

# 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 October 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), Mara Petermann (VDW)

**Project homepage: [www.laudato-si-transformation.de](http://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 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, Dr. Dr. O. Putz as presentation partner).

**IST 2017**

**Gothenburg,**  
**Sweden,**  
June 19-21,  
2017



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**Event 9:**

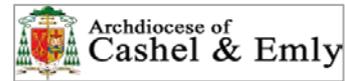
*„Jenseits von morgen. 'Geschichten des Gelingens' – Motivierende Ideen aus Lateinamerika für eine enkeltaugliche Zukunft“* – Presentation by George Krekeler (Expert on development, expert in Anden Region for AGEH / Misereor, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia) and talk about successful sustainability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

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**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-Altner 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)

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**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.

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**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.

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**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"*.

**Event 16:**

Laudato Si' project coordinator Christian Meier held the public workshop **"How to change the world"** as part of the **"Long Night of Business and Science"** (24.05.19) in Ingolstadt (WFI) and Eichstätt (KU, Am Anger).



The workshop focused on factors and actors of change.

The participants also discussed which role the impulses of religious origin and normative character such as the encyclical Laudato Si' can play in all that. In addition, numerous examples of successful change were presented, as well as fields of action and commitment to contribute regionally or globally.

**Event 17: \***

Workshop **"Integral Ecology as Normative Orientation and Scientific Programme?"** in cooperation with the *World Church Department* of the Diocese of Eichstätt (Eichstätt, 05.06.19, Marquardus Hall in the Episcopal Ordinariate)

The workshop focused on "Integral Ecology" as one of the core concepts of the encyclical letter Laudato Si' of Pope Francis. He means a holistic approach that calls for *"openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology and take us to the heart of what it is to be human."*



Starting from the encyclical and connected by a growing network coordinated by the Vatican *"Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development"*, various centres for Integral Ecology are emerging in different academic places around the world. Dr. Dr. Oliver Putz, Affiliate Scholar at IASS in Potsdam, exemplified this on the basis of *St. Clara University* in California and the *"Laudato Si' Research Institute"* of the Jesuits at Oxford University. Putz emphasized that the church's obligation to seriously reflect the topics of the encyclical is made evident,



because *Laudato Si'* relies strongly on Catholic social doctrine. The encyclical's view of the world and of humankind and its integral ecology should "shape the ethical commitment and self-conception of universities".

LS project coordinator Christian Meier presented the "*Joint Diploma in Ecologia Integrale a partire dalla Laudato Si'*", a certificate study programme on Integral Ecology at the Pontifical Universities in Rome. The project of a "Laudato Si'-Alliance" of the *European Bishops' Conference COMECE* was presented by Michael Kuhn, Senior Advisor in charge of Ecology & Sustainability and Education, Culture and Youth policy at COMECE.

Prof. Dr. Stefan Bauberger SJ from the Munich School of Philosophy outlined considerations on the dialogue between natural science and theology.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, head of the LS project of the KU/VDW, clarified the links between the current report of the Club of Rome "Wir sind dran" and the encyclical. This report proves to be a document of a post-secular age, which makes the strengths of religious, spiritual world perception on the basis of an enlightened, scientific world view fruitful for self-critical reflection.

On the basis of these inputs the workshop participants then used several discussion rounds to exchange ideas on possible perspectives and implications for teaching and research at the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt that could result from the concept of Integral Ecology. The previous institutional process of the KU on the way to more sustainability was also reflected.



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### Event 18:

**Brussels, 12.06.19:**

Second **Laudato Si'-Reflection Day**: Workshop on topics of the papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*

Organiser: **COMECE** – The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union



The event focused on projects for the practical implementation of sustainable policy and social commitment. About 50 participants from different European countries exchanged their experiences, among them head of the KU/VDW *Laudato Si'* project Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch. Archbishop Jean-Claude Hollerich, President of COMECE, gave the introductory lecture. This was followed by examples of good practice in ecclesiastical economic work from France and Italy as well as spiritual-sustainable livelihoods in Portugal. Professor Bartosch established connections between sustainable university education in a holistic sense and the encyclical from the perspective of the KU/VDW *Laudato Si'* project.

The report by Stefania Prioretti, Mayor of Assisi, who uses the encyclical as an explicit guiding document for sustainable municipal policy-making, illustrated the actual and successful possibilities of concrete redirection.

Stefan Lunte, Secretary General of *Justitia et Pax Europe*, and COMECE Senior Advisor Michael Kuhn outlined the project of a "European *Laudato Si'* Alliance", which aims at strengthening the joint work for a sustainable Europe.



