



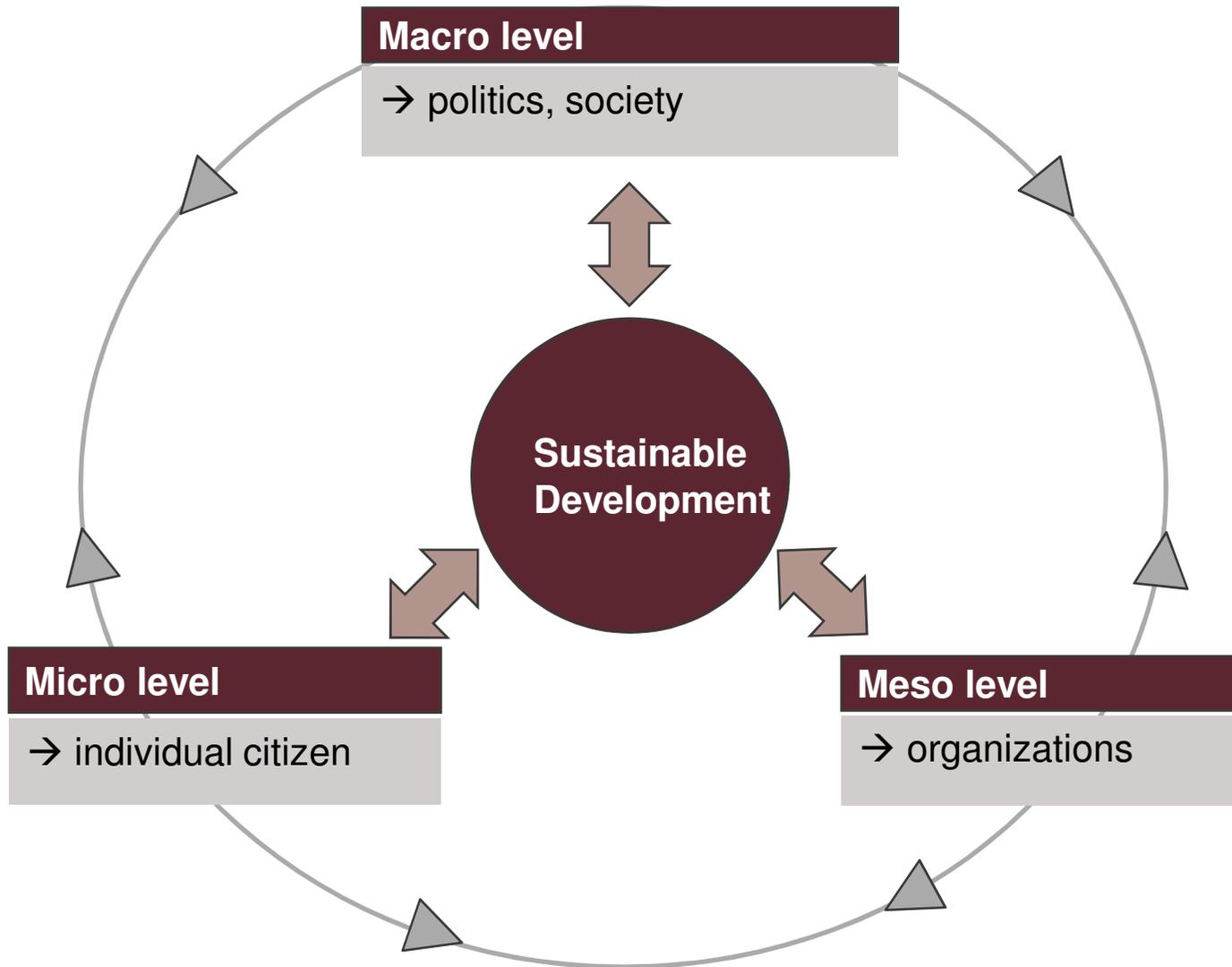
**LEUPHANA**  
UNIVERSITY OF LÜNEBURG



# Leuphana University Lüneburg and the sustainability challenge: a review and a preview

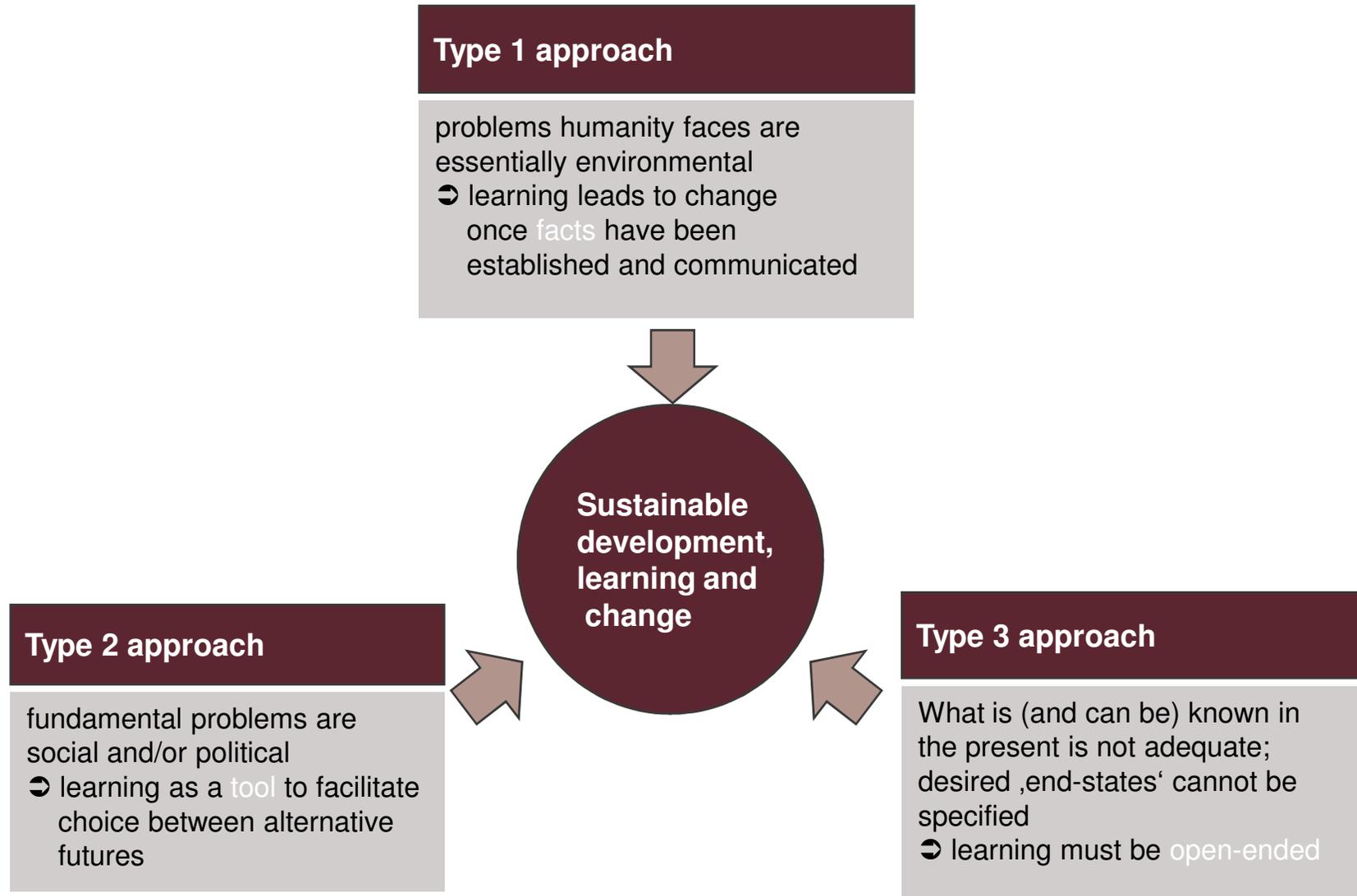
*Sustainability 2014: International Symposium  
“Future Urban Development at Different Scales”  
Karlsruhe, 8 May 2014*

