



Örebro University School of Business

Sharing Information on Progress Report 2018

PRME Principles for Responsible
Management Education

an initiative of the United Nations Global Compact





A Word from the Head of School – Our Commitment to PRME



As Head of Örebro University School of Business I am proud to present our first Sharing Information on Progress Report.

Örebro University School of Business, as part of Örebro University, is committed to being an active and responsible player in its work with Agenda 2030 and the Global Goals. As a leading knowledge provider, Örebro University School of Business intends to be an engine in work for sustainable development through education, research and constant improvement of its operations. The whole school dedicates itself to these aims in the *Policy for Sustainable Development*. This process began long before our membership in PRME. Since Örebro University School of Business joined PRME in December 2016, we have striven to live up to these aims more than ever.

Working to integrate all three dimensions of sustainable development in our operations, we aim to include and bring together environment, equal opportunity, and work and study environment under the same umbrella in our sustainable development efforts.

Örebro University School of Business has worked hard to implement sustainable development and the Principles for Responsible Management Education in these areas. We have long been dedicated to equal opportunity, which includes welcoming students from all different backgrounds. We have a high number of female students, lecturers and researchers and take pride in our achievements in this area. We have a low energy consumption, which we are reducing even further, and we introduced more travel-free meetings. Sustainable development is integrated and discussed in many of our courses, from *Environmental Economics* to *Sustainable Supply Chain Management*. We encourage research that aims to tackle some of the challenges associated with questions of sustainable development and responsible leadership, and we have also integrated these aspects into our policies and strategies. We work every day on the achievement and maintenance of a diverse, equal and sustainable teaching, learning and research environment.

We are particularly proud of the launch of Sweden's first two-year Master's profile in Sustainable Business at our School this autumn. We have gathered our faculty's competence, experience and large network of partners to achieve this milestone in our work with sustainable development and responsible management education at Örebro University School of Business and are excited to follow its further development in the future.

Örebro University School of Business is well aware of its responsibility as a higher education provider, and supports PRME's approach of promoting sustainable development through the six principles. Through our engagement with PRME, we aim to strengthen our mission of *creating knowledge and educating future professionals to address the challenges of business and society*.

We look forward to continuing our work with PRME's six principles and are ready to tackle new challenges and deepen our engagement with PRME in the next two years!

Örebro, December 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Helin', written in a cursive style.

Sven Helin
Head of School
Örebro University School of Business

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About PRME

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative. It was officially launched in 2007 by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to advance the work with sustainable development in academic institutions worldwide, to promote collaboration between participating schools and to contribute to educating responsible future leaders.

As of 2018, PRME has more than 720 signatories, and the number is growing steadily. PRME acknowledges the particular role that higher education institutions play in shaping their students' attitudes and future leadership style and skills. Therefore, PRME aims at supporting higher education institutions – focusing particularly on business schools – in its mission of creating awareness for the Sustainable Development Goals and the work towards Agenda 2030.

PRME's vision is *to realise the Sustainable Development Goals through responsible management education*, and their mission is *to transform business and management education, and develop the responsible leaders of tomorrow*. To achieve these goals, PRME works through six principles, which are based on internationally-accepted values endorsed by UN Member States, and which provide a framework for engagement with the implementation of sustainable development for higher education institutions. Please see below for an overview of the principles as formulated by PRME.

PRME at ORUSB

Örebro University School of Business (ORUSB) is a business school with a particular scope. It offers teaching and research in Business Administration, Economics and Statistics as well as Informatics, a combination that is not so common. ORUSB has therefore adopted the term 'Responsible Management Education' and the six principles to this particular situation and the four subjects. Our understanding of how PRME and the SDGs are integrated into teaching, research and activities of all four subject areas is presented in this report.

Since ORUSB became a member of PRME, it has been actively engaged in different PRME activities and the PRME Chapter Nordic. ORUSB was for instance most recently present at the 5th PRME Chapter Meeting Nordic in September 2018 with four representatives. They proudly presented ORUSB's new two-year Master's profile in Sustainable Business to the Nordic partners, with whom we exchanged ideas and engagement in a number of different interesting PRME-related activities.

PRME's Six Principles

Principle 1: Purpose: We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Principle 2: Values: We will incorporate into our academic activities, curricula, and organisational practices the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

Principle 3: Method: We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

Principle 4: Research: We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

Principle 5: Partnership: We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

Principle 6: Dialogue: We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

We understand that our own organisational practices should serve as example of the values and attitudes we convey to our students.

About Örebro University School of Business



Örebro University School of Business...

- Was founded in its current form in 1991
- Offers courses in four subject areas: Business Administration, Economics, Statistics and Informatics
- Has approximately 1900 students and 110 faculty and staff
- Forms part of Örebro University; one of the world's 450 top universities according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016–2018
- Has been a PRME member since December 2016
- Is active in the AACSB Responsible Management Education Affinity Group
- Offers Sweden's first two-year Master's profile in Sustainable Business, launched in 2018
- Emphasises research-based education and designs its programmes accordingly
- Keeps up strong partnerships and collaborations with regional and national partners, which benefit our students

Our Mission

Creating knowledge and educating future professionals to address the challenges of business and society.

This is characterised by:

- A scientific approach to knowledge creation
- A close interaction between faculty, students, business and society
- An open, collegial and sustainable environment

Principles 1 & 2: Purpose & Values

“We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.”

“We will incorporate into our activities, curricula, and organisational practices the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.”

Our Approach: Sustainability in All Activities

At Örebro University School of Business (ORUSB), as well as at Örebro University (ORU) as a whole, we have a long tradition of integrating sustainable development and corporate social responsibility in our activities. This work has further intensified in the past years: course curricula have been adjusted to integrate aspects of sustainable development; new programmes, such as the Master’s profile in Sustainable Business, have been launched; and sustainable development has increasingly found its way into research as well as organisational activities at ORU and ORUSB. Today, we are committed to work for sustainable development permeating all of our activities. In ORU’s *Policy for Sustainable Development*, the ambition to be an active and responsible player in the work with the United Nations’ sustainable development programme *Agenda 2030* is demonstrated. This includes efforts in education and research, the university’s decision-making, procurement and operations as well as its numerous partnerships and collaborations, locally and regionally, nationally and internationally.

Örebro University shall be an active and responsible player in the work with Agenda 2030 and the Global Goals to ensure sound living conditions for future generations, locally as well as globally.

As a leading knowledge provider, Örebro University therefore intends to be an engine in the work for sustainable development through education, research and constant improvement of its operations.

Örebro University Policy for Sustainable Development

How We Address the Challenges of Business and Society

Sustainable development at Örebro University is distinguished by engagement in the areas of environmental work, of equal opportunities as well as of a diverse and positive work and study environment. ORU and ORUSB continuously work towards achieving improvements in all of these areas. We at ORUSB firmly believe that it is our duty to impact our students as well as our surrounding society in the best possible way and according to our mission statement:

Creating knowledge and educating future professionals to address the challenges of business and society.

ORUSB aims at achieving this by

- *a scientific approach to knowledge creation,*
- *close interaction between faculty, students, business and society,*
- *creating and maintaining an open, collegial and sustainable environment.*

Creating knowledge implies research, knowledge creation in education and collaboration between business/society and education/research. The *Challenges* that ORUSB students face during their studies, but even more so in their future positions in the business world comprise issues within the field of sustainable development, such as how to provide ethical and sustainable working conditions to all employees or to ensure supply chains with regard to environmental considerations. *Business and society* include companies and non-profit organisations – governmental, NGO’s etc. – as well as the surrounding society, both local and global. Some of ORUSB’s collaborations with sustainability focus are presented in the Chapter on Principle 5. *Close Interaction* between business/society, education/research, and students/ faculty, as well as among students and faculty is promoted and emphasised within ORUSB and beyond.

Maintaining an *Open and Collegial Environment* refers to our informal, non-hierarchical and open-door policy between students, staff and faculty. It furthermore emphasises an environment where diversity is vital and encouraged. Faculty and staff are at all times encouraged to voice their opinions in order to impact decisions at ORU and ORUSB. Trust among all those involved in our operations is key to having a collegial environment. Working *Sustainably* to us means minimising the negative impact on our environment by raising awareness through our education and research; by making informed everyday choices; by creating a positive work environment through promoting a healthy balance between work and personal life and by helping establish sustainable business.

We aim at educating our students according to these values. Responsible Management Education, to us, means that we enable our students to become experts in their respective fields while encouraging them to develop professional integrity as well as an independent, responsible and ethical approach to research and leadership.

Working Together for a Sustainable Future

ORU has acknowledged the importance of integrating sustainable development, which is mirrored in university-wide efforts in this area. Next to the new Master's profile at ORUSB in Sustainable Business, a programme that has direct focus on sustainable development is the *Culinary Arts and Ecology Programme*, which is conducted in a multidisciplinary manner at the School of Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Meal Science and at the biology department at the School of Science and Technology. Furthermore, ORU offers a *Master's programme in Public Planning for Sustainable Development* at the School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences.

ORU has a Sustainable Development Coordinator, and ORU's efforts in the area of Sustainable Development in general and environmental considerations in particular are addressed in the *Action Plan for Sustainable Development 2017–2018*. From regular information events for employees and students, over systematic measurements and revisions of how sustainability is integrated in our operations, education, research

and partnerships, the action plan provides a path and plan to tackle the university's challenges in these areas. It also includes regular follow-ups and is regularly revised.

ORU has an Equality and Diversity Advisor, who closely collaborates with leading researchers in Gender Studies at ORU. ORU furthermore has several Disability Coordinators. ORU's efforts in the area of diversity, equality and gender equality are particularly addressed in the *Action Plan for Equality and Gender Equality*. ORU's Equality Council serves as a platform to exchange knowledge and experience, and jointly develop and maintain the tools and methods needed to fully integrate gender equality in education, research and other areas. ORU and ORUSB work towards a study and work environment free from discrimination, harassment and victimisation to achieve the goal of creating *an equal and gender equal place for study and work, where all students and employees are treated with respect, where no individual or group of people is excluded, and where discrimination and harassment are not tolerated (ORU Action Plan for Equality and Gender Equality)*.

