

Witten/Herdecke University, Germany

Faculty of Management & Economics

PRME Report

Academic Year 2014/2015

United Nations Global Compact Academic Network

PRME

This is our **Sharing Information on Progress (SIP)**
Report on the Implementation of the **Principles for**
Responsible Management Education



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Letter from the Dean



The Faculty of Management & Economics at Witten/Herdecke University remains deeply committed to the United Nations' Principles for responsible Management Education. Hence, we are very proud to submit our Report on Progress for the academic years 2014 and 2015.

Witten/Herdecke University and its Faculty of Management & Economics are designed to prepare students for leading positions in business, politics and society.

We educate change agents, who are able to cope with the unexpected and who are prepared to assume responsibility. It is our professed aim to raise awareness amongst our students for the economic, ecological and social challenges of the 21st century. As in previous years, the Faculty of Management & Economics offers a wide range of mandatory and elective classes in the field of sustainability. We will spare no effort to further integrate the idea of sustainability into our study programs.

Our excellent level in supervision and practice orientation was once again corroborated by top results in the "Trendence Graduate Barometer". We are particularly proud of the excellent work of our institutes for scientific research in the fields of sustainability management, particularly the Reinhard Mohn Institute for Corporate Governance and the Centre for Sustainable Corporate Leadership (ZNU).

Moreover, we would like to emphasise the high level of commitment our students show in the social sector. The high degree of engagement becomes evident through the impressive number of student initiatives at our university and generates a great impact on the society.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the section “highlights of the year”, which exemplarily illustrates our broad engagement by current projects in teaching, research and extracurricular student activities. In the field of teaching, we present our new module “Social Responsibility”, launched in 2015. The module runs on an annual basis and contains three mandatory classes. Furthermore, we would like to highlight Dr. Imke Schmidt’s thesis on the topic “Consumer Social Responsibility. Theoretical foundations and practical dimensions of consumers’ responsibility for sustainable consumption and production”. We conclude this chapter with a brief insight into the students Refugee Initiative, standing representative for the far-reaching collegial commitment.

We are proud to be an active member of an international academic network committed to lay a solid foundation for the education of future leaders.

Herewith, we renew our commitment to the United Nations’ Global Compact Academic Network and to the Principles of Responsible Management Education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Birger P. Priddat', written over a diagonal line.

Prof. Dr. Birger P. Priddat
Dean, Faculty of Management & Economics

Highlights of the year

We would like to illustrate our broad engagement through three vivid examples of research, teaching and student initiatives:

Research: PhD thesis on Consumer Social Responsibility

The previous year, Dr. Imke Schmidt received her doctorate at the Centre for Sustainable Corporate Leadership (ZMI) for her thesis on „Consumer Social Responsibility. Theoretical foundations and practical dimensions of consumers' responsibility for sustainable consumption and production“. (Original title: „Consumer Social Responsibility. Theoretische Grundlagen und praktische Dimensionen der Konsumentenverantwortung für nachhaltiges Konsumieren und Produzieren“). Until now and in contrast to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Consumer Social Responsibility (ConSR) lacks the conceptual foundation that is important if any normative claims towards consumers shall be justified. Building on different models of individual and collective responsibility, the thesis fills this gap by providing a responsibility concept that is based on the different positions actors occupy in social settings. It allows ascribing responsibility to consumers in the global market context and helps to define concrete practical strategies of ConSR. Furthermore, four scenarios of shared responsibility of corporations and consumers are developed that are based either on conflict or cooperation. We congratulate Dr. Schmidt on her successful work!

Teaching: New Module “Social Responsibility”

We are proud to announce our new module „Social Responsibility“. The module was launched this year and will be offered on an annual basis. It contains three mandatory classes taught by Prof. Dr. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko:

1. Social Policy:

Free competition, individual freedom and social progress are cornerstones of social market economy. Based on these guiding principles, the socio-political and regulatory system in Germany has been developed over the past 60 years. It ranks among the most comprehensive in the world and defines a framework for entrepreneurial action. Participants explore motivation, objectives and design principles of social policy in historical context and exemplarily glance at alternative models practiced in neighbouring countries.

2. Corporate Social Responsibility

Society critically observes the increasing interdependence between businesses and their environment due to the globalization of economy. Since the 1990s, the resulting challenges for management and strategy development have been discussed under the term of „corporate social responsibility“. The course offers a systematic overview of the theoretical concepts and their applications and provides a deep insight into future development trends.

