

Internationalisation Strategy

at the OTH Regensburg

7 February 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS



PREAMBLE	3
INTERNATIONALISATION – VISION, MISSION AND VALUES	4
Vision	5
Mission	5
Values	5
INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES	6
OBJECTIVES AND FIELDS OF ACTION	7
Z.1 Internationalisation of Studies and Teaching	8
H.1.1 Structuring and further development of university partnerships	8
H.1.2 Increasing student mobility (in/out)	8
H.1.3 Increasing lecturer mobility (in/out)	9
H.1.4 Development of new, low-threshold cooperation formats	9
H.1.5 Increasing the proportion of international degree-seeking students	10
H.1.6 Expansion of degree programmes taught in English	10
H.1.7 Study preparation programmes for international students	11
H.1.8 Introduction of a cross-faculty German as a Foreign Language programme	11
H.1.9 Involvement of companies and municipal institutions	11
H.1.10 Increasing the international visibility of the OTH Regensburg	11
Z.2 Internationalisation of Research and Knowledge Transfer	12
H.2.1 Strategic partnerships and university alliances	12
H.2.2 Attracting international early researchers	12
H.2.3 Participation in international conferences	13
Z.3 Internationalisation of University Life	14
H.3.1 Raising awareness of internationality and diversity	14
H.3.2 Developing the linguistic and intercultural skills of teaching staff and employees	14
H.3.3 Internationalisation of processes in the administration and faculties	15
H.3.4 Internationalisation of professors and staff	15
IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY	16



PREAMBLE



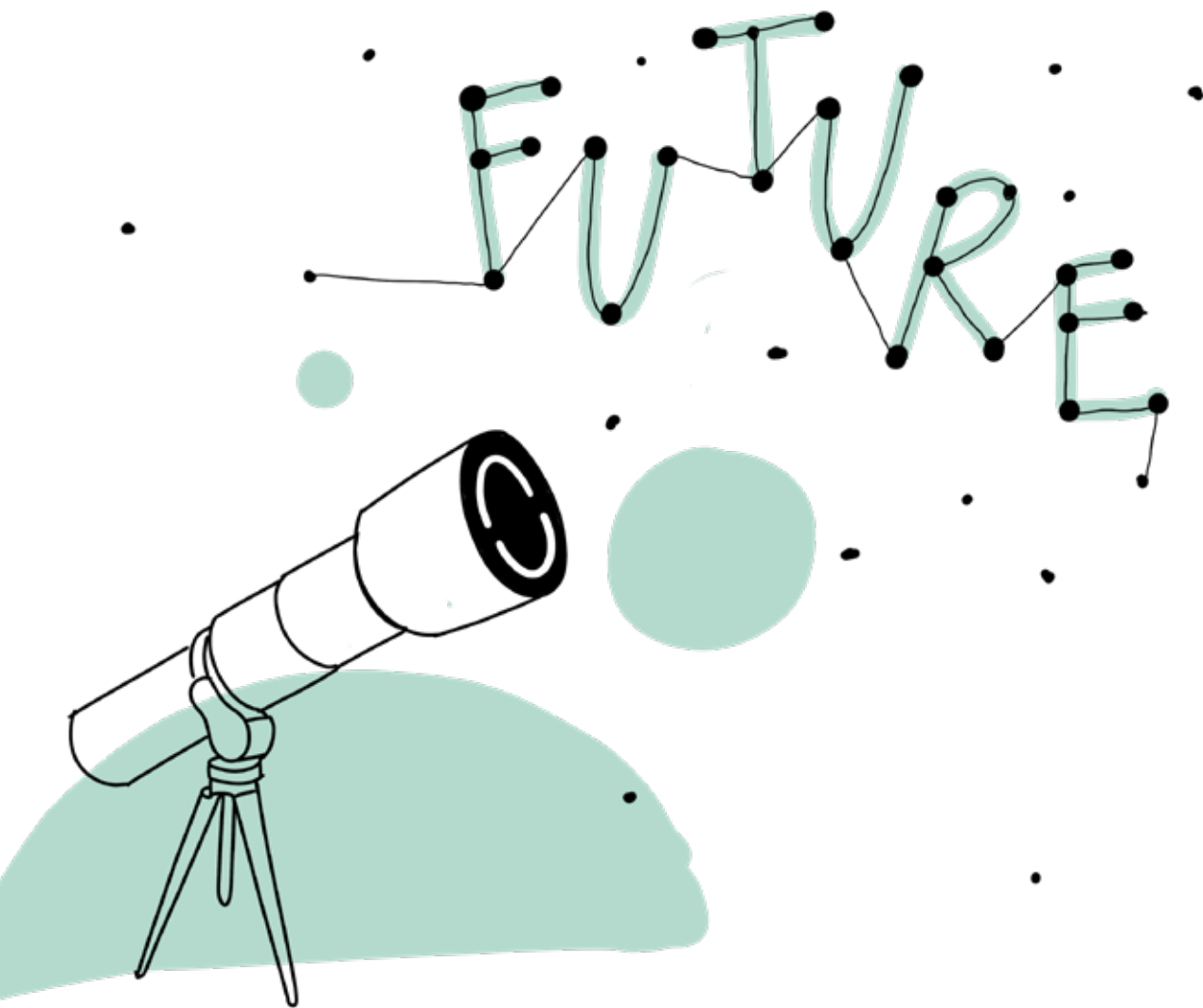
International awareness and networking have long been a high priority at the OTH Regensburg. We aim to combine our regional roots with a highly pronounced international component. This in turn leads us to two perspectives for the internationalisation of the university.

