Achievements/What went well?:

Activities 2016:
- More than 20 events at and with partner universities, like block weeks, workshops, summer schools, international weeks, conferences => mobility budget fully spent
- First double degree graduates (3)
- Conference and summer school in Dortmund with more than 130 participants
- Training for > 20 lecturers from partner universities on case study teaching method

Status Master Cooperation:
- 8 cooperating Master programmes at 5 (all) partner universities, 1 double degree (2 more in progress)
- 3 associated Master programmes (2 with double degree) in Ukraine
- Integrated in Ruhr Master School, which got another 5-years-funding from Stiftung Mercator

PhD and postgraduate cooperation:
- Cooperation with PhD programmes in Trondheim, Kaunas, Bilbao => joint workshops
- First post-gra. workshop with Siemens in Leuven

Funding/additional applications/projects:
- ITEA3 (Eureka) research project with NTNU Trondheim labeled (start 4/2017) => PhD students
- DAAD Ostpartnerschaften 2017 with Ukraine
- 2 Erasmus+ KA2 tried, but not granted, 1 resubmission + 1 new one for Feb 2017
- PIMES becomes Institute IDIAL with NRW-MIWF 5-years-funding

Challenges/What are major issues?:

Organizational:
- Founder of cooperation network and major project contributor Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Peter A. Reusch died unexpectedly in 2016
- Project coordinator C. Quester resigned in March 2016, new project coordinator Dr. L. Telgmann resigned in August 2016, no project coordinator, no continuous project staff
- Travel management (many small mobilities) and internal accounting in university are still a major problem => ongoing attempts with chancellor and all involved departments to come to a solution
- Project is causing an immense organizational stress on FH Dortmund since many things are new and happen the first time => but: good support from rectorate and improving visibility with deans, next step is the installation of a vice rector for internationalization for April 2017
- Due to the organizational and personal issues in Dortmund, the awareness and participation at the partner universities is rising only slowly
- Communication and Marketing activities are insufficient

Lessons Learned:

Activities:
- Many activities with small granularity (1-2 weeks) instead of long term stays cause more effort than being manageable by 1 coordinator => FH Dortmund added up to 3 further 50%-positions
- High amount of activities caused high density of interaction amongst partners => network grew much stronger, relations became close, partners fully committed, FH Dortmund is perceived as valuable center of network

Organizational:
- Due to focus on Master programmes, the project is touching many core processes of the universities => highly complicated and highly political, many issues
- Processes of FH Dortmund are not at all prepared to cope with the project => many processes need to be adapted or developed, high effort behind the scenes, but also high impact on organizational learning (not a work package in the project)

Personal:
- Project is stressful for the coordinator and the involved team. It is difficult to find the right person (from inside FH? from outside?), no blue prints for the job. Frustration becomes an issue.

Specifics of Fachhochschule:
- Integration with research is difficult, since FH had focused international activities mainly on student exchange in the past
- Cross border cooperation with industry is just in the beginning => no idea if it will work
- FH Dortmund is only "FH" in the network => this has luckily proved to be no issue for the partners

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