

Sustainability Integration & Regional Cooperation at University of Graz



The University as Business Institution



How did we at Graz University face the theme of social responsibility and what results have we achieved so far?

22.000 Students

3.000 Staff

6 Faculties

Possible Approaches in Detail...

- 
- ✚ Moral and ethic obligation as univeristy → education of decission makers & research for development
 - ✚ **Education** (Curricula, Bologna-Process)
 - ✚ **Research** (Reserach for Sustainable Development, ethical Standards, Inter-, Transdisciplinarity, Cooperations)
 - ✚ **Environment** (Energy standards, Emmissions, Water- & Waste Management, Mobility)
 - ✚ **Economy** (Fair Income, Investments)
 - ✚ **Social** (regional Integration, Health & Security, Equality, Lifelong Learning)
 - ✚ **Management** (Structural Integration of Sustainability, Participation)

Sustainability Process: University Graz

- 
- ✚ Initiative to raise awareness for SD is based on:
 - the „grass root“ student organisation oikos Graz
 - University Management supports Sustainability Strategy
 - Education – Bacc. & MSc Environmental System Science
 - Research – Sd. Urban and Regional Development
 - Management: Sustainability Task Force implements SD in all university sectors

So far Activities

USW Studies
1991

**Copernicus
Charta**
1993

oikos Graz
2002

**Sustainability
Library**
2002



**Newsletter
Sustainability**
2003

**SD Strategy f.
University**
2004

**Int. Stud. Conf.
Sust. in HE**
2004

**Task Force
SUG**
2004

**UN DESD Conf
Graz Declaration**
2005

SD Report
2006

RCE Graz-Styria
2006

OECD Workshop
2007

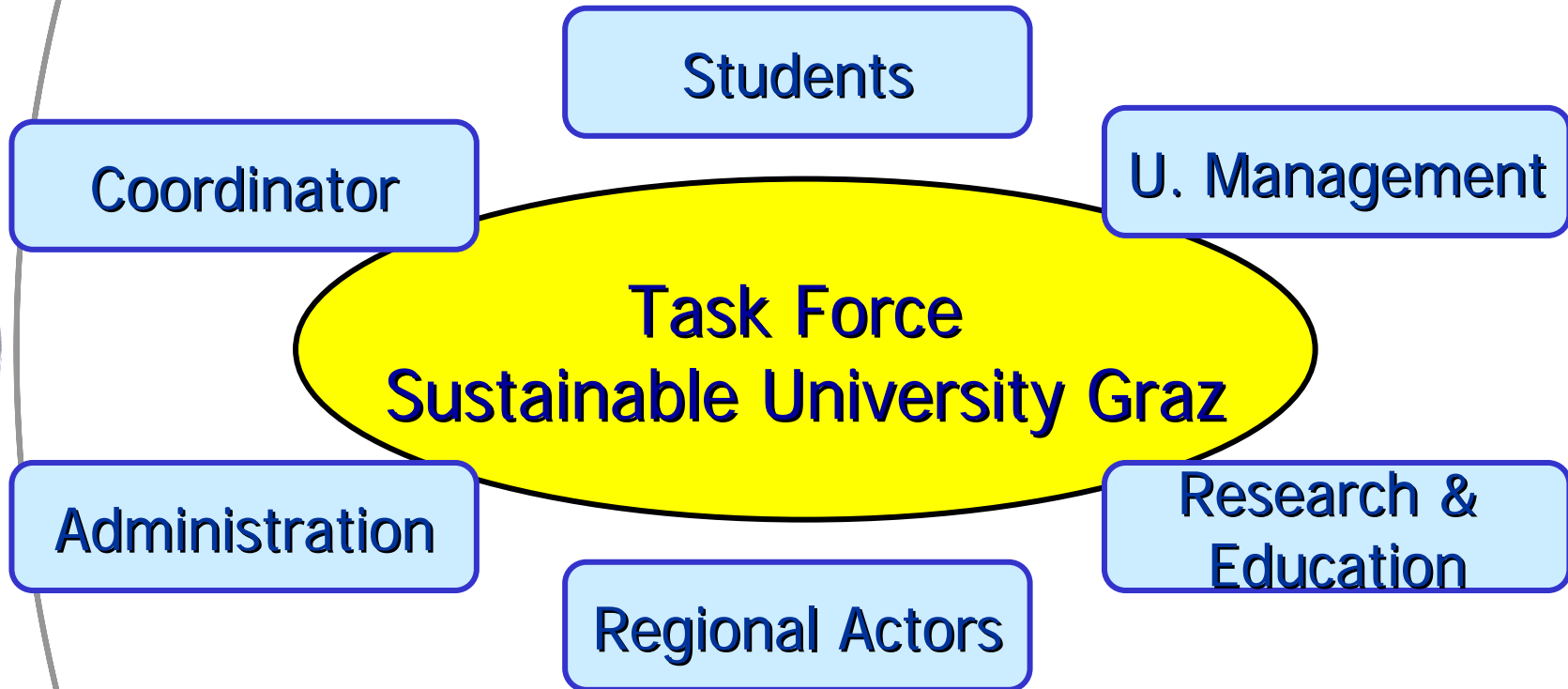
**LLL e-Learning
VCSE**
2007

**URBI Faculty &
SustMgmt.**
2007

**Nat. ESD Strat.
RCEs** 2007

...

