



Transformative Teaching and Learning for Sustainability Transformation

Simon Zysset, WWF Switzerland, Workshop SUD 2026

1st of September 2026

Programme



- Short introduction round
- Short Input
- Exchange with 3 Questions



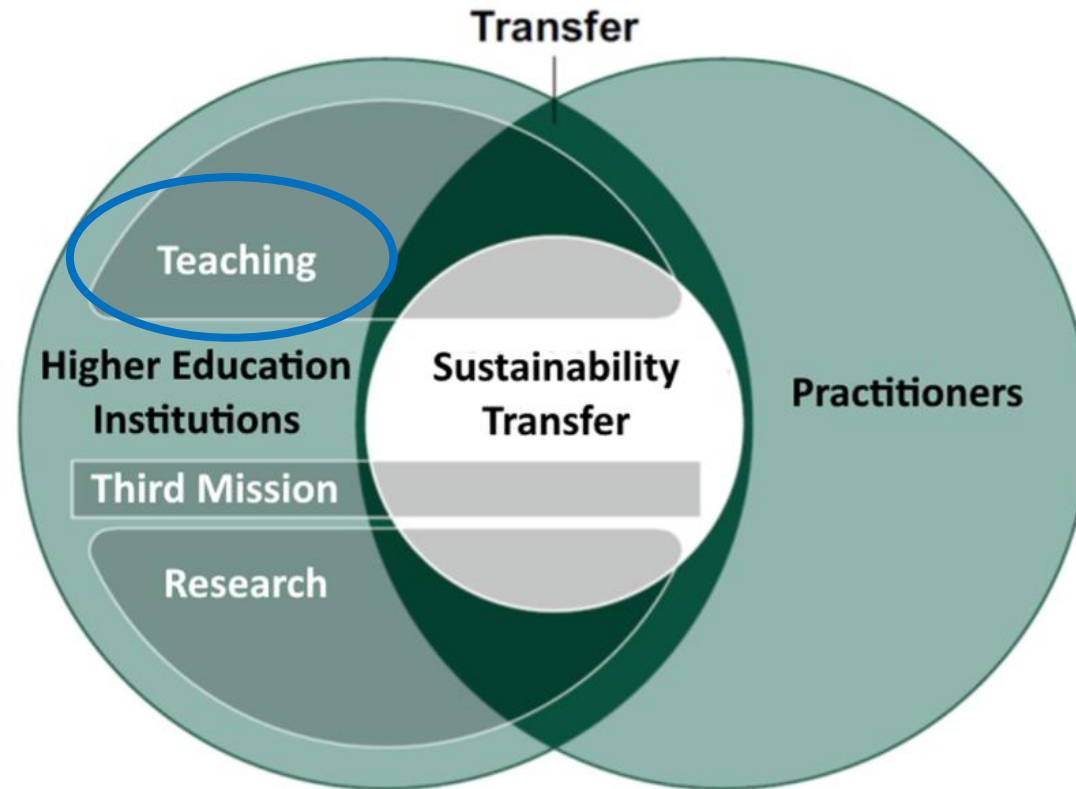
Short Introduction Round



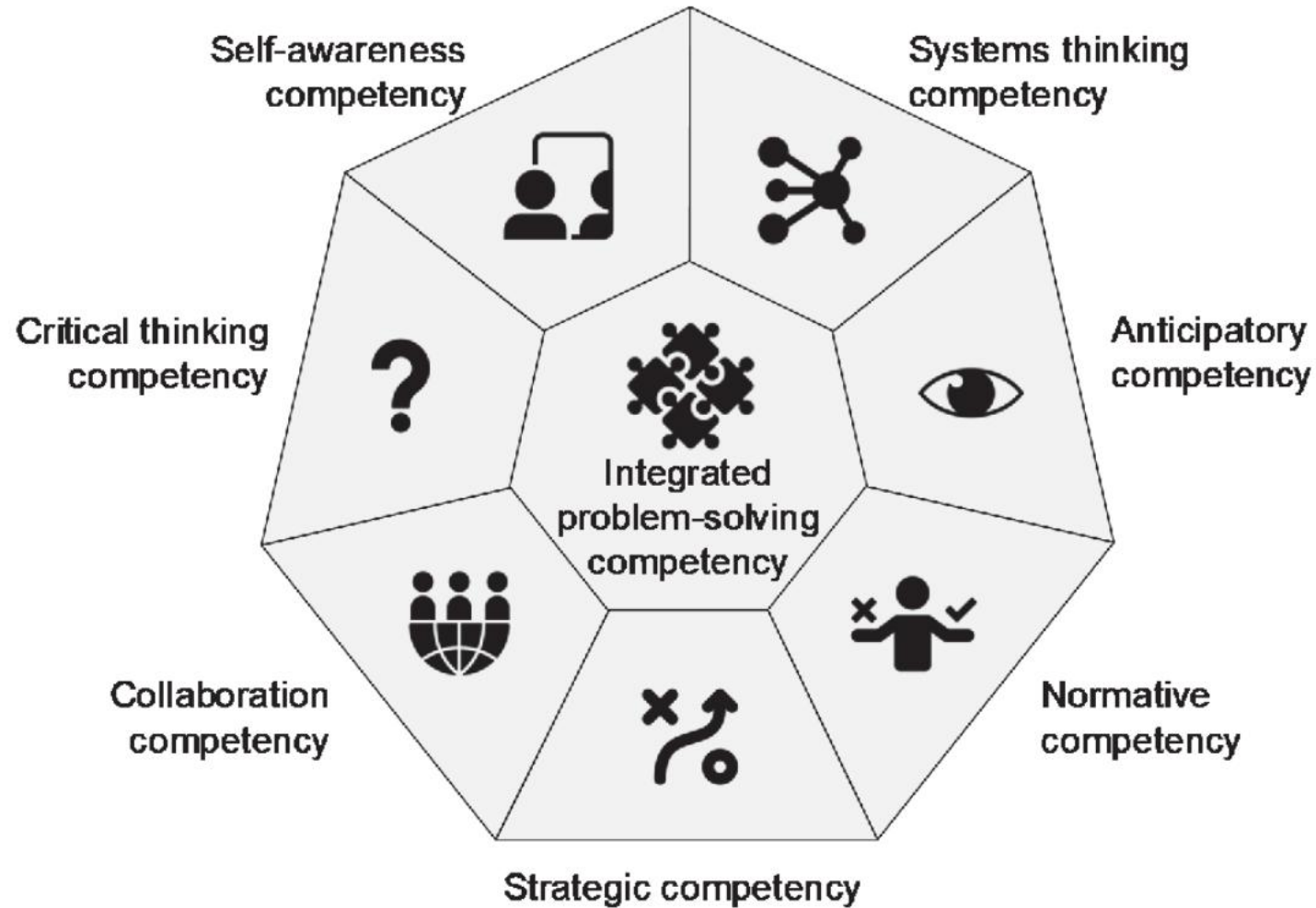
- Name
- Institution
- Position
- Motivation for this Workshop



