



# **Communication on Engagement**

Academic Solutions to Sustainable Development

**2022-2024**



**United Nations**  
Global Compact

# Statement of Continued Support of the UN Global Compact Principles

Message from the Dean of Brunswick European Law School

Dear Secretary General,

We hereby submit to you our third report "Communication on Engagement - Academic Solutions for Sustainable Development 2022 - 2024", which aims to demonstrate and illustrate how Brunswick European Law School (BELS) has brought the ten principles of the UN Global Compact 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 UN Global Compact principles.

We are aware of the importance that the continuous contribution and permanent support of the UN Global Compact Principles such as the protection of human rights, the promotion and strengthening of environmental awareness, the prevention of corruption and the observance of labour standards must be our daily motivation and effort to be able to cope with the current challenges we are facing today.

Since our first report for the UN Global Compact in 2019, we have been able to expand our teaching offer. However, following the motto "Think global, act local", we have also increased our activities in our region with the local stakeholders who are on the ground with us in the area of sustainability.

Despite the difficult situation in the Covid-19 period, we have managed to become active locally with new offers. Our technical capabilities to hold events and teaching sessions digitally, as well as hybrid, have helped us to do this.

With the renewal of our commitment to the UNGC principles, we hope to be able to make a further contribution to more sustainability and the strengthening of the basic principles in the next two years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kai Litschen".

Prof. Dr. iur. Kai Litschen, Dean

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# The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact



## Human Rights

**Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

**Principle 2:** Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

## Labour

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

**Principle 4:** The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

**Principle 5:** The effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6:** The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

## Environment

**Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

**Principle 8:** Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9:** Encourage the development and propagation of environmentally friendly technologies.

## Anti-Corruption

**Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

## Our Actions for the United Nations Global Compact



### BELS Education integrating UN Global Compact Principles

BELS provides a responsible management education on all topics relating to UN Global Compact.

We promote competences to effect change in the sense of transformative education by communicating our state of research on the SDGs. We make this happen through formats such as the Sustainability Forum and regional network meetings with the participation of local stakeholders, such as companies, civil society actors and municipalities, but also by addressing the sustainability issues that are increasingly arising in the region.

We strive for an integral orientation when integrating the UN Global Compact Principles. We anchor our research focus on the SDGs as holistically and interdisciplinarily as possible in the various fields of education. Additionally, we cooperate with local sustainability actors in the Ostfalia region. Responsible action and ethical standards are integrated into teaching and research. Sustainability aspects have been integrated into the field of social, intercultural and cultural education by addressing the holistic approaches of as many SDG objectives as possible in context - be it contrary or complementary - in seminars and lectures.

Students are enabled to deal responsibly with the complex challenges of the economy and society. The range of studies on the implementation of the individual SDGs extends from legal research in the field of sustainability to practical activities by students.

That is why we are always particularly interested in recruiting employees from industry and alumni from various fields as speakers, lecturers and educators. These individuals also act as facilitators of progressive interdisciplinary exchange. In addition, our professors come from various international backgrounds in business and industry. With their specialized practical and scientific experience and the subsequent integration of their research into the modules and courses they teach at BELS, they stand for the outstanding and progressive quality of our teaching.

Thus, BELS meets the requirements of the UN Global Compact principles and at the same time can educate students to become responsible personalities who carry the values of the UN Global Compact out into the world. It is hoped that our students will take this into account pursued professions.

# Teaching and Lectures on the SDGs and the UN Global Compact Principles

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

## Bachelor's and Master's theses on SDGs and the UN Global Compact Principles

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.

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



## BELS Applied Research and Thought Leadership for UN Global Compact

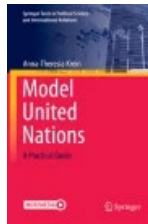
BELS professors, lecturers and research assistants are intensively dedicated to research. Many of the topics and research areas studied at BELS and its institutes touch on or focus on human rights, environmental law and sustainability, SDGs and responsible business practices at various economic levels. 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 illustrates 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, Benmagnia, 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. Benmagnia/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.

