

# Survey on Sustainability at Higher Education Institutions 2017

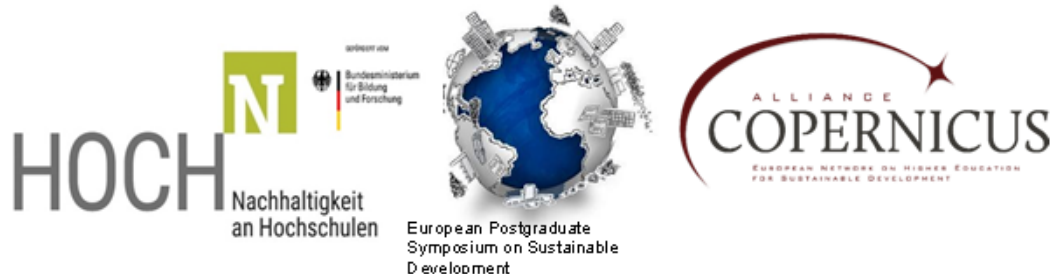
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## Hamburg Sustainable Development Summit (HSDS) 2017



European Postgraduate  
Symposium on Sustainable  
Development

# DATA

- ▷ Survey conducted on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Hamburg Sustainable Development Summit 2017 at the University of Hamburg
- ▷ 111 participants
- ▷ The aim is to develop an idea as to what sustainability at higher education institutions of the future might look like

# PARTICIPANTS

<b>AFFILIATION(S) OF THE PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Higher education institution, e.g. university, university of applied science, academy, etc.	87.4%
NGO, civic organization or initiative, etc.	20.7%
Research funding organisation	4.5%
Business organisation	3.6%
Charity, trust	2.7%
Government agency	2.7%
Political party	1.8%
Other	2.7%

# PARTICIPANTS: HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

PARTICIPANT'S <b>AREA</b> AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION	PERCENTAGE	PARTICIPANT'S <b>ROLE</b> AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION	PERCENTAGE
Research	52.6%	Professor	21.6%
Teaching	43.3%	Other researcher, lecturer	36.1%
Administration, management	27.8%	Student	26.8%
Study	17.5%	Employee	27.8%
Student initiative or project, etc.	14.4%	Head of department or team	16.5%
Other	4.0%	President, board member, etc.	4.1%
		Other	3.0%

n = 97 participants from higher education institutions, multiple responses permitted, minor deviations due to rounding.

# “Research in a sustainable higher education institution should be relevant to society.”

PARTICIPANTS	“I strongly disagree”	“I disagree”	“I partly agree”	“I agree”	“I strongly agree”	n
All	11.7%	0.9%	5.4%	16.2%	65.8%	111
Participants from research	13.7%	2.0%	3.9%	13.7%	66.7%	51
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	7.4%	-	11.1%	18.5%	63.0%	27
Professor	9.5%	-	4.8%	9.5%	76.2%	21
Other researcher, lecturer	22.9%	-	-	14.3%	62.9%	35
Student	11.5%	-	7.7%	11.5%	69.2%	26
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	13.0%	-	4.3%	8.7%	73.9%	23

Deviations due to missing values and/or rounding.

# “There is a trade-off between scientific excellence and societal relevance in research.”

PARTICIPANTS	“I strongly disagree”	“I disagree”	“I partly agree”	“I agree”	“I strongly agree”	n
All	15.5%	18.4%	36.9%	19.4%	9.7%	103
Participants from research	20.4%	16.3%	34.7%	18.4%	10.2%	49
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	20.8%	20.8%	33.3%	20.8%	4.2%	24
Professor	20.0%	10.0%	25.0%	35.0%	10.0%	20
Other researcher, lecturer	15.6%	12.5%	50.0%	9.4%	12.5%	32
Student	12.0%	36.0%	28.0%	16.0%	8.0%	25
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	14.3%	9.5%	28.6%	28.6%	19.0%	21

Deviations due to missing values and/or rounding.

“External societal actors (e.g. the government, NGOs, civic organizations) should be involved in defining the research aims in a sustainable higher education institution.”

PARTICIPANTS	“I strongly disagree”	“I disagree”	“I partly agree”	“I agree”	“I strongly agree”	n
All	3.6%	5.4%	30.6%	34.2%	26.1%	111
Participants from research	3.9%	2.0%	29.4%	41.2%	23.5%	51
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	3.7%	7.4%	29.6%	40.7%	18.5%	27
Professor	-	4.8%	47.6%	28.6%	19.0%	21
Other researcher, lecturer	-	2.9%	31.4%	37.1%	28.6%	35
Student	7.7%	7.7%	26.9%	19.2%	38.5%	26
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	4.3%	-	21.7%	21.7%	52.2%	23

Deviations due to missing values and/or rounding.

“The involvement of external societal actors (e.g. the government, NGOs, civic organizations) in defining the research aims is incompatible with the researchers’ scientific freedom.”

PARTICIPANTS	“I strongly disagree”	“I disagree”	“I partly agree”	“I agree”	“I strongly agree”	n
All	10.2%	44.4%	27.8%	15.7%	1.9%	108
Participants from research	13.7%	47.1%	21.6%	15.7%	2.0%	51
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	11.1%	51.9%	14.8%	22.2%	-	27
Professor	4.8%	47.6%	38.1%	4.8%	4.8%	21
Other researcher, lecturer	14.3%	48.6%	20.0%	17.1%	-	35
Student	11.5%	46.2%	23.1%	19.2%	-	26
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	13.0%	47.8%	30.4%	8.7%	-	23

Deviations due to missing values and/or rounding.



The more the participants agree with the involvement of external societal actors in defining the research aims, the less they tend to regard such an involvement as incompatible with the researchers' scientific freedom.

	Correlation coefficient	n
All participants	-0.378***	108
Participants from research	-0.400**	51
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	-0.556**	27
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	-0.428*	23

Pearson correlation, levels of significance: \*  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p \leq 0.001$

“The development of the students’ personalities should be the primary objective of teaching in a sustainable higher education institution.”

PARTICIPANTS	“I strongly disagree”	“I disagree”	“I partly agree”	“I agree”	“I strongly agree”	n
All	3.6%	7.3%	38.2%	36.4%	14.5%	110
Participants from research	3.9%	3.9%	56.9%	27.5%	7.8%	51
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	3.7%	7.4%	33.3%	48.1%	7.4%	27
Professor	4.8%	4.8%	52.4%	14.3%	23.8%	21
Other researcher, lecturer	2.9%	5.7%	37.1%	40.0%	14.3%	35
Student	8.0%	4.0%	56.0%	24.0%	8.0%	25
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	-	4.3%	34.8%	34.8%	26.1%	23

Deviations due to missing values and/or rounding.

“A trade-off exists in teaching between professional training and allowing the students to develop their personalities.”

PARTICIPANTS	“I strongly disagree”	“I disagree”	“I partly agree”	“I agree”	“I strongly agree”	n
All	2.9%	28.8%	21.2%	37.5%	9.6%	104
Participants from research	-	33.3%	25.0%	29.2%	12.5%	48
Participants from administration (higher education institution)	-	16.7%	37.5%	33.3%	12.5%	24
Professor	-	20.0%	30.0%	45.0%	5.0%	20
Other researcher, lecturer	-	31.3%	18.8%	40.6%	9.4%	32
Student	8.0%	36.0%	32.0%	16.0%	8.0%	25
Participants from NGOs, civic organizations or initiatives, etc.	4.8%	9.5%	23.8%	52.4%	9.5%	21

Deviations due to missing values and/or rounding.