



Report on the Implementation of Principles for Responsible Management Education

Sharing Information on Progress

2019 – 2021

Continuing Commitment to PRME Principles

Message from the Dean of Brunswick European Law School

We hereby submit to you our second „Report on the Implementation of Principles for Responsible Management Education - Sharing Information on Progress 2019 – 2021", which aims to demonstrate and illustrate how Brunswick European Law School (BELS) has brought the six principles of PRME to life over the past two years.



Since our faculty joined in 2017, we have been able to steadily and continuously expand and deepen our activities in the area of sustainability, education for sustainable development (ESD) and the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

We are aware of the importance that the continuous contribution and permanent support of the six principles such as developing the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society, incorporating into our academic activities, curricula, and organizational practices the values of global social responsibility and creating educational frameworks must be our daily motivation and effort to be able to cope with the current challenges we are facing today.

Yours sincerely



Prof. Dr. iur. Kai Litschen, Dekan

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Principle 1: Purpose



"We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy."

With the Global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the United Nations adopted a global framework of values - a normative model project that is directed against an increasingly unjust and unequal world. It addresses all people around the world as global community to implement the SDGs. As a universally applicable solution the SDGs are intended to be a useful tool for advancement into a common direction. It is we who must take action. Through related research and teaching in various networks and formats, BELS is thus also helping to ensure that the Global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are advanced into applicable legal bases. In 2017, the United Nations Interest Group (UNIG) was founded at BELS to provide a forum for the issues raised by the UN. Various stakeholders from

management, business and the corporate sector were invited to symposia to discuss new strategies in a targeted manner. Since then, UNIG has changed and expanded: as local authorities implement sustainable development strategies, BELS approach now focuses not only on PRME education, but on a broader perspective. Today, BELS brings together grassroots initiatives, local authorities and businesses under the auspices of the BELS Platform and provides an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and mindsets needed to address the challenges of sustainability. The BELS Platform is a platform as a regional ESD centre of excellence. It empowers its participants to focus on sustainable solutions at the local level.

A New Format: BELS Sustainability Forum

A new format is the result of BELS' participation in the ESD weeks in preparation for the UNESCO World Conference in Berlin: BELS Sustainability Forum offers stakeholders, students and teachers a

platform to promote topics related to the SDGs, sustainability and climate change.

At the 1st BELS Sustainability Forum on 15 July 2021, the District Administrator of Wolfenbüttel District, Ms Christiana Steinbrügge, presented the newly developed action concept for sustainable development in the Wolfenbüttel District 2030.

The Action Plan 2030 is intended to show ways in which sustainable action can be anchored in the district of Wolfenbüttel and the district administration. The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to be taken into account. Ms Steinbrügge emphasised the importance of local action in the face of global challenges, because it is at the local level that the demands for solutions to the major global tasks and the demands for a practical everyday living environment converge.



Above all, however, it has become clear that the district wants to tackle the economic, ecological and social challenges with its new action concept now. Ostfalia University, especially at the interface between business, research and civil society, offers an opportunity to exchange knowledge and network local stakeholders in the region through the BELS Sustainability Forum. Furthermore, Ostfalia can also offer municipalities and districts assistance in implementing the action concepts with its research focus in the area of the SDGs.

Second Sustainability Forum

The planned retrieval of low and intermediate level radioactive waste from a former salt mine in the district of Wolfenbüttel, the "Asse II", is a problem directly affecting the BELS region.

How hardened the fronts are, became apparent at the 2nd Sustainability Forum on 13 October 2021: the topic was the nuclear waste

problem in our region. Marco Franz from the Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung (Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal), the authority that operates the former "research mine", but is also responsible for licensing and strategic planning, gave a lecture on "Sustainable nature conservation in the retrieval of radioactive waste from the Asse". In 2010, it was decided to completely retrieve the nuclear waste for long-term safety.

Currently, there is a discussion about at which site near the Asse the waste to be retrieved could be stored temporarily. Following the lecture at the BELS Forum, a lively and critical



discussion took place, also due to the presence of residents of the nuclear waste storage site and anti-nuclear activists.

Sustainability Network

Internal support and networking of local stakeholders in the Ostfalia region who are engaged in the field of sustainability is the goal of our newly initiated network. The network meetings serve to form strategies, develop concepts and enable participation, especially with regard to our students and the teaching and learning opportunities with the BELS research focus on SDGs. In the reporting year 2021, the network met three times.

