

Großbritannien: Regierung fördert Ausbau der technischen Infrastruktur an Hochschulen

18.06.2014

Der Minister für Qualifikation und Unternehmen, Matthew Hancock, hat bekannt gegeben, dass die britische Regierung beabsichtigt, bis 2015 den Ausbau von Breitbandverbindungen in Hochschulen mit £5 Millionen zu unterstützen. Das Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Innovation und Qualifikation will damit die Infrastruktur in den Hochschulen verbessern.

Government outlines how technology can benefit further education

Skills and Enterprise Minister Matthew Hancock has announced how the government plans to boost technology in order to improve further education. This includes a £5 million fund to upgrade the broadband network in colleges in 2014 to 2015, allowing them to introduce 'cloud' sharing technologies.

[Speaking at The Spectator's Skills Forum](#), he outlined the [government response to a report published by FELTAG](#) (Further Education Learning Technology Action Group).

FELTAG made a number of recommendations that included the suggestion that policy makers, principals, teachers and governors need to keep abreast of technological developments. This is something the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) welcomes and will support.

BIS also recognises the need for an agile procurement policy which is able to react to fast-changing technologies. Although the final decisions on expenditure are made by individual colleges, BIS can support them where possible to upgrade their infrastructure. Further to this, any plans for new buildings will have to include 'industrial-strength' technological infrastructure in project plans.

FELTAG stated that currently, learners are not utilised for their knowledge and expertise in technology. BIS has asked the Education and Learning Foundation to develop digital leaders in colleges to support others. Specialist organisations will also be approached to assist other learners to improve their digital skills.

FELTAG also found that there was a need for significant investment in the knowledge, skills and understanding of learning technology's potential among principals, managers, teachers and support staff working in further education providers. This will be supported by the Education Learning Foundation who will develop learning technologies resources and materials to increase staff training.

Finally, it was found that links between further education providers and employers need to become stronger. BIS will encourage the Education and Training Foundation to work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to develop better partnerships between providers and new and emerging digital technology industries, especially small businesses, in order to share learning and experiences.

In addition to the FELTAG response, the Minister also laid out a research report on the use of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) with school pupils aged 11 to 19 years. The research, funded by the Department for Education, shows how MOOCs are of particular value to post-16 year-old students who want to combine education with work - such as those studying apprenticeships.

The findings from the research will be used by the Education Technology Action Group (ETAG) who are investigating ways to remove barriers to the effective use of online learning in education.

Quelle: Government of the United Kingdom - Announcements

Redaktion: 18.06.2014

Länder / Organisationen: Vereinigtes Königreich (Großbritannien)

Themen: Bildung und Hochschulen, Infrastruktur, Strategie und Rahmenbedingungen

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