



## German Student Services Demand a Social Pact for Higher Education

**The German National Association for Student Affairs (DSW) advocates for a social pact for higher education that must be jointly concluded by the federal and state governments in order to support the already approved university packages. DSW underlines the need for investments of 800 million Euros for new halls of residences for students, 650 million Euros for renovation, 800 million for expansion and renovation of facilities in dining services. DSW-President, Prof. Dieter Timmermann explains: “the government support of German higher education and research has one blind spot: the social side.”**

The 58 student services organizations federated in DSW reiterate their demand for a social pact jointly concluded by state and federal governments. The social infrastructure of higher education should be supported in an equal manner as the already approved university packages for additional places at German universities. According to DSW, around 2.25 billion Euros are urgently needed, first of all for building and renovating halls of residences and facilities in dining services.

A social pact by the federal Ministry for Education and the states is a political demand, which was put on the table by the 150 delegates from the German student services at their annual general meeting held in Berlin on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 2016.

Prof. Timmermann, president of the DSW, further explains: “We owe the 2.8 million students in Germany not only a place to study but also an affordable accommodation. Choosing a place to study must not depend on parents’ wallets!”

For additional and affordable places in halls of residences, student services demand an investment grant from the government of about 800 million Euros. Additional 650 million Euros are required for renovation of existing halls of residences.

DSW estimates that around 800 million Euros are necessary within the following four years to expand and renovate campus catering facilities.

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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