Importance of Transfer- and Cooperation Projects



Competencies for Sustainability Transformation

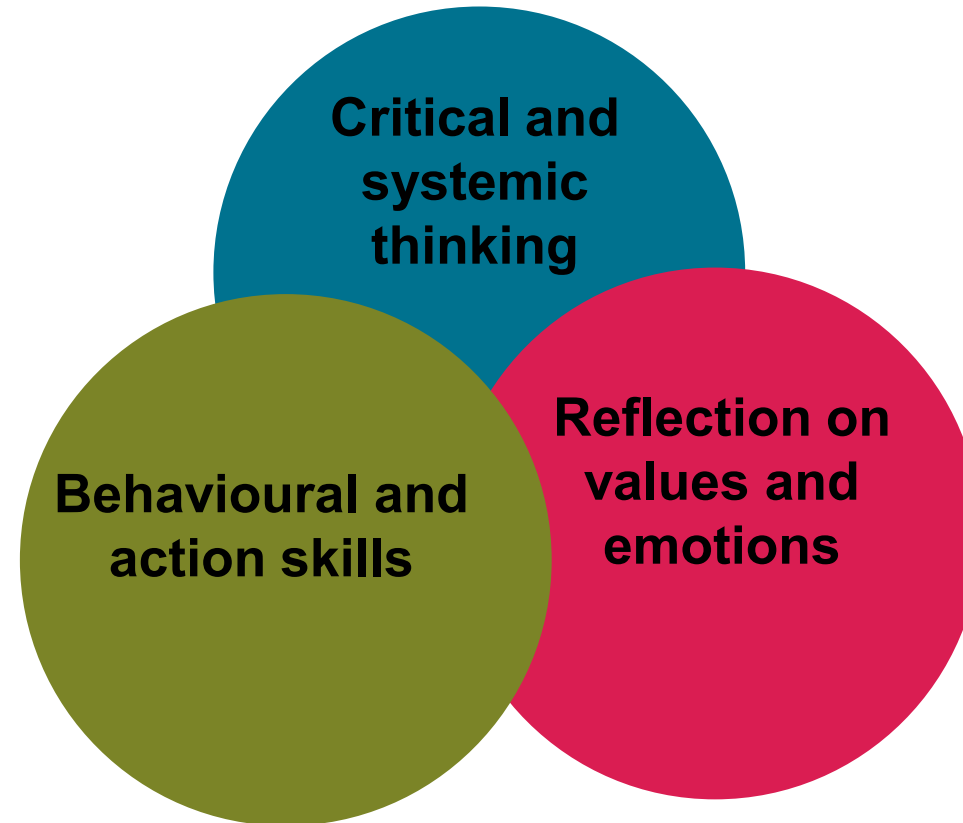


Source: UNESCO (2017): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000247444> Grafik von: [\[PDF\] MAPPING THE CDIO SYLLABUS TO THE UNESCO KEY COMPETENCIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY | Semantic Scholar](#)

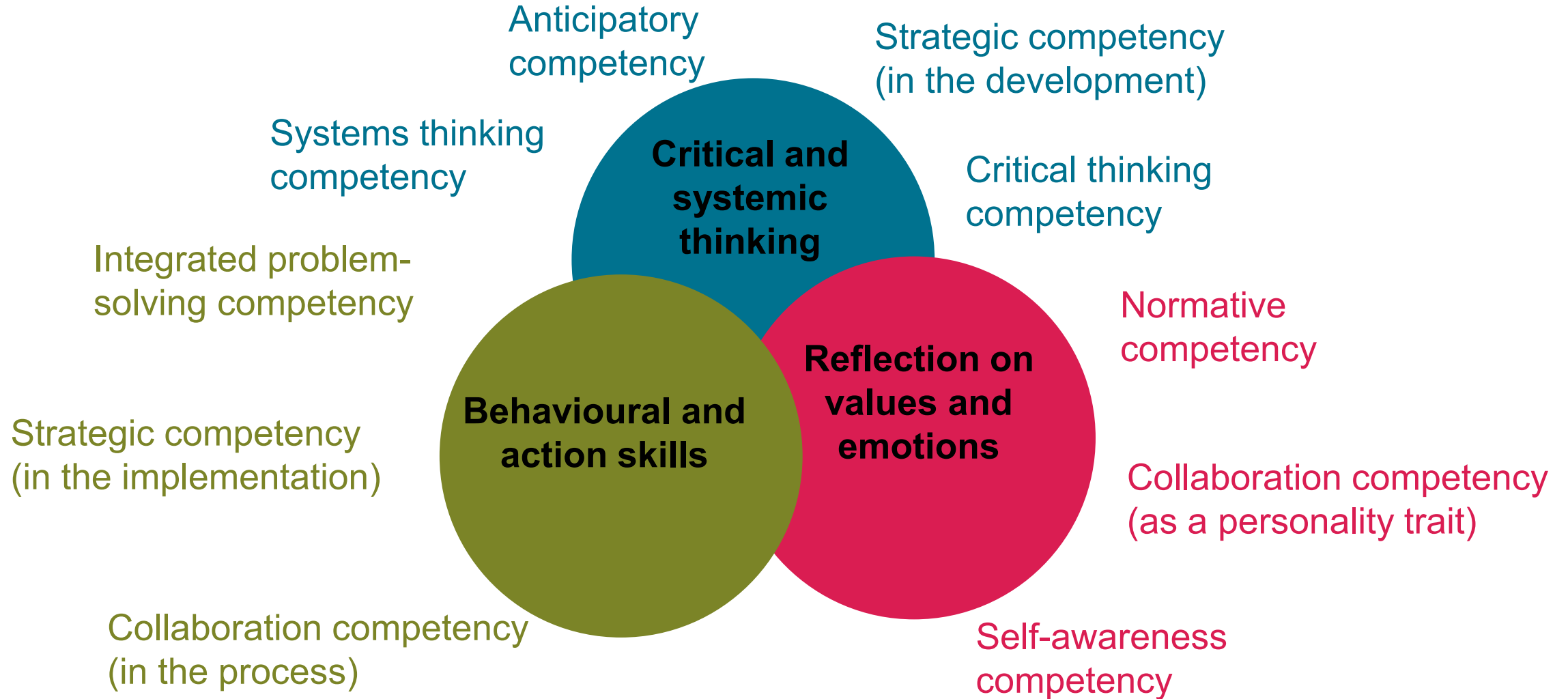
Skill Areas: From Pestalozzi ...