As a public university, all education at ORU is free of charge for students from within Sweden and the EU/EES. This gives students an opportunity to earn a university degree regardless of financial resources, and leads to a diverse environment at the university in terms of economic, social and cultural backgrounds. Our students benefit from this diversity as they learn to see and address issues from different perspectives and views and broaden their horizons. Scholarship programmes are in place aimed at top academic students from outside the EU – regardless of their background. ORU has an *International Strategy Document 2015–2020* and an *Action Plan for Internationalisation 2017–2018*. They focus on quality-driven internationalisation in all areas, corresponding to our university's basic values of diversity, equality and global sustainable development. ORUSB contributes to this development by offering three international Master's programmes as well as by increasing international collaborations in research.

A PRME Project Group has been established at ORUSB, which monitors and measures our efforts, successes and challenges in all PRME-

related areas. It consists of our Head of School, the Director of the Administrative Division, a professor in Business Administration, a CSR-specialist and the PRME Coordinator.

All faculty and staff at ORUSB have taken part in information meetings on PRME, its objectives

and ORUSB's work with it; our PRME Coordinator has furthermore talked individually to our faculty and students on their efforts and engagements in the area of sustainable development, much of which is presented in this report.



Our Students Take the Lead

According to our Mission Statement, our goal is to enable our students to address the challenges of business and society. But why wait till graduation? Many of our students are already engaged in different projects.

Line 14

Örebro University and Örebro municipality have been collaborating in this project for more than 15 years. It aims at encouraging young people who grow up in non-academic neighbourhoods of Örebro to study at a university or college after high school. The project builds on the active engagement of students, who function as ambassadors and provide support activities for the involved pupils, such as homework help, field trips, mentoring projects or a summer college at ORU.

About 50 ORU students, among them ORUSB students, are involved; the project supports approximately 600 young people every year. The project is a success story – it led to improved levels of transition of the pupils into higher education, closer regional cooperations and a higher level of understanding and integration between pupils and students from non-academic neighborhoods and the university. It has been adapted and applied across Sweden and beyond, and ORU will naturally maintain this work also in the future.

Why 'Line 14'? This is the name of the bus route that used to run directly from the west of Örebro to the University – symbolising the life journey the project aims to take the participants on.

SESAM – ORUSB’s student union section

SESAM, ORUSB’s student union section with more than 650 members, is active in several initiatives with a sustainability focus. In spring 2018 it organised a networking and information event with the Swedish local government funding agency Kommuninvest. Kommuninvest gives out low-interest loans to municipalities and counties. Today, it accounts for more than 40 percent of the Swedish local government sector’s borrowing, and it is determined to adhere to strict principles when it comes to sustainable development. Its vision is *to fund the development of the local government sector and investments for a sound and sustainable society*, and because of its successful and sustainable concept, Kommuninvest was the winner of the United Nations ‘Momentum for Change’ climate Solutions Award. At a networking event in spring 2018, ORUSB students received insight into how a business like Kommuninvest can contribute to a sustainable society. SESAM also organises case competitions on a regular basis, which have integrated aspects of sustainable development several times. SESAM, furthermore, hosted a student networking day in November 2018 with focus on sustainable development and responsible management. Students could hear about different approaches and models of sustainability efforts in different companies.

For the student union section, sustainability is an issue that is also discussed and tackled in its internal activities. It has a deposit system for bottles as well as different bins for compostables and recyclables. SESAM is a nonprofit organisation, and thus all its efforts are focused on benefitting their fellow students.

Panel discussion on Sustainable Business

In October 2018, our students received interesting insights at a panel discussion on the topic Working with sustainability issues – The future's sustainability skills, organised by ORUSB and SESAM. The panel debate was moderated by CSR specialist Tommy Borglund. Experts in sustainability work in business from the recycling company Stena Metall, the large Nordic bank Nordea, the telecommunications agency Telia and the Swedish Local Government Funding Agency Kommuninvest exchanged ideas and thoughts about future opportunities and challenges in companies’ work on sustainability issues. They discussed important questions on the future work with sustainability with three students from ORUSB. What do the students expect? Moreover, which sustainability skills do companies require? Eva Eriksson, Laura Possnert and Charlotte Flodman Thorsén, all three students of the new Master’s profile in Sustainable Business, were interested in getting to know what business can offer those who want to make a career in sustainability, and how to truly make a difference in the world – they think the workforce of the future wants meaningful tasks. All panel participants agreed that future companies will be formed according to sustainable business models, and students who gain knowledge of integrating sustainability into business activities will be increasingly sought after in the labor market.

These events, organised by students for students, are a great way to get in touch with some of the major regional players and to hear about real-life challenges and possible solutions to the issues of our times.

“I Want to Contribute to a More Sustainable Society and a Better World”



Foto: Anna Lorentzon

ORUSB students develop online service to reduce food waste and help the homeless

Maximilian Emmerik, Kristoffer Kirkerud and Stanislav Olsson, ORUSB students from the Programme of Systems Analysis (Informatics) have developed the technical platform for ‘Bshrd’. Bshrd is a collaboration between Alfred Nobel Science Park, the Örebro City Mission charity, the Clarion Collection Hotel Borgen and Knowit Örebro. On the website, hotel guests can choose to donate their breakfast at check-in or pay for an extra breakfast. The hotel can adapt the amount of food that it cooks – and commits to donate the saved money to charity. Maximilian gives us insight into the project and his motivation.

The service was your system development project – you have been working on it for a whole semester – how did the cooperation develop?

I knew early on that I wanted to do the project for an external client. The companies announce their graduation work placements on our learning platform, where I found the ad. I was immediately interested when I heard that the system should solve a clearly formulated problem. To be able to do my project in a well-established company, and having the ultimate goal of creating something that can make the world a bit better, convinced me to work on the project.

How does the project contribute to sustainable development?

Food welfare is a major problem in the western world. We waste almost a third of all the food we produce, and need to collectively counteract that as a society. To allow people to donate a meal and thus contribute to the better planning of how much food is prepared is one step towards increased sustainability within the framework of food welfare, which is largely linked to environmental aspects. From social aspects, the idea is that the donated food or money will go to charities that actively work to help people in need. We hope that the system will be able to expand and that other charities and companies will be able to connect, thus creating a network promoting the use of resources in a more climate-friendly way.

Was it important for you to help develop a service that has sustainability as a focus?

For me, all parts of the project were interesting and exciting. I definitely want to contribute to a more sustainable society and a better world – now and in the future. It is one of the things I really like about IT and systems development: by means of technology, we can create opportunities for efficiency, better use of resources or simply facilitate people's everyday lives. This gives meaning to my work – and in the end joy to both myself and others.

What does sustainability mean to you?

Sustainability for me is a way to describe that something can be maintained in the long run. Becoming more efficient with how we use resources, more aware of how this affects our planet and finding easy ways for individuals as well as companies to contribute to that can be key to creating a more sustainable society at large. Although this system will not solve all problems, it can still help to make a part of society's food management more sustainable. Any small step we can take in that direction is, in my opinion, a good step to take.





Purpose and Values – Objectives and Challenges

Issues of sustainable development are increasingly integrated into ORUSB's strategy, mission and activities. The work on topics of environment, equal opportunity and work and study environment has long been ongoing at ORUSB – but there is still much to do both in the organisational structure and the practical implementation of sustainable development. The ORU Equality and Diversity Advisor as well as the Sustainable Development Coordinator work full-time for ORU's and ORUSB's efforts with sustainable development in all areas. Please find more detailed information about the objectives in these areas and the specific measures that are taken in the chapter on *Organisational Practices*.

ORUSB founded a PRME Project Group when joining PRME in 2016, with the main task of gathering information on the existing measures related to PRME and sustainable development, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing PRME-related measures. Before the next SIP report in two years, we would like to expand the Project Group to include even more researchers and teachers from different subjects, administrative staff, and students who want to engage in implementing strategies and actions for the work with sustainable development at ORUSB. During the work on this SIP report, existing interest and potential have been discovered and should be utilised and promoted.

Especially with regard to ORUSB's students, more effort needs to be undertaken in terms of informing and supporting them with regards to opportunities for the work with sustainability issues. Students are ORUSB's most valuable resource, and it is through their engagement that real change can be achieved in the long run. Therefore, ORUSB will be looking for new and intensified ways to engage and support them in actions surrounding sustainable development and responsible management in the next period. The system development project within Informatics, the project 'Line 14' and collaboration with the student union in questions of sustainability are some examples of measures that will be intensified in the future.

Principle 3: Method

“We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.”

Our Task: Educating Students who Address the Challenges of Business and Society

ORUSB aims at consolidating in its students a high level of integrity. We want to strengthen their ability to become responsible leaders who are aware that present and future challenges of business and society substantially include all aspects of sustainable development.

ORUSB’s strategy to achieve this goal is based fundamentally on the objectives of conveying profound knowledge on the one hand and enabling critical and independent thinking on the other. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are therefore integrated directly or indirectly in a number of courses from different subject areas at ORUSB.

Research-Based Education to Cope with Current Challenges

Especially in the area of sustainability, the progress in current research is developing very fast. Our faculty is highly involved in research on different questions around sustainable development. Some of the major books and articles published in Sweden on business ethics, CSR and sustainability accounting, among others, were written by researchers at ORUSB and are used in our classes and courses. ORUSB also pays attention to the continuous development in research in curriculum development via discussions in seminars and working groups.

Courses are constantly adjusted to new circumstances with regard to content, literature and teaching methods. In the courses at ORUSB, students are provided with the most influential publications, and with knowledge based on the current international research.





Some of our faculties' course books, with focus on CSR, ethics in media, e-commerce and sustainable logistics, and sustainability accounting

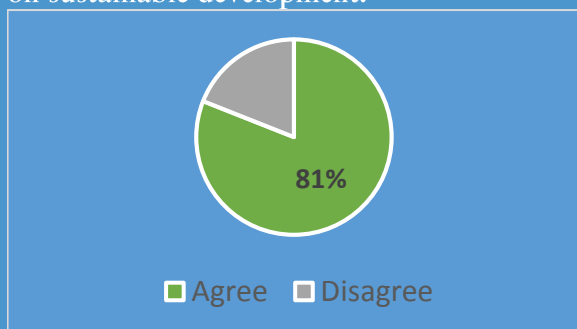
Student Survey October 2017

Students at ORU and ORUSB increasingly express interest in issues on sustainable development and corporate social responsibility (CSR). In the university-wide student survey of October 2017, more than 80 percent of the students who replied regarded information on these issues as important. Many expressed a great interest and the wish for an even deeper engagement with these issues in the individual courses. By constantly working on the curricula and introducing new courses, ORUSB tries to increasingly meet these demands.

