



# **Report on the Implementation of Principles for Responsible Management Education**

Sharing Information on Progress

**2022 – 2024**

# Continuing Commitment to UN PRME Principles

Message from the Dean of Brunswick European Law School

Dear Secretary General,

We hereby submit to you our third „Report on the Implementation of Principles for Responsible Management Education - Sharing Information on Progress 2022 – 2024“, which aims to demonstrate and illustrate how Brunswick European Law School (BELS) has brought the six principles of UN PRME to life over the past two years.



Since our faculty joined in 2017, we have been able to steadily and continuously expand and deepen our activities in the area of sustainability, education for sustainable development (ESD) and the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

We are aware of the importance that the continuous contribution and permanent support of the six principles such as developing the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society, incorporating into our academic activities, curricula, and organizational practices the values of global social responsibility and creating educational frameworks must be our daily motivation and effort to be able to cope with the current challenges we are facing today.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Kai Litschen'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Prof. Dr. iur. Kai Litschen, Dekan

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## Principle 1: Purpose



*"We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy."*

With the Global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, the United Nations adopted a global framework of values - a normative model project that is directed against an increasingly unjust and unequal world. It addresses all people around the world as global community to implement the SDGs. As a universally applicable solution the SDGs are intended to be a useful tool for advancement into a common direction. It is we who must take action. Through related research and teaching in various networks and formats, BELS is thus also helping to ensure that the Global Agenda 2030 and the SDGs are advanced into applicable legal bases. In 2017, the United Nations Interest Group (UNIG) was founded at BELS to provide a forum for the issues raised by the UN. Various stakeholders from management, business and the corporate sector were invited to symposia to discuss new strategies in a targeted manner. Since then, UNIG has changed and expanded: as local authorities implement sustainable development strategies, the BELS approach now focuses not only on UN PRME education but on a broader perspective. Today, BELS brings together grassroots initiatives, local authorities and businesses under the auspices of the BELS platform and provides an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and mindsets needed to address the challenges of sustainability. The BELS platform is a platform as a regional ESD centre of excellence. It empowers its participants to focus on sustainable solutions at the local level.

## Principle 2: Vision and Values



*"We will incorporate into our academic activities, curricula, and organizational practices the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact."*

## Veritas, Aequitas, Libertas

Brunswick European Law School (BELS) is proud since its founding in the year 2000 to have developed into the second largest faculty of Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences in Wolfenbüttel. We owe this to our continuous development and subsequent further improvement of teaching and research. Current topics such as globalization and internationalization are integrated into research and into teaching areas of courses. We acknowledge the various and diverse demands of our modern world by supporting and adhering to strong and positive ethical values. Thus, by conveying within BELS and also beyond the positive values set out by UN PRME it is hoped that some continuity can be provided to our often volatile society. It is also hoped that such an approach allows our more than 1,400 students to grow into strong and responsible personalities and leaders.

Therefore, not only as a guiding statement but also as our fundamental values our mission statement is further manifested in our mission as "Veritas, Aequitas Libertas".

Veritas, i.e. truth - is indispensable as the basis of all knowledge, everywhere and at any time and especially in science. It thus represents an essential component of our values at BELS.

Aequitas means a fundamental legal concept of equilibrium originating from Roman antiquity, whose fundamental idea of equality leads to justice within human activity and thus makes an essential contribution to the emergence and maintenance of unremitting prosperity. Law and equity as supporting pillars of justice are interdependent. Deeply aware of this, we also strive every day to reflect this insight in all our research and teaching content. It is our aim to actively process the resulting findings and thus hopefully to enable all our students to have the best possible starting point into their future.



Libertas is a source that needs the law as a basis for its development. Without it, there can hardly be justice. Equally at risk is Veritas, for without Libertas Veritas cannot exist either.

Libertas prevents an unfree world in which justice would be absent. It therefore needs the law that comprehensively protects freedom of the individual. In balance, these values guarantee a vibrant, diversified and just society in which individuals can develop freely.

These interrelated fundamental principles of BELS support the continuous process of our institution to act sustainably and to lead our students and all other stakeholders to intellectual and material prosperity.

It is desired that within this realm of the influence of BELS, freedom and creativity of all people connected to us should unfold. Thus, a secure and engaging space is created in which innovation, creation as well as destruction of the outdated and useless becomes possible, such as for example through disruptive processes. In doing so, BELS aims to also meet the requirements of the SDGs as well as inter- and intragenerational justice of the sustainability concepts.

Our conviction is further expressed in our decision to join the UN Global Compact to which we are officially confirmed as participating member since November 2017. As a United Nations Global Compact participant, BELS is committed to respect and support the ten UN Global Compact principles with reference to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Our second "Communication on Engagement" for the UN Global Compact has also been submitted this year. We can therefore proudly claim to continue to be an active member of the UN Global Compact for the next two years.



## Principle 3: Method



*"We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership."*

## Teaching and Lectures on the SDGs

Topics regarding Human Rights, environment and anti- corruption as well as sustainability and the UN SDGs are widely included in the BELS curriculum. We also encourage students to examine different aspects of these areas in their Bachelor's and, Master's theses.

Since the end of 2020, BELS students have had the opportunity to take up doctoral studies in law. In cooperation with the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, students can write doctoral theses (e.g. on sustainability topics) and earn a PhD.

Professors and lecturers at BELS deal with the transformation of sustainable processes and the implementation of sustainability concepts in teaching on a daily basis. For example, they are an integral part and potential examination topics in basic subjects such as business administration (BWL).