For one, internationalisation in the form of an exchange in teaching, study and research programmes is an important social contribution to the promotion of intercultural skills and international understanding. Given the current ecological, economic and social challenges we face worldwide, our contribution to promoting international cooperation is becoming increasingly important. The strength of an open, democratic and culturally diverse society derives from its members, in particular from their global mindset and intercultural competencies.

At the same time, universities also have the task of training professionals that are needed by industry, science and society and to use their state funding appropriately and efficiently for this purpose. Internationalisation plays a central role here. Despite the simultaneous trend towards greater academisation in society, demographic change is leading to a permanent decline in the number of students and therefore also in the number of professionals, particularly in the STEM fields. In addition to a stronger commitment in the region to retain local university graduates, it would also make sense to integrate academic professionals into the German labour market through immigration from abroad. International networking and extending an invitation to educate students from all over the world to become specialists with the prospect of staying in Germany therefore offer a target-oriented and sustainable solution. The 'Regensburg Model' as a uniform concept in the (English-language) Bachelor degree programmes is an important part of the internationalisation strategy. This complements international Master degree programmes and established degree programmes that are geared towards the challenges facing management and the team leadership of interculturally diverse groups of people and are based on international exchange.

The OTH Regensburg's internationalisation strategy focuses on the development of structures and the teaching of key competencies and is therefore directed at both German and international students, teaching staff and all other employees as part of an all-encompassing transformation process. It also supports other strategic objectives of the university; for example, internationalisation can support the recruitment of female students and employees. Both the **OTH Regensburg Mission Statement** and the **University Development Plan** serve as a basis.

INTERNATIONALISATION - VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



Vision

The OTH Regensburg acts as a bridge between the region and the world through its strong regional presence and its international perspective. It is a university with an international mindset where mutual respect, tolerance, openness and honesty on the part of all university members form the basis of our actions.

The OTH Regensburg is driving forward the development of its profile, particularly in the areas of sustainability, climate responsibility and healthcare, which are defined in the University Development Plan. As a result, it is internationally visible and valued as a partner. Ongoing internationalisation has a positive effect on the organisational culture at the OTH Regensburg, promoting social responsibility and the participation and involvement of a wide range of groups in society.

Pluralism and international exchange are perceived as valuable assets at the OTH Regensburg, contributing to the development of the social and cultural skills of all university members and promoting academic discourse and the development of new ideas.

Mission

Internationalisation is an important contribution to the qualitative development of the university. Internationalisation increases diversity at the university. It is an indispensable instrument for teaching intercultural skills and international communication.

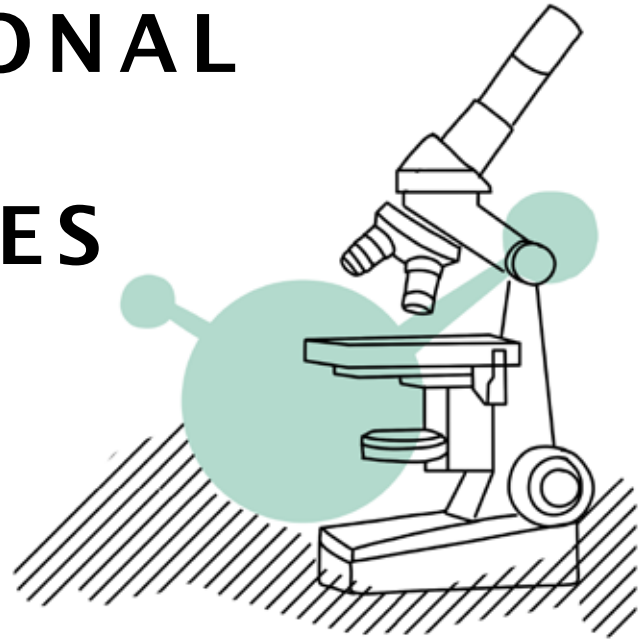
We actively promote international exchange. Teaching core competencies in language and intercultural skills both locally at our university and abroad is an important part of our work. To this end, we maintain international collaborations in teaching, research and continuing education. In this way, we create networks and an environment that enables our students and university staff to gain international experience in teaching, research and administration. Moreover, we expect the internationalisation of our teaching staff, academics and early researchers to provide important impetus for applied research.