“a sustainable environment, a sustainable economy and a sustainable society can be achieved by means of sufficient knowledge and practical action”

ORUSB Student
Student Survey of October 2017

“I think it is important that I am provided with information on sustainable development.”



Question 8.2. Student Survey of October 2017

Conveying Knowledge that Matters: Sustainable Development within Our Courses

ORUSB acknowledges the broad and complex nature of the term sustainability by including different aspects of sustainable development in a large number of courses within varied subjects and orientations. Field trips, internships, problem-based learning, the flipped classroom and practical case studies are a self-evident part of teaching at ORUSB. Working towards a more sustainable future is a real-life challenge and ORUSB sees it as its task to confront its students with real-life cases to prepare them for it.

All of ORUSB's students in one of the two programmes in **Business Administration/Economics** at the undergraduate level are confronted with different issues in the field of sustainability at an early stage of their studies through an introductory course on business administration. They are introduced to sustainability aspects of entrepreneurship, where they learn how producing and delivering goods and services can be done in a sustainable way that includes ecological, economic and social considerations. In group reports, the students analyse the sustainability work of different case companies where they gain an understanding of the relationship between a company and its outside world, especially from a sustainability perspective.

Within Business Administration, students can choose courses that focus on sustainability and environmental concerns in logistics and supply chains as well as sustainable global trade and ethical leadership and management. These issues are specifically taken up in the courses newly-developed for the Master's profile in Sustainable Business, which commenced this autumn. However, the courses are also open to students of other profiles.

Economics itself is about how to handle scarce resources, which means that sustainable development is part of the very essence of the subject. It is, furthermore, discussed within the framework of courses at various levels. During their Bachelor's and Master's studies of Economics at ORUSB, students are encouraged to engage with issues in the area of sustainable development in courses such as *Environmental Economics*,

Economic Evaluation and Development Economics.

In the course module *Environmental Economics*, different types and aspects of environmental policy for individual countries are the focus. Many environmental issues, such as climate issues, affect several countries simultaneously, which means that international aspects must be weighed in. The course also deals with the issue of environment and growth as well as with ethical aspects of environmental analysis.

A large part of the social sustainability aspect taught within Economics is the issue of impact investment, aimed at evaluating different types of projects or interventions from a socio-economic perspective. In the course *Economic Evaluation*, students learn how to evaluate different types of projects and interventions from a socio-economic perspective. The main focus is on so-called cost-benefit analysis aimed at comparing the cost of a project to society with its usefulness. Looked at is how different ‘non-marketable goods’ such as better health, environment, shorter travel time, and so on, are valued.

In the course *Economic Growth and Income Distribution*, students gain in-depth knowledge in growth theory and development economics theories, which enables them to analyse distribution and poverty issues and to apply the theories in practical work. Several courses within Economics, moreover, discuss opportunities and issues of global trade with regard to sustainable development and environmental concerns and assessment. Others deal with health economics and issues of present and future health- and medical insurance systems to be able to detect and meet the ever-changing challenges of an aging society.

Within their studies on **Informatics**, students spend one semester on a practical ‘Development Project’, often in collaboration with external actors. A growing number of students mirror the increased interest in issues around sustainability in their choice of project, and ORUSB supports them with this task. An impressive example of such a project is the student project ‘Bshrd’; see *Purpose and Values* p. 7 for more information.



ORUSB's programmes in Informatics at large emphasise sustainable development in a wider understanding of the word. Especially within the newly launched Master's programme in *Information Systems – Information Security Management*, ORUSB takes up the need for an organised, and sustainable, development of information systems and information security and aims at educating experts who are able to shape this comparatively new field in a future-oriented manner. In the course *Social Aspects of Information Security*, for instance, the programme specifically addresses the behaviour of employees when it comes to information security, and thereby aims at reducing current and future small- and large-scale security threats in an effective manner.

Doctoral Studies

Within the doctoral programmes at ORUSB, courses in which sustainability is explicitly dealt with can be taken as optional courses. The mandatory courses contain elements that more indirectly deal with different aspects of sustainable development. It is important to emphasise that ORUSB does not teach a set of positions where a precise definition of sustainable development is laid down. Doctoral students should acquire the same kind of ability to critically reflect and question different perceptions and positions in this area as in other areas of their education.

Education for Our Teachers

Örebro University acknowledges that sustainable development is a complex term that entails a large number of phenomena and issues. For our teaching faculty, conveying this is not an easy task, which is why they receive support in the form of two seminars in *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education*, where sustainability is taken up as an aspect in each. The courses are offered by the Centre for Academic Development in cooperation with Örebro University's Coordinator for Sustainable Development and Equality and Diversity Advisor. Find more information under Principle 7, *Organisational Practices* on page 35.

It's All about Sustainability: Sustainability Conference for Students

In May 2016, around 170 students from ORUSB and five programmes from other schools of ORU came together for the first time for a day-long Sustainability Conference to discuss and present their sustainability visions for 2040 – how will we live, eat, work, manage businesses and trade in the future, in a more sustainable manner? Students prepared the topics in their respective educational frameworks and discussed their ideas at the conference in interdisciplinary teams to learn from each other and integrate their own backgrounds and perspectives. As an obligatory part of ORUSB's intermediate course in business administration, roughly half of the students who took part in this first conference came from ORUSB.

In May 2018, 270 students from six different programmes took part in the conference. It had a strong regional focus: students were asked to form interdisciplinary working groups to discuss a particular part of Örebro, Vivalla, which today represents some of the city's most severe social issues: segregation and failed integration, leading to poverty, lack of educational opportunity, and even crime. Together, the students developed ideas to reshape Vivalla to become a more sustainable, future-oriented environment. They had the chance to talk to local politicians and benefitted from ORU's and ORUSB's close networks with regional businesses.



At ORUSB, the Future Starts Now: Launch of the New Master's Profile in Sustainable Business

The first of its kind in Sweden, ORUSB now offers a new Master's profile in Sustainable Business as part of its Master's programme in Business Administration. Tommy Borglund, Senior Lecturer at ORUSB, expert in sustainability and co-initiator of the new profile, acknowledges that “companies are in great need of this competence, as education in this area is lacking.”

Therefore, he and his colleagues at ORUSB, together with a reference group of the leading experts in this area, developed the new profile. The two-year profile is designed in line with the European Standard of Higher Education, which gives the students greater opportunities even for an international career. The first twenty students were welcomed in autumn 2018.

“I Want to Move a Business Forward in Combination with Sustainable Thinking”



Erik Häggström talks about his motivation for choosing the programme

Why did you choose the Master's profile in Sustainable Business?

It picks up a current issue and comes at the right time. There is a fairly big shift towards more sustainable thinking in the business world and in politics. Plus it feels like I am finding my niche within business administration – it makes me stand out. Companies have great potential in the area of sustainable development; they can really have an impact, and I want to be a part of that. I didn't start with many expectations, as the programme is the first with this focus in Sweden. I expect to learn a lot from the interaction with businesses and from the internship in the second year, which I would like to spend within business development, combined with sustainability – something that takes the business forward.

What did you study in your Bachelor's, and what is your previous knowledge about the topic?

My Bachelor's was in Business Administration with a focus on marketing. I didn't have any courses with a particular focus on sustainability, but it was part of some courses. CSR, of course, came up but wasn't discussed in depth. So it will be really interesting to learn more about it.

Do you think it is important to offer a programme in Sustainable Business? And why should students choose this field of studies?

I think integrating sustainability in business administration is going to grow quite a bit in the near future. Right now I feel that there should be more information during general studies in business administration about sustainable business. Missing information is perhaps one of the reasons why more students have not yet shown a greater interest. There are obviously some courses, but sustainable development has become so important in the public opinion, so it is maybe a bit strange that it only starts to be implemented as a programme in business studies now. It's definitely good that the start has been made here at ORUSB, and I just think more universities should have it!

Do you already have an idea of what your future job could look like?

My future dream job is to become a management consultant focusing on how to transform businesses to become more sustainable.

Benefitting from a Network of Partners

ORUSB makes use of a vast network of partners from the business world; a number of them have helped developed the new Master's profile. Spendrups, one of the largest brewery and beverage groups in Sweden, as well as the global truck manufacturer Scania open their doors for study visits. The leading northern telecommunication operators Telia and Telenor as well as Swedish financial actors Nordea, SEK and Kommuninvest take part in different industry days and offer ORUSB's students first-hand insight into their work on sustainability issues. Guest lectures are given by major players such as Axfood and Grant Thornton, among others, and students benefit from practical cases and stakeholder dialogue with Trelleborg Group, Reporting and Governance with Stena Metall and Scania's 'clean buses' campaign, combining sustainable supply chain and digitalisation.

New Courses – Based on New Challenges

A number of new, customised courses have been developed to offer students on the track the best possible and most comprehensive knowledge of questions of sustainability, social responsibility and ethics linked with business administration. Along the lines of ORUSB's overall teaching strategy, all of the programme's courses work strongly with practical cases and the connection to real business life. Students are treated not as passive learners but as active agents who contribute to shape their own education. Within the newly formed course *CSR and Business Ethics*, two industry days and a case study invite students to think practically around topics such as responsible investment, 'green' obligations, as well as human rights in value chains and 'Shared Value' business models, as taught in relation to the case of Skandia. The same approach is followed in the three other newly designed courses, each focusing on large players in their respective fields. During *Sustainable Supply Chain Management*, students work on a case on sustainable purchasing. Spendrups is the main partner for the course *Environmental Management*, where a case on circular flows is discussed. Within the course *Sustainability*

Reporting, Control and Communication, Stena Metall's sustainable supply chain and digitalisation activities are studied as a practical case.

Working on problems, challenges and solutions from 'real life' prepares students to take responsibility from the first day, and to feel secure in the practical implementation of their knowledge and skills.

Practical Insights into Real-Life Issues

Every student in the Sustainable Business profile spends at least one semester on an internship, for instance in the sustainability department of one of the companies from the network. Students are encouraged to write their final theses in collaboration with a company, which supports a smooth transition to their working life and proves to future employers their ability to practically apply their knowledge.