## Mandatory Subjects

- Administrative Law II
- Commercial Law
- Commercial Criminal Law
- Compliance
- Constitutional Law
- Environmental Law
- European Law
- European Private Law
- Human Rights and International Economic Law
- International Construction Law
- International Investment Law
- International Sales Law
- International Trade and Corporate Law
- Introduction to Law
- Corporate Governance
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Business Ethics
- Sources of International Law
- Public Procurement and State Aid Law
- WTO Law

## Compulsory Elective Subjects

- Health in the company
- Negotiating and Designing in Labour Law: "Climate Protection in the Workplace"
- Introduction to Model United Nations
- Model United Nations Advanced
- Doing Business in Asia incl. Sustainability Competition

## International Program

Each summer we offer a full-semester English program at BELS. We cover a profound selection of law courses with strong links to current economic aspects. The following courses are offered:

### Law Units

- International Tax and Business Law
- International Trade Law: Foreign Trade Law & Customs Law
- The European Union and its Single Market Concept
- Commercial & Corporate Law
- VAT Tax Fraud
- Introduction into the German Legal System

### Business Units

- Navigating Financial Markets and Institutions - A (European) Perspective on the evolution of a more sustainable monetary system
- Consumer Behavior
- International Sales Management
- German Language Class

Within summer schools, BELS staff and students benefit from new insights. Mutual and common understanding is promoted. Constant and vibrant exchange with other international students, universities and colleges ensures farsightedness. This exchange also opens the door to getting to know our approach towards sustainability and the values we promote and want to convey on an international level. In this way, we can contribute towards contributing educating responsible and considerate leaders of the future.

The aim of the International Business Law Semester (IBLS) at BELS is to provide you with tools that will further your career success. We focus on the following three success factors:





### ***Gain intercultural competencies***

Many businesses overseas fail because of a misunderstanding of culture. Too often, we assume that our business partners overseas behave as we do, and we act accordingly. This assumption can lead to frustration, anger, and resignation. Influential business people have a deep appreciation for different cultural behavior patterns in organisations. Thus, intercultural competence is a critical success factor in international business. We will teach you the essential intercultural skills at IBLS.

### ***Develop your personal strengths***

Living in another country will have an enormous impact on your personal development and growth. You will face many challenges; however, you will develop strategies to solve problems effectively and to move on successfully. Moreover, you will build your social skills, make new friends and learn about new things. You will develop more self-esteem and become more self-confident. These attributes will all contribute to strengthening and developing your personality.

### ***Learn about various international law and business topics***

You have the choice between a perfect blend between law and business units delivered by the experts from our faculties of law and business. Please note that the currently listed units might be subject to change. All our lecturers convey in-depth knowledge about their topics. They have all worked in the industry before joining Ostfalia University. This industry experience makes their lectures and workshops particularly relevant and practice-oriented. Another advantage is the small number of students who attend individual classes. These small classes ensure a very interactive, useful and practical learning environment.

## Purpose 4: Research



*"We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value."*

## Publications

BELS professors, lecturers and research assistants are intensively dedicated to research. Many of the topics and research areas studied at BELS and its institutes touch on or focus on human rights, environmental law and sustainability, SDGs and responsible business practices at various economic levels. Thanks to its broad-based and networked research, BELS is able to position itself nationally and internationally for the future.

As a result, research often incorporates the ideas and concepts of sustainability. Some of our publications are available via the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) to quickly disseminate our scientific research. An excerpt of recent publications by BELS staff in the field of sustainability in German, English and various other languages illustrate our efforts:

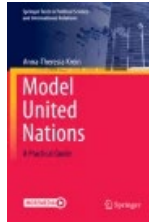
### Prof. Dr. iur. Winfried Huck (and team)



- Huck, Sustainable Development Goals, An Article-by-Article Commentary, C.H.BECK, Hart Publishing, Oxford and Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, 2022, 752 pages.
- Huck, Maaß, Sood, Benmaghnia, Heß, Framework and content of energy transition in Southeast Asia with ASEAN and the EU, The Journal of World Energy Law & Business (OUP), Volume 15, Issue 5, October 2022, Pages 396–408, <https://academic.oup.com/jwelb/article/15/5/396/6673197>.
- Huck, Transformation of Sustainable Development Goals in Regional International Organizations: Vertical Effects, Contested Indicators, and Interlinkages for the Formation of Environmental Law, in: Globalisation, Environmental law and Sustainable Development in the Global South: Challenges for Implementation, Kirk W. Junker and Paolo Davide Farah (eds.), Routledge, 2022.
- Huck, The UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Governance of Global Public Goods: The Quest for Legitimacy, in: The Protection of General Interests in Contemporary International Law, Massimo Iovane, Fulvio M. Palombino, Daniele Amoroso, and Giovanni Zarra (Eds.), Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Huck/J. Maaß, Gaining a Foot in the Door: Giving Access to Justice with SDG 16.3?, C-EENRG Working Papers, 2021-5. Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance, University of Cambridge 2021, S. 1-34, C-EENRG Working Paper 2021-5.
- Buchbesprechung: Christopher Langer, Die Endlagersuche nach dem Standortauswahlgesetz – Normgebung zwischen Konsistenz und Widerspruch, Schriften zum Deutschen und Europäischen Infrastrukturrecht, Band 12, Verlag Duncker & Humblot, Berlin 2021, 562 Seiten, in: Zeitschrift für Bergrecht 2021, S. 196-200.

- Huck/ J. Maaß/S. Sood/T. Benmagnhia/A. Schulte/S. Heß/M.-A. Walter, The Right to Breathe Clean Air and Access to Justice - Legal State of Play in International, European and National Law (March 29, 2021), <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3808572> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3808572>.
- Jennifer Maaß, Der Europäische Green Deal als Grundlage nachhaltigen Klimaschutzes, Nachhaltigkeitsrecht (NR) NR 2022, 18-26

### Anna-Theresia Krein, M.A.



- Krein, Model United Nations – A Practical Guide, Springer 2023

### Leonie Zappel, LL.M.



- 50 Jahre APS der EU – ein Anreiz für nachhaltige Entwicklung? Teil 1, AW-Prax 11/2021, S. 591 ff. und Teil 2, AW-Prax 12/2021, S. 638 ff.
- EU's and UK's General Schemes of Preferences after Brexit – possible consequences for developing countries, Coventry Law Journal 2021 vol. 27 Issue 1, S. 71 ff.
- Verantwortung, Nachhaltigkeit und Menschenrechte – Aufbruch in eine (neue) Zukunft, Bericht über den 33. Europäischen Zollrechtstag in Graz, ZfZ 08/2022, S. 233 ff.
- Nachhaltigkeit durch Freihandelsabkommen? Teil 1, AW-Prax 05/2023, S. 203 ff. und Teil 2, AW-Prax 06/2023, S. 280 ff.