We hold our own position in competition with national and international educational institutions and aim to continuously improve it. As a visible and reliable co-operation partner, we rely on a dense network of partners in science, society and business in Germany and abroad. Considering the urgent need for skilled workers in the region and beyond, we also ensure favourable conditions for the regional labour market with attractive and future-oriented study programmes for international students and researchers.

Values

International students and international university staff who work in teaching, research and administration are considered a significant enrichment of quality and diversity in all areas of our university life. The creation of equal opportunities and the removal of unnecessary barriers as well as protection against discrimination and exclusion are high priorities for us. In this way, all members of our university and those who wish to join us experience fairness, respect and tolerance and receive the support they need for their personal development.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES



As a university, we offer an academic portfolio of services as well as the structure required to deliver them. This also includes international programmes, not only for our students, but also for academic and academic support staff.

International degree-seeking students represent an important and established contribution to internationalisation. The introduction of degree programmes taught in English requires the development of additional skills and structures that will ultimately benefit all international students.

THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES AT THE OTH REGENSBURG
ARE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING SIX KEY AREAS:

- Student exchange programmes
- Bachelor and Master degree programmes taught in English
- Intercultural competence and language programmes
- Low threshold formats, 'internationalisation at home'
- International teaching and research (guest lecturers, collaborations)
- Micro-credentials, pre-semester (under construction)

These programmes necessitate an expansion of internationalisation in all areas of the university. The resulting objective areas and fields of action are described in detail below.

OBJECTIVES AND FIELDS OF ACTION

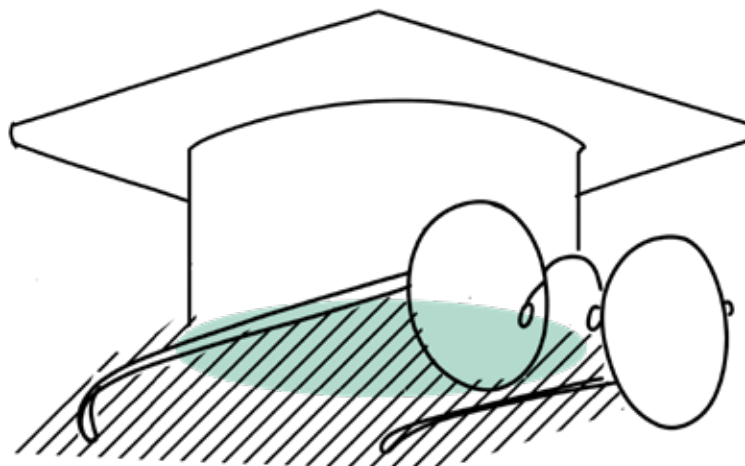
Following the University Development Plan of the OTH Regensburg, which was adopted in 2023, this document outlining the internationalisation strategy uses a time line running until 2027. It is intended to serve as an instrument for defining goals, planning and implementing suitable measures in the following three objective areas:

Z.1 Internationalisation of Studies and Teaching

Z.2 Internationalisation of Research and Knowledge Transfer

Z.3 Internationalisation of University Life

Corresponding fields of action for these objective areas are defined below. The global objectives and measures formulated therein represent a foundation for the development planning of individual organisational units and are addressed and differentiated in the context of specific development objectives. This creates opportunities for university members to pursue individual personal development and to structure their studies and work in teaching, administration and research.



Z.1 Internationalisation of Studies and Teaching

In order to be attractive to students, it is important to provide students with international experience as well as intercultural and language skills that are necessary and useful in their careers and beyond. Taking into account the need for skilled labour in regional companies in conjunction with demographic change, the OTH Regensburg needs to attract international students. The following fields of action are assigned to objective area Z.1:

H.1.1 Structuring and further development of university partnerships

The idea is to develop and implement a concept for structured partnerships involving the combined exchange of teaching, study and research. Such structured exchange programmes enable synergy effects and limited resources to be used more efficiently. One particular example is the pursuit of the goal of establishing a European University Alliance (ARTEMIS Consortium).

In addition, one measure to give more students the opportunity to gain formative experience abroad is to expand the range of internships abroad for “outgoing” students in the practical semester. This can be achieved by expanding and strengthening contacts with industries abroad and through cooperation with internationally operating companies in the region.

MEASURES:

- Digitalisation and systematisation of processes involved in establishing and maintaining in-depth partnerships
- Expansion of cross-faculty collaborations
- Intensification of personal contacts (strategic visits)

H.1.2 Increasing student mobility (in/out)

The OTH Regensburg ensures that international competences and an awareness of international perspectives are taught in all study programmes. These are tailored to the needs of each profession and meet the requirements of our time. International exchange is a key component in this endeavour.

