



Leuphana University Lüneburg -
Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication (INFU)-10403010



LEUPHANA
UNIVERSITÄT LÜNEBURG

6 July 2011

**Prof. Dr.
Gerd Michelsen**

Leuphana University of Lüneburg
Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication
Scharnhorststrasse 1
D-21335 Lüneburg

UNESCO-Chair "Higher Education
for Sustainable Development"

Fon +49 (0)4131.677-2920
Fax +49 (0)4131.677-2819
michelsen@uni.leuphana.de

www.leuphana.de/institute/infu.html

Call for Papers

**Submission Deadline extended to:
31 July 2011**

Dear colleagues,

The UNESCO Chair 'Higher Education for Sustainable Development' cordially invites proposals from interested scholars committed to integrating sustainable development into higher education to contribute to the

4th International Conference on Higher Education for Sustainable Development:

»Higher Education for Sustainable Development: Moving the Agenda Forward«

14-16 September 2011

Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany.

Over the years there has been considerable progress in implementing sustainability into higher education institutions (HEIs). However, there is still a lot of work to be done to make sustainability a guiding principle in this educational area.

Therefore, after broader approaches taken in previous Higher Education for Sustainable Development (HESD) conferences, the 4th Conference is now focusing on new developments in key topics and dynamic regions:

- [Management Education for Sustainable Development](#),
- [Sustainable Consumption in Higher Education Institutions](#), and
- [Higher Education for Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern Europe](#).

We are looking forward to your contribution to the forthcoming conference by sharing your experiences and research results on these aspects of HESD. Please find below detailed information about the three conference themes and the [submission instructions](#).



Based on thorough investigation of and reflection on current practice of HESD, the conference aims at initiating a dialogue on future perspectives and requirements in this educational area – until the end of the United Nations World Decade of “Education for Sustainable Development” and beyond.

The organisers would be pleased to welcome a wide range of representatives active in the field of higher education for sustainability in order for the conference to make a profound contribution to the international discussion about HESD. The conference will be held in English. For more information about the program and registration please visit the [conference webpage](#).

The conference will be hosted by the Leuphana University of Lüneburg, and is jointly organised with the German Commission for UNESCO, the International Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility of the Nottingham University Business School, the Copernicus Alliance and the working group “higher education“ of the UN Decade in Germany (AG Hochschule).

Timelines

If you are planning to present or to display a poster:

Submissions are accepted until **31 July 2011**

Accepted papers are announced on **11 August 2011**

Deadline for presenter registration: **20 August 2011**

If you are planning to attend:

Conference registration opens on **15 June 2011**

Registration closing date: **31 August 2011**

We hope to have caught your interest and are looking forward to receiving your written proposals.

Kind regards on behalf of the organisers,

Prof. Dr. Gerd Michelsen



Stream 1: Management Education for Sustainable Development

If society is to meet the challenges of sustainable development, then business schools have a profound responsibility to disseminate knowledge to today's and tomorrow's business professionals. Fundamental changes to the ways we do business are required, whether responding to the threats of climate change or identifying opportunities arising from sustainable development. Following the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UNPRME), business programmes should become thought and action leaders on these issues. UNPRME is probably the clearest formulation of the societal expectation that business schools inspire and champion responsible management education and research across the world.

By integrating sustainability into the curricula of business schools, students are able to experience sustainability education as a formative part of their professional development. Since sustainable development requires the active participation of engaged and aware citizens, business schools must fulfil their mission to educate a more environmentally and sustainability aware cohort of students with the key competencies needed to shape sustainable futures of our societies through active and autonomous participation.

This conference stream has been conceived to provide a forum for wide-ranging debate on the future of management education. The core aim of this stream is

- to gain an overview of international developments and trends in sustainability related management education,
- to explore conceptual debates on research paradigms and learning approaches,
- to share models of good practice and opportunities in responsible business education.

To transform management education in the near future it is necessary to explore such questions as:

What knowledge, values, attitudes and skills do students need? Which learning settings are best suited to reach the goals of education for sustainable development? What contribution can interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary courses make? Which methods and materials are most useful and how do they advance the integration of sustainability research findings? How do such dimensions as curriculum development, informal learning settings, sustainability research interact with each other and which configurations are most effective in enhancing organisational change toward sustainable development?

Invited papers should address one of the following three areas:

- A. Theoretical or conceptual frameworks of management education for sustainable development,
- B. Innovative teaching approaches and programmes (e.g. case studies),
- C. Studies into the demand for and impacts of management education for sustainable development (e.g. surveys, experiments).



The following questions may be useful for your abstract development:

- What is different or unique about your teaching approach?
- Which general difficulties have you faced and what ideas or strategies do you have for overcoming them?
- What are the implications of your presentation? What are the challenges?

Stream 2: Sustainable Consumption in Higher Education Institutions

It is widely agreed that changing consumption patterns poses a seminal challenge to achieving sustainable development. Since the world summit in Rio de Janeiro twenty years ago, the concept of education for sustainable development has featured prominently in international policy discourse on promoting sustainable consumption.

Universities fulfil several functions relevant for the cause of promoting sustainable consumption. Not only do they conduct research and provide formal education, they are also regionally rooted employers and organisations with operations and procurement policies that affect consumption. HEIs are challenged to re-orientate, re-align and utilize these dynamic and varied settings as learning environments for education for sustainable consumption (for example, in the fields of energy, mobility, nutrition).