**Maik Adomßent**





# Relationship between educational outcomes and social change





# Two Sides of Education for Sustainable Development

## ESD 1

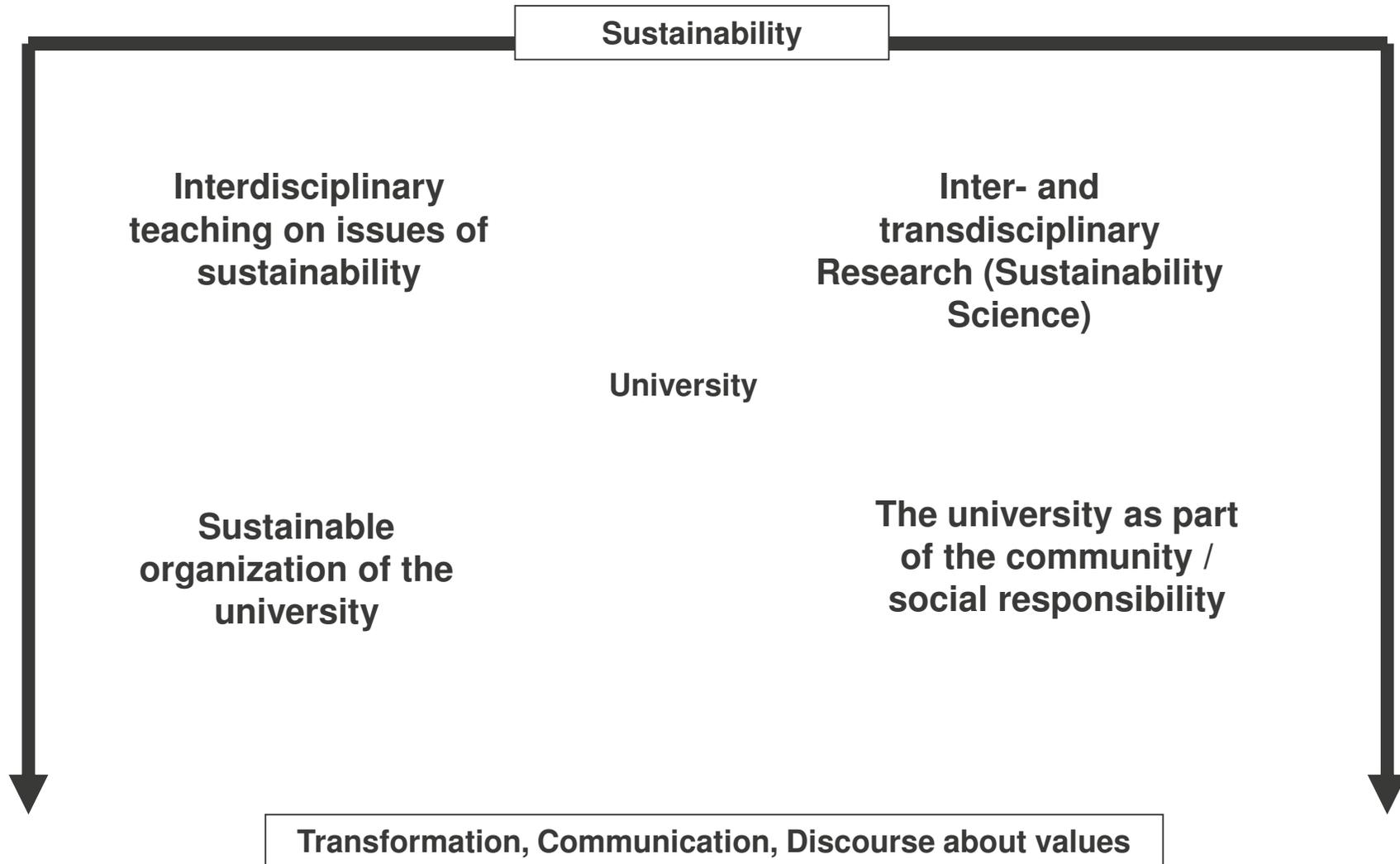
- ✓ Promoting / facilitating changes in what we do
- ✓ promoting (informed, skilled) behaviours and ways of thinking, where the need for this is clearly identified and agreed
- ➔ Learning **for** sustainable development

## ESD 2

- ✓ Building capacity to think critically about (and beyond) what experts say and to test sustainable development ideas
- ✓ Exploring the contradictions inherent in sustainable living
- ➔ Learning **as** sustainable development



