Responsible Management Education for SDG 13: Climate Action

Sustainable Development Goal 13 ‘Climate Action’ calls upon nations to identify urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts building on the momentum achieved by the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which entered into force on 4 November 2016. Stronger efforts are needed to increase businesses’ contributions to climate change mitigation as businesses are strong emitters as well as being affected by climate impacts for example higher raw material and transportation costs from flood and drought risk. Business schools, as the primary source of management education, prepare professionals who will lead, manage and work and, as such, influence organisations in the future. According to a survey with more than 3700 students from the leading business schools in the world (Yale Study 2016), 79% of these business students stated that they feel only ‘moderately’ to ‘not at all’ knowledgeable about how to make business more environmentally sustainable. 64 % of them want environmental sustainability to be integrated into the core curriculum, 61 % want more faculty and staff with expertise in sustainability. Despite this, little is currently known about the state of climate change education in business schools.

This theme will invite theoretical and empirical contributions on the topic of Climate Change Education in Business and Management schools. Papers that describe case studies of good proactive practice in climate change education will be also welcomed.

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Petra Molthan-Hill leads the Green Academy at Nottingham Trent University since 2013, with the aim to include ESD related curricular and extra-curricular initiatives into the whole university, for example an internal online course offered to all 30.000 students at NTU: ‘Sustainability in Practice Certificate’. She won ‘The Guardian University Award 2015 for Business Partnership’ (Greenhouse Gas Management Project) together with NetPositive Ltd and the Sustainability Professional Award in the Green Gown Awards 2016. Dr Molthan-Hill is also Associate Professor of Sustainable Management and ESD at Nottingham Business School. She is Co-Chair of the UN PRME working group on climate change and environment and Editor of 'The Business Student's Guide to Sustainable Management'. Dr Molthan-Hill is co-developing the Carbon Literacy Training for Business School with other PRME Champions.