

# FLOWER POWER: A FLOWER AS A TOOL TO TRANSFORM

**Topic:** Moving from learning *about* to learning *for* and *as* sustainability

**Format:** Action atelier (90 minutes)

## **What is the aim of your workshop or installation?**

During this workshop we aim to exchange ideas about and experiences with the Whole Institution Approach, or shortened 'WIA'. Participants will get inspired to start or develop applying 'WIA-thinking' in their own practice. The principle 'live what you learn' in higher education remains a joint responsibility and is therefore teamwork. It requires a holistic and systemic transition towards sustainability that goes beyond "add-on" implementation and fragmentation. To reach this goal, a Whole Institution Approach (WIA) is needed.

During this workshop we'll introduce the participants to the Whole Institution Approach presenting a practical tool (inspired by [this flower](#), which we have translated into this [Interpretation for Higher Education](#)) that can help to bring WIA into practice. We look at both the organizational structure and culture. We'll also show [a short video](#) (will be translated) about a lecturer, Rachida, showing a good practice example of a WIA-approach.

After this introduction, we will start a conversation in smaller groups.

## **What is the main didactic approach of your workshop?**

We will use the Wordcafé methodology to talk and gather ideas based on some questions (cf. below). This flexible method is relatively easy to organize. The process can be set up and supervised by one or two person(s). They serve as facilitators. A café atmosphere is created in which participants sit around (café) tables (if possible with tablecloths and drinks) to discuss the questions. At regular intervals they move to a new table. One moderator per table remains seated and summarizes for the new table guests the previous conversations, creating a cross-pollination of conversation, based on the ideas of the other participants. At the end of the process, the main ideas/barriers/solutions are summarized during a plenary session at which possibilities for follow-up are also discussed.

We will use the Wordcafé methodology to talk about the following questions:

- Which WIA models or frameworks do you lean on?
- Do you look at education and research through a WIA lens? What WIA-wide actions does your faculty or department to support the transition?
- Do you have further knowledge of transition strategies that helps you during this WIA process? (for example a stakeholder mapping might be a useful tool)
- Sustainability in the structure of your higher education institution: How well is sustainability integrated in the various petals within your own higher education institution (or department, or faculty)? Can you connect your teaching or your core practices (research and other) to the other flower blades? Can you build on ongoing processes or initiatives? Or, by connecting, can you initiate new processes?
- Sustainability in the culture of your higher education institution: How influencing is the culture within your higher education institution (or department or faculty), do you feel supported as a lecturer/researcher when it comes to sustainability? Is there an open culture regarding some sustainability topics? What cultural barriers do you see and how do you deal with them? How can you yourself contribute to cultural change? Consider the following terminology: enable, engage, exemplify, encourage.

## **How will your workshop proceed?**

Introduction: 20 min.- Worldcafé: 60 min. (3 x 20 min.) - Wrap-up: 10 min.

## **Why do you think that your workshop has potential for transformation?**

Participants will get inspired by many different ideas and potential solutions that contribute to the transition towards sustainability within a higher education institution. In this workshop participants will learn how they can all play a crucial role in stimulating the transformation towards sustainable higher education within a Whole Institution Approach.