# Implications of Sustainable Development for Universities





## Staged social and educational responses to sustainability

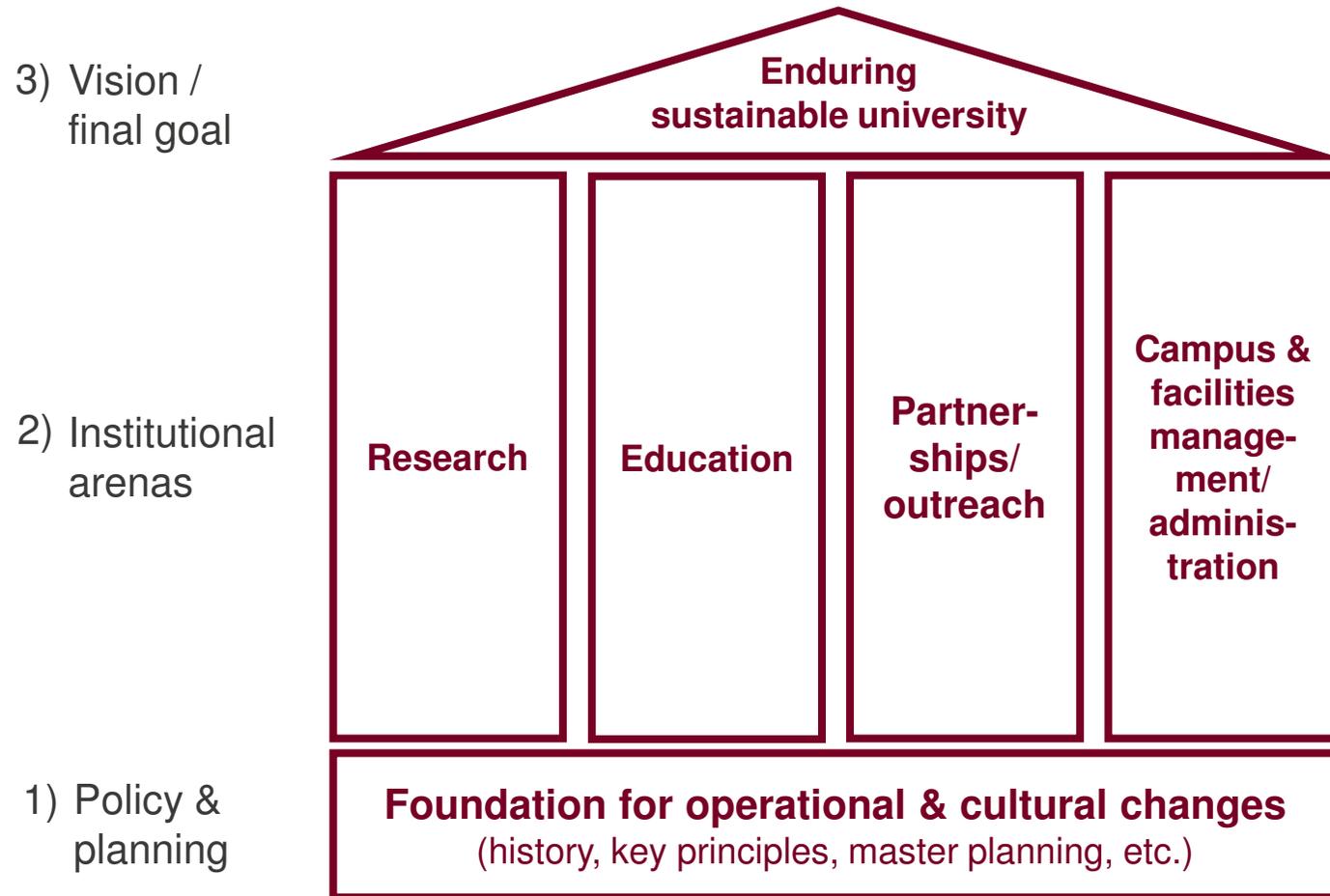
<i>Sustainability transition</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>State of sustainability</i>	<i>State of education</i>
1 Very weak	Denial, rejection or minimum	No change (or token)	No change (or token)
2 Weak	‚Bolt-on‘	Cosmetic reform	Education <i>about</i> sustainability
3 Strong	‚Build-in‘	Serious greening	Education <i>for</i> sustainability
4 very strong	Rebuild or redesign	Wholly integrative	Sustainable education