Educating Professionals for Tomorrow's Demands

Students in the new Master's profile have the opportunity to get acquainted with a number of different sustainability concepts from the business world, from which they themselves can pick the most useful knowledge and the most convincing ideas for their future work place. They receive, a comprehensive education in business administration, one which is specially adapted to the most pressing challenges of our time.

“Sustainable entrepreneurship means more than working in some sustainability department; it will permeate the entire company from production to marketing”

says Gun Abrahamsson, Deputy Head of ORUSB. During their studies of sustainable business, students will therefore become invaluable resources for every company, able to take their pick when it comes to their first employment. The first students in the programme have just started their studies, but at ORUSB, expectations are already high that they one day will belong to the leading figures to shape Sweden's business and society with innovative, future-oriented, sustainable and responsible leadership qualities.

“The Programme Comes at the Perfect Time”



Interview with Johan Dannelind, ORUSB alumn and president and CEO of Telia Company

How do you look at the need for a programme in sustainable business for today’s society?

The education comes at the perfect time. Our vision at Telia Company is that sustainability aspects should be fully integrated throughout our activities, and even though we have come a long way, we will have a long-term need for employees with specialist expertise in the field.

Has the need changed?

The need has always been there, but the insight as to how important it is has increased. The awareness that we need to work actively with

these issues is much bigger now than just ten years ago. Previously, sustainability work was very focused on risk management, ensuring that the company acted responsibly towards the environment and society. Today, the focus is shifting more and more towards how we deal with the business opportunities that global challenges provide in our operations and thus how we contribute to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

If you were to hire a person who studied the Master’s in sustainable business in Örebro, what do you think such a person could work with at Telia?

There are great opportunities in many different areas of our operations, not just those who work directly with, for instance, sustainability reporting. Graduates may take on roles within strategy, business development, purchasing, and more.

Do you have any specific advice to give to today’s students who are interested in starting a programme in this area?

Do not hesitate. Businesses drive development in our society. By participating in and developing a company in the right direction, you have the greatest opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives. As a student who has received this kind of education, you have a lot to offer to the business world.

Sweden’s first two-year Master’s profile in Sustainable Business in a nutshell

Master’s in Business Administration with three different profile areas	Sustainable Business Management and Leadership Strategy and Entrepreneurship
Companies involved in designing SB track (e.g.)	Grant Thornton Kommuninvest Nordea Scania SEK Spendrups Stena Metall Telenor Telia Trelleborg Humana
Applicants for the profile / Number of students	191 / 20
Courses within SB profile (e.g.)	CSR and Business Ethics Financial Economics and Ethics Sustainable Supply Chain Management Sustainability Reporting, Control and Communication Environmental Management
Teachers (e.g.)	Tommy Borglund Magnus Frostenson Sven Helin Sabina du Rietz Katarina Arbin Frans Prekert Andreas Nilsson guest lecturers
More info	Master’s profile in Sustainable Business (in Swedish); News archive 2017 (in English)

Method – Objectives and Challenges

The growing importance of aspects of sustainable development has been considered in most of ORUSB's programmes in one way or the other, but it is not yet present in a sufficient manner. As an integrated part of the AACSB accreditation process, programme and course syllabi will be continuously revised in the coming years to include aspects of sustainable development more intensively and in even more courses, as determined in Örebro University's *Action Plan for Sustainable Development*.

The Master's profile in Sustainable Business has just been established; the goal for the next few years is the constant expansion and improvement of the profile. The courses will eventually be offered completely in English in order to make ORUSB even more attractive on an international scale. The number of courses that are held in English will be increased further in order to include international students.

A thorough analysis of ORUSB's partner universities and their courses on sustainable development, CSR, responsible management education and others is currently underway; the results of which will help ORUSB's students to align even their studies abroad to the objective of gaining education in these areas.

Teaching staff at ORUSB will be offered even more support in their effort to convey knowledge in topics of sustainable development and to ensure an equal and comfortable study environment for all. Teacher seminars focused on aspects of sustainable development will be increased and further customised in the coming years. For this purpose, two educational developers started their work at ORU in the autumn. This is a gradual process, however, and one that may take years of smaller steps until its final implementation.



Principle 4: Research

“We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.”



It is ORUSB's aim to conduct research that has an impact on business and society. Research at ORUSB is carried out within each of the four subjects of Business Administration, Informatics, Economics and Statistics, and is also organised in multidisciplinary teams and in close contact with practitioners.

ORUSB is an internationally respected research-based business school. Continuous improvement of the quality of research goes hand in hand with putting focus on current complex and highly impactful topics such as issues of sustainable

development, responsible management and CSR, the cost and benefit of social investments, and information technology for development, to name a few.

Most of ORUSB's twelve research groups and a large number of projects within all subject areas contain topics of responsible management and sustainability in different ways. However, certain examples from each subject area stand out and are presented here. A list of notable recent publications related to sustainability can be found in the *Appendix*, p. 39.

Business Administration

Centre for Empirical Research on Organisational Control (CEROC)

The research environment in Business Administration at ORUSB

Focus Areas

- Economic, organisational, social, ethical and sustainability aspects of management control practices. In recent years, ethical and sustainability aspects have been emphasized increasingly in their research activities.

INTERORG Marketing Research Center at ORUSB

Focus Areas

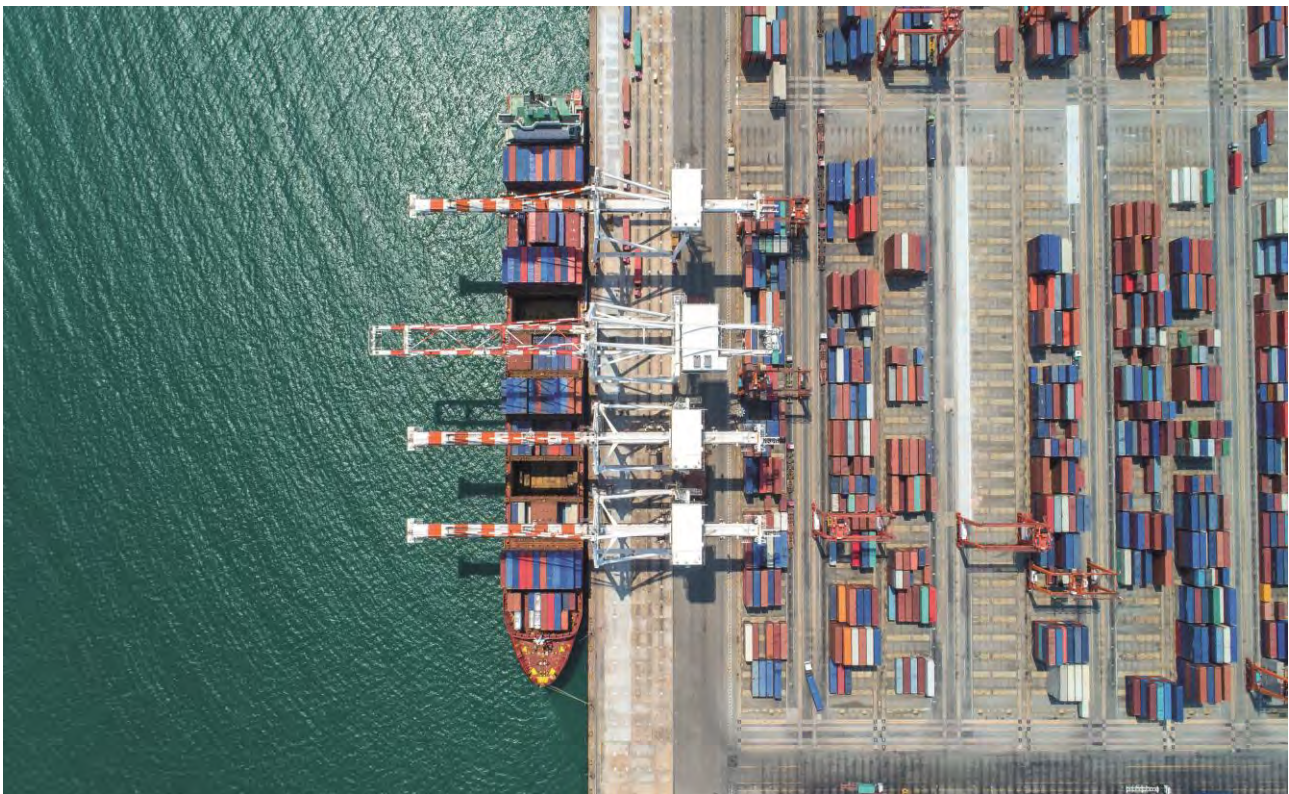
- Targeting inter-organisational network and relationship issues with a focus on strategy, supply chain and logistics and entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as marketing.
- Investigating environmental effects of supply chain arrangements or the impact on economy, sustainability and network organization of distribution.

Örebro University Center for Research in Sustainable Logistics (ORULOG)

The new research centre in sustainable logistics at ORUSB, launched in February 2018

Focus Areas

- ORULOG produces significant knowledge which is fed into the transition towards a fossil-free society.
- There is a specific focus on SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.
- ORULOG targets SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals in a collaboration-based model for research on sustainable business and economics.
- Interdisciplinarity: ORULOG collects relevant research from several academic fields and research groups within ORU in close collaboration with business and industry.
- The vision is to achieve a sustainable logistics system that supports the aim of Sweden to become a fossil-free society in 2045 without compromising welfare, economy, nature and quality of life.



Recent Projects

Sustainability Management from within: How Responsibility for Sustainability is Created within Companies

Magnus Frostenson, Sven Helin, Tommy Borglund, Katarina Arbin

The role of companies in society and their responsibilities (often understood as CSR) are under constant discussion. Companies are held responsible for their effect on the surrounding community, which is why different stakeholders demand transparency. This is usually organised by reporting the impact that companies have on the environment, often in sustainability reports. Based on the basic concept of sustainability performance, the focus of the project is on understanding the governance of sustainability that takes place internally within companies and how responsibility for delivering sustainability performance is created in companies.

The research questions are focused on how individualised and organisational responsibility for sustainability performance in companies is created, on the factors that determine how this responsibility is shaped and in what way responsibility for sustainability performance differs from that of other performances in companies. Instead of just describing who is held responsible for sustainability performance, the project studies the design of responsibility in an organisational context. The research is conducted by means of qualitative case studies.

