

Promising practice

University: University of Vechta

Academic discipline: Special Profile Module/Key Competence Module
Bachelor and Master Programme (open for all study programmes)
Summer Term 2016

Course title: OB-14 Sustainable Development in the Oldenburger Münsterland:
solving problems with innovative projects

Course description:

Social and environmental challenges call for new ideas and strategies for how our society can organise itself, both globally and locally. First, theories and concepts of sustainable development and the idea of “sustainability-driven entrepreneurship” will be discussed. Following this, the participants develop a project as an entrepreneurial change maker, which addresses local issues related to sustainable development. The course has a practical focus and involves collaboration with local actors.

Learning outcomes:

The students...

- can describe the concept of sustainable development
- can critically reflect on the concept of sustainable development and explain their own point of view with robust arguments
- can describe the concept of “sustainability-driven entrepreneurship”
- are able to access complex themes of sustainable development and its correlations
- are capable of planning a project on “sustainability-driven entrepreneurship”
- are able to work together with students from different areas and to make links among different disciplinary perspectives

How students’ learning is assessed:

In-class group presentation of project and a written project concept of the group

How students learn with civil society organisations through this course:

Students will work on topics and questions with external partners (social organisation, social business, business, agricultural association) in the context of regional challenges for sustainable development.

How students learn about dimensions of RRI through this course:

- **Sustainability:** The seminar introduces key aspects of sustainable development. Furthermore students engage with regional challenges for sustainable development (social, ecological and economical aspects) and develop their own sustainability-driven business/project ideas.
- **Ethics:** Students will reflect of their own norms and values and those they will promote via their projects.
- **Engagement:** Students are confronted with challenges of regional actors and will work on solutions with them. They develop projects that aim at engagement for a sustainable socio-economic transformation in society.
- **Gender Equality/Inclusion:** This is not an explicit topic, but may be addressed by the students' sustainability-driven projects as gender equality and inclusion are important aspects of social sustainability, represented in the SDGs.
- **Reflexivity:** Students continuously reflect on theoretical concepts, norms and values they deal with in their learning process
- **Open Access:** The results of the seminar will be made available for the public via the internet.

RRI keys integrated in the course:

- Sustainability; Ethics

RRI process requirements integrated in the course:

- Reflexivity

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