

Germany / Allemagne

(687)

UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress Report

Period of activity: 2009

UNESCO Chair in Higher Education for Sustainable Development

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I. Activities

1. Education/ Training/ Research

All the activities realized by the UNESCO Chair in 2009 had the following target groups and geographical coverage:

Target groups: undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students, academics.

Geographical coverage: national, Africa (Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan), Arab States (Palestine, Egypt), Asia and the Pacific (China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Vietnam), Europe and North America (Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovak Republic, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Austria, Canada, Greece, Netherlands, Switzerland, USA), Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru).

Education

In 2009, the UNESCO Chair offered 1-semester courses on the following themes during the summer or winter terms:

- Theoretical Foundations of Sustainability Communication
- Inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration
- Methods of Futurology, Scenario Methodology
- Consumption and Biodiversity
- Sustainable Tourism

- Education for Sustainable Consumption
- Digital Media in Sustainability Communication
- Sustainable Development and Participation
- Businesses communicate Sustainability. Theoretical basis and practical implementation
- Complex Problem Solving: The Syndrome Approach
- Participation, mediation and cooperation for resolving sustainability and environmental conflicts
- Theoretical Basis of Sustainability Communication
- Education for Sustainable Development: Climate Alarm Clock

Training

In 2009, the UNESCO Chair also offered training on:

- “*Sustainable Development as Strategy and Aim of Higher Education*”, International German Academic Exchange Service’s (DAAD) Summer Schools

Duration: January-June 2009

Themes discussed: a) Relevance and design of formal and informal learning processes: educational institutions as centres of teaching and learning and as life-world for sustainable development, b) Contribution of educational institutions towards sustainable consumerism, c) Universities’ further education approaches as a means for sustainability-related knowledge transfer and corporate social responsibility initiatives of enterprises, d) Curricular implementation of education for sustainable development for different target groups: challenges with regard to content and methods for teaching and learning, e) Excursion: Biosphere reserves as learning regions for sustainable development, f) Facing the challenge: scenarios for transforming higher education institutions as a whole: strategies and methodological approaches for structural change.

- “*Sustainable Consumption and Global Justice – Perspectives for Sustainability through Academic North-South Cooperation*”

Duration: 27 September-9 October 2009

- “*Education for Sustainable Development and Biodiversity*”, International DAAD-Alumni Seminar

Date and place: 25 October-1 November 2009, Universidad Técnica del Norte in Ibarra, Ecuador.

Research

In 2009, the UNESCO Chair conducted the following research projects:

- *Indicators for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)*

Duration: April 2008 – August 2010

Objectives: to develop a set of indicators on ESD to enable gathering information regarding the development of ESD activities and the conditions under which ESD is practiced.

- *Evaluation of Measures of the National Action Plan and awarded projects within the UN-Decade on ESD in Germany (TRANS300)*

Duration: September 2007 – January 2010

Objectives: to analyse possible contributions of the UN DESD in Germany, focusing on measures and projects and their potential for distributing, anchoring and stabilising ESD in the long run.

- *Educational Institutions and Sustainable Consumption - BINK (German: Bildungsinstitutionen und Nachhaltiger Konsum)*

Duration: June 2008 – May 2011

Objectives: discuss on how educational institutions can become places in which youths and young adults are offered a chance to reflect their own patterns of consumption and to try out sustainable consumer behaviour and raise awareness on sustainable consumption (food, mobility, energy).

- *Geoinformatics breaking new ground - Development of a study program "Environmental communication and nature protection" for students of Geoinformatics at Czech Technical University in Prague*

Duration: January 2008 – December 2010

Objectives: Development and testing of a project-oriented contribution to the Master course curriculum and realization of study trips for Czech participants to Germany in order to initiate expertise in communication methodologies with regard to nature protection. In the long run, this new field of activity shall be tailored to fit into already existing courses at Czech TU in Prague as a new area of specialisation or as a module of continuing education.

