Linking Digital Education Services

Stiftung Innovation in der Hochschullehre
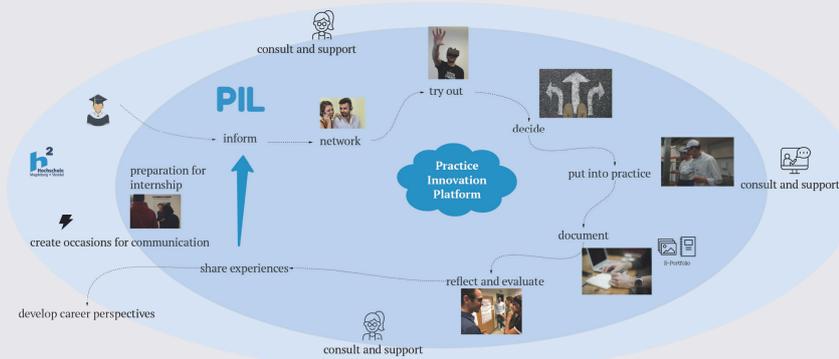
h²
Hochschule
Magdeburg • Stendal

Informative, transparent and reflexive: The Practice Innovation Platform as a companion in the student life cycle

The Practice Innovation Lab is part of the university-wide project h2d2 - didactically and digitally competent teaching and learning.
The aim of the project is to test, evaluate and further develop innovative ideas for the (digitized) design of studies and teaching in a way that promotes learning. In the Practice Innovation Lab, processes related to students' practical phases are to be made more student-centered and transparent. Practice in this context refers to internships, excursions, practical projects, theses and student jobs, among other things.

Reflection on self-, social and key qualifications is just as central as the exchange of experiences between peers. Through continuous reflection, students gain clarity about their own competence profile and can identify suitable occupational fields on this basis.
In addition, the platform facilitates contact with practice partners during studies and promotes exchange between practice and university at an early stage.

The Practice Innovation Lab Process

consult and support
try out
decide
inform → network
PIL
Practice Innovation Platform
put into practice
consult and support
preparation for internship
document
create occasions for communication
share experiences
reflect and evaluate
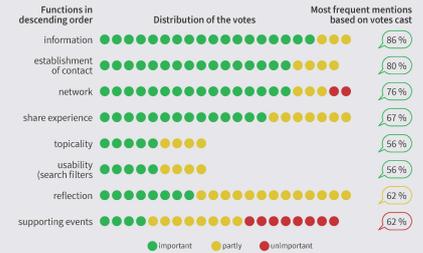develop career perspectives
consult and support

The Practice Innovation Lab (PIL) enables students at initially two departments to establish practical references in their studies, to implement them organizationally, to reflect on them and to pass them on to other students.
Students and teachers are supported in the PIL either partially or for all steps of the practice process. With the help of a „Practice Innovation Platform", transparency is created with regard to practice-oriented teaching and learning projects, internship and work experiences or final theses with practice partners (information). As an interface between studies and career, digital networking opportunities are created together with the university's practical offices (Career Center). Students learn about the work of their predecessors from blogs, podcasts or videos and gain insight into their field of activity. By making it easier to contact companies, students find day internships to get a first impression of different companies (try and decide).

During the hands-on experience, students record their experiences. The Lab offers a selection of different digital formats and support for the tools (implementation and documentation). Following the practical experience, teachers and students can use the Lab for reflection and evaluation. The (e-)portfolio examination formats already established in some study programs are to be integrated via the Lab and expanded into cross-study portfolio work.
Students document their competence growth, experience self-efficacy and strengthen their self-organization.
The students' wealth of experience is fed into the „Practice Innovation Platform" in various digital formats and the information is transferred to other students (passing on experiences).
Overall, the process serves the concrete development of job profiles and the meaningful (self-)management of competence development for this purpose.

Results from student demand surveys

"It's all about simplification.
It depends on the design that it is not so cluttered.
I'm a visual guy I don't use that if it's cluttered."

"We always had to submit our internship reports in writing. That might be cool to upload to the app."

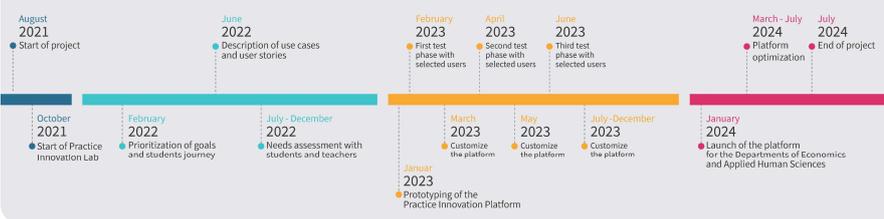"Experience reports have a high added value for students in deciding which direction they want to go in their studies."

Relevance Assessment

Functions in descending order	Distribution of the votes	Most frequent mentions based on votes cast
information		86 %
establishment of contact		80 %
network		76 %
share experience		67 %
topicality		56 %
usability (search filters)		56 %
reflection		62 %
supporting events		62 %

● important ● partly ● unimportant

Needs assesment course directors

"Students should be introduced to the platform during orientation days."

"Companies could present themselves on the platform."

"Lecturers could provide topic suggestions for theses on the platform."

Milestones

August 2021 — Start of project
June 2022 — Description of use cases and user stories
February 2023 — First test phase with selected users
April 2023 — Second test phase with selected users
June 2023 — Third test phase with selected users
March - July 2024 — Platform optimization
July 2024 — End of project

October 2021 — Start of Practice Innovation Lab
February 2022 — Prioritization of goals and students journey
July - December 2022 — Needs assessment with students and teachers
Januar 2023 — Prototyping of the Practice Innovation Platform
March 2023 — Customize the platform
May 2023 — Customize the platform
July - December 2023 — Customize the platform
January 2024 — Launch of the platform for the Departments of Economics and Applied Human Sciences

Design of the Practice Innovation Platform

For the development of the platform, the project cooperates with external partners (learning management system & web developers). The embedding in an existing system at the university (Incom or Moodle) is aspired.

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