



**RCE** Graz-Styria  
REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
Education for Sustainable Development



# ***RCE Graz-Styria – operations at local level & COPERNICUS Alliance***

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# RCE Graz-Styria

## Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development



## Global RCE Networks

- Globally 100 RCEs
- Global Service Centre @ UN University

## Aims:

- Development and research of/on regional & global sustainability initiatives
- Global & local exchange
- Research & practice exchange

## RCE Graz-Styria:

- Acknowledgement 2007
- Based at University of Graz

## Research & Development Focus:

- Sustainability Strategies
- Education & Research on ESD in public and private initiatives



# RCE Graz-Styria



**RCE** Graz-Styria  
REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
Education for Sustainable Development



- University of Graz – since 1585
- 28.000 students, 5.000 staff, 100 study programs
- RCE Graz-Styria initiated 2006
- Acknowledged 2007
- Based at University of Graz, Austria
- ~ 50 informal partners
- 4 employees (3 ft, 1 pt)



→ 2 research groups

## Sustainability Strategies

## Education for Sustainable Development



- Assessment of sustainability processes by applying the Graz Model for Integrative Development Processes
- Sustainability strategy investigation of social entrepreneurs, NGOs, governments, businesses
- E-mobility development

- ESD in public and private institutions
- Research on ESD
- Higher Education for SD
- ESD & regional learning

# RCE Graz-Styria & self-reflection

- Vision & Leadership:
  - Innovations for sd; rural areas
  - Governance: directed by university, regional board
- Social Network:
  - App. 50 regional and international partners
- Participation:
  - Steering Committee, Board, Workshops, Webseite, Newsletter, Pod-Casts, Blog,
- Education & Learning
  - interactive lectures, school workshops, intergenerational settings, e-learning, trans- & interdisciplinary education,
- Research Integration
  - MSc. & PhDs; Research seminars, transdisciplinary research projects

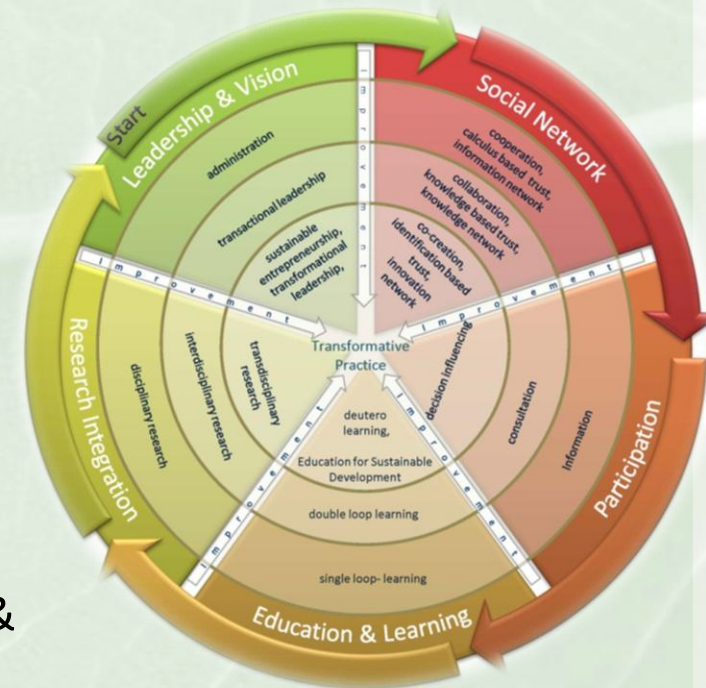


Abb.: Mader C., 2010

# Sustainability Strategies

- Transdisciplinary Education and Research Programmes
  - App. 30 regional partner institutions involved
    - NGOs, regional actors/processes, companies, public institutions,...
  - Interactive Lectures bringing students and society (RCE partner institutions) together
    - Sustainability Assessment
    - Social Entrepreneurship in regional context
    - Methods for sustainable regional development
    - Sustainable regional development
- Learning Region – Zirbenland
  - Regional Learning Strategies
  - Prevention of migration of academics and well educated from rural areas
- Potentials of e-mobility in rural areas

# Education for Sustainable Development

## LOCAL

- UN Global Compact – Working Group on ESD
- Sustainability4U
  - Cooperation of 4 Universities based in city of Graz
- oikos – Students for Sustainable Economics and Management
- Megaphon University: Attracting people for education with social barriers
- Intergenerational Workshops

## INTERNATIONAL

- ERASMUS: ICTenabled ESD
  - Development of joint MSc. Programme on ICTenabled ESD
- TEMPUS: EduCamp
  - Education for Sustainable Development beyond the Campus
- COPERNICUS Alliance – European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development





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# Vision



*The **vision** of the COPERNICUS Alliance is to promote the role of sustainable development in European higher education to improve education and research for sustainable development in partnership with society.*

# The Responsibility of Higher Education Institutions

- As the location of academic **education**, bearing responsibility for the students and their professional and moral quality as future leaders in society and economy.
- As major contributors to **research**, tackling questions arising with the transition of societies around the world towards more sustainable development.
- As significant **societal** actors, shaping their local, regional and national environment and important partner of other stakeholders, and society at large, for a sustainable future.