## Operations and Activities furthering the UN Global Compact Principles

In recognition of the UN Global Compact 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 endeavor 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 programme "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 emphasized 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), Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck initiated commitment to the UN networks Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME) and UN Global Compact (UNGC) 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 honored 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 honored by the Italian jury for their special achievements. Carina Bente (ILB student) was honored as an "Honorable 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, Schweden: MUNOM 2023 („Model United Nations of Malmö“)
9.07. bis 16.07.2023	Den Haag, Niederlande: TEIMUN-Konferenz
26.02. bis 3.03.2023	Rom, Italien: Model-United-Nations-Konferenz



## Conferences and lectures abroad of BELS staff

### **Prof. Dr. Winfried Huck and Jennifer Maaß, LL.M. at biennial conference of the International Law Association (ILA), Lisbon**

Prof. Dr. Huck and Jennifer Maaß, LL.M., participated in the biennial conference of the International Law Association (ILA) in Lisbon, Portugal, from 19 to 24 June 2022. The conference focused on "International Law as our Common Good" and provided an opportunity to discuss current challenges such as global health law, migration due to climate change and cooperation in times of war in Ukraine.

Prof. Dr. Huck and Jennifer Maaß were instrumental in setting up a committee on "International Law and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". This committee is intended to promote research into the links between world trade law, investment protection law and climate change law and thus influence international organisations such as the International Law Commission (ILC), the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).



Prof. Dr. Huck was also invited as an expert on the panel "International Law, Climate Change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". The discussion focused on the need for a holistic response to climate change, including overcoming silo thinking and improving the implementation of the SDGs. It was emphasized that trade and investment agreements need to be aligned with international protection instruments such as the Paris Agreement in order to promote sustainable development.

### **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 organised a major seminar entitled "International Investment Law and Arbitration in the Renewable Energy Sector: Quo Vadis". The seminar focussed 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.

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.

**INTERNATIONAL  
RESEARCH  
WEEK**



## 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 emphasized 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 organizers 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".

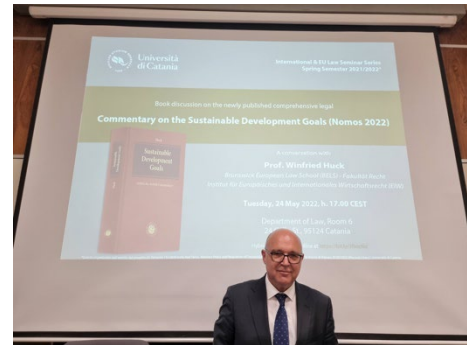


## Prof. Dr. Huck visits the University of Catania

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 emphasized 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.



## Brunswick European Law School (BELS) and other networks

### **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, gave 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.

**DVIR**  
Deutsche Vereinigung  
für internationales Recht



## 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 Programme) 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 organisations 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 Programme. 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



Mr. Tavana was nominated for the prestigious UN PRME Global Students Ambassador Programme 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 sustainable development.

## 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 favour 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 programme," 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 Programme 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 programme. 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."



## Communication on progress

As part of its UN PRME membership, BELS publishes a comprehensive overview of the practical implementation of the UN PRME principles at the Faculty of Law every two years. This report on the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Management Education simultaneously illustrates the fundamental goals and values to which BELS is committed. All activities are documented through regular publications on our website. A gradual and continuous development of our framework for action as well as the expansion of our activities are of great importance for our commitment.



## Further Support of the UN Global Compact 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.

## Our Outcomes for UN Global Compact and 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 programme "Education for Sustainable Development: Realising the Global Sustainable Development Goals" (in short: ESD 2030) and heralded the "Decade of Action". In this context, the BELS has adapted its strategy established in 2017 to the new challenges.

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 Programme 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 labour 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 realisation 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.

## The next steps

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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