The number of international exchange students (IAS) for internships and studies at the OTH Regensburg as well as the number of students going abroad for one or more semesters is planned to increase by 10 to 20% compared to 2024. The expansion of programmes for IAS also generates growing interest among partners in accepting students from Regensburg. Currently around 500 students go abroad each year, the number of IAS is around 100 to 150 each semester, i.e. a good 1% of students at the OTH Regensburg. The number of outgoing is set to increase by approximately 20% (100) per year, with the participation of all faculties.

MEASURES:

- Improve the visibility of exchange programmes for incoming and outgoing students via the website and social media channels
- Exchange programme services (course overviews, digital processes, preparatory events for outgoing students)
- Internships for incoming students - Network with regional businesses
- Networking between the faculties and students ('Internationalisation at Home', 'International Campus Friends')

H.1.3 Increasing lecturer mobility (in/out)

As part of internationalisation, the exchange of lecturers and researchers will also be expanded. This exchange will help to form personal relationships between academic staff and foreign institutions abroad, which will then promote student exchanges. It will also enable academic staff to gain intercultural experience and an international perspective. Increased networking also creates favourable conditions for joint projects in research and teaching.

While the state's guest lecturer programme makes it possible to invite and finance around 20 professors and other lecturers from abroad for a few weeks or a semester each year, the structures and framework conditions for a stay abroad for lecturers at the OTH Regensburg still need to be improved. By publicising and using existing funding programmes, at least one or two lecturers in each faculty would have the opportunity to spend a teaching period (block course, summer school, etc.) abroad each year.

MEASURES:

- Development and support of key partnerships
- Strengthening the visibility and preparatory offers and incentives for professors at the OTH Regensburg with regard to possible guest stays abroad, networking and support
- Matching processes for more efficient placement of exchange opportunities
- Targeted utilisation of DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) funding opportunities

H.1.4 Development of new, low-threshold cooperation formats

In addition to traditional exchange programmes, low-threshold options based on virtual formats and short-term programmes (e.g. summer schools, block courses, blended intensive programmes, content and language integrated learning, etc.) can provide opportunities for international experience for people who, for various reasons, are unable to complete a traditional stay abroad. This is also closely linked to the topic of diversity (equal opportunities and participation).

The aim is for at least 50% of Bachelor students to have taken part in at least one of these programmes during their studies if they are unable to spend a longer period abroad.

MEASURES:

- Provide programmes for virtual teaching and promote internationally visible marketing campaigns throughout the university
- Develop partnerships, for example within the framework of a European University Alliance
- Cultural cooperation formats (music competitions, excursions, projects, etc.)



H.1.5 Increasing the proportion of international degree-seeking students

The OTH Regensburg is pursuing the goal of increasing the proportion of international (degree-seeking) students from approximately 7% to well over 10%. This includes measures in the field of action 'H.1.6 Expansion of degree programmes taught in English. This also includes measures regarding communication and marketing:

MEASURES:

- Target group-oriented marketing (regional programmes, international platforms and fairs)
- Strengthening the visibility and ease in finding international programmes

H.1.6 Expansion of degree programmes taught in English

By introducing Bachelor degree programmes that can be studied entirely or at least in part in English and expanding English-language Master degree programmes, the proportion of international degree-seeking students (with foreign university entrance qualifications) at the OTH Regensburg is set to increase to well over 10% over the next five years, with a long-term target of between 15 and 20% on average across all faculties. The aim is to keep the total number of students enrolled for a degree at a stable level of 10,000 to 11,000 students.

When applying appropriate measures, these internationally-oriented programmes will also contribute to increasing the proportion of female students enrolled in engineering degree programmes at the OTH Regensburg.

MEASURES:

- Identification and design of suitable degree programmes
- Development and sustainable implementation of English-language teaching programmes (including a support system and further training for teaching staff)
- Further development of processes, counselling and organisation (soft landing, accommodation support, welcome programme, application management)
- Infrastructure and teaching capacities for German as a Foreign Language (DaF) and intercultural teaching programmes
- Quality assurance and monitoring



H.1.7 Study preparation programmes for international students

Preparatory study programmes should be designed and, where feasible, introduced. These programmes are intended to provide international students enrolled in degree programmes taught in English with better starting conditions for a successful course of study and the acquisition of German language skills suitable for the labour market. In addition to a 'zero semester' (pre-semester) with a focus on the development of German language skills and intercultural competences in combination with core subjects for certain study programme groups, the cooperation with preparatory colleges and comparable formats abroad is also an option.

MEASURES:

- Pre-semester concept at the OTH Regensburg
- University partnerships abroad

H.1.8 Introduction of a cross-faculty German as a Foreign Language (DaF) programme

As part of the 'Regensburg Model', a teaching programme for German as a Foreign Language (DaF) is being developed for Bachelor degree programmes that is designed to lead to at least B1 level in four semesters. Thanks to a modular, faculty-independent structure, courses can be offered at all required levels to allow for differences in prior knowledge. An accompanying programme for Master degree programmes taught in English is being developed as part of a pilot project.

