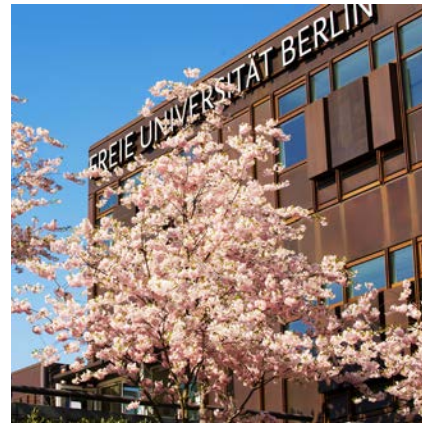




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2022



INTRODUCTION



Today, sustainability topics are an inherent part of the research and teaching at Freie Universität Berlin. According to the results of a survey conducted last year, 42 percent of the approximately 1,800 research projects at our university address at least one global sustainability goal. Twelve percent even do so in an interdisciplinary manner focused on sustainable development. Furthermore, 16 percent of the over 4,500 courses were sustainability-oriented seminars and lecture courses. We consider the topic of sustainability to be a strategic advantage not only because of its relevance in terms of content, but also since it attracts attention and interest almost everywhere in the university. There is hardly any other topic that creates such broad and diverse opportunities for cooperation across the entire university.

We have now anchored the topic of sustainability in two parts of the leadership team of Freie Universität Berlin. The Provost is responsible for the sustainability management of the university, and the First Vice-President, who is also the deputy of the President, is in charge of strategic questions in the context of sustainability and integrating it with the other guiding principles of the university. With this dual responsibility, the university expresses that sustainable development is both a leadership and an integration task.

For more than 20 years, Freie Universität Berlin has been addressing the question of how to make its own institution more sustainable. It has developed a sustainability management system focused on the entire university in its various facets one piece at a time, starting with an energy management system, then adding a certified management system. A wide variety of climate protection and sustainability goals, programs, and instruments have been implemented during this time. The entire process was one of step-by-step development which proceeded largely on the basis of the momentum produced by the operational implementation of the various activities.

The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is based on the inextricably linked nature of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For Freie Universität, it is crucial to consider the SDGs as an integral whole as well as in their reciprocal relationships and linkages. This also applies to this report: it takes a look at the individual SDGs, but the focus remains on the overarching and networking activities of Freie Universität Berlin. The following overview provides a summary of these activities. At the same time, it illustrates how deeply anchored the various sustainability dimensions have become in all areas of the university.

1 NO
POVERTY



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Freie Universität is committed to equal access to education. Students without resources or with few resources of their own can receive financial support through the Federal Training Assistance Act (Bundesausbildungsförderungsgesetz, Bafög) and the Bafög counseling service of the Studierendenwerk Berlin.



The diversity concept of Freie Universität adopted in 2021 focuses on social inequality as a key issue. Social status is determined above all by socio-economic factors such as family origin and income. One of Freie Universität's goals is to be a teaching, learning, and working environment that reduces barriers to access as a result of social status. Freie Universität offers counselling in the context of diversity and anti-discrimination and has corresponding complaints offices.

As part of its global responsibility, Freie Universität supports refugee students and researchers in continuing their studies and research, for instance by offering language and preparatory courses at the Studienkolleg. Currently, 30 refugee and at-risk researchers are conducting research at Freie Universität with the support of various programs. The nationwide network Academics in Solidarity (AiS) connects these individuals with colleagues and thus also seeks to open up long-term perspectives on the academic job market. The 2021 AiS Annual Conference focused on the topic of Teaching in Exile.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The project *Productive Pathology: Professional Patients and the Commodification of Disease in Egypt* is concerned with the deterioration of living conditions and the shift to neo-liberal policies of the people of Egypt and their development of different survival strategies to face the economic difficulties.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The consecutive Master's degree program *Gender, Intersectionality, and Politics* at the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science focuses on multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, gender identity, skin color, and social status, and identifies political and societal solutions.



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Students usually have low incomes, which makes them particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. The Studierendenwerk Berlin provides healthy, fresh, and inexpensive food at the eleven cafeterias and dining halls that it operates at Freie Universität. The dining halls consistently offer meals with low climate impact, and provide completely vegetarian and vegan dishes every day. The dining halls had to close in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but in some cases were able to offer a limited range of meals.



The main dining hall has been certified since 2016 on the basis of the European environmental management system standard EMAS. The Studierendenwerk thereby demonstrates that ecological and economical gastronomy is feasible in large kitchens. In the dining halls, attention is paid to keeping food waste as low as possible. The amount of food waste has been decreasing continuously since 2017 and was below 100 grams per visitor in the main dining hall in 2021.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

How will we feed the world in the future? How do citizens imagine a social, ecological, and fair food system? These are some of the central questions of the research group *Food for Justice: Power, Politics and Food Inequalities in a Bio-Economy* at the Institute for Latin American Studies.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The topic of the seminar *Geografien der Globalisierung* [Geographies of Globalization] is the diversity of the culinary cultures of Berlin: various flavors, the global network of ingredients, and the migration stories associated with them.



Highlight FUdsharing – Saving food made easy

Since 2011, the Sustain it! initiative has examined food waste through a diverse range of hands-on activities such as tastings, round tables, film screenings, and discussions. Moreover, students have created a concrete solution to food waste with the food distribution station FUdsharing on Freie Universität's campus, founded in 2017.

