Working Package
Research

Leuphana Universität Lüneburg
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Research Questions - ‘Working Package Research’

1. How do we define sustainability in the context of Higher Education? (LMU)

2. How can sustainability-oriented research be fostered and implemented in HEIs in Germany? (Leuphana)
Research objectives

Development of a common understanding of sustainability in the context of HEIs through:

1. Scientific analysis of and reflection on the concept of sustainability (context of HEIs)
2. Reflect on the core purpose of science and HEIs and its implications for society
3. Reflect upon and develop your own understanding of the concept of sustainability
4. Active participation of sustainability experts and other university stakeholders
What we have done - **Conceptualising Sustainability**

- **Stakeholder analysis**
- **Drafts of common understanding of sustainability in the context of HEIs**
- **Normative reflection on the purpose of science and Higher Education**

**Analysis of sustainability definitions of German HEIs**
Our next steps

1. **Discussion of draft common understanding**
   With sustainability experts of working packages (in progress)

2. **Compare LeNa-Explication**
   Distinctions between facets within sustainability related research

3. **Reflection on the coherences and distinctions**
   Sustainability and related normative concepts

4. **Identification of criteria**
   For research in sustainability
Research objectives

How can sustainability-oriented research be fostered and implemented at German Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)?

1. Identification of fields of action and criteria for sustainability research at HEIs

2. Identification and structuring of sustainability-oriented research at German HEIs

3. Transfer of fields of action and criteria to HOCH-N guidelines on sustainability research at HEIs

4. Active participation of sustainability experts and other university stakeholders
Research design and current state

1. Identification of fields of action and criteria for sustainability research at German HEIs

- Extensive literature review on pre-existing work in the field (conceptual & empirical, international)

Good-Practice Study
Case study of six HEIs, theoretical sampling

- Theoretical sampling of first three HEIs
- Identification of interview partners at 5 different levels of HEIs:
  - (1) Directorate
  - (2) Sustainability management
  - (3) Researchers
  - (4) Young researchers
  - (5) Practitioners involved in research (transdisciplinarity)
- Development of questionnaire for guided interviews
  - Qualitative interviews
  - Data analysis

2. Identification and structuring of sustainability-oriented research at German HEIs

Mapping Study
Standardized online survey among researchers of all German HEIs, self-identification

- Development of sampling strategy
- Item generation, development of online questionnaire
  - Pre-test of questionnaire
  - Dispatchment of questionnaire
  - Data analysis

3. Transfer of fields of action and criteria to HOCHN guidelines on sustainability research at HEIs
Integration and transfer

Active participation of sustainability experts and other university stakeholders (+ initial connections to international HEIs)

28.06.2017
Innsbruck

PraFo in Innsbruck
(Collaboration with LeNa & network of Bavarian & Austrian HEIs)

23. & 24.11.2017
Lüneburg

Collaborative PraFo with HOCHN-working-package GOVERNANCE

Spring 2018

Collaborative PraFo with HOCHN-working-package EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Summer 2018

Concluding PraFo „The Future of Sustainability-oriented Research at German HEIs“
INVITATION TO UPCOMING PRAFO-SESSION

Sustainability Research and its Governance at German Higher Education Institutions

November 23rd – 24th 2017
Leuphana University, Lueneburg

For further information or registration:
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