This conference stream seeks to facilitate discussion and exchange on approaches taken in implementing education for sustainable consumption in HEIs.

The core aims of this stream are

- to discuss conceptual innovations and international developments in the emerging field of higher education for sustainable consumption,
- to present results and findings from empirical studies and create a baseline on what we know about effective approaches to promoting sustainable consumption in universities,
- to share models of good practice on and opportunities for linking formal and informal consumer learning.

Relevant questions for the further advancement of higher education for sustainable consumption are:

What are the specific requirements (both opportunities and restrictions) for creating an educational engagement with sustainable consumption in universities? What is the relationship between higher education for sustainable consumption and higher education for sustainable development? What competencies (i.e. dynamic combinations of traits, attitudes and skills) do students need in order to be able to consume sustainably? How can such competencies be translated into teaching objectives and goals in higher education for sustainable consumption? Which learning settings are best suited to reaching these objectives and goals, and how can they be evaluated? What contribution can interdisci-

plinary and transdisciplinary courses make? Which methods and materials are most useful and how do they advance the integration of findings from interdisciplinary research on consumption and sustainable development? How do these dimensions (e.g. curriculum development, operations, informal learning settings, research) interact with each other and which configurations are most effective in creating “cultures of sustainable consumption” in HEI settings?

Invited papers should address one of the following three areas:

- A. Theoretical or conceptual approaches to education for sustainable consumption at the tertiary level,
- B. Innovative teaching approaches and programmes (e.g. case studies),
- C. Studies into the demand for and impacts of higher education for sustainable consumption (e.g. surveys, experiments).

The following questions may be useful for your abstract development:

- What are the objectives of your teaching approach, and how have they been met in, for example, course design?
- What drivers and barriers for implementing higher education for sustainable consumption can you report based on your investigations? What are the implications? What are the challenges?
- What are local or national contexts that frame your work, and how might these be related to situations elsewhere?

Authors of abstracts are asked to ensure that the contribution **explicitly covers** what the research has to say on higher education for **sustainable consumption**.

Stream 3: Higher Education for Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern Europe

Progress in the integration of sustainability into HEIs varies not only between regions and nations but even within HEIs. The conference is as a result highlighting ongoing discussion and recent achievements in HESD in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. This area is of particular interest because although relatively little has been published, there have been a number of initiatives on sustainability-related activities in higher education in many countries in this area. We are providing a forum in this conference for actors and experts active in a wide range of HESD-related activities in order to broaden the discussion on implementing sustainability into the HEIs of Central and Eastern Europe and foster a dialogue of regional and international experts committed to integrating sustainable development into higher education.

The core aims of this stream are

- to gain an overview of on-going practices in the implementation of sustainability into higher education in Central and Eastern Europe,



- to share research activities and results in HESD of Central and Eastern European HEIs,
- to explore future collaboration strategies towards HESD in Central and Eastern Europe.

To specify the achievements and to advance the implementation of sustainability in HEIs in the region of Central and Eastern Europe, the following questions are relevant:

Which contribution should be made by HEIs to promote sustainable development? Which role do universities play as teaching, learning and living environments for sustainable development? What are the challenges in mainstreaming sustainability into curricula? What changes to curriculum content should be made? What are the methodological and structural challenges for different target groups? How should research practice develop so as to encourage the implementation of sustainability into research? Which methods and approaches are best suited for inter- and transdisciplinary research? How could sustainability-orientated cooperation between science and practice contribute effectively to sustainable development? Which approaches are best suited to measuring efficiency and to evaluating collaborations? How can sustainability be institutionalised? What are the current strategies for organisational learning in this field? Which approaches for sustainability management and reporting are most promising?

Invited papers should address one of the following three areas:

- A. Theoretical or conceptual frameworks for the implementation of sustainability in HEIs in Central and Eastern Europe,
- B. Innovative approaches and programmes (e.g. case studies),
- C. Studies into the demand for and impacts of implementation of sustainability in HEIs in Central and Eastern Europe (e.g. surveys, experiments).

The following questions may be useful for your abstract development:

- Which drivers and barriers for implementing sustainability into HEIs of Central and Eastern Europe have you identified? And what are the implications for further projects to implement sustainability for other HEIs?
- How does the local or national background influence the implementation of sustainability into HEIs?

Submission instructions

We encourage contribution to the conference with the presentation of a paper or by displaying a poster on one of the three conference streams.

Presenters of a paper are invited to submit an abstract of no more than **500** words for a **15**-minute presentation.

For those interested in displaying a poster, please submit an abstract of no more than **150** words.

Please include the following details:

Title: no more than 15 words

Authors: names of each author with surname first, presenting author underlined

Abstract: in English, font size: 10 Arial, single line spacing

Institutional affiliation: name of institution or professional association (please indicate if you are an early career researcher or experienced researcher)

Contact Details: email address and telephone number of the presenting author

The following questions may be relevant for all contributions: What is your disciplinary background and what perspective have you applied in your research? What are your research questions and what is your research design?

Selected contributions will be published in a special issue of an academic journal. We are looking forward to receiving your abstracts at the following e-mail address:

unesco@uni.leuphana.de.

Cooperating partners of the 4th International Conference on Higher Education for Sustainable Development:

