

Networking universities for the benefit of sustainability

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Conference Teaching and Learning for Change:
Sustainability in Higher Education - Bern

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National University Network

Member of the Board of Directors / 2022 - present
German Association for Sustainability at Universities, registered association

Local university network

Civil society co-lead / 2021 - today
University Forum - Hamburg ESD Master Plan 2030

University internal network

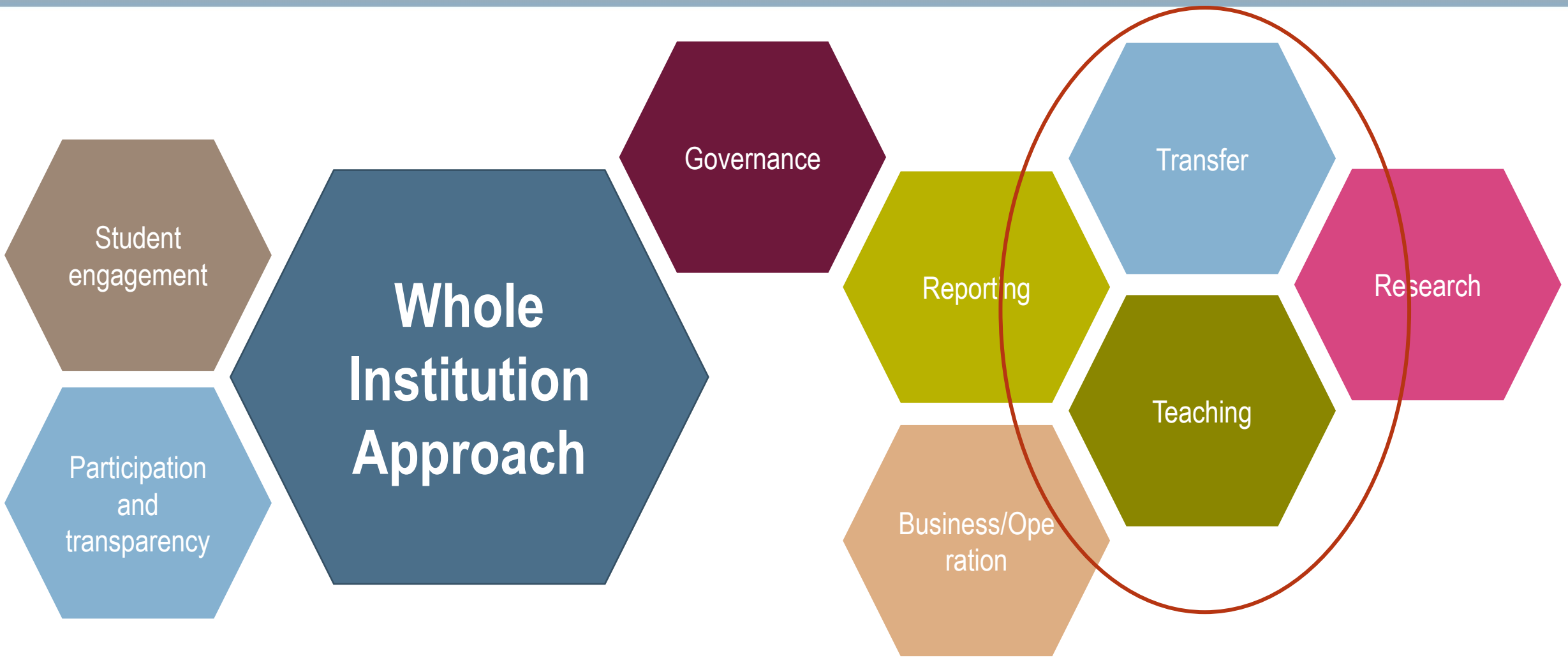
Scientific co-lead / 2016 - today
Competence Centre for Sustainable Development - FOM Hochschule

Agenda

- National and international landscape of higher education networks for (E)SD
- Potential of networking universities in the fields of activity „teaching and transfer“ for sustainable development
- Examples of formats for cross-university knowledge exchange



Some of the slides come from the DG HochN presentation



International networks



Transnational networks in Europe



Networks in country clusters

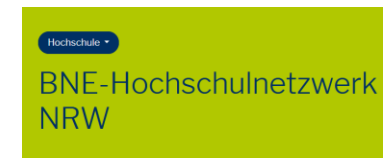


National networks in Europe



Regional networks

Take Germany, for example:



* University / Higher education institution = generic term for institutions in the tertiary education sector.

Communication with the members

Using synergies - exchanging experiences

Establishment of joint projects/working groups (e.g. development and testing of teaching materials/formats)

Conferences, congresses, events (international competitions)

Establishment of academies for members

Support in the development/implementation of an N-strategy

ESD courses & training (lecturers, students, ESD officers)

Collection, dissemination and promotion of best practices



Development of codes, audits - Benchmarking

Knowledge management

Providing useful links

Establishment of a wiki platform

Development of Open Education Resources

External communication

Advocacy & positioning

Internal and external visibility of ESD activities
(publications, social media ...)

Policy advice - Advice to HRK

Belonging to a community of practice

Support in the development of internal sustainability strategies

Third Mission - Transfer

Support in the search for international, national, regional partners from other sectors

Promoting stakeholder engagement for sustainability



Field of activity: Teaching

Toolkit for sustainability officers (state analysis of training, activities and resources)



<https://www.cirses.fr/rubrique2.html>

Field of activity: Teaching

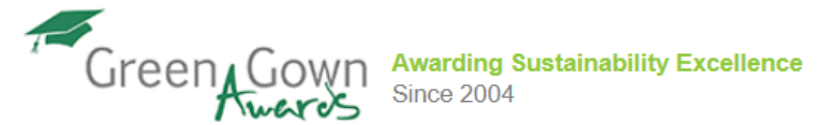
Development of certificates for ESD



<https://nachhaltigeuniversitaeten.at/zertifikat/>

Field of activity: Transfer

Identification of Awards and Challenges



<https://www.greengownawards.org/university-of-the-west-of-england-bristol>

Principle roles of central actors sustainable development

Politics

Setting the framework conditions (regulatory and market-based instruments)

"Doing the right things"

- Anchoring ESD in higher education laws
- Guidelines - Funding

Company

Production of goods: and services under conditions of scarcity and competition

"Doing things right"

- Educational mission (sustainability management)
- Knowledge transfer through projects (service learning)

Holder of private assets

Closing existing funding gaps in the context of the 2030 Agenda

"Making things possible"

- Promotion of innovative projects for sustainability
- Focus on inter-university projects

Based on the . Model by Prof. Dr. Estelle Herlyn 2023

- Founded 2020
- Building on BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research) project HOCH-N (2016-2021)
- Whole Institution Approach



<https://www.dg-hochn.de/>

Objectives: The DG HochN pursues the purpose of supporting the implementation of the UNESCO programme

"Education for Sustainable Development for 2030" (ESD 2030) in the German higher education system.

- Express sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals in all fields of action of higher education institutions.
- Provide all students with the opportunity to acquire sustainability skills

Purposes

- Making knowledge accessible
- Enabling exchange
- Making cross-organisational cooperation & co-creation a tangible experience

→ Hubs (online and attended classes)

→ DG HochN Wiki

→ Recommendations for action

Community
of Practice

Board of Directors

Prof. Dr Georg Müller-Christ, University of Bremen

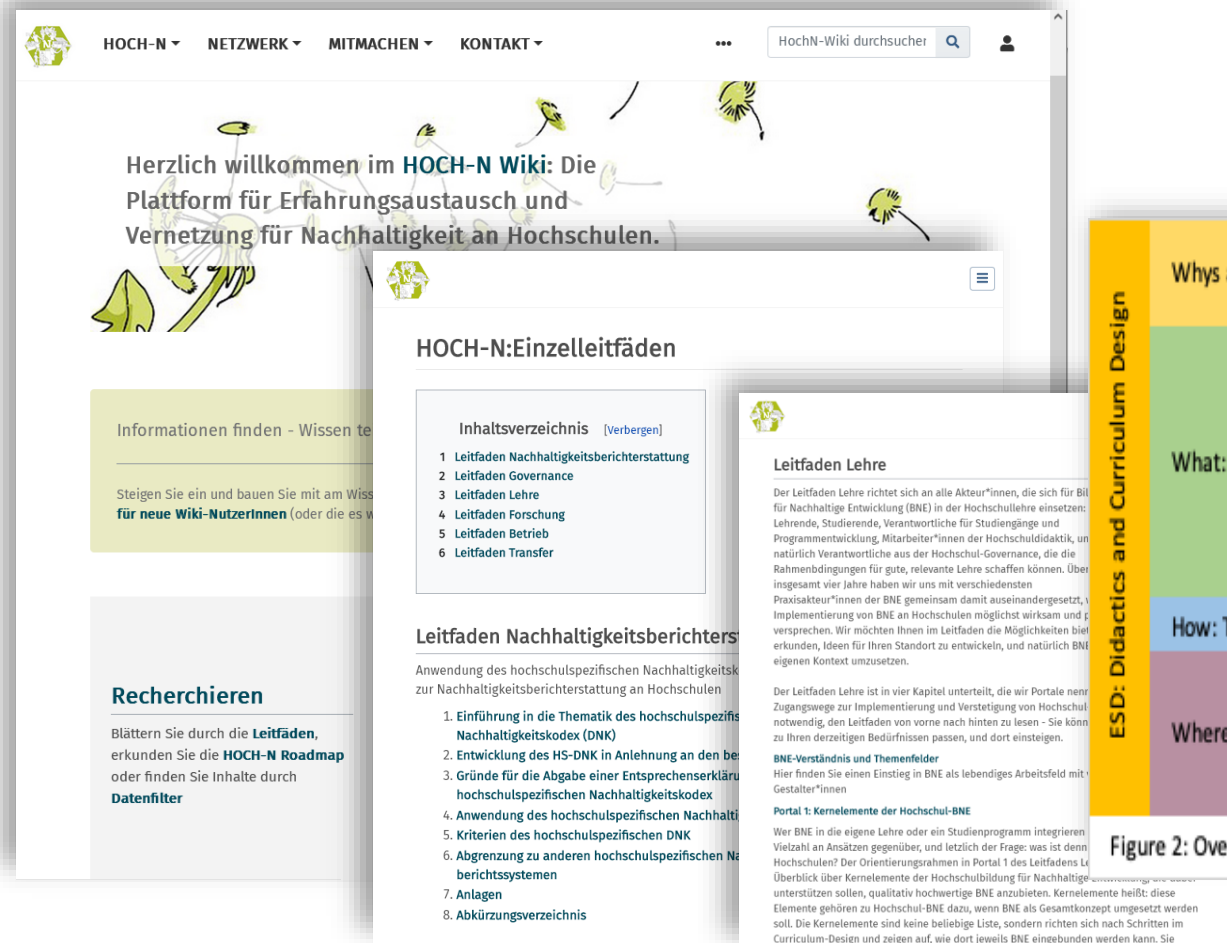
Prof. retired Dr. Ingrid Hemmer, KU Eichstätt
Eva Schäfer, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

Prof. Dr Magdalène Lévy-Tödter

Prof. Dr Remmer Sassen, TU Dresden

Management

Dr Bror Giesenbauer, University of Bremen



ESD: Didactics and Curriculum Design	Whys and wherefores Orientation	Rationale Goals	SD Needs an educational concept SD needs special competences
	What: Learning areas	Content	SD needs its own teaching content
		Ethics	SD needs new methods
		Science	SD needs "ethical literacy"
	How: Teaching and learning	Practice	SD needs "sustainability professionals"
		Participation	SD needs cooperation and participation
Where to: Further development	Methodology	ESD needs transformative teaching-learning environments	
	Evaluation	ESD needs new forms of evaluation	
	Capacity Building Quality	ESD needs special teaching skills ESD needs quality management	

Figure 2: Overview of the orientation framework (source: own representation)

Image source: DG HochN-Wiki

Welcome talks

- Motivation / Where are we right now?
- Use orientation (What do we expect from the partner? What do they expect from us?)
- Strength orientation (What are our strengths? What are the partner's strengths? How can the partner support our work?)

Cooperation / Co-creation

- Hubs for all fields of activity (online and attended classes)
- Policy Hub + Cooperations: Recommendations for action and higher education policy work
- Third-party funded projects

Community of Practice / Infrastructure

- Business Office
- Maintenance and expansion of the DG HochN Wiki
- Newsletter with a reach of almost 1000 recipients (07/2023)
- General Assembly in Host Universities + Evaluation

- Hub = Turning and reloading point
- Interactive, low-threshold events
- Mostly online (via Zoom)
- **Providing orientation + energy**
- Mix of exchange rounds, expert impulses and discussions
- The idea of **co-creation**
- Conceptually oriented towards Theory U (Scharmer, 2018) and University 4.0 (Giesenbauer & Müller-Christ, 2020)





*Traditional university
(thinking in terms of
order)*

Focusses on the transmission of knowledge by authorities:
Lectures, textbooks, imposing buildings, etc.

*Modern university
(success thinking)*

Number-oriented optimisation of international, disciplinary research: peer review, journals, rankings, expansion, etc.

*Postmodern university
(consideration thinking)*

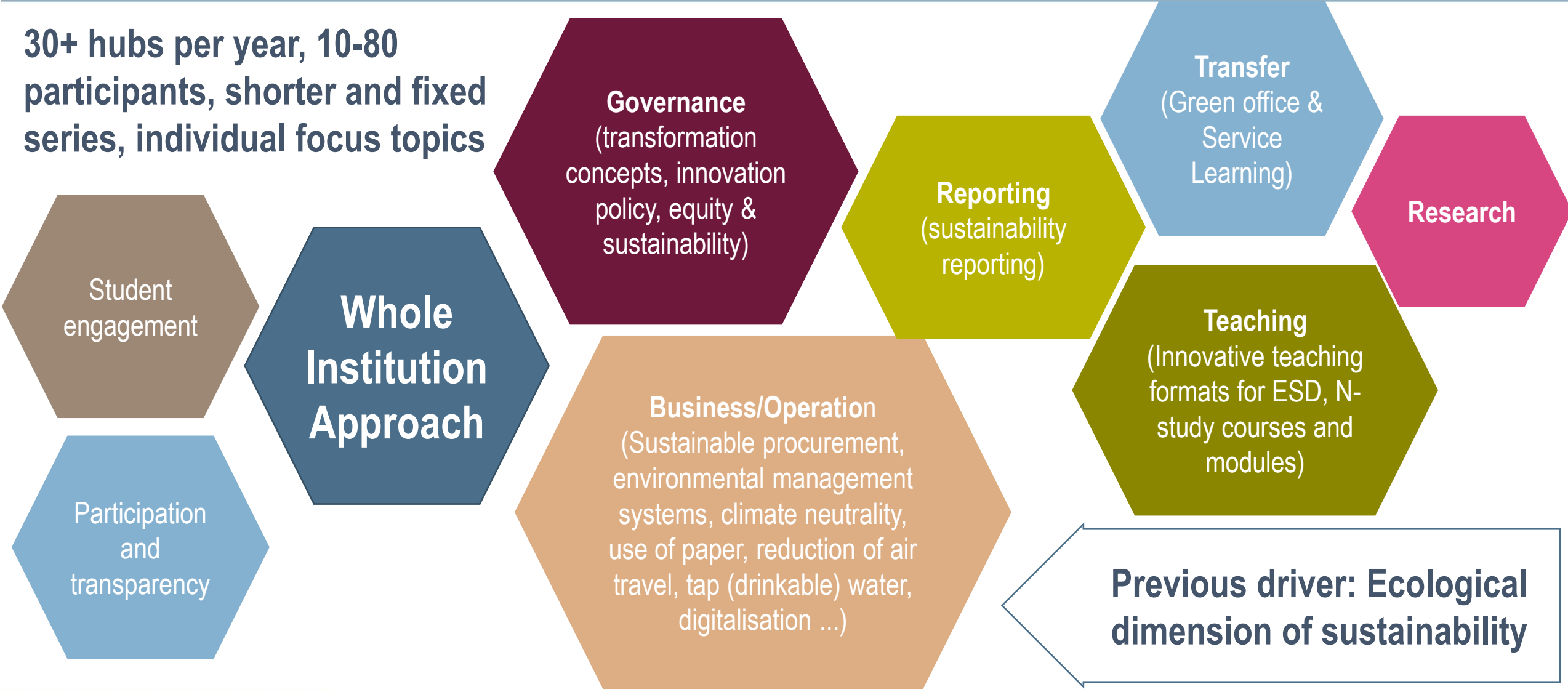
Involve (internal) stakeholders and make social and ecological concerns visible: seminars, transfer, etc.

*Integrative university
(systemic thinking)*

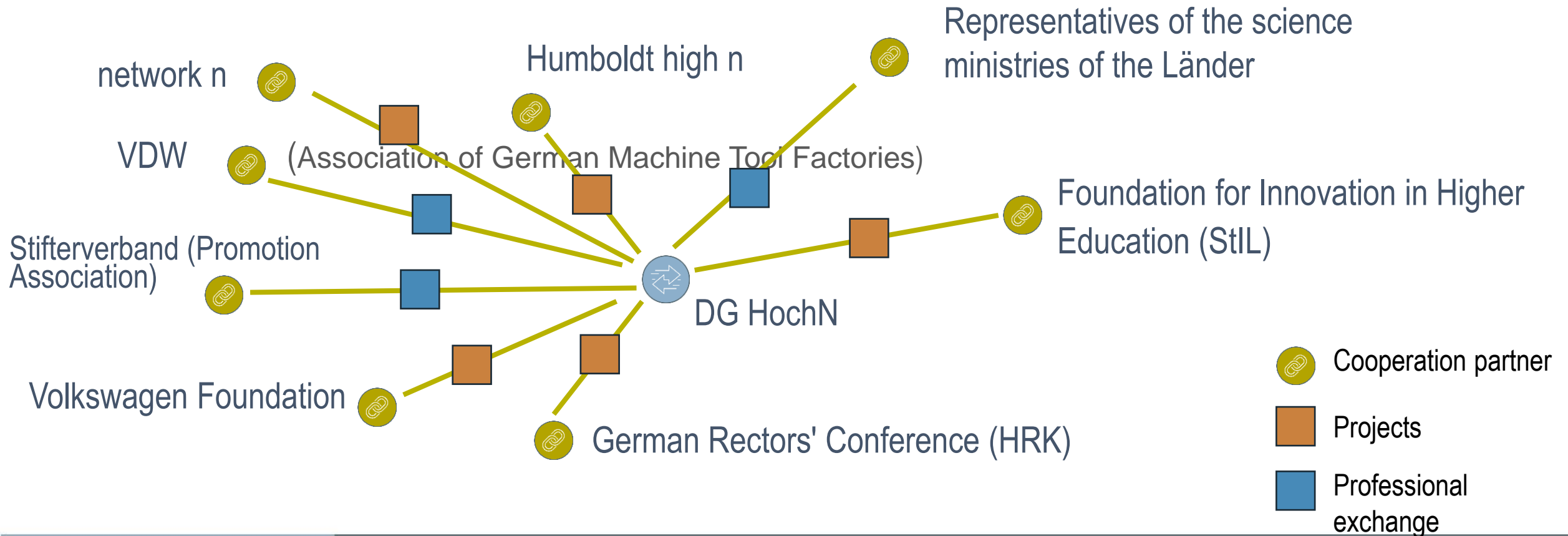
Co-creative, transdisciplinary processing of social challenges: Real labs, open science, etc.

Based on Giesenbauer & Müller-Christ (2020), <https://doi.org/10.3390/sul2083371>

30+ hubs per year, 10-80 participants, shorter and fixed series, individual focus topics

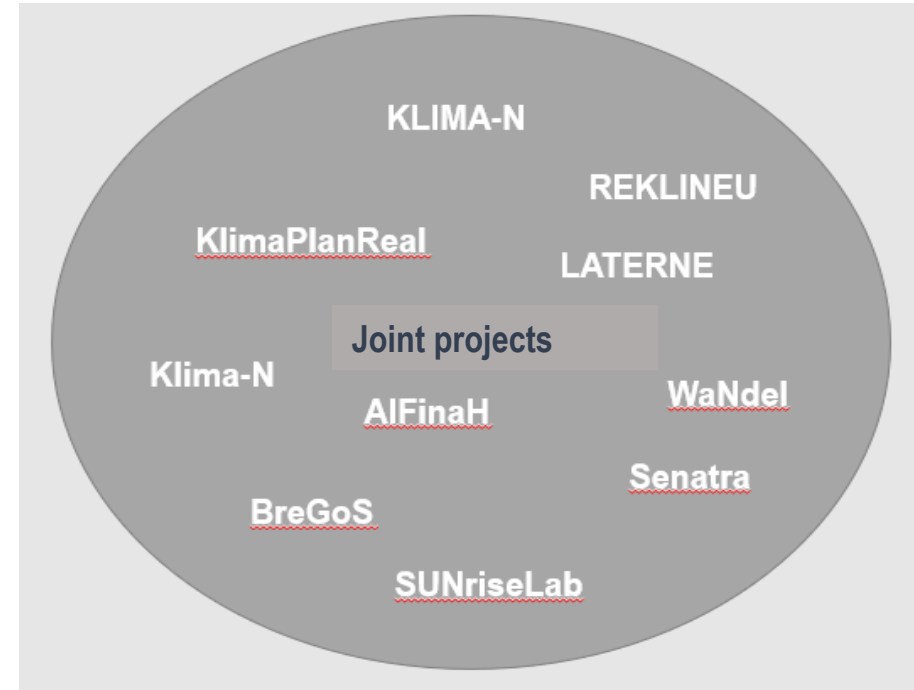


- DG HochN recommendations for action on sustainable development by and with higher education institutions (April 2021)
- Cooperation with important institutions in Germany



- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)-Funding line "Transformation Pathways for Sustainable Universities" (2023-2026)
- A four-member DG HochN researcher team is implementing the accompanying measure to the BMF funding line together with teams from the HRK (German Rectors' Conference) and Fraunhofer ISI.

Joint projects



Topics, including service learning, climate neutrality at universities, alternative financing models for sustainable universities
Methods, including real experiments, real laboratories, ...

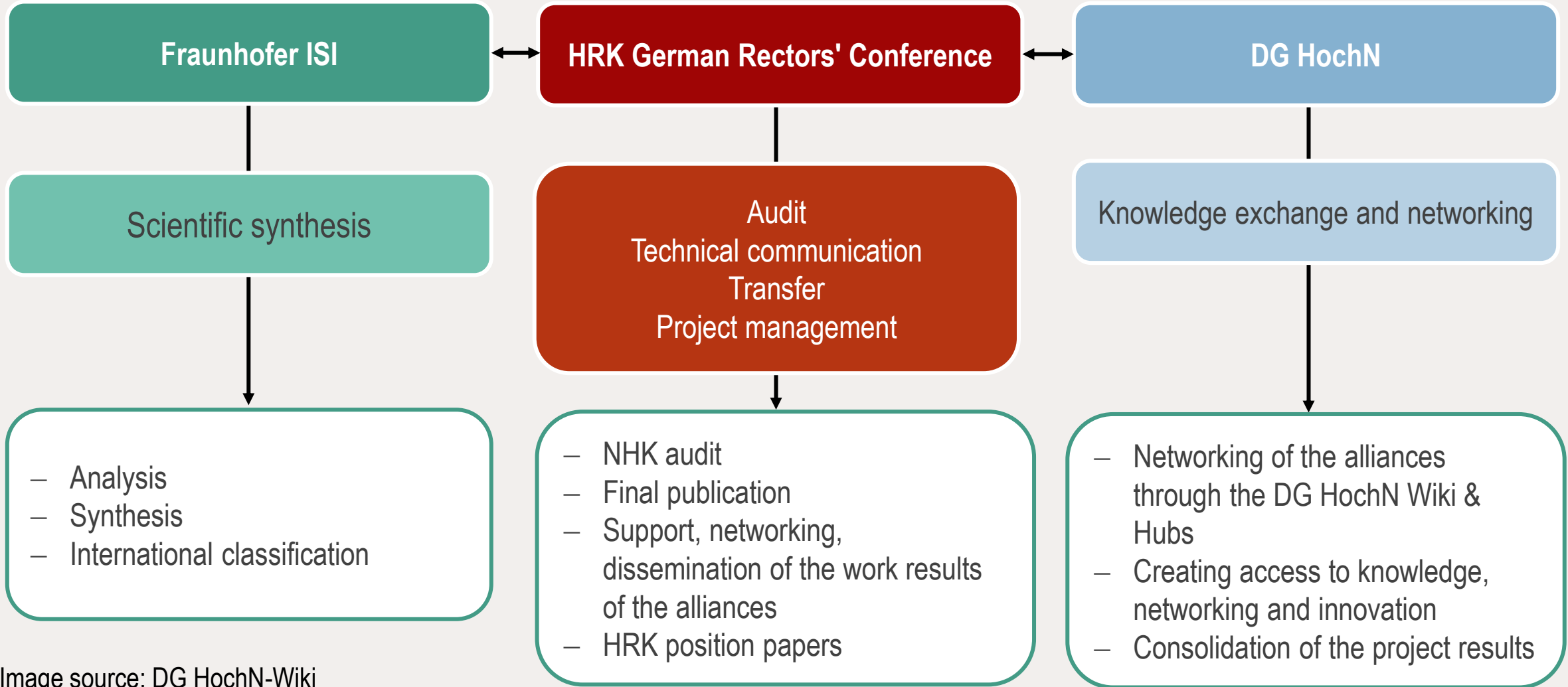
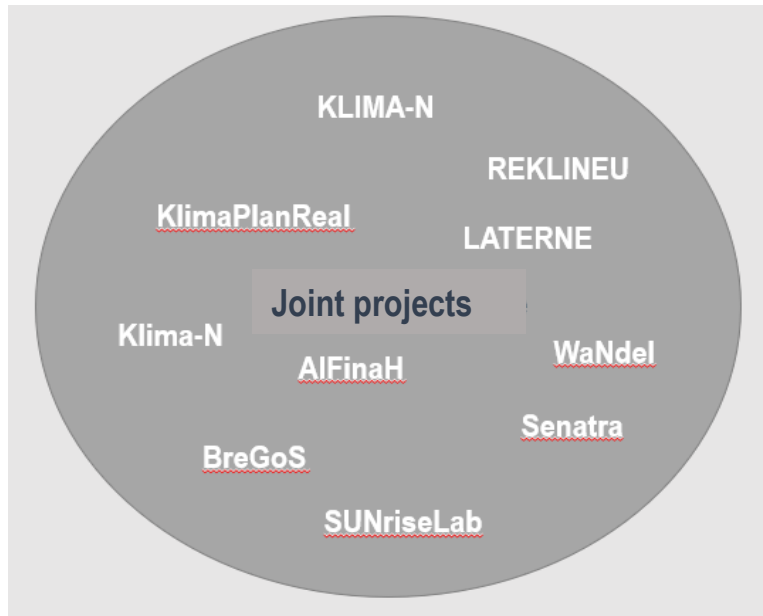


Image source: DG HochN-Wiki

Joint projects



Co-creative space for networking the alliances

1. Exchange in (digital) hubs
2. Support in collecting data and gathering feedback via DG HochN newsletter and DG HochN wiki



Consolidation and visualisation of intermediate and final results

DG HOCHN-WIKI

Barcamp 4: Nachhaltigkeitsprojekte vs. Prozesse

Moderation: Carla Wemken

Kernthemen und Erkenntnisse aus d

- Möglichkeiten alle Akteur:innen der HS zu schaffen
- In allen Bereichen Raum für Partizipation
Lehre... Idee: Finanzierung der Verw
Beteiligung zu ermöglichen



Image source: DG HochN-Wiki, <https://hochnwiki.de/index.php?title=Hauptseite>

Contents of DG HochN-Wiki

- HochN guidelines on six fields of activity
- Hub documentation
- In the future also interim and final results of research projects
- www.hochnwiki.de
- Vision: Central place for knowledge on sustainability at universities

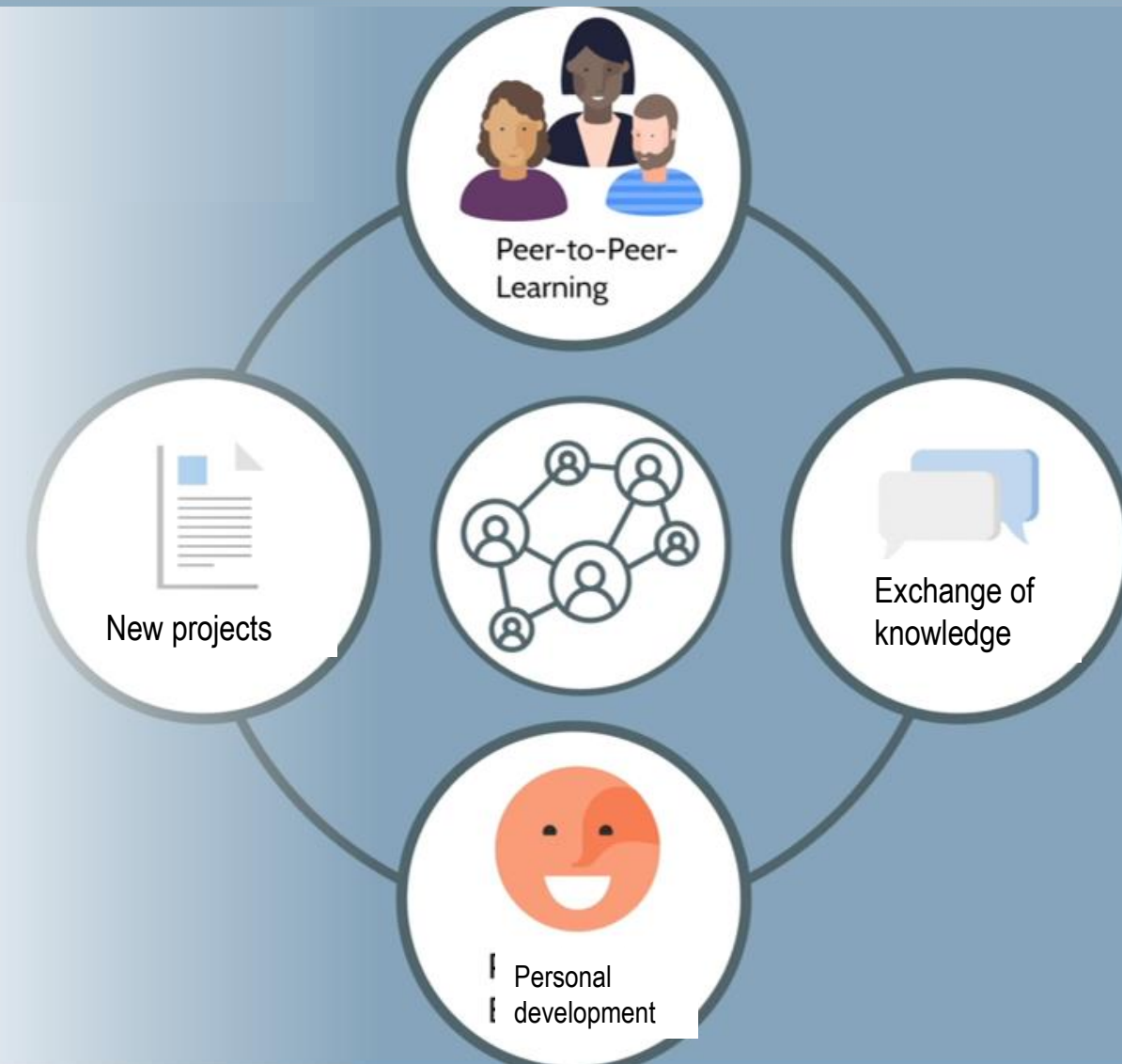


Image source: DG HochN-Wiki

6 Educational areas,
100 measures

1 Objective Structurally anchor education for sustainable development in Hamburg's educational landscape

472,000€ Project funding for the year 2023 (Authority for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture) (BUKEA)

University
Forum

Commonalities in the ESD measures:

- Contribution to the structural anchoring of ESD in the HH higher education landscape (private and public universities)
- Promotion of university cooperation
- Promotion of Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Promotion of knowledge transfer (Service Learning & Citizen Science)

Management:
Norbert König (BWFGB) -
Magdalène Lévy-Tödter
(DG HochN, reg.
Association)

<https://www.hamburger-klimaschutzstiftung.de/projekte/masterplan-bne/>



* Umbrella organisation:
"Hamburg learns
sustainability" initiative



Office HLN*
(BUKEA, Authority for the Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture)

Coordination office
(Hamburg Climate Protection Foundation)

Steering group

Forums' task: Planning the measures to be implemented - Applying for the funding of the measures presented before the steering group.

Scientific monitoring

Forum for
Early Childhood
