

KOSMOS
CONFERENCE

AUG 28-30 2019 | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin



TREASURE QUEST

COMMUNICATE YOUR TREASURES

Reflections on the SDG treasures by the KOSMOS coaches



Communicate your treasures



A core element of the KOSMOS Conference - Navigating the Sustainability Transformation in the 21st Century was the treasure quest on the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) . We designed the treasure quest as an experimental workshop format discussing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in small groups throughout the whole conference. When registering, each conference participant joined one SDG-Team to work with. Each team was supported by trained coaches. Finally, the identified treasures were presented to colleagues and the public in a plenary format.

In this document the coaches outline the treasure quest process and the precious findings for each SDG.

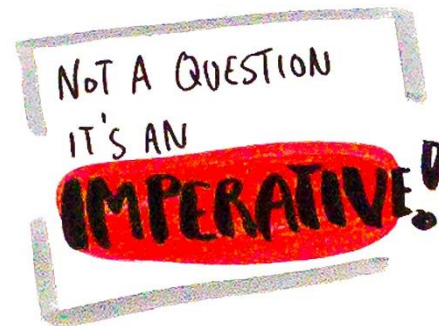
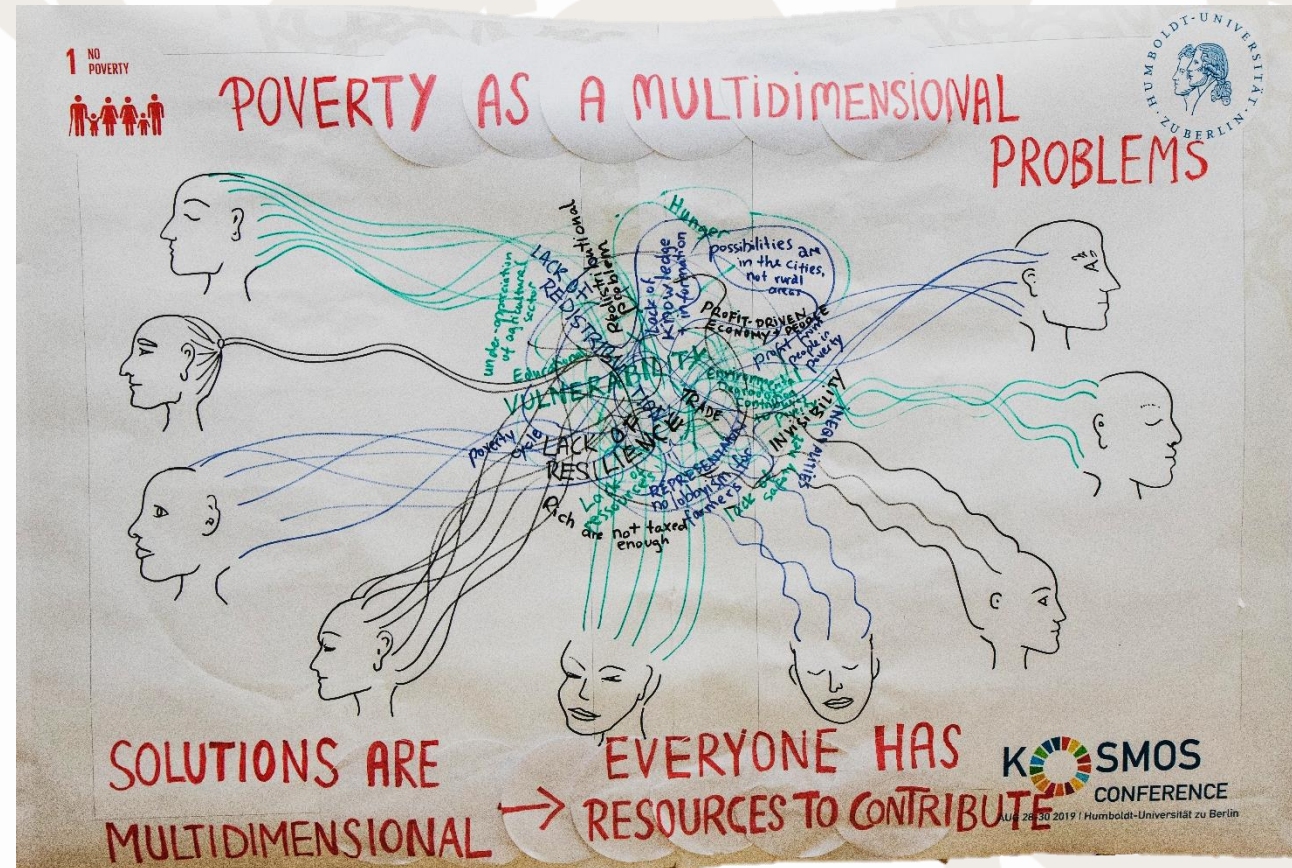
SDG 1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1 was worked on by a small group engaged in fantastic discussions. Poverty has been addressed for so many decades, so that today we find ourselves in a situation in which other more pressing problems are at the forefront. However, poverty is a broad and multidimensional problem.

Multidimensionality can be a treasure because it means there also is multidimensional solution space!

There is no such a thing as a the “one big solution” that immediately allows us to start acting. On the contrary: All the small actions tackling the problem of poverty are the key to solve the one big problem of poverty. Every individual has the resources to contributing their bit to untangling the “knot of poverty”. We are all – in the one or the other way - part of it. So let’s start acting now!



Kosmos Coaches: Mia Scheuermann and Johanna Alexandra Hofmann

SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER



The complexity of SDG 2 is high, like for all the SDGs. It creates a discourse of contradictory arguments about which solution is the best. However, we did not want to waste our energy in discussing the pros and cons of similarly great ideas. Nor did we want to get overwhelmed all together by the complexity and amount of information.

