

# Teaching ESD\* session

Teaching and Learning for Change Conference: Sustainability in Higher Education

Bern - September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

# Agenda

1. Warm up
2. Who we are
3. Sustainability in Academia
4. Sustainability as a bycatch, a Team communication approach
5. Conversations
6. Wrap up & Summary





# Warm up



**How are you doing right now?**

# Who we are



**Corinna Semling**

**Professor, Institut für Kommunikation und Interkulturelle Kompetenz**  
Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (OST)



**Clementine Robert**

**Project Manager, Sustainability Curriculum Development**  
University of St. Gallen (HSG)

# Sustainability in Academia (SiA)

General knowledge Business Education Learning Methods Other Areas of Study About us

This web site is currently under construction! If you have any feedback or recommendations let us know by contacting us at [info@sustainabilityinacademia.org](mailto:info@sustainabilityinacademia.org)

## Sustainability in Academia

This platform promotes the integration of sustainability related topics, ways of thinking and learning methods into teaching for students to be equipped so they can tackle 21st century challenges.

Search here...

Explore

### Quote of the Month

*"No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it"*

– Albert Einstein

Sustainability in Academia – The place for high quality sustainability learning material

# SiA: What?

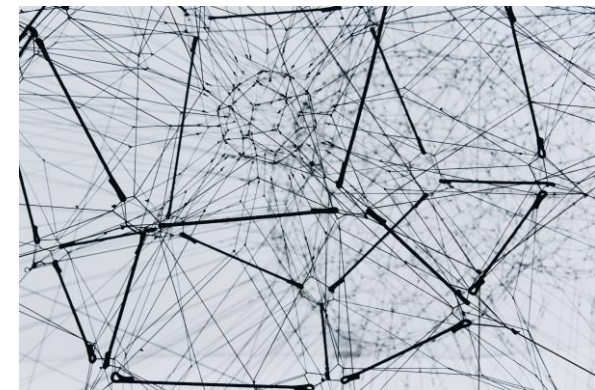
## Open Access Platform

It provides high-quality, quickly findable and freely accessible learning material (primarily /management education)



**Promotes the integration into teaching of:**

- sustainability related topics,
- ways of thinking,
- learning methods





# SiA: Why?

Not reinventing the wheel !



- Goal

Accompany faculty in their journey to further integrate sustainability in their course.

So that students can be equipped with the competencies and knowledge they need to tackle the 21st century grand challenges.

- Identified need

Many available resources online, difficult to know for a faculty in a short amount of time what is of good quality and relevant for their own course.

- Target

- Faculty (from ESD beginners to advanced)
- Supporting teams within Higher Education Institutions focusing on curriculum development
- Students wishing to collaborate with faculty constructively on integrating sustainability into the curriculum

# SiA – Who is behind?



Universität St.Gallen



Network for  
Business Sustainability

BUSINESS. THINKING. AHEAD.

Supported by





# SiA: How?

## • Content

- Various types: factsheet, exercise, case study, course slide deck, serious game, article, etc
- Various formats: video, document, podcasts, websites, etc
- Various topics: general knowledge, per discipline, per industry, learning methods, etc
- Various levels: bachelor, master, PhD, executive education

## • Interconnectedness

- Related topics
- Related materials
- Other platforms

## • Interactive Platform

- Comments
- Rating
- Signal
- (webinars)

## • Quality insurance

- Rigorous feedback loop process
- Transparency on the platform

# SiA: Example Resource

- Reader on Sustainable Business
- Open access book
- Compact guide on the development of sustainable business
- Provides basic terminology and concepts on sustainable business
- Offers insights into a new management paradigm that integrates social and environmental dimensions into business models, strategies, and operations
- New business concepts such as the donut economy, are introduced and the book outlines how they influence the way we run businesses



# SiA: How?

## • **Community inclusive**

- Welcome content material suggestions from faculty
- Welcome new content material quality reviewers
- Welcome new content material needs from faculty
- Welcome comments for each resource material
- WWF Switzerland, NBS, University of St Gallen their networks and beyond
- Included in HSG Faculty & Program support system to embed sustainability into curriculum. Maybe in other universities programs later on ?
- Highlight some good content/practices done within the community

## • **Long Lasting Maintenance**

- Platform regularly updated with new up-to-date content
- Process: an inclusive & participative quality check
- Coordinators: WWF Switzerland, Network for Business Sustainability, and Responsibility & Sustainability team at the university of St Gallen
- Communication: on-going communication through partner networks and within higher education institutions (newsletter, workshops, conferences, etc)

# SiA: Call for Collaboration



## Who can become a contributor?

Any faculty from around the world who is competent on the topic of sustainability and/or pedagogy according to the resource.

