

A photograph of a large array of solar panels installed on a flat roof, with a clear blue sky and some clouds in the background.

The new competence area “Sustainable Development” in the general professional skills courses

Workshop: “Sustainability in Teaching”

Embedding ESD in Teaching

Tuesday, 17 October 2017

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1. Background to a broader integration of sustainability in teaching

Sustainability Mission Statement of the Freie Universität Berlin (March 2016)

„[...] This sustainability orientation is symbolised in our teaching through a **strategic approach** that broadly integrates sustainability issues into the university curriculum and uses the **concept of “Education for Sustainable Development”**.”

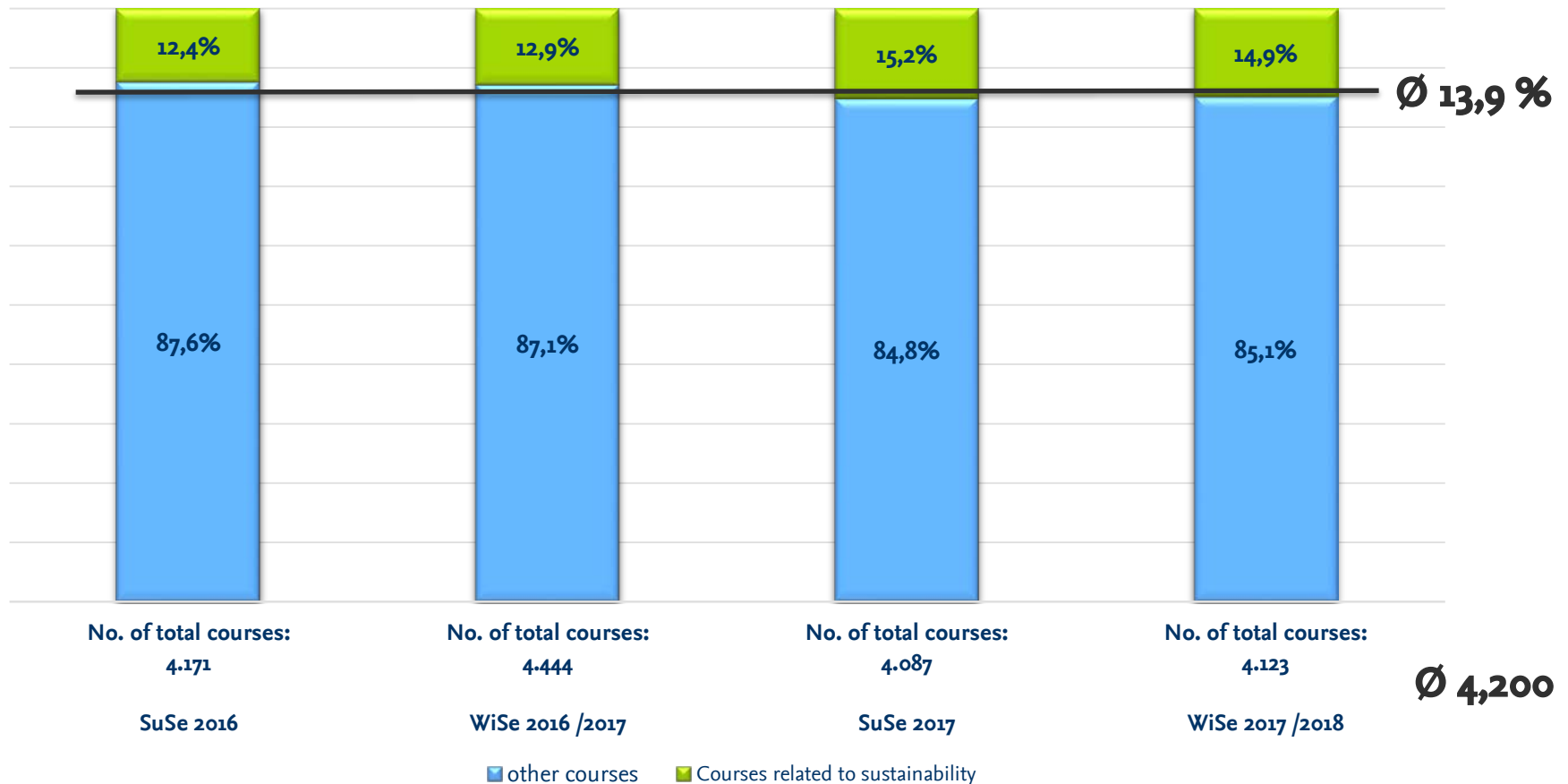
Sustainable science and education adhere to the **principles of action orientation, participation and inter- and transdisciplinarity**. We are open-minded towards new forms of teaching, learning and knowledge transfer. [...]“



