Environmental management in German institutions of higher education:

Lessons learnt and steps toward sustainable management

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- HIS und myself

Institutional environmental management in German universities…

- History
- Status quo
- Conclusions
- Future prospects

HIS Higher Education Information System

A Non-Profit-Organization

Serving Higher Education

Fields of work

- software development
- socio-empirical research
- studies on parameters for higher education funding
- assistance with constructional planning
- organizational support and advice

HIS Higher Education Information System

Department III: organizational support and advice

Organisation of

- safety at work
- health protection
- environment protection

The history of institutional environmental management in German universities

4 phases since about 1975

1. professional approach of operational and organisational structure
2. joint consideration of safety at work, health protection and environment protection
3. introduction and actual use of standardised management systems
4. exposure to harsher framework conditions

Joint consideration of safety at work, health protection and environment protection

- 1995 study by HIS and first steps towards environment management
- professors discover their own university as an object of research

Introduction and actual use of standardised management systems

- single persons push standardised management systems to receive the certification – EMAS, ISO (for instance in Lüneburg, Bielefeld, Zittau)
- a lot of universities also optimize their environment management without official certifitation (for instance TU Berlin, U Hannover)
- Environment management systems also include safety at work and health protection

Status quo (1)

Dealing with harsher conditions

- institutionalisation in the administration
- applied research
- chance of demand
- only a small group of promotors
- specialization of administration
- external communication
- discussion about the added value
- specific conditions in each university

Status quo (2)

- FU Berlin (2004: DIN ISO 14001, 2005: EMAS – ausgewählte Bereiche)
- Universität Bremen (2004: validiert nach EMAS)
- Fachhochschule Landshut (2003: validiert nach EMAS)
- Fachhochschule Lübeck (2003: validiert nach EMAS)
- Hochschule Bremen (2003: validiert nach EMAS)
- Universität Bremen (2003: Dezernat Technik zertifiziert nach DIN ISO 14001)
- Technische Universität Dresden (2002: validiert nach EMAS)
- Universität Lüneburg (2003: revalidiert, 2000: erstmalig validiert nach EMAS)
- Universität Bielefeld (2003: revalidiert nach EMAS und rezertifiziert nach DIN ISO 14001, 2000: erstmalig validiert nach EMAS und zertifiziert nach DIN ISO 14001)
- Hochschule für Technik, Wirtschaft und Sozialwesen (FH) Zittau/Görlitz (2002: revalidiert nach EMAS, 1999: erstmalig validiert nach EMAS)
- Technische Universität Berlin (2000: Max-Volmer-Institut validiert nach EMAS)Universität
- Gesamthochschule Essen (1999: Institut für ökologisch verträgliche Energiewirtschaft zertifiziert nach DIN ISO 14001)
- Universität-Gesamthochschule Paderborn (1998: Fachgruppe Verfahrenstechnik und Umweltverfahrenstechnik zertifiziert nach DIN ISO 14001)
- Fachhochschule Furtwangen (1996: zertifiziert nach EMAS)

Status quo (3)

Examples

- University of Lüneburg
- University of Osnabrück
- Technical University of Darmstadt
- COPERNICUS
- …

Conclusions

- Innovation does not arise from day-to-day business
- Institutionalisation needs central administration
- Single enthusiasts with vision and power are needed
- Other aspects than environmental protection are more existential

Consequences

- identification of innovative steps
- identification of advantages and disadvantages
- connecting environmental protection and sustainability with other fundamental processes of change
- bringing together separate activities

Four ways, one aim