

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



2014

Award-winning
Projects



MINISTERIUM
FÜR EIN
LEBENSWERTES
ÖSTERREICH

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THE SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



The Austrian Sustainability Award is an integral part of the Austrian Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development and puts sustainability on the agenda of all Austrian universities. The award helps to make sustainability not only part of the mission statement but more importantly, of everyday university life. It adds visibility to already existing projects by ambitious and committed pioneers and fosters internal networking and coordination of these projects by the university as a whole, thus embedding sustainability more strongly in the overall university culture. Furthermore, it encourages the systematic exchange of good practice between the institutions of higher education and makes them aware that sustainability is a core dimension of university development all over the world.



Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Andr  Rupprechter



**MINISTERIUM
F R EIN
LEBENSWERTES
 STERREICH**

The Sustainability Award has been awarded in total four times since 2008. Whereas at the first award 41 projects were submitted, there were already as many as 82 in 2014. This doubling has shown impressively that sustainability has arrived at universities, practically-oriented post-secondary educational institutes, and teacher training colleges. At individual pioneer universities efforts towards sustainable development play an important role and serve to sharpen their profiles. It has become a matter of course that these universities submit projects in almost all categories. At other universities sustainability is at least of importance in individual sectors. The total number of 245 submissions in the course of the past 6 years has shown that the intention of the award to cast a light at universities on the interdisciplinary matter of sustainable development in its various dimensions and to put particularly successful projects in the limelight has proved to be a complete success.

As training institutions of future generations, and as a driving force of scientific insight, Austrian universities and other post-secondary educational institutions have seized the opportunity to take up their institutional responsibility for a social and environmentally benign development on a broad basis. This has happened by means of inter- and trans-disciplinary research and teaching and has contributed certainly decisively to the increase in the level of social acceptance of the principle of sustainability. Apart from this leading role in the development and execution of an ethically oriented way of generating and imparting knowledge the institution university has also been called upon to internalise innovative and sustainable processes as a learning organisation. An economical way of dealing with resour-

es, the promotion of environmentally-benign mobility, and the reduction of barriers for people with special needs were just a few interdisciplinary topics calling for cooperation and communication of all university stakeholders (students, administrative staff, teaching and research) in order to meet the comprehensive requirements of a "sustainable university". But also in their regional and international cooperations, universities and other institutions of post-secondary education could provide, internally, as well as externally important impulses in the fields of environment, social affairs, and the economy.

Sustainable development is a key question for the future of an Austria worth living in. Science and research are indispensable in this respect. The rising number of submissions and the quality of the projects and initiatives at all fields of action show clearly that the universities, practically-oriented post-secondary educational institutions and teacher training colleges take their responsibility seriously and send out the principle of sustainability into the society.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Andr  Rupprechter'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Yours, Andr  Rupprechter
Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
and Water Management



Federal Minister of Science,
Research and Economy
Reinhold Mitterlehner

The “UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005–2014”, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, is an invitation to concern ourselves with the many complex issues associated with this subject and to contribute to the realisation of sustainable development. In the contexts of sustainability and the environment, in particular, science and research play an important role in enabling human beings to shape a future in which life is worth living and resources are conserved.

At the same time, education for sustainable development at tertiary institutions should open up new perspectives on the manifold possibilities offered by a globalised, networked world. The integration of sustainability into education not only concerns the subject matter that is taught, but also necessitates the development of new forms and methods of teaching and learning as well as the further development of existing ones that are worth rediscovering. This ongoing learning process is by no means a static requirement, but rather calls for continuous development and adaptation to challenges as they arise.

The tertiary education sector, comprising, as it does, the institutions of education of our future policy makers and the centres of pioneering research, is aware of its special responsibility in this societal transformation process towards sustainable development and is intensifying its efforts to meet that responsibility. The 82 projects submitted for consideration for the Sustainability Award 2014 are welcome proof that our universities, universities of applied sciences, private universities and universities of teacher education are embracing new challenges and contributing to the solution of a

variety of problems through many different initiatives. The projects presented here are superbly thought-out processes that offer other institutions valuable suggestions and incentives for the implementation of their own ideas in the broad field of sustainable development. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the candidates for their participation, their commitment and their creativity, and invite everyone to contribute to the further development of this important field.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reinhold Mitterlehner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Dr. Reinhold Mitterlehner
Federal Minister of Science, Research and Economy

The Austrian Sustainability Award for Universities

■ History and Background

The Austrian Sustainability Award is a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Ministry of Science and Research and was established in 2007 as a means of promoting and increasing awareness for sustainability processes within Austrian universities. After a starting phase of networking and communication with the relevant stakeholders, the project supports pioneers in this field by organizing a nationwide "Sustainability Award" for higher education institutions as an incentive for sustainable higher education every two years.

