with business for shared HR development measures



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



Gemeinsame
Wissenschaftskonferenz
GWK

Challenges in »Shaping Social Innovation«

- Social Innovation
 - Different definitions available in science, ministries and public
 - Requirement of explanation of own self-understanding
 - Risk of misunderstanding by external evaluators
- Opening to Society
 - Transfer as multidirectional, discursive process with additional efforts and high risk of failure
 - Activities does not in any case add reputation to scientific record of scientists
 - Lack of sufficient funding opportunities

Contact

Prof. Dr. Klaus Becker

Vice President for Research and Knowledge Transfer

Technische Hochschule Köln
Claudiusstraße 1
50678 Köln

T: +49 221-8275-3102
M: +49 176-10720700
E: klaus.becker@th-koeln.de

www.th-koeln.de
www.facebook.com/technischehochschulekoeln
www.twitter.com/thkoeln

Technology
Arts Sciences
TH Köln