The Sustainability Process at the University of Graz

Students’ actions and influence in integrating Sustainability

2nd ISCN – Conference Zurich April, 2008

The University of Graz

- Since 1585
- 22,000 students
- 3000 staff
- 6 faculties
- 74 departments
- 70 study programs
- 148 Mio € Budget p/a
Basic principles

- 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

The Process – X-pillars

- USW Studies 1991
- SD Strategy University 2004
- SD Report & Ecoporofit 2006
- Sustainability Coordinator 2008
- RCEs Cairo & Iase 2009
- Copernicus Charta 1993
- Task Force SUG 2004
- RCE Graz-Slyria 2007
- Uni.Strategy Region & Environment 2006
- COPERNICUS ALLIANCE 2009
- oikos Graz 2002
- UN DESD Conf Graz Declaration 2005
- URBI Faculty ISIS Dept. 2007
- 2nd SD Report 2008
- ...
Mission RCE Graz-Styria

Our Mission is the mutual knowledge transfer for sustainable change processes between global and local, research and practice, teachers and students.

RCE Graz-Styria Structure

Scientific Board  Management  Stakeholder Board

Lifelong Learning  Education  Sustainable University Graz

Transfer  Interdisciplinary  creative  transdisciplinary

“…from global to local…”

Research
Change Processes – Success Factors

- Key Actor with intrinsic motivation
- Network built on trust
- Ongoing Education
- Transdisciplinarity
- Sustainability principles

Experiences:
- Students involvement
- University – Society partnership
- Combination of Evolutionary & Strategic process

Thanks for Your Attention!!

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Note: These activities require integrity and goodwill.