## What can you contribute to?

- **Share resources** that you use and helps you to bring sustainability into your course in an engaging way.
- **Review some content materials** before they go on the platform to ensure their high quality.
- **Feedback/Feedforward on how to improve the platform** to better answer the needs

## Why contribute to the development of the platform?

It is a great way to become aware of innovative teaching materials while collaborating with the core team to support your peer faculty from around the world in their journey to further integrate sustainability in their courses!

**Contribute now!** [info@sustainabilityinacademia.org](mailto:info@sustainabilityinacademia.org)





**OST**

Ostschweizer  
Fachhochschule

# Team Communication for Engineers

**Sustainability as a bycatch**

Prof. Corinna Semling

14. September 2023

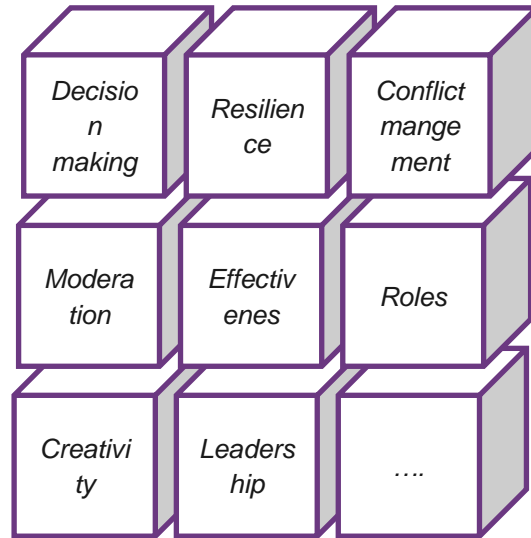
**ikik**

Institut für Kommunikation  
und interkulturelle Kompetenz



## Overview

# Interdisciplinary module (4 ECTS) "Team Communication for Engineers"



## Skills & Information

Communication exercises and psychological theory

+



## Reviews

Individual and team experience

+



## Interdisciplinary Project Task

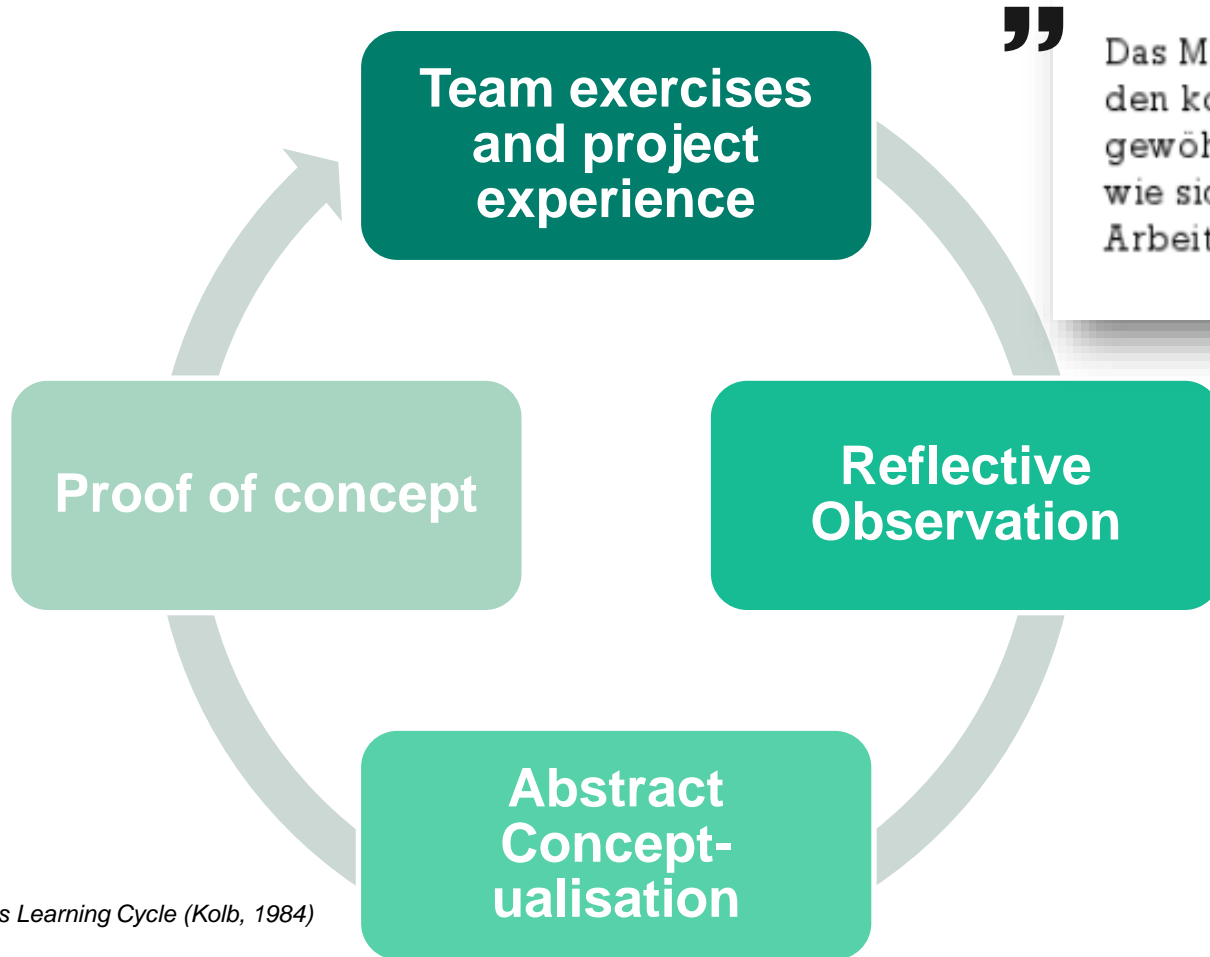
Real Customer, milestones, Pitches and Presentation