H.1.9 Involvement of companies and municipal institutions

Companies also need to engage in dialogue with the university for the purpose of expanding international degree programmes to provide training for the regional labour market and developing course content to teach the necessary intercultural skills (e.g. in the area of HR development and management). Potential areas include dual study programmes, exchange formats, internships and final theses as well as joint application-oriented research and development (aFuE) projects. With regard to the housing market and social integration, companies can use their influence to find solutions. The aim is to create a joint dialogue forum in order to form a cooperative community between the OTH Regensburg, the companies and the city and districts.

MEASURES:

- Intensified cooperation with regional companies to further develop internships and final theses for international students
- Expansion of dual study programmes in the English-speaking/international area

H.1.10 Increasing the international visibility of the OTH Regensburg

In addition to applying specific marketing measures in the field of action 'H.1.6 Expansion of degree programmes taught in English', the OTH Regensburg's international visibility will largely be promoted through participation in forums, in networks and associations and by utilising the website.

MEASURES:

- International presence on platforms, events, organisations (e.g. EUA, US4Europe, etc.)
- Participation in international rankings
- International visibility of the website and social media

Z.2 Internationalisation of Research and Knowledge Transfer

If the OTH Regensburg is to meet its own specialist requirements for applied research and transfer in the long term, it first needs to be attractive to international academic staff. In addition, international researchers provide new impetus for research at the OTH Regensburg. International involvement increases the visibility and good reputation of the OTH Regensburg as a cooperation partner and opens up new avenues for research funding. The following fields of action are assigned to objective area Z.2:

H.2.1 Strategic partnerships and university alliances

The networking of international research and teaching is intended to improve the preconditions for the implementation of international projects, for example from the EU funding programme. This includes our involvement in the EU-funded European Alliance (ARTEMIS).

A first step was taken with the INTREPID-HEI project funded by the EU via the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT). Further involvement in European funding programmes (Erasmus, Horizon, Interreg, etc.) will follow in this direction. The existing partnerships with our eastern neighbouring countries are to be expanded and further developed through EU funding.

MEASURES:

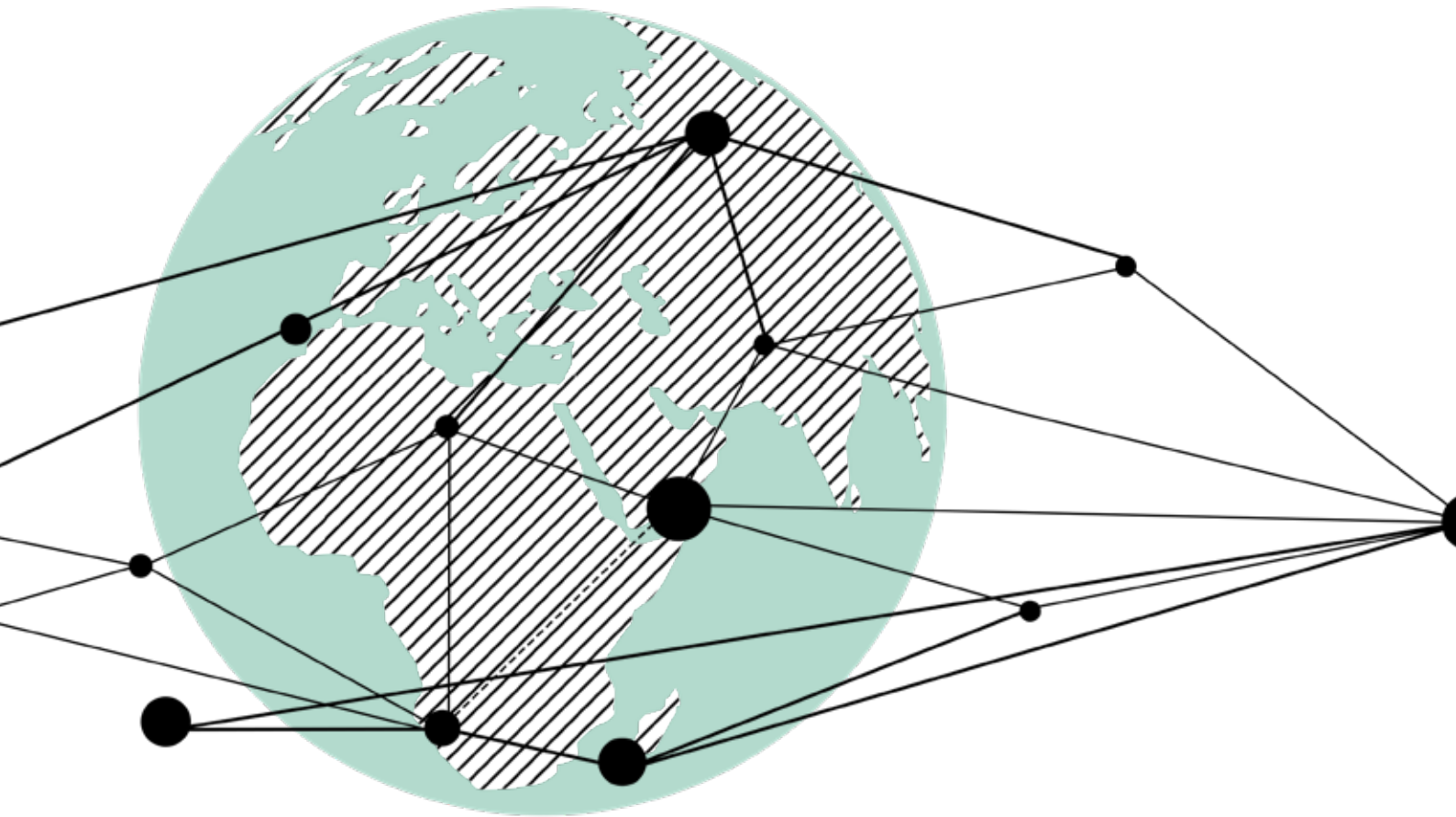
- Establishment and expansion of a European university alliance
- Further development of established partnerships into research partners
- Increasing the capacity for EU research