This room on the ground floor of the Silberlaube university building serves as a meeting place and a forum for learning about food and a sustainable diet. The students pick up left over food from nearby grocery stores, cafés, and bakeries for free and distribute them to anyone interested. Everyone who wants to donate or pick up food or chat with like-minded individuals is welcome. With FUdsharing, Sustain it! has established a popular place on campus for learning about and discussing questions of sustainable nutrition and food production.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Freie Universität Berlin views the health of its employees as an important resource and is committed to the promotion of health in the workplace through its FUndament *Gesundheit program*. Designing working conditions to be conducive to health and offering a wide range of measures to improve the working climate and motivation among employees are key features of the occupational health management efforts made by Freie Universität Berlin.

The project Healthy Campus – Freie Universität Berlin: *Gesund studieren* [Study in Good Health] focuses on the health of the university's students. Its goal is to promote well-being during their studies through targeted measures for prevention and health promotion. Despite the pandemic, the University Sports Center has offered several activities to strengthen the health and well-being of university employees. It converted several classroom formats into live online formats and used open spaces at the university for outdoor sports activities.



Under the motto “the only thing contagious should be ideas,” Freie Universität offered multiple opportunities for Covid-19 vaccinations on campus. The university was able to administer approximately 12,000 first, second, and booster Covid-19 vaccinations from October 2021 until January 2022.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

Prevention and control of *Campylobacter* infections with a One Health approach are the focus of the *PAC-CAMPY-IP2 project*. It is investigating the influence of environmental factors and human-animal interactions in order to identify specific interaction measures.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The lecture series *Covid Governmentalities in Transregional Perspective* provides students with an insight into key aspects of political transformation processes in pandemic times, reflecting upon key theoretical readings as well as Asian case studies in transregional perspective.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

Since the 2016 summer semester, the Sustainability and Energy Management Unit has been evaluating all courses in order to map how many of them address sustainability. The survey is based on the course titles and descriptions from Freie Universität's course catalog in combination with criteria for courses related to or focusing on sustainability. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form the basis of these criteria. The evaluation of the 2021/22 winter semester shows that 725 (16.1 percent) of the 4,507 surveyed courses relate to sustainability, of which 203 (4–5 percent) focus on sustainability in an interdisciplinary manner.



Within the program of the Open Lecture Hall, eleven free access courses were held for all interested persons, in digital form during the winter and summer semesters 2020/2021, and since the winter semester 2021/22 in presence. Various sustainability topics were addressed in the lectures.

The FUB-ContinuEd continuing education program provides high-quality, hands-on certificate courses for people at all stages of life and of all professional backgrounds who want to acquire knowledge and essential skills for their individual development. By offering a wide range of topics and formats, it allows the participants to flexibly integrate further education into their everyday lives.

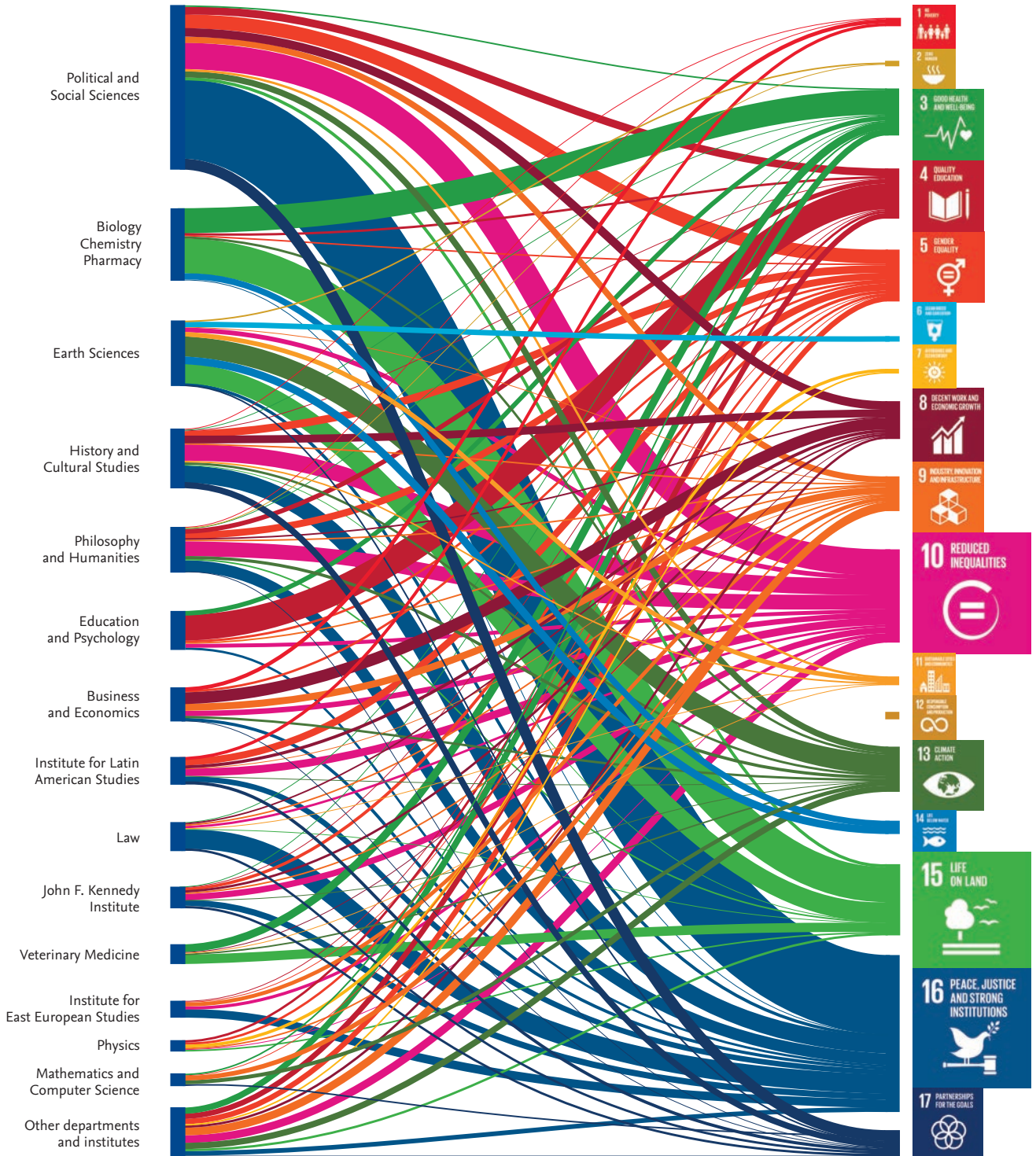
SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The project *Transformatives Lernen durch Engagement – Soziale Innovationen als Impulsgeber für Umweltbildung und Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung* [Transformative Learning through Engagement: Social Innovations as Impulses for Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development] uses workshops to investigate the linkage between the socio-political commitment of young people to sustainability in their immediate living environments with professional studies in the context of service learning projects.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The seminar *Nachhaltigkeit kommunizieren mit Serious Games* [Communicating Sustainability with Serious Games] is designed with the goal of transferring learning objectives consistent with sustainable development into a game idea. Digital games that not only serve as entertainment but are also linked to a specific educational goal are called “serious games.”

