

PROJECT Laudato Si

„Discourse on the Papal Encyclical for a Great Transformation”

Event series, education and research project
by the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU)
and the Federation of German Scientists (VDW)



– Summary – as of February 28, 2019

Project start date: Dec. 2015; project end date: April 2021

Head of project: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch (Professor of Pedagogy, Faculty of Social Work, KU,
Chair of the VDW Advisory Board)

Project coordinators: Christian Meier (KU), Till Weyers (VDW, March 2016 - March 2019)

Project homepage: www.laudato-si-transformation.de

Project partners in specific areas:

- Important **cooperation partners** in events so far were:



- The Pope's appeal:**

- ❖ *"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all."* (LS, 14)
- ❖ *"It is essential to seek comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems."* (LS, 139)
- ❖ *"Dialogue among the various sciences is likewise needed, since each can tend to become enclosed in its own language, while specialisation leads to a certain isolation and the absolutisation of its own field of knowledge."* (LS, 201)

- Laudato Si' at the KU:**

"I will begin by briefly reviewing several aspects of the present ecological crisis, with the aim of drawing on the results of the best scientific research available today, letting them touch us deeply and provide a concrete foundation for the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows." (LS, 15)

This sentence from the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (LS) implicitly outlines the role that the KU can and must play in preserving creation and ensuring social justice. As a research location, it is dedicated to producing top-quality research findings. Furthermore, as a unique institution for higher education and research, it can and should combine these activities with ethical and spiritual reflection. It can play a role in ensuring that students and researchers allow themselves to be *"touched deeply"*. Then *"... science and religion, with their distinctive approaches to understanding reality, can enter into an intense dialogue fruitful for both."* (LS, 62)

■ The project's mission: Background – Content – Aims

With his encyclical *Laudato Si' – On Care for our Common Home* (Vatican City, June 18, 2015), Pope Francis has provided an incredibly useful resource that can be used as a basis to increase awareness of the issue of sustainability within the Catholic Church and in the wider world, allowing its vital spiritual and political significance to be re-evaluated. Science, politics, business, and society are called to lead the discussion, and to consider and develop new paths towards transformation.

The Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) and the Federation of German Scientists (VDW) have taken on this challenge. They have made it their mission to study, contextualise, and develop the targets set out in LS through a **series of academic events and a variety of other activities** as part of a **five-year project**. In doing so, the KU and the VDW aim to generate impetus for a 'great transformation' (see, for example, WBGU report 2011) towards sustainable development.

In this project, **major statements from** the encyclical are **discussed** in the context of the latest research findings. The topics that it addresses are **analysed**, debated, and made a part of a critical discourse in dialogue with experts from science, business, politics, the Church, and civil society organizations. The identified current global challenges are examined and possible solutions for a great transformation towards a more sustainable society are developed.

The KU/VDW project provides an **open and critical discussion forum and platforms for exchange**. The project team is monitoring and investigating the status and effects of the encyclical on the basis of scientific analysis. The studies being carried out as part of the project focus on interdisciplinary research into sustainability and transformation.

The project's **core formats** and **fields of action** are:

- (1) **Series of events** (congresses, conferences, symposiums), **public actions** and **transfer**
- (2) **Education** (transformative education/education for sustainable development)
- (3) **Research** (transformative science), documentation, publication

These will be achieved through:

- Dissemination of information, education
- Dialogue, discourse, connections, networking
- Increasing responsiveness, raising awareness, strengthening, stimulation
- Generation of research findings and knowledge of transformation
- Exchange within the KU/VDW, as well as with other regional and international civil society organizations (participation/'third mission')
- Multiplying, catalytic effect and contribution to more sustainable development – within the KU, in the town and the region, nationally and internationally

■ Core formats, fields of action, and outcomes

❖ Core formats / fields of action 1: **Series of academic events** (congresses, conferences, symposiums)

LS-project team as main organiser*,
Co-organiser or active participant

* Events marked with an asterisk were own events, where the LS-Team was the main organiser



Project launch on Dec. 7, 2015, with a public lecture on *"Climate Change. Creation in the Anthropocene"* by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hartmut Graßl (former director of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology and chairman of the VDW Board of Directors) at the KU's *Dies Academicus*

Event 1:

"The Encyclical LS and Science" – expert forum as part of the DBU's environmental week; participants included Auxiliary Bishop DDr. Anton Losinger, Prof. Dr. Konrad Raiser, Prof. Dr. Hartmut Graßl, Prof. Dr. Peter Henricke, and KU seminar groups

Berlin,
June 8,
2016



Eichstätt,
June 14,
2016

Event 2: *

"The Encyclical LS and Friedrich Schorlemmer" – 'A Letter from Wittenberg to Rome. Presentation and Discussion of F. Schorlemmer's New Book' – participants included F. Schorlemmer, Prof. Dr. Engelbert Groß, DDr. Oliver Putz, and Matthias Kiefer; preceded by a press conference

Event 3: *

"The Encyclical LS and World Food Supplies, Social Justice" – expert discussion with Dr. Beatrix Tappeser, Dr. Angelika Hilbeck, Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler, Lisa Amon

Eichstätt,
June 24,
2016



Event 4:

"The Encyclical LS as a Catalyst for Societal Transformation?" – International academic workshop

by IASS, PIK, KU, and VDW; participants incl. Prof. Dr. K. Töpfer, Prof. Dr. H.-J. Schellnhuber, Prof. Dr. H. Graßl, and Prof. Dr. M. Lawrence

Potsdam,
Sep. 12-14,
2016



Eichstätt,
Oct. 17,
2016



Event 5: *

"The Encyclical LS and Concrete Transformation through Bamboo Reforestation" – expert discussion and fundraising for bamboo saplings for the Philippines; participants incl. Bishop Valentin Cabbigat-Dimoc, Prof. Dr. E. Groß, and DDR. O. Putz

Event 6: *

"Business in the Service of Life? Economics as Theory and Practice of Eco-social Responsibility", academic symposium with public discussion evening (KU/WFI and Audi Konferenz Center)

Ingolstadt,
May 12,
2017



Prof. Dr. E. U. von Weizsäcker (co-president of the Club of Rome) as keynote speaker



Eichstätt,
May 16-17,
2017



Event 7: *

"Environmental Law under Pressure";

Sustainability symposium with BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e. V. and others; Prof. Dr. Hubert Weiger (BUND chairman) as keynote speaker; LS World Café

Event 8:

International Sustainability Transitions Conference

Dialogue Session (90 Min.) on the topic: *"Laudato Si' – A papal encyclical as driver for transformation towards sustainability?"* (Prof. Bartosch, C. Meier, T. Weyers as Convenors; Prof. Graßl, T. Sporer, DDR. O. Putz as presentation partner)

IST 2017

Gothenburg,
Sweden,
June 19-21,
2017



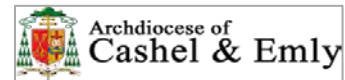
Event 9:

„Jenseits von morgen. 'Geschichten des Gelingens' – Motivierende Ideen aus Lateinamerika für eine enkeltaugliche Zukunft" – Presentation by George Krekeler (Expert on development, expert in Anden Region for AGEH / Misereor, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia) and talk about successful sustainability initiatives from the Anden region; 28 June 2017, **Eichstätt**; Laudato Si' project as co-organiser.

Event 10:

Laudato Si'
Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment:
Spreading the word

Laudato-Si' Conference "Spreading the word", Cloughjordan, Ireland, 18 November 2017. **Presentation** "Promoting Laudato Si' through the Federation of German Scientists and the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt" and participation in following discussion (speaker Till Weyers).



Event 11: *

"Reflections on the impulses of the encyclical letter LS" during the Günter-Altnier symposium

Eichstätt,
Jan. 15-16,
2018



Academic symposium and public lecture „Religion – Power – Hope“ by Prof. Dr. Konrad Raiser, Former General Secretary of the *World Council of Churches* (ÖRK, Geneva)

Event 12:

Involvement during **"Day of sustainability"**, 5 May 2018, **Ingolstadt**, WFI: LS Project leader Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch participated as discussant in discussion about "implementing global development goals on the ground". Other participants were DDr. Oliver Putz (IASS Potsdam), Dr. Rupert Ebner (environment officer of the municipality of Ingolstadt), Dr. Michael Holzner (head of iCONDU), and Julia Stanger (RENN.süd). Thomas Schwab (Project „Mensch IN Bewegung“, KU) moderated the discussion.