3. Social Entrepreneurship

Tackling societal problems from an entrepreneur's point of view and making a contribution to the sustainable design of the future: This is what social entrepreneurs try to achieve with their initiatives for health improvement, environmental protection, education, inclusion, integration and development. This module is made to measure for all students who are interested in this phenomenon and for those who wish to find ways and means to implement their own vision for a better world through social entrepreneurial activity.

Student initiative: Refugee Welcome Initiative

Directly at the outset of what is now termed as refugee crisis in the media, a large number of students have teamed up to support the city of Witten in the prevailing challenge for successful integration of refugees. The Refugee Initiative aims to establish a sound culture of welcome in Witten. Our students help to set up supporting institutions such as the 'help kiosk'. This voluntary work cover a wide range of support: free language training, regular intercultural get-togethers, free legal advice, support for women and mentorship programs for everyday life challenges. The close cooperation with existing institutions such as Amnesty International and the association „Bildungschancen“ (educational opportunities) guarantees a high effectiveness.



Principle 1: Purpose

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

Our purpose

Witten/Herdecke University (UW/H) was founded and state recognized in 1982 and has since been a pioneer among Germany's institutions for higher education. Over a period of 30 years, we introduced significant innovation in research and teaching. As a model university, we stand for dynamic reforms of the traditional alma mater and the pursuit of a humanistic educational concept adapted to the challenges of our modern knowledge society. In adherence to Humboldt's educational ideals, we strive to integrate research and student education, provision of scientific services, practical application and social responsibility. Theory-based and practice-oriented teaching at UW/H is always associated with the acquisition of subject-related, methodical, social and cultural competences, value orientation and personal growth.

Witten researches.

Research at UW/H is interdisciplinary, highly diverse as to methodology, and focuses on well-defined areas. As a private university with a moderate percentage of state funding in our budget, we feel obliged to make a contribution to society in return for the funds we receive. One way of doing so is to generate innovative research results. Real-life problems call for transdisciplinary research. The social relevance of our chosen fields of research is as important in this respect as transparent and generally understandable publication of research findings.

Witten educates.

Education is much more than training for the job. In addition to subject-related expertise and skills, we also convey methods and strategies which enable our students to cope with complex and permanently changing demands of the modern knowledge society. Students are encouraged to think in wider contexts and assume social responsibility in and beyond a chosen discipline. The economic, ecological and social challenges of the future will certainly not respect the boundaries of academic disciplines.

Witten – fundamental.

In an increasingly complex, rapidly changing and insecure world, prospective physicians, entrepreneurs, managers, politicians or consultants need methodical, social, ethical and cultural competences as much as subject-related expertise. Studium fundamentale is an obligatory part of all degree programs at Witten/Herdecke University. One day per week, students of all disciplines take time for reflexion of fundamental issues, communicative experiences, and artistic-creative exercises. They discover new horizons, explore transdisciplinary contexts, and enjoy time and space for out-of-the-box thinking and action.

Witten gets involved.

The role of higher education in society underwent radical changes in recent years. Top level research and teaching are the necessary conditions for successful universities. In Witten, however, we go a bit further. We demand and encourage initiative and responsibility; in university bodies, in the representation of student affairs, in the design of courses, congress organization or implementation of business ideas – but also in student-organized social initiatives. Our students show tremendous commitment and assume responsibility for their university, themselves and ultimately for society. On occasion of the founding ceremony of Witten/Herdecke University, Alfred Herrhausen, then Chairman of Deutsche Bank, spoke of an “esprit engagé, a dedicated spirit to be developed and employed for the fostering of our society”. This spirit is an essential part of our philosophy.

“Witten/Herdecke University as the oldest and one of the few interdisciplinary private universities stands for pluralism, freedom in curricular organization and encouragement of social responsibility. Its reformative character is an inspiration to the entire system of higher education in Germany.”

Prof. Dr. h.c. **Roland Berger**,
Chairman Roland Berger Strategy Consultants GmbH

“Germany’s oldest private university has been addressing a topic of much economic and social significance for by now ten years, and has done so with impressive success.”

German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**
in her greeting to the 10th Congress for Family
Businesses

Principle 2: Values

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

Our Values

The Faculty of Management & Economics adheres to the three guiding principles of Witten/Herdecke University:

- **Encourage freedom**

In our teaching and research activities, we encourage personal initiative and creativity in economic thinking and action. We explore innovative economic approaches and also non-economic perspectives.