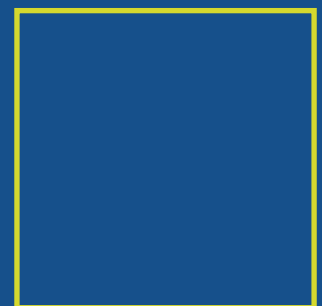
COURSES MAPPED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS, 2021





The Leafy Green Canopy (Blätterlaube)

The Leafy Green Canopy is the newest project of the Sustain it! initiative. Together with the Blooming Campus initiative, it has created an organic community garden close to nature with around 20 students, employees, and residents at the corner of Otto-von-Simson Strasse and Thielallee. The Leafy Green Canopy provides raised beds with vegetables, herbs, and dye plants, a deadwood corner that serves as a shelter for many animal species, a butterfly spiral, nesting aids for birds, bats, and wild bees, a compost heap, and a pond. Workshops, advanced training courses, working meetings and seminars are offered under the slogan *Teaching, Learning, Researching, and Gardening under the Leafy Green Canopy*. The garden serves as a green classroom for the Schools@University for Sustainability + Climate Protection, as a continuing education venue for the Coordination Office for Nature, Environment, and Sustainability Education (NUN), and as an open-air seminar room for courses offered by the Sustainable Development competence area in the General Professional Skills Courses (ABV).



5 GENDER EQUALITY



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Gender equality, diversity, equal opportunities, and family friendliness have been part of Freie Universität Berlin's self-image for decades. This applies in particular to gender equity policy goals, which are embedded throughout the institution as a cross-sectional task in accordance with the equality concept.

The university has had a gender equity concept since 2008. In five defined action areas, it has set goals, measured progress of the gender equity policies to date, and drafted measures for the future. In February 2020, the Academic Senate adopted the new Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2026. The team of the Chief Gender Equality Officer of Freie Universität Berlin advises and supports the Executive Board and the central committees of the university in the implementation of the gender equity tasks and offers many advising and training programs for employees and students.



The Toolbox for Gender & Diversity in Teaching provides relevant information, supports the implementation of teaching and language sensitive to gender and diversity through comprehensive advice, and lists many recommendations for interesting readings.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The EU-Horizon 2020 research project *Well-being, Ecology, Gender, and Community (WEGO)* is a transnational network that aims to develop a shared research and training agenda to educate the next generation of interdisciplinary social-environmental scientists on feminist political ecology in Europe.

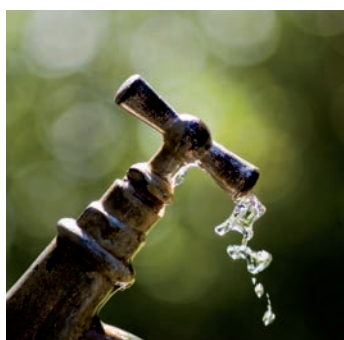
SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The seminar *Gender & Diversity: Zentrale Kategorien* [Gender & Diversity: Central Categories] of the Margherita von Brentano Center as part of the General Professional Skills Courses (ABV) addresses gender as a social category. It focuses on the social conditions of construction and discrimination of gender in the diversity of different stages of life.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL



Freie Universität Berlin introduced water controlling and management for its operations back in 2004, which led to an impressive reduction in water consumption of around one-third within five years. Until 2014, consumption remained more or less stable. Between 2019 and 2021, water consumption fell by a further 30 percent, mainly because of the pandemic.

Furthermore, Freie Universität Berlin has built special infiltration and cistern systems at various locations – for example, on the geosciences campus in Lankwitz or at the New Building for Small Departments with an integrated campus library – so that precipitation can seep into the ground or be collected and used for watering the green spaces on campus.

Wastewater or sewage from Freie Universität Berlin is discharged into the sewage system of the Berliner Wasserbetriebe in accordance with legal requirements. It is then thoroughly processed in water treatment facilities. Drinking water is available without charge to all members of the university. In the main dining hall, there is a drinking fountain that provides an opportunity for refilling water bottles.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

In the Department of Chemistry, researchers are developing a novel membrane based on graphene oxide that can be used to create particularly durable filter systems for purifying drinking water with the help of solar energy.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The lecture and corresponding course *Umweltressourcenmanagement in der Praxis* [Environmental Management in Practice] demonstrates specific examples of current problems and proposes solutions in the area of water resource management based on watersheds (Integrated Watershed Management) in selected world regions.