H.2.2 Attracting international early researchers

Internationalisation in applied research starts with academic newcomers. On the one hand, this can be realised by international degree-seeking students who continue in research after their studies, and on the other hand through international early researchers who were attracted to us through the public profile of the OTH Regensburg or existing research contacts and networks. The aim is to increase the attractiveness for international academic staff (with foreign university entrance qualifications).

MEASURES:

- Increasing the attractiveness of applied research for international students by improving access to research and enhancing the visibility of the university's research activities
- Increasing the attractiveness of applied research for international researchers by improving visibility and strengthening networks



H.2.3 Participation in international conferences

High-ranking specialist conferences and congresses can increase international visibility and attract excellent lecturers and researchers from an international environment.

The OTH Regensburg strives to organise as many conferences as deemed possible each year, some of which are international.

MEASURES:

- Promotion of participation in international conferences
- Promotion of active acquisition of (international) conferences

Z.3 Internationalisation of University Life

A credible international commitment is not limited to the development of English-language structures in studies, teaching and research, but requires a fundamentally international way of thinking and working in all organisational areas, especially in administration, communication and service.

This can only be achieved if there is an openness to internationalisation on the part of as many university members as possible, if they find it meaningful and enriching and if they can gain intercultural skills and experience as part of their own personal development. This is a long-term process that develops and evolves over time.

The following fields of action are assigned to objective area Z.3:

H.3.1 Raising awareness of internationality and diversity

Raising awareness is a basic prerequisite for implementing the necessary adaptations for heterogeneous and changing target groups (students, employees) and for raising awareness of internationalisation and diversity.

Leaders are role models in this respect and demonstrate this in practice by acting accordingly.

MEASURES:

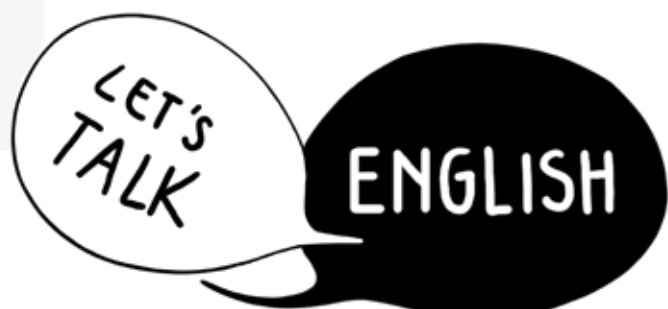
- Consistent implementation of university-wide, target-group-orientated communication in German and English
- Regular discussion of internationalisation in the faculty councils
- Public reporting on aspects of internationalisation at the university and presentation of success stories
- Intercultural events and information materials (training courses, lectures, workshops, handouts)
- Activities directed against racism and discrimination

H.3.2 Developing the linguistic and intercultural skills of teaching staff and employees

All organisational units work to ensure that staff have the necessary English language skills to be able to offer advice and information in English. Specifically, language skills and further training are addressed in all development reviews. At least 7% of employees are to take part in foreign language or intercultural training each year.

MEASURES:

- Development of a university-wide training concept to improve communication skills in English and international competences
- Development of exchange programmes for employees in central administration and the faculties





H.3.3 Internationalisation of processes in the administration and faculties

Within the mid-term, all relevant media and processes in the administration and faculties should be available and maintained in two languages and adapted to the needs of the international target group.