Principle 2: Vision and Values



“We will incorporate into our academic activities, curricula, and organizational practices the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.”

Veritas, Aequitas, Libertas

Brunswick European Law School (BELS) is proud since its founding in the year 2000 to have developed into the second largest faculty of Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences in Wolfenbüttel. We owe this to our continuous development and subsequent further improvement of teaching and research. Current topics such as globalization and internationalization are integrated into research and into teaching areas of courses. We acknowledge the various and diverse demands of our modern world by supporting and adhering to strong and positive ethical values. Thus, by conveying within BELS and also beyond the positive values set out by PRME it is hoped that some continuity can be provided to our often volatile society. It is also hoped that such an approach allows our more than 1,400 students to grow into strong and responsible personalities and leaders.

Therefore, not only as a guiding statement but also as our fundamental values our mission statement is further manifested in our mission as “Veritas, Aequitas Libertas”.

Veritas, i.e. truth - is indispensable as the basis of all knowledge, everywhere and at any time and especially in science. It thus represents an essential component of our values at BELS.

Aequitas means a fundamental legal concept of equilibrium originating from Roman antiquity,

whose fundamental idea of equality leads to justice within human activity and thus makes an essential contribution to the emergence and maintenance of unremitting prosperity. Law and equity as supporting pillars of justice are interdependent. Deeply aware of this, we also strive every day to reflect this insight in all our research and teaching content. It is our aim to actively process the resulting findings and thus hopefully to enable all our students to have the best possible starting point into their future.



Libertas is a source that needs the law as a basis for its development. Without it, there can hardly be justice. Equally at risk is Veritas, for without Libertas Veritas cannot exist either. Libertas prevents an unfree world in which justice would be absent. It therefore needs the law that comprehensively protects freedom of the individual. In balance, these values guarantee a vibrant, diversified and just society in which individuals can develop freely.

These interrelated fundamental principles of BELS support the continuous process of our institution to act sustainably and to lead our students and all other stakeholders to intellectual and material prosperity.

It is desired that within this realm of the influence of BELS, freedom and creativity of all people connected to us should unfold. Thus, a secure and engaging space is created in which

innovation, creation as well as destruction of the outdated and useless becomes possible, such as for example through disruptive processes. In doing so, BELS aims to also meet the requirements of the SDGs as well as inter- and intragenerational justice of the sustainability concepts.

Our conviction is further expressed in our decision to join the UN Global Compact to which we are officially confirmed as participating member since November 2017. As a United Nations Global Compact participant, BELS is committed to respect and support the ten UN Global Compact principles

with reference to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Our second “Communication on Engagement” for the UN Global Compact has also been submitted this year. We can therefore proudly claim to continue to be an active member of the Global Compact for the next two years.



Principle 3: Method



“We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.”

Teaching and Lectures on the SDGs

Topics regarding Human Rights, environment and anti- corruption as well as sustainability and the UN SDGs are widely included in the BELS curriculum. We also encourage students to examine different aspects of these areas in their Bachelor’s and, Master’s theses.

Since the end of 2020, BELS students have had the opportunity to take up doctoral studies in law. In cooperation with the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities

in Warsaw, students can write doctoral theses (e.g. on sustainability topics) and earn a PhD.

Professors and lecturers at BELS deal with the transformation of sustainable processes and the implementation of sustainability concepts in teaching on a daily basis. For example, they are an integral part and potential examination topics in basic subjects such as business administration (BWL).

Mandatory Subjects

- Administrative Law II
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Criminal Law
- Compliance
- Constitutional Law
- Environmental Law
- European Law
- European Private Law
- Human Rights and International Economic Law
- International Construction Law
- International Investment Law
- International Sales Law
- International Trade and Corporate Law
- Introduction to Law
- Corporate Governance
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Business Ethics
- Sources of International Law

- Public Procurement and State Aid Law
- WTO Law

Compulsory Elective Subjects

- Health in the company
- Negotiating and Designing in Labour Law: “Climate Protection in the Workplace”
- Introduction to Model United Nations
- Model United Nations Advanced
- Doing Business in Asia incl. Sustainability Competition

International Program

Each summer we offer a full-semester English program at BELS. We cover a profound selection of law courses with strong links to current economic aspects. The following courses are offered:

- *International Tax and Business Law*
- *International Trade Law: Foreign Trade Law & Customs Law*
- *Intellectual Property Law*
- *European E-Business & IT Law*
- *Impact of The Global Agenda 2030 on International Economic Law*
- *Fundamentals of the European Union*
- *Development of the EU and its Single Market*
- *Consumer Behavior*
- *German Language Class*

Within summer schools, BELS staff and students benefit from new insights. Mutual and common understanding is promoted. Constant and vibrant exchange with other international students, universities and colleges ensures farsightedness. This exchange also opens the door to getting to know our approach towards sustainability and the values we promote and want to convey on an international level. In this way, we can contribute towards educating responsible and considerate leaders of the future.