Highlight Sustainable Campus Tour

For more than 20 years, Freie Universität has been contributing to sustainable development with various activities and initiatives in the field of environmental and climate protection. The Sustainable Campus Tour invites interested members of the public, staff and students to get an overview of the university's key sustainability activities.

The audio tour to sixteen locations on the Dahlem campus presents initiatives, projects, or structures in the area of sustainability at Freie Universität. The audio programs can be heard in German and English. The tour is implemented as a web app and, in addition to the content, offers concrete recommendations for action in everyday life.

The background for this tour are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and the teaching and learning approach of Education for Sustainable Development. The basic idea is to use the stations on the tour to translate the goals into concrete incentives for everyday action and to impart the ability to act. If this succeeds, it will also contribute to a concrete goal of the university: making sustainability-related projects at Freie Universität Berlin visible and interconnected.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Freie Universität is committed to achieve climate neutrality by 2025. It has four combined heat and power plants in operation with a total capacity of 715 kW_{el} and 9 photovoltaic (PV) systems with a capacity of 671 kW_p. A tripling of the PV systems installed is planned.

The capacity of the photovoltaic systems today is equivalent to an annual production volume of about 600,000 kWh of renewable electricity, much of which is put directly into the university's power supply and is enough to meet the annual electricity needs of, for example, the Department of Political and Social Sciences or 150 four-person households.



Programs and measures to improve energy efficiency have long been a lynchpin of the campus management's strategy. The university succeeded in reducing its energy consumption between 2001 and 2011 by more than 26 percent, and annually, by about 42 million kilowatt-hours through a combination of various technical, structural, organizational, and behavioral measures – with floor space remaining stable. By 2025, the university plans to save another 10 percent of energy usage in comparison to 2019.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The Institute for Physical and Theoretical Chemistry is participating in a project on materials for photovoltaic applications with the synthesis, crystal structure and high-pressure behavior of selected kesterite-based materials. Fields of application are e.g. the production of thin-film solar cells.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The seminar *Artificial Photosynthesis – Science for the Energy Transition* addresses the sustainable production of fuels from water and CO₂ energetically driven by solar energy and explains how artificial photosynthesis will contribute to mitigation of global climate change.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



Freie Universität was, on the whole, able to manage the budgetary and personnel effects of the Covid-19 pandemic rather well. The university's clear focus on a modern IT infrastructure and IT services in research, teaching, and learning contributed to its ability to prove that it is capable of performing under difficult circumstances. The online student assistant OSA for studying under Covid-19 conditions provided help with how to manage online course offerings. The Career Service Center and the Center for Digital Systems (CeDis) created new advisory services. The Dual Career Family Service collected pandemic-related information relevant for students and employees and offered online counseling in order to ease the work/study and work/life balance during the pandemic.



Freie Universität Berlin is subject to the legal requirements for the fair and non-discriminatory equal treatment of all employees and endorses these out of its own conviction. This naturally includes equal pay for men and women. When employees, including student employees, have questions and conflicts, the staff councils of Freie Universität represent them vis-à-vis Freie Universität as employer.

Freie Universität Berlin offers numerous opportunities to learn a profession or gain professional experience. In addition to the traditional vocational training, school pupils, students, trainees, and young professionals can gather valuable professional experience and knowledge during an internship.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The Department of Education and Psychology is conducting an interdisciplinary study of the effects of unemployment on various indicators of well-being, taking into account time-varying effects, adaptations, and coping strategies on the basis of real-time data.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The course *Nachhaltigkeit managen – Schwerpunkt Entrepreneurship* [Managing Sustainability: Focus on Entrepreneurship] offered in the General Professional Skills Courses (ABV) addresses the questions of how sustainability can be integrated into professional practice and which systems are available to measure the status quo of sustainability of a company, a project, or an organization.



BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

The idea and innovation management system at Freie Universität Berlin was implemented in 2021 and is guided by the seven objectives of the climate emergency declaration. It invests in new targeted solutions and approaches to specifically promote sustainability and climate protection at the university.

Freie Universität supports the implementation of ideas, innovations, and living labs through competitions for students and employees. Student ideas for improving the campus in terms of bioclimate, health, and well-being are promoted, as are projects in the FUturst competition. The latter supports ideas for more climate protection and sustainability at the university by providing experience-based knowledge and financial support. The first competition in 2021 selected nine teams that now implement their ideas for sustainability on campus. The competition will take place annually.



SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The research project of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science deals with methods for closing sustainable material cycles in the textile industry through artificial intelligence. The main focus is on evaluating Raman spectroscopy and image analyses for the optimized recycling of used textiles.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The course *Science and Technology in Transatlantic Relations* addresses e.g. the history of science diplomacy, technology, research & development, and renewable energy.



REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

For the past two years, Freie Universität Berlin has been increasingly addressing the issue of diversity. In 2020, the Diversity Unit was established in the Office of Strategic Planning and Reporting, which also includes the gender controlling introduced in 2011. It advises and supports the university management in the strategic development of diversity issues. In June 2021, the Executive Board of Freie Universität adopted a Diversity Strategy and Action Plan, which defines an associated strategy until 2023. It sets out 27 specific goals and 51 specific measures that will contribute to meeting them. By the end of 2023, we emphasize the creation of robust working structures and contact points in the area of diversity and anti-discrimination.



If they personally experience discrimination or unfair treatment, many counseling services are available for all members of the university, including students, doctoral candidates, professors, employees, and adjunct lecturers.