*Sterling (2004)*

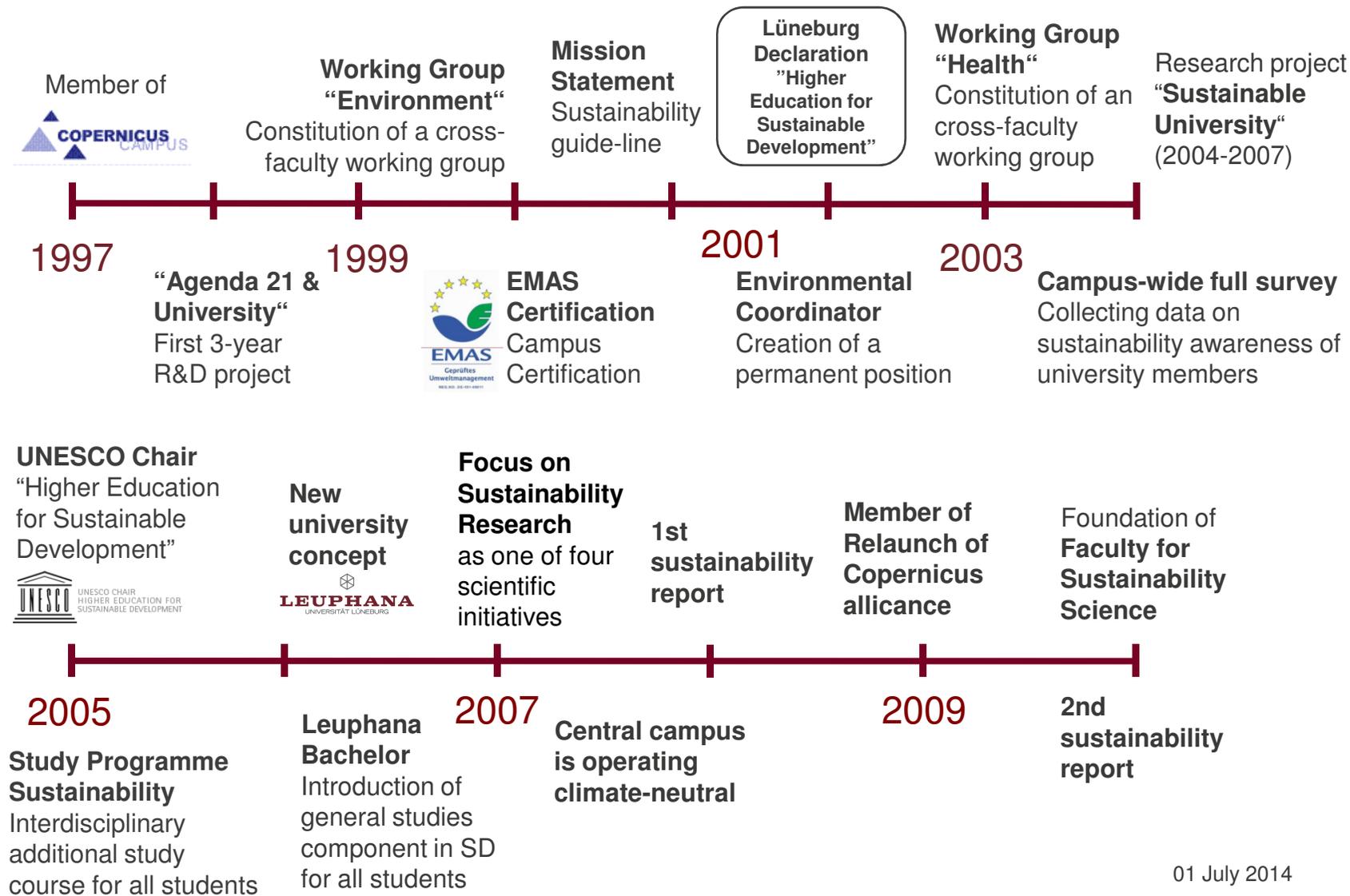


## Leuphana University's leadership has worked out a clear strategic framework.



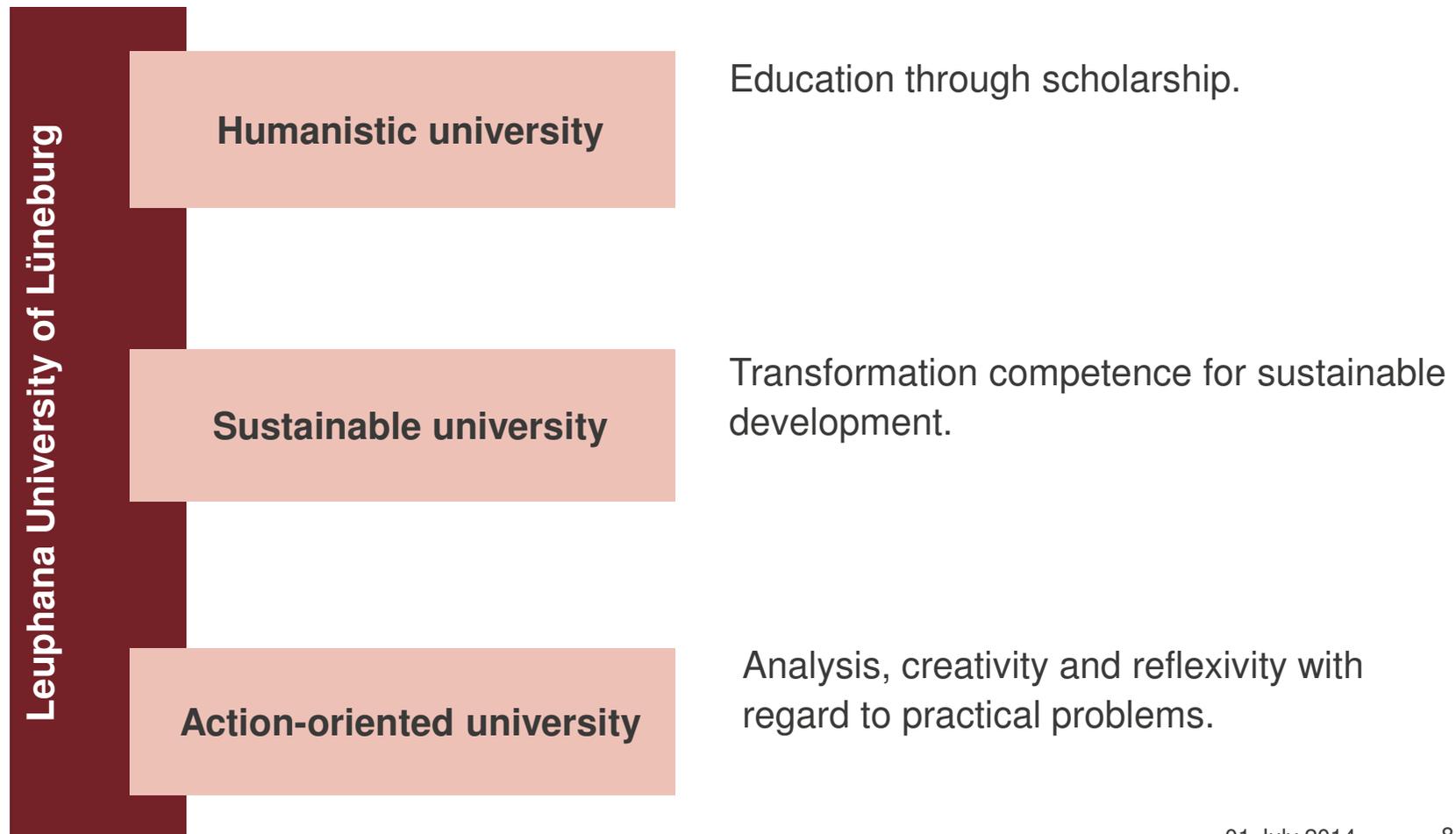


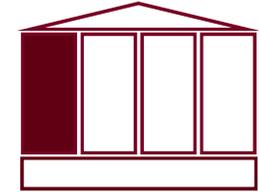
**Foundation:** Leuphana's sustainability orientation is rooted in a long-term tradition. → Decisive steps:



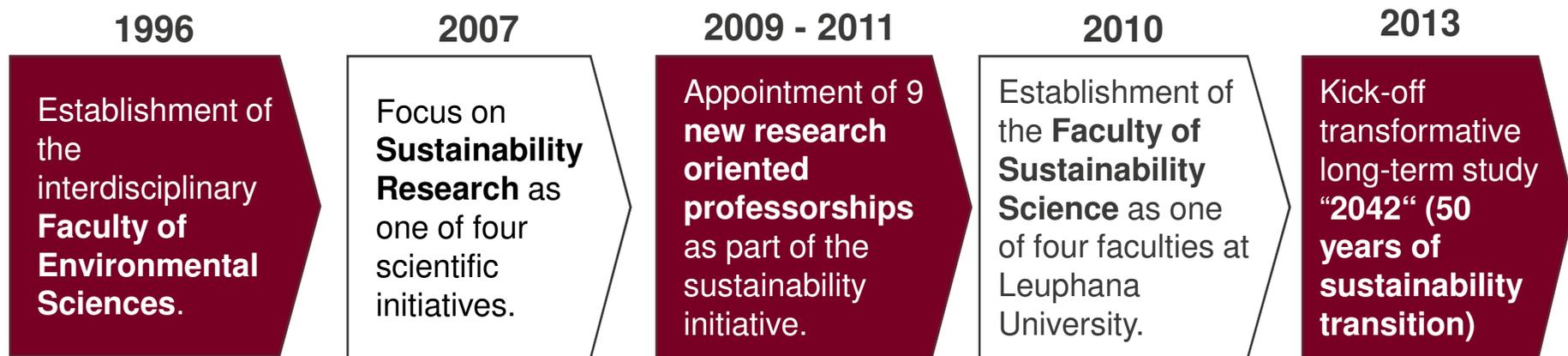


**Foundation:** Basis and objective: Sustainability is one of the key principles for Leuphana University's development. Its core activities – research, teaching and transfer – are seen as basic academic action areas for the development of a sustainable society.