# Our projects: Challenging Creativity and Transfer

Regional project partners e.g. Knies Kinderzoo, SCRJ Lakers, Blues'n'Jazz or OST itself



# Experience Based Learning – Learning from Reflecting



”

Das Modul mit den verschiedenen Theorien zur Teamarbeit und all den konstruktiven Aufgaben regte uns dazu an auch mehr als gewöhnlich zu reflektieren und herauszufinden, wo wir stehen und wie sich jeder in der Gruppe fühlt. In einem Projekt im effektiven Arbeitsumfeld bleibt meiner Erfahrung dafür leider nicht so viel Zeit.

- **Situated Learning**
- **Domain-specific Knowledge**

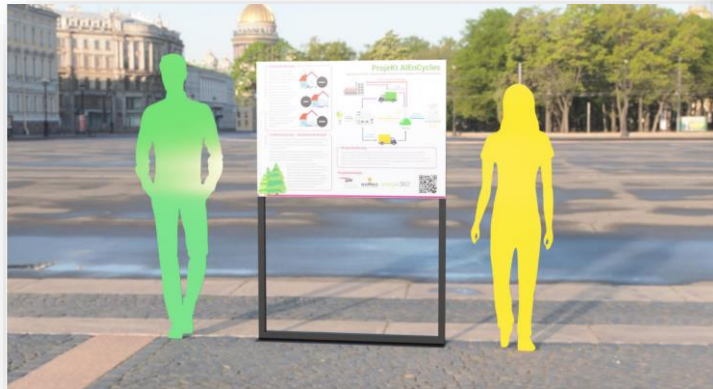
*Kolb's Learning Cycle (Kolb, 1984)*



Transfer

# Spring 22: Interdisciplinary Project Task on Sustainability

In total 12 teams with up to 6 students



Concept for an Information Display on the OST Campus



Concept for Geocaching Parcours on the OST Campus

## Nachhaltigkeit sichtbar machen

Lehr • Bildung

So schön der Campus der OST in Rapperswil-Jona auch ist: Was in Bezug auf Nachhaltigkeit in den Gebäuden geforscht und gelehrt wird, ist von aussen selten sichtbar. Das wollte eine Projektgruppe von Studierenden ändern. Derzeit läuft die Evaluation der Ideen.

Während ihres Studiums können Studierende aus allen Studiengängen am Standort Rapperswil-Jona einen Blick über ihren fachlichen Tellerrand werfen. Im interdisziplinären Modul «Teamkommunikation für Ingenieur:innen» treffen sich Studierende von der Informatik über die Maschinenteknik und das Bauingenieurwesen bis hin zur Elektrotechnik. Sie lernen, in Teams gemeinsame Projekte zu bearbeiten und die Ergebnisse anschliessend professionell vor einem Auftraggeber zu präsentieren.

Dieses Jahr war der Klimacenter der OST der Auftraggeber. Ein Kompetenzzentrum, das das gebündelte Wissen aus 21 Forschungs- und Entwicklungsinstituten der OST im Bereich Klima und Energie der Öffentlichkeit zur Verfügung stellt. Die beiden Klimacenter-Verantwortlichen Zoe Stadler und Susanne Schellenberger hatten einen simplen, aber herausfordernden Projektauftrag: Wie lässt sich das Thema Nachhaltigkeit auf dem Campus sichtbarer machen?