So, the two big questions it comes down to are: How do we find a focus? And how do we keep a focus?

We do not have an answer to that either but we came up with perspectives:

1. to be aware of all the different steps and aspects in every discourse, and
2. to interrogate all these different solutions.

Sometimes we will find already in that *process* a common ground. Sometimes we can use the SDGs – the other SDGs – to prioritize, to find a common ground. However, sometimes this process will also lead to dead ends. So we must be careful in that sense as well. Nevertheless, discussing is important! We need to engage in these discussions. We shall not lose a sense of urgency but keep on communicating. Moreover, we also shall not lose courage, as Beatrice Crona phrased it in the Icebreaker Speech of this conference: *Courage is the courage to act and the courage to intervene in the process of taking these difficult decisions.*

Kosmos Coach: Nicole Pita



SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



We need to find an overarching frame that remembers us towards the *right to help*. It became clear that fulfilling basic human rights is not a *favor* that is done to people. It needs more stakeholders to insure and support an *invitation to help*. Access to physical, mental and social well-being for everybody is the first step to do so. It is so according to the definition of the WHO. However, even 40 years after WHO's Alma-Ata declaration on Primary Health Care there is still no access to public health care for all. From that perspective we formulated two requests:

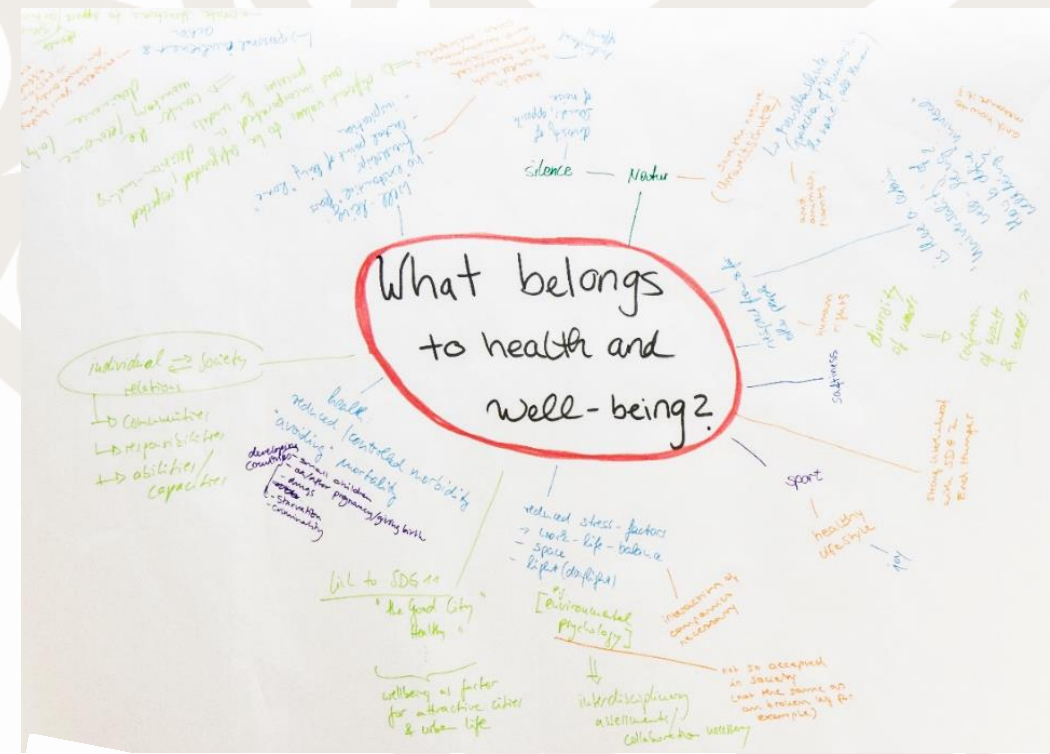
We need the involvement, dimensions, and responsibility of different stakeholders: That implies the empowerment of individuals, and initializing a collective agency including as many stakeholders as possible.

That may help to set up a system or a constructive agency that serves individual needs and that simultaneously allows for communicating including the perspectives of national politics, academia, business and law.

We need to find **a truly transdisciplinary approach** making this possible. We want to end with a quote of Schopenhauer:

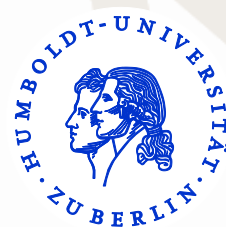
"Health is not everything, but without health, everything is nothing"
(German philosopher, 1788-1860)

Kosmos Coaches: Gina Krebs and Lena Hantel



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SDG 4 is all about equal and fair access to quality education and free education for primary and secondary education. However, we still find many places with no schools at all.

Where to start?

High quality education requires good teachers. So we focused on the teachers. One person of our group had experience with a successful method of 'training managers'. So, we decided to take this as base for our poster:

A Global Model for teacher training



- 6 languages based on UN + German
- participant selection & preparation within home countries
- calibration, gap analysis, group bonding
- online platform · knowledge planting - synergies
see #TeachSDGs
- training in host country + train the host
- opportunities for continuous learning & training
- monitor for gender balance in primary, secondary, and tertiary education
- Quality Education for recognition

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1 month preparation phase
2 months application, selection of participants, calibration

6-12 months blended programme

2 months follow-up monitoring



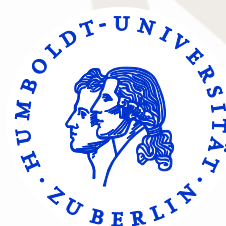
We propose a global model for a teachers-training cooperating with 6 major languages of the United Nations including Spanish, Russian, Arabic, English, French. Since it is a German model we also propose using German.