- *Teaching Sustainability in Higher Education*

Duration: January 2009 – December 2011

In cooperation with: Universidad Técnica del Norte (Ibarra, Ecuador)

Objectives: developing and evaluating a 1-year teacher-training, aiming at the integration of sustainability in the Higher Education Curriculum, focusing on interdisciplinary didactical approaches and methods. As a long-term goal the Universidad Técnica del Norte strives for a Master "Sustainability".

2. Conferences/Congresses/Meetings

- *3rd International Conference "World in Transition – Sustainability Perspectives for Higher Education"*

Date and place: 20 - 22 November 2009, Universiti Sains, Penang, Malaysia

Participants: 120 from 15 countries (*Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America*)

Themes discussed: specific implications for higher education, focusing on higher education practice, research and teaching/learning, international and cross-cultural focus and analysis of good practice in the field of higher education for sustainable development (mainstreaming HESD, impact of HESD, innovation in HESD).

- *"UNESCO World Conference on ESD – Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade"*, 31 March - 2 April 2009, UNESCO, Paris

- *International Workshop "Reporting Progress: Opportunities, Challenges and Ways Forward in the Use of ESD Indicators in England and Germany"*

Date and place: 12 - 13 February 2009, Berlin, Germany

Organized by: the Anglo-German-Foundation, Free University Berlin (Germany) and University of Bath (UK)

Participants: 25 Participants from 4 European countries

- *Expert Workshop "International Capacity Building for India, Mexico, South Africa and Germany regarding Education for Sustainable Development"*

Date and place: 28 June – 1 July 2009, InWEnt – Capacity Building International (Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH), Bonn, Germany

Participants: 25 from different countries

- *Expert Workshop "Sustainable Development in Research and Teaching at Swiss Universities"*

Date and place: 31 August 2009, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences/td-net for Transdisciplinary Research, Bern, Switzerland

Participants: 20 from Europe, mostly from Switzerland, Austria and Germany

- *Symposium "Evidence by indicators or educational practices as evidence?" at "European Conference on Educational Research: Theory and Evidence in European Educational Research"*

Date and place: 29 September 2009, Vienna, Austria

Participants: 32 from 6 European countries

- *4th Lüneburg Workshop on Environmental and Sustainability Communication "Communication and Learning in Networks: Potentials and Challenges for Environmental Sustainability"*

Date and place: 28-29 September 2009, Lüneburg, Germany

Participants: 30 from 5 European countries

Online: <http://www.leuphana.de/institute/infu/aktuell/workshop09.html>

- *3rd European RCE Meeting, RCE Graz Styria*

Date and place: 16-18 December 2009, Graz, Austria

Participants: 22 from 11 European countries

Online: <http://www.leuphana.de/institute/infu/aktuell/workshop09.html>

- *Meeting with a delegation of Shinshu University and Kyoto Institute of Technology from Japan on sustainability sciences and transformative education approaches at Lüneburg*

Date and place: 9 March 2009, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

- *Meeting with the Chancellor and delegation of the Adam-Mickiewicz-University, Poland on energy management and the transferable outcomes of the "Sustainable University" project*

Date and place: 29 May 2009, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

3. Publications/ Interuniversity exchanges/ Partnerships

Publications

Title: World in Transition: Perspectives for Higher Education (Volume 4 of series, "Higher Education for Sustainability")

Author(s): various

Editors(s): Gerd Michelsen Adomssent, Maik / Beringer, Almut / Barth, Matthias (Eds.)

Publisher(s): VAS - Verlag für akademische Schriften, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Year: 2009

Language(s): English

Number of pages: 245

Title: Dialogorientierte Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung von Hochschulen. Eine Untersuchung am Beispiel der Leuphana Universität Lüneburg (Volume 5 of series, Umweltkommunikation)

Author(s): Albrecht, Patrick

Editor(s): Gerd Michelsen

Publisher(s): BWV – Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, Berlin, Germany

Year: 2009

Language(s): German

Number of pages: 274

Interuniversity Exchanges

In 2009, the UNESCO Chair participated in interuniversity exchanges with the following institutions:

- Universidad Bolivariana, Santiago de Chile (Chile)
- Universidad Técnica del Norte, Ibarra (Ecuador)
- University of Latvia, Riga (Latvia)

