

Extracurricular activities and their importance in the academic environment: the EFSET example

23.06.2023

Prof. Dr. Dimitrios S. Paraforos

Department of Agricultural Engineering

ASSOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN LIFE SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES





www.hs-geisenheim.de

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



An extracurricular activity or subject is not part of the usual university course



Source: edvoy.com/articles/9-extracurricular-activities

THE EFSET: 01.2019 - 12.2021











Collaborative problem solving



Graduate skills and employability

Source: Alex Arnall, Harley Pope, University of Reading



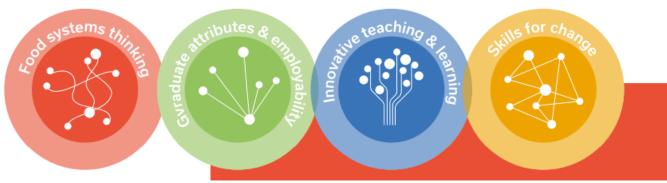
IFSTAL... THE INITIATIVE FOR EFSET





Join a global community of interdisciplinary thinkers

Learn the skills to transform the food system











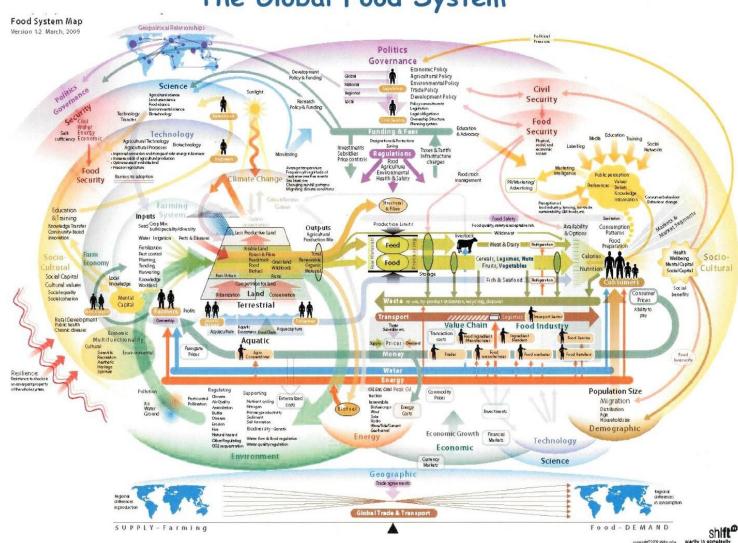


Source: www.ifstal.ac.uk

WHY FOOD SYSTEMS?



The Global Food System



Source: medium.com/@harley.pope/systems-thinking-and-the-food-system-d12bf072cc62

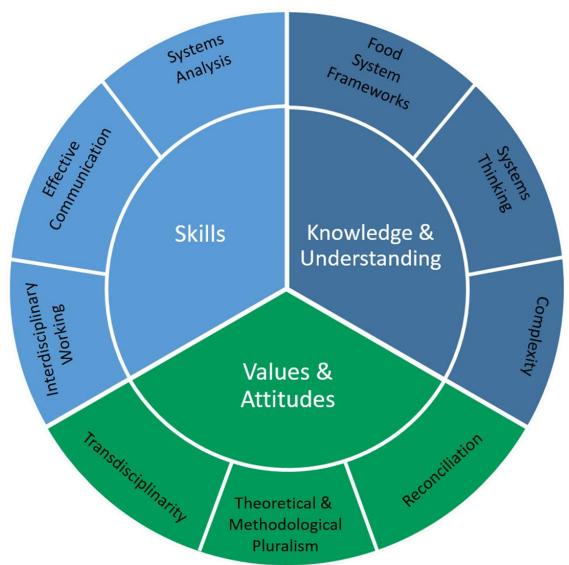
EFSET OBJECTIVES



- To establish a pioneering consortium of universities to deliver collaborative training and capacity building in the holistic study of food systems.
- To develop, implement and assess a new mode of teaching based on interuniversity collaboration and exploiting the latest learning technologies.
- To enhance student learning, insights and experiences by offering a range of topics to set their study within a full food systems context.
- To create a cohort of MSc and PhD graduates equipped to address food systems challenges by combining a deep understanding of their specialism.

