

The Potential and Limits of Service-Learning to meeting the Goals of Education for Sustainable Development – The case of the “Sustainability Challenge” Service-Learning with Companies

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ABSTRACT

This thesis seeks to ascertain whether companies participating in Service-learning (SL) programs experience a learning effect that meets the goals of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), as determined by UNESCO. As research in this field is still sparse, a series of expert interviews was conducted to determine whether SL within companies has the potential to meet the goals of ESD. In addition, the research sought to identify a method capable of detecting the effect – if any – SL has on companies. A case study was undertaken to evaluate the potential and limitations of SL within companies. The result clearly indicates that SL has an effect on companies, but it is one that is dependent on the company's size, its orientation towards sustainability, and the position of the SL-partner within the company in terms of power to bring about changes. The thesis concludes with recommendations on how SL could be better implemented within companies to meet the goals of ESD.