Management Accounting and Gender

Gun Abrahamsson, Tobias Johansson, Gabriella Wennblom

Gender exists within all social structures and strata of society (e.g. within ethnic and socio-economic groups) and is perhaps the most engraved social structure in society and organisations. However, gender is still extremely silent in management accounting and control research. In this project, the researchers aim to address this lack of attention by focusing on the role of gender in management accounting and control. Current research tasks include reviewing literature streams and conducting experiments on the role of gender for the perceptions of control in the supervisor-supervised dyad.

Future Rail – Collective Organizing in Logistics Networks

Johan Kask, Anders Lunander, Frans Prenkert, Katarina Arbin, Gabriel Linton

A major challenge in the logistics sector concerns how to coordinate the utilisation of common resources to create sustainable logistics systems. In such systems, many actors must collectively use and mobilise resources to improve economic efficiency and sustainability that no one actor can achieve alone. The overarching question that this project addresses is how we can understand the functioning of this “collective organising” in logistics networks. The purpose is to map the mechanisms impacting on the collective organising and to explore its strategic effects on actor roles in logistics. The specific aim is to describe, develop and implement a collective organising tool, the ‘Interact Scenario Analysis Cluster’ (ISAC) in a logistics network of the paper sector. To this end, ScandFibre Logistics AB, a logistics service provider; BillerudKorsnäs Sweden AB, a logistics solutions customer; Trade Extensions AB, a technology specialist and Örebro University, a research institution collaborate in a response to the challenges associated with collective organising. This research provides new knowledge on the mechanisms that govern the utilisation of common pooled resources among heterogeneous actors through a systematic analysis of a logistics network in the paper industry. The main results of this project are optimised logistics flows and enhanced knowledge of the collective organising of logistics networks, and ultimately more sustainable logistics systems.

E-commerce and FMCG – Impact on Economy, Sustainability and Network Organization of Distribution

Magnus Frostenson, Nina Hasche, Sven Helin, Franziska Klügl, Frans Prenekert

Due to IT, the role of the end-consumer buying FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) through retailers changes. Internet-based grocery stores and pre-packaged grocery bags make the physical store unnecessary as an interface towards the final consumer as the industrial distribution system is being ‘short-circuited’, causing the end-consumer and the distribution system to interact directly.

The overall question that this project address is how e-commerce has changed the organizing of the networks around the distribution system of the grocery sector. This is investigated from an economic feasibility perspective and from a sustainability perspective in a comparison of an e-commerce solution and a physical store solution.

Shared Value Research Platform on Strategy and Sustainability

Tommy Borglund, in partnership with researchers at MISUM Stockholm School of Economics Susanne Sweet and Ingrid Stizelius.

The purpose of this research project is to increase the understanding and knowledge in the area of sustainable corporate strategies and corporate social engagement around the concepts of shared value and collective impact. The ambition is to lay the foundation for building a research competence platform around shared value that will further develop the concepts, operationalisation and measurements, as well as develop teaching cases. The platform will also serve as an arena for meetings among researchers and practitioners to enable dialogue and diffusion of knowledge and ultimately practices.

The project is supported by Skandia and Skanska, who also act as partners in sharing data and information on their activities in the field. It investigates cases of partnerships between companies and organisations in areas like Vivalla in Örebro and Västra Frölunda in Göteborg.

Leanne Johnstone, PhD student in Sustainable Management Accounting

Leanne’s research aims to bridge both business needs and long-term sustainability goals by looking at how firms work with social and environmental issues in practice. As such, her research focuses on what firms are actually doing through management accounting and control, rather than what they are seen to be doing from a marketing or legitimacy perspective, which could be viewed as ‘greenwashing’. This involves looking more deeply into the organisational practices that help inform economic, social and environmental decisions through the establishment of financial and non-financial information, for example, in relation to key performance indicators.



Currently, her research focuses on the development process of sustainability control systems within different contexts (i.e. in SMEs and MNCs) as the means to improve social and environmental performance outcomes. These systems relate to the constellation of specific management accounting tools such as life-cycle or materiality assessments. They are also seen as bridging both strategic and operational viewpoints for sustainability management within firms. Particularly, her project views individuals - beyond managerial tiers - as instrumental to ensuring these performance outcomes are met and for safeguarding sustainable futures that extend beyond organisational and generational boundaries. Her preliminary findings indicate that employee motivation and engagement are necessary for operational success. This can be achieved through the design of systems orientated towards building knowledge and inciting commitment about sustainability issues through education, training and awareness programmes.



Economics & Statistics

Wellbeing, Health & Welfare Economics (Whawe)

Focus Areas

- Understanding mechanisms and causes behind the effects of different investments and interventions to improve health and well-being.
- Providing robust empirical evidence for investments that improve the health and well-being of people of different ages over the course of a lifetime.
- Measuring well-being, which consists of numerous different dimensions and can be measured by means of indicators such as health status, social connections, security and education, but also economic well-being and environmental aspects (see e.g. OECD on Measuring Well-being and Progress).
- Conducting economic and econometric evaluations of public interventions in the fields of health, health care, safety, social insurance, education and early investments in children.

The Economics of Entrepreneurship, Family Business, Globalization and Institutions (EFGI)

Focus Areas

- Research on entrepreneurship, family business, globalisation (cross-border flows of goods, services, capital and people) and institutions, with focus on what drives and hinders firm growth, and the effects on employment and economic growth.
- Research that is societally important and pertinent for decision makers, government agencies, business and civil society.
- The research group has a large national and international network consisting of, for instance, Statistics Sweden, the Swedish International Aid Agency (Sida), OECD, the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank.

Recent Projects

Impact Evaluation of an Agricultural Sector Program

Lars Hultkrantz, Jörgen Levin, Elin Vimefall, Jean-Philippe Deschamps-Laporte (PhD student)

The project studied the impact of an aid-financed agricultural programme in Kenya, with the aim of determining whether the programme has led to improvement in livelihoods of the farmers and reduction of poverty, in comparison to farmers who did not take part in the programme. The project also includes an evaluation of the broader economy-wide impact of changes in agricultural productivity. The methodological approach in this project includes and combines two traditions in evaluating the impact of a specific policy change. The first approach uses modern micro-econometric tools and a unique database, which includes 2000 farmers in Kenya. The second approach is a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model with a focus on the agriculture sector.

Is Part-Time Sick-Leave Helping to Return to Work?

Daniela Andrén

In this project, large amounts of data from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency are assessed to evaluate the probability of returning to work after being on part-time sick leave compared to full-time sick leave. It is expected that part-time sick-leave, on the one hand, can help the patient to return to work gradually; on the other hand, it can result in periods of sick-leave that are longer than 'necessary'. The research considered differences between employees and the unemployed, between women and men, and across different diagnoses. The results provide empirical evidence that the individual's socio-demographic characteristics and diagnosis are important for returning to work in general, but the occupation, the requirement for specialized education and the physician are particularly important for both being on part-time sick leave and returning to work. Some of these factors are already being used by the Swedish health care system to contribute to more customised and sustainable solutions of managing sick-leave.

Analysis of Causal Long-Term Socioeconomic Effects of Prevention and Early Action for Children and Adolescents

Lars Hultkrantz, Elin Vimefall

Both in research and in public debate, attention has been drawn to the need for increased efforts to detect and provide early childhood support for children whose development is likely to be disturbed by neuropsychiatric problems. In Sweden, scientific evaluations of programmes usually follow individuals for a short period of time, but in order to make a socioeconomic assessment, it is necessary to estimate the expected long-term effects on the individual's income, mental health, etc. as an adult. The good availability of longitudinal register data for the population in Sweden allows for estimation of general long-term predictors and, in some cases, can also identify causal relationships. The purpose of this project is to assess the long-term socioeconomic effects of early interventions for children and adolescents with neuropsychiatric problems. By means of benefit-cost analyses of early intervention programmes, a generic model is built, which can be used for future benefit-cost analyses of other specific early interventions, and which can serve as a basis for decisions of how and when scarce resources will be used.

Aid, Public Spending and Development Goals

Jörgen Levin

The project emphasises measurable aspects of efforts for sustainable development. It looks into the impact of foreign aid on public spending and the eight millennium goals in Kenya, Tanzania and Bangladesh using Computable General Equilibrium Models (CGE) and emphasizing country-specific impacts of foreign aid. The project analyses challenges and opportunities for the three countries in question in achieving the individual MDGs. It sheds light on problematic areas in each country, and to specific measures that have been taken, and that need to be taken, in order to achieve the goals, including official development assistance.

Working after the Mandatory Retirement Age. An Economics Perspective

Daniela Andrén, Dan Johansson, and Johan Karlsson & Lackson D. Mudenda (PhD students)

ORU's strategic initiative and research school *Successful Ageing* is an interdisciplinary co-operation between three faculties. At ORUSB, the consequences of an ageing society are examined from an economics perspective. How sustainable are different social insurance systems? Who are the older workers who choose to work after the retirement age, and which firms employ them? These questions are answered by formulating, in a first step, theoretical hypotheses which are tested in a second step by using a rich Swedish employer-employee database. The empirical results suggest that the age, the size and the ownership's form of the firms are important, but also the employees' working experience and specialisation/occupation.

Discounting of Travel Time, Traffic Safety and Carbon Dioxide

Lars Hultkrantz, Disa Asplund

'Discounting of travel time, traffic safety and carbon dioxide' is a project aimed at analysing the socio-economic discount rate, considering the level and variation over time. The question of which socio-economic discount rate should be applied is of great importance for both socio-economic efficiency and long-term sustainability.

Cost Benefit Analysis of Climate Policy and Long-Term Public Investments

Lars Hultkrantz, Panagiotis Mantalos, Disa Asplund

Disa Asplund presented the revised paper 'Avoiding path dependence of distributional weights: Lessons from climate change economic assessments' from her dissertation at ORUSB (2016) at The World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economics, Göteborg, June 2018. Lars Hultkrantz and coauthors published an article in the *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis* on Economic Analysis and Investment Priorities in Sweden's Transport Sector.

Migration, Integration and Firms' Globalisation – how does Migration and Integration into the Workforce Contribute to firms' Globalisation?