Education

School
forum

University
forum

Vocational
Training
Forum

Extracurricular
Education forum

Districts'
forum

Cooperation as an opportunity

- Acceleration of transformation processes (co-creativity, orientation towards First Mover, creating a "community of practice")
- Networking with "new" actors (e.g. cooperation across educational sectors)
- Influence on the higher education landscape ("attitude of cooperation", Giesenbauer 2022)

Outlook

- Organisation of university networks & professionalisation
- Global networking & questioning of sustainable "development"
- Transfer & Service Learning

Thank you for your attention!!!

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) (2023): Transformation Pathways for Sustainable Universities.
<https://www.fona.de/de/themen/nachhaltigkeit-in-der-wissenschaft-sisi.php>

DG HochN e.V. (2021): DG HochN recommendations for action. <https://www.dg-hochn.de/dokumente>

Giesenbauer, B. & Müller-Christ, G. (2020). University 4.0: Promoting the Transformation of Higher Education Institutions towards Sustainable Development. *Sustainability* 12(8), 3371. [DOI: 10.3390/su12083371](https://doi.org/10.3390/su12083371)

Giesenbauer, B. (2022). Cooperation before competition: Changing values towards a new attitude of economic activity. In H. Rogall, F. Ekardt, A. Grothe, W.-D. Hasenclever, I. Hauchler, M. Jänicke, K. Kollmann, N. V. Michaelis & H. G. Nutzinger (Eds.), *Yearbook Sustainable Economics: 2022/2023. Yearbook Sustainable Economics: In Focus: Municipal Heat Transition* (1st ed., pp. 141-151). Metropolis.

Herlyn, E. (2023): Multi-actor partnerships as an opportunity for successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Herlyn, E.; Lévy-Tödter, M.; Fischer, K.; Scherle, N. (eds.): *Multi-actor networks: cooperation as an opportunity for implementing the 2030 Agenda*. Wiesbaden: Springer Gabler. S. 47-76.

List of international and national university networks:

https://hochnwiki.de/index.php?title=Networks_for_Sustainability_in_Higher_Education

Scharmer, O.C. (2020). *Theory U. Leading from the future. Presencing as a social technique*. 5th ed. Heidelberg: Carl-Auer-Systeme Verlag.