Grant for Sustainability Research renewed

2018-06-28 Hanover/Lüneburg. 900,000 euros from the ‘Science for Sustainable Development’ funding programme of the Ministry of Science of Lower Saxony and the Volkswagen Foundation will go to the ‘Dilemmas of Sustainability’ joint project. Prof. Dr. Anna Henkel from the Institute of Sociology and Cultural Organisation at Leuphana University of Lüneburg is in charge of the project. Other project participants are the TU Braunschweig, the University of Oldenburg and the Institute for Social-Ecological Research Frankfurt/Main.

Prof. Dr. Anna Henkel

The three-year project deals with the sometimes very different definitions of sustainability, which organisations and funding bodies have developed over the past few years. Here, the interests pursued in each case play a decisive role: where, for example, one promoter pursues the preservation of the natural ecosystem, the other supports sustainable land use in agriculture. “We want to empirically investigate the use of the fashionable term sustainability and develop criteria that can be used to assess sustainability programmes and projects,” Professor Henkel describes the aim of the project.

32 projects had applied for funding. Nine applicants were selected to present their projects to an expert panel and the public in May. Four projects have now received funding. A total of 3.9 million euros was handed out.

Translated by Béatrice Goutfer

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