

Witten/Herdecke University, Germany

Faculty of Management, Economics & Society

PRME Report

Academic Year 2020/2021

United Nations Global Compact Academic Network

PRME

This is our **Sharing Information on Progress (SIP)**
Report on the Implementation of the **Principles for
Responsible Management Education**



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Promoting Sustainable Societal Development

Under the guiding motive of "sustainable societal development", Witten/Herdecke University's Faculty for Management, Economics and Society wants to promote a sense of responsibility and creative enthusiasm for the future shape of enterprises, economy and society.

The faculty regards itself as a partner of the world future treaty of the Agenda 2030 and wants to contribute to sustainable development. In new organizational formation, the faculty derives the following goals from the five fields of action of the 2030 Agenda:

People: The faculty promotes the development of potential among all its members. It forms an inspiring community in which personalities can be shaped, responsibility is taken and life-time learning takes place.

Planet: The faculty addresses sustainable economic activity and sustainable social development as a prerequisite for satisfying the needs of current and future generations in all study programs.

Prosperity: The faculty teaches and researches to economic, technical and social change in organizations and society as well as to its effects on growth, prosperity and distribution.

Partners: To achieve its goals, the faculty is cooperating with partners from academic institutions, business, politics and civil society.

Peace: The faculty is committed to a peaceful and just society. It ensures fairness in its own organization, respects cultural diversity and cultivates a cosmopolitan mindset.

The faculty's two departments – Management and Entrepreneurship (MUT) and Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPÖ) implement these goals in a complementary, mutually reinforcing manner.

Faculty's Message



The Faculty of Management, Economics & Society at Witten/Herdecke University is deeply committed to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Management Education. Hence, we are very proud to submit our Report on Progress for the academic years 2020 and 2021.

Witten/Herdecke University and its Faculty of Management, Economics & Society are designed to prepare students for leading positions in business, politics and society. We educate change agents who are able to cope with the unexpected and who are prepared to assume responsibility. It is our professed aim to raise awareness amongst our students for the economic, ecological and social challenges of the 21st century. As in previous years, the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society offers a wide range of mandatory and elective classes in the field of sustainability. We will spare no effort to further integrate the idea of sustainability into our degree programs.

We would like to once again emphasize the high level of commitment our students show in the social sector. The high degree of engagement becomes evident through the impressive number of student initiatives at our university which generate a great impact on society.

Particularly in the context of the Corona Pandemic, we are also proud of our results from StudyCHECK. As part of the "Digital Readiness Rankings" 2021, students indicated full satisfaction throughout with the University's digital teaching, when presence lectures were not possible.

We would like to draw your attention to this progress report's section "Highlights of the year" which exemplarily illustrates our broad engagement by current projects in teaching,

research and extracurricular student activities. In the field of teaching, we would like to highlight the Master Kick-Off project for General Management and Strategy & Organisation students. Through this project, students can experience from the very beginning how interdisciplinary their studies in Management will be and the extent to which theory and praxis will combine. Furthermore, they have the chance to engage with CSR and sustainability issues at the example of a real project partner looking for genuine recommendation. In terms of research, we would like to introduce Professor Joscha Wullweber who has joined us through the renowned Heisenberg Professorship, with a focus on Politics, Transformation and Sustainability. Furthermore, we want to guide your attention to an extracurricular student initiative, the oikos Winterschool 2021. This year's conference was held under the subject of "Sustainability and Climate Change – what can Politics contribute". Participants from all over the world joined together digitally to discuss the role that politics should or must play in our society's fight against climate change.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we have opened our new campus, the "Future Room". After only 18 months of construction, we are now proud to have one of Germany's most sustainable university buildings. By having focused on wood construction, we have saved about 850 tons of CO² compared to regular concrete/steel/brick constructions.

We are proud to be an active member of an international academic network committed to lay a solid foundation for the education of future leaders.

Herewith, we renew our commitment to the United Nations' Global Compact Academic Network and to the Principles of Responsible Management Education.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erik Strauß'.

Prof. Dr. Erik Strauß

Dean

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sabine Bohnet-Joschko'.

Prof. Dr. SABINE BOHNET-JOSCHKO

Vice Dean Faculty Development

Highlights of the year

We wish to illustrate our broad engagement through three vivid examples of student initiatives, research, and teaching, as well as present our new campus building.

Opening of one of Germany's most sustainable university buildings

With a big opening ceremony, the new building of the UW/H has been inaugurated on 01.10.2021. As a prominent guest of honor, the university was able to win the acting President of the EU Commission, Dr. Ursula von der Leyen. In her speech, she emphasized that with this innovative wood hybrid building, the university had combined the topics of sustainability and education in an exemplary manner.



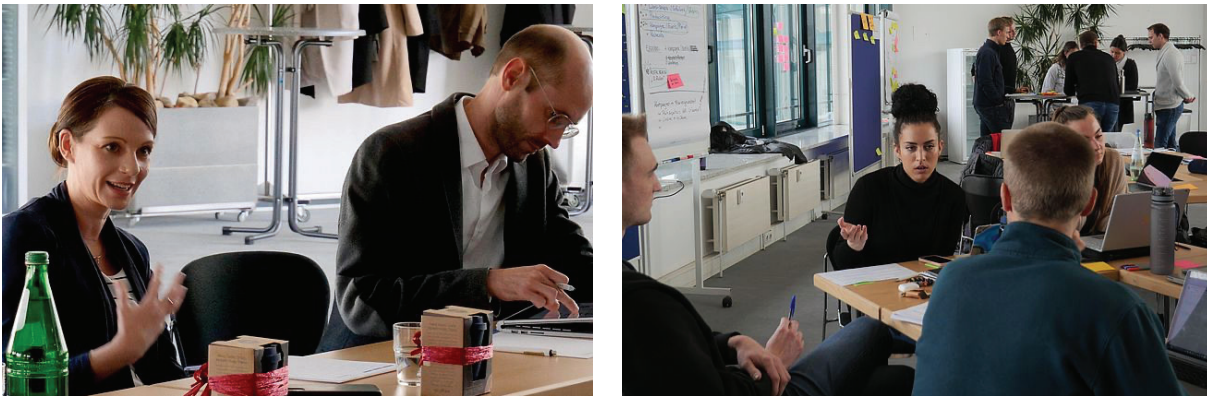
Key points regarding the new building's sustainability

- Participatory, integral planning process
- Building takes inclusion and diversity into account
- Building structurally forms a bridge to the other university buildings
- Excellent carbon footprint: about 850 tons of CO² were saved in construction
- Low-tech energy concept
- Healthy, low-pollutant construction with ecological building materials inside and out
- Modular concept allows maximum flexibility in current and future use
- Deconstructability and recycling management are guaranteed
- Life cycle costs have been optimized

Teaching

Combining theory and practice: Witten management students present project results on sustainability issues for the Douglas beauty group

For the students of the Master's programs General Management (M.A.) and Strategy & Organization (M.Sc.), the start of their studies was a highlight: the Master Kick-Off Project in cooperation with the renowned company Douglas. Right at the beginning of their studies, the students experienced how entrepreneurial and interdisciplinary the study of management can be, how theory and practice intertwine and how creative methods can be used.



During the week, the students worked on a case study for a well-known project partner from the beauty industry. In teams, they developed their solution approaches to issues around sustainability using design thinking, an innovative approach to developing concepts by focusing on the user perspective. They worked with market research data and conducted interviews themselves. *"The students have to work hard until the final presentation,"* says program director Prof. Dr. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko, *"but they also have a lot of fun doing it because they can design themselves."* Ideas and concepts were developed with the help of prototypes, and the results were presented to experts from the field and seminar leaders. The innovative teaching format achieves a networking of theory and practice, which, in conjunction with feedback and reflection loops, enables continuous further development.

Research

New Heisenberg Professorship in Politics, Transformation and Sustainability: Prof. Joscha Wullweber



The Heisenberg Professorship in Politics, Transformation and Sustainability focuses on national, international and transnational political-economic and political-ecological governance processes and structures. A special focus is on the European, American, and global financial system, including the shadow banking system, on financial crises and the euro crisis as well as on the monetary policy of the leading central banks. Another focus is on issues of political economy and governance of sustainable transformation, i.e., political-ecological and political-economic social transformations against the backdrop of the governance of climate and environmental crises (e.g., biodiversity loss). The role of state technology and innovation policy is also examined.

Student initiatives

OIKOS-Winterschool 2021: Sustainability and climate change - what can Politics contribute?



