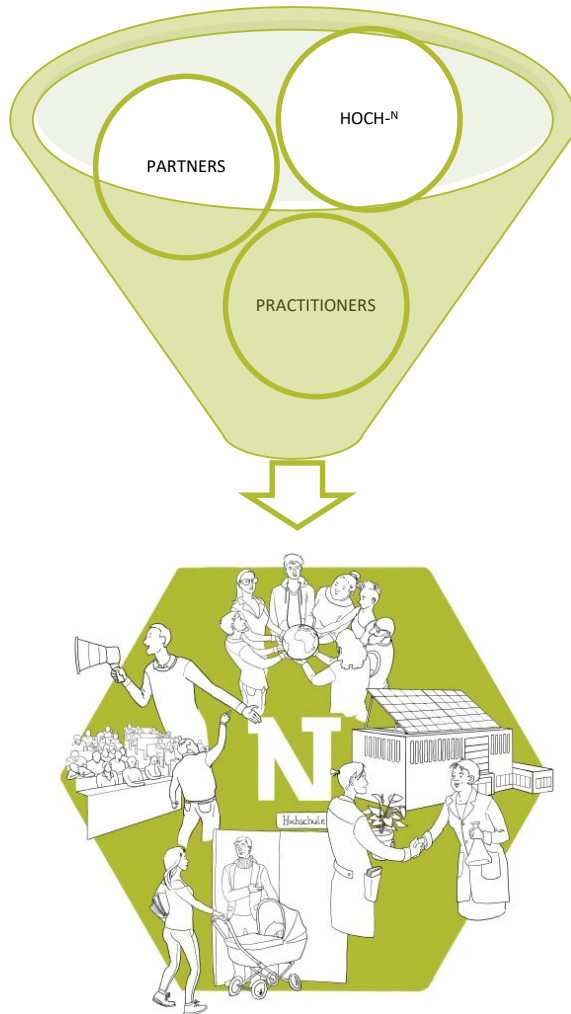


Participatory Processes for Sustainability Reporting of Higher Education Institutions in the German HOCH-N-Network

Elisa Gansel (University of Duisburg-Essen), Coco Klußmann and
Remmer Sassen (University of Hamburg) Germany

Symposium on Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education
Edinburgh
14th March 2019

Project description



2016 – 2020 HOCH^N is dedicated to anchoring processes for **developing, implementing and establishing sustainability** in German universities and Higher Education Institutions

The project combines **practical with scholarly** demands

→ By this, the superordinate goal of pooling, preparing and fostering **expert knowledge** with **process competencies** on the subject in order to promote sustainability among universities *is pursued*

GEFÖRDERT VOM

Who is HOCH^N ?

HOCH^N

– The core: collaborative research project

- Eleven German universities and Higher Education Institutions collaborate in HOCH^N



GEFÖRDERT VOM



What does HOCH^N do?

- Fosters sustainable development among universities and HEIs
- Develops a common understanding/definition of sustainability
- Creates guidelines for a sustainable development of universities and HEIs
- Establishes a program-based network for exchanging knowledge



Areas of activity

Governance

FU Berlin
Team Bormann
Uni Vechta
Team Rieckmann

Research

Leuphana Uni
Lüneburg
Team Lang
LMU München
Team Vogt

Transfer

HNE Eberswalde
Team Nölting

Teaching

Uni Bremen
Team Müller-Christ
Uni Tübingen
Team Potthast

Overall Coordination

Uni Hamburg
Team Bassen &
Schmitt

Operations

TU Dresden
Team Günther
HS Zittau/Görlitz
Team Delakowitz

Reporting

Uni Hamburg
Team Bassen &
Sassen
Uni Duisburg-Essen
Team Niemann

Networking

Uni Hamburg
Team Schmitt
Uni Bremen
Team
Müller-Christ



Advisory Board



HOCH^N-
Network

Personal Partner Level
Higher Education Institutions
(Institutional Partner-Level)
Multipliers

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung



FONA
Forschung für Nachhaltige
Entwicklung
BMBF

Why HOCH^N?

What does HOCH ^N do?	How to benefit from the HOCH ^N network
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develops guidelines in each area of activity• Hosts different kinds of participatory events for developing those guidelines• Creates a network of partners from 100 German HEIs (that sums up to ¼ of the German HEIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer learning, case studies and good practice examples• Open HOCH^N events are organized all over Germany, using new tools and research insights from sustainable development contexts• A personal profile on the HOCH^N online map

Thank you for your attention!

Good Practice in the Preparation of Sustainability Reports

Elisa Gansel (University of Duisburg-Essen), Coco Klußmann and Remmer Sassen (University of Hamburg) Germany

**Symposium on Sustainability Reporting in Higher Education
Edinburgh**

14th March 2019

„Sustainability Reporting“ of HOCH^N

Before HOCH^N: **Sustainability Code** for firms, issued by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

- target group: small and medium-sized enterprises
- **20 criteria** encompassing: **strategy, governance, environment and society**
- criteria derived from indicators of GRI, OECD, UN-Global Compact
- ...



„Sustainability Reporting“ of HOCH^N

2016 ff.: HOCH^N **Modified** this **Sustainability code for firms** to a sector-specific one for HEIs → **Sustainability Code for HEIs**

- Encompassing 20 criteria in **strategy, governance, operations and society**
- This is a low-threshold entry to sustainability reporting

→ <https://www.hochn.uni-hamburg.de/downloads/handlungsfelder/nhb/2018-05-14-rne-kodex-eng.pdf>

→ A **guideline** how to apply this **sector specific code**

How to best prepare a sustainability report?

Thoughts	Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How about....<ul style="list-style-type: none">• persons from the different internal stakeholder groups wrote the report, instead of one designated sustainability officer?• How do...<ul style="list-style-type: none">• those persons illustrate and make transparent what they actually do within the organization?• How do...<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the criteria of the sustainability report influence the future thoughts of those persons?• How could...<ul style="list-style-type: none">• those persons' interactions with each other foster dialogue and activities concerning sustainable development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A sustainability report can be more than just a means of reporting..<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>it can be a tool for transformation!</i>➤ Therefor it would be necessary, that...<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ the different internal stakeholder groups of the HEI <i>work with the criteria of the sustainability report</i>➤ This should be framed as an...<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>interactive, stimulating and motivating process</i>, that links up persons from different stakeholder groups➤ By this, synergies can be used, and...<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>possible conflicts about objectives and resources made visible and tackled in a constructive way</i>

How to best prepare a sustainability report?

Implementation	Conclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact and invite people of the HEI to work on of the sustainability report• Build collaborative teams with persons from each stakeholder group for different topics of the sustainability report• Aim at...<ul style="list-style-type: none">• providing a status quo, linking these correspond to the action areas of the SC, discovering what is missing in which action area• Synthesis...<ul style="list-style-type: none">• finding synergies for needed actions, linking up persons, enhancing discussion about the importance of criteria and possibilities of sustainability reporting for the HEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <i>Rethinking sustainability reporting and realising it as a bottom-up (and top-down) process offers new options stimulating a sustainable transformance/development of the HEI</i>➤ <i>Just try it yourselves!</i>

GEFÖRDERT VOM

Thank you for your attention!

Contact

HOCH N



Elisa Gansel
University of Duisburg-Essen
Elisa.Gansel@uni-due.de

Coco Klußmann
University of Hamburg
Coco.Klussmann@uni-hamburg.de

www.hoch-n.org

Projekt-coordination: hochn.knu@uni-hamburg.de

