Sustainability minor - an Evaluation

Minor Global Sustainability, now Minor Going Green

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Note: merger in 2016 with Stenden university!
Content

• Global content of the NHL Minor on Sustainability
• Brief History
• Learning targets & competencies
• Participation of students
• Sustainability Projects, some highlights
• Excursion Ameland
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Global content minor Going Green

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4-5 months program, 30 EC
Tests: Knowledge Test (5 EC), Portfolio (5 EC),
Project Plan & Report (17 EC)
Final Assessment (3 EC)
Brief History

• In 2007 Pilot minor developed with students and teachers
• 2008-2012: Minor Global Sustainability once per year
• 2011: switch to English, first International students
• 2013-present: switch to Minor Going Green
Learning targets Minor Going Green

The student:

• has insight into the meaning of global sustainability and can name causes and backgrounds of the problem
• can translate the global problem of global sustainability into specific local situations in his or her own field of work
• together with students from other disciplines, can arrive at an analysis of a practical problem and indicate possible solutions
Competencies (DHO/Roorda, 2007)
RESFIA + D

• **Responsibility**
• **System Orientation**
• **Personal Involvement**
• **Emotional Intelligence**
• **Future Orientation**
• **Action Skills**

• Levels: apply, integrate, improve, innovate
• Personal Development Plan (PDP)
Content: Main issues planet Earth

Fast increase of population, Disbalance in prosperity, Over-exploitation of people and resources, Pollution of the environment, Climate change

Current Population Situation

It took the human species:
300,000 years to reach first billion
130 years to add second billion
30 years to add third billion
15 years to add fourth billion
12 years to add the fifth and sixth billion
Sustainability, complexity…

Theme: Think Global, Act Local!
Theory: 4 series colleges, workshop Change management, guest lectures, excursions
Participation of students

• General: small groups, 12-20 students
• Average 4-5 International students, wide range per year, important for culture exchange & cohesion
• Different disciplines:
  – 61 % Economics & management
  – 24 % Technical studies
  – 12 % Education & communication
  – 2% Health & care
Sustainability projects

- 25 projects completed in past 7 years
- 5 projects started this year
- Project groups of 2-5 students, if possible multidisciplinary
- 90% of students passed final assessment
Project highlights 1a
How “green” is NHL?

2 Students Public Administration,
Client: Executive Board of NHL

Monitor started 2010
- Literature study
- Questionnaires teachers & students
- Interviews key actors

Aim:
Monitor developments in sustainability in higher education, opinions of teachers and students about the meaning and importance, advise the EB on policy.

Follow ups in 2012 & 2015
Project highlights 1b
How “green” is NHL?

Students:
1. Importance of sustainability;
2. Is NHL involved;
3. Importance of sustainability classes for own profession?

2010:
- no clear policy, no clear focus,
- fragmented actions (e.g. heating pump) and projects
- not much noticed by students in NHL, departments or own study.

2015:
- repeated NHL monitor;
- new group of students studies present situation
- Including developments: UNESCO, EU, NL
- E.g. national student forum, SustainaBul monitor since 2012
Project highlights 1c
How "green" is NHL?

2012: Sustainable Procurement. Similar results: actions ongoing, no clear policy.

2013: NHL, Show you are green! 2 Japanese & 2 Korean students
Client: Millennium Network Fryslan

Action research: NHL presents, waste disposal in canteen, student polls, Green Week activities for students, such as a Flea Market.

Examples of poll questions:
- What kind of stuff do you want to sell at the flea market?
- Are you willing to reuse the plastic cup?
Project highlights 2

Achter de Hoven area Leeuwarden

2012

5 students: 2 public administration, 2 technicians, 1 coastal & envir.mgt

Client: Achter de Hoven area

Project nomination for NHL Award

Case study: area meetings, questionnaires for residents about sustainability issues (waste, solar panels, etc.), advise, presentation of results

Developments:
- Energy battle game (2013)
- Local Energy Coöperation
- More positive imago
- Potential: Food garden
Project highlights 3
Windmill prototype

2014
4 Technical students and 1 Mexican Environmental Engineering student

Client:
Lector Wind Energy of NHL

Aim:
Design & build a small scale windmill for individual houses

Windmill competition TU Delft:
2nd place

Follow up 2015
Excursion Ameland Wadden Island

2013-2015 Excursions

Ameland as “best practice”

Manifest Sustainable Wadden 2007
Excursion Ameland Wadden Island

2013-2015 Excursions

- Students organize the excursion program to develop their own competencies
- Presentations by local governments and experts
- Local Nature Museum
- Walks on the Wad or Salt Marsh
- Visits to NAM gas exploitation
- Articles & posters as results
X-Honours at NHL

• Competencies:
  – Multidisciplinary Approach;
  – Innovative;
  – Entrepreneurial;
  – Personal Leadership;
  – Valuable for Society

  – Matches highest levels of RESFIA competencies!
  – Option of X-honours level in final assessment of minor Going Green
Future developments, questions to you

- Adaptations due to merger with Stenden expected (tourism & hospitality management)
- How to involve more departments?
- Selection of Theory colleges, more about sustainable food & health?
Questions?