Lars Hultkrantz, Patrik Karpaty, Magnus Lodefalk

The researchers analyse how migration and integration into the workforce affect firms' internationalisation (trade, offshoring and foreign direct investment) and the economic effects on society. The emphasis is on identifying the effects and underlying mechanisms that characterise relationships between migration, integration and internationalisation. Here, previous research has gaps, since it mainly has investigated the correlation between trade and migration, at the macro level, without dealing with causal processes, which is needed to be able to improve the functioning of the labour market and promote firms' internationalisation. The research can also provide more in-depth and nuanced support for policies in the area of migration and it also has aspects of economic development.





Informatics

E-Health

How can IT and IT systems improve health?

Focus Areas

- Research in the area of IT systems for healthcare professionals and organisations, working on improvements within public health – from analysis over planning to implementation of new tools and systems – as well as tools for patients to better manage their health and interact with health care.
- Involvement in regional and international projects, for example in Mozambique with a study on how HIV patients can receive better follow-up and reminders about medication via mobile phones.

ICT for development (ICT4D)

How can access to technology and internet contribute to improved living conditions of the poor and marginalised?

Focus Areas

- Believe that technologies can empower people and enable them to set their own development agendas.
- Bottom-up-approach, i.e. the group does not stipulate what development is.
- Development can and must look different in different countries and contexts.

IT for learning

Exploring the positive and negative effects of the use of IT in schools and teaching.

Focus Areas

- Finding sustainable solutions to the work with information technology, especially in work with young children
- Individual, as well as social processes, are studied.
- Research focuses on the organisation and implementation of development or change within the field.

Recent Projects

Study Circle Project in Kenya

Mathias Hatakka

The objective of the project is to introduce informal adult education to support environmentally sustainable livelihoods and other income-generating activities and reduce economic vulnerability in the Kwale district in Kenya. The project was coordinated by the Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa and addresses the educational needs of the rural poor. It followed the Swedish *folkbildning* concept of study circles and self-help groups, allowing community members to learn a variety of skills in a self-sustained manner. In the Kwale district, most of the population sustain their livelihood through fishing, agriculture, or forestry. To support the groups' needs, instructors teach computer or mobile skills, environmentally sustainable agricultural or fishing skills. The groups also learn by teaching each other. Basic skills – reading, writing, numerical and IT literacy – are also taught. For many participants, this is the only way to gain access to basic education. The groups also carry out projects, such as agriculture, fishing, soap production, or eco-tourism with the aim of generating income or increasing food production to improve group members' livelihoods.

Rural Development by Connecting the Unconnected Women: Opportunities and Challenges in the Perspective of Developing Countries

Sirajul Islam

The project examines how rural women in Bangladesh use (communication) technology. The main question driving the research is how and if ICT can help to empower the studied women – in the dimensions of social, political, family and psychological empowerment – and/or their existing capacities. This research has both practical and theoretical significance. The results from the conducted surveys and analyses are to be used in order to understand the mechanisms of how ICT can help empowerment in the specific context of rural women in Bangladesh as well as in developing countries in general. The findings are expected to add some refined insights to the study of empowerment of rural women in regard to the use of ICTs. One of the declarations at the Summit on the economic advance of rural women in Geneva in 1992 was to make information available to rural women on a wide range of subjects relevant to their needs and constraints. In this case, the research may not only influence the policy makers but also the development community and mobile telecommunications stakeholders by addressing the needs of around 300 million females (worth of a US\$ 13 billion opportunity in the telecom industry) in developing countries who are still unconnected.



Jean Damascene Twizeyimana and Solange Mukamurenzi, PhD Students in Informatics

Government organisations are increasingly adopting ICTs to improve their activities and operations. These initiatives are known as 'e-government.' The implementation of e-government in the least developed countries (LDCs) faces many challenges, such as a poor e-infrastructure and a lack of policies, legal framework or skills. Their success can often not be measured in terms of money and productivity; rather, there is a need to consider the 'public value' for citizens. Jean Damascene's research aims at investigating a framework for succeeding in the implementation of e-government in the context of one LDC.



He studies the local context and challenges of the implementation, the public value of e-government services and the arrangement in place towards the realization of e-government in Rwanda. The research is conducted by means of an interpretive case study in Rwanda, specifically on a public-private partnership (PPP) between the government of Rwanda and a private company. The project is conducted in collaboration between ORUSB, the University of Rwanda and Sida, the Swedish International Agency for Development.



In her PhD project, Solange focuses on electronic government especially in the least developed countries (LDCs). Solange's research emphasises user-centred service delivery and is expected to contribute to service quality improvement. To do so, she developed and is implementing a context-based evaluation tool for e-government services. For Rwanda, her work aligns with the Rwanda's Vision aiming at transforming Rwanda into a knowledge-based society where ICT is one of the enablers.

Her research is expected to contribute to the very limited efforts in evaluating the undertaken e-government initiatives in LDCs by putting in place a flexible tool that considers the varying needs of stakeholders in service delivery. It also informs the research on the status of e-government in LDCs and how contextualized evaluations can be implemented to inform improvement. Solange is an academic staff of the University of Rwanda and does her PhD training in Informatics at ORUSB. She is funded by the Swedish International Agency for Development (Sida).

The Future of Research: Our Students Get Involved

Minor Field Studies (MFS), is a Sida-funded scholarship of 27,000 SEK (ca. 3,000 USD). It gives students the opportunity to go to a developing country for a field study of eight to ten weeks to gather material for their thesis for a bachelor's or master's degree. In the past years, several ORUSB students took this chance. One of them did his field studies at a volunteer center working with a children's home in Sri Lanka, where he collected material for his thesis in Business Administration on leadership and financial management. Two others studied determinants of chronic and transient poverty in Tanzania.



Research – Objectives and Challenges

ORU is a research-based university with the vision to *promote action in support of the global goals for sustainable development*. In order to further strengthen this profile, and to stay a competitive and dedicated player in society, ORUSB embraces this vision and will continue to conduct impactful research. ORUSB collaborates therefore closely with the university's Grants Office, which supports researchers in their ability to attract and manage external funding. In the next few years, the objective is that the ratio of external funding should rise by 100 percent. Projects with focus on sustainable development will be particularly promoted as a part of the strategic focus areas.

ORUSB is an important player especially in the fields of research within CSR, development economics and ICT4D/IT for Learning.

Several of ORUSB's PhD students – some of who presented in this report – work on topics around CSR and sustainable development in different subject areas such as ICT4D, successful aging or sustainable management accounting. ORUSB aims at further increasing incentives for PhD students to integrate sustainable developments in their work, even in projects where the main focus is not on SDG-related research. The research environment CERIS, for instance, has recently included social and ethical aspects, which will be increasingly emphasised in their research activities in the next years. Our hope is to encourage some of these PhD students to participate more directly in ORUSB's PRME Project Group to share their thoughts and experiences.

Principle 5: Partnership

“We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.”

It is our aim at ORUSB to conduct research that impacts business and society and to simultaneously ensure a high level of employability and practical knowledge of our graduates. This applies to all of our programmes and courses but is of particular relevance to knowledge and its application in the area of sustainable development. Therefore, ORUSB sees it as essential for successful education and research in this area to establish and maintain *a close interaction between faculty, students, business and society* (ORUSB mission). This is done by a number of partnerships with business life, community, and governmental and non-governmental organisations, among others, and far exceeds the interaction “with managers of business corporations”.

CLOSER

CLOSER is a national umbrella organisation for research and development of logistics and transport systems. It is a neutral platform that collaborates with a number of players from the business community, industry, universities and institutes, cities and government agencies with the aim of establishing collaboration and projects that lead to enhanced transport efficiency. It states that *by transport efficiency, we mean: as efficient transports and logistics as possible based on the perspective of resources, energy, environment and economy, to achieve increased sustainability, growth and competitiveness* (CLOSER website). The future of logistics cannot be separated from challenges such as sustainable transport and energy supply. CLOSER is, therefore, an important and valued partner of ORUSB. Frans Prenekert, Anders Lunander and Johan Kask from ORUSB are part of CLOSER’s network and conduct research in the area of sustainable transport, for instance within the framework of the ‘Future Rail’-Project. ORUSB has been a partner in CLOSER since 2015 and collaborates in developing sustainable logistics solutions by carrying out evaluations, demonstrators and research in the area.

SVN Social Venture Network

SVN is a leading international network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability, consisting of companies, organisations and authorities. It aims to link business value with an increased focus on social responsibility, good business ethics and environmental work. As a leading business school in the area of CSR and business ethics, ORUSB has been a natural and important partner of SVN since 2017. Tommy Borglund, an expert in CSR and business ethics and senior lecturer at ORUSB, is chairman of SVN’s board, which ensures close contact between the business school and SVN. An example of the fruitful collaboration is SVN’s involvement as a member of the reference group for the development of ORUSB’s new Master’s in Sustainable Business. SVN will continue to be involved in the programme’s further progress as a valued and important collaboration partner.

New Master’s Profile in Sustainable Business – Business collaborations

As mentioned above, the recently launched Master profile in Sustainable business is particularly shaped by its numerous partnerships and collaborations with large Swedish companies that integrate different sustainability strategies into their operations. Among them are Spendrups, one of the largest brewery and beverage groups in Sweden, Stena Recycling, the leading northern telecommunication operators Telia and Telenor as well as main Swedish banks Nordea and SEK and Kommuninvest, a local government funding agency. Guest lectures are given by major players such as Axfood, Stena, and Grant Thornton, among others, and students benefit from practical cases such as Scania’s ‘clean buses’ campaign, combining sustainable supply chain and digitalisation.



Region Örebro County (RÖC), Örebro County (ÖC) and Business Region Örebro

ORUSB collaborates with the regional public actor RÖC and the county (ÖC) to access funding, attract demonstrators and evaluate measures to green the logistics sector. RÖC is a significant partner for securing basic infrastructure funding for ORULOG. In addition, researchers from ORULOG collaborates with RÖC to evaluate the opportunities and obstacles towards creating a fossil-free transport sector in the Örebro region based on renewable fuels with the goal to develop an action plan to reach the goal of reducing the CO₂-emissions from the sector by 70 % from 2010–2030. In this work, ORUSB researchers from ORULOG also cooperate with the organisations Network for Transport Measures (NTM) and Biodriv Öst/Biogas Öst. ORULOG is also collaborating with ÖC and its unit Business Region Örebro (BRO) in organizing a network of regional and national logistics companies called Forum for Logistics (FFL) targeting the ambitious Swedish climate policy framework.

