Instructions for conducting a “Necessity Check” for events at Universität Hamburg in light of the current corona epidemic

In my letter from 3 March 2020 on the coronavirus in Germany, I asked everyone to conduct a necessity check for all planned events. After numerous requests for more specific instructions and a list of criteria, we have developed the following instructions:

All events should generally be subject to a responsible assessment of whether the event must take place under any circumstances. All events should be assessed for whether or not they can be conducted electronically as a digital event online.

Given that the Robert Koch Institute has warned that large gatherings can contribute to a quicker spread of the virus, such gatherings should be assessed on a case-by-case basis to see whether the difficulties arising from cancellation, postponement, or re-organization justify the potential risks it would pose to the health and safety of the population.

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risiko_Grossveranstaltungen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

The following events, which do not include lectures for the summer semester beginning April 1st, are not permitted:

- events involving participants who are known or expected to travel from the high-risk areas identified by the Robert Koch Institute
  https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html
- events expecting an attendance of more than 100 people, without exception;
- events involving 50–100 participants, if
  - they are easily postponed in nature, e.g., meetings, training sessions, association meetings, i.e., events which are not legally required (individual contracts between Universität Hamburg and external event organizers do not represent a general legal obligation);
  - they are lifestyle events (e.g., sport, theater, music)
Events expecting fewer than 50 attendees may take place. These rules apply from Monday, 9 March 2020 until further notice. New rules will be issued via a new instructions only. In the meantime, rooms may not be booked for events occurring up to the end of May.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dieter Lenzen