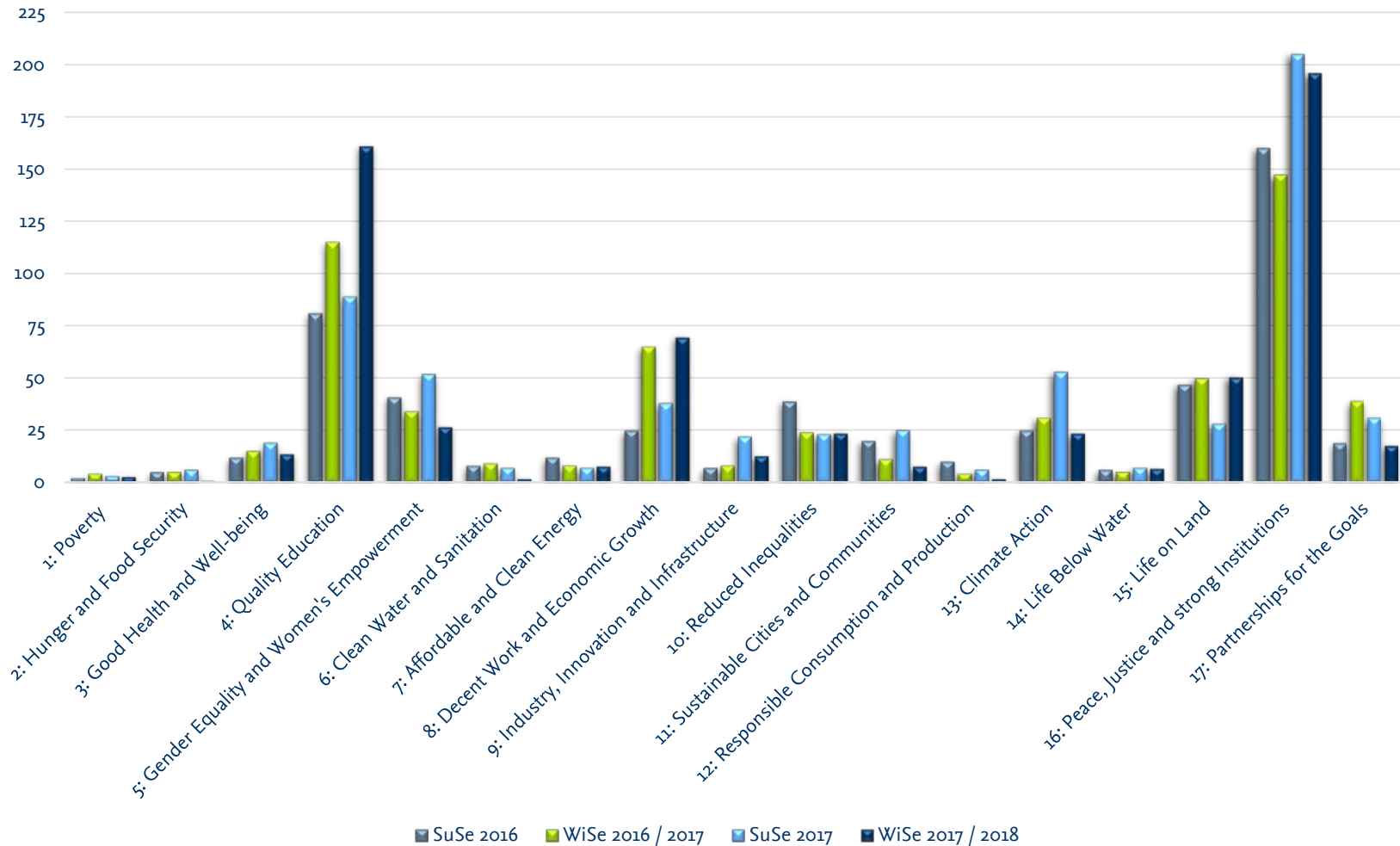
Image credit: Freie Universität Berlin; Office of News and Public Affairs

2. Internal research study to identify courses related to sustainability

2.1 General overview of courses



2.2. Courses related to the sustainability development goals of the United Nations



Current results

- A significant basis
- Sustainability related courses cover all SDGs
- Recognition of the need for more collaboration across departments and disciplines
- A strong interest among departments to expand core themes among all disciplines

3. Cross-disciplinary applications of sustainability principles

A) Interdisciplinary public lecture series at Freie Universität Berlin

“Transforming Our World: Sustainability at the Freie Universität Berlin.