Event 13:

Socially critical music drama **"Oases of devastated children"** - initiative and text by Prof. Dr. em. Engelbert Groß, music by Steven Heelein / Hochschule für Kirchenmusik Bayreuth.

Participation of the Laudato Si'-Project of the KU and students of social work – premiere on 02.06.18, Church St. Johannes, Eichstätt.





Event 14:

Göttingen, November 24-25, 2018:

Conference "Education for Sustainable Development" at the Georg-August-University Göttingen (conference series "Science for Peace and Sustainability"):

The LS team brings the impulses of the encyclical to the conference:

- In his opening lecture, Prof. Bartosch addresses, among other things, the potential of the encyclical for "Education for Sustainable Development".
- A Laudato Si'-poster-exhibition contributed to the conference (the posters visualized conversations which KU students had led about core passages of the encyclical in the summer semester 2018).
- The KU students also investigated the role of the encyclical in their interviews with the speakers of the conference.



*Adam von Trott-Saal, University of Göttingen:
Students of the KU in action*

Poster actions of the Laudato Si' project on various occasions:

- * Willibalds-week of the diocese Eichstätt (8 July 2018)
- * At the University EI-IN / the staff of the Episcopal Ordinariate Eichstätt as guest at the KU within the scope of their Staff Day (10 July 2018)
- * Rebdorf / Parish Church (18 November 2018)
- * University of Göttingen / Sustainability Conference (24/25 Nov. 2018)
- * University EI-IN: Dies Academicus (18 November 2018)
- * Sustainability Week at KU (10-14 December 2018)



Students of the Faculty of Social Work exhibited 30 different posters with interviews on key passages of the encyclical Laudato Si' in different settings. The posters visualize the core contents of the interviews conducted by the students with selected people. The aim of the action was to bring sustainability impulses based on the encyclical into society through visualization, dialogue and invitations to comment.



With Bishop Hanke, EI



Event 15:

Sustainability Week of the KU (10-14 December 2018): LS poster exhibition and lecture & workshop on 11 December 2018: *"Transformation of society towards sustainability and the role of science - What does KU do? The project examples Laudato Si' and Mensch in Bewegung".*

In addition: Institutional dialogue also through the active participation of the Laudato Si'-project team, e.g. in:

- the "Sustainability Steering Group" of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-IN
- Network "fairEInt - Initiative nachhaltige Region Eichstätt" (Association of institutions and actors from citizenship, university, region, church, who work together for a more sustainable city and region of Eichstätt).

Through these, the impulses of Laudato Si' will be brought to bear.

Results of the events so far:

➤ Event listing:

- **6 events** were held at which the Laudato Si'-project team was the main organiser (academic event series)



- **9 further** academic, public events (conferences, congresses, etc.) at which the LS-project team was co-organiser or participant (as speaker, etc.)
- Between 50 and 200 people participated in each event

→ At least 2,000 participants were able to come into direct (and intensive) contact with the contents and impulses of Laudato Si' and sustainable development.

- **Contextualisation and discussion** of central sustainability topics of the encyclical at all events, so that the participants can become aware of the contents.
- **Sensitisation, awareness** raising among the participants of the events (transformative education; **potential multipliers**)
- **Networking** with around **50 institutions** from science, business, politics, religion, civil society (within the KU, the city, the region, nationally and internationally)
- ... and beyond: around 50 media reports (local, regional, national, international) on Pr. activities to date. The film documentation and transcription of the lectures, technical discussions, expert interviews, etc. and their publication on the homepage will increase the dissemination of the findings.

❖ Core formats / fields of action 2: Education

(transformative education, education for sustainable development)

→ **Seminar courses** by Prof. Bartosch and C. Meier at the KU on the main goals of Laudato Si' and the concept of the Great Transformation (since summer semester 2015); intensive discussion of the major current global challenges



→ **Students strongly motivated to participate:**

- Students participate in LS events, sometimes through field trips (they are prepared for the topics covered at the conferences and expert discussions by Prof. Bartosch and C. Meier)
- Students are actively involved in events as discussion participants, hosts, and presenters (e.g. at the World Café)
- Background discussions with the speakers at the LS events



Outcomes so far:

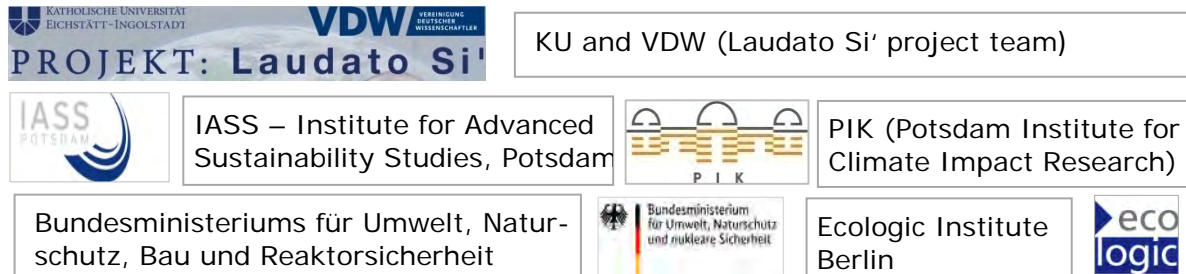
- A total of **around 500 B.A. and M.A. students** in social work participated in the courses in the past 6 semesters
- Challenges of sustainable development are discussed with regard to the students' future profession (social work)
- Increased **familiarity and awareness** among students so that they may act as **multipliers** in the future

❖ Core formats / fields of action 3: **Research**

(transformative science)



- (1) First research workshops (2016 and 2017, Berlin) on a planned **collaborative research project** involving KU, VDW, IASS, PIK, Ecologic Institute, and BMUB on “The Role of Religions(s) in Societal Transformation”



- (2) **Doctoral research** linked to the project on the role of change agents in societal transformation processes (at the KU; doctoral researcher Christian Meier) (started in March 2017)

(3) **Book chapter**

Bartosch, U., Meier, C. & Weyers, T. (2017): *“Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato Si’ as a Catalyst for Societal Transformation? Critical remarks and presentation of an inspired exemplary project as a driver for sustainability”*. In: Lehmann, H. (Hrsg.): *Factor X. Challenges, Implementation Strategies and Examples for a Sustainable Use of Natural Resources. Eco-Efficiency in Industry and Science*, Vol. 32. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, pp. 427–444.



- (4) **Expert interview series** on the reception, meaning and effect of Laudato Si' with Klaus Töpfer, Mary-Evelyn Tucker, Cardinal J. Ortega, Father Anselm Grün, Hartmut Graßl, Hubert Weiger and others (24 interviews so far, conducted in English, Spanish, German; recorded and available as video clips and transcribed text versions).
(Planned publication date of the print publication: Dec. 2019)

- (5) **Continuous documentation** of lectures, discussions, research findings, and outcomes of all events

- Through video recordings, which are processed to film clips (52 pcs., 800 min. ~ 13 hrs. so far, online at www.laudato-si-transformation.de)
- Transcription of all these video recordings of the conferences (scientific publication planned)
- Summary reports

as well as **publication** and **multiplication** of these products by the LS-project homepage and further media

- (6) Since March 2018: Involvement in the **research group “religiosity and theology in current transformation processes”** (within research area III of the to-be founded centre “religion, church and society in change” at the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. The aim is to bring together theological and religious questions from all faculties of the university)

Direction: Prof. Dr. Martin Kirschner (Heisenberg-Professor for “theology in current transformation processes”)

- (7) Review by the Laudato Si'-project team of the new major report of the Club of Rome "Wir sind dran"* (English version: "Come on") in the **sustainability journal GAIA** – Prof. Ulrich Bartosch explicitly refers to the ideas of the encyclical LS:
Bartosch, Ulrich: *Kritischer Verstand und spirituelle Vernunft*, in: *GAIA. Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society*, Nr. 4 / 2018, published by GAIA – Konstanz, St. Gallen, Zurich and oekom-Publisher Munich 2018, S. 387.
doi.org/10.145127/gaia.27.4.11

* von Weizsäcker, Ernst, Ulrich et al.: *Club of Rome: Der große Bericht: Wir sind dran. Was wir ändern müssen, wenn wir bleiben wollen. Eine neue Aufklärung für eine volle Welt*, Gütersloh 2017.

