



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Lecturers' Conference (KdL):

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Lecturers' Conference (KdL): Activity report 2023/24

KITE Award 2024 and Innovation in Learning and Teaching Fair

After focusing on formats developed for online teaching in 2022, the scope of the KITE Award has been set to engaging, interactive teaching formats. 17 projects from twelve departments were submitted, and the KITE Award Committee shortlisted three. The KITE Award conferral ceremony will be held on May 15th in the ETH main building in the Audi Max, in conjunction with the ETH Teaching Fair. The Learning & Teaching Fair will showcase innovative teaching projects at 42 stands, providing inspiration for your own teaching and fostering an exchange of ideas on the further development of teaching. Take the opportunity to exchange ideas with the participating project teams on site. The projects nominated for the KITE Award will also be showcased.

Preparation for KdL elections 2024:

Within the KdL, five members, including the Vice President and the auditor, are at the end of their terms. Candidates have been identified, and the election will take place on May 14, 2024.

New projects / working groups

The following working groups were established in 2023/2024:

AG Metaevaluation – Evaluation of the Course Evaluation

The Rector asked the KdL to reevaluate the assessment methods for lectures, courses, and exams. In response, a working group was formed with members from LET (now: UTL: Unit for Teaching and Learning), student representatives and lecturers. This group focuses on three main pillars of evaluation: semester feedback, course evaluations, and exam evaluations. The AG set top-level objectives, which include reducing the evaluation workload, shifting from summative assessments to formative assessments, enhancing data-driven metrics alongside subjective student evaluations, defining the processes behind evaluations, establishing simple standards, implementing AI tools for the assessment of open-text feedback, and increasing participation rates. The first pilot introduced a new concept for semester evaluations, aimed at achieving high participation rates, focusing on open-text feedback, and testing AI tools for analyzing student feedback. The return rate during the pilot ranged between 61% and 96%. The working group will continue to streamline course evaluations and revise the exam evaluation process. Their goal is to finalize their recommendations by early 2025, proposing an evaluation system that will be widely accepted among lecturers and will significantly enhance teaching efficiency and effectiveness at ETH.

Sustaining innovative Teaching – Needs and Resources for Non-Standard Teaching

One observation from the submitted projects for the award is that project-based teaching is a key field of innovation in teaching. However, these teaching formats generally require new and different resources and infrastructure compared to established standard teaching settings. Based on this observation, the KdL initiated a project to identify needs and hurdles in building and maintaining project-based teaching formats. The first step is the development of an analysis of the current situation. The qualitative and quantitative survey was executed by ETH Juniors. The results are now concluded, and a recommendation will be given to the Rector and the UTL. The project will be finalized in Q3 2024.

AG Representation of Senior Scientists @ ETH

During the rETHink discussions, it became clear that Senior Scientists are not adequately represented at ETH. As a first step, the KdL agreed that all Senior Scientists will be represented by the KdL. Since Senior Scientists are an important group at ETH, to strengthen their representation, the KdL formed the AG Senior Scientists. As a result of these efforts, representation of the Senior Scientists was established. The KdL

recommends the establishment of an HR department for Senior Scientists and the creation of a Senior Scientist Forum (SCF), which would include Senior Scientist contacts from each department.

Rollout and promotion of Peer Feedback on Teaching:

The pilot of Peer Feedback on Teaching concluded in 2023 and has now been rolled out. The KdL is promoting the offering and is committed to ensuring that KdL members are ambassadors for this program.

Guests

The following guests attended plenary KdL meetings:

- Gerd Kortemeyer, ETH Director of Educational Development and Technology: Bring Your Own Device and Safe Exam Browser.
- Angela Owusu-Ansah, Provost of Ashesi University in Ghana: Keynote speaker for the Kite Award.
- Lukas Vonesch, Head of HR Consulting, rETHink-AG "Senior Scientists".
- Stefan Spiegel, VP of Finance and Controlling: Guest speaker at the KdL Christmas Dinner.
- Dieter Wüest, Project leader PAKETH

Consultations

In the year of this report the KdL, after the respective consultation process, stated its position on the following:

- Consultation on guidelines on the assistant professorship system at ETH Zurich, RSETHZ 510.21
- Consultation on the Procedural Ordinance on Scientific Misconduct
- Consultation on ETH Zurich's Scholarship Ordinance
- Guidelines on the employment of professors at ETH Zurich beyond the normal retirement age: internal consultation
- Consultation of the revised regulations for members of ETH Zurich on concerns about and reporting of inappropriate behaviour (RSETHZ 615)
- rETHink-AG "Senior Scientists"

Election of new members of the ETHICS Commission: The nominated candidates are confirmed and proposed to the SL for election. The respective position statements may be viewed on the [KdL website](#), together with further information on the KdL, a list of its members, and meeting dates.

Zurich, April 2024