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### Event 19:

**Berlin, 25.06.19:**

Start of the "**Action Days for Enlightenment 2.0**"

as part of the symposium "Come on! Inspire – Reflect – Act" on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker (Organizer: VDW, German Club of Rome, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy)

In workshops at this symposium, sustainable development approaches were dovetailed, and new narratives worked on. The symposium also served as a prelude to the "Action Days for Enlightenment 2.0 with Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker": four universities – among them the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) – took up the motto of the symposium "Come on!" and announced a new series of events for 2020 – action days during which the universities and their students will work on sustainable solutions.

This will implement a concept developed last year under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, chairman of the VDW scientific advisory board. *"We want to revive our universities as a space for joint thinking about the future for students and lecturers. This includes a critical reflection on the possibilities and responsibilities of science."*

"Wir sind dran" is also the German title (English title: "Come on!") of the **current report of the Club of Rome**, published in 2017 inter alia by Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, then co-president of the *Club of Rome*. This report follows on from the thoughts of *Laudato Si'*. It recognizes in Pope Francis a prominent ally in the spirit of the "new Enlightenment" who



Picture credit:  
Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker



attacks "the usual short-term economic logic."

"It might be wise to listen to the spiritual and religious dimensions of all civilizations", which foresee a containment of utilitarian patterns of action, summarizes the *Club of Rome*.

This report proves to be a document of a post-secular age, which makes the strengths of religious, spiritual world perception on the basis of an enlightened, scientific world view fruitful for self-critical reflection, says Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, head of the *Laudato Si'* project.

The "Action Day for Enlightenment 2.0" at the KU thus offers the opportunity to take a closer look at the connections between the ideas of a "new Enlightenment" and the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and to make them usable.

**Event 20: \***

Eichstätt, KU, 02.07.19:

At the invitation of the *Laudato Si'* project team and the "sustainability team of the KU" (led by Prof. Dr. Ingrid Hemmer), the scientist, entrepreneur and activist Dr. J. Daniel Dahm presented his new book: "**Benchmark Nachhaltigkeit: Sustainability Zeroline. Das Maß für eine zukunftsfähige Ökonomie**" (publisher: transcript Verlag, Bielefeld 2019).



Subsequently, Dahm discussed with students from the KU's social work studies, which had dealt with the topics of sustainability and the encyclical *Laudato Si'* in advance.

**Event 21:**

Eichstätt, KU, 08.07.19:

Closing event of the **research workshop "Sustainability in stationary youth welfare"** at the KU with poster exhibition.



In the joint research workshop of students of the Faculty of Social Work of the KU in cooperation with the *Caritas Children's Village Marienstein*, a pilot project of the *Bavarian Competence Centre for Home Economics* on "Sustainability at Home" was conducted and evaluated under the direction of Prof.

Dr. Renate Oxenknecht-Witzsch and Anita Maile-Pflughaupt. The *Laudato Si'* project acted as cooperation partner. LS project leader Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch gave a lecture on "Sustainability in Social Work" and also dealt with the encyclical.

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Event 22:

Public lecture and panel discussion during the  
11<sup>th</sup> Hamburg Climate Week on 25.09.19:

**hkn** 22-29 Sept 2019  
11. Hamburger Klimawoche



(c) Hamburger Klimawoche

The Laudato Si' project partner VDW and KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt hosted the public discussion forum "**Shaping a future worth living together – humans in harmony with nature and society**" in the Globus tent on the Hamburg town hall market. Prof. Dr. Hartmut Graßl (climate researcher, VDW chairman), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch (KU, LS project leader, chairman of the scientific advisory board of the VDW), Dr. Maria Reinisch (managing director of the VDW) spoke and discussed the urgent questions of our time on climate, environment, agriculture and society from a transdisciplinary perspective. In the spirit of the encyclical "Laudato Si" and the Laudato Si' project of the KU / VDW, solutions for systemically meaningful change

processes were discussed which benefit humans, nature, animals and the environment.

Some questions included:

- How do ecological and social interests interact in climate and environmental protection?
- How can impulses for a rethinking in politics, economy and society towards more sustainability be given?



(c) Marius Röer / Hamburger Klimawoche

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

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

Through these, the impulses of Laudato Si' will be further disseminated.