The aim of the International Business Law Semester (IBLS) at BELS is to provide you with tools that will further your career success. We focus on the following three success factors:

Gain intercultural competencies

Many businesses overseas fail because of a misunderstanding of culture. Too often, we assume that our business partners overseas behave as we do, and we act accordingly. This assumption can lead to frustration, anger, and resignation. Influential business people have a deep appreciation for different cultural behaviour patterns in organisations. Thus, intercultural competence is a critical success

factor in international business. We will teach you the essential intercultural skills at IBLS.

Develop your personal strengths

Living in another country will have an enormous impact on your personal development and growth. You will face many challenges; however, you will develop strategies to solve problems effectively and to move on successfully. Moreover, you will build your social skills, make new friends and learn about new things. You will develop more self-esteem and become more self-confident. These attributes will all contribute to strengthening and developing your personality.

Learn about various international law and business topics

You have the choice between a perfect blend between law and business units delivered by the experts from our faculties of law and business. Please note that the currently listed units might be subject to change.

All of our lecturers convey in-depth knowledge about their topics. They have all worked in the industry before joining Ostfalia University. This industry experience makes their lectures and workshops particularly relevant and practice-oriented. Another advantage is the small number of students who attend individual classes. These small classes ensure a very interactive, useful and practical learning environment.



Purpose 4: Research



“We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.”

Publications

BELS professors, lecturers and research assistants are intensively dedicated to research. Many of the topics and research areas studied at BELS and its institutes touch on or focus on human rights, environmental law and sustainability, SDGs and responsible business practices at various economic levels. Thanks to its broad-based and networked research, BELS is able to position itself nationally and internationally for the future.

As a result, research often incorporates the ideas and concepts of sustainability. Some of our publications are available via the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) to quickly disseminate our scientific research. An excerpt of recent publications by BELS staff in the field of sustainability in German, English and various other languages illustrates our efforts:

Dr. Ruth Areli García-León, M.Sc., M.M.

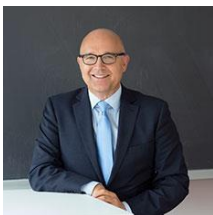


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Prof. Dr. iur. Winfried Huck

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Bachelor's and Master's theses on SDGs and sustainability

In the course of their studies, BELS students are taught in areas of sustainability, responsible and conscious interaction with other people and resources, and last but not least, also with themselves. The course contents offer a variety of possibilities to deal with these subject areas and to examine one's own research questions within the framework of a thesis. These theses are often completed in cooperation with professionals from the industry acting as secondary supervisors, therefore ensuring a broad coverage of topics and up-to-date results.

An excerpt of the theses most recently submitted at BELS illustrates our orientation and focus:

2021	Die rechtliche Steuerung nachhaltigen unternehmerischen Handelns
	Der Green Deal der EU und das Potential der Finanzdienstleistung für dessen Umsetzung
2020	Corporate Digital Responsibility: Darstellung und kritische Würdigung.
	Nachhaltigkeit als Element der strategischen Markenführung: Erfolgsvoraussetzungen, Risiken und Lösungsansätze am Beispiel der etablierten Lebensmittelmarken.
	Nachhaltigkeit und Klimaschutz als Argument im Personalmarketing von Unternehmen.
	Bedeutung der Nachhaltigkeitsziele (SDGs) bei der Vergabe von Garantien und Krediten (UFK) für die zum Ausbau der Elektromobilität benötigten Rohstoffe
	Das Allgemeine Präferenzsystem der Europäischen Union - Rechtliche Basis sowie Nutzen für Entwicklungsländer und Textilunternehmen der Fast Fashion Branche
	Sorgfaltspflichten in Lieferketten - eine kritische Auseinandersetzung mit dem Gesetzentwurf zur Sorgfaltspflicht in Lieferkette
	Handelsliberalisierung contra handelspolitische Maßnahmen in der Textilbranche am Beispiel des Freihandelsabkommens zwischen der EU und Vietnam
	Harmonisierung der Nachhaltigkeit im Finanzwesen
	Global justice through global norms against corruption? The task of the rule of law and human rights
	Analyse von Arbeitsschutzbestimmungen in modernen Freihandelsabkommen der EU am Beispiel der Abkommen mit Vietnam, Mexiko und Mercosur
	Ist der Green Deal ein ausreichender Weg in der EU für die Integration der Globalen Agenda 2030 der UN?
	Green Finance und Green Investments: Die Bedeutung der Sustainable Development Goals im internationalen Anlagenbau
	"Greenwashing" Ein Risiko für Unternehmen? Zulässige und unzulässige Inhalte auf der Grundlage geltenden Rechts in der Europäischen Union und in Deutschland
	Klimaschutz vor Gericht? - Durchsetzungsmöglichkeiten und Konfliktfelder von Klimaschutzklagen
	Der European Green Deal als Wachstumsstrategie und die Globale Agenda 2030 – eine kritische Analyse

