

## **Vision of the Competence Center for Educational Development And Research in Higher Education (CEDAR)**

### **Our Concept of Learning**

According to our understanding, learning is an active process by which students acquire competences, especially when processing the learning content in a deep, meaningful manner. Competences include knowledge, skills and attitudes. Competences cannot be transferred from instructor to learner, but rather need to be constructed actively within guided learning. In addition, competences enable learners to successfully deal with complex and challenging situations.

### **Facilitating Learning as Main Challenge**

The learning outlined above necessitates a specific environment that offers resources, methods and material in order to activate learners in their competence development. The role of the instructor is, however, important in that they construct the learning environment and facilitate competence development by offering content impulses, guiding and supervising learning, as well as moderating discussions. This way, instructors and learners together create the learning process. This means that an open, trust-based learning climate and a culture of error tolerance are necessary.

### **Learning at Higher Education Institutions**

Higher education institutions are characterized by a number of specific organizational features, including the relevance of their academic disciplines, the fact that higher-education learners are adults, who are responsible for their own learning, as well as the diversity of institutions, study programmes and further contextual variables. All of these aspects have to be thoroughly taken into account when designing learning environments and when developing teaching and learning in higher education.

Das Competence Center for Educational Development And Research in Higher Education (CEDAR) nimmt diese Herausforderungen auf und bearbeitet die aufkommenden Fragestellungen in seinen unterschiedlichen Teilbereichen.

The Competence Center for Educational Development and Research in Higher Education (CEDAR) takes up the challenges associated with developing education in the understanding described above. It supports stakeholders involved in these processes with expertise on micro, meso and macro levels of higher education teaching and learning.