



BLUE COMMUNITY – BLUE UNIVERSITIES

at zuerich@bluecommunity.ch



Minutes of the 1st international exchange among Blue Universities, October 23, 2023

Participants: see separate List with participants, including contact information (Mail)

Venue: by Zoom (video conference, recorded for internal use only)

Invitation and Moderation: Roland Brunner, Blue Community Zurich/Switzerland

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction by Maude Barlow

Maude welcomes all participants and provides the framework for this exchange, looking back into the history of the Blue Community and the involvement of universities. She sees the network of Blue Communities permanently getting larger and deeper, expressing her hopes for the cooperation among universities.

2. Blue Clusters: The network of Blue Universities

Roland Brunner briefly explains the structure of the Blue Community in Switzerland. From the first three affiliates ten years ago, the network has grown to 45 affiliates, including several high schools and universities. To stimulate and strengthen the exchange among this growing number of Blue Communities, the affiliates are structured into Chapters (regional) and Clusters (by type of organization). [Information you may find here](#).

Beginning of September, a first exchange happened among the Swiss Blue Universities, organized by the HSG, the University of St. Gallen. To reach out to Blue Universities beyond Switzerland, the first international exchange was organized, happening now on October 23, 2023. [Information on the Blue Community Cluster “Blue Universities” you may find here](#).

3. Tour de Table: Short introduction/presentation of the participating Blue Universities and representatives, ongoing projects related to SDG 6 + links for potential collaboration.

Roland gives the floor to the participating universities and their representatives in the following order (for content see further down):

- [Universidade Federal de Lavras](#), Brasil, (re)presented by Ana Elis Moraes de Almeida
- [Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná](#), Brasil, (re)presented by Elias Wolff
- [Toronto: Victoria University at the University of Toronto](#), Canada. Unfortunately, Vikas Metha had to leave already due to an urgent meeting. Maude provides information.



- [University of St. Michael's College, in the University of Toronto](#), Canada, (re)presented by Greg Rupik
- [Brescia University College, London, Ontario](#), Canada, (re)presented by Maude Barlow
- [McGill University, Montréal/Québec](#), Canada, presented by Francois Miller
- [Universidad de Leon](#), Spain, (re)presented by Rebeca Martinez
- [Université Bleu project](#), France, (re)presented by Vanessa Charlotte
- [Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH](#) in Zurich, Switzerland (not a Blue Community yet), (re)presented by Elizabeth Tilley
- [University of Zurich](#) UZH, Switzerland, (re)presented by Linde Warland and Solenn LeGoff
- [University of St. Gallen](#), Switzerland, (re)presented by Julian Boemelburg
- [Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences](#), Switzerland, (re)presented by André Podleisek and Dorothee Spuhler
- [University of Bern](#), Switzerland (the first university to become a Blue Community worldwide in September 2013), (re)presented by Martin Zabe-Kühn and Andreas Kläy

All representatives were asked to send their presentations and information to make it available online. To facilitate the access, we opened a [OneDrive-Folder](#) and published the received information there. You all have rights to read, download, but also to add further documents there. We kindly invite you to do so.

Unfortunately, Uwe Feldbusch for the [Philipps-Universität in Marburg](#), Germany, had to cancel his participation last minute due to health reasons. However, some information is also provided and available.

Two Swiss Blue Universities could not take part in this first international exchange:

- [St. Gallen University of Teacher Education](#) (affiliate since September 2016) --> [Information under Sustainable University](#)
- [University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons](#) (affiliate since July 2018) --> [Information under Sustainability](#)

4. International networking/collaboration: Our future exchange

Roland tries to pick up main points from the presentations and the issues raised:

1. There are two levels of involvement and of possible exchange among Blue Universities:
 - a. The institutional level: How does the university apply and implement the core principles of the Blue Community (tap water etc.). Lessons learned, best practices, failures. To feed this topic, a [web folder](#) is made available, and all are kindly asked to feed it and/or to send relevant information to Roland.
 - b. The level of projects, research, teaching: as water is such a basic topic and at the same time such an essential issue, many faculties and departments may in one way, or another do work on water issues. From history to economics, from natural sciences to philosophy... water may be present everywhere. But often on the institutional level, the university does not know about all this water in their mill. A survey within each university may bring a better understanding and insight.



Roland will provide some basic questionnaire for such a survey. The results could then be shared in form of a database to connect universities also on this level.

2. A next exchange among Blue Universities – with hopefully new affiliates and additional representatives – shall happen next spring, some time in April. Roland will reach out to you to find a date and time.

The present representatives of Blue Universities approve these next steps.

Francois Miller suggests for one of the next meetings to talk about) challenges, difficulties, struggles, lessons learned.

Maude Barlow is closing the first exchange among Blue Universities with encouragement to all of us. Hope is Action and Action is Hope.

For these minutes: Sarina Bucher und Roland Brunner, Blue Community Switzerland

FOLLOW UP / TO DO LIST

All Blue Universities are asked to provide information about their activities related to their affiliation to the Blue Community / Blue University network. No deadline.

[Here again the Link to the web folder, organized alphabetically by country and then by Blue University.](#)

Survey / Questionnaire on water related projects/research/teaching. Draft to be done by Roland by November 2023. Respond hopefully by April 2024 for the next exchange.

Find date and time for a next exchange in April 2024. Roland by beginning of 2024.