Participants from all over the world traditionally come together for the Oikos Winter School at Witten/Herdecke University - digital in 2021 because of Corona. The event, organized by UW/H students, started with an introductory lecture on Friday afternoon at 5:30 pm by Prof. Felix Ekardt. The lawyer from Rostock has become known because he is planning a climate lawsuit before the Federal Constitutional Court to demand compliance with the Paris climate goals for the FRG.

Other lectures dealt, for example, with transformation examples for sustainability, sustainability in industry or the perspectives of the European Green Deal. Workshops on the circular economy, EU emissions trading or green democracy will also be offered.

With gather.town, an interactive conference format will be used that enables spontaneity and personal encounters like a 2D video game. In addition to separate rooms for the keynotes and the respective workshops, there also were small private spaces where participants could exchange ideas without being disturbed, common chill-out areas for the evening hours, a virtual bar and the possibility to play any kind of social games in small groups. The Poster Hall was the heart of the conference world as a place of knowledge and continuous learning.

Principle 1: Purpose

We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable values for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Our purpose

Witten/Herdecke University was founded and state recognised in 1982 and has since been a pioneer among Germany's institutions for higher education. Over a period of 30 years, we introduced significant innovation in research and teaching. As a model university, we stand for dynamic reforms of the traditional alma mater and the pursuit of a humanistic educational concept adapted to the challenges of our modern knowledge society. In adherence to Humboldt's educational ideals, we strive to integrate research and student education, provision of scientific services, practical application and social responsibility. Theory-based and practice-oriented teaching at UW/H is always associated with the acquisition of subject-related, methodical, social and cultural competences, value orientation and personal growth.

Witten researches.

Research at UW/H is interdisciplinary, highly diverse as to methodology, and focuses on well-defined areas. As a private university with a moderate percentage of state funding in our budget, we feel obliged to make a contribution to society in return for the funds we receive. One way of doing so is to generate innovative research results. Real-life problems call for transdisciplinary research. The social relevance of our chosen fields of research is as important in this respect as transparent and generally understandable publication of research findings.

Witten educates.

Education is much more than training for the job. In addition to subject-related expertise and skills, we also convey methods and strategies which enable our students to cope with complex and permanently changing demands of the modern knowledge society. Students are encouraged to think in wider contexts and assume social responsibility in and beyond a chosen discipline. The economic, ecological and social challenges of the future will certainly not respect the boundaries of academic disciplines.

Witten – fundamental.

In an increasingly complex, rapidly changing and insecure world, future physicians, entrepreneurs, managers, politicians or consultants need methodical, social, ethical and cultural competences as much as subject-related expertise. Our studium fundamentale is an obligatory part of all degree programmes at Witten/Herdecke University. One day per week, students of all disciplines take time for reflexion of fundamental issues, communicative experiences, and artistic-creative exercises. They discover new horizons, explore transdisciplinary contexts, and enjoy time and space for out-of-the-box thinking and action.

Witten gets involved.

The role of higher education in society underwent radical changes in recent years. Top level research and teaching are the necessary conditions for successful universities. In Witten, however, we go a bit further. We demand and encourage initiative and responsibility; in university bodies, in the representation of student affairs, in the design of courses, congress organization or implementation of business ideas – but also in student-organized social initiatives. Our students show tremendous commitment and assume responsibility for their university, themselves and ultimately for society. On the occasion of the founding ceremony of Witten/Herdecke University, Alfred Herrhausen, then Chairman of Deutsche Bank, spoke of an "esprit engagé", a dedicated spirit to be developed and employed for the fostering of our society". This spirit is an essential part of our philosophy.

"Witten/Herdecke University as the oldest and one of the few interdisciplinary private universities stands for pluralism, freedom in curricular organization and encouragement of social responsibility. Its reformative character is an inspiration to the entire system of higher education in Germany."

Prof. Dr. h.c. **Roland Berger**,
Chairman Roland Berger Strategy Consultants GmbH

"We want to bring the European Green Deal closer to the people. And here in this new Witten/Herdecke building, you can feel how it can be done. This building is as sustainable as it is functional and beautiful. I congratulate you on your wealth of ideas would like to encourage you to continue working, researching and thinking off the beaten track."

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen
Acting President of the EU Commission

Principle 2: Values

We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

Our Values

Knowledge and competence being reflected in practice and developed further. A high degree of freedom for students to develop their own personality. Values combining curiosity, dedication and humanity. This is what UW/H has always been standing for.

- **Encourage freedom**

Our students are free to organize their curriculum. We explicitly encourage them to set their own priorities in terms of content and to gain intensive practical experience. Moreover, UW/H offers ample scope for testing one's skills and abilities and for progressing in other fields of study as well.

- **Strive for truth**

The question of truth goes beyond the question of feasibility. UW/H encourages students to gather and reflect personal experiences, to methodically change perspectives and to enter into open interdisciplinary discourse. Such refined discernment allows dedication to become effective.

- **Assume social responsibility**

It is our objective to educate professionally and personally competent graduates being able and willing to assume social responsibility – long before graduating. About 40 student initiatives at UW/H show that Witten works.

Principle 3: Teaching

We have been educating students in humanities/arts, management and economics, psychology, nursing science, medicine and dentistry for more than 30 years. We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

Our method

The key philosophy of social responsibility outlined in the three guiding principles of UW/H is and remains highly important in view of future challenges. Today's economic systems operate within contexts that are informed by not only political and social but also environmental, technological, demographic and health-related issues. Responsible entrepreneurial activity is therefore an integral part of such wider contexts.

Multidisciplinary curricula

Many future challenges to our society will require interaction between a wide range of disciplines. Subjects like business economics, general management, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and anthropology all contribute to the development of a sustainable economic system. In contrast to conventional business schools, the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society has always looked beyond the narrow boundaries of the subject and integrated perspectives, methods and concepts of neighboring disciplines.

One-sidedness can sometimes make life easier but is ultimately unrewarding. Only changes in perspective produce well-established insights. This is why we offer not only one school of thought but also alternative approaches to economics. Students receive a comprehensive and comparative overview of methods and concepts. This helps to train judgment and prevent tunnel vision. What we expect from you is that you do not choose the easiest way, but challenge us and yourself.

Lectures regarding Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability

Witten/Herdecke University offers numerous lectures and courses in the field of corporate responsibility and sustainability within the following programmes. Also, one of the core teaching concepts of the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society, the “Gründerwerkstatt” (Business Creation and Entrepreneurial Lab), opened up to topics and business models related to sustainability. Participants in this course gain insights into the implementation of founding a social business.

- Aktuelle Fragen zu Werteorientiertes Management - Sustainability Accounting
- Aktuelle Probleme der Gegenwartsphilosophie - Nachhaltigkeit zwischen Hegemonie und Gegen-Hegemonie
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Development Economics
- Ethical Issues in Organizations
- Einführung in die Ökobilanzierung
- Nachhaltigkeitsmanagement
- Politics and sustainability
- PPE in Practice - Mind the gap – Socio economic aspects of energy provisioning and consumption
- PPE in Practice - Strategies for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformations
- Praxisprojekt: Strategischer Wandel in Unternehmen
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Leadership
- Strategizing Corporate Social Responsibility

Studium fundamentale – The interdisciplinary heart of UW/H

At Witten/Herdecke University, all students have to take “Studium fundamentale” classes. The aim of Studium fundamentale is to offer students new perspectives for their studies and to develop their reflective, communicative, and creative skills in the context of general studies in liberal arts and humanities. Once a week, students of all UW/H faculties explore fields beyond their own disciplines and attend lectures and classes, in which topics ranging from philosophy, aesthetics and arts to medicine are addressed. Studium fundamentale also comprises a variety of classes in social sciences.