For Austria, the innovation was to link a publicity related approach with an internal learning process and benchmarking. The award was also the first approach to connect different (and separated) sustainability initiatives among various universities. The award is coordinated by "Environmental education FORUM", an agency specialising in Education for Sustainable Development.

■ Characteristics

The Austrian Sustainability Award exhibits a whole-institution approach. Thus, it is addressed to a large target group consisting of students, teachers, staff, administration and regional stakeholders. University-wide sustainability is understood as a process of participatory and reflective learning characterized by several alternative routes.

It does not target individual or one-time projects, but instead recognizes long-term processes and improve-

ments that mirror the internal learning and formation processes of the institution as a whole, concerning eight very different aspects of university organisation. A project in each of the eight categories receives an Austrian Sustainability Award. The categories are:

1. Administration and Management,
2. Curriculum and Instruction,
3. Research,
4. Structural Implementation,
5. Communication and Decision-making,
6. Student Initiatives,
7. Regional Cooperation,
8. International Cooperation.

For each of these categories, a series of guiding questions was developed to help applicants locate their initiatives within these different aspects. Participation, learning and innovation should be at the very heart of these initiatives.

An interdisciplinary jury of sustainability experts (from science and research, business, culture and media) decides on the winner in each of the eight categories. The first award ceremony took place in March 2008, the second in March 2010 and the third in April 2012.

■ 2014: Retrospection and Outlook

Until 2007, many Austrian university initiatives for sustainable development were isolated and did not get the necessary support from their administration. Inviting the whole university (from the president and vice-president downwards) to take part in the award competi-

tion led to 41 applications by 13 universities in 2008. In 2010, 17 universities submitted projects. Interestingly enough, the number of submissions stayed roughly the same (45), because of much more internal coordination within the universities. The further increase from 77 projects from 22 Austrian universities in 2012 to 82 projects from 32 institutions in 2014 – twice as many projects and universities than 2008! – shows that sustainability has "arrived" at Austrian higher education.

Simultaneously to this year's award, an "Image Video" was produced, presenting eight of the past and current winner projects of the Sustainability Award. This video symbolizes a lasting and visible contribution to and proof of the achievements made throughout the UN-Decade for "Education for Sustainable Development" and is published via the project's website. Accordingly, the examples presented on the following pages document the broad variety of initiatives and the manifold possibilities of how sustainability can be implemented in everyday's university life and beyond. For more information, please visit the homepage:

www.nachhaltige-uni.at

or

www.umweltbildung.at/english/initiatives/sustainability-award.html

Sustainable Economics and Business

Applicant:
Vienna University of Economics and Business

Nachhaltigkeit im Grundstudium
„Zukunftsfähiges Wirtschaften“ – Lernen und Lehre an der WU



The undergraduate study programme provides knowledge about the social and ecological impact of economic activities. The aim is to enhance the ability to think and act sustainably. The programme comprises a lecture series complemented by seminars. Each semester, about 3000 students from all study programmes attend the lecture series. An interdisciplinary team introduces the main themes of sustainability research. The complementary seminars are mandatory in the second part of the undergraduate programmes, e.g. in Business Administration. Their aim is to provide interactive learning environments. The seminars are held by academic teachers and representatives of relevant stakeholders alike. Currently, up to 900 students attend a total of 30 seminars each semester.

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Doctoral Program „Urban Energy and Mobility System“

Applicant:
Vienna University of Technology



The aim is to research and develop scenarios for the way to a „sustainable, supply safe, affordable and livable city“. The first case study will be the city of Vienna. Starting in the winter semester 2013/2014 10 students will receive grants to participate in a doctoral program, employing them at TU Vienna for a period of three years with the aim of jointly considering new methods to improve the interdisciplinary understanding for the cities of the future . Students will conceive, develop and test sustainable strategies and technologies and new scientific methods , e.g. in the areas of energy consumption and mobility patterns, the renovation of existing buildings or the planning of ICT structures for the control of urban energy supply.

