#### **Hes**·so

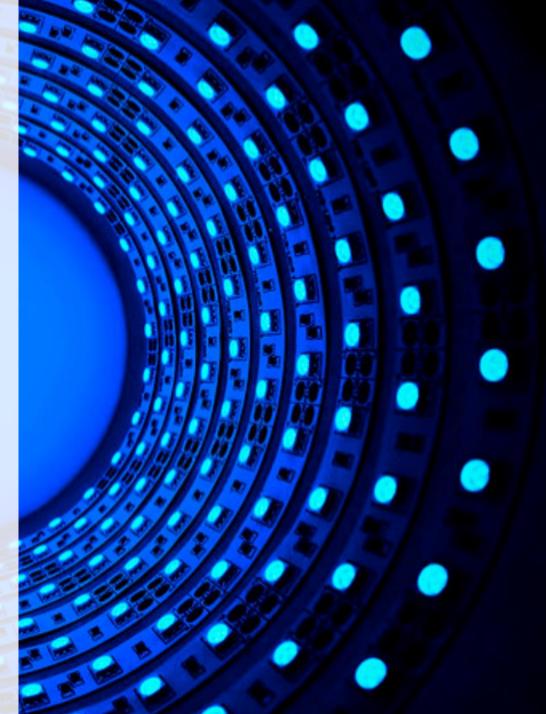
## QA AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

GENEVIÈVE LE FORT

**EQAF 2025** 

13.11.2025







### **AGENDA**

What is at stake
The role of HEI
The role of QA
(Focus on the HES-SO)