Partnerships

- Universidad Técnica del Norte (Ibarra, Ecuador)
- Freie Universität Berlin (Germany)
- Universität Bern (Switzerland)
- Environmental Education Forum Vienna (Austria)
- University of Graz (Austria)
- Czech Technical University, Prague (Czech Republic)
- Charles University (Czech Republic)
- Shinshu University (Japan)
- Kyoto Institute of Technology (Japan)
- Adam-Mickiewicz-University (Poland)
- University of Macedonia (Greece)
- Open University (Netherlands)
- University of Wageningen (Netherlands)
- Universidad Arcis (Chile)
- Universidad Bolivariana (Chile)
- Universidad Tecnológica Vicente Pérez Rosales, VIPRO (Chile)
- Yonsei University in Seoul and Wonju (Korea)
- University of Latvia, Riga (Latvia)
- UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability, York University (Canada)

- UNESCO Chair in Civics and Multicultural Education Studies, Jaan Tonisson institute (Estonia)
- UNESCO Chair in Global E-Learning with applications to multiple domains, University of Tampere (Finland)
- UNESCO Chair in Healthy Life for Sustainable Development, Moscow State University for Medicine and Density (MSUMD) (Russian Federation)
- UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Society, University of Granada (Spain)
- UNESCO Chair in Environmental Education, UNED, Madrid (Spain)

II. Outcomes

At the regional level, the activities of the UNESCO Chair helped to realize aspects of sustainable development in different realms and on varying levels within its own university.

In teaching and learning, the focus is to foster inter- and transdisciplinary education and research in order to counterbalance disciplinary approaches which are equally needed to achieve sustainability. These challenges are primarily achieved through the “Leuphana Bachelor programme” and Leuphana’s Master’s program in Sustainability Sciences.

At the national level, the UNESCO Chair has been influencing national and international policy on higher education for sustainable development. As a member of the German working group on higher education of the UN Decade Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the Chair continuously works on the inclusion of sustainability as a paradigm for higher education in Germany – especially in preparing a memorandum on “Sustainability and Higher Education”, adopted by German UNESCO Commission and scheduled to be co-published together with the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK) in 2010.

At the European level, the UNESCO Chair was one of the drivers that helped to re-establish the COPERNICUS Alliance as a NGO under German law in 2009. This European network aims to exchange and enhance knowledge on Education for Sustainable Development between European higher education and student organizations that work for sustainable development and to promote Higher Education for Sustainable Development in European Policy (<http://www.copernicus-alliance.net/>).

Finally, since its inauguration in 2005, the UNESCO Chair has been active to stimulate international debate about the meaning of sustainability as a paradigm for higher education institutions, particularly through international conferences.

III. Development prospects

- To acquire and carry out new projects which target sustainable development issues at universities to allow scientific research and transfer of knowledge in regard to sustainable development.
- To follow up the project proposal for highlighting the context of higher education within the context of biodiversity and current nature conservancy strategies that was submitted to the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in the summer 2009.
- To follow up the application on “Sustainable Higher Education: Future-oriented design of university teaching and learning against the backdrop of sustainable development“submitted to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in July 2009.
- To introduce sustainable development at all the University levels (structural and cultural), following the “Agenda 21 and the University of Lüneburg” project (1999-2001) and the “Sustainable University” project (2004-2008).
- To take a pro-active role in the development of national and international policy on education for sustainable development: at the national level, to continue to pinpoint directions of the working group on higher education for sustainable development under the auspices of the German Round Table of the UN Decade; at the international level, to continue, in collaboration with other European partner universities, to revitalize the COPERNICUS Campus Network.
- To strengthen international cooperation on higher education for sustainable development through networking and exchange, in order to enhance the recognition of sustainability as an essential paradigm for higher education institutions worldwide. In this regard, closer cooperation with other ESD-related UNESCO Chairs (e.g. in the Netherlands, UK and Sweden) is essential. As a consequence, these considerations are supposed to have a vital influence of the design of the forthcoming 4th International Conference on Higher Education for Sustainable Development, scheduled for 2011.