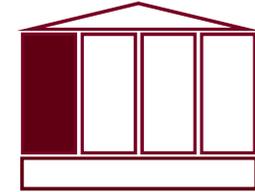




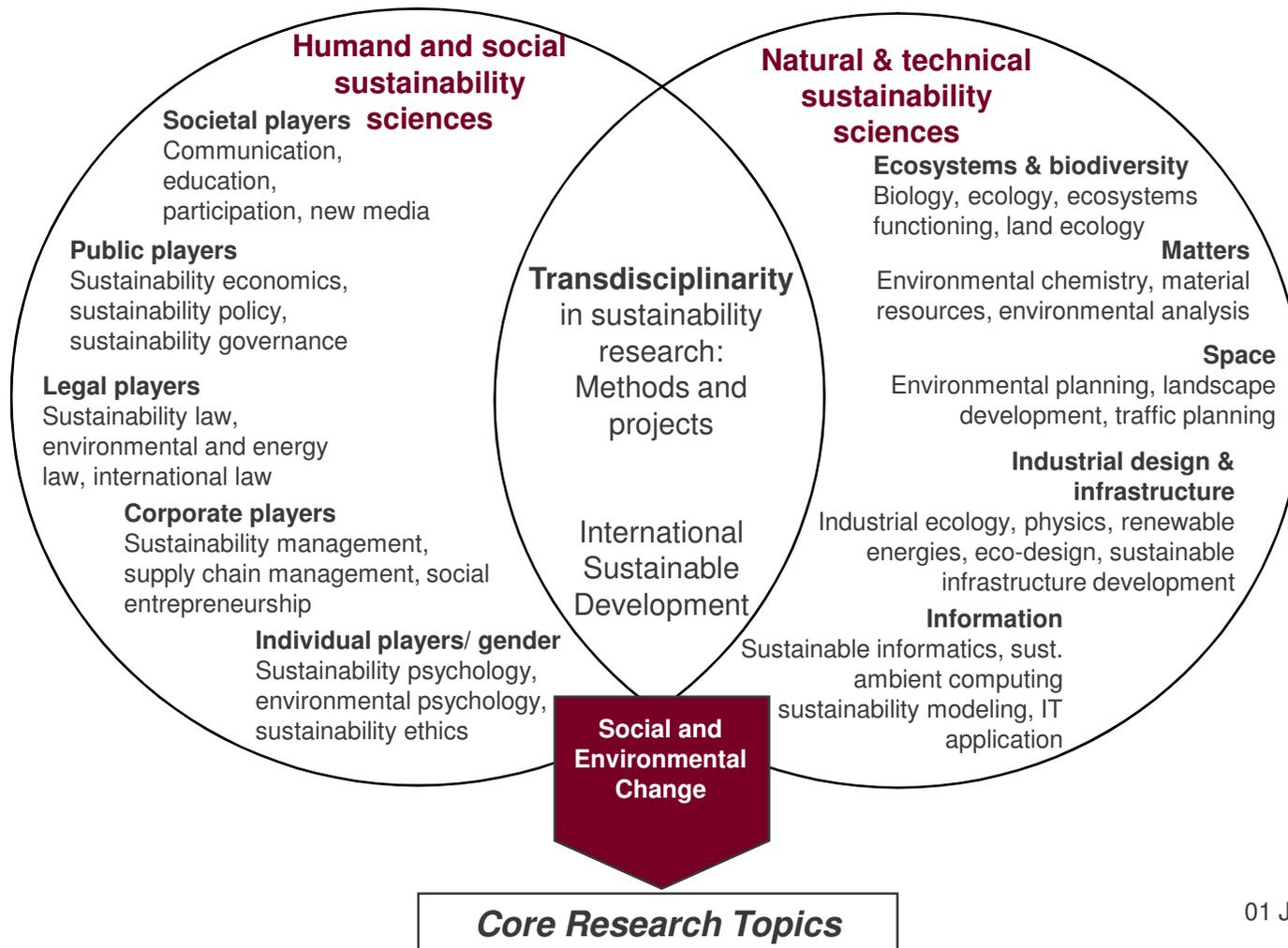
**Research:** Leuphana University has developed a clear research focus on the sustainability sciences, and, as part of this process, has been establishing the Faculty of Sustainability Science with 25 professorships by 2014.

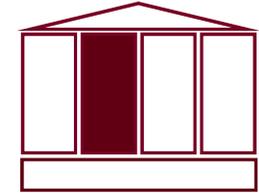


The sustainability sciences are at the forefront in the acquisition of external funding and the number of publications at Leuphana University, which shows the research staff's support for the sustainability research focus.



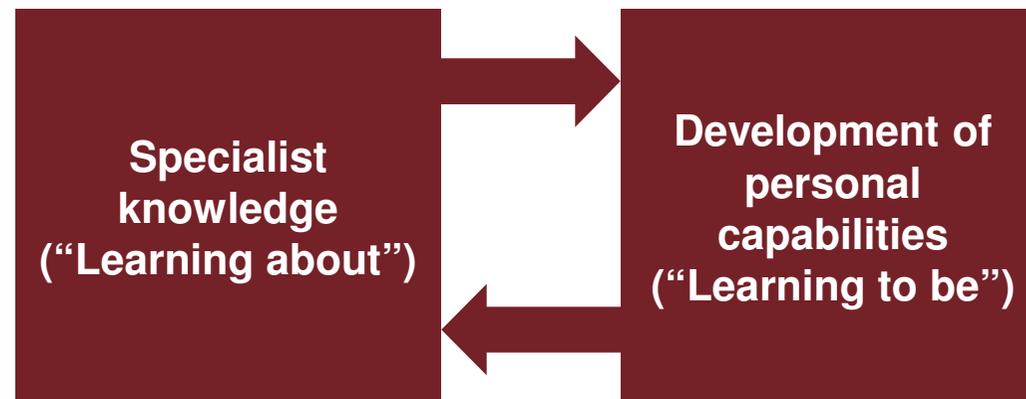
**Research approach:** In Leuphana's transdisciplinary research profile "Human and social sustainability sciences" and "Natural & technical sustainability sciences" are given equal weight. Both aim at action-oriented research.