- (8) "Sustainability in Social Work - Saving the World without Social Work! What does the Pope have that we don't?", lecture by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch at the FBTS - Fachbereichstag Soziale Arbeit (18.-20 June 2018, Mönchengladbach).
In this article, Prof. Bartosch emphasizes the close relationships and intersections between the profession of social work and sustainability and repeatedly refers to the encyclical Laudato Si', which repeatedly underlines the importance of social sustainability as a basis for ecological and economic sustainability: No healing of the wounds of the earth without hearing the cries of the poor.

Outcomes so far:

- Creating scientific evidence about the potential of normative religious impulses, such as the encyclical letter Laudato Si', for a transformation towards more sustainability
- Networking in the (inter)national sustainability/transition research community
- Increased visibility of the KU and the VDW in academic discourse on sustainability/transition

❖ **Ad on: Special conference participations and meetings**



Participation in Laudato Si' Conference **"Radical Ecological Conversion After Laudato Si' – Discovering the Intrinsic Value of all Creatures"** at the der papal university Gregoriana in Rome, 7 and 8 March 2018;



Organiser: German, Dutch and Georgian embassies to the Holy See. Exchange with Cardinal Peter Turkson (Head of the „Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development“) about the LS project activities



Rome, Vatican City, 5 and 6 July 2018: International Conference "Laudato Si' – Saving Our Common Home and The Future Of Life On Earth" (Organized by: Vatican, "Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development"). By invitation of the Vatican, the Laudato Si'-Project Team of the KU and VDW participates in the conference for the third anniversary of the publication of the encyclical letter; conference structure: "See – Judge – Act" and *lines of action* are defined: How to start a mass movement for the protection of "our common home", concrete activities and initiatives for the salvation of our earth are presented and discussed. The conference is intended to initiate and strengthen very concrete steps towards greater sustainability and climate protection.



Meeting with Pope Francis, the project team can present him with a report.



■ **Opinions** on the encyclical from the KU/VDW events and interviews



"It is fantastic! [...] To anyone who sees it [the encyclical]: [...] Hurry up and read it and make it a real issue in our society!" "I hope the Catholic Church will consider it in even more depth and spread the message to the public." (Prof. Dr. **Klaus Töpfer**, June 8, 2016)

"The pope has done something sensational with the encyclical Laudato Si': The Church is directly taking in the current state of scientific knowledge and reinforcing it." (Prof. Dr. **Hartmut Graßl**, June 8, 2016)



"What is said and how it is said is nothing new. But a pope saying it – that is sensational!" (Prof. Dr. **Peter Hennicke**, June 8, 2016)

"Laudato Si' provides the ideal basis for further work at the KU. It gives momentum to the many activities and initiatives at the University. In addition, the series of events as part of the Laudato Si' project has brought together various stakeholders from the University and from Eichstätt and the surrounding area and provided them with networking opportunities."

(Prof. Dr. **Ingrid Hemmer**, KU sustainable development coordinator, at the LS symposium on May 17, 2017)



- Some **impressions** of the KU/VDW-Laudato Si' events





KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
EICHSTÄTT-INGOLSTADT



VEREINIGUNG
DEUTSCHER
WISSENSCHAFTLER

Projekt: LAUDATO SI'

Die päpstliche Enzyklika im Diskurs für eine
GROSSE TRANSFORMATION

Ein Brief aus Wittenberg nach Rom

Dienstag, 14. Juni 2016, 19.00 Uhr

Priesterseminar, Leonrodplatz 3, Eichstätt

Mitwirkung

Prof. Dr. Gernot Müller,
Vizepräsident der Katholischen Universität
Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, (KU)
Prof. Dr. Stefan Schieren,
Dekan der Fakultät für Soziale Arbeit, KU,
Gerhard Rott,
Vorsitzender des Förderkreises der
Fakultät für Soziale Arbeit,
Prof. Dr. Max Ringlstetter,
Dekan der Wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen
Fakultät Ingolstadt, KU
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, KU / VDW e.V.

anschließend kleiner Empfang

FRIEDRICH
SCHORLEMMER

Unsere Erde
ist zu retten

Haltungen,
die wir jetzt
brauchen

HERDER



Der Friedenspreisträger und Bürgerrechtler in der
Diskussion mit
Prof. em. Dr. Engelbert Groß, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
Dr. Dr. Oliver Putz, IASS Potsdam

Buchvorstellung durch
Mattias Kiefer, Sprecher der Arbeitsgemeinschaft der
Umweltbeauftragten der (Erz)Diözesen Deutschlands

Projekt Laudato Si' (KU / VDW),
Leitung: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, Fakultät für Soziale Arbeit
Projektreferenten: Christian Meier (KU), Till Weyers (VDW)

In Kooperation mit:



Unterstützt von:

Förderkreise der
Fakultät für Soziale Arbeit e.V.