Collaboration with CLOSER, VTI and RISE in the Research Program Fossil Free Freight (Triple F)

Triple F is a consortia of 50+ partners from academia, industry and the public sector funded by The Swedish Transportation Agency (TrV) with a total budget of 390 MSEK of which 290 MSEK comes from the agency and 100 MSEK

from in-kind contributions from industry. ORUSB, through ORULOG, is one of the research partners from academia contributing with specialized knowledge on sustainable supply chains, artificial intelligence and implications of government policy. Triple F is led by the Closer/Lindholmen Science Park, the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI) and RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, and aims to create a national platform for research, development, verification and demonstrators of solutions for the transition to a fossil-free freight transport-system in 2045. The 12-year program ends in 2030.

Young Sustainability Professionals (YSP) and Sustainergies

ORUSB collaborates with Sustainergies and the Young Sustainability Professionals (YSP). Sustainergies is a platform for business, organisations, academics and students who want to collaborate on sustainability. The participants gain experience in real-life sustainability work, such as climate reporting, environmental innovations, environmental management, human rights, supplier follow-up, diversity and gender equality, education, etc. Sustainergies operates as a non-profit organisation and operations are found throughout Sweden. The Young Sustainability Professionals (YSP) network consists of the young in the sustainability industry in Sweden. At companies, organisations, non-profit associations and party offices, YSP is involved in challenging and working for a sustainable future to become a reality. YSP members represent different educational backgrounds and are active in a variety of sectors and industries. It is a

platform for ideas, discussion and contact between people, sectors and industries – always with sustainability as the main starting point.

Collaboration with RISE and SKL for Project within New Social and Health Impact Centre (SHIC)

Researchers within Economics at ORUSB collaborate with RISE Research Institutes of Sweden and SKL, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, in a project within the new RISE Social and Health Impact Centre (SHIC). The project aims at developing models for socioeconomic impact assessments of preventive and early efforts. The centre SHIC shall raise the pace of how knowledge is translated into practical action and improve the ability to measure effects for both society and individuals. In partnership with leading players in Europe, SHIC contributes to common learning. In this way, RISE SHIC works towards increasing the benefits of invested resources, and the probability of real ‘social impact’. RISE SHIC aims at growing to be an established player in the national and European context by 2021, and it actively contributes to Goals 3, 10 and 17 of the Agenda 2030.

Collaboration with Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Sida is a Swedish government agency with the primary goal of reducing poverty in the world and contributing to economic and political development in emerging countries worldwide.

Together with the University of Rwanda, ORUSB has been approved for funding from Sida for the

period 2013–2019, which will go toward a research training partnership in e-Governance. Under this partnership, four PhD students and three batches of Master’s students have been recruited, who are engaged in their research and training with the close cooperation of the government and other stakeholders so as to make sure research is addressing issues of importance to the socio-economic development of Rwanda. The PhD students, admitted based on qualifications and given funding from Sida to be able to study, live and conduct research both in Sweden and Rwanda.

Cooperation with University of Rwanda to Start an International Master’s Programme

ORUSB and several other Swedish universities are engaged in Sida-funded partnerships with the University of Rwanda in different projects for supporting the achievement of Rwanda’s *Vision 2020*. ORUSB collaborates with the Department of ICT at the University of Rwanda and has developed and customised a Master’s programme in Information Systems, with e-Government specialization, taught in Rwanda. The coordinator at ORUSB is Dr. M Sirajul Islam, associate professor in Informatics. Faculty from ORUSB share their knowledge and experience in the implementation of the programme, which is increasingly taught by Rwandan faculty. The project has already produced one batch of graduated Master’s students, and is continuously adjusted to changing needs and circumstances. Within the programme, one course discusses the issue of how ICT4D can contribute to the achievement of the 17 SDGs.



Principle 6: Dialogue

“We will facilitate and support dialogue and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.”

ORUSB is an important player within the region and nation-wide. In its mission, ORUSB is determined to maintain *a close interaction between faculty, students, business and society*. Not only does ORUSB conduct innovative and impactful research and education; it is also seen as vital to communicate ORUSB’s efforts, especially in the area of sustainable development, to our external stakeholders and all interested parties. Furthermore, ORUSB attempts to serve as a platform for dialogue on PRME-related issues, thereby facilitating exchange and information on vital issues and challenges related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

ORUSB at Almedalen

The Almedalen Week is considered one of the most important forums for Swedish politics and society.

It takes place annually in the beginning of July on the Swedish island of Gotland, with speeches, workshops and other activities. Almedalen welcomes politicians, representatives from businesses, government agencies, nonprofit organisations, environmentalists, youth federations etc. ORU and ORUSB also actively participated in several events:

ORU’s Vice-Chancellor Johan Schnürer participated in a seminar called ‘Desperately needed – the skills to save the world’. The question of the skills young people of today need to contribute to a more sustainable society was raised and discussed, and how these demands can be integrated into the Swedish education system.

Tommy Borglund and Sabina Du Rietz of ORUSB participated in a seminar hosted by Social Venture Network (SVN) Sweden, Örebro University and Forever Sustainable Business, on ‘Future sustainability education – is there demand for sustainability managers?’ The seminar acknowledged the growing interest of students to become educated in sustainability, while simultaneously addressing the question of how sustainable development should be included in university courses and if there even will be sustainability managers in the future.

In two other seminars, Tommy Borglund furthermore participated in discussing if industry makes too little effort when it comes to sustainability work, as well as how Swedish companies attempt to and succeed in creating value in the area of sustainable development.

New Perspectives on CSR

Manager Training at Campus Grythyttan

The development in the field of CSR progresses rapidly. Innovations from last year are now standard. New approaches are established and opportunities arise constantly, which means that there is a constant need for further education, for instance on new legislation on sustainability reporting, shared value strategies, network communication, corruption and tax issues. There is also a need to understand the developments on a deeper level and to establish basic values to build on.

Therefore, Örebro University, Social Venture Network and Hallvarsson & Halvarsson, a communication consulting agency in the field of CSR, organise Manager Training on CSR ca. once a year at Örebro University’s campus in Grythyttan. Course leaders in April 2017 were Tommy Borglund and Magnus Frostenson, both engaged in leading CSR-research at ORUSB.

Alan McKinnon Visits Örebro University

Lecture on ‘Decarbonizing Logistics’, 29 May 2018

ORULOG, the Örebro University Center for Research in Sustainable Logistics, was host to a lecture by Alan McKinnon, professor of logistics at Kuehne Logistics University in Hamburg, Germany. McKinnon’s research covers the link between logistics solutions and climate change, as well as the challenge of reducing environmental impact by making logistics activities less greenhouse gas intensive. In his lecture at Örebro University in May 2018, he offered insight into some of the current and future challenges in logistics for companies and countries. McKinnon stressed the difficulties of ‘decarbonizing’ transport, today heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

He discussed possible approaches for improvements and explained how measures such as the development of a sharing economy, the decentralisation of storage and carbon-neutral warehouses, and switching to cleaner, low carbon energy, can result in a substantial net reduction in emission.

CSR as a Strategy for Competitiveness



Tommy Borglund of ORUSB, Main Speaker at Annual CSR-day, 26 April 2018

Tegelbruket, Örebro's 'youth arena', has hosted the annual CSR day since 2016, and is itself an impressive example of sustainable social development: The non-profit association offers numerous sports, cultural and educational activities for young people. Their vision is *to create a meeting place where everyone feels included and appreciated for who they are regardless of their background*. In front of representatives of leading regional companies and organisations in the area of CSR and sustainable development, Tommy Borglund was invited to talk about CSR as a means for businesses to remain competitive and sharpen their overall strategic objectives. He emphasised the growing awareness for sustainability issues within the academy, media and public, and stressed that integrating sustainable development in their operations can be an opportunity for companies to broaden their scope and to be active players in building a more sustainable society. ORUSB will be represented again at the next CSR day in April 2019.

Conference on Development Economics at ORUSB

Association of Swedish Development Economists – ASWEDE, 4–5 May 2017

In May 2017, ORUSB was the setting for the fourth ASWEDE annual conference. ASWEDE's aim is to promote Swedish scientific research in development economics through regular seminars, conferences, lectures and discussions, and by promoting collaboration between development economists operating in Sweden. The conference hosted development economists active in and outside of Sweden, and contained a mix of shorter and longer presentations, from graduate students to senior researchers, to encourage an interactive conference. The presentations revolved around a number of topics within development economics, such as migration, health education and child health, gender differences and gender quotas, electrification and public employment, among others.

Promoting Dialogue on Health Economics

Researchers within Economics at ORUSB are active in promoting dialogue and discussion on their engagements for instance in the field of health economics to regional, national, and international audiences. Elin Vimefall, senior lecturer and head of the Department of Economics at ORUSB, presented her research, for example, at the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership Exchange in Stockholm in May 2018, where she talked about 'The economic value of mental health interventions.' She furthermore took part in a panel discussion on social sustainability at the regional conference Bergslagen 2030, a conference on cooperation and social innovations for a sustainable future. At the Impact Investing Day, organised by Impact Invest Scandinavia in February 2017, Lars Hultkrantz, professor of Economics at ORUSB, presented the state of the art in 'evaluation of social impact investments in Sweden'.

He also held a presentation at the national conference on health economics in spring 2018 in Lund, where he gave some insights into his research regarding the value of a statistical life. ORUSB and the Region Örebro County, in collaboration with SHEA (the Swedish Health Economics Association), will furthermore host the national conference on health economics in spring 2019. Other researchers at the Department of Economics at ORUSB have also been actively engaged in promoting dialogue around their research, for example in the areas of development economics, environmental and resource economics, and economic implications of migration and internationalisation.

Swedish Government Seminar on Climate Policy

Professor Lars Hultkrantz (Economics) moderated a half-day seminar for the Swedish government on 27 November 2018 on the topic of ‘how can we reach the climate policy targets for 2045?’ Sweden has a climate policy framework with a long-term goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2045. To reach net zero, emissions must be radically reduced. In addition, certain activities require negative emissions. Several industries presented their roadmaps for fossil-free competitiveness to the government, and the shift from fossil to renewable energy seems achievable, at least at the planning stage. Questions to be discussed are, for instance, how can the efficiency of the general economic control instruments increase? Which opportunities can emerge from carbon dioxide storage in the rock bed? And how can a decrease in climate impact associated with air and road transport be achieved?

