The overall goal of this project is faculty competence development for sustainable development. By taking on a holistic, interdisciplinary approach, the aim is to:

(i) specify, provide and implement sustainable development key competences that are transferrable across curricula and programs at the University of St.Gallen;
(ii) develop and implement innovative teaching and learning models for learning and teaching of sustainable development, focusing not only on the development of interdisciplinary courses, but also addressing innovation barriers through teacher learning and motivation (e.g. providing support structures for the competence development of faculty); and
(iii) implement interfaculty and community collaboration initiatives in order to anchor sustainable development at the university.

Figure 1: Goals of the Project “ESD Toolkit for Faculty”

The focus of the project will be on the interplay between formal and informal learning since many empirical findings confirm that the combination of formal and informal learning leads to effective competence development of teachers (Zwart, Wubbels, Bolhuis & Bergen, 2008). Formal learning activities aim to include the development of new interdisciplinary courses on the bachelor and masters levels. The certificate program for faculty members will also address and incorporate teaching for SD. On the other hand, informal elements will focus on collaboration, communication, sharing of good practice, development of innovative models for teaching of SD and “low-threshold” services. Therefore, the main approach will draw on change management expertise in order to overcome typical ESD innovation barriers.

Why is the digital toolkit a contribution for faculty development (see support options)?

The toolkit could be used as a “standalone” version (a learning portal) to support informal learning of faculty (patterns & portal to motivate lecturers to try out little steps). Furthermore, the toolkit could be used as an innovation tool in training and/ or coaching, consulting services.

The following graphic shows how the project “digital toolkit” can support the key areas for developing ESD competencies:
Sustainable Development Toolkit for Faculty

Access to the digital toolkit: http://sd-toolkit.hochschulentwicklung.ch/

Key Questions
- What is sustainability? Why relevant in HE?
- What are key competencies for my students?
- How to develop a learning environment?
- Which online resources can I draw on?

Support Options
- Unit Integration
  - Stand-alone: Self-guided Tour
  - Part of Qualification Programmes
- Course Re-Design
  - Seminars & Workshops
  - Individual
  - Action learning
- Programme Design
  - One-to-one coaching

Types of Online Resources
- Support aids for course design:
  - Guidelines
  - Templates, didactic tools
  - Visual aids
  - ...
- Good Practice Collection:
  - Content Resources
  - Design Resources
  - Footprint calculators
  - ...

Communication/Managing Change

How to use this site? Who contributes to this site? How can I contribute to this site?