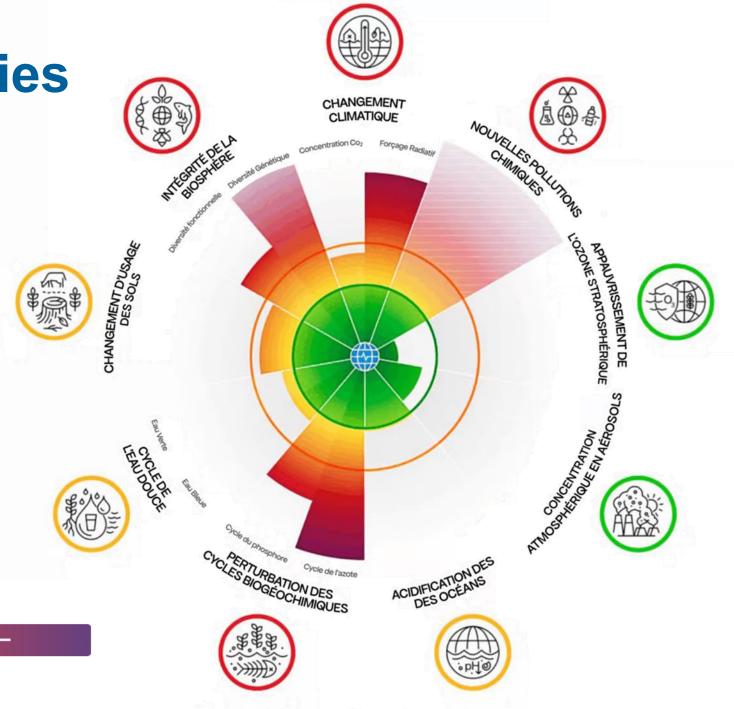


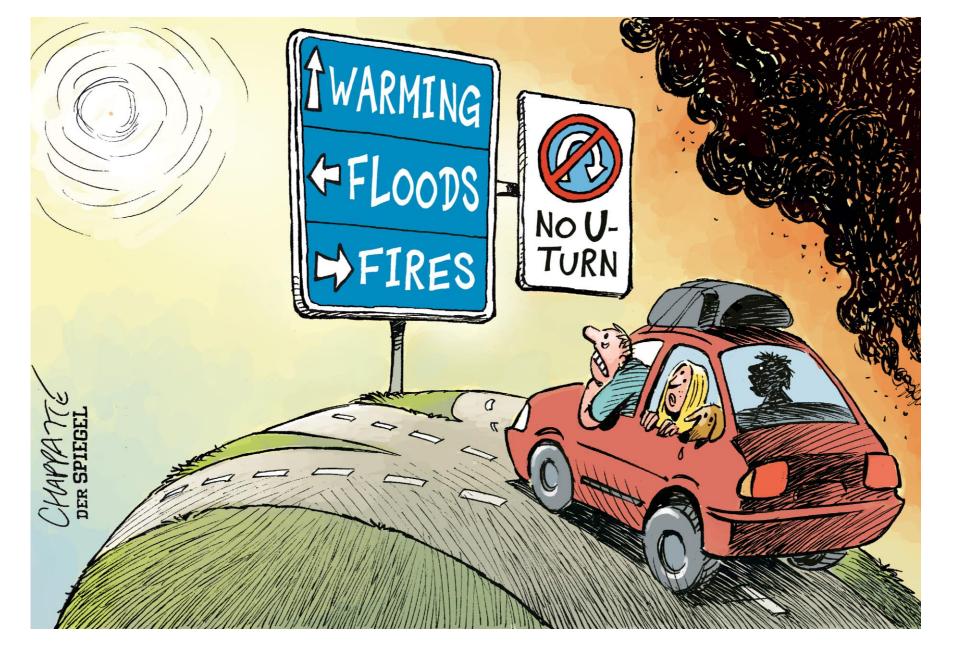


Planetary boundaries 7/9

We are here

Planetary Boundary High-Risk





© Chappatte in Der Spiegel, Germany

# THE ROLE OF HEI

## Paris Communiqué 2018

"We commit to developing the role of higher education in securing a sustainable future for our planet and our societies and to finding ways in which we, as EHEA Ministers, can contribute to meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at global, European and national levels."









#### **Main levers of HEI**

- Research and innovation: inter and trans- disciplinarity, impact, focus on users, RRI, ...
- Education and students: curriculum reform, interdisciplinarity, transformative learning, up- and reskilling, student engagement, ...
- Staff and operations: commitment to a common cause, staff training, strategies, ...
- Public engagement and societal impact: KTT, civic role and engagement, scientific literacy, citizen science, ...





## **EQA** is an important lever

- A powerful policy tool
- A common framework
- A shared understanding of what quality means and should be
- A driver for institutional development
- A tool for quality enhancement

- ...



## The Swiss example

"The higher education institution shall give consideration to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development in the completion of its tasks. The quality assurance system shall ensure that the higher education institution sets objectives in this area and also implements them."



#### What IQA and EQA could / should do

- Helping HEI project themselves into possible, desirable futures and align strategies and actions to this vision
- Focusing on the academic mission, main lever for sustainability
- Supporting a systemic and global approach to sustainability
- Promoting sustainability literacy
- Helping open the debate and dare questioning the role of HEI and science
- Helping HEI meet the stakes and face their responsibilities



## Concretely, that means...

#### EQA:

- Introducing quality standard(s) on sustainability in EQA frameworks
- Positioning the quality standard(s) at the right level and with the right wording
- Training the experts

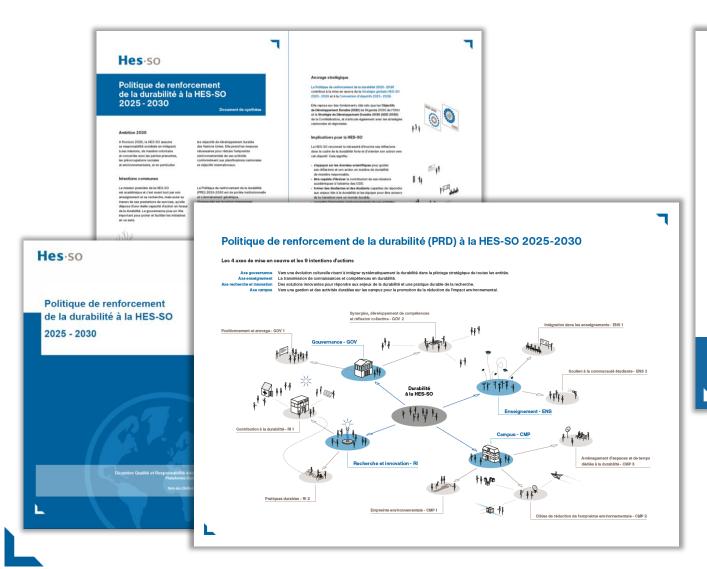
#### IQA:

- Supporting HEI in developing a vision for a possible / desirable future and the strategies to achieve it
- Developing the tools and instruments to support long term development in favour of a more sustainable world, with a focus on the academic missions
- Developing evaluation tools to monitor the progress made and the needs for change (PDCA)





## Sustainability strategy 2025-2030



#### **Hes**·so

#### La durabilité à la HES-SO

Selon la politique de renforcement de la durabilité (PRD) à la HES-SO 2025 - 2030

#### Stabilité à long terme

Fonctionnement des sociétés humaines

Environnement naturel

Épanouissement humain au travers des générations

#### Visée «Durabilité forte»

Approche soutenable et équilibrée des activités humaines :

- respect des limites planétaires, des ressources naturelles et des besoins vitaux et sociaux pour une vie digne
- équité dans toutes ses dimensions et non substituabilité du capital naturel (environnemental) par du capital artificiel (économique et/ou social)

La HES-SO reconnait la nécessité d'inscrire ses réflexions dans le cadre de la durabilité forte. Dans sa politique de renforcement de la durabilité, l'objectif est clair et la vision ambitieuse. Les actions à mener sont toutefois réalistes et atteignables.



Dicastère Qualité et responsabilité sociétale

#### **Hes**·so

Pour la HES-SO, ses six domaines et sa communauté, orienter son action vers un objectif de durabilité forte signifie :

- nous nous appuyons sur les données scientifiques pour guider ses réflexions et son action de manière concrète et responsable
- nous sommes capable d'évaluer la contribution de ses missions académiques à l'atteinte des ODD de l'ONU
- nous formons des étudiantes et des étudiants capables de répondre dans leur pratique professionnelle aux enjeux liés à la durabilité et les équiper efficacement pour être actrices et acteurs de la transition vers un monde durable
- nous mesurons l'empreinte environnementale de nos activités afin de prendre des décisions d'évolution responsables.

La Politique de renforcement de la durabilité à la HES-SO 2025 – 2030 en ligne





Dicastère Qualité et responsabilité sociétale Plateforme durabilité

> hes-so.ch/durabilite durabilite@hes-so.ch



## Former pour transformer

- → Bottom-up approach
- In existing courses
- Teacher training and coaching
- Building a core set of knowledge
- Making connections between disciplines / major transition issues (global/local)
- Defining priority projects / themes
- Questioning one's role (position)
- Identifying key sustainability skills and how to integrate them into one's courses



- → Top-down approach
- At study program level
- Create a sustainability vision for the program
- What representations of possibles futures?
- Contribution to what future today?
- Future you really want?
- Changes to make today to contribute to the desired future
- Evolution of the competencies framework of the program





#### **Tools and services**



Guides to support the integration of sustainability in teaching



Trainings and workshops



Compass for diagnosis



Trainings for using the guides



Support from a pool of expert coaches



Advice on where the study program stands



Competencies framework for sustainability



Shared resources



Flash Learn (mini-moocs)



Group workshops (vision, foresight, priorisation)



Community of practice



Financial support to free up hours



#### Sources

https://www.planetaryhealthcheck.org/

https://www.chappatte.com/en

https://ehea.info/Upload/document/ministerial\_declarations/EHEAParis2018\_Communique\_final\_95\_2771.pdf

https://www.eua.eu/publications/positions/universities-without-walls-eua-s-vision-for-europe-s-universities-in-2030.html

https://www.eua.eu/downloads/publications/eua%20green%20deal%20roadmap.pdf

https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/2015/362/en

https://www.oekom.de/ files media/titel/leseproben/9783987261688.pdf

https://www.eua.eu/our-work/expert-voices/can-you-really-assess-a-universitys-commitment-to-sustainability.html

https://www.hes-so.ch/la-hes-so/durabilite/former-pour-transformer





# Hes·so