Are Higher Education institutions ready to contribute to the post-2015 agenda?

Experiences from Norway (+ more)

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UNESCO Chair for Education about Sustainable Lifestyles
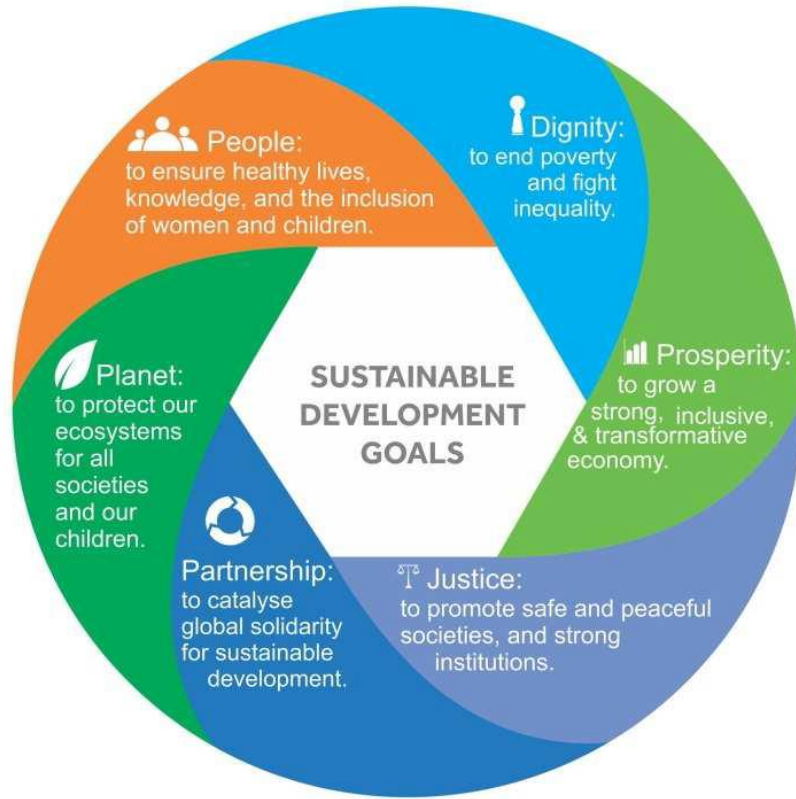Hedmark University College, Norway
11 December 2014

A DECADE AGO????

- Less consensus about definitions of «SD, SCP, ESD, ESC, SL…»

- Greater barriers effecting all aspects of SD

- Less comprehensive research on sustainable development

- Few indicators of progress aside from GDP

- Handful of initiatives, mostly led by MTF or connected
-         to Agenda 21
- «Charity approach» and «economic» approachs to development

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- Inputs (scientific, capacity building, envisioning, etc) to Commission on Sustainable Development sessions

- Participation in public contributions online and through the UN Major Groups to to «The Future We Want» Rio+20

- Lobbying at Rio+20 and elsewhere to national delegates and other influential people

- Participation in the public contributions online and through the UN Major Groups to the text of the SDG's

- Inputs to the ongoing global discourse on the MDG's and SDG's via conferences, articles, lectures, courses, community involvement, etc.

From The Synthesis Report of the U.N. Secretaty General on the Post-2015 Agenda

GAP

Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living

-Advancing policy

-Integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (whole-institution approaches)

-Increasing the capacity of educators and trainers

-Empowering and mobilizing youth

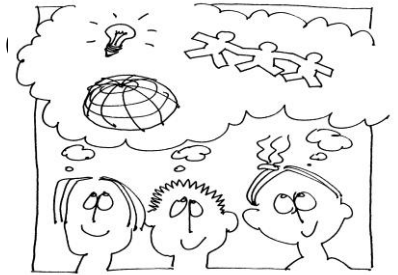-Encouraging local communities and municipal authorities to develop community-based SD programmes.

Possible Pathways Forward

Organic growth

➢ Social change is organic, moving, at times, in unexpected directions and depending on innovation, commitment and cultural context.

➢ Provide continuous, inclusive and interrelated opportunities for social learning –learning which is based on the articulation of personal and group values, and includes consultation, action, reflection and adaption

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Applying a whole-systems approach to change management, it is important to recognise that transformative change will not only be non-linear but it will also require a process of push and pull, give and take across the system…

…At the center of this process, though, it must be kept in mind that while systems can create (or limit) possibilities for change, it is people working together as active citizens that provide appropriate action for the change we want to achieve.

Possible Pathways Forward

Unity in diversity

➢ The ability to expand one's vision to be world-embracing is dependent on the ability to see the consequences of one's actions not only on oneself but also on others and nature.

➢ Promoting a set of global values, the attitudes of global citizenship and the skills of systems-thinking and change management.

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Possible Pathways Forward

Multifaceted approaches

➤ On all levels, there is a need for increased inter-departmental, inter-disciplinary, and inter-sectorial approaches.

➤ Develop synergic cooperation between those dealing with the diverse aspects of lifestyles.

➤ Engage in trans-disciplinary research and education projects.

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Possible Pathways Forward

Targeted milestones

➢ Acquire funding to stimulate X number of community "creative circles" in different parts of the world—circles/gatherings where participants not only consult but plan, implement, reflect and adapt.

➢ Acquire funding to carry out research projects, to build capacity in education, and to stimulate knowledge and experience exchange.

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