Next steps can be

- 1) starting in every country on the selection of teacher candidates, and
- 2) preparations within the countries.

We need to stress that the selection of teachers already pre-assumes that the teachers stem from different social and ethnical backgrounds.

**FROM
KNOWLEDGE
TO ACTION...**



SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY



This SDG was discussed by 17 people, women only.

We believe that the treasure to Gender Equality lies in every individual.

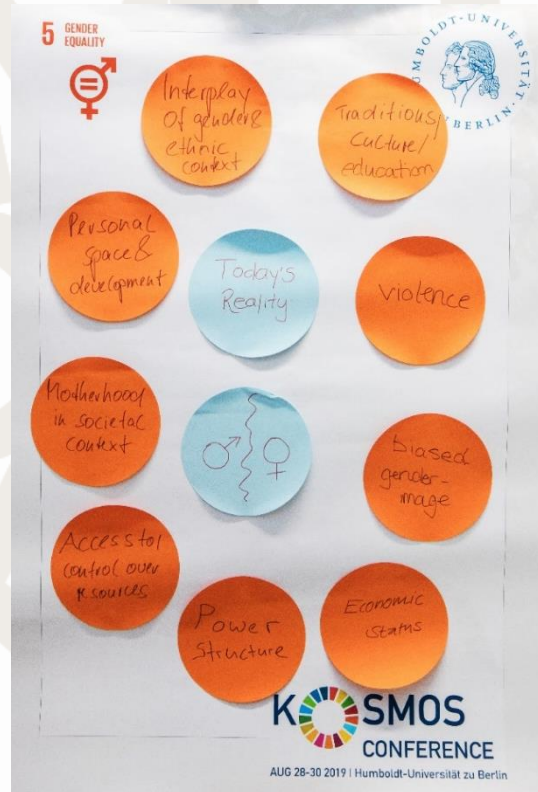
We like to invite you to a one-minute Journey to question yourself and search for the key for your personal treasure:

- Did you ever experience Gender Inequality in your own life?
- Are you rather benefitting or suffering from the role society subscribes you to?
- Be radically honest to yourself: How do you contribute to *Gender Inequality* you perceive in your everyday surroundings?

We don't have the time to change your thoughts. However, if you find the time to talk with others about these questions that might already be enough.



Kosmos Coaches: Tianling Yang and Angela Patricia Pérez Lora



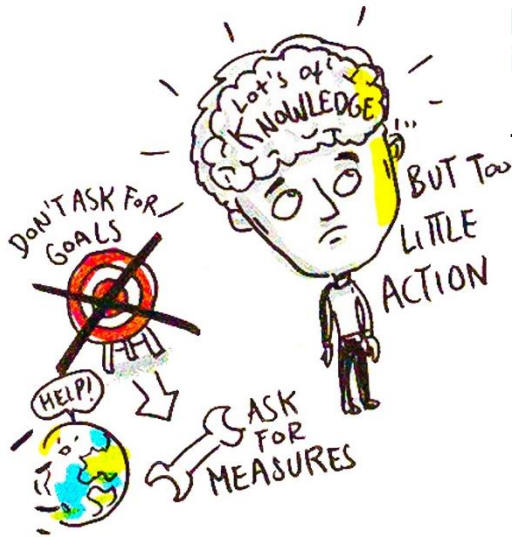


There are already existing innovational strategies to locally solve issues on SDG 6. This group of different water experts from natural and social sciences, as well as activists was able to create a bouquet of solutions. However, all solutions orbit around four major fields of actions:

1. forestation
2. making use of ecosystem services
3. monitoring water resources
4. modelling water resources.

Hence, we focused on what is actually needed to deliver these solutions and found the treasure of SDG 6 in the following:

It is necessary to foster the different meanings water has to people and groups of interest, and furthermore equally protect interest of all involved groups.



This must constitute a global framework.



SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



We started to focus our discussions and wanted to think through one single idealized case. Finally, we found one small but very concrete treasure:

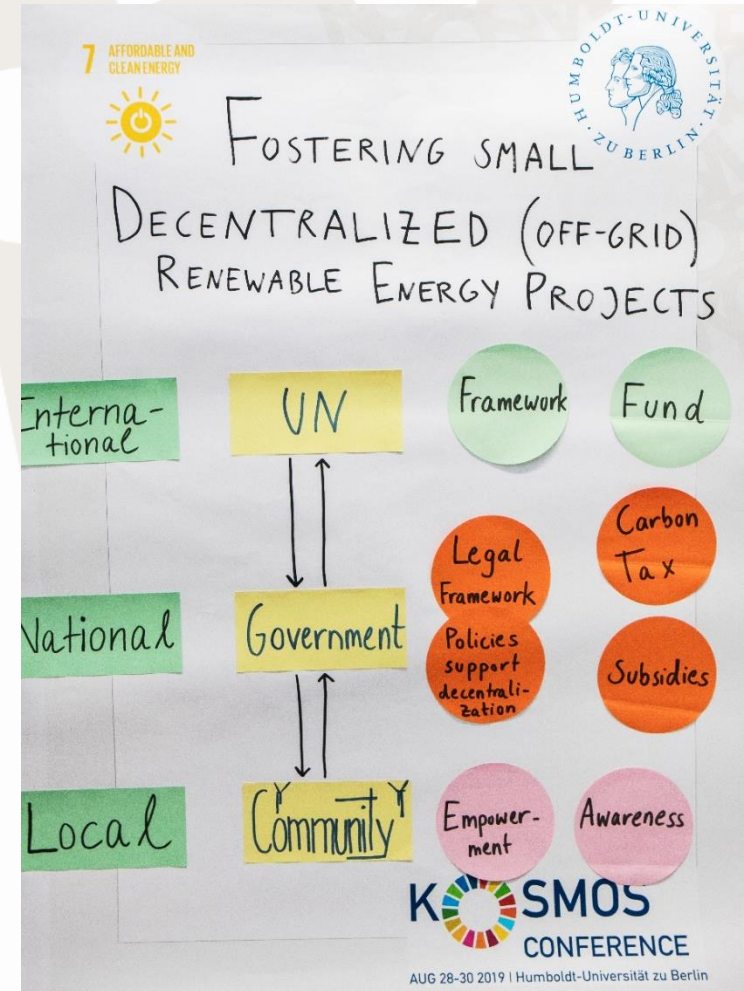
Fostering decentralized small renewable energy projects increases both, the share and the access of individuals. Furthermore, it implies an empowerment of local communities.