- **Strive for truth**

In our quest for truth, we encourage our students to start very early in their education to develop their own questions, challenge 'truths' and find methodologically solid substantiations of the results of their studies and research. We integrate theory and practice to underscore our problem and solution oriented approach. We strive for national and international visibility of our rigorous and relevant research.

- **Assume social responsibility**

Our graduates are expected to join the ranks of responsible leaders and accept formative tasks in business, politics and society. In research and student education, we address economic, ecological and social challenges specific to the age of globalization and develop a range of solution scenarios. In this way, we work on the concept of an economic system adapted to the needs of people and not the other way around.



Principle 3: Method

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

Our method

The key philosophy of social responsibility outlined in the three guiding principles of UW/H is and remains highly important in view of future challenges. Today's economic systems operate within contexts that are informed by not only political and social but also environmental, technological, demographic and health related issues. Responsible entrepreneurial activity is therefore an integral part of such wider contexts.

Multidisciplinary curricula

Many future challenges to our society will require interaction between a wide range of disciplines. Subjects like business economics, general management, philosophy, psychology, sociology and anthropology all contribute to the development of a sustainable economic system. In contrast to conventional business schools, the Faculty of Management & Economics has always looked beyond the narrow boundaries of the subject and integrated perspectives, methods and concepts of neighboring disciplines.

Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability

Witten/Herdecke University offers numerous lectures and courses in the field of corporate responsibility and sustainability within the following programs.

- **Business Economics (B.A.)**

- F.A. v. Hayek's Social Philosophy
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Co-Determination and Social Partnership
- Corporate Governance and Business Ethics
- Current Issues in Business Management (Demographic Change)
- Innovation Management
- Ethical Issues of Corporate Governance
- Development Theory and Policy
- Philosophy of Economics
- Social Competence, Teambuilding, Coaching
- Introduction to Environmental Economics
- Current Issues in Management
- Sustainability of Enterprise and Product
- Start-up Creation and Management

Since 2012, Bachelor students can, depending on their personal preferences and career aspirations, select to pursue a Minor in Sustainability. Furthermore, one of the core teaching concepts of the economic faculty, the Start-up Academy ("GründerWerkstatt"), opened up to topics and business models related to sustainability. Participants in this course gain insights into the implementation of founding a social business.

- **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (B.A.)**

- Focus Module "Sustainability"
- Focus Module "Migration"
- Philosophy-and-Social-Science Conference
- Theories of Political Ecology
- Global Resource Management
- Global Climate Policy
- Political Theory of Human Rights
- Unconditional Basic Income as a Contribution to the Sustainable Development
- Politics of Sustainability: the Indications of a Turning Point
- Analysis of the Climate Conference (Paris)
- Ethics in Organisations
- Limits and Boundaries of Wealth

- **Management (M.A.)**

- Entrepreneurial Questions of Corporate Governance
- Current Issues in Management
- Current Issues in Economics: Consumer Social Responsibility
- Socially Responsible Management: Concepts of Business Ethics

- **Philosophy, Politics and Economics (M.A.)**

- Climate, Environment, Poverty
- Development Economics and Development Policy
- Social Epistemology and Collective Action
- Ethics and Economics
- Questions at the Interface of Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Ecological Economics
- Current Issues and Pursuing Questions: Global Governance
- Current Issues and Pursuing Questions: Philosophy and Society
- Institutions, Growth and Development: Theories of Institutional Change
- Ethical Foundations of Human Rights



Studium fundamentale – The interdisciplinary heart of UW/H

In addition, all students have to take classes in the Studium fundamentale. The aim of Studium fundamentale is to offer students new perspectives for their studies and to develop their reflective, communicative and creative skills. Once a week, students of all faculties within the UW/H explore fields beyond their own disciplines and attend lectures and classes, in which topics ranging from philosophy, aesthetics over arts to ethics are addressed. Additionally, the field of Studium fundamentale consists of a variety of classes in social sciences.

Lectures, conferences, workshops

Furthermore, numerous lectures, conferences and workshops focus on sustainability-related topics every semester. A considerable number of them are initiated in close cooperation with our students. Examples from the last two years include:

1st Witten Conference on Institutional Change: Money

The first event of this type on “Money, Banking, and the Crisis: An Austrian Perspective” took place from December 10 to 12, 2014. Ca. 70 economists from Germany and abroad discussed the Austrian Economics’ core idea of spontaneous order and its possible implications for a better understanding of the recent financial and economic crisis. The Witten Institute of Institutional Change (WIWa) and the Friedrich A. von Hayek Society jointly hosted the meeting.

