

Video conference

Connecting teaching and learning spaces

What is a video conference?

A video conference is a meeting between several persons in two or more different locations which are connected by means of video transmission on a high band width. Today, video conferences take place via the internet; transmission via the telephone network is no longer common. Participants can see and hear each other via the screen as well as speech input and output devices.

Professional video transmission and video conferencing can be used to connect large rooms such as auditoriums to each other.

Benefits

- Audiovisual communication enabled via distributed locations in high quality
- Communication partners can be heard and seen: additional information through facial expressions and gestures
- Presentation and processing of files partly possible
- High audio and video quality compared to desktop conferencing

Functionalities

- Several variants are possible in view of the number of participating parties and direction of communications:
 - (A) directly (like a telephone conversation)
 - (B) via a MCU (Multipoint Connection Unit), several parties can be connected for an actual conference.
- Powerpoint presentations can be transmitted in parallel or with a separate application during the video conference.

Disadvantages

- High coordination requirements both for you and for technical experts on both sides (contact persons, dates, rooms, technical information, testing, possible differing time zones in international video conferences)
- Advance time of at least 4 weeks
- High requirements for technical infrastructure (band width, camera, microphone, loudspeakers etc.)
- Due to a slight delay in transmission, high discipline levels are required to avoid constantly interrupting each other.
- The level of face to face situations is not reached
- Not free of charge

When can I use a video conference?

With a video conference, persons can also communicate via distant locations as a replacement for or complement to personal meetings. For instance, an external expert can lecture at teaching or conferences as a "virtual guest" and discuss onsite with students or colleagues. PhD defences have also been done via video conferences, as well as committee meetings. Team meetings via video conferencing are also common when research groups are distributed throughout several locations.

How and who?

The video conferencing service is no longer offered and provided by the URZ itself, but was outsourced to Kilchenmann AG: uni.basel@kilchenmann.ch

Please contact the NIKT team of the URZ by telephone at 061 267 10 99 or via e-mail: nikt@unibas.ch in case of additional questions.