- Die Psychologie der Nachhaltigkeit
- Die Sustainable Development Goals – Globale Ziele und Zukunftskompetenzen
- Forschung zu Nachhaltigkeit – Urbane Grünflächen: Ein gemeinsamer Beitrag zum Sustainable Development Goal 'Nachhaltige Städte und Gemeinden'
- Global Social Witnessing as Leadership Capacity
- Global Social Witnessing in Calais Jungle
- Global Social Witnessing: Theory and Practice
- Jenseits der Eisbären: Klimakrise und Planetare Grenzen im Kontext politischer Ökologie
- Models of Change - Erfolgsfaktoren für gesellschaftliche Transformation
- Nachhaltigkeit in Familienunternehmen
- Nachhaltigkeit – nur ein TREND oder sinnstiftendes MUSS?
- Neue Chancen für Innenstädte als Einkaufszonen
- Ringvorlesung – Klimawandel im Gesundheitswesen
- Ringvorlesung – One Health: Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Gesundheit
- Soziale Transformationen zu einer nachhaltigen Postwachstumsökonomie
- Zwischen Gefühl und Geschäft. Familienunternehmen verstehen

Conferences, Workshops, Debates & Special Lectures

Furthermore, numerous conferences and workshops focus on sustainability-related topics each semester. A considerable number of them are initiated in close cooperation with our students. Examples from the last two years include:

Oikos Winter School

The oikos Winter School is an international one-week conference organized by the members of the oikos chapter Witten/Herdecke University. Since 2007, about 30 students from all over the world have come to Witten once a year for addressing sustainability issues. Here, special attention is paid to the triple bottom line of social, ecological and economic sustainability. For one week, participants analyze theories, methods and case studies, and reflect on different perspectives and ideas.



oikos Winter School 2020

The 2020 oikos Winter School, “Work in Progress - Development of Work & its Global Consequences” focused on how various factors, such as digitalization and climate change, can impact the future of work and the requirements needed by employees, firms and governments to successfully face them.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this was the first conference in the series to be held online.

oikos Winter School 2021

The 2021 Winter School, “Climate Crisis Management: Political conditions and concepts for sustainable transformation”, once again brought people from all over the world together, to discuss some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

As was the case with the previous conference, this was one as well had to be held in the context of Covid-19 and social distancing. However, with gather.town, an interactive conference format was used that enables spontaneity and personal encounters in a virtual space. In addition to separate rooms for the keynotes and the respective workshops, there also were small private spaces where participants were able to exchange ideas undisturbed, common chill-out areas for the evening hours, a virtual bar and the possibility to play any kind of social games in small groups. The Poster Hall was the heart of the conference world as a place of knowledge and continuous learning.

PPE Conference

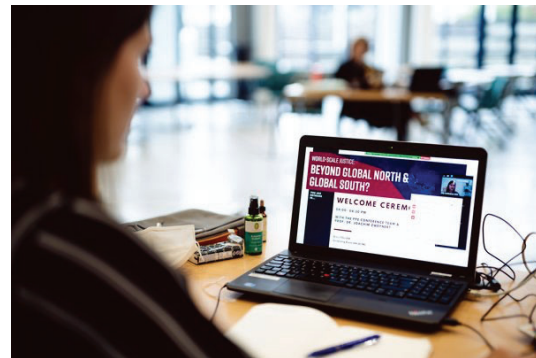
This conference is a student-led interdisciplinary conference that takes place once a year. Participants discuss and review student papers, receive input from expert keynote speakers and build a network of interdisciplinary thinkers in the fields of politics, philosophy, and economics.



PPE Conference 2020: World-scale justice – beyond global north and global south?

The conference critically analyzed the divide between the so-called Global North and Global South, raising questions around world-scale justice and responsibility. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the PPE Conference was held as a digital conference.

Nonetheless, it was a great success, with this new format as 211 students, young scholars and professors from 40 different countries registered.



The interdisciplinary participants created a truly international atmosphere and thought-provoking discussions during the keynotes, workshops, paper presentations and during the digital social activities.

PPE Conference 2021: Re-Thinking the state: Democracy between order and chaos

For the younger generations out there, whose countries have enjoyed a strong spell of democracy, the turn of the decade seems to have shaken our socio-political foundations. Foundations that, perhaps at times, have been taken for granted. With the advent of new threats and complex challenges, questions of change arise. Is it necessary to radically evolve to adjust to the new world, into which we transition? What is our modern understanding of democracy? And is its contemporary execution by nation states the most beneficial towards the people it supposedly serves? With the added pressure of unprecedented crisis, states and democracies find themselves at a

crossroads; an identity crisis, which, if left unanswered, may have serious consequences.



The 6th PPE conference, aimed to address these and related questions and actively discuss about choices we can have in this time of instability.

Thanks to a hybrid conference concept, participants were able to join both online and in person, which proved to be a great success as it allowed participation from all over the world.

Entrepreneurship Center Witten (EZW)

The Entrepreneurship Center Witten (EZW) was founded in 2014 as a non-profit enterprise of Witten/Herdecke University and the Initiative of Business for the UW/H. Its goal is to counteract structural change in NRW by promoting a start-up culture. Through these and other initiatives, the start-up landscape has developed rapidly and has long since had an impact beyond the borders of the federal state.



The EZW focuses on supporting social entrepreneurs who want to solve global problems in an entrepreneurially sustainable way. Accordingly, our goal is to make social business ideas sustainably successful.

Entrepreneurship Centre Witten – “Future of Leadership Week 2020”

How does digital leadership succeed in times of the Covid 19 pandemic? How do decision-makers maintain a positive corporate culture that forces organizations to organize themselves in the digital space and often from the home office? What opportunities and risks do experts associate with digital corporate culture and digital leadership?

Against this backdrop, on November 30 2020, high-ranking representatives from practice and science will highlighted the opportunities and risks of digital leadership from various perspectives at the "Future of Digital Leadership-Week" event organized by the Entrepreneurship Zentrum Witten (EZW) at Witten/Herdecke University and encouraged an exchange of ideas in the process.

Entrepreneurship Centre Witten – “Future of Entrepreneurship Conference 2021”

This year’s topics were "Digital Entrepreneurship", "Soft Skills for Founders", "Female Entrepreneurship" and "Digital Health".

The conference program was diverse, giving an overview of the field of digital entrepreneurship, the importance of "soft skills" for founders to successfully shape their own company in the long term and digital health

In addition to experts from academia, current female and male founders were invited as well: Michelle Skodowski reported on how she mustered the courage to found her own start-up and give advice on what experiences have helped her as a woman in the male-dominated technology industry.

Bürgeruniversität – Citizens' University

As in previous years, a variety of lectures were organized in cooperation with the Adult Education Centre Witten. The event series takes place on a regular basis and is open to everyone. The following provides an overview of the topics covered:

- Business and the Climate Catastrophe: From Part of the Problem to its Solution? (Maximilian Locher)
- Family member or bread topping? Dilemmas of the animal-human relationship (Prof. Dr. Jan P. Ehlers)
- "How can classical music expand our consciousness?" (Dr. Alexander Jakobidze)
- Connectedness and how to strengthen it (Dr. Maren M. Michaelsen)
- Beauty ideal: washboard abs? How social media influence children and young people (Dr. Katharina Pilgrim)



Awards

2021 Distinction for digital orientation of teaching

The University of Witten / Herdecke regularly achieves top positions in the StudyCHECK ranking and recommendation rates of almost 100%. According to its students, this makes it one of the top universities in Germany. In 2020 it was named the most popular university in North Rhine-Westphalia.



As part of the "Digital Readiness Rankings" 2021, students from Witten rated the digital competence of their university during the corona pandemic - and were consistently satisfied.

2020 Excellent ratings for Master Programmes of the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society in trendence Barometer

The CHE ranking is Germany's most comprehensive university comparison - around 300 universities and technical colleges are examined. The Center for University Development annually collects data from around 150,000 surveyed students from various courses. Each study program considered is reassessed every three years.



- Top grades for the Master's degree programs at the Faculty of Management, Economics and Society: General Management (M. A.), Philosophy, Politics and Economics (M. A.) and Strategy & Organization (M. Sc.).
- Top positions in seven out of eight categories, including in the fields of "Study organization", "supervision", "support during studies" or "Transition between Bachelor and Master degree".
- First place in the category "Scientific relevance" - nationwide winner in "Introduction to methods of scientific work", "Stimulation for own critical reflection", "Reference to central and innovative research results" as well as in the "Conveying / practicing scientific thinking".
- Most of the time, the grade "very good" for the courses and the organization of the courses - the respondents particularly appreciated the interlinking of different scientific disciplines, the international orientation of the courses and the small size of the courses.
- 100 out of 100 points for "Social Climate": The results attest that the University of Witten / Herdecke has outstanding cooperation between teachers and students throughout Germany.

2020 Excellent rating for Faculty of Management, Economics & Society in trendence Barometer

Management Studies at UW/H received top ratings by students in the trendence Institute's Graduate Barometer 2020, based on student evaluation. With a survey result of 2.4, trendence put Witten ahead of all state (3.1) and private (2.8) universities.