Freie Universität supports refugee students and scientist continuing their studies and research. Currently, 30 refugee and at-risk researchers are conducting research at Freie Universität with the support of various programs. The nationwide network Academics in Solidarity (AiS) connects these individuals with colleagues and thus also seeks to open up long-term perspectives on the academic job market.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The Department of Education is conducting a research project on measures to strengthen educational success and social participation of educationally disadvantaged pupils with a migration background in Germany by designing learning environments in a full-day elementary school concept.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The course *Globale Ungleichheitsverhältnisse and digitale Teilhabe in vernetzten Öffentlichkeiten* [Global Inequality Relations and Digital Participation in Network Societies] offered by the Department of Political and Social Sciences develops different justice perspectives on information and communication technologies. It also analyzes the potentials and limits of digital participation in network societies.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



MAKE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE



Freie Universität has set a target of becoming climate neutral by 2025. The nine photovoltaic systems installed so far with a total capacity of 671 kWp will be expanded to 2 MWp. In so doing, the university will also contribute to improved energy security and sustainable urban development.

The buildings of Freie Universität Berlin are embedded in expansive green spaces in the Steglitz-Zehlendorf district of the City of Berlin. Three-quarters of the grounds are unbuilt plots and for the most part used as green spaces. Many green rooftops contribute additionally to the improvement of the local microclimate and are living spaces for insects and birds.



The libraries of the university have a distinct social mission and are accessible for free and for all university members. The Green FUBib group advocates for sustainable practices in everyday library work. Networking activities are central to the work of the group. There are also teams that use free spaces, terraces, and balconies to garden together and to collect and exchange seeds. Another major issue is packaging. Books ordered from around the world are now packaged with as little plastic and use as few resources as possible. The purchase of an e-transporter in 2021 for the libraries was a crucial step toward climate-neutral mobility.



SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The Urban Climate and Urban Measurement Network Working Group of the Institute of Meteorology at the Department of Earth Sciences is conducting targeted research on sustainable cities, in particular on heat resilience and extreme weather events in urban areas. For this purpose, a measurement network was established to evaluate the climate in cities at the micro level.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The seminar *Special Topics in Human Geography: Urban Environmental Change in Asia – Politics, place, and people* strengthens participant's understanding of urban environmental change and politics by employing an urban political ecology (UPE) framework. It uses case study texts from South and Southeast Asia to foster the understanding of research applications.



Highlight FURad

One initiative for more sustainability on campus is the bicycle self-help workshop FURad, located on Dahlem campus. Initiated and self-managed by students in 2018, the workshop provides tools and spare parts and helps with practical expertise for repairs. In this way, both bicycle mobility on campus and the long-term use of already-existing resources are actively promoted.



Highlight EMAS

Climate change as well as the energy and mobility transformation present new challenges for universities. Correspondingly, they must design their processes, structures, and educational offerings in an environmentally-friendly and resource-saving manner. The environmental management system EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) offers a concept for systematic operational environmental protection and promises to continuously improve environmental performance. In 2021, the university's environmental management system was validated according to EMAS. Freie Universität has many years of experience, as its environmental management system had already been certified according to the international management standard ISO 14001 between 2004 and 2012.





ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS



Sustainable procurement has become increasingly important at Freie Universität Berlin in recent years. In the first step in 2020, Central Purchasing achieved Level 1 certification for sustainable procurement organizations by the Federal Association of Materials Management, Purchasing and Logistics (BME). Currently the university is in the process of developing a sustainable procurement strategy that is necessary for Level 2 certification.

Waste management at Freie Universität Berlin follows the basic principle of waste avoidance, followed by re-use, then waste disposal. Recycling of recyclable materials is of great importance. Around three-quarters of the waste generated is fed into the recycling loop. The residual waste is then recycled into energy by the municipal waste disposal company through incineration, so that a total of over 90 percent of the university's waste is reused.



On the digital platform FUNDgrube, furniture, equipment, and other university items are offered for re-use by and for all members of Freie Universität. These can be acquired at little or no cost. In this way, resources can be conserved, and usable items can be used longer.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

With the project *Entwicklung zukunftsweisender Konzepte zum landwirtschaftlichen Bauen mit Holz – von der Planung bis zum Rückbau (ZukunftLaWiBau)* [Development of Future-Oriented Concepts for Agricultural Construction with Wood – From Planning to Demolition], the Department of Veterinary Medicine is pursuing the goal of once again increasing the proportion of wood construction in agricultural buildings, taking into account technical, climatic and ecological issues, and using wood in a resource-conserving way.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The course *Geographien der Globalisierung: Solidarische Lebensweise als alternative Globalisierungsform* [Geographies of Globalization: A Solidary Mode of Life as an Alternative Form of Globalization] offered by the Department of Earth Sciences analyzes the dominant exploitative, imperialistic, and exclusive modes of production, distribution, and consumption in the global North. Central topics include the potentials, limits, and contradictions of the concept of a solidary mode of life as an alternative concept.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS



Freie Universität Berlin can look back on a long and intensive engagement with the issue of climate protection. With a mix of different measures and incentives, it has succeeded in reducing campus-related electricity and heat consumption by a total of almost 27 percent between 2001 and 2019. Adjusted for the increase in floor space, the reduction was even 29 percent. In the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, energy use decreased by another 4.7 percent (2021), having an overall decrease of 30 percent since 2001. On a floor space-adjusted basis, it is actually a 34 percent reduction.

Freie Universität became the first German university to declare a climate emergency in December 2019.