2nd Witten Conference on Institutional Change: Migration

The 2nd Witten Conference on Institutional Change was dedicated to the topic “Migration, Institutions, and Institutional Change” and took place on November 6 and 7, 2015 at Witten/Herdecke University. The Conference intended to foster the interdisciplinary discourse on the institutional dimension of migration.

UW/H Debate

UW/H Debate is a discussion platform on current political and social issues. It targets the general public. Researchers at Witten/Herdecke University engage in discussion with external experts and invite the audience to join in. This format is organized two or three times per semester. Selection of topics covered:

- The new Antisemitism in Germany
- Where is Russia headed?
- Does Islam belong to Germany?

Oikos Winter School

The Witten “oikos Winter School” is the established conference of oikos International, a worldwide student initiative which supports and promotes sustainability in the curriculum of universities. The association was founded in St. Gallen, Switzerland in 1987. Since then, oikos International has grown in size and number of members. Currently, it consists of more than 40 chapters around the globe. In times of global imbalances and within an economic system that privileges the rich, changing the understanding of economics and management is the key towards a future of greater sustainability. Every year, the chapter of Wit-

ten/Herdecke organizes a conference in the pursuit to be part of this changing and constructive process.

Bürgeruniversität – Citizens' University

As in previous years, a variety of lectures was organized in cooperation with the Adult Education Centre Witten. The series of events on a regular basis is open to everyone. The following provides an overview of the topics covered.

- The unconditional basic income – A contribution to sustainability
- How social should the “social market economy” be designed?
- Democracy in the tension between security and freedom
- Climate Policy is at a crossroad: Where shall we go?
- My actions taken: Environment, climate and the rain forest

Reinhard Mohn Institute for Corporate Governance

Growing world population - growing markets? UW/H students and Bertelsmann managers discussed strategies for the future. Current estimates suggest a world population of nine billion by 2050. Does this imply larger markets and development potentials, or will today's industrial nations be overtaken by the rest of the world? The Bertelsmann foundation presents latest research findings saying that increasing globalization will have positive effects on national economies. Industrial countries have profited most from the trend so far. The effect will, however, be reversed soon in favour of threshold economies, and we will face tremendous challenges as a consequence of demographic change. The Bertelsmann foundation and the Reinhard Mohn Institute for Corporate Governance co-hosted a meeting in Gütersloh for UW/H students to discuss issues related to “growing world population - growing markets”.

Corporate culture: empty phrase or added value? Symposium on corporate culture as success factor addresses daily corporate practice and scientific findings. The Reinhard Mohn Institute for Corporate Governance explores the plan table elements of corporate culture which have an impact on economic success. Renowned experts and representatives of the business community were invited to discuss state-of-the-art research and daily business practice. The major subject of the conference was the development of new approaches of corporate governance that promote internal cooperation. Collaboration among staff, teams and departments forms the basis for creative and inno-

vative ideas, but cannot be imposed top-down. The question is how corporate culture may generate added value through promotion of co-operation.

Centre for Sustainable Corporate Leadership (ZNU)

The Centre for Sustainable Corporate Leadership (ZNU) at Witten/Herdecke University hosted a second sustainability meeting for top representatives of the food industry in Frankfurt, together with the DFV media group and the foundation "Forum für Verantwortung". Topics were long-term sustainability concepts in the food sector as well as steps and tools for their implementation. The main focus was on the essential need to raise the awareness of staff and clients about sustainability issues and thus trigger change. ZNU instruments to measure and systematize the degree of sustainable management at company and product level met with much interest among participants. High-level business representatives met for a discussion panel and agreed that sustainability should be advanced in every direction, in the production and retail of conventional and organic products alike. The bottom line of the discussion was the an open learning culture based on transparency and mutual appreciations required to promote an awareness of sustainable products among consumers, producers and the commercial sector.

Sustainable management in the food sector:

The VII. Future Conference "Food" hosted by the Witten/Herdecke University. The ZNU (Centre for Sustainable Corporate Leadership) gave an exclusive presentation of their standard in "Sustainable Management in the Food Sector", as a valuable tool for medium-sized companies in particular to provide credible evidence of their sustainability commitment. The focus, as always with the ZNU, was on the interface between producer and trade, with an evaluation of the entire value chain in the hot spot analysis of products.