2019	Investment Protection in International Construction Projects under Consideration of Sustainability
	Die Normativität der SDGs in den internen und externen Politiken der EU
	ASEAN und EU: an analysis of the relations, the implementation of the SDGs and the special role of China
	Entwicklung von Smart Cities im Lichte des SDG 11 der Vereinten Nationen unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des europäischen Datenschutzes auf Grundlage der DSGVO

Principle 5: Partnerships



“We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.”



Operations

In recognition of the PRME principles as well as the normative concept of the SDGs, BELS has set itself the goal of critically accompanying and advancing approaches to solutions as well as creating an open forum for discussion. BELS as an institution is therefore committed to

pursue further research and cooperation with regional companies. At BELS, we provide companies and the public with access to the newly acquired knowledge and regularly invite them to specific events. This ongoing endeavour culminated in the initiation of the

Sustainability Network as a platform for local stakeholders in early 2021. A wide range of activities have already been carried out within this framework:

1. Implementing Local Sustainability Strategies - ESD Sustainability Weeks Conference

On 12 May 2021, BELS hosted the conference "The Implementation of Local Sustainability Strategies in Braunschweig and Wolfenbüttel" to kick off the new UNESCO programme "Education for Sustainable Development: Realising the Global Sustainability Goals" (in short "ESD 2030").

The result: BELS has initiated a local sustainability network to bundle and network the potentials of regional associations, companies, institutions, initiatives and municipalities directly on site. The event showed how great the interest is in the Ostfalia region to take on the topic of "sustainable development" comprehensively and permanently and to initiate concrete measures. The numerous virtual participants covered a broad spectrum of society from environmental associations, start-ups, banks, social institutions to interested individuals,

which provided a good basis for bundling and consolidating the various interests in the next phase.



As a first offer, BELS now provides interested local sustainability actors with a newsletter with information on current events, calls for proposals and other information on the topics of "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)", UNESCO, SDGs and sustainability. At least one every three months, discussions, exhibitions and conferences with current regional topics take place under the auspices of the BELS sustainability network. The event during the UNESCO Sustainability weeks was taken as a prelude to initiate the local sustainability network and to deepen the cooperation with all stakeholders. Thus, BELS offers its knowledge and good networking at the local level.

2. #dieUNundWIR – Exhibition of the DGVN at BELS

In winter semester 2021/22, BELS was able to present the travelling exhibition of the German United Nations Association, #dieUNundWIR in the foyer of the faculty's administration



building. In the presence of the Deputy Federal Chairman of the DGVN, Dr Ekkehard Griep, the exhibition was opened on 13 October 2021.

With Dr Griep, a proven expert of the United Nations gave exciting insights into the work and function of the UN. Dr Griep has worked at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (New York), at NATO (Brussels) and at the Federal Foreign Office. He was also an international election observer for the OSCE and the EU. BELS has been a member of the DGVN since 2017. As a platform for companies, organisations, universities and individuals in Germany related to the work of the UN, the DGVN offers the opportunity to discuss current global issues and to work with international partners to implement the goals of the UN Charter.



The exhibition makes the work and functioning of the United Nations known to a broader public. #dieUNundWIR was conceived as a multimedia exhibition that conveys knowledge about the UN through texts, illustrations, photos and films.

