

DEMOS Trial at the TUHH

-translation from the original German document-

With the help of DEMOS, we conducted an online-discussion about the quality of teaching at the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg (TUHH) in autumn 2001. In addition to the existing procedures, the Internet platform allowed us to introduce – at an experimental level – an attractive and modern approach to quality management.

Thanks to the good preparation by the DEMOS-team, the different phases of the DEMOS process ran very smoothly. The participation rate was very high for an institution like a university, especially among students of engineering. The technical system of the DEMOS platform proved to work reliably and attracted the users with its innovative user interface. The moderation team did a very good job to avoid off-topic contributions and to keep the debate constructive and result-oriented.

The experiment has also demonstrated that DEMOS is able to bring together people with diverging interest, background and expectations in a fruitful debate. The project had a long lasting affect in raising the attention to the subject of the discussion – the quality of teaching. DEMOS generated some very interesting results which are of high value for the TUHH. I would wish that every lecture could be evaluated with the help of the DEMOS system.

Hamburg, May 27th 2002

W. Bauhofer, Vice-President