## Bachelor's and Master's theses on SDGs and sustainability

In the course of their studies, BELS students are taught in areas of sustainability, responsible and conscious interaction with other people and resources, and last but not least, also with themselves. The course contents offer a variety of possibilities to deal with these subject areas and to examine one's own research questions within the framework of a thesis. These theses are often completed in cooperation with professionals from the industry acting as secondary supervisors, therefore ensuring a broad coverage of topics and up-to-date results. Some titles have been revised due to confidentiality requirements.

An excerpt of the theses most recently submitted at BELS illustrates our orientation and focus:

### Bachelor theses

<b>2024</b>	Der Rechtsrahmen für den Umgang mit Weltraumschrott: Eine Analyse internationaler Abkommen und eine Zukunftsprognose
<b>2023</b>	Identifikation und Aufklärung von Menschenrechtsverletzungen entlang der Lieferkette durch das Beschwerdeverfahren nach § 8 I LkSG
	Die wirtschaftliche Nutzung der Arktis - Rechtliche Möglichkeiten zur Erschließung neuer Schifffahrtswege und Rohstoffabbau
	Nachhaltigkeit als Kriterium der Arbeitgeberattraktivität unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des Greenwashing-Risikos
	Das neue deutsche Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz in der Unternehmenspraxis – Eine kritische Würdigung mit besonderer Betrachtung des Verhaltenskodex für Lieferanten am Beispiel der xxx
	Die aktienrechtliche Vorstandshaftung unter besonderer Berücksichtigung eines xxx
	Neuere Entwicklungen der Wirtschaftsprüferhaftung
	Rolle der Banken auf dem Weg zur Erreichung der Pariser Klimaziele - Analyse nachhaltiger Finanzierungen
<b>2022</b>	Die Rechtspraxis europäischer Kartellbehörden im Bereich der Nachhaltigkeit
	Ressourcenausbeutung durch Küstenstaaten nach dem Seevölkerrecht - Welche Vor- und Nachteile bestehen hinsichtlich des Tiefseebergbaus?
	Markenführung und der Wandel zur Elektromobilität am Beispiel von Tesla und Volkswagen
	Lösungspotenziale der künstlichen Intelligenz für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung am Beispiel des Onlinehandels
	Erarbeitung einer Methode zur Aktualisierung und Weiterentwicklung der Definition der bindenden Verpflichtungen mit Bezug auf das PCM

## Master theses

<b>2024</b>	Legal responsibilities of private entities in space debris management
	Grenzüberschreitender Güterverkehr und Nachhaltigkeitsstrategien der Europäischen Union. Fragmentierung einer globalen Herausforderung? – eine kritische Analyse
	Analyse der Fördermaßnahmen der Automobilindustrie zur Unterstützung der Elektromobilität: eine Fallstudie zu alternativen Mobilitätsangeboten
<b>2023</b>	Solarenergie und Renewables in Kamerun und anderen afrikanischen Ländern
	Das Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz und ihre Auswirkung auf die Beschaffung von erneuerbaren Energien - Eine Untersuchung der Herausforderungen und Möglichkeiten
	Rechtsfragen in der Arktis: Rohstoffe, Umwelt und Veränderungen durch den Klimawandel. Probleme und Lösungen.
	Klimapolitik in Freihandelsabkommen der Europäischen Union: Effektive Ausgestaltung zukünftiger Freihandelsabkommen
	Rechtliche Regelungen und mögliche Alternativen im Licht klimapolitischer Zielsetzungen - Nachhaltigkeit als strategisches Beschaffungsziel im europäischen und nationalen Vergaberecht.
	Das Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetzes in der Bekleidungs- und Schuhwarenindustrie - internationale Normen, Standards und Richtlinien und deren Auswirkung auf globale Lieferketten
	Elektromobilität in Europa: Umwelt- und Sozialstandards beim Rohstoffabbau und die Nachverfolgbarkeit von Lieferketten
<b>2022</b>	Die praktische Bedeutung von sozialen Nachhaltigkeitsbestimmungen zugunsten von Frauen und weiblichen Arbeitnehmern in modernen Freihandelsabkommen
	Europäische Fischereisubventionen und deren Auswirkungen auf Entwicklungsländer unter Berücksichtigung der SARS-CoV-2-Pandemie
	Die unternehmerische Sorgfaltspflicht - Auswirkungen von Sorgfaltspflichtengesetzen auf Entwicklungsländer als Teil globaler Lieferketten



## Principle 5: Partnerships



*"We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges"*

## Operations

In recognition of the UN PRME principles as well as the normative concept of the SDGs, BELS has set itself the goal of critically accompanying and advancing approaches to solutions as well as creating an open forum for discussion. BELS as an institution is therefore committed to pursue further research and cooperation with regional companies. At BELS, we provide companies and the public with access to the newly acquired knowledge and regularly invite them to specific events. This ongoing endeavour culminated in the initiation of the Sustainability Network as a platform for local stakeholders in early 2021. A wide range of activities have already been carried out within this framework:



## Implementing Local Sustainability Strategies - ESD Sustainability Weeks Conference

On 12 May 2021, BELS hosted the conference "The Implementation of Local Sustainability Strategies in Braunschweig and Wolfenbüttel" to kick off the new UNESCO program "Education for Sustainable Development: Realising the Global Sustainability Goals" (in short "ESD 2030").