Some further results include:

- Students have a lot of practical experience (70% - general average: 47.2%).
- Students work more often as student trainees (66% - general average: 44.1%).
- Students do internships abroad more often (25% - general average: 15%).
- Students show particular social commitment (72.1% - general average: 37%).
- Students predominantly consider themselves to be particularly adventurous, inventive, Students are curious and versatile (80% - general average: 50%).
- Students place a particularly high value on corporate social responsibility when choosing their employer (80% - general average: 50%).

Principle 4: Research

We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental, and economic value.

Our research

Behavioral and social sciences play an important role in research at the Faculty of Management, Economics and Society. Our research activities focus on the behavior of individuals and their interactions within the institutional and social frameworks. Deliberately striving for an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach, which also reflects the in-depth knowledge of the individual disciplines, is crucial to our research. The Faculty of Management, Economics and Society is thus committed to view both established and new fields of research from various perspectives and to apply methodological pluralism, far off the beaten track.

Research in the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship (MUT) pursues the goal of understanding, explaining and shaping decisions and change processes in business. The main research areas in the MUT Department are shaped by the profiles of the professorships, chairs and institutes; they can be divided into three areas:

- Leadership and Responsibility,
- Innovation and Foundation, and
- Organization and Markets.

Two overarching features characterize the department's research profile. Complex questions on interface topics or between disciplines characterize practice and are therefore the focus of research for the MUT Department. Companies and organizations, like their environment, are in a constant state of change, which is why many of the department's research perspectives are linked to the observation of dynamics, change and transformation.

The Department of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPÖ) stands for research that is fundamentally anchored in its disciplines, that is recognizably striving to leave well-trodden paths and/or that exhibits an explicit will to shape society. The PPÖ Department supports and demands both research that leads to high-quality publications and research that does

not shy away from expressing bold visions, experimenting with transdisciplinary approaches, or seeking to improve people's lives in sociopolitical terms. To make this possible, the PPÖ Department promotes both a disciplinary depth of focus and a diversity of perspectives between and within disciplines that achieves a theoretically, analytically, and methodologically rich and thus fruitful spectrum.

PPE Institute for Social and Institutional Change (ISIC)

Taking the place of the former Witten Institute for Institutional Change (WIWA), the *PPE Institute for Social and Institutional Change* (ISIC) was founded in 2020 by members of the Department for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Witten/Herdecke University. Its mission is to promote the unique approach of PPE



research on topics of social and institutional change. PPE research goes beyond multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches by synthesizing philosophy, political studies, and economics into a distinctive and transdisciplinary scientific environment. It considers the three fields as interrelated perspectives on social reality.

ISIC is committed to promoting excellence in research that is relevant and internationally visible. ISIC develops formats for scientific exchange with public impact and participates in practical change projects and initiatives at the interface of philosophy, politics, and economics.

DANGER research project sheds light on political violence

Univ. Prof. Dr. Nils-Christian Bormann from the Faculty of Economics and Society at Witten/Herdecke University (UW/H) is one of the current winners of the prestigious ERC Starting Grant of the European Research Council (ERC). In his research project entitled "Democracy, Anger, and Elite Responses (DANGER)," which was launched in February 2021, he is investigating the dangers posed to European democracies by political violence and how politicians, for whom only a democratic system of government is an option, can counter these dangers.

The research project examines the extent to which political violence contributed to the failure of democracies in interwar Europe (1919-1939). In addition, the project will develop preventive solutions that political elites can use to counter violence. To this end, the researchers compare coalitions between exclusively democratic parties with coalitions that also include parties hostile to democracy. The focus of the analysis is on interwar Europe, as the best possible case of comparison for today's democracies. The researchers take an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on methods and insights from political science, history, economics, and computer science.

Digital Lecture series on „Money, Power and Social Transformation“ at UW/H 2020

Whether the constitutional brake on debt, cryptocurrencies or the role of central banks in global climate change – there is no shortage of controversial topics that are of importance to our society as a whole. At the same time, it is difficult to assess and interpret this plethora of different challenges. The public digital lecture series “Money, Power and Social Transformation” wants to provide different perspectives on the interaction and relationship between money, power, and society. For this purpose, Prof. Dr. Joscha Wullweber, Professor for Political Economy and Global Governance of Witten/Herdecke University (UW/H) has invited renowned experts in the area of economics, politics and research to speak at the lectures.

Lecture series on “The political economy of crises and transformations” 2021

‘Crisis’ is frequently diagnosed today in the context of various interrelated issues: climate change, various financial and economic shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic migration, and the never-ending eurocrisis. But how is ‘crisis’ diagnosed and what are its challenges, problems, and opportunities? When does crisis create the possibility of transformation and/or radical change, and when is that possibility effaced because of its urgent and drastic connotations? Under what conditions do crises undermine or reaffirm existing power relations, institutional structures, and vested interests?

PPE young scholars award for institutional change

The PPE Institute for Social and Institutional Change (ISIC) believes in aspiring young scientists. We invite applications for the annual “PPE young scholars award for social and institutional change”, endowed by the Board of Trustees of Witten/Herdecke University. “PPE” refers



to the variety of theoretical approaches and normative positions on topics and problems at the intersections of philosophy, politics, and economics. For this reason, nominations are open to different theoretical and normative schools. The only criteria are originality and creativity. With this award, the board of trustees of Witten/Herdecke University and ISIC aim to encourage promising researchers to leave the beaten track and break new ground in research and teaching.

In 2020, ISIC had honored the two researchers Dr. Philippe Van Basshuysen

In 2021, Dr. Millicent Churcher and Dr. Donal Khosrowi received the award.

Reinhard Mohn Institute of Management

Since its founding in 2010 under the name of its founder, the Bertelsmann Stiftung has supported the Reinhard Mohn Institute (RMI). Through research, teaching and practical dialog, it provides significant national and international impetus for reforming the theory and practice of corporate management.



The RMI works in the spirit of Reinhard Mohn's participative and responsible leadership philosophy - and with an anchoring in organizational theory. |

It's current focus areas include Cooperative Relationships, Network and Alliance Strategies, Strategic Adaptation Processes, Managing Openness and Transparency, Trust in and between Organizations, Innovation and Learning in Organizations, New Forms of Leadership and Work in the Digital Age, and Corporate Responsibility.

Reinhard Mohn would have turned 100 on June 29, 2021. RMI is contributing to the anniversary year with a commemorative publication and events, in particular the RMI Corporate Leadership Day 2021 .



RMI Online Forum: Homesick for the office? Corona Special of the Leadership Radar

Innovative leadership and crisis management is needed to prevent social isolation while working from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. At this online event on April 15, 2021, more than 50 interested participants from a wide range of sectors discussed results of a study on this topic by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and the Reinhard Mohn Institute for Corporate Management.

RMI Online Forum with Prof. Andreas Rasche on responsibility and sustainability

More than 50 participants* from a wide variety of fields joined the team to consider the question "What does corporate responsibility mean?". The participants were able to recall important thoughts on this from Reinhard Mohn, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday this year, and to discuss in depth the historical and future development of corporate responsibility and sustainability.

RMI Online Research Seminar with Eugenia Rosca on the role of intermediaries in base of the pyramid supply chains in poverty settings

Dr. Rosca and her international co-authors build on the observation that institutional voids in areas of extreme poverty may have to be filled by intermediary organizations that encourage local supply chains to become not only economically viable but also socially responsible.

RMI Research Seminar - Managing Networks: Building Trust for Innovation – RMI Online Research Seminar

One of the reasons for firms to enter business networks is to gain access to knowledge, ideas or partners that may help them innovate. Because it is generally acknowledged to be conducive to successful network performance, trust is important in such networks.

RMI Online Research Seminar: Quo vadis Corporate Digital Responsibility?

Extant management and organization research often hails the transformation of business operations through digital technologies, emphasizing its commercial and economic potential. Simultaneously, digitalization can also be a threat to individual rights of users, employees and citizens alike. It creates new ethical challenges and dilemmas as human behavior can increasingly be predicted, controlled, and modified. However, there is a general lack of insight into the practical experiences of corporations with ethics-related concerns in the process of digitalization.

RMI Research Seminar: “How Vulnerability Shapes Public Trust”

Can you trust the police or similar institutions? Why is some people’s public trust stronger than others? Professor Joe Hamm argues that vulnerability is the key construct to answering such questions. While research has taken vulnerability as a condition that all trust relates to, the nature of vulnerability has rarely been attended to.