By means of interactive elements, the significance of the world organisation and the impact of its actions on our everyday lives can be experienced. Under the titles "What is the UN doing to specifically combat poverty and safeguard human rights?", "How are they tackling climate change?" and "How can they better succeed in securing peace?", information is provided on the most important fields of work of peacekeeping, human rights,

environment and development, according to the exhibition concept. #dieUNundWIR gave the expiring year 2021 a worthy conclusion under difficult conditions and showed: BELS is diverse, international and sustainable.



Auslandskooperationen & -partnerschaften der Fakultät Recht - Brunswick European Law School (BELS)



BELS cultivates and maintains lively and intensive cooperation with a variety of foreign partner universities and colleges around the world. At BELS it is believed that great importance to relations with other national and international universities should be given. Students are offered various international opportunities to further their education, training and networking on an international level, but also of harnessing further productive research and teaching cooperations. The range of BELS partner universities extends from various European universities to overseas universities, such as in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, India and China. Further partnerships are being actively sought out. Our network of cooperation is thus constantly expanded. In

addition to comprehensive advice to incoming and outgoing students from our international coordinator, students are offered various opportunities to benefit from university scholarships as well as external scholarships. BELS emphasizes the high value of a mutual and profound exchange of knowledge, which is also reflected at the research level. In this context, BELS focuses on the development of regular legal symposia.

A list of all current international partner universities can be found here:

European Partner Universities

- Univerzitet Union Belgrad, Serbia
- Universidad de Cádiz, Campus de Jerez, Spain



- Università degli studi di Cagliari, Italy 
- Università degli studi di Catania, Italy 
- Coventry University, England 
- Hochschule Luzern, Switzerland 
- Università di Macerata, Italy
- Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Italy 
- Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary
- Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland 

Non-European Partner Universities

- University of Auckland, New Zealand 
- Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, India 
- Universidad de la Habana, Cuba 
- University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA 
- Murdoch University, Australia 
- Symbiosis Law School, Pune, India 

- Tongji Law School, China



- University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago



Principle 6: Dialogue



“We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.”



Conferences

Due Diligence Act - and now? Perspectives on the design of a Smart Mix

At the conference of participants of the German Global Compact Network (DGCN) on 24 March 2021, the new Due Diligence Act (Sorgfaltspflichtengesetz) was discussed. From 2023 onwards, numerous German

companies will be obliged to consider possible negative impacts on human rights in their supply chains. . With the participation of BELS, questions about the role of the state, business and civil society were discussed, as well as possibilities for incentives "beyond compliance".

Progress, challenges and the need for action: Can we still achieve the SDGs with the help of business?

The webinar of the German United Nations Association DGVN e.V. on 28 October 2021 dealt with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through them, the United Nations aim to create a better world for all people by 2030. The conference showed that we are currently still far from achieving the goals of the Agenda. To change this, the participation of all actors is needed. The business community has a special role to play, not only in implementing the economic goals of the Agenda, but also in achieving its social and environmental objectives.

SDG 16 in corporate practice: Hate, agitation, disinformation and conspiracy myths - not my business?

The conference of the German Global Compact Network (DGCN) on 17 November 2021 provided interesting and helpful insights into the possibilities for companies to take concrete action against hate, disinformation and conspiracy myths, which can also exist within company structures. The conference participants agreed that tendencies that are clearly illegal, such as racism, can never be tolerated.



Lectures abroad of BELS staff

"Access to Justice with the SDGs? - Mind the gaps!"

No citizenship, no social welfare, no fair pay - what to do when the law does not protect or rights are curtailed? Can the UN Sustainable Development Goals help to create access to judicial systems to enforce rights? What possibilities and what gaps exist?

Prof. Dr. iur. Huck opened the virtual seminar series at the Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG) with a discussion on this topic on 8 October 2020.

EU-CARICOM Law Conference 2019 at Coventry Law School

The second EU-CARICOM Law Conference took place from 9/10 to 11/10/2019. The conference was attended by scholars from the Caribbean, the US, the UK and Germany, among others. The conference topics ranged from historical reflections on Brexit, to the illumination of various possible Brexit scenarios, to highly topical reflections on entrepreneurship and its international implications. BELS was represented by a delegation of five participants.