The result: BELS has initiated a local sustainability network to bundle and network the potentials of regional associations, companies, institutions, initiatives and municipalities directly on site. The event showed how great the interest is in the Ostfalia region to take on the topic of "sustainable development" comprehensively and permanently and to initiate concrete measures. The numerous virtual participants covered a broad spectrum of society from environmental associations, start-ups, banks, social institutions to interested individuals, which provided a good basis for bundling and consolidating the various interests in the next phase.

As a first offer, BELS now provides interested local sustainability actors with a newsletter with information on current events, calls for proposals and other information on the topics of "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)", UNESCO, SDGs and sustainability. At least one every three months, discussions, exhibitions and conferences with current regional topics take place under the auspices of the BELS sustainability network. The event during the UNESCO Sustainability weeks was taken as a prelude to initiate the local sustainability network and to deepen the cooperation with all stakeholders. Thus, BELS offers its knowledge and good networking at the local level.



## A New Format: BELS Sustainability Forum

A new format is the result of BELS' participation in the ESD weeks in preparation for the UNESCO World Conference in Berlin: BELS Sustainability Forum offers stakeholders, students and teachers a platform to promote topics related to the SDGs, sustainability and climate change.

### First Sustainability Forum

At the 1st BELS Sustainability Forum on 15 July 2021, the District Administrator of Wolfenbüttel District, Ms Christiana Steinbrügge, presented the newly developed action concept for sustainable development in the Wolfenbüttel area 2030.

The 2030 action plan is intended to show ways in which sustainable action can be anchored in the district of Wolfenbüttel and the district administration. The 17 sustainability goals of the United Nations (SDGs) are to be taken into account. Ms Steinbrügge emphasised the importance of local action in the face of the global challenge, as it is precisely at local level that the demands for solutions to the major global challenges and the demands for a practical everyday living environment converge.



Above all, however, it has become clear that the district wants to tackle the economic, ecological and social challenges now with its new action plan. Ostfalia offers the opportunity to exchange knowledge and network local stakeholders in the region, particularly at the interface between business, research and civil society with the BELS Sustainability Forum, but can also offer municipalities and districts assistance in implementing the action plans with its research focus in the area of the SDGs.

### Second Sustainability Forum



The planned retrieval of low and intermediate level radioactive waste from a former salt mine in the district of Wolfenbüttel, the "Asse II", is a problem directly affecting the BELS region.

How hardened the fronts are, became apparent at the 2nd Sustainability Forum on 13 October 2021: the topic was the nuclear waste problem in our region. Marco Franz from the Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung (Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal), the authority that operates the former "research mine", but is also responsible for licensing and strategic planning, gave a lecture on "Sustainable nature conservation in the retrieval of radioactive waste from the Asse". In 2010, it was decided to completely retrieve the nuclear waste for long-term safety.



## Topics and discussions

Since the introduction of the Forum for Sustainability at BELS, instructive and highly topical issues have been continuously addressed. Various key topics have already been dealt with, whereby the focus has always been on a well-founded professional discussion. One example of this is the discussion of sustainable investments, a topic of growing importance in the context of the global financial world. Experts and interested parties had the opportunity to contribute their perspectives and enter into a dialogue.

## Overview Sustainability Forum 2022-2024

17. Forum	15.05.2024	Die neue Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung
16. Forum	17.04.2024	Verkehrswende in der Region – aber wie?
15. Forum	06.03.2024	Die Zukunft des Waldes
14. Forum	14.02.2024	Bürgerbeteiligung für die Energiewende
Spezialausgabe	28.11.2023	Cybercrime – die unsichtbare Gefahr
13. Forum	08.11.2023	Nachhaltige Vermögensanlagen
12. Forum	18.10.2023	Kommunales Energiemonitoring
11. Forum	06.06.2023	Greenwashing – rechtliche und ökonomische Grenzen umweltrelevanter Zuschreibungen
10. Forum	10.05.2023	Das niedersächsische Klimaschutzgesetz
9. Forum	15.03.2023	Wasserstoff und eFuels – wie sieht die Zukunft aus?
8. Forum	13.12.2022	Schöne heile Fußballwelt? Nachhaltigkeit im Profifußball
7. Forum	12.10.2023	Zukunft der Wasserversorgung
6. Forum	15.06.2022	Regionale Energieversorgung in Krisenzeiten
5. Forum	04.04.2022	Zukunft der Landwirtschaft
4. Forum	16.03.2022	Nachhaltiger Handel in der Region, Deutschland und der Welt

## Nominations for the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)

At the beginning of March 2023, the world-leading Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) appointed Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck, a professor at BELS, as Senior Legal Fellow.

In addition to anchoring the topic of sustainability at Brunswick European Law School (BELS), the commitment he initiated in the UN networks Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME) and Global Compact (UN GC) as well as working towards the first-time recognition of the Faculty of Law by UNESCO, numerous publications, most recently the legal hand commentary on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and his work in the Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance (C-EENRG) have led to this honorable appointment.



## Model United Nations

The compulsory elective "Model United Nations", a simulation of the bodies of the United Nations, has become increasingly important in the last two years. At the beginning of 2023, Anna-Theresia Krein, M.A., a member of staff at BELS, published the first textbook for the "Model United Nations" course offered as an elective at the Faculty of Law. It explains the relevant teaching methods and provides additional electronic materials for teaching. The model was a great success at the Model United Nations conference in Rome at the end of February 2023. Three BELS students were honoured by the Italian jury for their special achievements. At the Model United Nations Conference in Rome from

26 February to 3 March, three BELS students were honoured by the Italian jury for their special achievements.

Carina Bente (ILB student) was honored as an "Honourable Delegate" during the conference. She had represented the Chinese delegation in the UN Security Council on the Kashmir conflict.