This declaration addresses seven subgoals, most notably to consider climate protection in all university plans and decisions and to achieve climate neutrality by 2025. The strategic options for implementing the Declaration of Climate Emergency have been continuously discussed in the Sustainability and Climate Protection Steering Committee.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The joint project *FUBIC: All-Electricity for Technology Quarters* implements an intelligent and demand-driven energy system in the innovation center FUBIC, which is supplied entirely by electricity and CO₂-neutral with renewable energies. The project makes a sustainable contribution to climate protection through its high potential for replication and implementation in other technology quarters.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The seminar *Climate and Energy Transition Policy* tackles climate change as the big challenge of our time, touching all aspects of the environment and of society. There is broad recognition that governments must do something to reach the Paris Agreement targets. This seminar, offered by the Department of Political and Social Sciences, focuses on measures, goals, and impacts.



Highlight

Sustain it! Initiative for Sustainability and Climate Protection

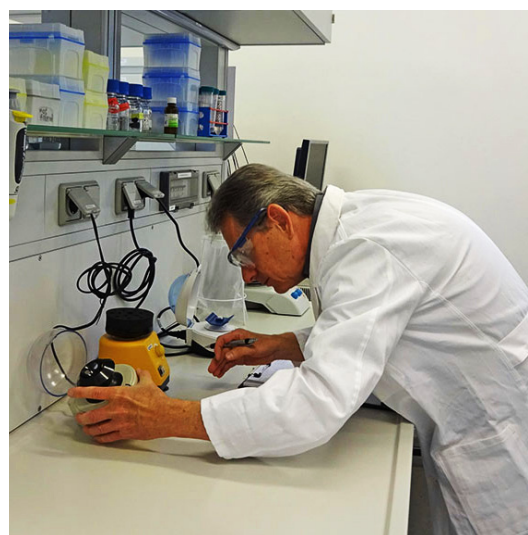
The initiative was founded in 2010 by students and employees of the Research Center for Sustainability (FFN) and the Sustainability and Energy Management Unit.

The aim of the Sustain it! initiative is to create critical and open dialogue and experimentation spaces for ideas and measures to shape sustainable development at the university. This includes the annual University Days for Sustainability & Climate Protection which could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, several organic community gardens (UniGardening), a fair sharing station (FUDsharing) for rescued food and further sharing projects. With these formats, Sustain it! provides students, employees, and local residents opportunities for dialogue and experimentation to make the importance of sustainable development tangible and accessible. Sustain it! regularly organizes inter- and transdisciplinary seminars, project courses, and lecture series conducted with partners within and outside the university.



CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS, AND MARINE RESOURCES

To protect water resources, Freie Universität has a differentiated waste management system. Water-soluble environmentally harmful waste such as laboratory chemicals is disposed of properly by Freie Universität's Special Waste Disposal team. In 2020, this amounted to about 60 tons.



Studierendenwerk Berlin observes strict ecological standards in the procurement of fish for all canteens of Freie Universität. Catch rates must be maintained in such a way that fish populations remain sustainable. Bycatch and habitat damage by fishing gear is to be kept to a minimum.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The EU Horizon 2020 project *Marine Coastal Ecosystems Biodiversity and Services in a Changing World (MaCoBioS)* of the Department of Earth Sciences aims to develop efficient and integrated management as well as conservation strategies for European marine coastal ecosystems in the face of climate change.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The lecture course *Atmosphärischer Wasserkreislauf [The Atmospheric Water Cycle]* of the Institute of Meteorology identifies the current state of knowledge in the field of the atmospheric water cycle and explains the underlying physical processes. It also describes the influence of anthropogenic climate change on the water cycle and critically analyzes corresponding results for climate models.