### Vielseitige Informationsmöglichkeiten

In ihren Abschlusspräsentationen zeigten die Studierenden, dass sie nicht nur gelernt hatten, wie sie ihre Arbeit überzeugend verkaufen. Von solarbetriebenen Info-Bildschirmen über Recycling-Infos an bestehenden Alu-/PET-/Glas-/Abfall-Containern rund um den Seeweg bis hin zum spielerischen Foxtrail, der über kleine Rätsel verbunden den gesamten Campus zur Nachhaltigkeits-Entdeckungstour macht, zeigten die Studierenden viel Kreativität. Eine Projektgruppe entwickelte sogar ein Nachhaltigkeitsmodul für den Unterricht.

Allen Ideen gemein ist, dass sich so die vielseitigen Forschungsprojekte Umwelt, Wasser, Energie und Nachhaltigkeit sowie die nachhaltigkeitsbezogenen Inhalte der Studiengänge allen Besucher:innen sowie Passant:innen auf dem Campus und entlang des Seewegs aber auch allen Hochschulangehörigen niederschwellig zugänglich machen lassen.

Die Ideen haben den Klimacenter-Verantwortlichen so gut gefallen, dass derzeit eine konkrete Umsetzung der Projektideen geprüft wird. —MeWi

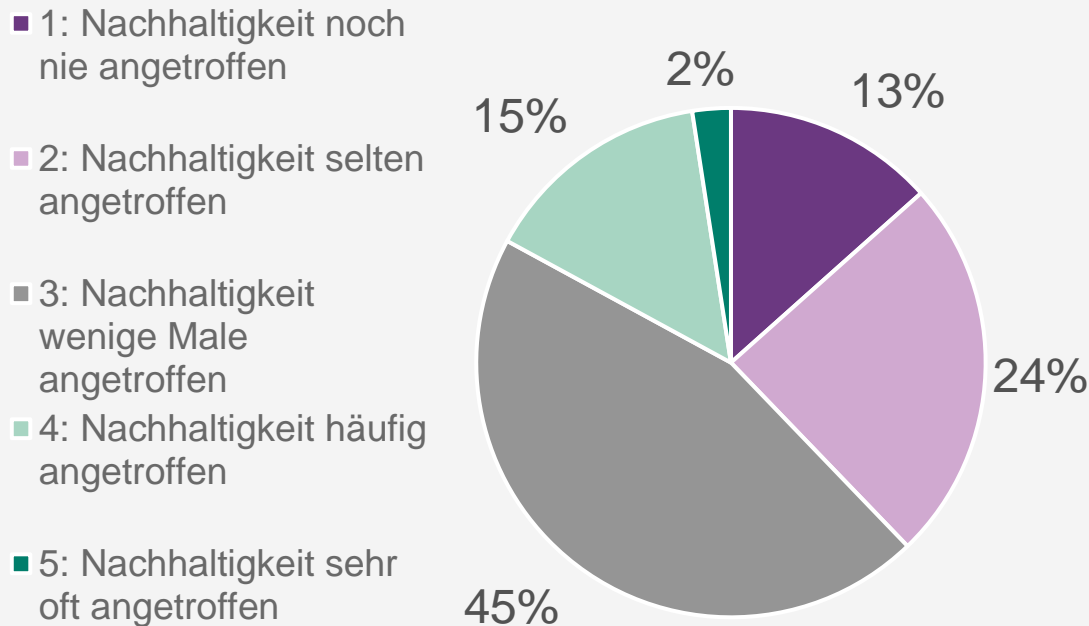


Grün ist der Campus in Rapperswil Jona bereits. Was in den Labors und Vorlesungssälen zum Thema Nachhaltigkeit läuft, soll bald sichtbar werden.

25

## Project "Tertiär A" – Pilot Study on Sustainability

Hast du das Thema Nachhaltigkeit in  
deinem Studium bereits angetroffen?  
(n=82)



### Entry Survey

- Students from information technology, renewable energies, economy, engineering and civil engineering
- The majority of the team communication students had information on sustainability rarely in their studies before
- In average our students had only basic knowledge

# Project "Tertiär A" – Pilot Study on Sustainability

Up to 54 % of the students mentioned sustainability as relevant or very relevant for their daily business