International conference at Symbiosis Law School, Pune, alndia: Prof. Dr. Huck's research team presents on the Right to Breathe Clean Air and the SDGs

Prof. Dr. iur. Winfried Huck's research team (Jennifer Maaß, Ahmed Tahar Benmagnia, Saparya Sood, Alexander Schulte, Sarah Maylin Heß, Marc-Anthony Walter) participated in the conference with their contribution on the European perspective of clean air law. Ms Jennifer Maaß, LL.M., PhD student at the Institute for European and International Business Law, opened the second day of the conference with a presentation of the research results.



Further Support of the PRME-Principles

We further pledge to provide further support to UN Global Compact business participants if explicitly asked and desired by them. We are willing to support them in their own sustainability implementation and disclosure efforts as far as our capacities will allow and as is specifically agreed in advance by all parties in question.

We are also willing to lend capacity to Global Compact Local Networks and/or the Global Compact Office keeping in mind the same requirements/joint agreements by all parties as above

Measurement of outcomes



With the UNESCO World Conference "Learn for our Planet. Act for sustainability" in May of this year, UNESCO officially launched its new programme "Education for Sustainable Development: Realising the Global Sustainable Development Goals" (in short: ESD 2030) and heralded the "Decade of Action". In this context, the BELS has adapted its strategy established in 2017 to the new challenges.

Since the beginning of 2021, BELS has been focusing on the two priority fields of action "promotion of sustainable development at local level" and "transformation of learning and teaching environments" within the framework of the new World Programme of Action ESD 2030.

According to ESD 2030, the expansion of ESD programmes and networks is to take place at the level of cities, municipalities and regions. This is achieved by BELS with its new formats "Network and Forum Sustainability". In teaching and research, the anchoring of ESD sustainability principles in education and training contexts has been deepened and expanded.

In 2017, the United Nations Interest Group (UNIG) was founded at BELS to provide a forum for the issues raised by the UN. Various stakeholders from management, business and the corporate sector were invited to symposia to discuss new strategies in a targeted manner. Since then, UNIG has changed and expanded: as local authorities implement sustainable development strategies, BELS approach now focuses not only on PRME education, but on a

broader perspective. Today, BELS brings together grassroots initiatives, local authorities and businesses under the auspices of the BELS Platform and provides an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and mindsets needed to address the challenges of sustainability. The BELS Platform is a platform as a regional ESD centre of excellence. It empowers its participants to focus on sustainable solutions at the local level.

Membership in the Global Compact has enabled BELS to present and implement universal values such as human rights, sustainability and fair labour conditions in an academic environment. Based on a network of connections between the business community, students, local authorities, NGOs and the research community, the BELS has been able to build and intensify interdisciplinarity between different Global Compact stakeholders in the areas of the UN SDGs. The United Nations Interest Group (UNIG) was therefore expanded to include local stakeholders, who are involved in the areas of sustainability, climate protection and the SDGs in the Braunschweig, Wolfenbüttel, Wolfsburg, Suderburg and Salzgitter region (the Ostfalia region). In the thus newly formed network, the BELS contributes to the realisation of the goals of UN Global Compact, but also to the current and newly adapted World Programme of Action ESD-2030.

Since the beginning of our engagement, our students have been able to gain a deeper and comprehensive insight into the 17 UN SDGs and actively apply their newly acquired knowledge in various fields.

BELS is committed to introducing the current generation of students to the guidelines and values of the Global Compact in order to empower them to make responsible decisions in their future lives and careers. The contacts established so far with Global Compact

partners in business are a start and pave the way for a fruitful exchange and transfer of knowledge with the long-term goal of implementing each of the 17 UN SDGs across society in light of the global standards on human rights, fair work and environmental protection.

Key Objectives of the next 24 months

In order to strengthen the practical relevance in selected courses of study, the implementation of hybrid-digital business games on sustainable business management, internationalisation and sustainable development in the region of Braunschweig, Wolfsburg and Wolfenbüttel with the involvement of regional sustainability actors will be included in the courses offered by the Faculty of Law.

The networking and evaluation of the actors involved in the Ostfalia region on the topic of SDGs and sustainability is to be deepened and expanded. A sustainability register of all associations, societies, institutions and municipalities active in the region is to be compiled.

A sustainability check is to be developed with the involvement of local actors, which is to serve as an aid and advisor on how SMEs in the region can improve their CSR reporting. In the case of associations and organisations, the check could be used to review the purpose of the statutes, achievement of objectives, etc. The result of the check for the participants should be that the participants are shown concrete needs for action in the area of sustainability, which are named by carrying out the (accompanying self-test).



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