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## Results of the events so far:

- Event listing: **in total: 22 events.**
  - **8 events** were held at which the Laudato Si'-project team was the main organiser (academic event series)



- **14 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 2,200 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:**

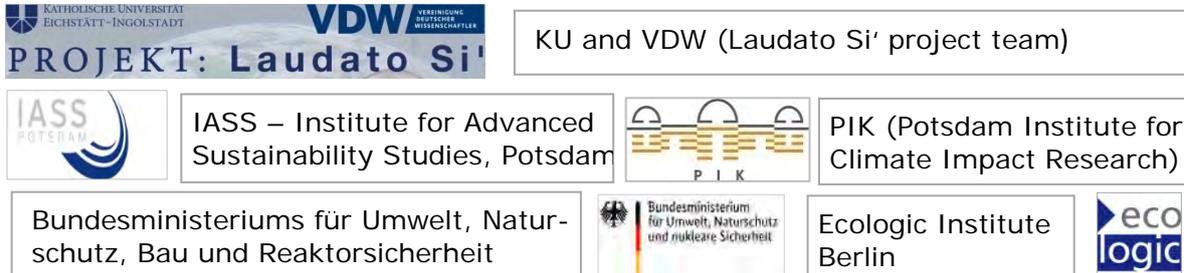
- A total of **around 500 B.A. and M.A. students** in social work participated in the courses in the past 6 semesters
- Challenges of sustainable development are discussed with regard to the students' future profession (social work)
- Increased **familiarity and awareness** among students so that they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





**Rom, Vatican City, 07.-09.03.19: International Conference:  
„Religions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):  
Listening to the cry of the earth and of the poor“**

Organized by:  
“Dicastery for Promoting  
Integral Human Development”



**DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING  
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

and

“Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue”



**“What contribution can religions make to a change towards more sustainability in the social, economic and ecological spheres?”**

To address this issue, representatives of world religions, development experts, UN representatives and other representatives of international organisations from science, business and politics as well as representatives of indigenous groups gathered for a three-day conference in the Vatican. The Laudato Si' project team of the KU / VDW took part in the



conference at the invitation of the Vatican.



The expertise of the religious representatives contributed to a holistic understanding of development. The interreligious commitment for an inclusive and sustainable future was strengthened, among other things through agreements on concrete project partnerships and cooperation by the present religious representatives and NGOs.

**Audience** for the conference participants with **Pope Francis** in the *Sala Regia*:

In his address, the Pope praised the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a great step towards a global dialogue that marked a vital "new and universal solidarity". The conference highlighted the intention of the Catholic Church and other religions to participate as intensively as possible in the implementation of the 17 SDGs. In this transition no branch of knowledge and no form of wisdom should be ignored, and this includes the religions in particular.



LS project leader Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch summed up:  
*“Scientific rationality and spiritual reason must stand together against the threatening dangers of the destruction of nature.”*

In many discussions, the LS project team of the KU/VDW exchanged ideas with civil society organisations and representatives of the Vatican – in the picture with Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the “Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development”, in particular regarding SDG n° 4 “high-quality education”.

- **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 Henicke**, 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 Henricke  
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



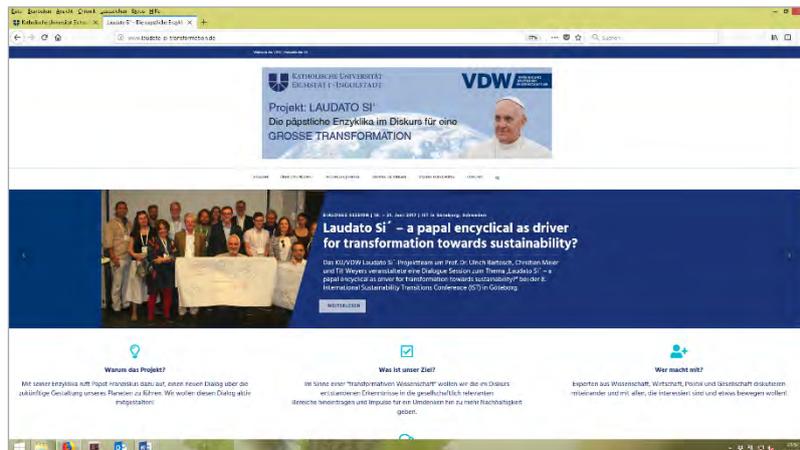
\*\* In Kooperation mit



Poster for LS event with F. Schorlemmer on 14.06.2016 (designed by Michael Schieder, KU)

Want to know more?

... Visit us on our **project website:**  
[www.laudato-si-transformation.de](http://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 –**

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*Report written by C. Meier and edited and translated by T. Weyers, October 2019*