STUDENT SKILLS FRAMEWORK





Source: Alex Arnall, Harley Pope, University of Reading

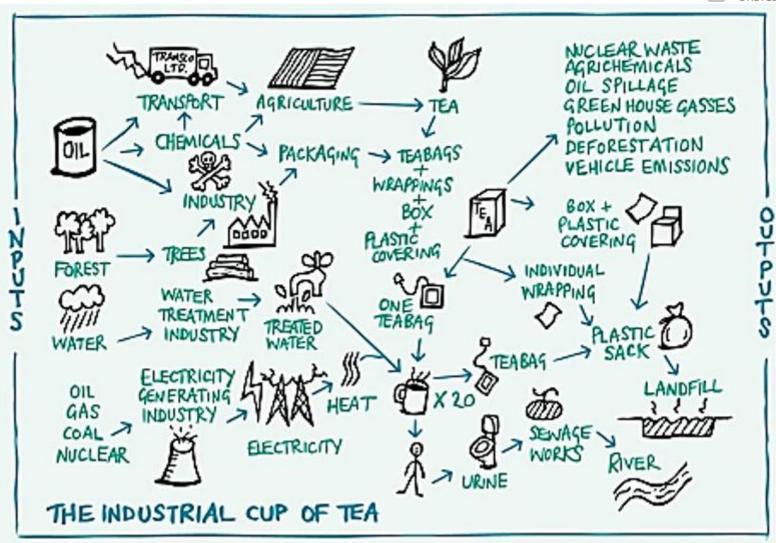
WHAT WAS IT THAT EFSET WANTED TO OFFER?



- A collaborative, cross-university, pan-European food systems training programme
- Provided postgraduate students with enhanced skills to provide solutions to challenges related to food systems
- Completely voluntary, without any commitment
- Was not assessed and took place outside teaching hours
- Certificate of participation

THE FOUR UNITS - 1. RICH PICTURE





Source: https://aidontheedge.wordpress.com/2014/02/19/systemic-innovation-an-important-idea-for-development/

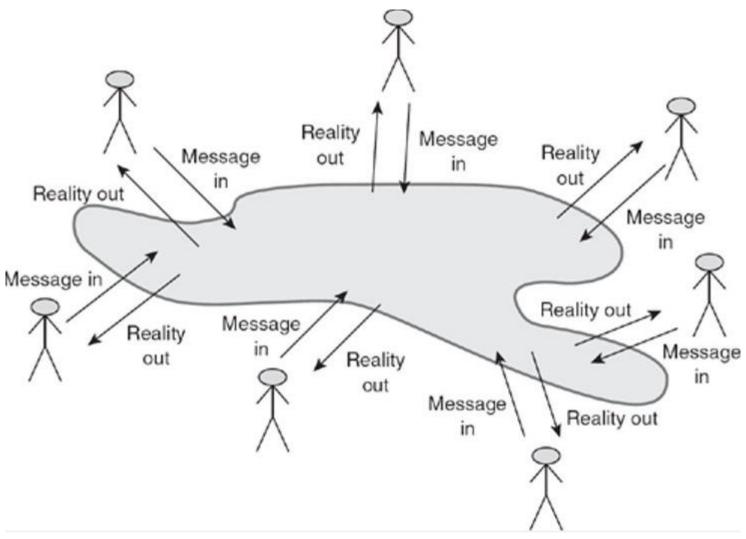
THE FOUR UNITS – 2. BATWOVE



$$A = actors$$

THE FOUR UNITS - 3. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

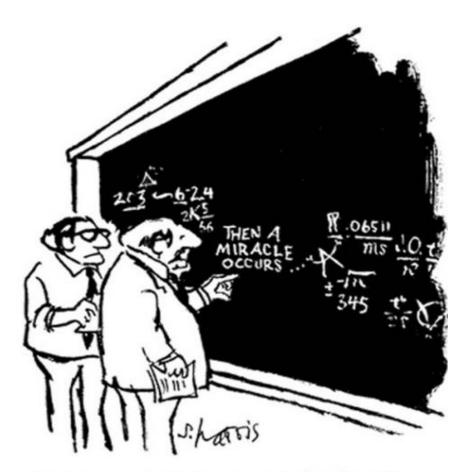




Source: Harley Pope

THE FOUR UNITS – 4. THEORY OF CHANGE





"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Source: © Sidney Harris

ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM





Home About Partners The Team FAQ My Units ▼









Source: www.efset.net

THE PLAN



2019		
Launch Event: Welcome to EFSET	17 th October	Local event + livestream
Workshop 1: Exploration of Food Systems	30 th October	Local event
Workshop 2: Investigating with food systems thinking	21 st November	Local event
Christmas Party	12 th December	Local event
2020		
Workshop 3: Application of food systems methods	6 th February	Local event
Workshop 4: Interventions for food systems change	20 th February	Local event
Away Weekend: Food system change agents, innovation and entrepreneurship	27 th – 29 th March	Two-day event University of Turin
Summer School: Tackling food system challenges	28 th June – 3 rd July	Five-day event University of Reading

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



- Face-to-face interactions
- Websites
- Email communication
- Social media
- Newsletters
- Mass media publications
- Printed materials

THE LAUNCH EVENT - MORE THAN 90 STUDENTS!