RMI Research Seminar: „How do changes in legislation influence organizing in voluntary sustainability initiatives?”

Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives (MSIs), which set voluntary standards to promote corporate due diligence, have become important private governance instruments to regulate businesses’ activities in global value chains. Recently however, there has been an uptake in mandatory due diligence regulation formulated on governmental level, especially in the area of human rights.

International workshop at the RMI on trust research

An intensive, collegial exchange on ongoing research projects on the topic of "trust" took place at a workshop organized by the RMI on the occasion of Joe Hamm's extended guest stay with us from Michigan State University.

Topics included conceptual issues - trust and vulnerability, morality, metaphors, mistrust, and others - as well as empirical studies of, for example, innovation networks, negotiation, educational systems, and political institutions. Often, the aim was to understand better than existing research does what exactly trustworthiness means and how it is recognized and constructed in detail.

Research Group Social Entrepreneurship and Social Finance

The research group "Social Entrepreneurship and Social Finance - Impact-Oriented Models for Social Innovation" deals with three major topics: Financing structures of social enterprises, mechanisms of the social capital market (impact investing) and social entrepreneurial impact logic in selected sectors. Members of the research group are Prof. Dr. Sabine Bohnet-Joschko (Witten/Herdecke University), Dr. Markus Freiburg (Founder and Managing Director of FASE), and Dr. Wolfgang Spiess-Knafl (Zeppelin University).

The research group has been founded to combine expertise and strengths at the University in order to make them visible. In addition to research and publication of results, courses are offered, as well as supervised homework and theses.

The website "Together for social commitment - Social Entrepreneurship at Witten/Herdecke University" is a first project to improve the visibility of the topic and serves as a platform and inspiration for interested parties.



Witten Institute for Family Business (WIFU)

The Witten Institute for Family Business (WIFU) conducts academic research and training on the special features of family businesses and business families. We are especially keen to maintain a high, internationally compatible level and to include all disciplines.



The foundations of a consistent transdisciplinary approach were laid when the Institute was founded. Three research and teaching areas – business administration, psychology/sociology and jurisprudence – have always provided an academic reflection of family businesses.

WIFU has developed an unusual level of expertise in the field of family businesses and business families. A group of approximately 80 family businesses enables us to act on an equal footing as an institute of family businesses, for family businesses.

We utilize these unique circumstances to push on with our research and training and to develop innovative theories, approaches and practical solutions.

With 6 departments/research areas and numerous professors, WIFU has been contributing significantly for more than twenty years to the ability of family businesses and business families to endure into the future.



WIFU Online Forum

With the digital event format “WIFU Online Forum”, WIFU is consistently continuing its digitalization course and offers a useful addition to its numerous presence formats. Every two to four weeks, interested parties from science and practice are given over 90 minutes the opportunity to exchange information on family entrepreneurship-related topics as part of a moderated online discussion. Every event is enriched by the extensive know-how of a subject expert at WIFU. Events on the topic Sustainability:

- Innovation in Familienunternehmen – mit dem Schwerpunkt Nachhaltigkeit (13th Aug 2020)
- Nachhaltigkeit in Familienunternehmen (26th Nov 2020)
- Nachhaltigkeitsperspektiven in Familienunternehmen (24th June 2021)

WIFU working group “Sustainability in Family Businesses”

The new WIFU working group “Sustainability in Family Businesses” gives WIFU donors, interested members of their business families and their top management responsible for the topic the opportunity for a structured exchange and mutual learning around the subject of sustainability activities in business and family. Every year, different hosts from our network of donors will organise two full-day workshops (including a get-together the night before). The host as well as one other business will each present a case study related to the subject and incite a discussion. The workshop’s discussion is part of a broader concept of research processes that address not only the participating firms but also doctoral students.

Symposium “Sustainability in Family Businesses”

The symposium “Sustainability in Family Businesses” is another novel building block in the WIFU events calendar. Its goal is to transmit insights into the entrepreneurial dynamics of societal transformation towards sustainability and to present the consequences which family businesses (e.g. supply chains, business models, certifications) and business families (e.g. family planning, succession, wealth management and impact investing) will encounter in the future. In addition to specialist lectures by recognized industry and topic experts, specific best practice cases from family businesses are presented and discussed. The event will take place annually and exclusively addresses members of family businesses and business families as well as their top management.

Selected Publications 2020 – 2021

- Zhang, C., Möllering, G. (2019). Partnering with Whom and How? Institutional Transition and Entrepreneurial Team Formation in China. In *Research in Behavioral Strategy Information Age Publishing*.
- Machin, A. (2020) Democracy, disagreement, disruption: agonism and the environmental state, *Environmental Politics*, 29:1, 155-172
- Machin, A., Ruser, A. (2021) Corporealising a Healthy Democracy? Inequality, Bodies and Participation, *Representation* 57:2, 209-224
- Bidenko, K., Bohnet-Joschko, S. (2021): Balancing work and caregiving. Impact of employment on the health of family caregivers. *Gesundheitswesen* 2021, 83, 122-127.
- Möllering, G. (2020), Communicating (about) trust, *Journal of Trust Research*, 10(1), 1-3
- Machin, A. (2020) Green Democracy. In: Marco Giugni and Maria Grasso (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Movements*. Routledge. [Forthcoming].
- Henry, L. A., Rasche, A., Möllering, G. (2020). Managing Competing Demands: Coping with the Inclusiveness–Efficiency Paradox in Cross-Sector Partnerships. *Business & Society*,
- Bohnet-Joschko, S., Nelson, E. C., Zippel, C., Morgan, T. S., Ovretveit, J. (2020): How social business innovates healthcare: Two cases of social value creation leading to high quality services. *Journal of Public Health* 2020, 28,
- Rüsen, T. A., Heider, A. K. (2020): *Aktive Eigentümerschaft in Familienunternehmen - Gesellschafterkompetenz in Unternehmerfamilien entwickeln und anwenden*. Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag
- Machin, A. (2021) Climate Change and Radical Democracy. In: Basil Bornemann, Henrike Knappe and Patrizia Nanz (eds.) *The Handbook of Democracy and Sustainability*. Routledge. [Forthcoming].

- Goretzki, L., Löhlein, L., Schäffer, U., Schmidt, A., Strauss, E.** (2021) Exploring the Role of Metaphors in Social-Identity Construction: The Case of the German Controller, *European Accounting Review*
- Zippel, C., Bohnet-Joschko, S.** (2021): Rise of clinical studies in the field of machine learning: A review of data registered on ClinicalTrials.gov, in: *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.
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- Casciaro, T., M. Lobo, H. Wilhelm, M. Wittland.** (2021) The way we make each other feel: Relational affect and joint task performance. *Academy of Management Discoveries*, online first.
- Wilhelm, H., B. Bullinger, J. Chromik.** (2020) White coats at the coalface: The standardizing work of professionals at the frontline. *Organization Studies* 41(8) 1169-1200.
- Hülsbeck, M.; Hack, A.; Gerken, M. & Ernst, R.-A.** (2020): Nachhaltigkeit in Familienunternehmen. Kostenfaktor, Innovationstreiber oder unternehmerische Verantwortung? Studie des Wittener Instituts für Familienunternehmen (WIFU). Witten: WIFU.
- Schlippe, A. v.; Rüsen, T. A. & Groth, T.** (2021): *The Two Sides of the Business Family: Governance and Strategy Across Generations*. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Rüsen, T. A. (Hrsg.)** (2021): *Theory and Practice of Business Families and Family Businesses*. Commemorative Publication for Arist von Schlippe. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlag.
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- Lindner, J.P., Eberle, U., Knuepfler, E. et al.** (2021) Moving beyond land use intensity types: assessing biodiversity impacts using fuzzy thinking. International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment.
- Kölle, A., Timmer, V., Dilly, M., Rosanowski, L., Geßner, C.** (2021) Sustainability in the FMCG Industry. Deutscher Fachverlag.
- Reinhard-Mohn-Institut für Unternehmensführung** (2021) Was heißt unternehmerische Verantwortung heute? Reflexionen zum 100. Geburtstag Reinhard Mohns. Gütersloh. Verlag Bertelsmann Stiftung.

Principle 5: Partnership

We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

Our partnerships

Right from the start, Witten/Herdecke University assumed social responsibility in many forms and on various levels. Witten/Herdecke University is in a continuous lively exchange with the community: with the citizens of Witten, the local and regional business world, social and cultural institutions, even international organizations, corporations, and foundations.