Marie Pirch (RPP student) as delegate of Albania was honored by the jury as "Distinguished Delegate" for her performance in the UN Security Council on the Kashmir conflict. Lisa Ackermann (ILB student) had submitted the best position paper for the debate in the UN Security Council on the Mali conflict. She represented the Gabonese delegation.

In July 2023, BELS students took part in the TEIMUN conference in The Hague. Now in its 35th year and with participants from all over the world, "The European International Model United Nations" - TEIMUN - is one of the oldest and largest Model UN conferences. This year's conference focused on the topic "Beyond Truth: Mastering the Paradox of Information". The students simulated committee meetings of international organisations such as the United Nations and NATO. In various committees, controversial topics such as the Ukraine-Russia conflict, cyberwarfare and human trafficking were



discussed and dealt with in position papers and resolutions. Our BELS students were represented in the International Court of Justice, NATO and the UN Security Council, among others. In November 2023, some BELS students took part in the Model UN in Malmö, Sweden. There, they developed proposals for solutions to problems such as the use of biological weapons or the use of artificial intelligence (AI) on the topic of "Promoting inclusive and sustainable innovation".

### **Overview of the last MUN-Excursions of the BELS (2022-2024)**

30.10. bis 5.11.2023	Malmö, Sweden: MUNOM 2023 („Model United Nations of Malmö“)
9.07. bis 16.07.2023	Den Haag, Netherlands: TEIMUN-Conference
26.02. bis 3.03.2023	Rom, Italy: Model-United-Nations-Conference

## Member of the scientific advisory board of the Journal for Sustainability Law

Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck has been appointed to the scientific advisory board of the "Zeitschrift für Nachhaltigkeitsrecht (NR)", which covers the entire legal field of sustainable development. The journal acts as an important forum for all aspects of sustainability from science and practice and claims to be the first specialist journal to significantly shape the new legal field of sustainability law. Its focus is on a comprehensive examination of sustainability issues, both at national and international level. The journal serves the purpose of presenting solutions for current developments in the field of sustainability to both learners and teachers.

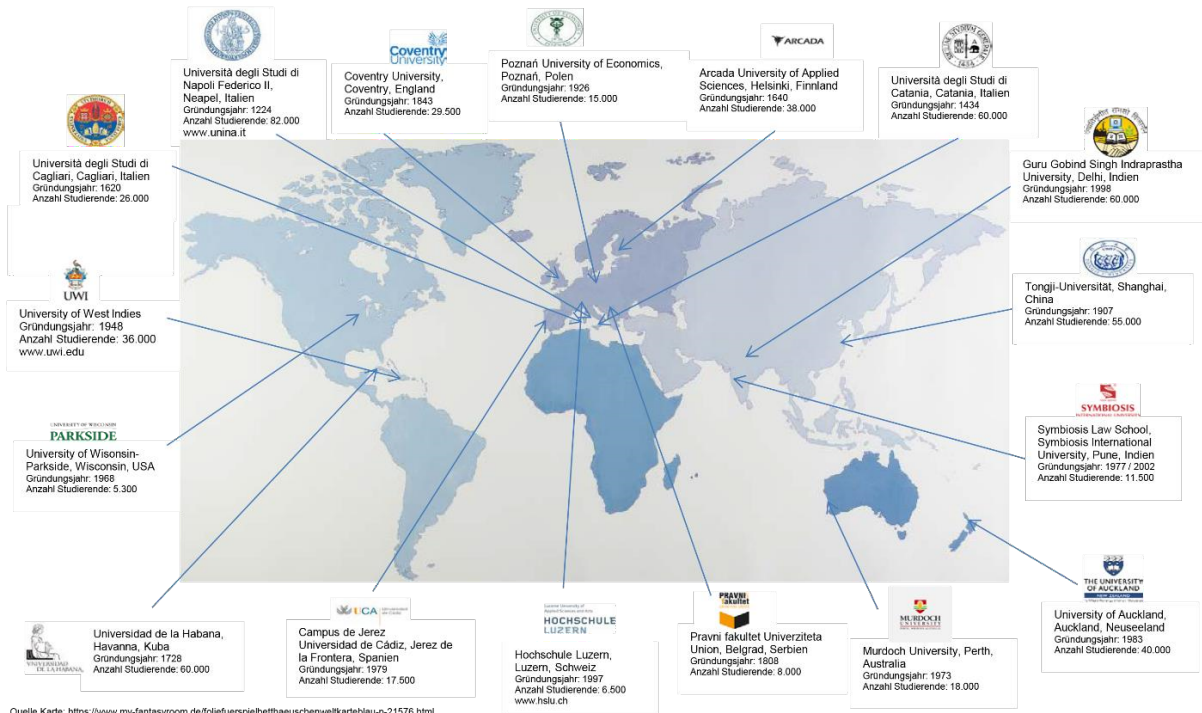
## Cooperation with partner universities

BELS cultivates and maintains lively and intensive cooperation with a variety of foreign partner universities and colleges around the world. At BELS it is believed that great importance to relations with other national and international universities should be given. Students are offered various international opportunities to further their education, training and networking on an international level, but also of harnessing further productive research and teaching cooperation. The range of BELS partner universities extends from various European universities to overseas universities, such as in the USA, Australia, New Zealand, India and China. Further partnerships are being actively sought out. Our network of cooperation is thus constantly expanded.
















In addition to comprehensive advice to incoming and outgoing students from our international coordinator, students are offered various opportunities to benefit from university scholarships as well as external scholarships. BELS emphasizes the high value of a mutual and profound exchange of knowledge, which is also reflected at the research level. In this context, BELS focuses on the development of regular legal symposia.