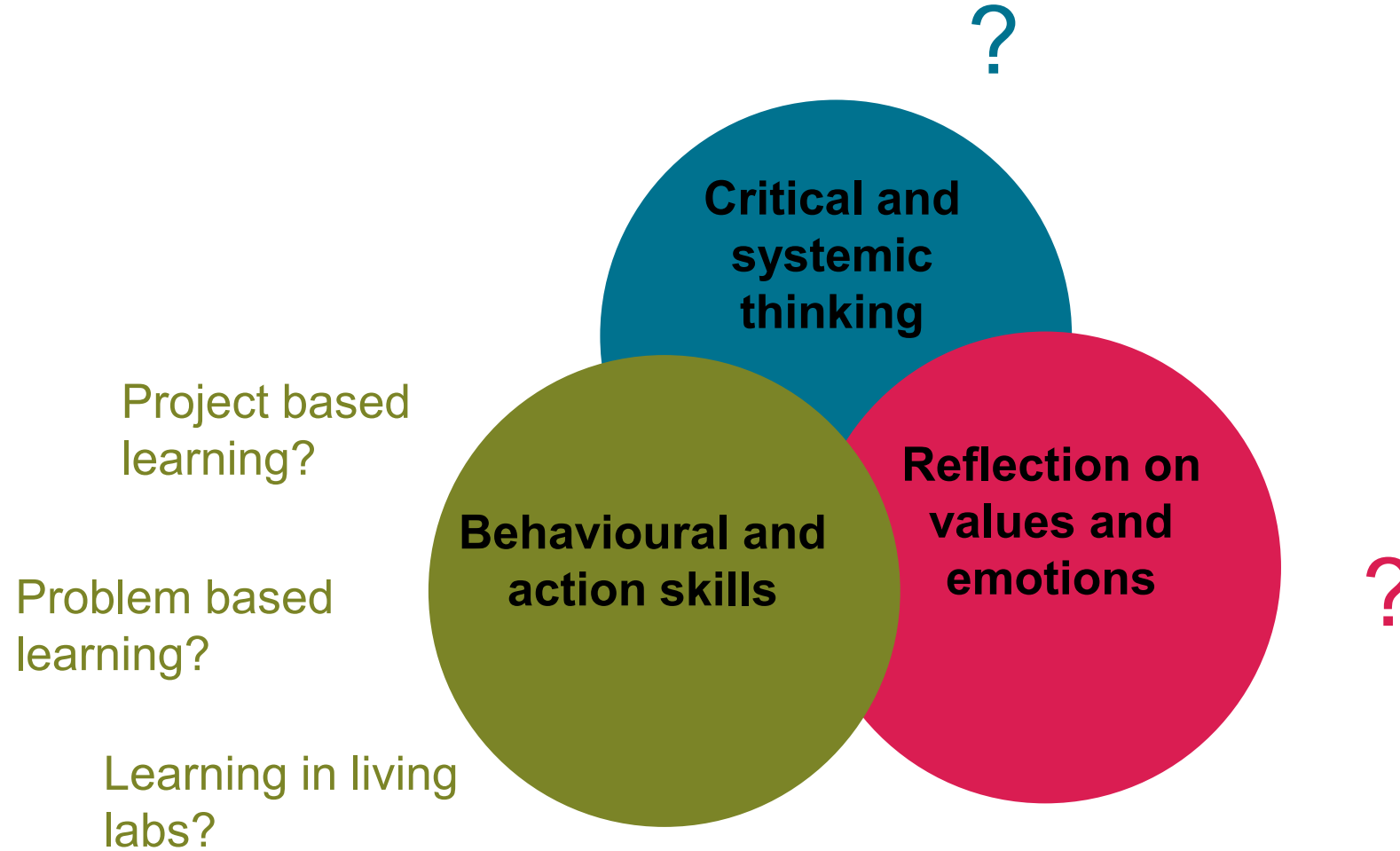
Skill Areas: ... to UNESCO



Sustainability Skills in the Areas



Learning Approaches to Promote Skills



Are Our Students Motivated?



