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 SiNCE Sustainability through  
Innovative Networks  
in Central and Eastern Europe

# State-of the art and way forward of the research for sustainability in Bulgaria

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5<sup>th</sup> BMBF Forum for Sustainability  
Session A1 „Markets for Sustainability Research – Opportunities for Europe”

## Content

- Some information about our Club “Management and Sustainable Development”
- To share our experiences and thoughts about the development of markets for sustainability research
- To present different perspectives and potentials for cooperation
- To discuss the issues at stake, namely, what must be done to foster the scientific cross-border cooperation in the field of research for sustainable development in order to generate a European value and to identify research markets for innovative and sustainable technologies and products



## Discussion Club “Jundola’99”on Management and Sustainable Development

- **Established:** March 1999 – 56 participants from 12 state, 4 non-state universities, public administration and private sector
- **Key objective:** Organization and introduction of Research activities and specialized courses in the filed of Sustainable Development
- The activities of the Club are based on the **EU strategy** for SD and the **UN Agenda 21**



## Discussion Club “Jundola’99”on Management and Sustainable Development

- **Main activities:**
  - 5 national thematic scientific conferences;
  - 5 international scientific conferences;
  - 21 published volumes with scientific papers, on more than 12000 pages.



**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
“Management and Sustainable Development”**

**SUBJECT AREAS**


- Sustainable development concept – challenges accompanying the EU accession
- Sustainable development management – criteria, characteristics and policies
- Main areas for implementing the principles of sustainable development – entrepreneurship development



**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE  
“Management and Sustainable Development”**

**SUBJECT AREAS**

- Human resource management and sustainable development
- Contemporary information technologies in sustainable development management
- Education, training and curricula



## INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “Management and Sustainable Development” Participants – more than 760 from:

- Australia
- Austria
- Belarus
- Germany
- Hungary
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Russia
- Slovakia
- The Czech Republic
- Ukraine
- Bulgaria



## IMPORTED QUESTIONS

- How is the national policy regarding research for sustainability connected to policies in other sectors, e.g. economy?
- What are the current main topics in the field of research for sustainability in Bulgaria?
- What roles do the various stakeholders (i.e. industry, politics, science and intermediary entities) have and what can they do to foster this dialogue on research for sustainability and at the end the cross-border cooperation in this field?

## Bulgarian research policy - is the sustainability a recognized issue?

- Strategic planning on sustainability:
  - **National development plan:**
    - Improvement of basic infrastructure;
    - Development of rural areas and sustainable agriculture;
    - Development of human resources and social infrastructure;
    - Competitive regional development including energy saving; storage; transportation; efficiency in use of natural resources; environmental issues and water management
  - **Draft National Strategy on sustainable development**
  - **National strategy on environment**
    - improvement the quality of life for the population;
    - guaranteeing healthy and favorable living milieu;
    - Biodiversity and smart management of natural resources

## Bulgarian research policy - is the sustainability a recognized issue? 2

- **National Innovation Strategy ( NIF)- part of key challenges as a priorities :**
  - energy-saving technologies;
  - improvement of social milieu of the companies;
  - eco-innovations and effects for the general public
  - social benefits
- **Research strategy ( currently updated)**
  - high-competitive research in socially and economically significant areas
- **National long-term programme for use of bio fuels in the transport sector**
- **Forthcoming: Action plan on environment-health**
  - R&D in favor of public health and better ecological conditions

## Bulgarian research policy - is the sustainability a recognized issue? 3

- Many more national action plans, documents and strategies:
  - on biodiversity;
  - bio-agriculture;
  - regional plans for sustainable development;
  - food safety and quality;
  - climate change;
  - Black sea preservation;
  - etc....

## National Science Fund

- Support high-competitive and excellent research for the benefit of society and economic development;
- High- priority research areas – **public health; environment incl. climate change; energy, sustainable agriculture, incl. socio-economic studies and analyses targeting sustainable development of these sectors;**
- **Broad bilateral portfolio, where main priorities are environment; health; hazards; maritime sciences and energy**
- **Interdisciplinarity approach and deepen the interface with socio-economic sciences**



## General pattern

- Sustainability is “modern tendency”;
- Broadly exploited;
- Aiming at rather popular sectoral policies than research; technology and innovation-oriented such;
- Used for political benefit rather than powerful instruments for steady implementation;
- Fragmented approach and lack of policy coherence



## What we lack?

- System of indicators for monitoring and impact assessment of sustainability;
- Coherent approach towards putting sustainability issue at the agenda of research policy;
- Adequate instruments for implementation of the sustainability challenges including shift from linear to systematic funding pattern;
- Lack of awareness and full perception of the problem, i.e. we do not estimate the “time” factor;
- Slim initiatives, favored by local authorities

## Possible joint actions

- Bilateral schemes – more R&D activities and shifting from ordinary mobility to research-oriented such;
- Focused cooperation schemes, where sustainability research is favored;
- Supporting sustainability networks;
- Effective use of new instruments of the EC and enhancing joint participation – SET plan; JTI; ERA-NETs; programmes of different DG's such as transport; environment; health...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!

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# And Welcome to the next International Scientific Conference 20-22.03.2009 in Bulgaria

*website:* <http://www.ltu.bg/conferences/>  
*e-mail:* [fbm\\_conference@abv.bg](mailto:fbm_conference@abv.bg)

## The main page of the Conference

The screenshot shows the main page of the conference website. At the top, there is a blue header with the University of Forestry logo and the text: "UNIVERSITY OF FORESTRY FACULTY OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 21 - 23 March 2008, Yundola". Below the header, there is a navigation menu on the left with items like Home, Organising Committee, Programmes Committee, Conference Themes, Programme, Paper Requirements, Deadlines, Fees, Accommodation and travelling, Registration form, Contact, and Presentations. The main content area features the conference title, dates (21 - 23 March 2008), venue (Yundola Training Center), registration details, and publication information. There are also links for "First call for papers", "On-line registration", and "Invitation for visa issue". A small image of the Yundola Training Center is shown at the bottom right.