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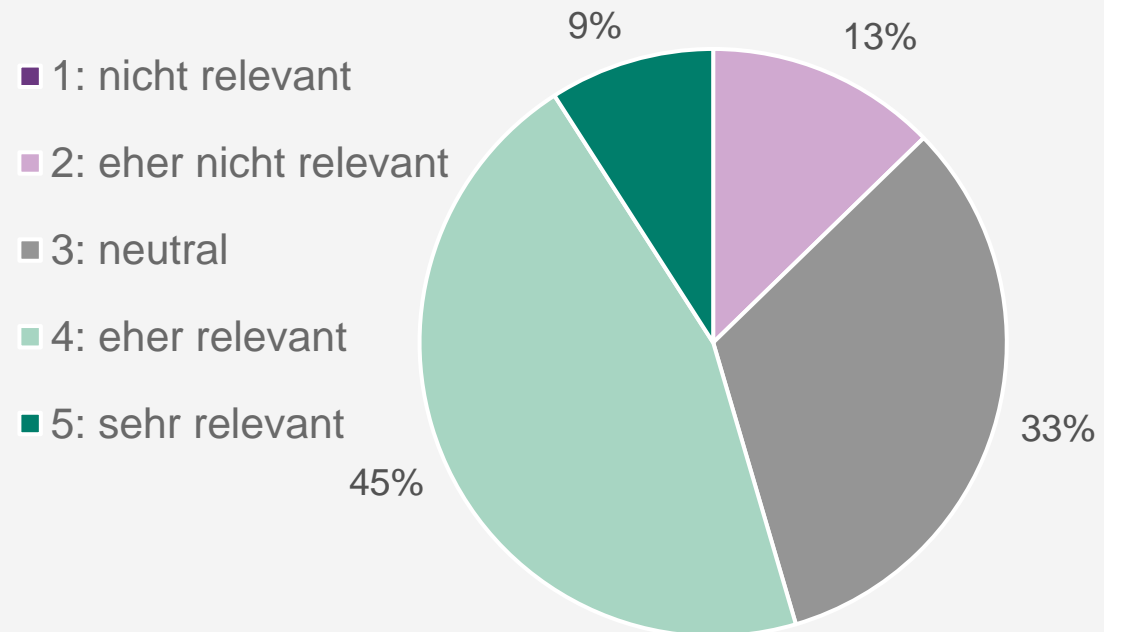
*Ich würde gerne erfahren, was die Schweiz in den nächsten Jahren plant und wie man persönlich einfach und sinnvoll zur Nachhaltigkeit beitragen kann.*

*Die Umsetzung des Praxisprojekt an der Hochschule war sehr interessant, da es eine studiengangübergreifende Arbeit war.*

*Alles über Nachhaltigkeit interessiert mich sehr, wie arbeite ich in der IT möglichst nachhaltig?*

Wie relevant schätzt du das Thema der Nachhaltigkeit für deinen studentischen Alltag ein?

(n=55)





## Summary

# Take Home Message







**Thank you for your attention!**

# Participant input: SDSN-WWF-HEC's Grand Challenges Center

Preliminary report including recommendations on the kind of support that professors and lecturers need to integrate sustainability into their courses.

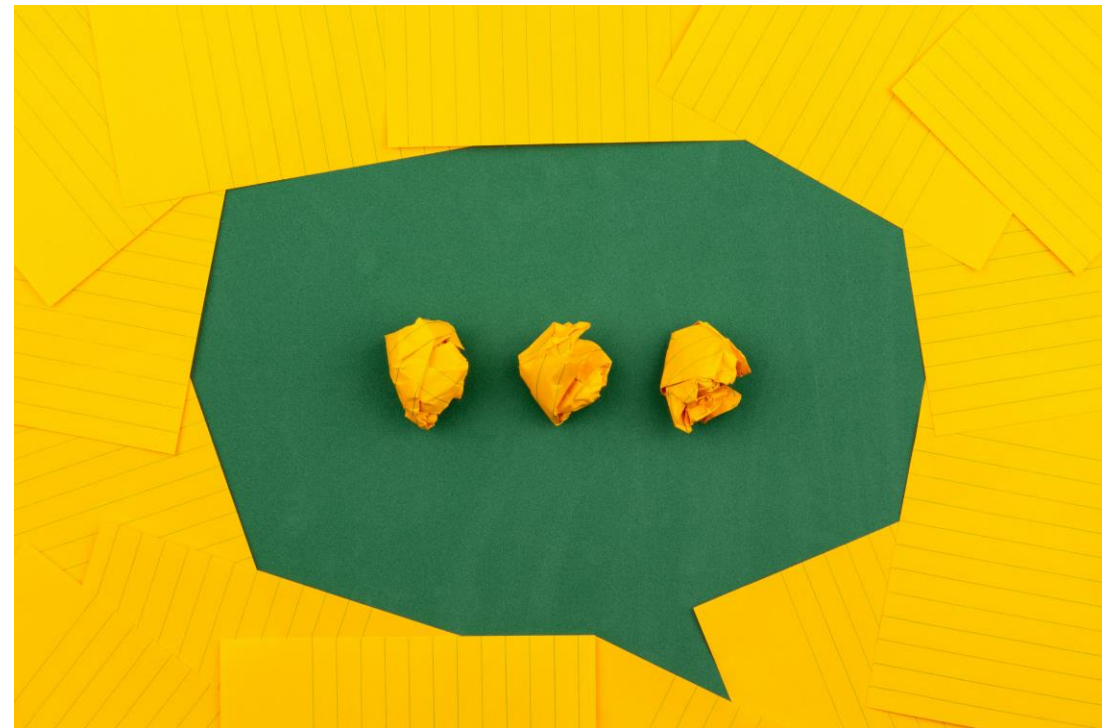
- ❑ Ongoing project [WWF - Research Center of Grand Challenges \(HEC-UNIL\)](#)
- ❑ Literature review and analysis of the integration of sustainability in business education → practice-oriented recommendations.
- ❑ One of the conclusions:  
« one of the barriers to the educators' introduction of sustainability into their courses is the lack of time and perceived extra workload. This, combined with the (perceived or actual) lack of knowledge and/or competencies required to develop a course that enables students to achieve sustainability learning outcomes, can be a powerful barrier to the integration of sustainability into courses »  
→ Training opportunities + Teaching resources (e.g., textbooks, case studies, games, simulations)



