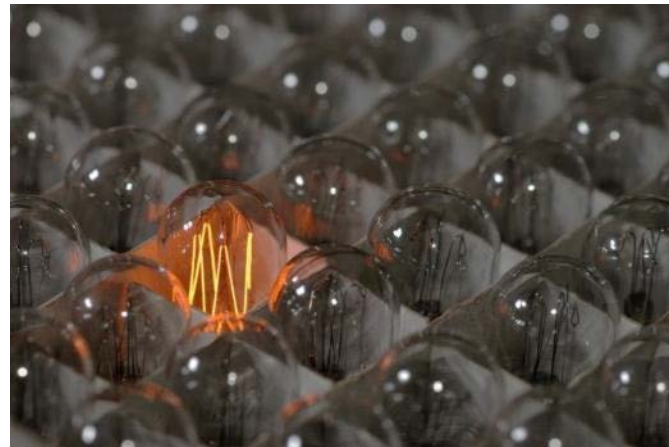




University Alliance for Sustainability



A Holistic Approach to Strategic Academic Collaboration

Andreas Wanke, Head Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management, Freie Universität Berlin





1. The Role of Universities in Fostering Sustainable Development

2. The Innovation Potential of International Networks

3. University Alliance for Sustainability

- Mobility Program
- Spring Campus
- Achievements in Research
- Spin-Offs at Freie Universität Berlin

4. Outlook



Universities & Sustainable Development



- **Research and Teaching**

Universities



- **Future Decision Makers**



- **Public Institutions and Mandate**



Universities

Universities have the **capacity** to test systems and technologies, and to advance innovative **solutions to global challenges** in ways that companies and municipalities cannot

Universities may play a pivotal role in fostering **social learning processes** through education, research and community engagement



Networking as an Innovation Factor

Networking as an Innovation Factor

Aims for networking are multidimensional [*Sliwka, 2003*]:

- **Political function:** Networks can serve as **lobby groups** for innovative ideas.
- **Information function:** Networking allows for the rapid **exchange of information** relevant for individuals and organizational development processes.
- **Psychological function:** Innovators are often isolated within their organizations. Networking provides opportunities for **collaboration** and exchange and can, thus, **empower** innovative individuals.
- **Skills function:** Networking gives innovators opportunities to **learning skills** from their colleagues.

Networking among institutions and individuals in education is seen as a powerful stimulus to organizational learning and development.



University Alliance for Sustainability

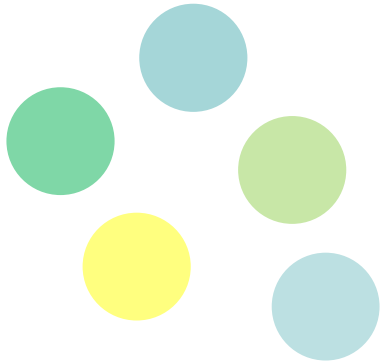
University Alliance for Sustainability

Project Period: April 2015 – December 2020

Annual Funding: 2015-2018: ca. 250.000 € per year
2019-2020: ca. 125.000€ per year

Core partners:

- Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Saint Petersburg State University, Russia
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- Peking University, China



2014

2019

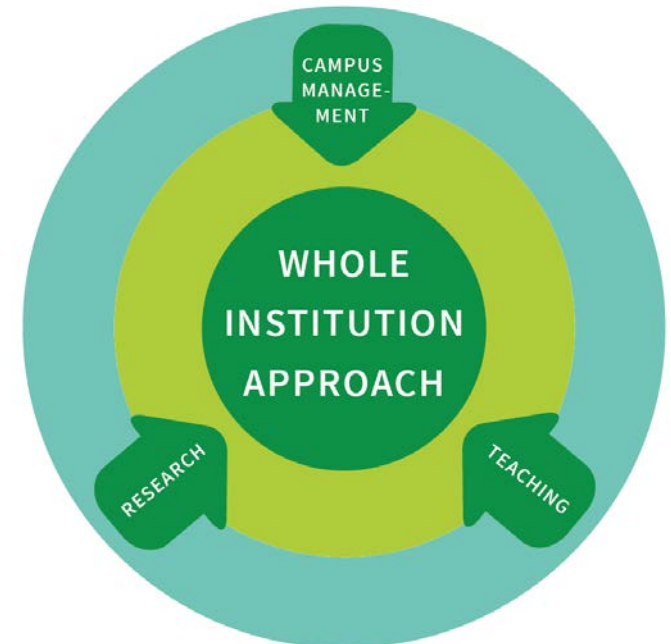
Guiding Principle

Whole Institution Approach

implies the placement of sustainability issues in all structural and thematic entities of the universities, going beyond the usual segmentation of different parts of a higher education institution.

Annual topics

- **2015** Education for Sustainable Development
- **2016** Governance of Sustainable Development
- **2017** Societal Transformation to Sustainability
- **2018** Science and Sustainability



Overview of measures



■ Stakeholder Mobility



■ Conferences and Workshops



■ Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Mobility



Research Stay

For senior researchers, PhD candidates, students and administrative staff.