MEASURES:

- Definition of responsibilities and implementation steps
- Provision of advisory and support structures (translation services and tools, licences, glossary)

H.3.4 Internationalisation of professors and staff

By opening up the university to more international employees in administration and teaching, international life at the OTH Regensburg will be permanently strengthened in its structures. Opening up the recruitment process to international professors and staff will broaden the range of applicants. At the same time, recruiting people from abroad enriches university life through cultural diversity.

The aim is to noticeably increase the proportion of international employees at the OTH Regensburg. In achieving this goal, respect, participation, collegial cooperation and equal opportunities for all employees are paramount.

MEASURES:

- Orientation of appointments, HR marketing and onboarding processes to the recruitment of international staff at all levels (teaching, research, early researchers, administration)
- Designing an incentive and support system to increase the proportion of international employees

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY



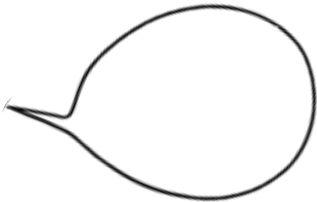
With this internationalisation strategy as part of its University Development Plan, the OTH Regensburg has defined its international orientation as an issue that must be addressed and practised throughout the university. Stakeholders and interest groups from the entire university were therefore involved in the development of this strategy.

This widespread participation acknowledges the fact that there are points of interaction with internationalisation in all areas of the university. Openness and commitment to the challenges of internationalisation on the part of those involved are crucial to the success of this strategy. The fields of action have been defined in a binding and standardised manner throughout the university. However, each faculty and organisational unit will set its own priorities in their implementation. To this end, the central themes of the internationalisation strategy will be differentiated in the individual areas on the basis of the respective needs and development plans.

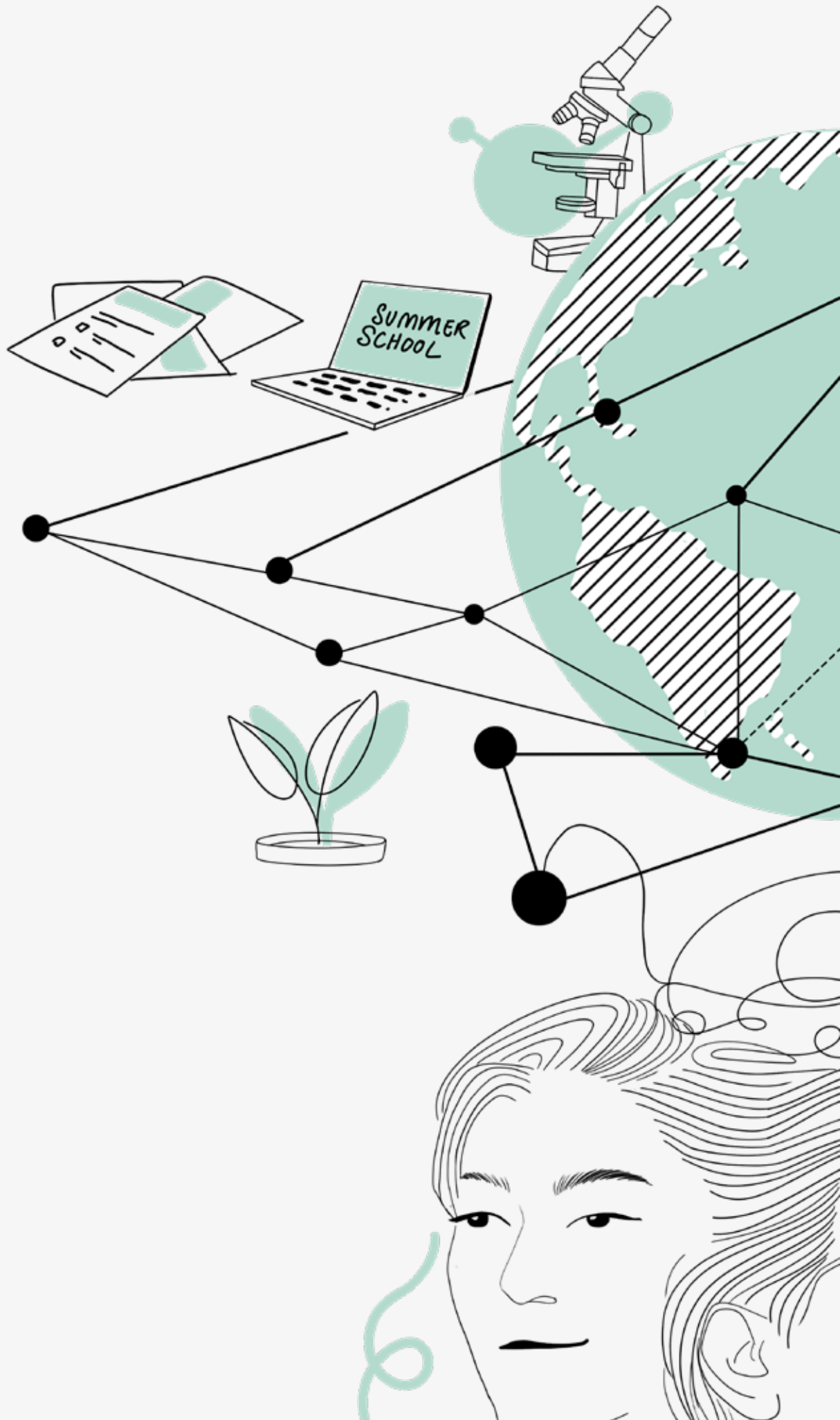
Resource planning and implementation schedules are determined on the basis of defined objectives and coordinated between all those involved.

