
University Course “Education for Sustainable Development – Innovations in Teacher Education” (BINE)

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Sustainable Development & Education

- Sustainable Development – a regulative idea (Kant 1787/Homann 1996)
- Uncertainty is a consistent element
- Contradictions, dilemmas and conflicting targets need to be constantly re-negotiated between participants in different areas in each and every concrete situation (Minsch 2000)
- Such discourse and reflection offers a fertile ground for education and action research (Rauch 2016)

Main Principles of „BINE“

- Equal emphasis is put on theoretical-methodical foundation and learning from own practical experiences
- Projects on Sustainable Development and research activities in teacher education are related to each other (Action Research)

Participants

- Teacher educators from
 - Pedagogical Universities
 - Variety of subjects are represented (including specialised didactics and instructional practice)
- Teachers (since last course only)

Structure of „BINE“

- In-service training
- Lead by a team
- Three seminars (3-5 days each)
- Regional working groups
- Individual research projects (AR)
- Certificate (indiv. performance profile)
- Part of „Professional Academy“ (Master of Arts in Education)

Overview of the course

- **1st Module:**
What is SD? Participants explore the local surroundings and create their own understanding of SD;
Introduction into AR
- **2nd Module:**
International perspectives of ESD;
Workshops on teaching strategies of ESD and research methods;
- **3rd Module:**
Exploring institutional frameworks meeting ESD;
Mini workshops of participants about topics of their case-studies; How to publish result?
- **Regional working groups:**
Exchange and mutual support for individual projects and case studies

Module 1: Learning in a sustainable community

- Participants (in groups) research sustainability initiatives in the region of the seminar location (i.e. a farm, community, tourist area, school, the seminar hotel itself)
- Semi-structural instructional setting
- Different research methods are used (i.e. pictures, interviews, questionnaires)
- Presentation of groupwork
- Development of working definition of SD and ESD by participants
- Reflection of the learning process



Siegfriedslechner

180 neue Arbeitsplätze

1500 alte Biomasse mit 2000 m²

Revitalisierte Häuser + Kirche

T Tischlereienverbund

Enge Gassen

Nachhaltigkeit

45 Häuser, 1000 m² Fläche

Heizwerke

Elektriker

Wasser - Steyr

E Erwärmte Aktivitäten

C Coiffeur

A Alten Pfarrhof

B Biomasse

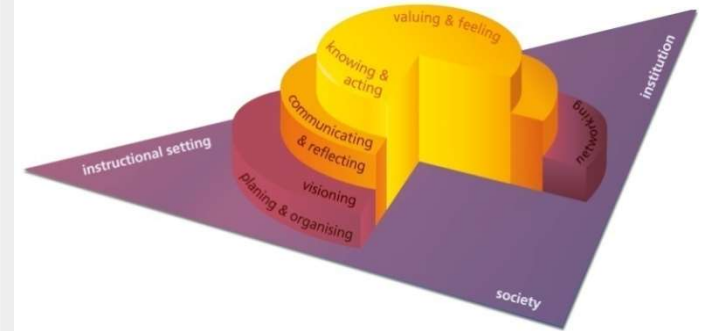
G Glützen

EVALUATION

Regional Working Groups

- Between the seminars participants meet in small regional groups
- Mutual exchange and support („critical friends“, analytical discourse) on
- projects, case studies, different themes of the seminars ...
- a team member leads the group
- Learning and research community

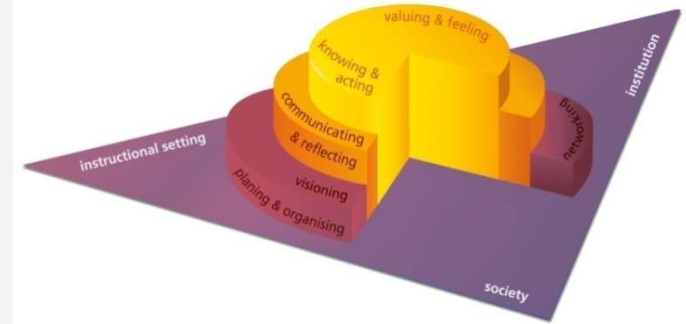
Valueing, Feeling & Knowing



- The process oriented learning concept of the course tries to integrate these aspects
- research initiatives at Module 1
- Workshops on methods for ESD (i.e. Future conference) at Module 2

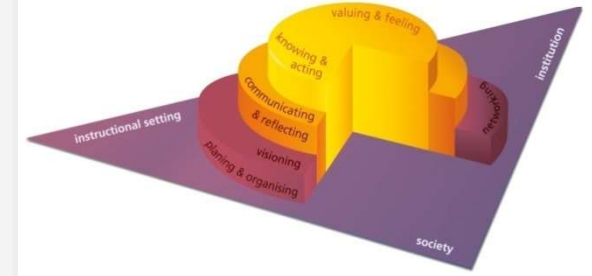


Communicating & reflecting



- Reflection phases at the seminars (i.e. diary writing)
- Seminar feedback
- Regional groups
- Mini-workshops where participants present their studies at Module 3
- Writing workshop (writing as reflection)
- Team uses a reflective working concept with ongoing planning (i.e. reflective team at evening time)

Planning, organising & networking



- Practice phases: action Research projects at their own institution
- Challenge of networking within one's own organisation while implementing an ESD initiative
- Regional groups develop as networks
- Networking with other initiatives in the field (i.e. ECO-Schools)

Evaluation Concept

- Formative and summative evaluation
- Internal components
 - Questionnaires
 - Written and oral feedback
- External components
 - Group interviews with participants

Some reflections on the course

- BINE has developed into a learning community: The participant-centered and process-oriented approach towards SD/ESD supports a personal learning journey among all people involved (participants and trainers)
- BINE offers basic competences to conduct action research (as part of the learning journey)
- BINE supports a variety of trials to connect ESD with teaching and organizational development
- Current international developments (like SDG, GAP) and national contexts (like new curricular in TED) support implementation of ESD
- BINE received the Sustainability Award in Austria 2016