

The 6E model for getting sustainability into the economics curriculum

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The world is transforming towards a more sustainable world. The challenges are clear and there is a lot of willingness for change. It's our responsibility to prepare our economics students for this new and sustainable world and help them become sustainable entrepreneurs that can tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow. To obtain this we need to implement some structural changes in our curriculum to not only provide more profound knowledge about sustainability, but also to develop this change-mindset and new entrepreneurial way of thinking within our students. In this talk the whole process of change will be described by means of the 6E model (Macharis & Kerret, 2019) and lessons learned will be shared.

Our change process started with conducting a sustainability survey. Next, the need for sustainability was brought up in the curriculum committee. This resulted in a sustainability workgroup, and a focus on changing the curriculum in a more sustainable way. A focus group of students was formed and confirmed the need for more profound sustainability in their curriculum. Based on these results and the input we received from multiple stakeholders and experts we are implementing a learning line with as starting point our newly developed course 'Sustainability Economics'. In this course the current theories and the new thinking frameworks are discussed, as well as various topics that lie at the interface and therefore completely in the domain of ecological economics. The learning line is further supplemented with existing courses that already focus on sustainability or want to adapt their content in a more sustainable way.

We hope to see this process of change of the economics curriculum as a durable change and as a pilot project for sustainable curriculum changes in other departments, faculties and even universities.

References:

- Macharis, C., & Kerret, D. (2019). The 5E Model of Environmental Engagement: Bringing Sustainability Change to Higher Education through Positive Psychology. *Sustainability*, 11(1), 241. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su11010241>