



OST

Ostschweizer
Fachhochschule

Workshop A7 at Conference Teaching and Learning for Change: Sustainability in Higher Education

**Integrating Sustainability into Higher Education Teaching: Further
Developing Implementation Approaches and Frameworks**

1. September 2023

Sandra Haessig, Institut WERZ
Sandra Wilhelm, anders kompetent GmbH

FOEN research project

- On behalf of the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the [WERZ Institute](#) (Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (OST)) is evaluating in a research project how sustainability can be integrated into university teaching
- Based on a pre-study 2021 (carried out by the Institute WERZ)
 - Analysis of integration pathways for the implementation of environmental sustainability in university teaching
- Current research project 2021-2023:
 - 1st sub-project: Implementation of 3 pilot projects at the OST
 - 2nd sub-project: Derivation of adaptation possibilities and multipliers
- Survey at Swiss universities of applied sciences and universities
 - Collection of good examples

Presentation of the project team

Institut WERZ, OST Ostschweizer Fachhochschule

- Project management:
Cornelia Moser, Team leader and member of the institute management
- Project collaboration:
Sandra Haessig



Presentation of the project team

anders kompetent GmbH

- Supported by:
Sandra Wilhelm, Specialist for Education for
Sustainable Development



Content and goal of the Workshop

- **Content**

The results of a survey commissioned by the FOEN, in which Swiss universities participated, are presented in a short summary. The aim of the survey was to find examples of how to integrate sustainability in teaching and to draw conclusions in order to find optimal framework conditions.

- **Goal**

How can sustainability be effectively integrated into university teaching?

In small groups, the participants will further develop and concretise new or already identified implementation approaches for the integration of sustainability into university teaching based on framework conditions from the survey.

Workshop: Wishes/ideas from survey and evaluation by SUD 2023 participants

- Develop a competency framework for sustainability in teaching at Swiss universities
- Establish overarching elective/compulsory modules with ECTS credit (major/minor, etc.) in all departments/faculties of the university
- Uniform and central exchange
- Platform for teaching material and practical examples from Swiss universities
- ... or an idea of your own?

Workshop with 6-3-5 Method

- Choose one of the ideas from the survey and from the evaluation done by SUD 2023 participants.
- Question: Which three implementation steps do you think are necessary to start the project?
- Each person takes a sheet of paper and is the project leader for this idea.
- Each person now writes down three implementation steps that are necessary for this project to be implemented.
- Then rotate until each person has made additions on each sheet.

Conclusion: Project leader presents a summary of the steps

Summary of the workshop results

- Project ideas were not questioned, and the project ideas were perceived as relevant
- Numerous ideas have emerged on how these could be implemented with an 'Action Plan'
- Out of these ideas, these four points can be summarised as relevant:
 - Common understanding of sustainability
 - Identification of sustainability-specific problems as a starting point for a competence profile and as a subject in teaching (case studies, service learning)
 - Involvement of management, department management and students
 - Define project manager/committee
 - Define stakeholders or external organisation that will be responsible for monitoring and promotes integration (financial, personal resources)

Thank you for your participation!

For further information contact [Cornelia Moser](#), project leader and member of the institute management

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