In order to start such empowerment, it needs support and subsidies by governments. But where do the resources for such measures come from?

We simply think it must come from carbon tax. In an ideal case this tax will be agreed upon at an international level. We think the UN could provide the framework for such an international tax that helps empowering local communities for solving SDG 7.



Kosmos Coaches: Anna Nguyen and Samyra Hachmann



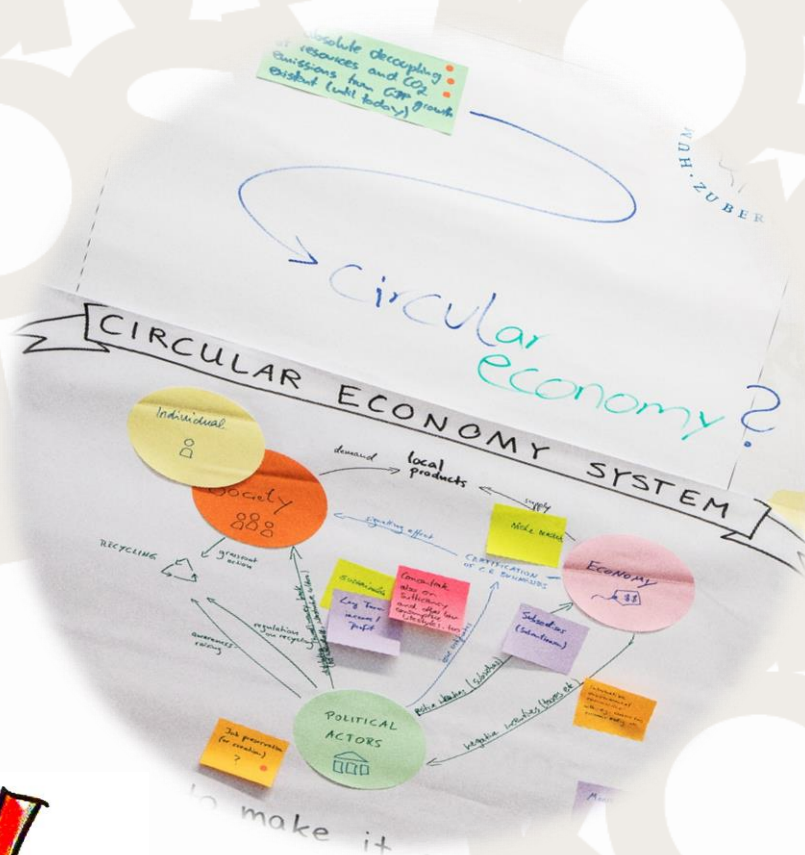
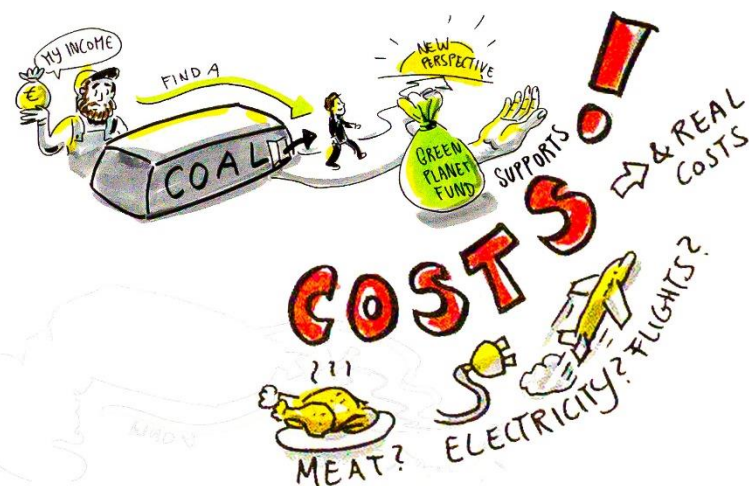
SDG 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



We focused on the most pressuring points of economy.
There is no decoupling of the use of resources and CO2-emissions from GDP growth.

The treasure we work on lies in the strips and strengths coming along with sustainable economic growth:

- Economy and society must both **focus more on local supply** as well as local demand.
- **Positive measures of governments** towards the economy with subsidies for sustainable products and negative measures such as tax otherwise.
- **Certifications of economic impacts** from the Government have a signaling effect for society.
- Awareness from the government for **alternative productions** such as recycling will have an impact on the society, as it opens **new markets for grass-root development**.



SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



We realized a big contradiction: How can we combine population growth, increasing standards of living, and sustainable industries?

First, we thought of an artistic presentation and came up with a lot of ideas like coming to stage with a balloon, explaining planetary boundaries. That allowed us to think freely about how industries can become sustainable.