Innovation – lecture series on an ambiguous term

Witten/Herdecke University organized a lecture series on innovation to explore this multi-faceted term. Its ambiguity is evidenced by the fact that we often hear of “technological”, “organizational”, “social” or “responsible” innovations. Innovative capacity and innovation policy determine a country’s or region’s success or failure to cope with future challenges, and that tailor-made innovation policies are therefore required. The focus of the lecture series with renowned experts from business, society and academia was twofold: various perspectives of innovation and innovation policy were presented and reflected, and targets and approaches of current and future innovation and innovation policy were explored and debated.

Theatron Logou

The lecture series Theatron Logou was initiated by UW/H students seven years ago as a platform for exchange with renowned personalities from politics, philosophy, theology and natural sciences to discuss issues of social relevance and new ideas for transformation processes.

Petra Pinzler, author and correspondent of weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT, gave a speech in January 2015. She explored economic growth versus quality of life as conflicting objectives, and the reasons why the European Union is getting its priorities wrong.

Likewise, Jakob Augstein, a prominent journalist and author, held a speech addressing the topic of the tension between capitalism and democracy.

New book by UW/H alumnus Philip Kovce

Together with Swiss entrepreneur Daniel Häni, UW/H alumnus Philip Kovce wrote a book on unconditional basic income. Kovce and Häni are currently on a reading tour and visited Witten/Herdecke University in October 2015. Prof. Birger, Priddat, Dean of the UW/H Faculty of Management and Economics hosted the panel discussion on new book and the concept addressed.



Principle 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.

Our research

The two key fields of research activities at the UW/H Faculty of Management and Economics are reflected in the degree courses the Faculty offers. Under the heading "entrepreneurship and leadership" one field concentrates on managerial questions regarding the behaviour of prospective business leaders on the protagonist level. Research in the economics-oriented field comes under the heading "markets and institutions" with a focus on rules for the management of markets and market systems. This research approach permits and even demands interdisciplinary exploration, since major challenges to future societies will require a joint effort of several disciplines. Market analysis also covers sustainability aspects. The Faculty's research focuses on:

- Family Business
Focus: Long-term Orientation of Family Firms
- Leadership and Governance
Focus: Responsible management and leadership in all ranks, governance, social responsibility
- Institutional Change
- Healthcare Management and Economics

Principle 5: Partnership

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.

Our partnerships

Right from the start, Witten/Herdecke University assumed social responsibility in many forms and on various levels. Witten/Herdecke University is in a continuous lively exchange with the community: with the citizens of Witten, the local and regional business world, social and cultural institutions, even international organizations, corporations and foundations.

Our students spend quite a lot of time working on projects on- and off-campus. In view of our still young age and a comparably small number of some 2.300 enrolled students and 500 staff, we have produced an impressive number of social, cultural, commercial and non-profit initiatives. One example is the **oikos Winter School**, where young and visionary individuals from all over the world meet in Witten for workshops on specific projects, interdisciplinary meetings, latest research finding, etc.

Moreover, the Faculty of Management and Economics is part of a regional and global network of higher education institutions, companies and other organizations. Based in the city of Witten and the Ruhr area, we cooperate with more than 50 family businesses (including Haniel, Grillo, Pictet), about 30 companies in the food industry (including Dr. Oetker, Katjes, Iglo), and more than 300 mentor companies who support our company mentorship concept in teaching. In this context, the **Future Conference Food** for example focusses on the change processes towards more sustainability in the food sector.

Furthermore, we have renowned academic partners for our key research activities. Our alumni, many of whom hold key positions all over the world, constitute a further essential part of our network.

Finally, the university also draws on the dedication of its environment. A number of associations and societies form a network to support the university and its students on several levels. New ideas and projects result from this commitment on a regular basis. Apart from associations such as the “StudierendenGesellschaft” or the “Universitätsverein”, various institutes with close links to the Faculty of Economics and Management help to build bridges between theory and practice.



Principle 6: Dialogue

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

Our Dialogue

Students and their projects are truly the best ambassadors for an UN-PRME membership. Witten/Herdecke has produced an impressive number of social, cultural, commercial and non-profit initiatives and curricula that foster responsibility. Characteristically at UW/H, students team up for cross-disciplinary projects, reaching beyond their own study focus. In the following, you can find a selection of numerous projects initiated by our students and achievements that we are proud of.

Student Initiatives

ADD ACTION

It is a frequent demand to integrate health related subjects such as physical education and nutrition into school curricula from early on. Since 2010 ADD ACTION is a first step in this direction. Our students organize a variety of activities at schools to counteract the rising incidence of obesity amongst children and adolescents.

