

Conference in Bern, 1st of September 2023 - Call for Contribution

Teaching and Learning for Change: Sustainability in Higher Education

Conference description

The Focus of this Conference is laid on the integration of topics, perspectives, mindsets and learning methods of sustainable development into Bachelor's and Master's degree programs - in the sense of "Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education (ESD)".¹

Since teaching/learning approaches of ESD are virtually all interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, they involve transfer, i.e. cooperation with practice partners, learning together and learning from each other in student learning and applied research projects.

In addition to the promotion of knowledge and understanding of sustainable development and the promotion of competencies for sustainable development, ESD also focuses on "transformative learning theory", which aims to encourage reflection of values, attitudes, thought patterns and emotions of participants.²

Goals

The Conference has following goals in particular:

- To provide a platform for, and promote connection between initiatives and projects at Swiss Higher Education Institutions
- To receive and use important impulses from the International Higher Education Community with the goal of receiving an outside perspective which can spark new and scale up existing projects
- Promote exchange between lecturers, heads of study programs, sustainability units, higher education didactics and representatives of university faculties and departments, university management, students and university administrations of different Higher Education Institutions
- To encourage inter- and transdisciplinary learning among stakeholders to foster a culture of collaboration and innovation in possible transfer projects

Target Groups

The following groups of people from universities, universities of applied sciences and universities of teacher education are invited:

- Lecturers and heads of study programs
- Employees of sustainability departments who deal with teaching and employees of university didactics departments who deal with ESD.
- Representatives of faculty, departmental and university management
- Committed students
- NGOs involved in Higher Education

Contributions: Workshop

At the conference, two separate 1-hour slots are reserved for interactive Workshops. Lecturers, researchers in the field of ESD, ESD practitioners, faculty and departmental developers, students, NGO's and sustainability officers are invited to submit a contribution for carrying out an engaging Workshop. The Contribution should optimally fill a whole 1-hour time slot. It is, however, also possible to submit a 30 min Workshop. Then two contributions would be presented in a 1-hour slot.

¹ Leicht, A., Heiss, J., & Byun, W. J. (2018). *Issues and trends in education for sustainable development* (Vol. 5). UNESCO publishing.

² UNESCO (2019). *Teaching and Learning Transformative Engagement*. UNESCO publishing.

The Contributions should cover one of the following four topic areas and should also fit into one of the three different workshop types described here:

Topic areas for workshops

- A **ESD practice:** Integration of topics, aspects, ways of thinking and values of sustainable development into courses, modules and study programs; teaching/learning methods that promote action competence; competences relevant to sustainability, global citizenship education, change maker education, climate change education
- B **Transfer practice:** communication and exchange with non-university actors on sustainable development, joint projects with non-university actors, community-based research, service learning, cooperate engagement, real labs, living labs, citizen science
- C **Research on ESD and transfer:** learning-psychological, andragogical and didactic foundations, impact evaluation, learning success and competence development; success factors and barriers, evaluation research and monitoring
- D **Strategy and governance:** sustainability strategy, third mission, integration of sustainable development and ESD in the study programs; promotion of knowledge and competences of lecturers; promotion of transfer for sustainable development; funding and financial support

Workshop type (status of the project)

- 1st **Project completed and evaluated:** Present approach, project, results, evaluation and learnings, discuss critically, contribute experiences from other projects, outline possible follow-up projects, check cooperation
- 2nd **Project underway:** Present approach, project and preliminary results and learnings, discuss critically, contribute experiences from other projects, outline possible follow-up projects, check cooperation
- 3rd **Project planned:** Present approach and planned project, obtain feedback, discuss critically, contribute experiences from other projects, check cooperation

Contributions: Marketplace

We warmly invite lecturers, researchers, students, and practitioners in the field of ESD and transfer to submit their contributions for the Marketplace. Your contribution will be presented at a stand, and you are encouraged to use any format that best represents your work, such as a table, poster, digital display, or speed consultations. We invite you to submit contributions that relate to the focus and the goals of this conference. The Marketplace provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your work, interact with attendees, and connect with like-minded individuals. We look forward to receiving your submissions and presenting your contributions at the conference.

Questions to answer

Workshop + Marketplace Contributions:

Target Audience: Who is your target audience? Who do you want to reach with your Contribution? What are the interests of your target audience?

Goals of the Contribution: What specific outcomes do you want to achieve with your contribution? How will your contribution benefit your target audience?

Contribution Description: How would you describe your contribution? (max. 1500 Characters)

Additional Questions for Workshop Contributions:

Interaction with audience: As the contribution is meant to be interactive, how do you want to foster interaction with the audience? What methods do you use to encourage interaction?

Questions to ask the audience: What are questions you have for your audience?

Selection Criteria

When evaluating contributions for our conference, we carefully consider several criteria. Our first priority is high-quality submissions that meet a higher education standard. Additionally, we value contributions that engage with the audience and encourage conversation. We also assess the relevance of the topic to our audience's interests and needs, considering both timeliness and importance. Lastly, we review the completeness and quality of answers provided in the contribution form on our website. In addition to these criteria, we ensure that each contribution aligns with the conference's goals and topics, ensuring that they add value to our attendees' experience. By carefully evaluating submissions against these criteria, we can ensure that the accepted contributions meaningfully contribute to our conference and meet our audience's expectations.

Languages

Contributions can be in English, German, French or Italian

Deadlines

Submit contribution by **May 31, 2023**

Confirmation of acceptance by **June 29, 2023**

More information and submission of the contributions: www.he-sustainability.ch/call-for-contributions

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@he-sustainability.ch

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