The 17 SDGs of the UN in the focus of scientific and institutional practice”



Image credit: Freie Universität Berlin; Sustainability & Energy Management Unit



Image credit: Freie Universität Berlin; Office of News and Public Affairs

B) Courses

I. "Sustainability Management"

- First implementation in summer semester 2017

II. "Participation in theory and practice: The campus as a Living Lab"

- Part of "University days for sustainability and climate action"

Special features

- Sustainability projects
- Peer-teaching in learning activities

Planned steps

- Addition of both courses to the required program for planned competence area "Sustainable Development"



Image credit: Freie Universität Berlin; SUSTAIN IT! Initiative for Sustainability + Climate Protection

4. New competence area “Sustainable Development” in the general professional skills courses (ABV)

Academic program structure of Bachelor's degree programs at Freie Universität Berlin

- 150 credits in the core subject
- 30 credits in one of two interdisciplinary professional focus areas
 - ✓ **General professional skills courses (ABV)**
 - ✓ Teaching-related professional courses (LBW)
- required component of Bachelor's degree programs (exceptions: medicine and law)
- specific study and examination regulations



Image credit: Viessmann Werke GmbH & Co. KG

General professional skills courses (ABV)

- **Aim:** To provide supplementary skill sets and knowledge in career-orientated fields
- **Structure:**

| General professional skills (ABV) courses (30 credits) | |
|---|--|
| <p>Mandatory professional internship</p> <p>Internship module (5, 10, or 15 credits)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Internship abroad module (20, 25, or 30 credits)</p> | <p>Modules in six competence areas (5, 10, or 15 credits)</p> <p><i>Discipline-specific ABV-courses</i></p> <p>1. Subject-related additional qualifications</p> <p><i>Central ABV-courses</i></p> <p>2. Foreign language</p> <p>3. Information and media skills</p> <p>4. Gender and diversity awareness</p> <p>5. Organization and management</p> <p>6. Communications skills</p> <p>7. Sustainable Development (NEW: Winter semester 2018 / 2019)</p> <p>8. Research-orientated learning (NEW: Winter semester 2018 / 2019)</p> |

Competence area "Sustainable Development"

Study and examination regulations

■ Learning objectives

- Understand various dimensions and concepts of sustainability
- Become familiar with international agreements and strategies
- Use sustainable development as a normative guiding principle
- Get professional orientation knowledge in sustainability management, communication and research on sustainability-related issues
- Gain competences according to "Education for Sustainable Development"

■ Content

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations
- ESD
- Global societal challenges

■ Coordination

- Unit for Sustainability & Energy Management

Overview of the four courses within the competence area „Sustainable Development“

| | Managing Sustainability | Designing Sustainability Communications | Using Sustainability in the Real World | Researching Sustainability |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Theoretical part | global societal challenges, guiding principles of sustainable development, 17 SDGs of the UN, ESD, CSR, service learning, and sustainability management | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainability management / sub-processes such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mission statement development – goal-setting/planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communications tools related to sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> service learning project management inter- and trans-disciplinary working methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject - depending on the research question to be addressed |
| Practical part | Guided interdisciplinary teams to take on sustainable project tasks from real-world areas | | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> administration critical thinking skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communications strategies based on the teaching concepts of ESD self-awareness to understand their own choices in communicating with others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> campus community partnerships such as Community-Based Research or Design Thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complex problems and connections within the context of sustainable development create thoughtful measures for solutions |

Planned steps

- Development of courses for the **Teaching-related professional courses (LBW)** for primary school
- Increase the **communication** between the heads of the **seven central competence areas**
- Design of the sustainability **courses website**

Thank you for your attention!



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