SELF-DETERMINATION THEORY

HUMANS' THREE BASIC NEEDS

Competence

Be effective in
dealing with their
environment

Autonomy

Control to
course of their
lives

Relatedness

Have a close,
affectionate
relationship with
others



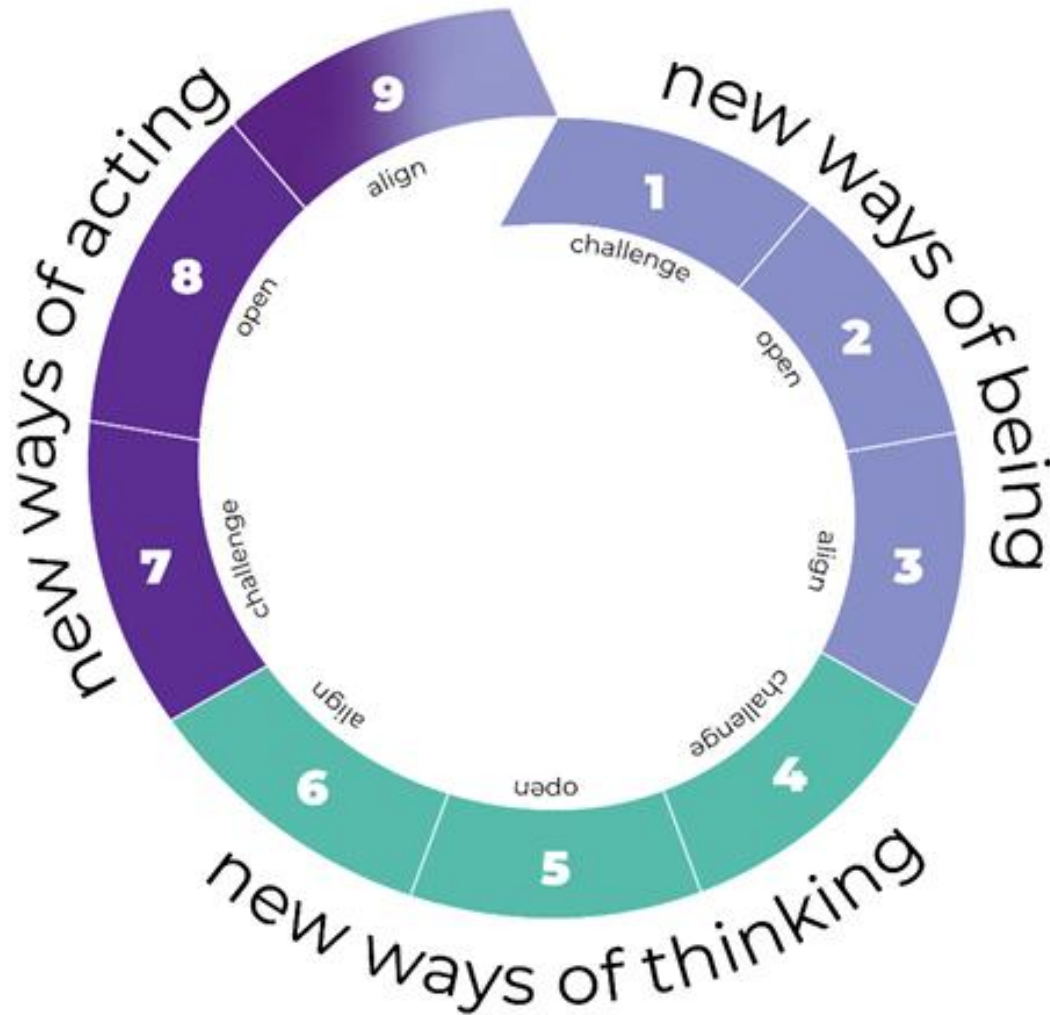
positive Effekte steigern

- Lebensqualität
- gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt
- Nachhaltigkeitsbewusstsein
- Qualität der Ökosysteme
- etc.

negative Effekte reduzieren

- Übernutzung der Ressourcen
- Emissionen, Abfälle
- Soziale Auswirkungen, z.B. Menschenrechtsverletzungen
- etc.

Transformative Learning



1. Endure disorientation
2. Open oneself to new meaning
3. Develop a new compass for action
4. Deconstruct old paradigms
5. Generate pluralistic knowledge
6. Create visions and strategies
7. Interact in a complex world
8. Experiment with transition pathways
9. Act responsibly

Transformative Learning Is Possible in Transfer and Cooperation Projects



- Learn disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge
- Promote important competencies for sustainability transformation
- Student's motivation
- Deep learning in real world context



Exchange

How can teaching and learning have a relevant impact on sustainability transformation?



1 Which learning formats are best suited to developing the competencies needed for the sustainability transition?

2 How, specifically, can students be involved in transfer and cooperation projects?

3 How can we ensure that everyone is able to learn: students, researchers/lecturers and partners from the practical world?

1

Which learning formats are best suited to developing the competencies needed for the sustainability transition?

2

How, specifically, can students be involved in transfer and cooperation projects?

3

How can we ensure that everyone is able to learn: students, researchers/lecturers and partners from the practical world?