AL SALAM

“Al Salam” is the Arabic word for peace. After joining a relief program and visiting one of the largest refugee camps in Jordan, two medical students started the initiative in summer 2015. In addition to the collection of funds, a major goal of Al Salam is to offer students the possibility to participate in “humanitarian and medical missions” together with organizations on site and become active in camps or border villages.

ARBEITERKIND.DE – WORKING CLASS CHILD

In Germany, the educational system is still rather socially impermeable. Children follow the same educational career as their parents with less upward mobility than in other European countries. The student initiators of arbeiter-kind.de tackle this problem. The Witten chapter was estab-

lished in October 2013 as a mixed team of students and graduates of various disciplines and different age groups. They encourage youngsters from families where nobody or hardly anybody went to university to plan university studies, and they provide advice and support from the start up to graduation.

BILDUNGSCHANCEN – EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

This initiative strives to support education in children and adolescents from lower SES families to improve opportunities.

CONGRESS FOR FAMILY BUSINESSES

The annual Congress for Family Businesses offers networks and expertise for this particular type of business. Family businesses make up a strong 90% of all German companies. UW/H students host congress, which is the most important and renowned of its kind in Europe.

ENDULEN E.V. – KEEP IT CLOSE TO YOUR HEART!

Following this slogan, two medical students founded this registered non-profit association in 2008, after having spent a voluntary year at the Endulen hospital in northern Tanzania.

ENTREPRENEURS IN DIALOGUE

UW/H students regularly invite outstanding representatives of the business community to the university, where guests report and discuss their professional experience and insights with lecturers and students.

FRIENDS OF ONE WORLD SECONDARY SCHOOL KILIMANJARO

The student initiative was founded in 2013 and is by now a registered non-profit organization. The Friends of OWSK tackle the task of providing material and conceptual support to the One World Secondary School Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and of facilitating intercultural dialogue on education and formats of knowledge transfer.

FUTURE DOCTORS NETWORK

The Future Doctors Network supports improvement and expansion of medical education in developing and emerging nations. Training in physical examination skills is in great demand amongst medical students in target countries.

GREEN RESPONSIBILITY

Early in 2008 the initiative “Green Responsibility” planted a small or-

chard on campus. Other activities followed, like advertising green electricity or photovoltaic.

GRÜNDERPOTT – START-UP SUPPORT

“Gründerpott” wants to encourage young entrepreneurs in particular to settle in the local area by conveying innovative business ideas. The initiative offers a wide range of supportive activities such as workshops and events on relevant topics, fostering contact between young founders of businesses with established companies in the region and thus helping them to find customers, investors or partners.

L’APPEL DEUTSCHLAND e.V.

L’appel is an organization for development cooperation. The joint projects in Africa in the field of health, education and infrastructure are tailored to the needs and necessities of the target groups. Members are students and young people who provide expertise on a volunteer basis.

LUTHER’S LAUNDERETTE

Who gives medical care to poor or even homeless people and/or those without health insurance? UW/H medical students provide help; they identify patients requiring immediate treatment, refer them to physicians, or perform minor treatment themselves.

MEDICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM MAZAR

In the Medical Exchange Program Mazar, Afghan students are trained as tutors at UW/H, in annual alternation with UW/H students teaching in Afghanistan to pass on their previously acquired medical skills.

MEDICINE WITH HEART AND HAND

This students’ initiative wants to raise awareness for the potential of integrative medicine. Since 2010, a summer academy is organized once a year that draws participants from all over the country. Medical doctors, therapists, artists and students work together on how to strengthen the relationship between patients and health professionals and foster dedication and delight in health care.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

UW/H regularly sends a student team to New York to the largest UN simulation worldwide. Each student assumes the role of a delegate from a country assigned to him or her and tries to represent this country’s interests at UN conferences.

NEUROLOGY PODCASTS

Neurology is one of the major specialist disciplines in medicine and steadily growing in importance as a consequence of demographic change and progress in diagnostics and therapy. At the same time, its reputation among students is that of a particularly complex and hard-to-grasp subject. This is why medical schools are establishing innovative teaching formats to enthuse students for neurology. The neurology podcasts which UW/H students started to produce in the summer term of 2014 are one of these formats.

OIKOS WITTEN/HERDECKE

“What is good for all must be good for me, too, and what hurts society and the environment will ultimately hurt me, too.” For oikos Witten/Herdecke, a student network for sustainable ideas and projects, the logical inference of this observation is sustainable management and thus the implantation of solutions today which will not cause new problems tomorrow. Since 2008, Witten/Herdecke and its Faculty of Management & Economics has been hosting the annual international oikos Winter School, bringing together more than 25 young change-makers from around the world.