# A list of all current international partner universities can be found here:









## Auslandskooperationen & -partnerschaften der Fakultät Recht - Brunswick European Law School (BELS)



## European Partner Universities

Univerzitet Union Belgrad	Belgrad, Serbia	
Universidad de Cádiz	Campus de Jerez, Cádiz, Spain	
Universidad de Granada	Granada, Spain	
Università degli studi di Cagliari	Cagliari, Italy	
Università degli studi di Catania	Catania, Italy	
Università LUM Giuseppe Degennaro	Bari, Italy	
Coventry University	Coventry, England	
Hochschule Luzern	Luzern, Switzerland	
Haute école de gestion Arc	Neuchâtel, Switzerland	
Università di Macerata	Macerata, Italy	
Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II	Naples, Italy	
Pázmány Péter Catholic University	Budapest, Hungary	
Poznań University of Economics and Business	Poznań, Poland	
SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities	Warsaw, Poland	
Universität Zielona Gora	Zielona Góra, Poland	

## Non-European Partner Universities

University of Auckland	Auckland, New Zealand	
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University	Delhi, India	
Universidad de la Habana	Havanna, Cuba	
University of Wisconsin-Parkside	Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA	
Murdoch University	Perth, Australia	
Symbiosis Law School	Pune, India	
Tongji Law School	Shanghai, China	
University of the West Indies	St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago	

## Principle 6: Dialogue



*"We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability."*

## Conferences

### BELS at the Model-UN conference in Den Hague

Im July 2023 nahmen 17 BELS-Studierende am Abschluss des Wahlpflichtfachs „Model United Nations (Model UN)“ teil, indem sie an der TEIMUN-Konferenz in den Haag teilnahmen. TEIMUN, "The European International Model United Nations", ist eine der ältesten und größten Model-UN-Konferenzen und fand bereits zum 35. Mal statt. Die Konferenz zog Teilnehmende aus aller Welt an und widmete sich dem Thema "Beyond Truth: Mastering the Paradox of Information".

Model UN is a simulation of committee meetings at the United Nations, NATO and other international organisations in which the participants act as representatives of a country. This includes deliberating on conflicts at the UN Security Council, simulating negotiations at the International Court of Justice and making decisions on war and peace at NATO.

Our BELS students were represented on various panels, including as judges and lawyers at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which dealt with two cases: "Ukraine vs. Russia - Did Russia commit genocide on the territory of Ukraine?" and "The legal consequences of Israel's policy in the occupied Palestinian territories".

Topics at the conference included "Cyberwarfare" and "Human Trafficking in Kosovo" as well as "Victim Assistance and Protection against Transnational Organized Crime" and "Empowering Women and Girls - Preventing Human Trafficking and Combating Gender-Based Violence". The UN Security Council's agenda included "Preventing and Managing Cyber Terrorism" and "US Withdrawal from the Middle East and the Nuclear Threat".



## **BELS represented at the annual conference of the German Association for International Law (DVIR)**

On 18 November 2022, Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck, Professor at BELS, will give a presentation on the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the annual conference of the German branch of the International Law Association (DVIR).



Despite repeated recognition of the Global Agenda 2030 and the comprehensible data provided by the IPCC, the concrete legal framework in Germany ignores climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our time.



## **Lectures abroad of BELS staff**

### **Prof. Dr. Huck participates in seminar on International Investment Law and Renewable Energy at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge**

On 10 October 2023, the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (LCIL) at the University of Cambridge organized a major seminar entitled "International Investment Law and Arbitration in the Renewable Energy Sector: Quo Vadis". The seminar focused on the current challenges in connection with the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) and its impact on sustainable development. In particular, the complex dynamics of international investment law and world trade (WTO) in the context of renewable energies were the subject of lively discussion.

Prof. Dr. Huck contributed to this seminar with a presentation on "Coupling the interfaces of hydrogen energy, SDGs and investment law". He emphasised the importance of hydrogen as a key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted the complex legal challenges associated with international investment in this sector in a multi-level system. His conclusion was particularly interesting, which was drawn against the background of the case law of the European Court of Justice (in particular the Achmea, Komstroy, Romatsa cases) and the decisions of the Federal Court of Justice of 27 July 2023 - I ZB 75/22 on the Energy Charter Treaty. Prof. Dr. Huck pointed out that modern international investment protection treaties are crucial for achieving a green energy transition, including the promotion of green hydrogen. He warned of the potential impact of the EU's withdrawal from the ECT, which includes a notification period and a 20-year sunset clause, on long-term investment in green energy and the transition to a sustainable energy transition. Finally, he emphasised the central role of hydrogen in achieving both SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG 13 (climate action) and the need to pay special attention to this issue in international investment

law in order to combat anthropogenic climate change in accordance with the legal framework of international and European law.

## International Research Week on research on the SDGs

The International Research Week (IRW) took place from 2 to 5 May 2023 at the Harz University of Applied Sciences in Wernigerode and the Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences in Wolfenbüttel. Under the theme "How do we want to live in the future - research in a rapidly changing world", regional and international research areas and the acquisition of third-party funding were discussed in workshops and lectures in order to promote interdisciplinary dialogue between researchers.

**INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH  
WEEK**



Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck gave a presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals in international, European, and national law. He emphasized the importance of sustainability research and the challenges of acquiring third-party funding.

## Expert lecture on the Supply Chain Duty of Care Act and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at Nordic Energy

On 16 February 2023, Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck gave a lecture on "Supply chain legislation in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals of the Global Agenda 2030" at the invitation of the Wind Industry and Hydrogen Association WAB e.V., Hamburg, together with the legal consultancy Carneades Legal Rechtsanwälte Voigt und Kruse PartG mbB.

In his presentation, Prof. Dr. Huck emphasised the link between the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG), the European draft directive on corporate sustainability due diligence and the Global Agenda 2030, pointing out that despite political commitments to combat climate change, there is no coherent legislation that effectively implements these goals.