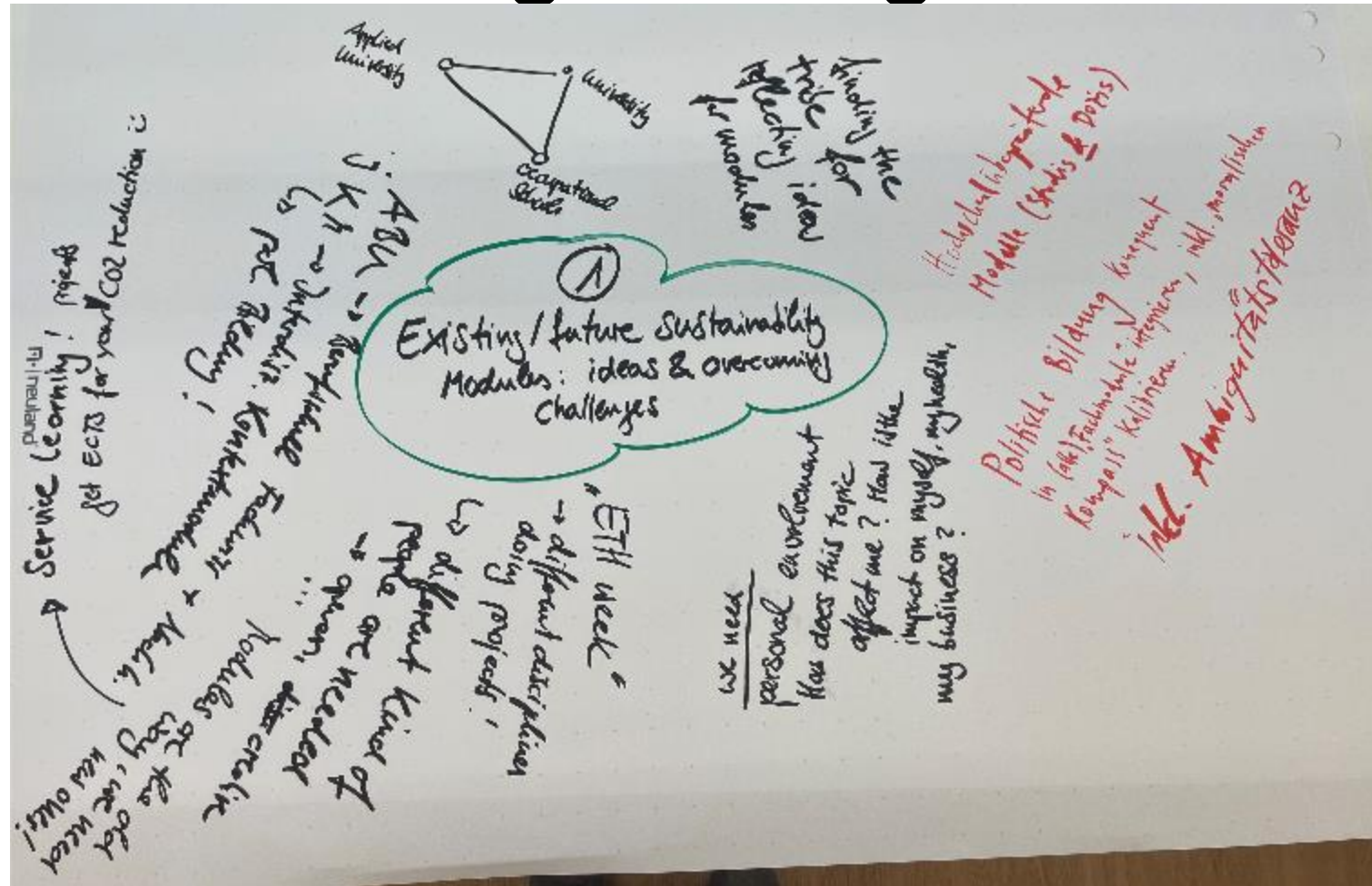
Estefania Amer Maistrau, UNIL

# Conversations

- Existing/future sustainability modules: ideas & overcoming challenges *(How does interdisciplinarity play a role?)*
- Resource platforms: how to use them best? *(how to set them up?)*
- How can I encourage people to integrate sustainability in higher education *(their program/their course)?*