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The doctoral program has been created as part of the cooperation between the Vienna University of Technology and Wiener Stadtwerke, one of the largest Austrian energy and mobility providers. The synergies from the integration of science and practice are beneficial to the partners, the researchers and young scientists alike.

Sustainable Urban Development – Facility Management & Real Estate Management WinterSchool



Applicant:
**University of Applied
Sciences Kufstein**

The FM & REM Winter School for international master and bachelor degree students at the University of Applied Sciences Kufstein was offered for the first time in 2012. The special feature of the Kufstein WinterSchool is the link between research, business and education.

between research, business and education.

The sustainable development of buildings or parts of the city is the general topic. The special area of research changes annually: Revitalization of old barracks, sustainable devolvement of an old hotel, or the planning of a new building next to a hospital while using the same infrastructure. The international students learn to work in teams, to reflect critically and learn to think in holistic, interdisciplinary as well as sustainable terms.

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Classes of Change

Applicant:
Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt



Out of dissatisfaction with the teaching content and settings in school and at university, an experimental class with the central subject “Change born of necessity” was started. The class has now been held for two years as a cooperative effort between the student union in Klagenfurt and the Institute for Intervention Research and Cultural Sustainability (IKN) of the IFF faculty. In order to

highlight experiences which relate to our changing society and to develop students’ conceptual and organisational competence, the design of the class is based on the learning community approach, which provides room for self-organised, collective learning. In addition to determining the goals, content and experts required, together with the form and quality of the target outcomes and their achievement, the students make use of the teaching and research expertise of the IKN in the organisation and supervision of collective learning processes. The specific aspects with regard

to sustainability exist on three dimensions: learning sustainably (system knowledge), competences for sustainable development (compass-like, orientational knowledge) and societal transformation (process knowledge).

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Energy Efficiency Guideline

Applicant:
University of Innsbruck



The Leopold-Franzens-University of Innsbruck is, committed in a joint project with the BIG and other partners, committed to the target of reducing energy consumption drastically, efficiently and permanently. After a rough initial assessment of all buildings and their energy consumption, the objects with the highest potential for energy reduction were found. The next step was to perform fine analysis

and create a list of measures in the field of lighting and heating. Particularly the list of measures to modernize lighting has already brought very good results due to its transparent project documentation and information. To date, the university has already converted more than 4,100 light bulbs to LED technology, with energy consumption reduced specifically by up to 75%, depending on the place and control.

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Ethify Yourself

Applicant:
Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences



People live according to different values. The more diverse, the more tolerance people need to invest to get along. Historically, there have been repeated attempts to teach values, by fiat, conventions and basic laws. Companies go through so-called corporate image processes to define their value systems. Various crises have provoked calls for a global debate on values. The

Ethify values represent a reasonable lifestyle, free from any denomination. Ethical behaviour strengthens communities, shows respect for the earth and gives meaning to our lives. The Ethify value catalogue offers a current orientation and training for everyday life, for business or organizations. Derived from human rights, bid values and virtues, the team has distilled nine, with a claim to validity for a broad culture. The Ethify Yourself project has developed various media, including an online book, a Wikibook, an eBook, a printed book, a Facebook App, a Twitter feed and a browser

game called „Ethify Your Buddies“. The online portal „ethify.org“ has counted more than 100.000 unique visitors since project start (without search engine crawlers). Various initiatives are using the platform to communicate their activities.

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Sustainicum Collection

Applicants:

**University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna,
University of Graz, Graz University of Technology**



The Sustainicum Collection, a collaborative project by BOKU Vienna, KFU Graz, and TU Graz, aims to introduce sustainability topics into higher education. With the help of innovative teaching methods, new teaching resources will help to experience systems thinking and basic natural science and technical concepts, regardless of the course of study. The basic terms and concepts of sustainability are explained in appealing ways. At sustainicum.at, lecturers can use key words to find resources. Each teaching module consists of a tool (device, experiment, game, or simulation) and a recommendation for use in the lecture, and many include opportunities for students to participate interactively. Currently, over 100 teaching

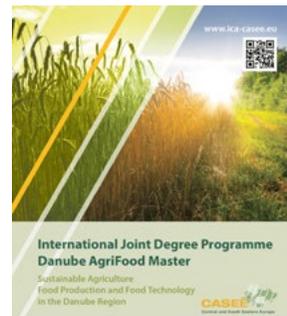
modules are available, and new materials can be submitted continuously.