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Recommendations



1. **Strategy:** Development and implementation of a third mission strategy on a national level by swissuniversities and at individual university level
2. **Framework conditions:** expand funding structures, resources and cross-university collaboration to strengthen the third mission, and in particular transfer and cooperation projects for the sustainability transformation; in state research and innovation funding, specifically promote transfer and cooperation projects for the sustainability transformation
3. **Approaches and projects:** start from a relevant sustainability challenge and tackle, implement and further develop it in an ambitious and scalable manner
4. **Understanding of transfer:** develop a transfer mindset at universities; involve practice partners right from the design stage and cooperate on an equal footing; strive for co-creation
5. **Students:** involve them more closely; involve more students through links with practical modules and utilize these for the practical acquisition of knowledge and the development of students' skills; harness students' potential and creativity through student projects

Inner Development Goals



 Being Cultivating Our Inner Life	 Thinking Understanding Our Complex World	 Relating Caring for Others and the World	 Collaborating Building Trust and Working Together	 Acting Leading and Enabling Change
Inner Compass	Critical Thinking	Appreciation	Relationship-Building Skills	Courage
Integrity & Authenticity	Perspective Skills	Connectedness	Inclusive Mindset & Intercultural Competence	Hope & Optimism
Openness & Learning Mindset	Systems Thinking	Humility	Co-creation Skills	Conscious Use of Resources
Self-Awareness	Long-term Orientation & Visioning	Empathy & Compassion	Communication Skills	Proactivity
Presence	Creativity	Forgiveness	Mobilization Skills	Resilience