Graz Declaration (2005)

Therefore the *COPERNICUS Alliance* aims to be an **innovation network** consisting of **universities, NGOs, public institutions, higher education entities and individual members.**

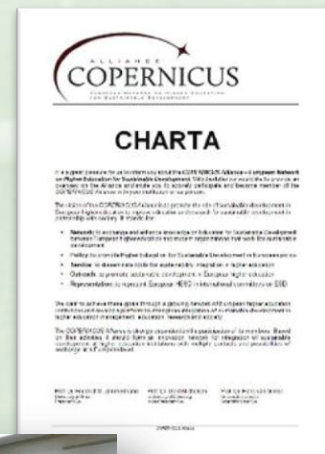
# Goals

- **Network:** to exchange and enhance knowledge on Education for Sustainable Development between European higher education and student organizations that work for sustainable development
- **Policy:** to promote Higher Education for Sustainable Development in European policy
- **Service:** to disseminate tools for sustainability integration in higher education
- **Outreach:** to promote sustainable development in European higher education
- **Representation:** to represent European Higher Education for Sustainable Development in international committees on Education for Sustainable Development



# Background & Development

- strongly connected to **COPERNICUS Charta** that was developed by the European Rectors' Conference in **1993** and signed by 324 universities until 2005
- Thessaloniki Declaration of VCSE partners **2008**
- COPERNICUS Alliance* founded/relaunched in **2009**
- kick-off meeting **July 2010** in Graz
- Charta 2.0, Assessment Workshop, **2011**
- 2012** Rio +20, Leadership for Sustainability in HE Programme,



# Currently: 20 Members

- **University of Graz; Austria**
- **University of Music and Performing Arts Graz; Austria**
- **University of Technology Graz; Austria**
- **WU Vienna University of Economics and Business; Austria**
- **Aalborg University; Denmark**
- **Leuphana University Lüneburg; Germany**
- **University of Bremen; Germany**
- **Open Universiteit in the Netherlands; The Netherlands**
- **London South Bank University; UK**
- **University of Gloucestershire; UK**
- **Medical University Graz; Austria**
- **Modul University Vienna; Austria**
- **University Innsbruck; Austria**
- **University of Eastern Finland; Finland**
- **Universitat Rovira i Virgili; Spain**
- **Bern University of Applied Sciences; Switzerland**
- **University of Teacher Education St.Gallen (PHSG); Switzerland**
- **Zurich University of Teacher Education (PH Zurich); Switzerland**
- **Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems; UK**
- **Klagenfurt University; Austria**



# Working Groups

- Innovative Teaching & Learning
- Implementation of Sustainability in Universities
- Outreach
- COPERNICUS European Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability (CEIDROS)



# Activities 2010/11

## Events:

- ✦ COPERNICUS Alliance Kick-off Meeting  
July 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 2010, Graz
- ✦ 3-LENSUS Conference  
November 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 2010, Thessaloniki
- ✦ “5<sup>th</sup> International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education”  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 2010, Barcelona
- ✦ “World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day”  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010, virtual
- ✦ “PRISM Postgraduate Researchers Interested in Sustainability Matters Conference”  
May 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 2011
- ✦ COPERNICUS Alliance working group meeting “European Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability”  
June 10<sup>th</sup> 2011, Bristol
- ✦ “4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Higher Education for Sustainable Development”  
September 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2011, Lüneburg
- ✦ Workshop on University Appraisal and Assessment for Sustainable Development  
November 24<sup>th</sup> 2011, Kerkrade



# Activities 2010/11

## Other:

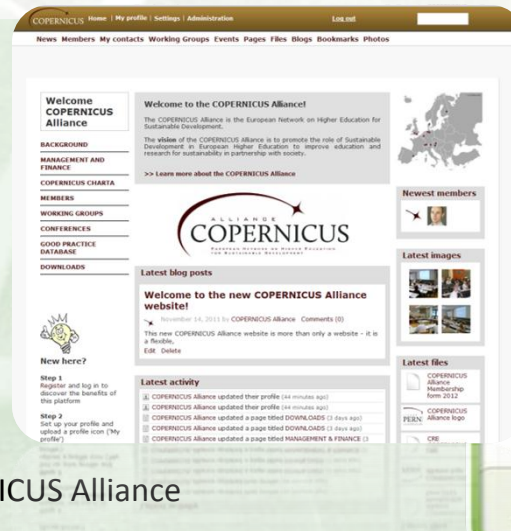
- ✦ Good Practice Database (3-LENSUS)
- ✦ COPERNICUS Alliance Email-Newsletter
- ✦ *elgg* Communication Platform

## ✦ Publications

- ✦ GUNI World Report on Higher Education 2011
- ✦ ESD Journal – 2011/5/1, Launching the COPERNICUS Alliance

## ✦ Applications

- ✦ ERASMUS Multilateral Project:  
European Quality Framework on Higher Education for Sustainable Development





# Upcoming

- Publications
  - Special Issue in Emerald, Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal “Sustainability Management and Governance in Higher Education” (working title); cfp: March 2012
  - UNU Publishing: Book on: Sustainability Assessment and Appraisal in Higher Education (working title) cfp: March 2012
- Seminars
  - Sustainability Leadership for Higher Education (SGS)
  - Young researcher seminars (PRISM)
- Conferences
  - Rio+20 Side Event (tbc)
- Policies
  - Higher Education Treaties @ Rio+20 Peoples Conference

# Thank you for your attention!



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