

Dilemmata der Nachhaltigkeit

“Dilemmata der Nachhaltigkeit” aims to understand how specific funding programmes and sustainability projects deal with the challenge of sustainability and how they influence the social practice. Meta-criteria for the assessment of sustainability are intended to be formulated, which sharpen both the scientific and the practical communication across scientific disciplines and social stakeholders.

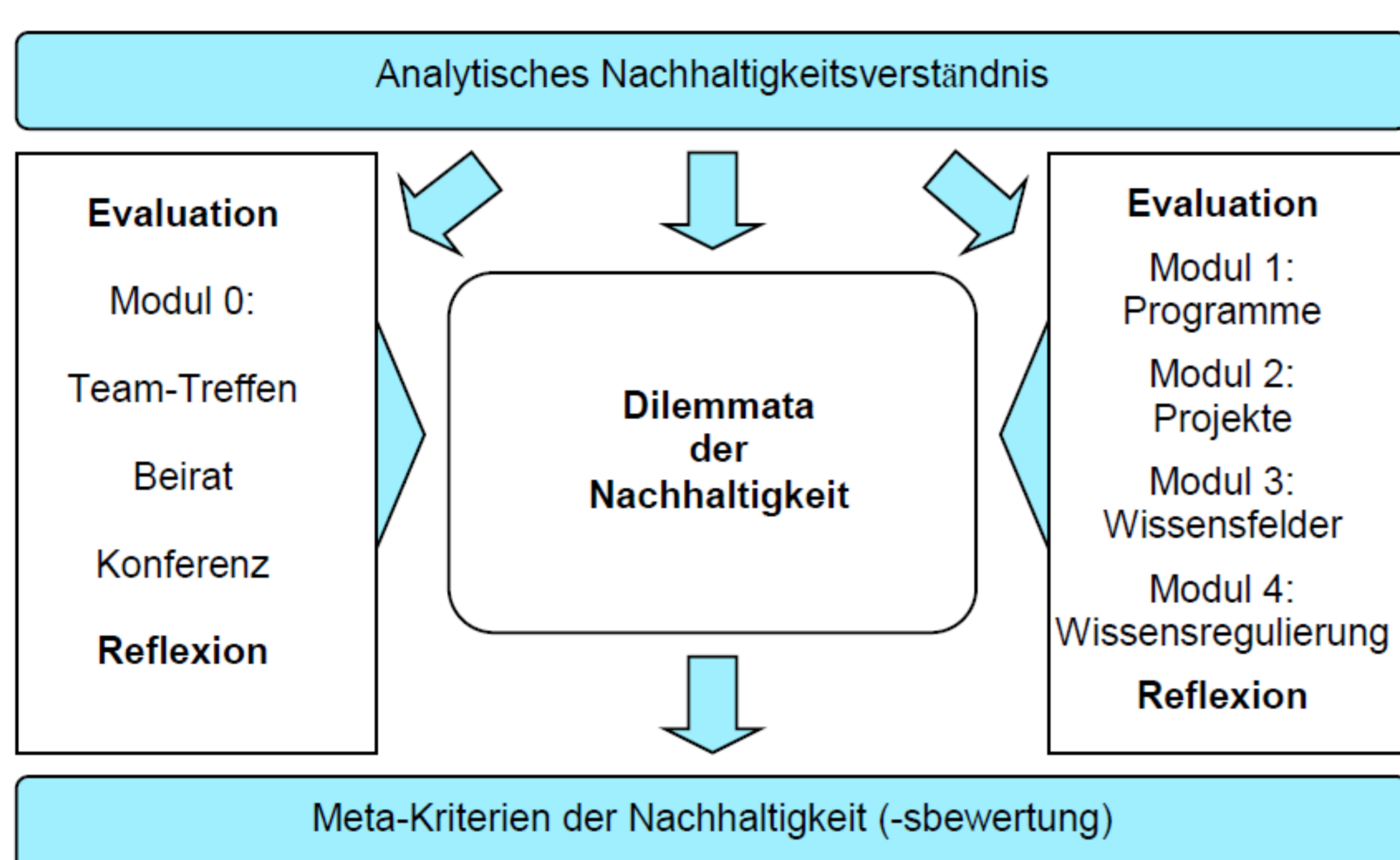


Figure: Transdisciplinary cooperation (project proposal)

Transdisciplinary Project

The transdisciplinary project „Dilemmata der Nachhaltigkeit“ is a joint project with the University of Passau (Prof. Dr. Anna Henkel), the Technical University of Brunswick (Prof. Dr. Nicole C. Karafyllis) and the Institute for Social-Ecological Research in Frankfurt (Prof. Dr. Matthias Bergmann, Dr. Thomas Jahn). The project unites four subprojects to the understandings and dilemmas of sustainability in superordinate sustainability programmes (Module 1) and specific sustainability projects (Module 2) as well as to the comparative reflection of sustainability as a field of knowledge (Module 3) and as knowledge regulation (Module 4). Module 1 and Module 2 are located at the University of Oldenburg in cooperation with the Department of Educational Sciences (Prof. Dr. Karsten Speck).

Research Method

The project combines approaches of evaluation research (Module 1), governance research (Module 2), philosophy of science (Module 3) and social research (Module 4) to evaluate criteria of sustainability and to reflect knowledge of sustainability. The joint starting and reference point are the specific dilemmas.

Research Objectives

The establishment of the sustainability discourse also created different ideas, objectives and types of knowledge, which are all substantiated by the term of sustainability. This gives space for specific dilemmas of sustainability which may appear in the variety of objectives, the heterogeneity of forms of knowledge, the diversity of the involved actors or the different evaluation criteria for the performance assessment of transdisciplinary sustainability projects. The aim of the project is to understand how specific funding programmes and sustainability projects deal with the challenge of sustainability. Meta-criteria for the assessment of sustainability are intended to be formulated.



Prof. Dr. Bernd Siebenhüner

Project staff:
Sophie Berg, Ann-Kristin Müller

Field of Activity

- Ecological Economics
- Social learning & collective learning processes
- International Environmental Policies
- Transdisciplinary and participative Methods
- Climate Change & Biodiversity
- Sustainable Land Use and City Development
- Sustainability Reporting

Regular Courses

- International Sustainability Management
- Environmental and Sustainability Policies
- Corporate Ecological Policies
- Ecological Economics
- International Environmental Governance
- Practical Projects in Sustainability Economics and Management
- Colloquium for Bachelor-, Master- and PhD-Students
- Cases in Coastal Zone Management

Selected Literature

- Luks, F./ Siebenhüner, B. (2007): Transdisciplinarity for Social Learning? The Contribution of the German Socio-Ecological Research Initiative to Sustainability Governance. *Ecological Economics* 63 (418-426).
- Jahn, T. (2012): Theorie(n) der Nachhaltigkeit? Zum Kontext der Auseinandersetzung um das Grundverständnis einer „Nachhaltigkeitswissenschaft“. In: Enders, J. C./ Reming, M. (Hrsg.): *Perspektiven nachhaltiger Entwicklung – Theorien am Scheideweg*. Marburg, S- 47-64.