The lecture was followed by a discussion between scientists and lawyers. Prof. Dr. Huck thanked the organisers for the invitation and looked forward to future cooperation in the field of sustainable energy transition.



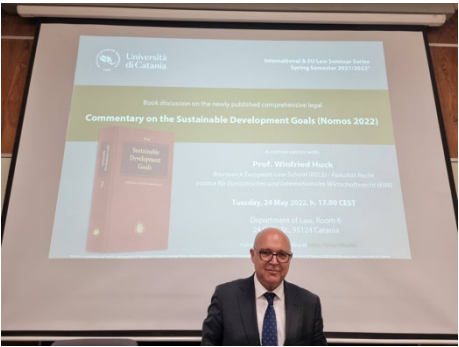
# Guest lecture at the University of Cambridge on climate protection law

Ms Jennifer Maaß, LL.M. Research Associate at the Institute for European and International Business Law at BELS and Visiting Researcher at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (LCIL) at the University of Cambridge, gave a public lecture at the Cambridge Centre for Environment and Natural Resource Governance (CEENRG) on 10.11.2022. The topic was "Strategic Climate Litigation in the (Post-)Anthropocene - Overcoming Formal and Substantial Barriers".



# Prof. Dr. Huck visits the University of Catania

Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck presented his new legal commentary on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Agenda 2030 at the University of Catania in Sicily, Italy, on 24 May 2022. He emphasised the importance of the SDGs for international trade and investment law, particularly in relation to gender equality (SDG 5).



He also discussed sustainability innovations to combat climate change in European and global trade law. In the interdisciplinary discussion that followed, he exchanged views with professors, lecturers and doctoral students from the fields of law, politics and anthropology on the political and legal implementation of the SDGs as well as specific legal issues, including sustainability measures, civil society protests and the international maritime liability regime (MARPOL) regarding marine pollution.

## Direct Engagement of Brunswick European Law School (BELS) with UN PRME

### BELS students represented in UN PRME Global Students Program (PGS)

Since 2022, it has been possible for BELS students to apply for the PGS Regional Leaders and PGS Global Taskforces. This opportunity arises from BELS' UN Global Compact and UN PRME membership. The PGS program (UN PRME Global Students Program) was launched last year by the



UN PRME initiative of the UN Global Compact for responsible corporate governance and now consists of more than 300 student organizations worldwide. We are looking for committed students to apply as PGS Regional Leaders and/or for the PGS Global Taskforces during their studies.

### BELS Engagement United Nations Principles for Responsible Management

Six students, including one student from Brunswick European Law School (BELS), received scholarships in the triple-digit range to attend the 10th Responsible Management Education Research Conference from 26/09/2023 - 28/09/2023 at the ISCTE Business School in Lisbon, Portugal.

Chiara Bernd (CBS), Lazar Tomašević (ZHAW), Shahryar Tavana (BELS), Anna Koprivc (FH Vienna), Luca Schmidt (HS Pforzheim) and Sebastian Thielen (MCI) presented their work in the PGS Ambassadors Program. Afterwards, they discussed with other participants in the panel "Student Engagement for Sustainability at Universities", chaired by Anna-Theresia Krein, M.A. BELS has supported the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education since 2017 and emphasizes the importance of student engagement for a vibrant and sustainable university.



### BELS student as UN ambassador and co-founder of Trash Tracker



sustainable development.

Mr. Tavana was nominated for the prestigious UN PRME Global Students Ambassador Program by Anna-Theresia Krein, M.A. from the Faculty of Law (BELS) due to his voluntary commitment to the "Trash Tracker" and was able to convince with his concept during the selection process. The United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME) are an initiative of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and offer students within their network a global platform in the field of responsible management and

## Collecting rubbish with meaning - The Trash Trackers

The 'Trash Trackers' are a non-profit organisation that has set itself the goal of ridding the environment of some of its rubbish, with the members of the organisation regularly and mainly carrying out so-called 'cleanups', but also brainstorming in groups and putting new ideas on paper. The trash trackers thus provide important support in the public sector.

They took part in the Impact Talk with a panel discussion with two scientists and discussed why waste in the Oker affects all of our lives. These voices from the scientific community further emphasised the importance of their work. Their work has already attracted attention through numerous reports in the Braunschweiger Zeitung newspaper and the Norddeutscher Rundfunk (ndr) radio station. Thanks to a large donation from the



Veolia Foundation, the trash trackers can now finance a spectrometer to analyze the components of the waste found (during clean-ups). This will enable them to use the data collected so far (weight/quantity) to draw up a monitoring report, which they can then use, for example, to approach politicians or the public and argue in favor of measures. A storage facility in Braunschweig for our organization's equipment will also be financed.

Over the next few years, the Trash Trackers will continue to focus on public relations work and clean-ups, even if the social factor is becoming increasingly important, as different age groups can come together and exchange ideas. We have also set up regular get-togethers for members and interested parties in Braunschweig. In addition to my role as Chief Financial Officer, my personal focus in the association will also be on liaising between the association and politics in order to tackle the issue of environmental pollution there too.

## Student member of United Nations Principles for Responsible Management (UN PRME)

"After my nomination and subsequent application, I was delighted to be accepted into the program," says Mr. Tavana. "UN, SDGs, responsible management - these are all keywords that interest me a lot and that I want to integrate into my professional life." The aim of the UN PRME Ambassador Program is to equip students of economics and finance with the understanding and ability to reconcile economic and sustainable goals as future leaders, with a focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"I had the chance to attend the 10th Responsible Management Education Research Conference in Lisbon on a stipend. Besides several academic presentations on sustainability, Anna Koprivc and I as Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME) Ambassadors had the opportunity to present our project "Breaking the cycle of poverty through education", which we developed together with Yanilet Platzgummer in the UN PRME Ambassador program. The main goal of the project is to give people who are not in a comfortable position due to financial or family situations, or who are stigmatized by society, easier access to education."