Since its foundation in 1983, crossing borders has played a vital role in the vision and mission of UW/H. Borders between theory and practice, between disciplines and faculties, but also actual physical borders between national states. UW/H is a proud member of an international research network spanning over all five continents; it permanently extends its network of partnerships on student and faculty exchange as well as research co-operation with universities world-wide. Furthermore, education at UW/H does not stop at merely studying a subject; it is a simultaneous process of personal and intellectual development. Hardly anything is as formative as international experience. Hence, we strongly encourage our students – and our staff as well – to gather experience abroad during the studies, but also through practical experience and border-crossing student initiatives. It makes us proud that many of our alumni have taken up international careers and serve as UW/H ambassadors abroad.

Our students spend quite a lot of time working on projects on- and off-campus. In view of our still young age and a comparably small number of some 2.600 enrolled students and 500 staff, we have produced an impressive number of social, cultural, commercial, and non-profit initiatives. One example is the oikos Winter School, where young and visionary individuals from all over the world meet in Witten for workshops on specific sustainability projects, interdisciplinary meetings, latest research finding, etc.

Moreover, the Faculty of Management, Economics & Society is part of a regional and global

network of higher education institutions, companies, and other organizations. Based in the city of Witten and the Ruhr area, we cooperate with more than 50 family businesses (including Haniel, Grillo, Pictet), about 30 companies in the food industry (including Dr. Oetker, Katjes, Iglo), and more than 300 mentor companies who support our company mentorship concept in teaching. In this context, the ZNU Future Conference, for example, focusses on the change processes towards more sustainability in the food sector.

Furthermore, we have renowned academic partners for our key research activities. Our alumni, many of whom hold key positions all over the world, constitute a further essential part of our network.

Finally, the university also draws on the dedication of its environment. A number of associations and societies form a network to support the university and its students on several levels. New ideas and projects result from this commitment on a regular basis. Apart from associations such as the “StudierendenGesellschaft” or the “Universitätsverein”, various institutes with close links to the Faculty of Economics and Management help to build bridges between theory and practice.

ZNU - Center for Sustainable Leadership

The ZNU – Center for Sustainable Leadership is an application-oriented research institute aiming to make sustainability tangible and inspire people with the opportunities that sustainable management offers. An interdisciplinary team is working with the sustainability leaders of today and tomorrow to make tangible improvements in sustainable corporate management through research, teaching, training, and conferences.



XII. ZNU – Future Conference

This year, we were addressing the following questions, among others: "How do we turn conflicting goals into innovations? Is electromobility really more ecological than diesel drive in the overall view, or is the cucumber in the "plastic coat" really "worse" from a sustainability point of view?". Janis McDavid spoke on the topic of "How do we overcome barriers?" and we learned within the new "Communication Arena" how companies & agencies successfully transport the topic of sustainability towards consumers with different marketing and communication approaches. Under the motto "How do we win consumers for more sustainability?"

ZNU goes Zero

With this joint initiative communicated in spring 2018 for the first time, the ZNU wishes to make a clear statement for entrepreneurial climate protection and do even more justice to its responsibility for future generations.



The following five steps to climate neutrality will be monitored and controlled by the ZNU: location-specific capture of GHG emissions in accordance with internationally recognized standards, avoidance, and reduction of GHG emissions, raising awareness of employees, greening through the use of certified green electricity, and finally compensation of unavoidable emissions by climate compensation projects like Plant for the Planet. Already 20 mid-tier partner companies have committed themselves to climate neutrality.

The ZNU Standard - driving sustainable change

The *ZNU Standard – driving sustainable change* supports companies in becoming more sustainable step by step and demands continuous improvement. It is the only approved, tested and implemented standard for sustainable management in several branches. This standard integrates all three dimensions of environmental, economic and social issues, and it supports and promotes the development of an integrated management system for doing business in a more sustainable way. Doing so, companies or service providers succeed in being proactive instead of taking a defensive stance. At the time of writing, more than 50 companies have successfully gone through the certification process.

Professional Trainings: ZNU-Sustainability Manager

The seminars include a theoretical background on sustainability and corporate responsibility as well as the required methods to deal with sustainability challenges in daily business. In order to assure practical relevance, the training involves speakers from science and corporate leaders from the FMCG sector.

Professional Trainings: Sustainable leadership

The aim of the seminar is to develop personal capability as a leader and innovator in order to transform the passion for sustainability into the success of your own organization. This training focuses on people with their strengths and leadership potential. The participants reflect their own leadership skills in order to become aware of their strengths and to use these in a long-term and targeted manner in everyday project work.

Professional Trainings: ZNU online sessions

The established format of the webinar is aimed in particular at those responsible for sustainability issues who see the topic as an opportunity for their company and for themselves personally, and who are motivated to implement this in their company. The online presentation provides the opportunity to ask questions directly.

Mindful Leadership Conference

The annual conference is organized by Witten/Herdecke University and CONCADORA publishing house in cooperation with Tri-**Mindful Leadership Konferenz** gon Development Consulting Munich and the Centre for Mindfulness Stuttgart. It aims to train managers and employees in acquiring creative adaptive skills for handling new situations, in self-reflection and emotional intelligence in order to counteract automatic patterns of action.

Mindful Leadership Conference 2020: Leadership and cultural transformation

The starting point for the 6th mindful leadership conference was the digital transformation that will permanently change organizations in the coming years. Digitization affects not only technology and work processes, but also leadership and collaboration and thus the way people in organizations think, feel and behave. The big question was whether and how it is possible to actively shape these changes so that people see meaning in the innovations and are not overwhelmed by them. This requires a profound cultural transformation, in which leaders play an important role.

The conference alternated inspiring examples from organizations, illuminating presentations on the inner dynamics of transformation processes, and implementation ideas. Open Space groups enabled networking between organizations.

Mindful Leadership Conference 2021: Mindfulness – the key competence for successful leadership and cooperation

At this year's Mindful Leadership Conference, renowned thought leaders and leadership personalities will be joining hands, including the organizational and conflict consultant Rudi Ballreich, the philosopher Prof. Dr. Julian Nida-Rümelin, the Zen master Michael von Brück, and the founder of Affect Logic Prof. Dr. Luc Ciompi.

Under the motto "Mindfulness and the art of thinking in a new way," lectures, interviews and training sessions invite executives to examine the quality of their thinking with the help of mindfulness, to leave well-trodden paths and to strike out on new paths.

Principle 6: Dialogue

We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, and civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

Our Dialogue

Students and their projects are truly the best ambassadors for a UNPRME membership. Witten/Herdecke has produced an impressive number of social, cultural, commercial, and non-profit initiatives and curricula that foster responsibility. Characteristically at UW/H, students team up for cross-disciplinary projects, reaching beyond their own study focus. In the following, you can find a selection of numerous projects initiated by our students and achievements that we are proud of.

Student Initiatives

A-Coaching

A crisis that appears hopeless, some serious problem, the need to confide in somebody – the A-Coaching team offers a confidential setting and helps students via systemic approaches to find their own solutions.



ADD ACTION

It is a frequent demand to integrate health-related subjects such as physical education and nutrition into school curricula from early on. Since 2010 ADD ACTION is a first step in this direction. Our students organize a variety of activities at schools to counteract the rising incidence of obesity amongst children and adolescents.

AG Notfallmedizin

The student-organized Emergency Medicine Working Group is committed to increasing the importance of emergency medicine in the curriculum of the Model Study Program 2020. In addition to a variety of seminars, practical exercises and short lectures, the main aim is to show that emergency medicine is fun.



AIAS Witten

Every 15 minutes a person is diagnosed with blood cancer in Germany and one in ten patients does not find a stem cell donor. The aim of the student initiative is to organize a registration campaign for stem cell donations at UW/H and to further support DKMS/AIAS through sponsorship and fundraising. The purpose of the association is the promotion of public health through non-



material and financial support of the "German Bone Marrow Donor Centre" to expand the international stem cell database. AIAS Witten wants to get closer to the goal that every blood cancer patient will find a suitable stem cell donor.

Bundesverband Deutscher Volks- und Betriebswirte (bdvb e.V.) - Hochschulgruppe Witten

The Witten/Herdecke University Group is a member of the German association of political and business economists. Founded in 1901, the bdvb represents the interests of economists in Germany and stands for a strong and competent network of responsible specialists in the field.

