18 - 24 May 2025: SOUTH WESTPHALIA INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

Join us in summer 2025 at South Westphalia UAS for the Erasmus+ South Westphalia International Sustainability Week. Delve into sustainable futures through exploration of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global benchmarks for sustainable action. This week-long event, held in Soest from 18 to 24 May 2025, offers blended modules tailored to specific SDGs in business administration, management, engineering, and early childhood education. Through field excursions, lab work, and collaborative activities, participants will develop sustainable awareness aligned with their disciplines or home study programs. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to a sustainable future!

MODUL/KURSANGEBOT

Sustainable Solutions Lab: Collaborative Team Challenge					
Short name	**Workload**	**Credit Points**	**Preparatory**	**Face-to-Face**	**Conclusion and final project work**
SSL	90 h	3 ECTS	online class + self study	International Sustainability Week	Documentation and reflection paper

1	**Group size**	**International students**	**German students**
		10-12	10-12

2	**Contents**
	This intensive, project-based workshop focuses on developing sustainable solutions for specific challenges in Hagen. Participants will collaborate in multidisciplinary teams to create innovative projects promoting ecological, social, and economic sustainability. The course includes an introduction to sustainability and city-specific sustainability challenges, with a focus on SDGs relevant to urban contexts. Students will also learn various methods for idea generation and evaluation. Offered in partnership with the Economic Development Department of Hagen, the module addresses challenges across mobility, energy, social issues, environmental sustainability, and urban development. Participants will work on innovative solutions to these complex challenges, contributing to Hagen's sustainable growth. The course emphasizes SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), while also potentially engaging with SDGs 13, 12, 8, and 17, depending on the challenges addressed. By integrating social, economic, and environmental dimensions, the course aims to foster a comprehensive approach to sustainability. This class provides students with a unique opportunity to actively contribute to shaping a sustainable future for Hagen. Through close collaboration with local organizations, the developed projects are designed to have a tangible impact on the city's sustainability goals.

	Part 1: Introduction to Sustainability, Innovation and Analysis Methods (online 3x1,5 h) **Part 2:** team building + Understanding the local challenge from a user perspective (3h) **Part 3:** Ideation and Development: Idea generation + rough prototyping (+ testing) (6 h) **Part 4:** Creation of Presentations and Prototypes (3 h) **Part 5:** Final Presentations to a Jury and Feedback
3	**Learning outcomes** • Comprehensive Understanding of Sustainability: Participants will grasp the fundamentals of sustainable development, its local relevance, and the specific sustainability challenges and economic development issues faced by urban areas. • **Enhanced Collaborative Skills:** Promote interdisciplinary teamwork and provide participants with the experience of working in diverse, international groups to develop creative and holistic solutions. • **Fundamentals Idea Generation Techniques:** Participants will engage in practicing various idea generation techniques to foster innovation and learn the fundamental principles of design thinking, including user-centricity, iterative processes, and divergent and convergent thinking. • **Practical Application:** The developed projects should offer realistic and implementable solutions for the city of Hagen.
4	**Teaching and learning methods** • **online class (preparatory part):** general introduction into sustainability challenges of urban areas / methods and tools for idea generation • **Self study** • **Lectures and input presentations** • **Group Work:** Collaboration in interdisciplinary teams to develop project ideas. • **Digital Tools:** Integration of digital collaboration tools (e.g. miro board) • **Student presentations:** Presentation and discussion of developed projects.
5	**Prerequisites** ▪ None ▪ **Target Audience:** Students of all disciplines welcome
6	**Requirements for the awarding of credits** **Participation and Contribution (25%):** Active participation in all sessions and group work. **Learning diary (25%)** reflection paper delivered on time. **Final Presentation (25%):** Final group presentation (idea pitches 10 minutes per group) **Written documentation (25%):** process documentation and idea concept on miro-board
7	**Module responsible / Lecturer** ▪ Prof. Dr. Ines von Weichs
8	**Literature** Will be provided in class
9	Additional information (to complete: Link to the associated a Moodle-course)