

SCAR AKIS workshop - 20.01.2021

The role of education and training in the EU AKIS  
Case study

**Interactive Teaching and Research  
@ University for Sustainable Development  
Eberswalde**

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# Outline

- Context
- Educational programmes: objectives and challenges
- The HNE approach: InnoForum Organic Farming Brandenburg
  - Mission
  - Target groups and impact pathways
  - Internal governance
  - Responses
  - Self-reflection
- Conclusion

# Context

## ■ Institution

- University of Applied Sciences
- Focus on sustainability transformation
- Triple mission: teaching – research - transfer
- BSc / MSc degree re Organic Agriculture and Food Systems (funding!)



## ■ Region

- Brandenburg/Berlin, large farms, corporate structures
- High share of organic land area (13,2%) and number of farms (n=959)
- no governmentally organised advisory services



# Educational Programmes: Objectives

- **BSc/MSc learning outcomes: competencies**
  - for realising sustainable farming systems,
  - for planning, processing, analysing comprehensive professional tasks,
  - for solving complex problems in a self-organised manner,
  - in complex and frequently changing environments.

# Educational Programmes: Challenges

- **Curricula design: focus on relevant learning outcomes**
  - technical competencies
  - functional competencies
  
- **Learning arrangements**
  - methodologies (e.g. problem based or research based learning, transdisciplinary approaches)
  - appropriate settings
  
- **Embeddedness**
  - in complex realities
  - address “real world” problems

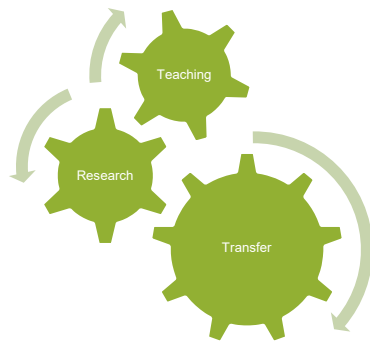
## Embedded in reality

- **Network:** established 2004, continuously grown
- **Approach:**
  - Collaborative learning and co-creation at eye level
  - Integration of „real life“ problems of agricultural entrepreneurs in teaching and research
  - Long term trust building cooperation within a community of practice
  - Careful coordination and facilitation of all activities

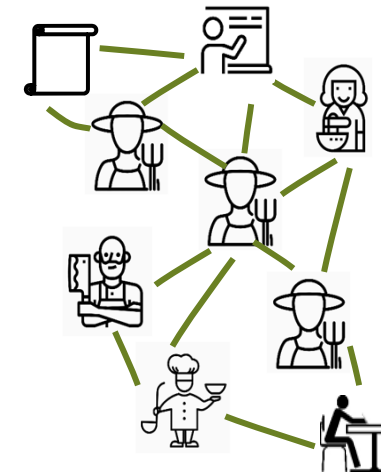


# InnoForum: Mission

Include a wide range of stakeholders!



Interlink teaching, research and transfer!

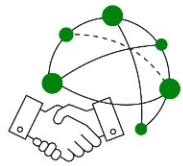


Focus on mindset and functional skills!



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# Target groups and impact pathways (1)



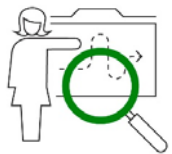
## All partners

- Annual meeting with all partners: networking, define innovation interests
- Targeted brokering of partnerships for innovation projects



## Partners involved with student projects

- Summer school: joint reflection and dissemination of results
- Ongoing reflection of different roles



## Regional education and training institutes

- Workshops on the further development of vocational training
- Contributions to vocational training/education: focus on functional innovation capacities



## Target Groups and Impact Pathways (2)



### Business partners



- Provision of complementary competencies to innovation partnerships, e.g.
  - ✓ proposal writing,
  - ✓ analytical design, data collection, analysis and interpretation,
  - ✓ facilitation and self-assessment of innovation groups,
  - ✓ Administration.
- Organisation and facilitation of peer-to-peer learning groups, e.g field schools
- Organisation and facilitation of dissemination events , field days, thematic events
- Create awareness of policy developments and funding opportunities

# Target Groups and Impact Pathways (3)



## Advisors

- Meetings with regional advisors and interest groups: define innovation needs
- Workshops with advisory group on functional competencies for innovation
- Joint development of new advisory concepts and tools, training new advisors

## ■ Policy and administration



- Advice on policy design / enabling environment for interactive innovation
- Critical reflection of regional innovation needs (system knowledge, target knowledge, capacity for change)
- Joint development of new education and training programmes



# Internal Governance – Selected Aspects

- **Own teaching and research staff:**
  - Targeted hiring policy
  - On-boarding events for new staff
  - Training of functional skills, supervision circles on innovation processes
  - Raise awareness of ownership for outcomes
  
- **Quality management InnoForum:**
  - Long term, trust building cooperation mindset, concept and management
  - Intensive exchange on conceptualisation among partners, incl. advisory group consisting of business partners
  - Skilled coordination of all processes, incl. learning arrangements within curriculum

# Responses

## ■ Education

- **Ars legendi Prize 2017:** only nationwide prize for teaching concepts
- Students appreciate technical and functional skill acquisition
- Wider cooperation with vocational training institutes



## ■ Businesses and advisory bodies

- Increasing interest in cooperation (teaching and innovation projects)
- Intensifying cooperation with advisory bodies and educational institutes

## ■ Policy and administration

- Growing trust and increasing cooperation with policy sphere (policy design, direct funding offers for regional innovation projects)

# Self-reflection on opportunities and challenges

- Regional environment: HNE only applied university, ag-programmes established in 2004, small programme
- Network established from scratch – opportunity for systemic innovation
- Research and innovation initiatives developed accordingly
- Focus on a sub-sector (organic farming and food system), with even smaller specific communities of practice
- Regional void of certain functions supporting innovation
- Funding for coordination



## Conclusions

- Opportunity for interaction of education with AKIS beneficial for most partners
- Various aspects of environment crucial
- Considerable investment in institutions required, e.g. attitudes, habits, norms, practices, ways of working...



Thank you! Questions?

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