DENTAL HEALTH PROJECT GAMBIA

Several local Dental Health Centres were established all over Gambia in cooperation with the Gambian Ministry of Health, European and US universities.

RELIEF PROJECT IN RUANDA

To this date, many villages in Ruanda have no access to clean water or electricity. Many people live in huts and dress in rags. UW/H student drill wells on site, help to erect homes, teach in schools and provide clothing for children and adolescents.

ROCK YOUR LIFE!

Ten UW/H students founded the Witten chapter of ROCK YOUR LIFE! in November 2012. ROCK YOUR LIFE! trains dedicated students as coaches to accompany and support pupils (secondary school) on their way into work life on a continuous basis.

STUDENTS HEALTH DIALOGUE

Ukraine has one of the highest new HIV infection rates worldwide – reason enough for two medical UW/H students to start the Students

Health Dialogue (SHD) in 2004. The idea was to use sex education in order to reduce the number of new infections considerably. Today the focus of SHD activities is on sex education in Germany.

STUDIERENDENGESSELLSCHAFT WITTEN/HERDECKE

Sketched on a paper napkin by students of Witten/Herdecke University in 1995, the idea of an inverse contract between student generations (UGV – umgekehrter Generationenvertrag) proved to be an innovative payment concept for tuition fees, successful for now over 15 years. It is also the origin of the StudierendenGesellschaft Witten/Herdecke e.V. The UGV promotes equal opportunities in education. It offers payment modes that enable students to finance their studies independent of their parents' income or social background. The basic idea is: study today and pay tomorrow. Students may opt for payment of tuition fees after graduation as soon as they earn money. In this way, UW/H graduates pay tuition fees for currently enrolled students – an inverse contract between student generations. The concept is unique in Germany and ensures that nobody is excluded from studies at UW/H for lack of funds.

STUDY GROUP HOMEOPATHY

Medical students initiated this self-organized study group for homeopathy in January 2006 with the intention to acquire the necessary subject-related knowledge and experience to explore homeopathy as an independent intervention concept integrated into the health care system

SUMMER SCHOOL

What do management consultants do? What is business management? The Witten/Herdecke University summer school has answers to these and many more questions for high school students and applicants. A student team hosts this event every year.

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATOR SPEAKER SERIES

UW/H students founded the Sustainable Innovator Speaker Series in spring 2010. The idea was to add an initiative with a focus on sustainability to the existing student projects at university. Once or twice a semester, they invite executives with a record of sustained social innovation.

TEAM EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The UW/H student group of the German Red Cross strives to expand the preclinical stage of medical training with courses in emergency

medicine on a continuous basis. The student initiative offers a wide range of courses and simultaneously room for participation in activities organized by the Witten Red Cross group such as rescue and ambulance services, disaster protection and other social projects.

TEAM MEDICAL CONSULTATION

For several years, medical students have been active in the medical consultation team of the Medical Care Service for Refugees Bochum (MFH). In consultation hours and on-call duty they provide medical advice and referrals to refugees and migrants without residence permit and therefore without access to medical care. Students employ medical skills and competences acquired so far and rely on a network of local specialists who are prepared and willing to treat refugees and migrants anonymously and free of charge.

TEAM PATIENT EDUCATION

Ten years ago, a student study group started out as one of several in the nursing curriculum to explore the topic of “patient education – information, instruction and consultation for patients”, and to integrate theory and issues emerging into every day nursing practice.

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

Students initiated the Teddy Bear Clinic for children from 4 to 6 to help them overcome their fear of doctors and hospitals.

THEATRON LOGOU

Michel Friedman, Günther Beckstein and Wolfgang Schäuble were guests of Theatron Logou. This student initiative strives to identify current issues to be discussed with a top-level representative of national politics, business, academia or the media.

THINK TANK SERIES

The Witten/Herdecke Think Tank Series is a forum for innovative ideas. Students organize each meeting in cooperation with selected institutions and explore visions, concepts and future scenarios for a specific industrial sector.

WEGE ZUM AUSGLEICH – WAYS TO BALANCE

This student initiative addresses issues related to equal chances and social justice in developing countries. Two psychology students, co-founders of the initiative, spent several months in Ecuador and Peru

where they worked as volunteers in children's homes and women's shelters. The initiative sets out to organize fundraising events in support of these projects in Peru and Ecuador.