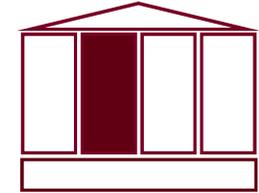




**Education:** Education for Sustainable Development is one of Leuphana's key principles.

- Between 2006 and 2010 the educational reorientation towards sustainability has been the **president's special concern** in order to assign top priority to educational matters.
- Three of the five members of the presidential board are **vice-presidents of Leuphana's three academic schools** (College, Graduate School and Professional School).
- Leuphana's idea is that, apart from specialist knowledge, academic education needs to support competency acquisition and the development of personal capabilities. Thus, the objective is to educate reflective, critical and active societal members (agents of change).





**Education:** Higher Education for Sustainable Development has been integrated in the form of a general studies mandatory component for all Bachelor students and different degree programmes.

**General studies** for all Bachelor students:

- (1) **Leuphana Semester** covers the first semester of all Bachelor study programmes and is mandatory for all first semester Bachelor students, independently from their major studies.

**Module “Science bears Responsibility“** accounts for 1/3 of the Leuphana Semester and covers sustainability issues and illustrates ethical behaviour.

- (2) **Complementary studies** accompany all Bachelor study programmes and cover several sustainability seminars.

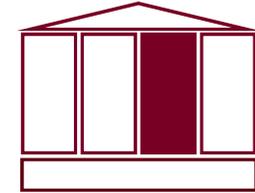


**Specialisation options:**

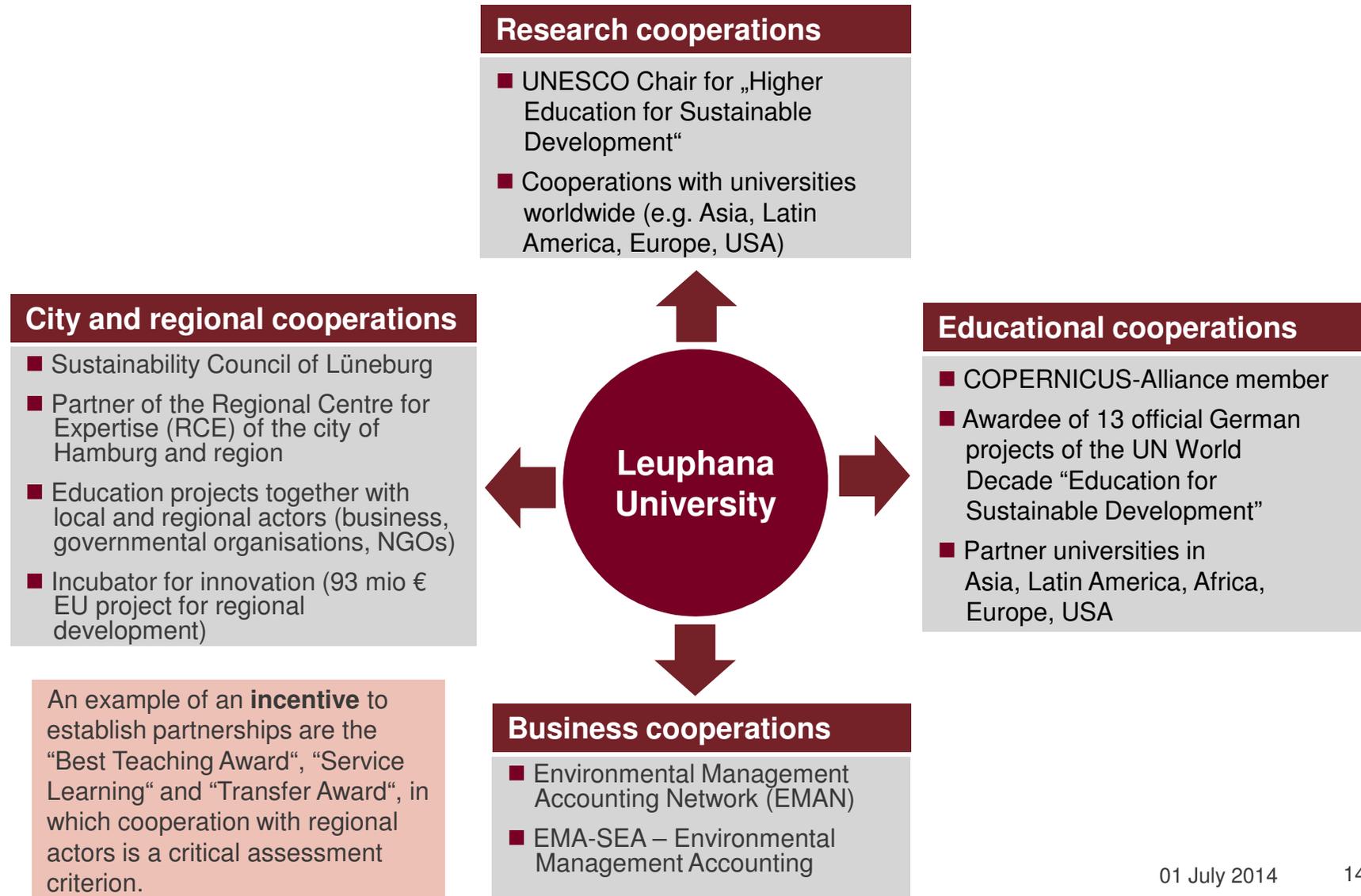
- (3) **Bachelor studies:** Major Environmental Sciences  
Minor Sustainability a) in Humanities and  
b) in Natural Sciences
- (4) **Master studies:** Sustainability Sciences
- (5) **MBA:** Sustainability Management
- (6) **PhD:** Sustainability Sciences
- (7) **Extra-occupational:** Certificate in “Sustainability and Journalism”