Veranstaltungsreihe

08. Juni 2016

Berlin, Schloss Bellevue

Diskussion / Fachforum im Rahmen der

DBU-Woche der Umwelt

mit Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hartmut Graßl
Dr. des. Aurélie Halsband
Prof. Dr. Peter Hennicke
Weihbischof Dr. Dr. Anton Losinger
Dr. des. Melanie Müller
Prof. Dr. Konrad Raiser

14. Juni 2016

Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Buchvorstellung von

Dr. h.c. Friedrich Schorlemmer

„Unsere Erde ist zu retten“

mit Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch
Prof. em. Dr. Engelbert Groß
Mattias Kiefer
Prof. Dr. Gernot Müller
Dr. Dr. Oliver Putz
Prof. Dr. Max Ringlstetter
Gerhard Rott
Prof. Dr. Stefan Schieren

24. Juni 2016

Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

„Welternährung“

mit Lisa Amon (angefragt)
Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hemmer
Dr. Angelika Hilbeck
Wiltrud Rösch-Metzler
Prof. Dr. Renate Oxenknecht-Witzsch
Dr. Beatrix Tappeser

12.-14. September 2016

Potsdam, IASS

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies
Internationaler Workshop

24./25. November 2016

Ingolstadt, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Prof. Dr. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker
Co-Präsident des Club of Rome

* In Kooperation mit

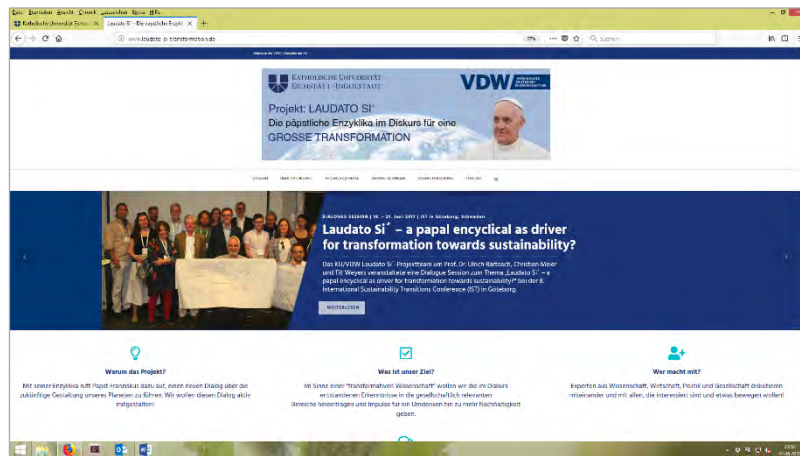


** In Kooperation mit



- Want to know more?

... Visit us on our **project website**:
www.laudato-si-transformation.de



Here you can find: ...



... videos of our **interviews with experts** about the reception, relevance and impact of the encyclical

... **speeches and presentations** of the speakers at our conferences



... videos of the **presentations and discussions** of the LS conferences as well as short impression films



... **detailed reports** of the project team about content and results of the **conferences** we have participated in

... further material and information about the LS events

... **further impressions** from the LS events

Contact – the *Laudato Si'*-project team of the KU/VDW:

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch

(head of project; KU and VDW)

Ulrich.Bartosch@ku.de

Christian Meier

(Project coordinator KU)

Christian.Meier@ku.de

Till Weyers

(Project coordinator VDW)

till.weyers@vdw-ev.de

Postal addresses

Kathol. Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Fakultät für Soziale Arbeit

Kapuzinergasse 2

85072 Eichstätt

**Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler
(VDW e.V.)**

Marienstr. 19/20

10117 Berlin

Report written by C. Meier and edited
and translated by T. Weyers, 28.02.2019