

Sustainability Science in Central and Eastern Europe – project description

Initiators:

UNESCO National Commission of Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland

Participating countries:

Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia

Participating institutions:

ministries, academies of sciences, universities and National Commissions for UNESCO

Preparatory workshops:

- Bratislava Workshop, 15-17 June 2014
- Warsaw Workshop, 11-12 September 2015

Aim of the project:

- cooperation and ***building a network of sustainability science institutions*** in the region;
- common ***stocktaking approach***;
- developing ***requirement profiles for research funding agencies, researchers, and policymakers***;
- develop ***qualitative as well as quantitative indicators***¹, e.g. to evaluate the performance within CEE as a whole, and at the same time to evaluate the performance individually at national level;
- indicators must be ***linked to the SDGs***;
- lasting impact on students, the wider academic community, e.g. by ***raising awareness, changing the learning environment*** or flattening of hierarchical structure in universities
- contribute towards ***shortening the distance between academia and society*** and ***involving non-academics in the setting of science policy agendas***, into research planning and implementation of research, in peer review processes and evaluation of outcome
- foster ***open access to scientific findings*** and research results.

Partners to involve:

The potential partners in the project should be identified based on a structural stakeholder analysis with clear criteria, in the national as well as in the wider EU context, differentiating sectors, networks. Partners need to be differentiated according to level of involvement (core partners, secondary partners including test partners, as well as others that would only be informed)

Project development:

- 18 Months preparatory phase
- 3-year Horizon 2020 project

Project coordination: University of Lüneburg (Germany)

¹ **Quantitative** measures could range from ranking systems to the number of scientific projects that include non-scientific actors or the amount of funding for transdisciplinary research.

Qualitative indicators could e.g. shed light on how and to what extent science policies foster interdisciplinary research, integrate the SDGs into national policies or to what extent scientific findings are integrated into national and regional policies.