Secondly, we handed around the notes and everybody had to come up with improvements of each idea. We ended up focusing on changing resource consumption as a holistic approach of de-growth that includes government, society, industries and institutions.

We did not come up with a solution but think that the solution will be found only discussing it in frameworks like this.



Kosmos Coaches: Joshua Dietz and Veronika Pinzger



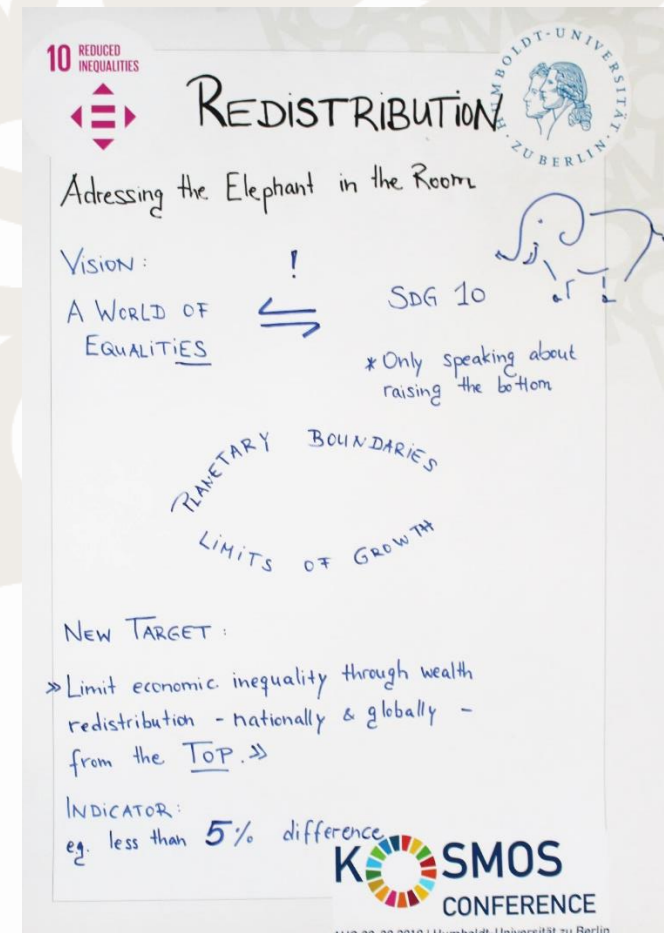
Historical, political and economic circumstances form our society today. We realized that we need to - what we call - "addressing the Re-distributing-Elephant in the room".

For the presentation on stage the group asked the audience to stand up, except the people that were sitting in the top left. Doing so, the audience was pointed to the fact that the people standing actually symbolize 80% of the wealth produced for the global North and shared by only 10% of the population there. Two more people from the top left were asked to get up and the group pointed out that they represent 2% of the global wealth that is shared by 60% of the global population.

Do you see "the Elephant" in the room?

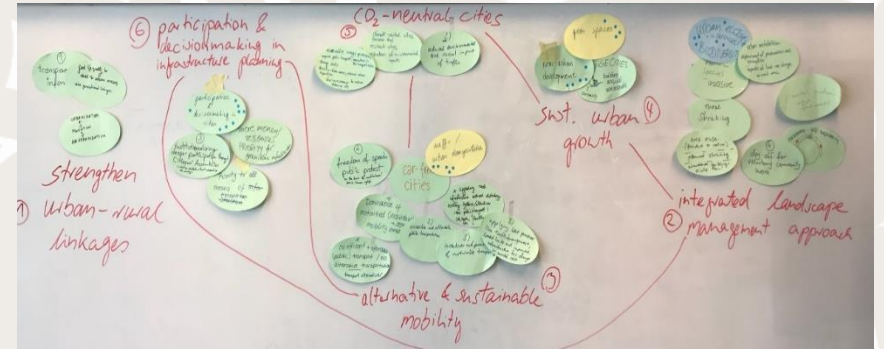
With everything we know about planetary boundaries and limits to growth, it is clearly a question of policy. However, it is clear that currently only bottom-up development is targeted which is not enough.

So we found as a treasure is extending SDG10 by one more target that addresses to limit economic inequality through re-distribution of wealth – nationally and globally – in such that not more than 5% difference between the bottom and the top are allowed.





For achieving SDG 11, six strategies were developed that go beyond what so far is formulated in SDG 11:



1. In order to provide the protection of green areas **strong linkages between urban and rural areas** are needed. Furthermore, synergy-effects with the questions of migration and integration need to be addressed.
2. An **Integrated Landscape Management Approach** includes urban-ecosystems and biodiversity-reservations in combination with social aspects of economy and sufficiency. All these aspects are existential and necessarily to be jointly tackled.
3. **Alternative and Sustainable Mobility** approaches are breaking the dominance of individualized motorized traffic and allow car-free cities and affordable public transportation.
4. It is estimated that by 2050 urban population is so large that natural land in the vicinity of metropolitan areas will be under high pressure. Therefore, it is necessary to improve **green spaces and smart spaces** in order to attain sustainable urban growth.
5. The aspects above are naturally linked to the idea of **carbon-neutral cities**. It includes aspects of vertical farming in urban space, local sourcing and circular sharing-economies.
6. All strategies must incorporate policies of **institutionalizing the participation of people**. Sustainable cities are not only in the responsibility of politicians but must include all residents – also the children.

