



Online Supported Distance Education for the Qualification of Teachers of German as a Second Language

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Abstract

The objective of the project is the training of teachers in “integration courses” for migrants as specified in the immigration act of 2005 and funded and supported by the German Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees. While there are a number of institutions accredited to conduct the training, FIF is the only institution using ICT as a main learning tool. Since 2007 800 teachers finished their qualification. According to the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees, the crucial prerequisite for the success of the nationwide “integration courses” are well qualified teachers. Therefore, the participation in teacher training is mandatory for all teachers in integration courses who do not hold a university-degree in second or foreign language acquisition and teaching. Our blended-learning approach not only combines the efficiency and flexibility of self-directed study with the social aspects of learning in a classroom-situation, but offers crucial advantages:

The requirements of the teacher training curriculum as prescribed by the Federal Agency are manifold and complex. They can be optimally met with the help of ICT-based distance education – without loss in terms of the standards of contemporary adult education such as learner-centeredness, reflective practices, task-based learning, exchange of experiences etc.

The target group consists of teachers of German as a second language most of whom are already teaching in so-called “integration courses”. Almost 50% have a migration background themselves. Most of them are women.

The qualification is based on the ICT learning-platform (Moodle), self-study-materials and several one-day phases of attendance. There are two different versions of the qualification, depending on the experience/qualification of the teacher. The courses run over 4, respectively 6 months.