Café im Kulturstall

The "Café im Kulturstall" on the Christopherushof (near the Witten campus building) is a general meeting place. On Thursday's, visitors can enjoy pies, soups, delicious cakes, gateaux and waffles, and every Wednesday evening, cooking and baking take place in a relaxed atmosphere in the courtyard kitchen.

CoronAid

In these times, the CoronAid initiative would like to assume social responsibility for those who are ill and their families, as well as for those in need of help - following the ideals of the University of Witten/Herdecke (UW/H). The CoronAid initiative was created by students and

staff at the university to help address the many medical, social, and human challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative was established as a separate working group of the UW/H Corona Task Force on March 16, 2020.

DigitalWorks

Only some UW/H lecturers use e-learning methods regularly and actively in class. One of the main problems is the lack of knowledge of how to use the tools of the Moodle system.

DigitalWorks therefore aims to make e-learning more accessible to lecturers and students at Witten/Herdecke University. To begin with, students will receive theoretical and practical training on e-learning opportunities at the University.

The media competence of course participants is thus promoted and expanded in the communicative skills area.

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Witten/Herdecke

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is an association of local Erasmus student initiatives. Volunteers in currently 33 sections mentor more than 10,000 exchange students annually. Throughout Europe, ESN is active at more than 430 universities in 37 countries. Hence, ESN Witten/Herdecke is a section in one of the largest student organisations world-wide with students from all faculties. The initiative aims to better integrate students into everyday university life.



Familienunternehmerkongress (FUK)

The annual Congress for Family Businesses offers networks and expertise for this particular type of business. Family businesses make up a strong 90% of all German companies. UW/H students host the congress, which is the most important and renowned of its kind in Europe.

Feministische Gruppe

The Feminist Group is a UW/H student initiative with a feminist perspective on higher education policy and social contexts. The initiative attempts to actively participate in the curriculum from a queer and intersectional feminist position, for example by complementing UW/H courses that are inadequate in this respect. In the long term, the group would like to work on establishing intersectional feminist, postcolonial and critical courses, quite common at other universities.

Finance & Consulting Association (FCA)

Following the aim to make an active contribution to the teaching of classical issues in Business Studies, five UW/H students founded the FCA in summer 2014. FCA regards itself as a platform for students interested in Business Studies. It organizes lectures and workshops with expert practitioners on topics in the field of Finance & Consulting. So far, major emphasis was on mergers & acquisitions, strategy, and venture capital.



for action medeor

This initiative is aimed at committed individuals who want to work for the health of people worldwide. The initiative supports action medeor e.V. and promotes a health care system that provides preventive care, treatment and necessary medicines to people in need worldwide.

The association action medeor, to which the initiative is committed, is regarded as the world's emergency pharmacy and supplies doctors in disadvantaged regions with vital medicines. The aim is to promote local health structures, to provide both immediate and sustainable help in emergencies and disasters, and to fight diseases that are fueled by poverty.

Future Doctors Network

The Future Doctors Network supports improvement and expansion of medical education in developing and emerging nations. Training in physical examination skills is in great demand amongst medical students in target countries as it shall also encourage prospective physicians to gain practical experience while treating patients and fellow students during their studies in order to prepare them for taking responsibility during their professional career.

GambiaDentCare Programm

Comprehensive health care, as is usually found in industrialized countries, has hardly existed in sub-Saharan Africa to date, and it currently remains predominantly based on national planning scenarios. As a result, the existing need for treatment of dental caries is immense. It is estimated that about 90 percent of lesions requiring treatment remain untreated.

Projects in the GambiaDentCare program, which began in the fall of 2012, relate particularly to the prevention of oral diseases, especially through the use of fluoridated table salt.

Gendergerechte Medizin

On average, women end up in the emergency room with a heart attack one hour later than men. This is because women are not prone to the "typical" heart attack symptoms. However, since general society, and thus also the medical community, usually thinks in normative male terms, many people are not aware of this. The Gender Equitable Medicine Initiative wants to change that.

Herzergreifend

The group wants to ensure that the topic is being discussed in Germany and that it will become part of the regular school curriculum as it can affect each and every one. It plans to talk about the sensitive topic of resuscitation in schools, answer questions, rehearse an emergency situation and, above all, take away the fear of doing something wrong. The initiative is supported by the German Workers' Samaritan Federation, with which it works closely together.

Initiative PNI

Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) is a young interdisciplinary research field and a subdiscipline of psychosomatics. It moves between the fields of immunology, psychology, psychosomatics and neurology. In this sense, the PNI initiative builds bridges between medical, psychological and social science contexts. These connections are the basis to make the present particular view attentive to the more complex, holistic level.

The PNI initiative invites you to participate in exciting lectures or to become active in the initiative.



Initiativlabor

The Initiatives' Lab sees Witten/Herdecke University as a laboratory for experiments, for involvement in social and ecological projects, in which students can gather exciting practical experiences. Affiliated to the Department of University Development, the Initiatives' Lab serves as a permanent contact point for student initiatives and project ideas of all kinds.

In this way, UW/H student commitment to a fairer and more sustainable world shall be strengthened, consolidated and made more visible.



Investment Club

The Investment Club is an initiative founded by three management students in the summer semester of 2021. Together, the goal is to create a platform for students at Witten/Herdecke University to exchange ideas about stocks, the stock market and other investment opportunities. Discussions, dialogs, and contacts are to be promoted through monthly meetings, practical lectures or workshops, and students from all faculties are always welcome.

Konfessionelle Hochschulgemeinschaften Witten

The initiative "Denominational University Communities Witten" wants to give students with denominational affiliation at UWH a space for religious life, communal togetherness, social engagement and political and interreligious education. The communities are basically aligned with the existing denominations. At the same time, they strive for close cooperation through regular joint educational events, excursions and social gatherings.

Körperlich Themenwoche

The Körperlich week is an annual conference organized by a student initiative that invites people of all ages and different contexts to get involved with the interrelation between mind and body at a practical and theoretical level, and to engage in interdisciplinary exchange. In 2013, the impetus for the conference came from the interaction between students from the new "Psychology and Psychotherapy" degree programme and the Integrated Curriculum for Antroposophic Medicine (ICURAM) at Witten/Herdecke University. The aim is to promote a holistic understanding of psychology. In addition to the theoretical foundation acquired during the course of study, the event intends to provide room for practical experience and for reconsidering or implementing theoretical models.

kultur.moment

kultur.moment (cultural moment) is a student initiative that aims to establish a theme day each semester on current issues of cultural reflection. The idea originates from the reflection of the form and content of cultural reflection issues and the search for a format in which the diversity of cultural reflection can be represented. Cultural reflection is understood as an examination of different perspectives of perception, as well as the construction of meaning in writing, language, music and imagery. For this, a classical, traditional form of philosophical discourse is used – round table talks.

Kunst der Erfahrung

Art of Experience is a student initiative, which researches between the arts and psychology and therefore regularly invites to the congress of the same name, in order to open a space of experience between the different disciplines and to go into design with each other.



L'appel Deutschland

L'appel is an organization for development cooperation. The joint projects in Africa in the field of health, education and infrastructure are tailored to the needs and necessities of the target groups. Members are students and young people who provide expertise on a volunteer basis.

Laufen gegen Depressionen

Working together to promote wellness and stand strong against depression: The initiative offers a series of lectures on the main topics, sports, exercise, healthy living, depression and much more. Running training takes place once or twice a week. Those who wish can also take part in races.

Luthers Waschsalon

Who gives medical care to poor or even homeless people and/or those without health insurance? UW/H medical students provide help; they identify patients requiring immediate treatment, refer them to physicians, or perform minor treatment themselves.



Medical Students for Choice Witten

The university group "Medical Students for Choice Witten/Herdecke" is a student initiative that advocates for a more intensive discussion of the right to bodily self-determination as well as the topics of sexual and reproductive health.

Medizin mit Herz und Hand

This students' initiative wants to raise awareness for the potential of integrative medicine. Since 2010, a summer academy is organized once a year that draws participants from all over the country. Medical doctors, therapists, artists and students work together on how to strengthen the relationship between patients and health professionals and foster dedication and delight in health care.

Model United Nations (MUN)

UW/H sends a student team to New York City to the largest UN simulation worldwide annually. Each student assumes the role of a delegate from a country assigned to him or her and represents this country's interests at the specific forums of the UN conferences. Extensive preparation is necessary in advance in order to deal with the highly specific and current issues and to be able to represent the country accordingly. Participants not only learn how to debate and deliver speeches, but also much about how international politics works in practice.