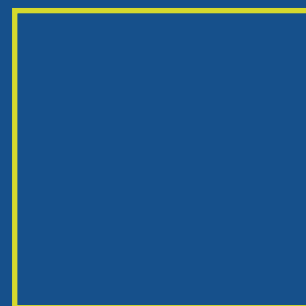


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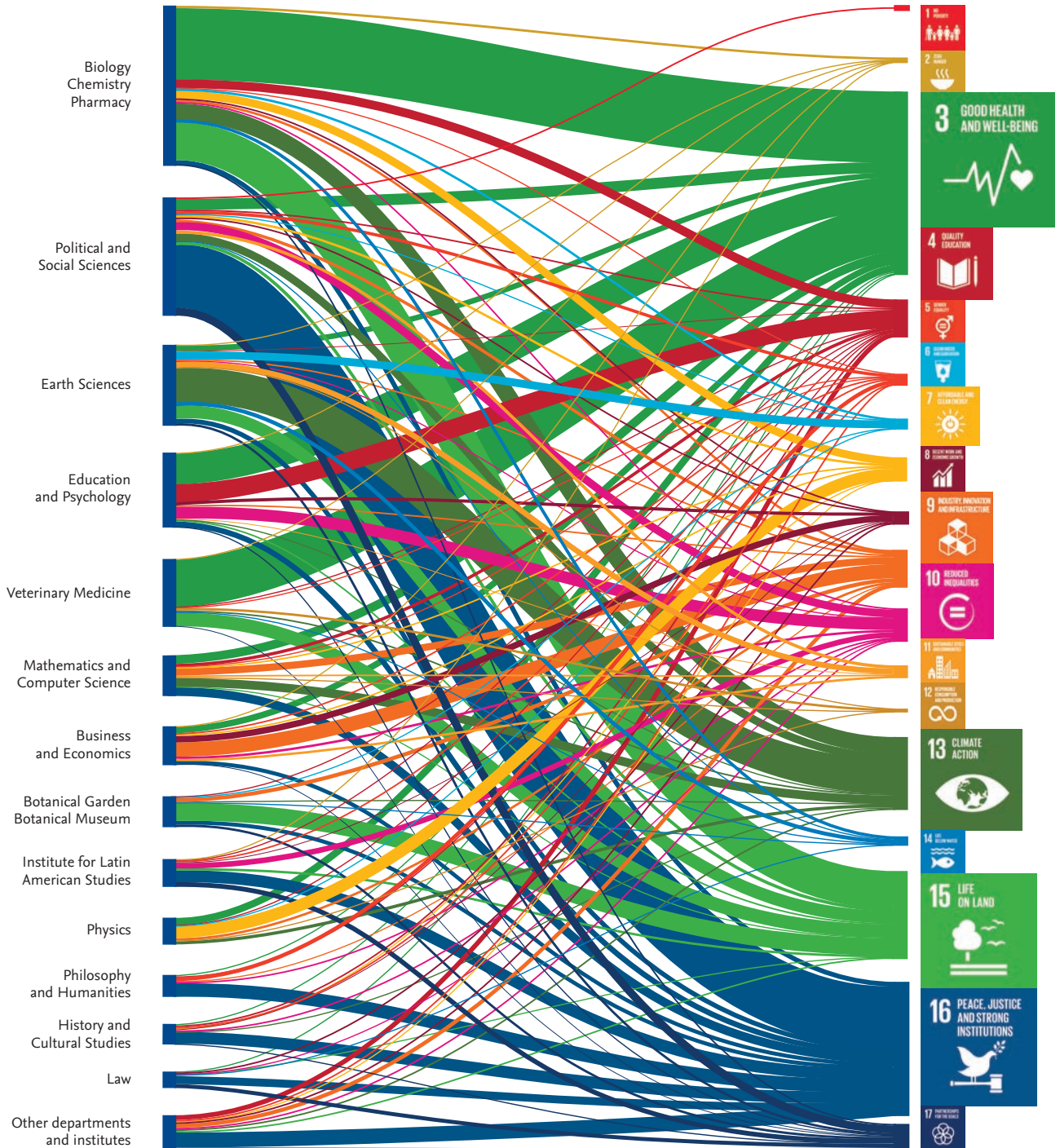
Research for Sustainable Development

Freie Universität Berlin has been addressing aspects of sustainable development in its research and teaching for decades. Examples include the Research Centre for Sustainability and Institut Futur, but also biodiversity or meteorology research exemplify respective research activities conducted within the entire university.

In comparison to 2019, the number of sustainability-related third-party funded research projects at Freie Universität Berlin increased. 744 (42 percent) of 1,776 projects in 2021 addressed sustainable development issues. This is a much higher share than in 2019 (37 percent). 12 percent of the projects (217) focused on sustainability. New in this year's analysis is that not only one but up to three SDGs are allocated to each research project, in order to more adequately capture the content of research projects that address multiple goals in an interdisciplinary way.



RESEARCH PROJECTS MAPPED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS, 2021





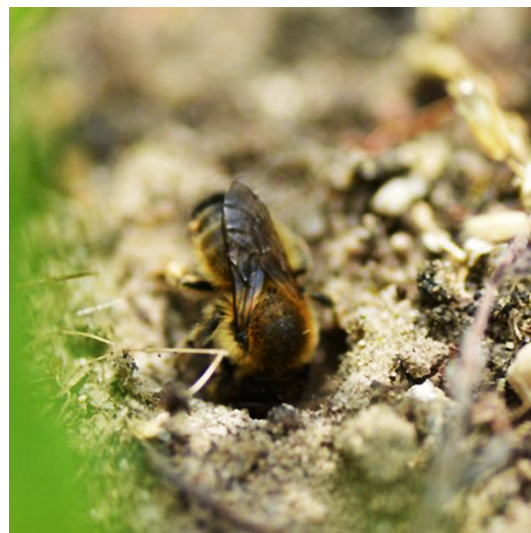
PROTECT, RESTORE, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECO- SYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS



The 117 research projects dealing with SDG 15, Life on Land, constitute a focus of research at Freie Universität Berlin. 43 of them address the topic in a focused and interdisciplinary manner.

Scientists in these projects are affiliated mostly with the Department of Biology, Chemistry, and Pharmacy and the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin.

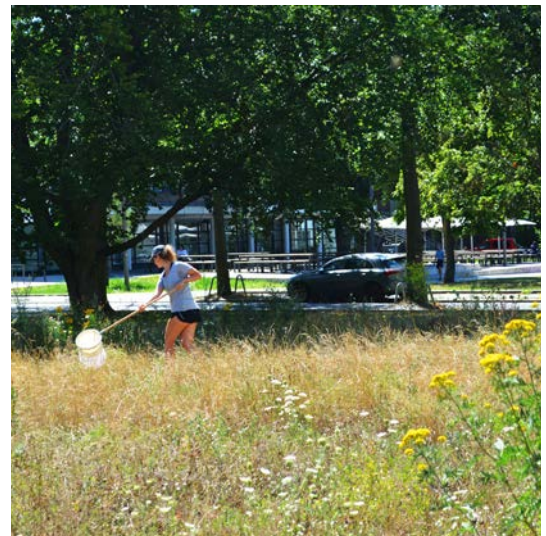
The Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin is a central facility of Freie Universität Berlin. The Botanic Garden counts as one of the most meaningful in the world not only because of its size but also because of the diversity of the plants that it houses. It forms the largest university natural history research collection in Germany, with around four million specimens in the herbarium,





almost 20,000 species in the garden and the greenhouses, with the Dahlem Seed Bank and the DNA Bank. What makes the Botanic Garden special is that it links all of these resources digitally and makes them publicly available, since new insights are created by linking data.

