



BA/MA-THESIS PROPOSAL

Who decides upon relevant competencies for sustainable development in competency-frameworks for sustainable development?

As is the case for the general field of education, Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE) has experienced a shift from a focus on learning contents to learning outcomes. These have been described in so-called competency frameworks, aiming to define skills, abilities, and proficiencies individuals need to become change agents for sustainable development. Throughout the last decade, a series of competency frameworks have been suggested (Barth et al., 2007; Brundiers et al., 2010; de Haan, 2010; Frisk & Larson, 2011; Wiek et al., 2011; Rieckmann, 2012; Lambrechts et al., 2013; Lans et al., 2014; Murga-Menoyo, 2014), claiming to prepare learners for the challenges they face when engaging with the cause of sustainability both as private and professional actors. These frameworks exert an important influence on ESE, as they are meant to guide and evaluate both entire ESE programs and specific learning activities.

What remains unclear, however, is how these frameworks are in fact derived. Do experts (who counts as an expert?) define these competencies? Are they derived from other disciplines? Are they developed with 'role models', that is to say people who act in accordance with their sustainability-related values?

SuCo2 is looking for BA/MA-candidates interested in addressing these questions. In detail, the candidate is asked to

- Undertake a systematic literature review identifying suggestions for competency frameworks for sustainable development and
- Provide answers how these competency frameworks were developed

The proposed study offers the interested BA/MA candidate a stock of references to inform the research. Furthermore, the candidate will have access to the infrastructure of the working group. Given the current need for research on the topic, the publication of the work is possible under condition of good performance. The thesis is preferably written in English.

Please contact Dr. Pascal Frank (pascal.frank@leuphana.de) for further information.