WITTEN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

"One World WINs – Witten International Network" is a student initiative founded in 2014. The idea is to improve the integration of international exchange students at all UW/H faculties into university life and student activities. The initiative cooperates closely with the UW/H International Office and addresses not only exchange students and those with an interest for exchange but also all UW/H staff with an international background. Based on personal experience, the initiators set great store by personal contacts and an atmosphere of warm hospitality.

WORLD:CLASS FOUNDATION

The World:Class foundation provides innovative learning experience to German high school students, who spend several weeks in developing and emerging nations whilst staying in close contact with their class at home.

ZUSAMMENWACHSEN – GROW TOGETHER

Six students at the School of Psychology and Psychotherapy started this initiative in 2013. In a joint effort with Luther's Launderette and some of its customers, the Witten students created a small vegetable garden in the backyard of the facility. The aim was to fabricate something of existence by involving the clients of the Launderette.

Visit www.uni-wh.de/en/university/student-initiatives to gain deeper insights into our various and quite successful student projects on- and off-campus.



Awards

2015 / UW/H STUDENT INITIATIVES HONOURED BY GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL STATE OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW)

UW/H students who serve as volunteers in Luther's Launderette are honoured in the NRW government's competition "Orte des Fortschritts 2015" (Places of Progress). Established by local Protestant church near the Hagen railway station, the facility offers support and free medical and dental treatment to the homeless and destitute, to people with chronic and mental diseases and addictions. In 1999, medical students started to volunteer, students of dentistry joined the project in 2003.

2015 / STUDENT START-UP "ROOM IN A BOX" WINS 3RD BERLIN CROWDFUNDING AWARD

The project initiated by Gerald Dissen and Lionel Palm asserts itself against eleven other finalists and wins € 5000 prize money as well as invitations to trade conferences and international presentations. The young entrepreneurs are honoured for the innovative idea to produce furniture from corrugated board.

2015 / TOP RESULTS FOR FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS IN TRENDENCE GRADUATE BAROMETER

Economics students at Witten/Herdecke University again award excellent marks to their university in the core categories of supervision, practice orientation and student activities, and good marks for cooperation with the business sector and services such as library, guidance and career service. These are the results of the 2015 tendency survey. The tendency Institute started surveys for the fields of Business, Engineering, IT and Law in 1999.

2015 / UW/H STUDENTS WIN MICROSOFT START-UP COMPETITION WITH APPS

UW/H students Dennis Ortmann and Niklas Priddat win this year's #MakeltHappen founder competition with their start-up MateApps together with Patrick Schramowski (Technical University Dortmund). The focus of the Microsoft Competition is on small start-ups with creative business ideas.

2014 / ALUMNUS EIKE HAAS RECEIVES AWARD AT EUROPEAN MICROFINANCE WEEK

The European programme "University Meets Microfinance" (UMM) presents this year's first prize for the best Master thesis to UW/H alumnus Eike Haas. An international jury assesses theses by students graduating from EU universities with financial inclusion as the topic of their final papers. Among the sponsors are the EU-Commission, the EU-Investment Bank, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Society for International Cooperation GIZ.

2014 / LIFETIME AWARD OF GERMAN RETAIL ASSOCIATION FOR PETER POHLMANN

The German Retail Association honours Peter Pohlmann, the founder of POCO furniture markets and associate of Witten/Herdecke University, with their lifetime award 2014.

2014 / CHE RANKING: ECONOMICS STUDENTS HIGHLY SATISFIED

UW/H again achieves top results in key fields: general study conditions, range of courses, academic feasibility, supervision, contact to fellow students, evaluation, practical relevance, rooms, academic approach, and international orientation and research funds.

2014 / STUDENT SURVEY: TOP RANKINGS FOR ECONOMICS FACULTY

The consulting firms "trendence" and "Universum" assess the attractiveness of German universities once a year. This year, Germany's first private university confirmed previous top results in most categories. The trendence survey gave UW/H top marks in the categories "teachers/instructors" (no. 1 among all German universities), "practice orientation" (no. 1), "scope and quality of student activities" (no. 1), as well as "career perspectives" and "cooperation with the business community" (no. 2 respectively).

2014 / HOCHSCHULPERLE AWARD FOR PFAD.FINDER SCHOL- ARSHIP

The Stifterverband honours the Pfad.finder scholarship with the Hochschulperle award for July. The monthly award goes to outstanding innovative projects at universities. This UW/H scholarship supports school leavers in pursuing individual projects for one year before they take up university studies, as a phase of deliberate deceleration in the educational race.

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