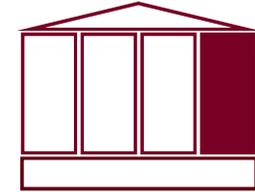






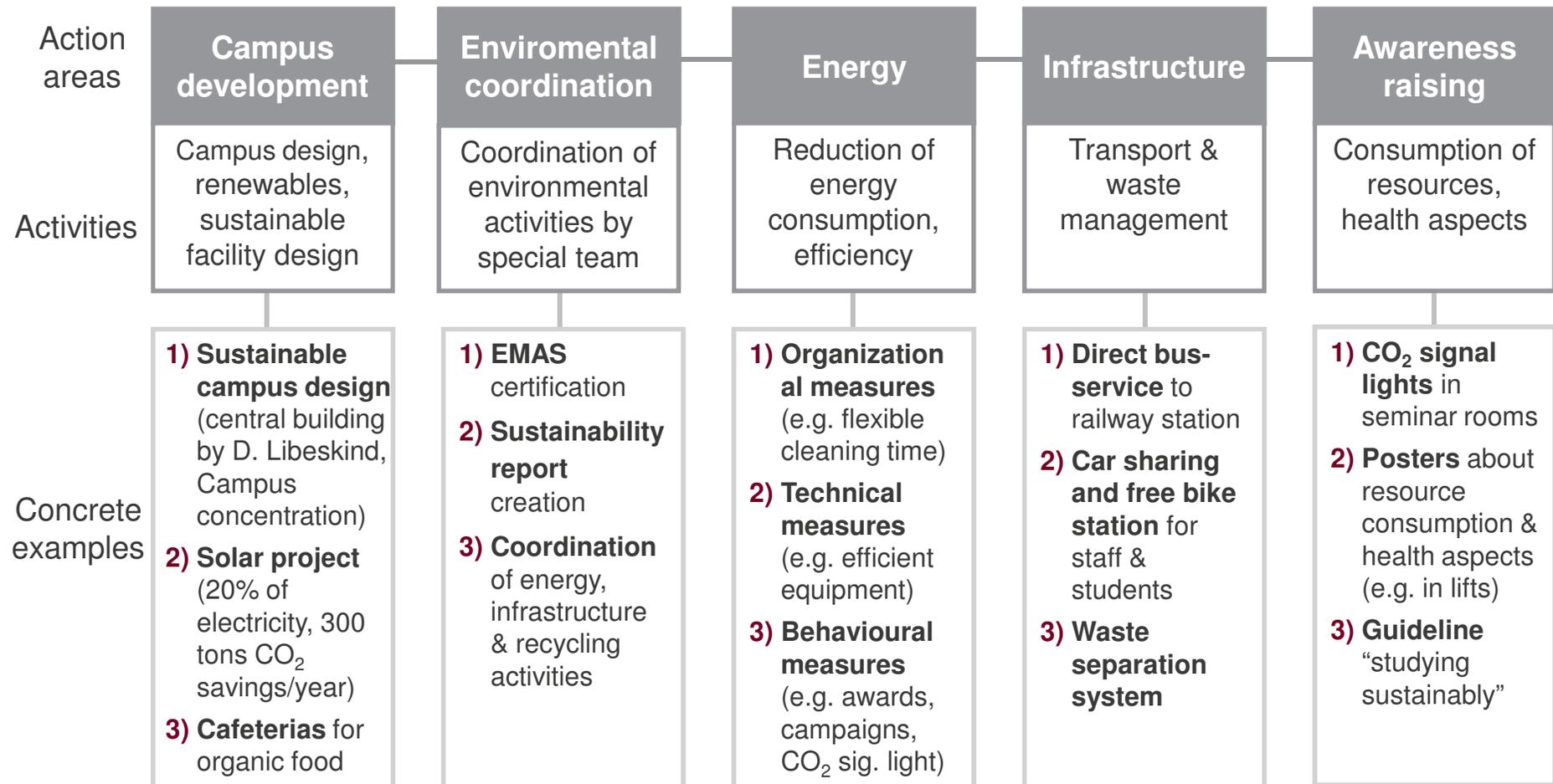
## Partnerships / Outreach: Leuphana University supports and encourages strategic partnerships.

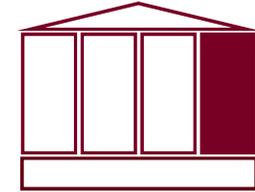




## The What: Campus & facilities management activities.

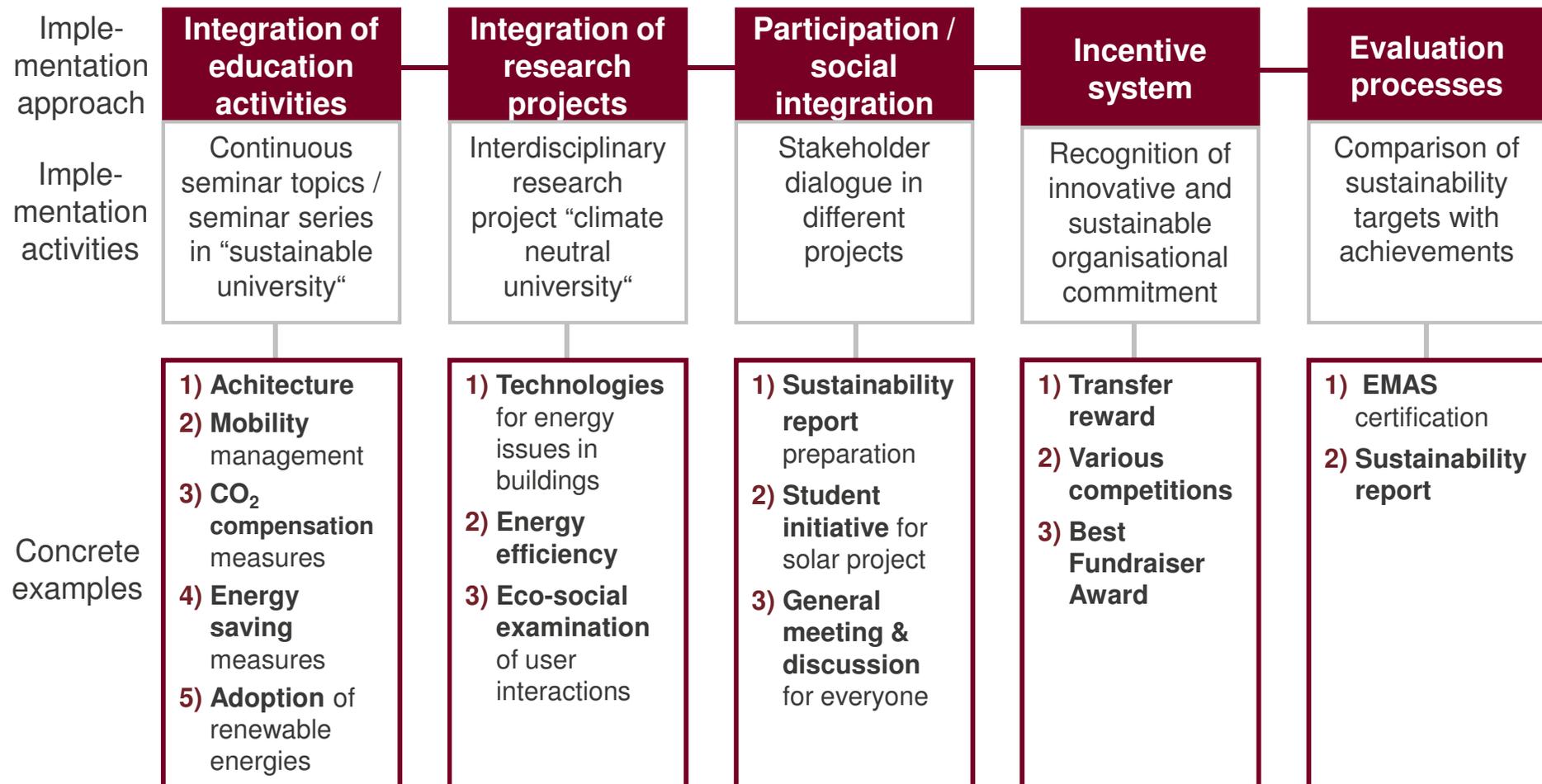
Leuphana's mission is to serve as 'living laboratory' for staff and students to foster organisational and individual sustainability learning processes.