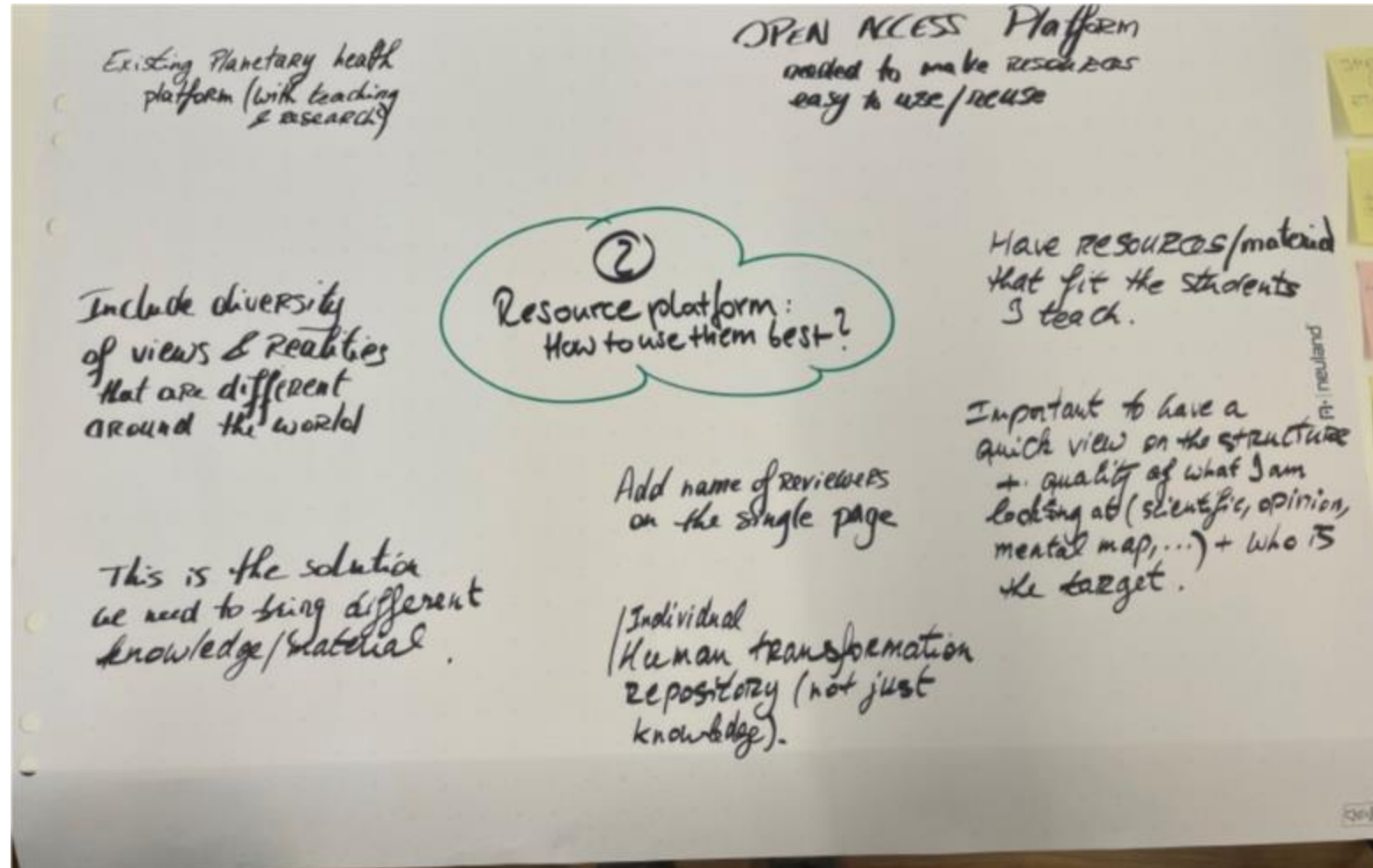


# #1 Existing / future sustainability modules: Ideas & overcoming challenges

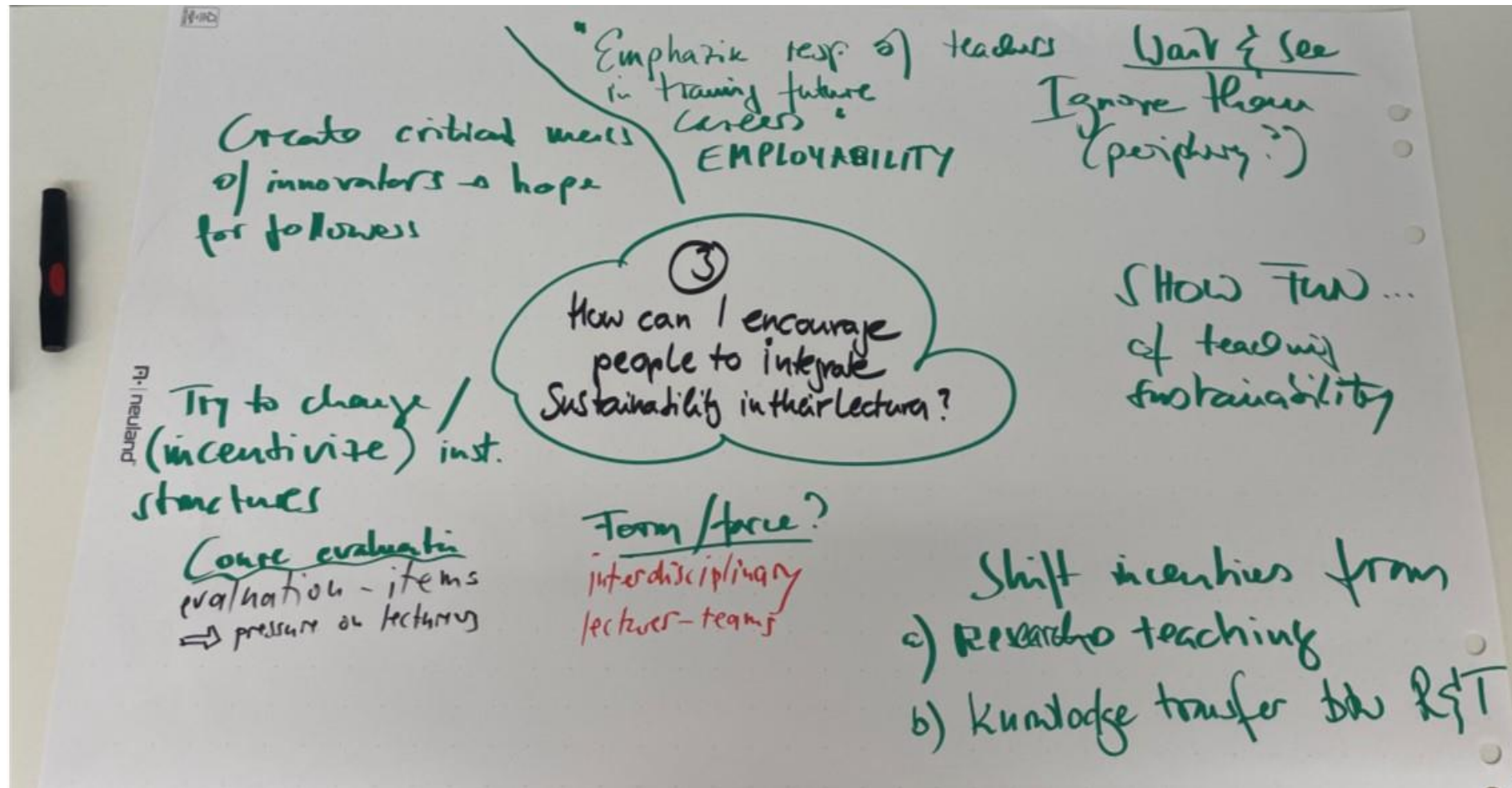




# #2 Resource Platform: How to use them best?



# #3 How can I encourage people to integrate sustainability in their lectures?



# Thank you.



## CONTACT US

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