

# University networking innovation to foster ESD

Interactive session – Day 1 (Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 13:45 – 15.15)

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

Processes, structures:

- Informal = dynamic, free, creative → generation of ideas → into practice
  - Motivation: know each other; interdisciplinary cooperation
  - Common interest: support each other
  - Co-creation = working together (product, service)
  - **Bottom-up processes (driving force)**
- → formal
  - Through some formality
  - **Durability / continuity of networks**
- Networking driving forces:
  - Core group vs. large group of people interested
  - **Mutual support between networks**
- Examples:
  - Sustainable entrepreneurship at BOKU
  - Lead = RCE

Scepticism about networks:

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