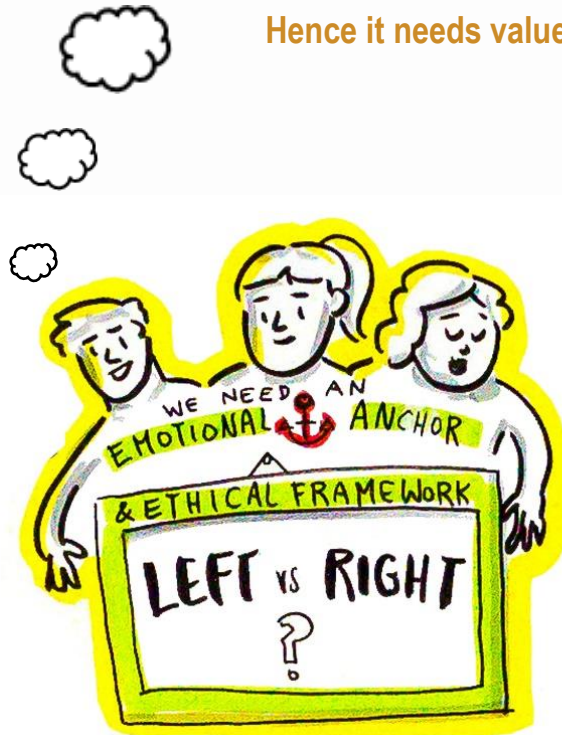
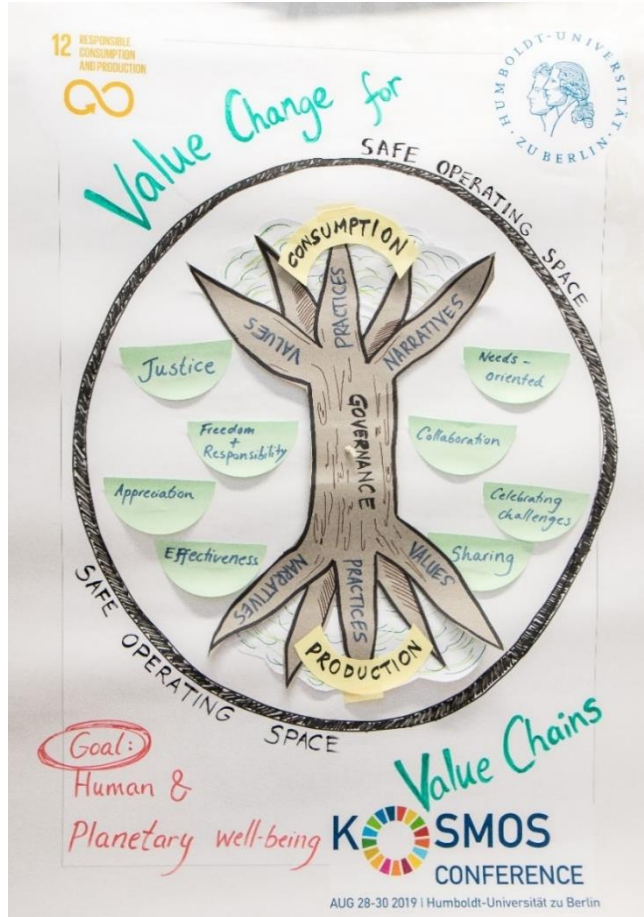
SDG 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



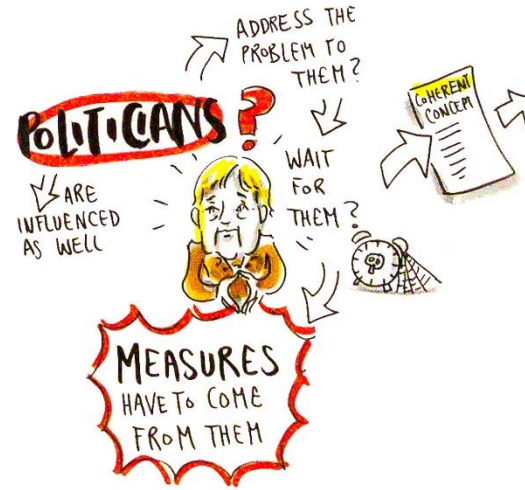
Sustainable consumption and production needs to be changed together by all of us.

Like the Tree of Life is about balance and good quality, production and consumption are based on the same values. Values of social and economic justice which ask for collaboration instead of competition challenge the concurrent convenient way of living. It needs people to rethink their values and a revolution of the system of values we are locked in at present.

Hence it needs values for value chains.

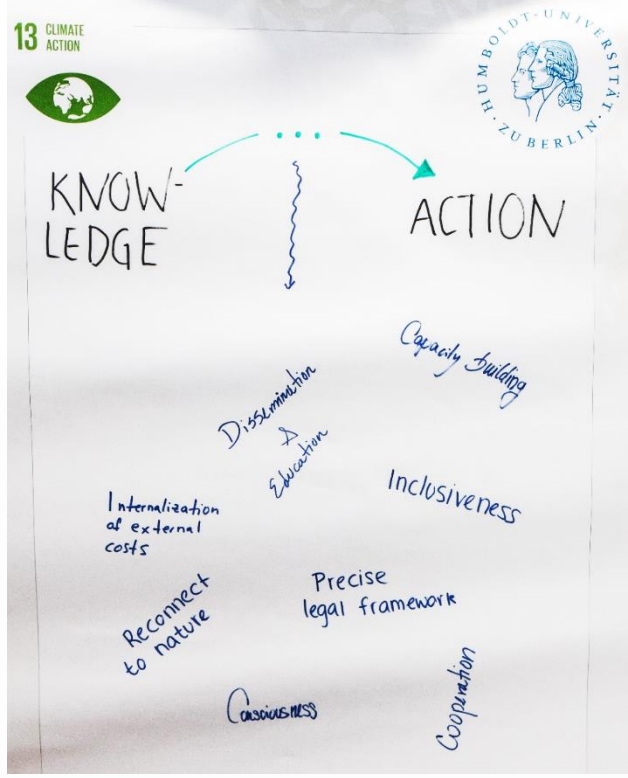


SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION



FRIDAYS FOR FUTURE
WE CARE & WE ACT!

TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY IS NEEDED!

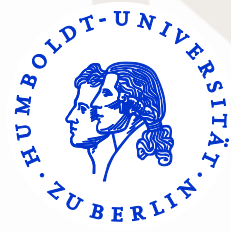


Top-down and bottom-up measures of climate action have to act simultaneously.

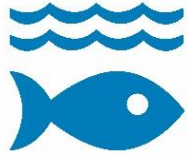
Top-down sustainability is implementable in a constitutional frame. We can change legislation, taxes, policies, etc. Bottom-up we need to create more awareness, change education, and consumption by collaborative action.

Most importantly, it is not enough to address only one of the approaches. Top-down and bottom-up approaches must be developed simultaneously.

In discourses around system change versus the individual behavior, we found out that we face a big knowledge-action gap. Therefore, the treasure of SDG 13 is closing this gap. Keys to do so are dissemination and education, the internalization of external cost for business execution, and capacity building for climate action. Further, smaller, more individual processes like the reconnection to nature are necessary. However, these actions must find space under a bigger legislative framework that is absolutely pivotal for creating a situation of consciousness and inclusiveness of social, economy and ecological aspects.



SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The group working on SDG 14 focused on **awareness** as a treasure.

Awareness on what is not covered yet by SDG 14 but in our opinion should be covered by SDG 14:

If you want to fish local fresh-water fish without being concerned about the health of yourself and your family?
– then we must tell you: **Not covered by SDG 14.**

Do you enjoy taking a swim in a lake without being concerned about your health?

Not covered by SDG 14.

Do you think tuna and trout have the same value?

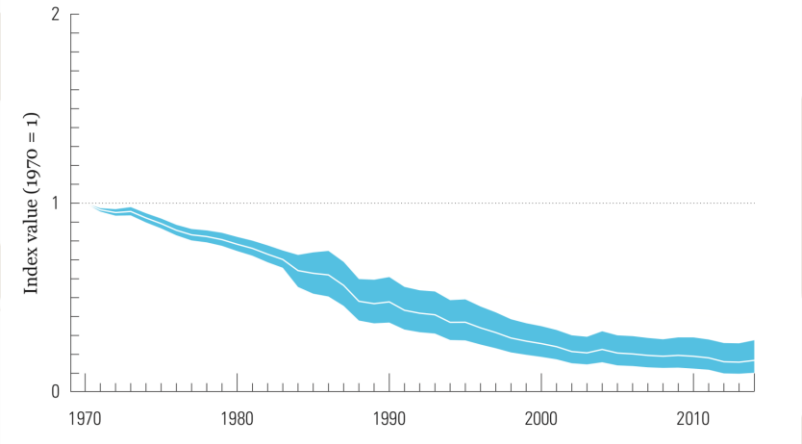
Not covered by SDG 14.

Do you ask for functioning food webs within freshwater systems?

Not covered by SDG 14.

Should hydropower installations and dams support humans and ecosystem functions?

Not covered as well.



There is scientific evidence, as the Freshwater Living Planet Index of 2028 by WWF demonstrates, for a constantly declining graph of life below water. That should be a wake-up call, as it also shown that the development of freshwater systems affects 10% of all known animals which also provide humans with access to vital ecosystem services. However, words like lakes, freshwater systems, rivers are not once to be found within SDG 14, even though it is called “Life below water”.

Therefore, we claim as our treasure:

Life below water should not only be about the ocean and its life forms, it should be about all systems below water including freshwater systems.

SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND



As we heard during this conference from Johan Rockström SDG 15 covers a fundamental non-negotiable base within the SDGs. Life of Land basically covers everything from bees, humans, butterflies to bugs and worms, from plants, monkeys to seals to pandas to birds. - It is by far the “most sex-species SDG”, so we would like to call it “the sexy SDG”.

In order to face the super complex and super “sexy” challenge of SDG 15 we **decided to foster understanding and valuation of geo- and biodiversity in public and politics on all scales.** It takes a diversity of views to have a view on biodiversity at all scales.

Therefore, the treasure lies in the following argument:

Instead of fostering the question how to do it, we focused on ‘Who could do it?’



Kosmos Coaches: Carmen Schwartz and Julia Marchetti

SDG 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



“Obviously, there are lots of factors connected to this SDG.

We found out that it mostly comes down to information and all the ways information is spread in the form of news, papers, education, digitalized formats, etc.

We are not able to present any full solution how to solve this problem, so we thought to present the treasure in a little role play. I am taking the part of the social scientist that..”



...gets interrupted by a person, sneaking around the stage, wearing a sign saying *Steve Bannon*: “Don’t listen to him! He is lying! He is lying!” turns around, pointing to the next person wearing a sign saying ‘*Public Media*’ and screams: “Fake media! I tell you, fake media!”

Public media answers: “What is a lying media? I am public media, not a statement.”

Social scientist comments: “It is always a social construct.”

Steve Bannon jumps in front: “Data are lying. Hilary Clinton and others are lying!”, pointing to the next person wearing the sign *Public Funder*: “You are lying too!”

Public Funder towards *Public media*: “I am a Public Funder and I am standing by your side. Together we stay strong, for a fact-based, science-based information called truth.”

Steve Bannon jumps between them: “I have alternative facts!”

Social scientist comments: “Information that the public media does not seem to want to have.”

