

Creating a Supportive Environment for Transformative Research at Universities

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The workshop aimed at collecting ideas on transformative research (TR) in regard to the superordinate question "What can be done to support TR in our universities?". After an input of Mandy Singer-Brodowski we brainstormed and discussed along six questions – und the premise that TR should not replace current research approaches, but should develop as an additional approach. The workshop resulted in a number of insights, among which the following were ranked highest:

- TR can contribute to a sustainable development in Europe by changing the way of knowledge production and showing how science is accountable to society.
- The current science system itself, with disciplines as power systems and missing cooperation) and the focus on (disciplinary, competitive) excellence, is the main barrier in establishing TR at universities.
- In order to strengthen TR it needs support from top-down and from bottom-up, a broad participation of / discussion among all university members, evaluation criteria that account for the "societal impact" of research and rewards for research that fulfils these criteria. Moreover it needs support from society and a call for TR from society. Last but not least, according monetary funds are necessary.
- At the level of universities, TR can be supported by providing "space" for TR (as time, money, rewards, room, etc.), enlarging the group of stakeholders that is integrated in research and by balancing academic knowledge and practical experiences – also in teaching.
- In order to personally contribute to supporting TR at universities, one can build alliances and networks and raise awareness for the need of TR at universities. Students can play an important rule by demanding TR from their teachers.

The group of discussants comprised students, young and experienced researchers. The GIVE-method as a collective brainstorming proved were helpful. Thanks a lot for the very positive and productive meeting.