

# Facets and Indicators for Research and Third Mission at Universities of Applied Sciences

Isabel Roessler (Project Leader), Sindy Duong, Cort-Denis Hachmeister  
CHE Centre for Higher Education, Germany



## Summary

In this project, the CHE Centre for Higher Education strives to develop a **core set of indicators for research and research-related Third Mission-activities** of the German universities of applied sciences (UAS). The German UAS have **distinct profiles and own strengths** with respect to their research and Third Mission-activities: applied research, industry-university cooperation, shared labs and centres of innovation. Therefore they cannot and should not be compared with universities, which focus on basic research.

### Background

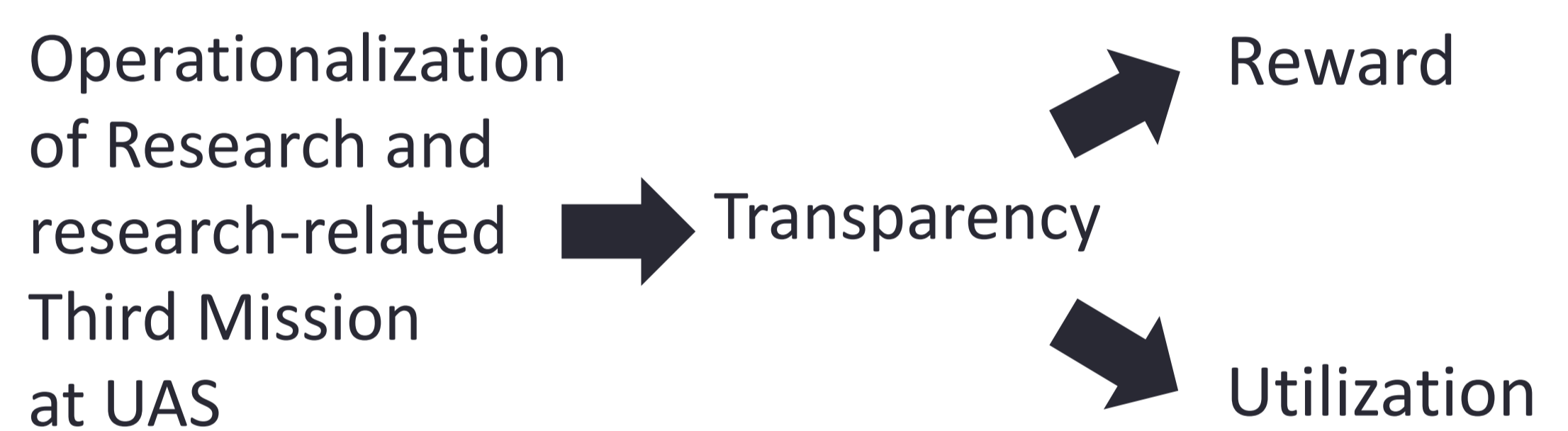
- **Widening of tasks** of higher education institutions
- Universities and universities of applied sciences are **converging**
- Specific higher education institutions continue to have **specific features**
- Increased relevance of **Third Mission**
- Performance measurements are developed from the **perspective of research universities**
- The higher education system is subject to **rapid change**

### ... in Terms of UAS

- Increased range of tasks of UAS (more than teaching and research)
- Lack of research on UAS
- No proper performance assessment of UAS

### Aims of the Project

- Assessment and extension of **performance dimensions**
- Review and Development of **specific indicators** of universities of applied sciences
- Standardization of indicators for **nationwide use**
- Development and test of indicators with respect to **different disciplines**
- Permanent **consultation of experts** during the project



### Work Stages and Methodology

<b>1. Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Literature Review</li> <li>▪ Expert <b>Interviews</b> (47 guideline-based interviews)</li> </ul>
<b>2. Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicator Development</li> <li>▪ Expert <b>Delphi</b></li> </ul>
<b>3. Field Test</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data Collection (online survey)</li> <li>▪ Evaluation</li> </ul>
<b>4. Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Distribution of Results</li> <li>▪ Networking</li> </ul>
<b>5. Completion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conference</li> <li>▪ Final Report</li> </ul>

### Preliminary Results from the Interviews

- **Third Mission is important for leaders of UAS**
- **Third Mission activities can be used as a distinct profile**
- **Third Mission is not attractive for all HEI**
- **Many professors are active in Third Mission areas, but do not call it Third Mission**
- **Some areas of Third Mission are already important for UAS, e.g. Technology Transfer and are included in the mission statement and strategy**
- **Support of Third Mission is necessary for a successful implementation of Third Mission**
- **Economy and Society are highly interested in Third Mission activities of HEI, especially Transfer**

This project is financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Funding Number: 01PY13007).  
Duration: October 2013 – September 2016