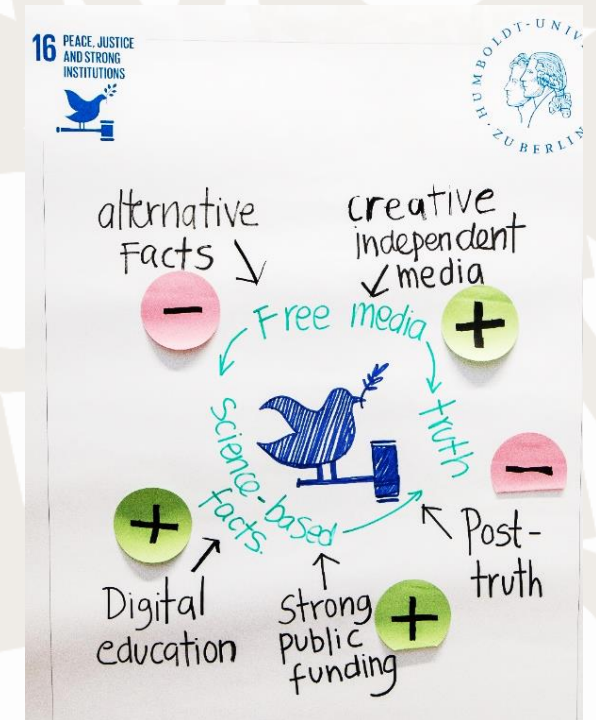
Public media: “That is why we secure our advice on facts towards political decision-making.”

Steve Bannon: “But I am the truth! The post-truth! Listen to me to understand!”

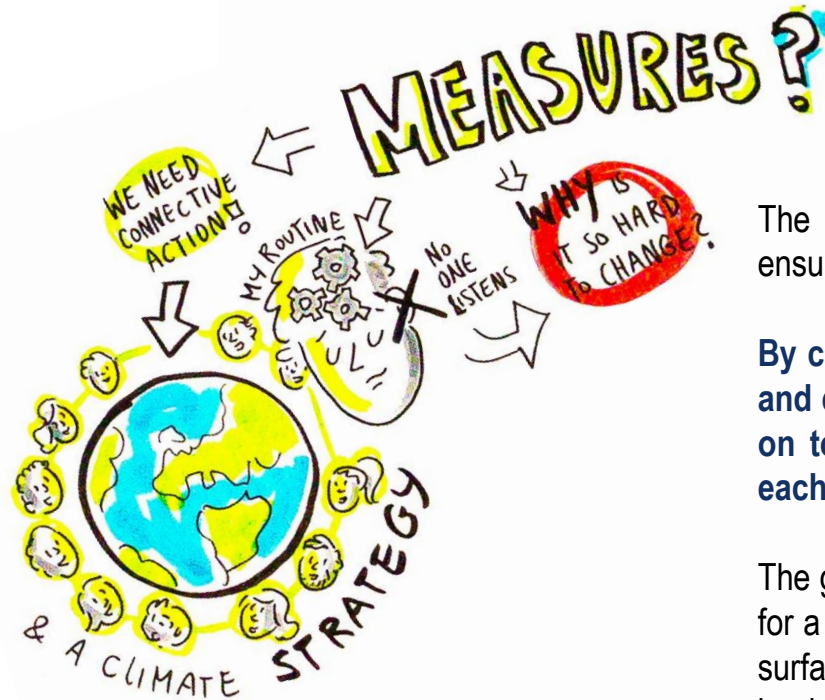
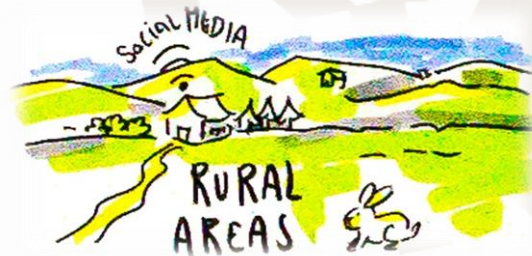
A person wearing a sign saying *Social Media Activist* speaks up: “Aha! I was only on twitter and started to sensor the public media. Now I started my own YouTube channel and I am showing you, that this Steve Bannon is lying. So, now you have new content here. I will alter the truth or find some researchers, who will alter the truth for you. Don’t forget to subscribe and leave a like with this button here!”

Social scientist comments: “Judging topics. You are living in different eco-bubbles.”

-The End -



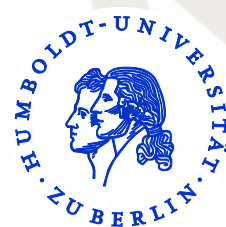
Kosmos Coaches: Valerie Kwan and Evelin Pineros



The SDG 17G can be considered to be the central axis ensuring that all the other goals are accomplished.

By constructing a mutually reinforced system knowledge and experience from accomplishing a goal can be passed on to the others as they are all intrinsically linked with each other.

The group work was both dynamic and focused which allowed for a meaningful conversation on the nature of participation to surface. Very important was to clarify expectations at the beginning of the group work as this helped the participants to enter the conversation on equal footing. The poster was able to capture some of our main insights and was presented in the plenum at the end.



Treasure Quest Experience

What has been the treasure of this experience?

Working together to facilitate the conversation for high-profile experts and scientists at the KOSMOS Conference has been a highlight, as we as the facilitators have gathered precious experience and insights from experts in their fields as a treasure in itself. We learned that it is important to see the search for truth as the focal point of our exploration. This allowed for a natural focus to crystalize that was very helpful to keep on track and build on each other's knowledge and experience.

This text by Husseim Stuck

CLOSING WORDS:
MOVE FROM
HOPE TO
COURAGE