Task Force *Sustainable University Graz*



Goals of Sustainability Task Force

- ✚ Find possibilities for Sustainability Integration
- ✚ Development of a common short-, mid- and longterm strategy
- ✚ Sustainability Programm for a Sustainable University of Graz – Key Performance Indicators
- ✚ Sub-project groups in relevant subjects
- ✚ Part of RCE Graz-Styria



RCE Overall Goals



An RCE is a network regional institutions mobilised to deliver education for sustainable development (ESD) to local and regional communities.

*A network of RCEs worldwide will constitute the **Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development**.*

*RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), by translating its global objectives into the **context of the local communities** in which they operate.*

Regional Center of Expertise (RCE)



*Our Mission is the mutual knowledge transfer
for sustainable change processes between*

- global and local,*
- research and practice,*
- teachers and students.*



RCE

REGIONAL CENTER
OF EXPERTISE

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Graz - Styria

Board

**Scientific
Advisory Board**

Management

**Stakeholder
Advisory Board**

**Focus Group
*Lifelong
Learning***

**Focus Group
*Education***

interdisciplinary cooperative transdisciplinary
"...from global to local..."

**Focus Group
*Transfer***

**Focus Group
*Sustainable
University***

**Focus Group
*Research***

RCE Graz-Styria Development



Conference on the International Launch in Higher Education of the DESD



April 2005



Workshop on Regional Centres of Expertise – Education for Sustainable Development



Start-up funding by the City of Graz from November 2006 on & first project funding by the Ministry of Economy & Labor



Focus Group *Education*



MSc. Sustainable Urban & Rural Development (Dept. Of Geography and Regional Science)



Bacc. & MSc Environmental System Science Studies



Lectures in the fields of:



Sustainable Change Processes in Regions



Sustainability Entrepreneurship



Interdisciplinary Student Courses:



Regional Development Processes and Entrepreneurship



Date: Winter Semester 2007/2008



Facilitators: Prof. Dr. Freidrich M. Zimmermann, Dr. Gerald Steiner and Mag. Clemens Mader



Intergenerational Courses:



Tools and Methods for Sustainable Change Processes in Regions and Businesses



Date: 9,10,23 & 24 November 2007



Facilitators: Mag. Clemens Mader & invited speakers



Focus Group *Research*



Sustainable Change Processes in Regions

-  Process development, accompaniment & steering
-  Rural & Urban development
-  Tourism Development
-  Regional Entrepreneurship

Sustainability in Higher Education

-  Research projects with European & Global RCE Network
-  First Hand Experience

Dissemination

Focus Group

Sustainable University



**Self Evaluation of Sustainability
Integration at the University of Graz**



**University of Graz Sustainability Report
2008**



Sustainability Task Force



Sustainability Website



Focus Group

Lifelong Learning



External Continuing Education



"Extended Programmes"



E.g. Intergenerational courses in cooperation with Center for Continuing Education (Vita-Activa)



Seminars, Workshops,



Internal Continuing Education



"Train the Trainer"



Sustainability in Education, Research, Management,...



Focus Group *Transfer*



 Cooperations with regional & global actors

 Scientific studies

 Diploma & PhD Thesis

 Knowledge Transfer

 Sustainable Lifestyles Pod Cast

 Partner: Rural Development Styria

Regional & National Partners

Regional Partner Institutions

- City of Graz
- Federal Government of Styria – Rural Development Resort
- Land development Styria
- Global Marshall Plan Initiative
- Center for Environmental Education Styria
- Innomente Consulting
- Nature Park Academy
- Sekem Austria

National Partner Institutions

- Austrian UNESCO Commission
- Federal Ministry of Economy and Labor
- Federal Ministry of Research
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Federal Ministry of Education
- Forum for Environmental Education



35 RCEs



RCEs in Europe

Acknowledged RCEs

1. Rhine-Meuse D,NL,B
2. Barcelona, E
3. Southern North Sea
4. Hamburg, Germany
5. Munich, Germany
6. Skane, Sweden
7. East Midlands, UK

In Accession

1. Graz-Styria
2. Munster





Thanks for your Attention!!!

Clemens Mader

Clemens.mader@uni-graz.at
www.rce-graz.at