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The International Joint Master Program “Sustainability in Agriculture, Food Production and Food Technology in the Danube Region”



Applicant:

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna

The international Master “Sustainability in Agriculture, Food production and Food technology in the Danube Region” is a joint degree by BOKU (Austria) and St István University (SZIE, HU), with contributions (courses, MSc thesis supervision, summer schools) from Corvinus University Budapest (HU), CULS (CZ), WULS (PL), University of Zagreb (HR), University Novi Sad (SR), Slovak Agricultural University Nitra (SK), and USAM-

VBT Timisoara (RO). The first semester can only be spent at BOKU or SZIE; the second+third semester at one of the consortia members and the fourth semester at BOKU or SZIE. Students have to study at least at three different universities and to complete two summer schools.

The International Joint Master (in English) offers a unique and competent response to issues like climate change, and protection and promotion of livelihoods in and for the Danube region..

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www.boku.ac.at/fileadmin/_/mitteilungsblatt/MB_2012_13/MB23/Curriculum_Sustainability_in_Agriculture__Food_Production_AH_Fo.pdf

2ND AND 3RD PLACES IN THE EIGHT CATEGORIES

■ Category Curriculum and Instruction

2nd **Postgraduate Program „CSR & Ethical Management“** | University of Applied Sciences bfi Vienna

web: <http://fh-vie.ac.at/en/Degree-Programmes/Postgraduate-Programmes/MSc-CSR-ethical-Management>

3rd **Master's Degree „Green Care - Plant and Animal based Interventions in Pedagogy, Counselling and Therapy“** | Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik

web: www.agrarumweltpaedagogik.ac.at/index.php/faecher/masterstudiengaenge/20-green-care.html

■ Category Research

2nd **„Climate Change Center Austria (CCCA)“** | Inter-university project

web: <http://cca.boku.ac.at/?lang=en>

3rd **„ENUR - energy in urban space“** | Vienna University of Technology

web: <http://enur.project.tuwien.ac.at/>

■ Category Structural Implementation

2nd **Master's degree “Environmental and Sustainability Management”** | IMC University of Applied Sciences Krems

web: www.fh-krems.ac.at/en/studying/master/environmental-and-sustainability-management/overview/

3rd **„Eco-social market economy and sustainability“** | Pädagogische Hochschule OÖ

web: www.ph-ooe.at/hlt.html

■ Category Student Initiatives

2nd **„Collective Energy“** | Center for Global Change and Sustainability, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

web: www.boku.ac.at/en/wissenschaftliche-initiativen/zentrum-fuer-globalen-wandel-nachhaltigkeit/

3rd **„oikos Vienna – students for sustainable economics and management“** | Vienna University of Economics and Business

web: <http://oikos-international.org/vienna/>

■ Category Administration and Management

2nd **„Competence Center for Sustainability“** | Vienna University of Economics and Business

web: www.wu.ac.at/sustainabilitycenter

3rd **„Reconstruction of building BA and redevelopment as a plus-energy office building“** | Vienna University of Technology

Web: www.tuwien.ac.at/en/tuwien_home/

■ Category Communication and Decision-making

2nd **„Communication and Reporting on Sustainability“** | University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna

web: www.boku.ac.at/en/nachhaltigkeit/

3rd **„Governance of complex and fast future development“** | University of Salzburg

web: www.uni-salzburg.at/index.php?id=52&L=1

■ Category Regional Cooperation

2nd **„Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria“** | Inter-university project

web: www.boku.ac.at/wissenschaftliche-initiativen/zentrum-fuer-globalen-wandel-nachhaltigkeit/themen/nachhaltigkeit/boku-akteurinnen-und-kooperationen/allianz-nachhaltiger-universitaeten-in-oesterreich/

3rd **Bachelor's Degree „Sustainable Food Management“** | University of Applied Sciences FH JOANNEUM

web: www.fh-joanneum.at/aw/home/Studienangebot_Uebersicht/department_engineering/~cizq/leb/?lan=en

■ Category International Cooperation

2nd **„SUPERCITY! An international series of symposiums on the future of the city“** | University of Art and Design Linz

Web: www.ufg.ac.at/index.php?id=1144&L=1

3rd **„University Educators for Sustainable Development“** | Inter-university project

web: <http://regional-centre-of-expertise.uni-graz.at/en/>