

The Round Table on Sustainable Development

Objective: to collectively nurture, with the help of all university groups, a comprehensive sustainable development at HNEE

Realization: Since 2010, the round table on sustainable development gathers students, professors, employees, alumni and partners of the university twice during semesters to discuss and plan sustainability issues. Supplementary working group meetings to implement ideas are organized independently and results are reported back at the round table.



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Topics:

1. Sustainable canteen
2. Mobility
3. Internal definition of sustainable development
4. Education in sustainability
5. [...Any topic of interest...]

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From an internal definition to an operational principle:

1. round table sessions, working group meetings on sustainability principles for the university [2010-2012]
2. collaborative style participation of university bodies and groups, including the university senate, all faculty councils and the AstA [2010-2012]
3. February 2013: university senate passes sustainability principles as „guiding principles of the university“
4. December 2014: first integrated report on sustainable development of HNEE is published, including the university report, financial report and EMAS environmental statement

Key Challenges:

- Creating an open debate at eye level
- Target group oriented communication
- Round table proposals are openly welcomed and implemented by the heads of the university

Lessons Learned and Success Factors:

1. *Bottom-up process* – the round table was initiated and organized by both the consultant for sustainability and coordinator of the family-friendly university
2. *A core team for organization* – yet independent planning for working groups
3. *Loose & collaborative participation* – participants vary with the subject matter
4. *Educational significance* – round table topics as part of the educational curriculum
5. *Solution-oriented debate* – viable impulses from the university for the university

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