

# Evaluation des Departments für Angewandte Genetik und Zellbiologie 2009



## Executive Summary

Für das vom Rektorat beauftragte und von der Stabstelle Qualitätsmanagement begleitete Verfahren zur Evaluation des Departments für Angewandte Genetik und Zellbiologie, das mit Juli 2008 gestartet wurde, konnten ausgewiesene Experten der Universitäten Ljubljana, Lausanne und Göttingen gewonnen werden.

Zu Beginn des Verfahrens (welches die Anforderungen des UG 2002 sowie eine Reihe internationaler Standards erfüllt) erstellte das Department auf Basis eines Fragebogens sowie einer Reihe zentral zur Verfügung gestellter Daten einen Rückblick über die wesentlichen Leistungen der letzten 5 Jahre in den Bereichen Organisationsentwicklung, Forschung, Lehre und Weiterbildung, Personalmanagement sowie Beziehungen zur Gesellschaft; außerdem wurden Zukunftsperspektiven entwickelt. Dieser Selbstevaluationsbericht wurde neben einer Reihe weiterer Unterlagen den Peers zur Verfügung gestellt, die nach dessen Durchsicht das Department im Juni 2009 vor Ort besichtigten. Die Ergebnisse aus der Evaluation flossen schließlich in die Zielvereinbarung zwischen Rektorat und Department für die Jahre 2010-12 ein.

Im Rahmen ihres Vor-Ort Besuchs im Juni 2009 führten die Peers Gespräche mit der Departmentleitung, allen ArbeitsgruppenleiterInnen sowie VertreterInnen des Mittelbaus, Doktoranden, nichtwissenschaftlichen MitarbeiterInnen und Studierenden. Gegen Ende des Besuchs lieferten die Peers erste Rückmeldungen und diskutierten die weitere Positionierung des Departments mit der Departmentleitung und den ArbeitsgruppenleiterInnen.

Im Jänner 2010 fand ein abschließender Workshop mit dem Head of Peers, dem Rektor sowie mit der Departmentleitung und allen ArbeitsgruppenleiterInnen statt, in dem auf Basis der Empfehlungen der Peers konkrete Maßnahmen erarbeitet wurden. Die Ergebnisse der Evaluation, die zur Gänze in englischer Sprache durchgeführt wurde, lassen sich entsprechend dem Bericht der Peers und dem Workshop folgendermaßen zusammenfassen:

### Evaluationsergebnisse/Evaluation results

- the overall quality of the DAGZ is on high international level based on its scientific achievements
- the DAGZ runs well financed research programs funded by the national research agency and is successfully involved in EU Framework Programmes (FP6 and FP7)
- the DAGZ has established a strong in-house network between the research groups and many national and international collaborations in all three main areas of research

- the DAGZ has a key role and international visibility in the field of glycobiology, a core field of interest in all VIBT departments
- the DAGZ has an important function in the activities in plant molecular genetics within the Vienna region and beyond
- the special research programme (SFB) “Fusarium” is a result of an integrated effort of DAGZ, VIBT and IFA Tulln in the field of plant-pathogen interaction
- the DAGZ has achieved successful integration of basic and applied research with strong translational character
- the DAGZ has been successful in securing collaboration with industry and the resulting financial support
- patenting of the research achievements is on a remarkable level
- implementation of the Bologna teaching system and its integration into research activities has been achieved
- feedback from the students on the academic program is in general positive
- a crucial role of DAGZ, VIBT and BOKU in the Vienna Region, Austria and Central Europe in the fields of research and teaching activities was identified
- the DAGZ houses modern equipment and other infrastructural environment
- the DAGZ is involved in close collaboration with the publicly funded “dialog-gentechnik” association as interface between science and the public in order to provide competent and reliable scientific information
- a future goal is the further improvement of collaboration between groups, especially in the field of plant expression systems
- another aim is to further increase the quality of publications in order to further contribute to the international “excellence” of BOKU
- the DAGZ plans to contribute to establishing the doctoral program DK plus “BioTop”
- another plan is to improve the teaching program through collaboration with other departments within VIBT and possibly BOKU
- it is recommended to establish two new chairs in Cell Biology and Plant Molecular Biology
- it is recommended to open new staff positions for VIBT Core Facilities (imaging, proteomics) and other needs to increase scientific output
- it is recommended to establish attractive career possibilities (independence) for young research scientists and their small groups (non-tenured positions)
- it is recommended to improve interactions between lecturers and students, coordination of lectures concerning the subjects of the courses, to organize laboratory courses in a more attractive and rational way, more attention to “problem based learning”
- maintenance of the high level of third-party funding would be desirable
- new spaces for laboratories and administration are needed
- it is important to keep integrity and collaboration of the Department intact when some research groups will be relocated to Tulln

## Agreements

- Equipment: a joint application for a VIBT proteomics core facility involving 2 complementary mass spectrometry devices has been submitted to the rectorate. It shall be clarified how this equipment shall be jointly used. The VIBT bio imaging core facility plus staff has been already approved by the ministry.
- An additional greenhouse at VIBT is needed according to DAGZ. Apart from Prof. Stöger and Prof. Steinkellner (Laura Bassi Centre for Excellence) it shall also be required by the possible future chair in “Plant Molecular Biology”.
- Move to Tulln: In response to the recommendations made by the peers, it has been decided that Prof. Adam will move to Tulln with the whole research group whereas

Dr. Luschnig will stay at Muthgasse. The staff representation (Betriebsrat) has to be informed about these changes immediately.

- It has to be ensured that adequate infrastructure incl. equipment is made available for the groups moving to UFT. This has to be discussed with Prof. Wenzel and Mrs. Plail (UFT). Also synergies with AIT have to be sought.
- Considerable advancements have been made in reference to the integration of the department within VIBT and BOKU: The DKplus "Biotop" and the SFB "Fusarium" are very good examples for this, in the future there will be further joint applications.
- Education: Some courses will be reorganised in coordination with the study commission, the BSc. programme "Food- and Biotechnology" shall be reshaped by April 2010.

Thomas Guggenberger