## Further Support of the UN PRME-Principles

We further pledge to provide further support to UN Global Compact business participants if explicitly asked and desired by them. We are willing to support them in their own sustainability implementation and disclosure efforts as far as our capacities will allow and as is specifically agreed in advance by all parties in question. We are also willing to lend capacity to UN Global Compact Local Networks and/or the UN Global Compact Office keeping in mind the same requirements/joint agreements by all parties as above.

## Measurement of outcomes

With the UNESCO World Conference "Learn for our Planet. Act for sustainability" in May of this year, UNESCO officially launched its new program "Education for Sustainable Development: Realising the Global Sustainable Development Goals" (in short: ESD 2030) and heralded the "Decade of Action".



Since the beginning of 2021, BELS has been focusing on the two priority fields of action "promotion of sustainable development at local level" and "transformation of learning and teaching environments" within the framework of the new World Program of Action ESD 2030.

According to ESD 2030, the expansion of ESD programs and networks is to take place at the level of cities, municipalities and regions. This is achieved by BELS with its new formats "Network and Forum Sustainability". In teaching and research, the anchoring of ESD sustainability principles in education and training contexts has been deepened and expanded.

In 2017, the United Nations Interest Group (UNIG) was founded at BELS to provide a forum for the issues raised by the UN. Various stakeholders from management, business and the corporate sector were invited to symposia to discuss new strategies in a targeted manner.

Since then, UNIG has changed and expanded: as local authorities implement sustainable development strategies, BELS approach now focuses not only on UN PRME education, but on a broader perspective. Today, BELS brings together grassroots initiatives, local authorities and businesses under the auspices of the BELS Platform and provides an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and mindsets needed to address the challenges of sustainability. The BELS Platform is a platform as a regional ESD centre of excellence. It empowers its participants to focus on sustainable solutions at the local level.

Membership in the UN Global Compact has enabled BELS to present and implement universal values such as human rights, sustainability and fair labor conditions in an academic environment. Based on a network of connections between the business community, students, local authorities, NGOs and the research community, the BELS has been able to build and intensify interdisciplinarity between different UN Global Compact stakeholders in the areas of the UN SDGs. The United Nations Interest Group (UNIG) was therefore expanded to include local stakeholders, who are involved in the areas of sustainability, climate protection and the SDGs in the Braunschweig, Wolfenbüttel, Wolfsburg, Suderburg and Salzgitter region (the Ostfalia region). In the thus newly formed network, the BELS contributes to the realization of the goals of UN Global Compact, but also to the current and newly adapted World Program of Action ESD-2030.

Since the beginning of our engagement, our students have been able to gain a deeper and comprehensive insight into the 17 UN SDGs and actively apply their newly acquired knowledge in various fields.

BELS is committed to introducing the current generation of students to the guidelines and values of the UN Global Compact in order to empower them to make responsible decisions in their future lives and careers. The contacts established so far with UN Global Compact partners in business are a start and pave the way for a fruitful exchange and transfer of knowledge with the long-term goal of implementing each of the 17 UN SDGs across society in light of the global standards on human rights, fair work and environmental protection.

## Key Objectives of the next 24 months

In order to strengthen the practical relevance in selected courses of study, the implementation of hybrid-digital business games on sustainable business management, internationalization and sustainable development in the region of Braunschweig, Wolfsburg and Wolfenbüttel with the involvement of regional sustainability actors will be included in the courses offered by the Faculty of Law.

The networking and evaluation of the actors involved in the Ostfalia region on the topic of SDGs and sustainability is to be deepened and expanded. A sustainability register of all associations, societies, institutions and municipalities active in the region is to be compiled.

A sustainability check is to be developed with the involvement of local actors, which is to serve as an aid and advisor on how SMEs in the region can improve their CSR reporting. In the case of associations and organisations, the check could be used to review the purpose of the statutes, achievement of objectives, etc. The result of the check for the participants should be that the participants are shown concrete needs for action in the area of sustainability, which are named by carrying out the (accompanying self-test).

## Overview of the next sustainability forums

25.09.2024	Die grüne Finanzwende
23.10.2024	20. Forum Nachhaltigkeit der Brunswick European Law School (BELS)
27.11.2024	Die Verkehrswende in der Region – aber wie?



## **Implementation of the SDGs - a comparative approach in India, Nepal and Germany (ING) - an international cooperation project funded by the DAAD as part of the 'SDG Partnerships' program**

The Brunswick European Law School (BELS) of Ostfalia University is planning the project "Implementation of the SDGs - a comparative approach in India, Nepal and Germany (ING)" in cooperation with Kathmandu University in Nepal and Symbiosis Law School Pune in India. The aim of the project is to develop local strategies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to develop solutions for global challenges such as climate change, poverty and food security.

The focus is on the legal implementation of the SDGs, as all partner universities are law schools. The project includes teaching and research activities as well as exchange programs and interdisciplinary simulations.

The aim is to empower students to make sustainable decisions and find solutions for the legal enforcement of the SDGs in their home countries. The use of digital forms of teaching and learning is intended to promote education for sustainable development and strengthen the university's international network. An SDG unit will also be set up in university management to support project monitoring and anchor the sustainability strategies in the long term.

From the beginning of this year until the end of 2027, an 'SDG semester' will be held in the summer semester, which will deal with hybrid business games and SDG-related topics with the participation of students from the partner universities in India and Nepal. The students analyze and compare the local implementation of the SDGs on site. At an academic level, local case studies are developed that shed light on the implementation of the SDGs in the respective university environments. Once every summer semester, three BELS students are given the opportunity to study in India or Nepal for months, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service. Conversely, three students each from Nepal and India can travel to Germany to take part in the SDG semester.



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