The Munich-Method-Box: A new systematization of teaching and learning methods and their intuitive practical approach

Problem
- Lecturers often have difficulties finding appropriate teaching methods
- Lecturers hardly use any teaching method systematizations
- They are not able to cope with existing teaching method systematizations
- Lecturers are often novices in the field of teaching and support with didactical concepts

What should a useful teaching method systematization provide?
- Easy and intuitive approach
- A didactical concept as background
- Integration of learning goals
- Possibility to find teaching methods for each teaching situation
- Opportunity to include already known methods into

Munich-Method-Box:
- Created by Sprachraum in the Centre of Higher Education at LMU Munich
- Structured into two dimensions: AVIVA-steps and five social forms
- Approved since 2008 at LMU and TUM

Research Aim:
- Our main goal was to find out, if the workshops on didactic concepts within the Munich-Method-Box are useful in the form that they enhance teacher use of methods in courses.

Survey on the Munich-Method-Box
- Online survey from March to May 2013
- Sample: 32 university lecturers who have all participated in learning workshops on didactic concepts within the Munich-Method-Box
  - workshop-participation from 2011 to 2013
  - average age 35 years
  - average of teaching experience: 4 years

Survey Questions:
1. What do teachers remember about the Munich-Method-Box after participating in learning workshops?
2. Do teachers find the structure easy to use?
3. How often do lecturers use the Munich-Method-Box?
4. Was there an attitude shift regarding teaching methods?
5. Would the teachers recommend the Munich-Method-Box to other colleagues?

Results
- Structure is easy to use (88%) and intuitively comprehensible (75%).
- 90% use the Munich-Method-Box regularly.
- 81% think about teaching methods more often since they know the Munich-Method-Box.
- 28 of 32 participants would recommend or rather recommend the Munich-Method-Box to other colleagues.

Discussion
- We could confirm that teachers have a good recollection of the Munich-Method-Box, some even up to two years after participating in the learning workshop. A very widespread number of components is memorized, from specific methods up to structure-details.
- The Munich-Method-Box is very popular. Teachers rate the Method-Box as easy to understand and easy to apply.
- This reduces concerns about using methods which leads to a more frequent use of methods in their seminars.
- In general, we could confirm that there was an attitude shift in the sense that teachers think more about using methods.
- Almost all participants would recommend the Munich-Method-Box to other colleagues.

Conclusions and Future Steps
- We can conclude that the Munich-Method-Box is very successful. The approach is intuitive, the systematization very practical-oriented, so teachers apply methods more frequently in their courses.
- Future research questions:
  - How does the use of methods influence the attitude of teachers and students regarding teaching methods?
  - How do students evaluate the use of teaching methods knowing they are based on the Munich-Method-Box?
  - How does using methods influence the learning outcome when the teacher uses the Munich-Method-Box?
- The Munich-Method-Box is available as a Website or an App called „MobiDics“ (Mobile Didactics).
- MobiDics contains further information such as pictures, tips from experts or advice on modifying methods.
- A long term survey is currently being conducted.
- The teaching of methods through video case work is currently being established with the focus on methods for large groups (lectures).

References