University networking innovation to foster ESD
Interactive session – Day 1 (Wednesday, September 14th, 2016; 13:45 – 15.15)
Facilitator: Jana Dlouhá, Clemens Mader and Hilligje van't Land

Outcomes:

Membership benefit:
1. Connecting people
   • + different actors / profiles
2. Coordination / no more re-inventing the wheel
3. Impact on: values, ethics
4. Influencing policy (HE Treaty, HE message on COP21)

Ways and motivations for connecting people with each other:
• Regional → global level
  o Scaling up
• People work together because:
  o They know each other
  o They have a common benefit / goal / vision
  o They have an open space for discussion, sharing experiences, … (otherwise diminishing within the academic environment). → e.g. weekly coffee on some topic.
  o The networks can “bridge gaps” (e.g. for those who cannot attend)
• Stakeholders: leadership does not work (different stakeholders do not work together)
  o Engage stakeholders – connect companies etc. (show benefits)
  o Ecocampus case: network within the university (different groups cooperating inside an outside university)
  o Sustainability offices – internalization (work together in a network)

Processes, structures:
• Informal = dynamic, free, creative → generation of ideas → into practice
  o Motivation: know each other; interdisciplinary cooperation
  o Common interest: support each other
  o Co-creation = working together (product, service)
  o Bottom-up processes (driving force)

• → formal
  o Through some formality
    o Durability / continuity of networks

Networking driving forces:
• Core group vs. large group of people interested
  o Mutual support between networks

Examples:
• Sustainable entrepreneurship at BOKU
  o Lead = RCE

Scepticism about networks:
1. Against the autonomy of the institutions
2. Competition factor
3. Perceived as “social entrepreneurship”
4. Benefits?