

Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education. Five Central Questions

Prof. Dr. Inka Bormann

Team

Sebastian Niedlich, Sebastian Kummer (Freie Universität Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Marco Rieckmann, Mara Bauer (University of Vechta)

GEFÖRDERT VOM

Outline

- Education for Sustainable Development – Challenges
- Implementation of Sustainability at HEI through the Lens of Educational Governance
- Five Central Questions

Education for Sustainable Development

„Education can, and must, contribute to a new vision of sustainable global development.“ (UNESCO 2015)

- Sustainable development requires
 - transformation of how we think and act
 - knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed
- Education is crucial to achieve these goals
 - Empowering individuals to reflect on their own actions and to act in complex situations (UNESCO 2017)

Education for Sustainable Development in Universities

These objectives can be an integral part of courses in many studies, e.g.

- education
- political science
- science
- economy
- history
- engineering
- ...

- interdisciplinary courses
- transdisciplinary projects

Education for Sustainable Development - Challenges

challenges due to
objective itself

challenges due to
HEI as specific organisations

challenges due to
management issues

Education for Sustainable Development - Challenges

- knowledge about problems of non-SD is not sufficient
- (E)SD is still in need for explanation
- academic freedom in research and teaching
- modularization of studies
- hybrid structure and functioning of HEI
- lone wolves doomed to failure
- need for SD cannot be prescribed

Implementation of Sustainability Through the Lens of Educational Governance

inquiry of underlying processes and structures, actor constellations and sensitivities of SD implementation at HEI – the sustainability governance – is rather rarely dealt with (Baker-Shelley et al., 2017; Dlouhá et al., 2016; Mader et al., 2013; Spira et al., 2013)

research seems to have payed “minimal attention to either critical strategic level dynamics or reflexive activities that could facilitate and accelerate change” (Stephens and Graham, 2010)

Implementation of Sustainability Through the Lens of Educational Governance

Governance Perspective

- SD is a normative goal, but advocating for SD does not necessarily lead to good governance
- We refer to an analytical understanding of governance
 - narrow: intended change of political regulation
 - wide: (emerging) form of social co-ordination of heterogeneous actors

Research Heuristic

- functional demands of co-ordination → Governance Equalizer
politics, profession, organisation, knowledge, publicity

Implementation of Sustainability Through the Lens of Educational Governance

Politics	From selective support... to a long-term agenda setting
Profession	From a narrow professional perspective... to multi-professionality
Organisation	From projects ... to networking and collective action
Knowledge	From isolated use of data ... to joint and reflexive perspective
Public	From little attention for sustainability ... to public discussion and high interest

Implementation of Sustainability Through the Lens of Educational Governance

How do you ensure the...

Politics	From selective support... to a long-term agenda setting	...embeddedness and legitimacy of teaching ESD?
Profession	From a narrow professional perspective... to multi-professionality	...interconnectedness of professional perspectives when teaching ESD?
Organisation	From projects ... to networking and collective action	...cooperation and collaboration on ESD within the HEI?
Knowledge	From isolated use of data ... to joint and reflexive perspective	...gaining and usage of necessary knowledge and competence for teaching ESD?
Public	From little attention for sustainability ... to public discussion and high interest	...awareness of the need for teaching ESD?

Thank you!

inka.bormann@fu-berlin.de

<https://www.hochn.uni-hamburg.de/en.html>
(joint project)

<https://www.hochn.uni-hamburg.de/en/2-handlungsfelder/01-governance.html>
(partial project on governance)