Musicclub

The Musicclub is an integral part of musical life at Witten/Herdecke University. The participants of Michael Kiedaisch's seminar "Improvisation & Jazz" present their work at the end of each semester. Students may play in the Musicclub combo, a band that is newly composed each semester, work on a solo performance or perform in a small group, such as a duet or trio, etc. New ideas emerge in the course of the seminar.

oikos Witten/Herdecke

"What is good for all must be good for me, too, and what hurts society and the environment will ultimately hurt me, too." For oikos Witten/Herdecke, a student network for sustainable ideas and projects, the logical inference of this observation is sustainable management and thus the implantation of solutions today which will not cause new problems tomorrow. Since 2008, Witten/Herdecke and its Faculty of Management, Economics & Society has been hosting the annual international oikos Winter School, bringing together more than 25 young change-makers from around the world.



PAN University Witten/Herdecke

PAN („Physicians Association for Nutrition“) ist ein 2018 in München gegründeter gemeinnütziger Verein und mittlerweile eine international vernetzte Non-Profit-Organisation. Ziel der Initiative ist es, in der Allgemeinheit und insbesondere im Gesundheitswesen ein erhöhtes Bewusstsein für das präventive und therapeutische Potential einer evidenzbasierten gesunden Ernährungsweise zu schaffen sowie deren Umsetzung zu ermöglichen.

Ponte

The "Ponte" initiative strives for getting to know each other in an interdisciplinary environment for promoting cross-faculty communication and networking. Various events focus on the possibility to meet and network with students of other disciplines and semesters.

pottkutsche - freies lastenrad witten

The "Pottkutsche" initiative manages a free cargo bike that can be borrowed free of charge by anyone in Witten for sustainable transportation in the city. As an alternative to cars in the city, it is already part of the traffic turnaround and is also intended to encourage people to rethink urban mobility in general.

Pottpost

Pottpost, the campus newspaper of the UW/H, is a project for the whole university in which everyone can participate. A newspaper from everyone for everyone. Clara, Theda and Paulina, who started this project, welcome everyone to help, write, design, critique, interview, read and contribute.



PPE Conference

A student-led interdisciplinary, academic conference that takes place once a year. Participants will discuss and review submitted student papers, receive input from expert keynote speakers and grow a network of interdisciplinary thinkers in the field of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.



Prisma - das studentische Frauennetzwerk

The aim of this initiative is to network women from all fields of study across semesters and generations and to facilitate mutual support and exchange. Through network meetings, panel discussions, coaching and joint events with Alumnae, the initiative promotes equality and looks forward to like-minded people.



The principle is to learn from each other and to treat each other respectfully in order to promote diversity through active listening and participation in workshops or demonstrations.

Repair Café Witten

The Repair Café Witten consists of students of UW/H and Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB), as well as of pupils and people from Witten who like to do handicrafts and rather repair things than throwing them away.

ROCK YOUR LIFE!

Ten UW/H students founded the Witten chapter of ROCK YOUR LIFE! in November 2012. ROCK YOUR LIFE! trains dedicated students as coaches to accompany and support pupils (secondary school) on their way into work life on a continuous basis. Pupils enhance their school performance, expand their social skills and perspectives, improve their ability to reflect, seize new opportunities and thus also promote their chances of successfully starting their career.



Rotaract Club Witten-Wetter-Ruhrta

Rotaract is a group of young people between the ages of 18 and 30 who share the motto "Learn - Help - Celebrate". Rotaractors work together worldwide to help others and contribute to international understanding through friendship, fairness and tolerance. Members of the initiative broaden their horizons with regular lecture meetings and sightseeing tours, get involved in cooperation with the local children's home and collect food for the needy or meet for entertaining club evenings.

Sono@UWH

The initiative Sono@UWH is an association of medical students who want to dedicate themselves to ultrasound teaching at Witten/Herdecke University. Since 2020 the team consists of six students, this is about to change! The initiative is to become larger and would like to further expand ultrasound teaching at the university together with interested parties and possibly set up projects abroad.

Students for Future

Students for Future is the local student group of the Fridays for Future movement and pursues the goal of increasing the focus on sustainability and climate protection in the various educational institutions as well as the entire city population of Witten, while at the same time developing constructive proposals for solutions.



StudierendenGesellschaft Witten/Herdecke

Sketched on a paper napkin by students of Witten/Herdecke University in 1995, the idea of a reverse generational contract (RGC) proved to be an innovative payment concept for tuition fees. It has been successful for almost 25 years now and is also the origin



of the non-profit organization Studierendengesellschaft Witten/Herdecke e.V, managed by students. The RGC promotes equal opportunities in education. It offers payment modes that enable students to finance their studies independent of their parents' income or social background. The basic idea is: study today and pay tomorrow. The fees are based on the concept of contribution, which ensures that students make contributions to the overall success of the university within the scope of their financial capacity. By this, graduates should be entitled to choose their professional careers freely. Students may opt for paying a certain percentage of their income after graduation as soon as they earn money. In this way, UW/H graduates pay tuition fees for currently enrolled students – a reverse contract between student generations. This ensures that nobody is excluded from studies at UW/H for a lack of funds

Teddykrankenhaus

Students initiated the Teddy Bear Clinic for children from 4 to 6 to help them overcome their fear of doctors and hospitals. As part of their visit to the Teddy Bear Hospital, the children can have their teddies or other cuddly toys treated by medical and dental students and thus experience the situation of a treatment from the perspective of an observer, which they may later have to experience as a patient themselves. The Teddy Bear Clinic is organized on campus every year and almost always welcomes more than 500 little guests.

Theaterverein der UW/H

The UW/H Theatre Association was founded in 2006. It consists of former students who attended the theatre group courses of previous years and who also want to enable current students to gain positive experiences with theatre work. Founding an association made it possible to accept donations, which are needed for costumes and all other production expenses. Some impressive productions have been staged in the course of time, such as classic plays and texts by Shakespeare, Goethe, Brecht and Thomas Mann, but also modern ones by Peter Handke and Christa Wolf.

Theatron Logou

Michel Friedman, Gregor Gysi and Wolfgang Schäuble were guests of Theatron Logou. This initiative strives to identify current issues to be discussed with representatives of national politics, business, academia or the media. Initiated in 2001 as an interdisciplinary series of talks, the aim was to create a forum for well-known personalities, students and citizens.

Traditionelle Chinesische Medizin

TCM" is a holistic medicine that aims to maintain health. In China, the idea of the balance of Yin and Yang permeates not only medicine, but also the way people live. Diet, exercise, phytotherapy, acupuncture and massage form the five pillars of TCM. With this knowledge one tries to strengthen one's life forces (Qi) to stay physically and mentally healthy.

Wanderful

Together with the Werner von Siemens School, Bochum, UW/H students and schoolchildren prepare a hike and then go hiking together in the UK.



Weltgesundheit

The World Health initiative results from a cooperation between the Integrated Curriculum for Anthroposophic Medicine (ICURAM) and the non-profit association L'appel Deutschland e.V. It wants to introduce students and other interested parties to this topic and create a basis for finding their own answers to global health issues.

Willkommen in Witten

The student initiative Willkommen in Witten (Welcome to Witten) was founded with the aim to give assistance to refugees in the process of arrival and integration in Witten. Major emphasis is on teaching basic German, help with school homework, recreational activities and the removal of bureaucratic hurdles.

Wittenbolzt

"Soccer for a good cause" - Environmental education combined with soccer. The initiative organizes soccer tournaments and sports festivals for children and young people and combines it with trash collection. They also start so-called cleanups for entire families with grandma and grandpa, organizations, students and generally for everyone. A smile is guaranteed - because collecting trash is simply fun!



Wittener Unternehmergespräche

Since 1998, students have been inviting extraordinary entrepreneurs to Witten/Herdecke University who recount their career as entrepreneurs and discuss their experiences with students and professors. As this is not a lecture series, but rather a discussion forum, the format thrives on the open structure, informal character and personal atmosphere, developing in the course of the evening.

Zahnmedizinisches Myanmar Projekt

The Dental Project Myanmar aims at providing the country's dentists with material, financial and practical support. It is equipped with a mobile dental treatment unit. In particular, conservative treatments, dental prevention programmes and education will be offered for children. At least once a year, a group of dentistry students will travel to Myanmar in the clinical phase of their studies to help locally.

In the future, six Myanmar Foundation schools will be provided with new toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste on a quarterly basis. This will enable the children (more than 1200 in total) to brush their teeth together after lunch to significantly improve dental health.

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