Volunteer Swap

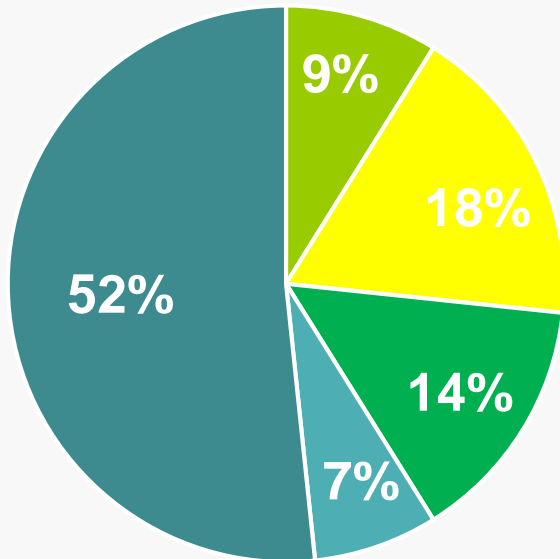
Connects members of student initiatives.



Over 180 UAS Fellows from 2015 to 2017.

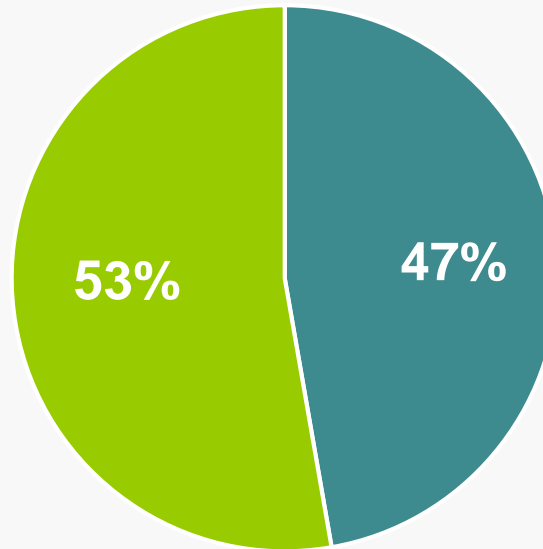


University



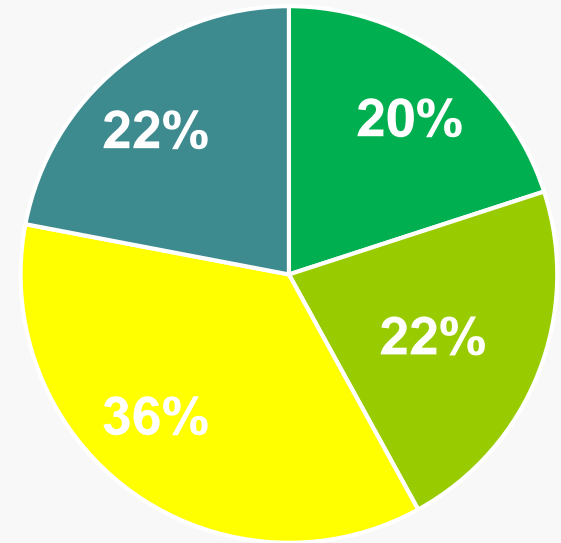
- FUB
- HUJI
- UBC
- PKU
- SPbSU

Gender



- Male
- Female

Stakeholders



- Students
- Junior Researchers
- Senior Researchers
- Administrators

Conferences and Workshops



Teaching Incubators

Lecturers and staff from the curriculum development discuss new teaching methods and advance the sustainability curricula

Management Incubators

Senior Management Staff share best practices

Spring Campus Conferences



- Annual in Berlin
- Plenary Sessions
- 1/3 PhD Candidates and Students
- 1/3 FU Berlin Participants



Communication and Stakeholder Engagement



- **Program management** in Berlin and coordinators at all partner universities
- **UAS Working Paper Series** to disseminate first research results
- Joint **website** and communication outlets
- **Journal articles**
- **International Conferences**: e.g. ISCN 2018 at KTH

Achievements in Research

- Soiling of solar panels: explaining and avoiding growth-induced energy gain losses
- Education for Sustainable Development and International Conventions
- Comparative evaluation of the influence of air pollution on urban heat island for Berlin and Beijing
- Vancouver's Greenest City Initiative and public engagement
- Natural Resource Management in Central Asia
- The impact of wastewater treatment effluent on nitrogen cycling in coastal sediment microcosms of estuaries
-

Four Master theses and numerous publications resulted from the research stays.

Effects at Freie Universität Berlin

The UAS cooperation provided important impetus to strategic sustainability projects at FUB:

- Door Opener in Research and Teaching
- Competence area “Sustainable Development” for B.A. students
- Sustainability Toolbox
- trAndeS network of FUB and PUCP
(PostGrad Program on Sustainable Development and Social Inequalities in the Andean Region)

Outlook

The new milestones for 2019-2020 will deepen and streamline the achievements of the first funding period

Spring Campus
Conferences

Academic Leads

Virtual Learning
Platform

Future Lab

Thank you for your attention!



Contact:

Andreas Wanke

andreas.wanke@fu-berlin.de

www.fu-berlin.de/sustainability