## The How: Implementation processes.

A systematic combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches enables a widely accepted and supported implementation process.





# Energy Saving Campaign "Save It!"



Die Universität Lüneburg:  
Vier Standorte -  
Ein gemeinsames Ziel!

**6 % weniger  
Energieverbrauch**

**Machen Sie mit!**

Es geht ganz einfach:  
Schließen Sie die Fenster beim  
Heizen und schalten Sie Licht,  
Drucker, Computer, Kaffee-  
maschine etc. in Pausen aus...

Als Gebäudepatin oder -pate  
können Studierende und  
Mitarbeiter/innen Preise  
gewinnen und bestimmen,  
wofür das eingesparte Geld  
verwendet wird.

Alle Infos unter:  
[www.nix-verschwenden.de](http://www.nix-verschwenden.de)

[www.nix-verschwenden.de](http://www.nix-verschwenden.de)



**Zum Fenster raus !**

Seminarräume, Büros, Toiletten etc. ab und zu mal lüften ist  
gut, auch wenn's draußen kalt ist. Jedenfalls solange die  
Heizung nicht aufgedreht ist. Das spart bis zu 15% Energie...  
Also: Wenn Fenster auf - Heizung aus!

Werden Sie Gebäudepatin oder -pate. Weitere Infos unter:  
[www.nix-verschwenden.de](http://www.nix-verschwenden.de)



**Alles schläft, einsam wacht ...**

Auch Drucker, Kaffeemaschine, Monitor & Co. verdienen ihre  
Ruhe - daher in Arbeitspausen oder über Nacht einfach mal  
abschalten oder eine Zeitschaltuhr anschließen...

Werden Sie Gebäudepatin oder -pate. Weitere Infos unter:  
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## Reflection of and communication about sustainability



### *Culture and Sustainable Development*

- Integration of theories of culture in the sustainability discourse
- Art projects that address university reform and criticism of unsustainable (university) development
- Exhibitions on issues of sustainability

### *Communication and knowledge transfer*

- Newspaper "Campus Courier"
- Radio program on sustainability issues
- Making events
- Production of video clips

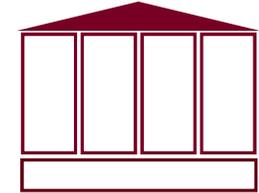




## Sustainability initiatives and activities on campus

- Days of Action
- Events
- Green Students' Club
- Students' photovoltaic initiative
- Other student groups dedicated to sustainability issues (Greenpeace, Amnesty International, SNEEP ...)
- Sustainability conferences organized by students
- ...





**Sustainable University:** A strategic reorientation of the university's activities towards sustainability can only be ensured by a continuous process of institutionalisation.

**Leuphana's critical landmarks for the institutionalisation of an academic sustainability culture can be seen in:**

- Strong internal promoters;
- Integration of sustainability into the university's principles;
- A "strategic development unit" for the consideration of sustainability principles;
- A substantial number of scientific staff that supports the idea of becoming a sustainable university;
- Academic dialogue and active participation of the academic community;
- Support by university's management board;
- Sustainability centres and initiatives for research;
- Creation of national and international networks that stabilise the external visibility of the university profile and support in its turn the internal commitment to sustainability;
- Internal competitions as incentives.

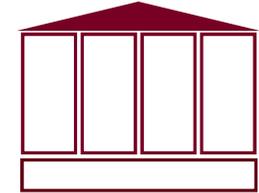


## A hierarchy of learning as a starting point?

- **Awareness** of sustainable development, as well as the range of views of interpretations of sustainable development and the implications for these differences
- **Process** - encourages to begin to question (and analyse) how the principles of sustainable development can be made to work;
- **Integration** - beginning to use the principles of sustainable development extensively in assignments and other class-work linking to real world issues in the community
- **Transformative** – without direction, students operate as critically reflective practitioners of sustainable development.

➡ *„At this level, the curriculum becomes an expression of the cultural change that is sought.“*

*Sterling/Thomas (2007)*



**Sustainable University:** Leuphana University has been given several awards for its various sustainability activities.

### **Selection of International & National Awards**

- International Awards for Innovative Practices in Higher Education for Leuphana's sustainability strategy and its whole-campus approach in 2011
- International Sustainable Campus Award (Category Leadership) in 2010
- The energy efficient and sustainable concept for the new central building, planned by Daniel Libeskind has been selected as one of the German exhibits for the Shanghai World Exhibition 2010.
- UNESCO Chair "Higher Education for Sustainable Development" in 2005 to Prof. Michelsen, Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication.
- Award of 13 projects for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. (Leuphana University is the most successful German university)
- Leuphana University was winner of the German's former federal president's (Horst Köhler) initiative "365 Landmarks in the Land of Ideas" six times in a row from 2008-2013.
- Award of the Institute for Environmental and Sustainability Communication by the Altner Combecher Foundation for Ecology and Peace.
- Award-winner in the category *KNOWLEDGE* of The science magazine *ZEIT WISSEN* and the initiative „Mut zur Nachhaltigkeit“ (Encouraging Sustainability) as „best-practice“ project that contribute in a significant way to sustainable development (2013)



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