Source: Tetiana Pavlenko

THE LAUNCH EVENT - LIVESTREAM





Source: Alex Arnall, Harley Pope, University of Reading

THE LAUNCH EVENT – INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

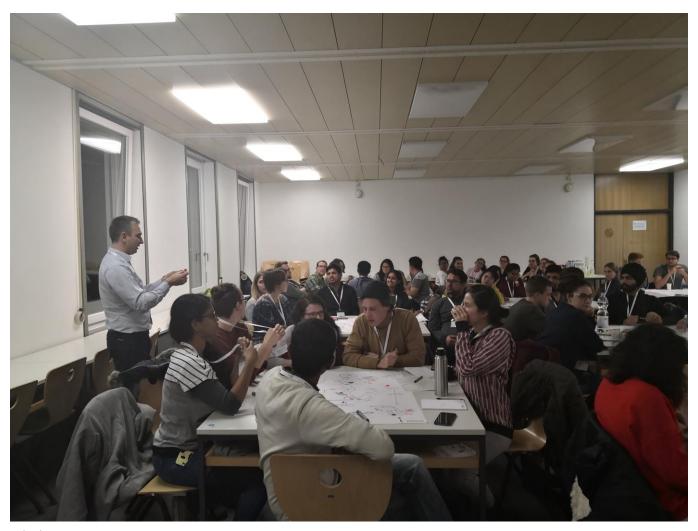












Source: Tetiana Pavlenko



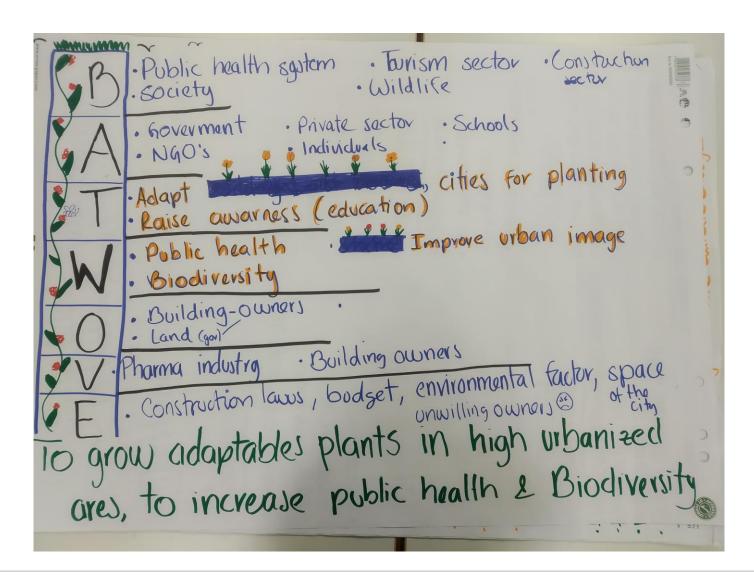






Source: Tetiana Pavlenko









VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL





Source: Marta Bertolino

VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL





Source: Harley Pope, University of Reading

LESSONS LEARNED



- Free of charge
- Provide a platform for students to interact
- No accreditation, no ECTS points (no assessment!)
- Mix, rotate, ...
- Support inclusion
- Set the framework but be willing to let the content evolve

SELF-REFLECTION



- Productive breaks
- It's important for the trainer to be trained too
- Improve teaching skills
- Broaden knowledge and expertise
- Develop a multidisciplinary approach
- Get to know future colleagues

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES... HOLIROOTS









Thank you!





Co-funded by the European Union



Technology in Special Crop Production

Hochschule Geisenheim University Department of Agricultural Engineering

Von-Lade-Str. 1, 65366 Geisenheim, Germany www.hs-geisenheim.de

Tel.: +49 6722 502 362

dimitrios.paraforos@hs-gm.de