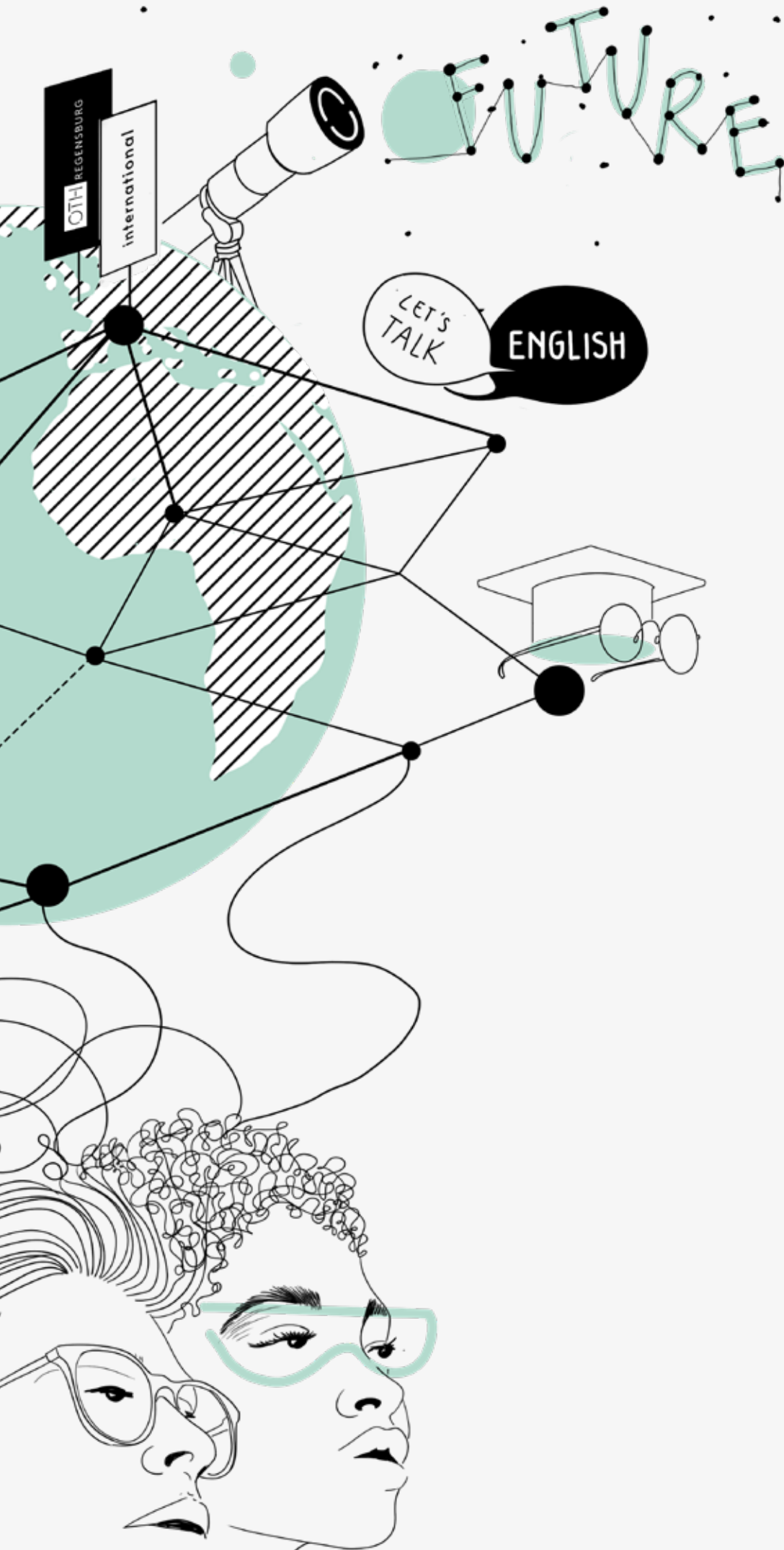


NOTES



|







REGENSBURG

OTH Regensburg
Seybothstraße 2
93053 Regensburg

www.oth-regensburg.de



Druckprodukt mit finanziellem
Klimabeitrag
ClimatePartner.com/11222-2501-1004

