

THE ESD MONITORING FRAMEWORK IN GERMANY

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The ESD Monitoring Framework in Germany - how to measure the impact of the Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP ESD)

The workshop was divided into two parts. Within the first, a 20 minutes input on the structure of the implementation of the GAP ESD in Germany and the responding Monitoring concept was presented by the session host. This aimed on the one hand to give the participants a brief overview of GAP ESD processes in Germany and on the other hand on discussing and getting feedback on the monitoring concept. Interesting comments and hints were given concerning as well other monitoring projects (for example the German Project MaResS).

The second part aimed to identify central or most effective Leverage Points (regarding the concept of Meadows 1999) to implement and to mainstream ESD in the Higher Education System/Institutions (HEI). Participatory the group has chosen to focus on the system of single HEI, because each participant could bring in his/her own practical and theoretical experience within their own institution. We discussed more generally about implementing Sustainability into HEI. ESD was discussed as a part of this process.

Followed by a brainstorming slot on Leverage Points for (E)SD in HEI, the group discussed on most relevant leverage points and linked afterwards these leverage points.

Outcomes of this discussion:

- Leverage Points are often system specific. They are depending status quo/level each HEI is with regard to implementation or commitment to (E)SD.
- Each HEI should clarify/discuss in the first place their definition and their goals for (E)SD in Higher Education for their own institution.
- A combination and interplay of Leverage Points were seen as crucial to bring (E)SD into the HEI system. No single Leverage Point will reorient the system of HEI towards Sustainability.
- As most relevant Leverage Points were discusses:
 - Commitment or at least no refusal of the top level: Presidents do not need to be the driver of the process to reorient the HEI to Sustainability, but they need to be open to that new idea).
 - Resources: it was seen as highly relevant to provide actors, willing to implement (E)SD in their HEI, with space, time and money (for example funded coordinating positions) to make and keep structural changes.
 - Structures and information flow structures: for example possibilities for networking/committees/working groups/ information systems etc. on (E)SD integrating all stakeholders of an HEI. Networks outside the own HEI system are relevant to bring (E)SD forward, because the provide actors with new ideas and motivation to implement (E)SD (knowing not to work as a single person for ESD is

highly motivating).

The group of discussants comprised students, young and experienced researchers. We had a small plenary discussion instead of a world café.

What would I do different as a session host: the input part took too much time. In addition to discuss Leverage Points in just one group (7 persons) more time was needed to get into an interactive discussion. So, splitting the group up would have probably provoke a more interactive discussion from the beginning. Besides, it was from my perspective a very fruitful session with interesting outcomes using the approach of Meadows' Leverage Points on HEI.