Since 2019 Freie Universität has had a Coordination Office for Nature, Environment, and Sustainability Education – NUN for short. It aims to make nature, environmental, and sustainability education more accessible to everyone in the district and expand existing educational offerings as well as add new formats. Many of the events take place in the “Leafy Green Conope” (Blätterlaube) on the Berlin-Dahlem campus. The garden serves as a green classroom for the Coordination Office for Nature, Environment, and Sustainability Education.



SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The Berlin-Brandenburg Institute for Biodiversity Research (BBIB) is a consortium of university and non-university institutions conducting research on biodiversity. The BBIB center is located on the Berlin-Dahlem campus and is under the management of the Institute of Biology at Freie Universität. The overarching goal is to build bridges among the disciplines, spatial scales and biological systems that are usually considered in isolation in biodiversity research.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The seminar and lecture course on the topic of *Lebensgemeinschaften und Biodiversität* [Biological Communities and Biodiversity] of the Department of Biology, Chemistry, and Pharmacy address concepts in the area of biodiversity research and ecology with a focus on microbial soil ecology. Soil is one of the most diverse habitats of all, housing one quarter of all known species. Without soil organisms, plants could not grow, and humans could not live.



Highlight Blooming Campus Initiative

In 2019, the Blooming Campus Initiative was founded to bring the topic of biodiversity more into focus in the university's sustainability strategy. Since then, the initiative brings together stakeholders across departments and institutions who want to promote biodiversity on campus.

The initiative has achieved its most significant successes by changing the way the university maintains its green spaces. Since 2020, mowing frequency has been significantly reduced on all areas and pauses campus-wide during the early bloom phase in April. Highly diverse, species-rich flowering areas are created on approximately eight hectares. Numerous insect species have since returned, and biodiversity on campus has increased significantly. Information boards illustrate the concept for promoting biodiversity. Interested university employees and neighbors are also trained to maintain the areas. In 2020, a butterfly monitoring program was also launched. This is a Europe-wide research project that records the population of butterflies with the support of residents.

Since summer 2020, the Blätterlaube, a community garden project in collaboration with the Sustain it! initiative, has become the headquarter of the initiative. It has created numerous habitats for bats, newts, butterflies, and other insects. In addition, endangered wild plants from Berlin and Brandenburg have been growing on the campus since fall 2021.

The initiative also cooperates with the district, adjacent institutes, schools, foundations, and projects such as the Public Climate School. This makes it an important focal point for nature education and conservation.





PROMOTE JUST, PEACEFUL, AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Freie Universität relies on a participatory and inclusive process for integrating and implementing sustainability at the university. Sustainability management remains a cross-sectional task that can only succeed if as many university members as possible work together. The university makes this possible through numerous opportunities to participate in working groups, through continuing education programs, and through calls for ideas and competitions.

The FUturst call for proposals, for example, has since 2021 been promoting ideas that make a direct contribution to the goals of the university's Climate Emergency Declaration. In the first call, 28 ideas were submitted, of which nine were funded and implemented.

Numerous research projects and course offerings at Freie Universität deal with the consequences, causes, and interrelationships of conflicts, migration, and (post-)colonialism.

Corresponding activities can be found in particular in the Peace and Conflict Research Unit at the Otto Suhr Institute of Political Sciences, at the Institute for Latin American Studies, and at the Sustainability Research Center.



SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

The research project *Media for Peace* of the Department of Political and Social Sciences is developing and evaluating a journalistic platform for conflict-sensitive, de-escalating and peace-building journalism in the (post-) conflict regions of Lebanon and Afghanistan.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The course *Kritiken der Gewalt – interdisziplinäre Perspektiven auf einen Grundbegriff der Friedens- und Konfliktforschung* [Critiques of Violence – Interdisciplinary Perspectives on a Fundamental Concept in Peace and Conflict Studies] addresses controversies surrounding the concept of violence and analyzes current contributions from other disciplines to the violence discourse with regard to its relevance for peace and conflict studies. This seminar is offered by the Department of Political and Social Sciences.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Freie Universität Berlin participates in a number of sustainability-related university networks and also focuses on institutional responsibility for sustainability and climate protection in its other international activities. Freie Universität Berlin also takes a stand in the global discourse: In the run-up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in 2021, for example, the university joined the United Nations Race to Zero Campaign for Universities and Colleges and publicly declared related binding commitments.

The Sustainability and Energy Management Unit has coordinated the University Alliance for Sustainability (UAS) with Freie Universität Berlin's strategic partner universities since 2015. Over the past six years, a DAAD grant has enabled interdisciplinary exchange formats such as annual UAS conferences, workshops, and a mobility program for all status groups. In 2020 and 2021, the annual network conferences have been held digitally, which has led, among other things, to an expansion of the circle of participants, particularly in Eastern Europe and the Global South.



Freie Universität Berlin is involved as the lead of the Sustainability Focus Area in Una Europa, a European university network with a vision to create a European university for exceptional teaching and research. In addition, since 2014, representatives of the Sustainability and Energy Management Unit of Freie Universität Berlin have been regularly involved in the workshops and round tables of UNICA Green & SDG Working Group of UNICA, another network of European universities.

SPOTLIGHT RESEARCH

A research project of the Research Centre for Sustainability of the Department of Political and Social Sciences is examining the central processes of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change with regard to interactions and potential synergies. It focuses especially on adaptation to climate change and disaster preparation.

SPOTLIGHT TEACHING

The course *The United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)* in the Department of Law engages with and analyses the goals and sub-goals of the 2030 Agenda. Students use clear criteria to develop presentations on each of the 17 SDGs.

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