Monitoring the Sustainability Goals

Summer School in Statistics: Monitoring the sustainability goals – statistics and analysis in a new context, 27–29 August 2018

The Department of Statistics at ORUSB organises a Summer School on relevant and impactful topics within the subject area once a year. This year’s summer school introduced the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs with regard to challenges in the area of statistics: How can and should sustainable development be measured and presented? The main focus was on possibilities and challenges for the monitoring on a national

and global scale with the help of different indicators. Questions of discussion included what targets can be measured with existing statistics, which areas provide new challenges and how statistics can be used and analysed to inform policy dialogue. The participants from different businesses and authorities brought in their own experiences and learned which goals and indicators are related to their own field of work, and what they can do to achieve them. Examples of areas of great impact are climate, peace, gender equality and socioeconomic conditions, e.g. how to highlight conditions for vulnerable groups in society. Speakers were Viveka Palm and Sara Frankl from Statistics Sweden, authors of the first baseline report for Sweden published in 2017.

IPID Research Network

IPID, the International Network for Postgraduate Students in the area of ICT4D, is an academic network connecting postgraduate students conducting research in ICT4D and was co-founded by Annika Andersson, who is today Senior Lecturer at the Department of Informatics at ORUSB, in 2006. Aimed at becoming a research- and social meeting place for students interested in ICT4D, IPID today has over 900 registered members from hundreds of universities and research organisations worldwide. It has thereby exceeded all expectations and succeeds in its mission to support doctoral and master’s students as well as to increase their visibility at international conferences. IPID is administered alternately by different graduate students, often from ORUSB, but also from other institutions. A large number of projects within IPID has a focus on sustainable development and the SDGs.

Social Impact Lab Örebro University

Initiative aims at helping researchers to solve societal problems

The social impact lab at ORU addresses researchers and teaching staff in all of ORU’s subject areas – anyone who is conducting research and produces knowledge that can be said to be applicable and relatable to areas in society where there are social challenges. Some major areas of impact can be education, mental health, integration, the aging population and the environment, often by taking the SDGs as a guideline.

ORU participates in Pride Parade

Once a year, students and employees of ORU participate in the Örebro Pride Parade, which rallies for everyone's equal rights and value regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, background, body shape, function variation, age and so on. ORU has its own section in the parade. In 2018, Örebro Pride took place from 23–26 August, with many interesting events, speeches and meetings.



Partnership & Dialogue – Objectives and Challenges

ORUSB maintains numerous partnerships with a focus on sustainable development, and is an active agent when it comes to communicating efforts in CSR, sustainability, equal opportunity etc. Some of the events mentioned above – the sustainability conference, CSR-day, Örebro Pride, and Almedalen, among others – are fixed annual dates in the calendars of ORU as well as ORUSB and its faculty to present ideas and engagement in the area of sustainable development and CSR.

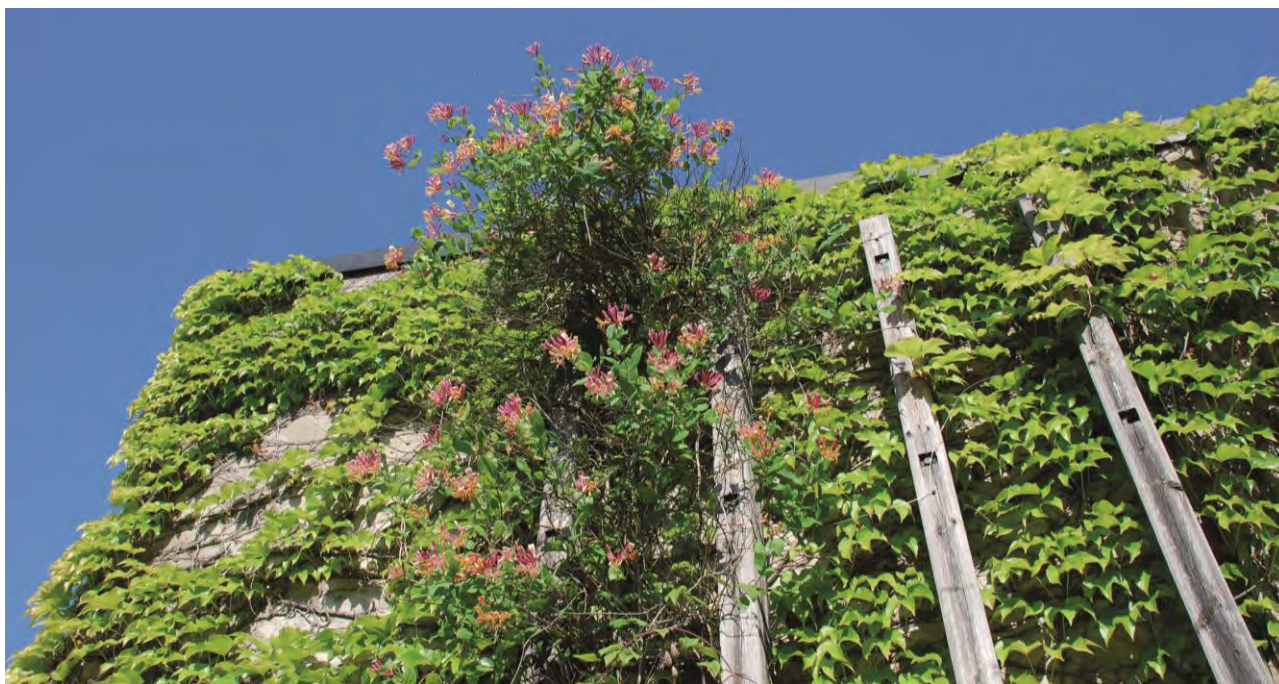
Other events are quite new at ORUSB, such as guest lectures within ORULOG, the new interdisciplinary research centre for sustainable logistics. More events within ORULOG will in all likelihood be launched in the next period. Contacts to the business life within the study programmes will be further developed in the coming years, which includes guest lectures and opportunities for student internships and case studies within an even larger number of companies. The new Master programme in Sustainable Business with its many cooperations can serve as a model.

The PRME Project Group aims to serve as a platform to encourage and facilitate dialogue around topics of sustainable development, CSR etc. on the level of ORUSB.



Principle 7: Organisational Practices

“We understand that our own organizational practices should serve as example of the values and attitudes we convey to our students.”



ORUSB acknowledges the importance of measures to increase our work with environmental, social and economic sustainability, as mentioned in Chapter 1 on *Purpose and Values*.

During 2017 and early 2018, ORU's Sustainable Development Coordinator and Equality and Diversity Advisor have reviewed and revised the university's work with these issues. They have taken the efforts to the next level and developed a far-reaching strategy and action plan for the work with sustainable development. Their overall objective is to inform and educate on the issues, to gradually increase measures to work with them and eventually to integrate sustainable development into all of ORU's activities.

In the past two years, information campaigns on environmental sustainability and equal opportunity have particularly been given 'on-demand' – the structures for regular, large-scale information occasions are still being established. For the implementation of a detailed strategy and plan for ORU's work with sustainable development, but also as a starting point for their university-wide information campaign, the Sustainable Development Coordinator and the Equality and Diversity Advisor have collaborated with the

leading representatives from all of ORU's different schools.

Environmental and social sustainability is not always easy to include in course curricula and to convey to students. Therefore, ORU offers one module each on sustainable development in the two courses *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education 1 & 2*, in which teachers are supported in these issues. The courses contain a lecture and a workshop, and they are obligatory for all teaching staff at the university. In November 2018, the course *Sustainable development in education – from thought to graduate students* was offered, directed at programme and course coordinators and heads of departments.

To reach students more directly, the Sustainable Development Coordinator and the Equality and Diversity Advisor have been present at the introductory events for new students in the past two years. They have given an informative lecture called *Food and talk for sustainable development* and were directly approachable during several student fairs at the beginning of each semester. They furthermore work together with the ORU Student Union, with the aim of supporting and eventually certifying 'sustainable union sections' once certain criteria are fulfilled.

Environment

ORU acknowledges that its own energy consumption, business trips and travel-free meetings, and recycling facilities, etc. have direct implications for the environment. ORU's education, research, collaborations and purchasing practices have indirect effects. It is, therefore, ORU's aim to reduce energy consumption by 3,5% a year until 2025, to increase the amount of travel-free meetings, to be an active agent in the regional collaboration for sustainable travel (Project *Sustainable Travel in the Örebro Region 2017–2019*) and to reduce the amount of combustible waste, among other goals. Some major steps have been taken to reach these aims:

- Clear guidelines have been developed for ORU's work with environmental challenges based on an analysis of ORU's environmental management system.
- Technical requirements for travel-free meetings have been installed. Methods for statistical evaluation of the number of travel-free meetings are being developed.
- Three rental bikes have been purchased, which are especially used to travel between the two local campuses. Bike parking for students is offered.
- Systematic measures of energy consumption are conducted and show that ORU has a low energy consumption. All electricity is eco-labelled. The lighting system is stepwise changed to LED and daylight regulation. Further steps to save energy, such as sockets with off-buttons etc. have been decided upon. Campus Örebro reduced its energy waste by 1% last year, and Campus Grythyttan by 6%, which is a step in the right direction but does not yet meet the expectations.
- On three of the university's buildings, solar cells have been installed in the past two years.
- All printers at ORUSB were updated with a 'print-on-demand' function in spring 2018. This means that after the print order has been sent to the printer, our students and staff have to go to the printers and start the printing there – this has already led to a reduction in 'forgotten' printing orders, which are printed but never picked up. An analysis of the consequences of this measure will be conducted in the next period, the results of which will be presented in the next report.

Equal Opportunity

ORU needs students and members of staff that thrive at the University. No individual or group shall be excluded, and there shall be zero tolerance for discrimination and harassment. ORU and ORUSB include this ambition in their policies and strategies as well as in their actions. Furthermore, all Swedish universities received a government assignment for gender equality in 2016.

Based on the assignment, ORU adopted an *Action Plan Gender Mainstreaming* in December 2017. In total, the action plan contains 35 actions in three areas of development: content and implementation of education, research conditions and career paths, and management and leadership processes. In order to gain momentum in implementation, ORU has started a development project with the goal of carrying out activities from the developed action plan, creating more deepened knowledge about gender equality and thus integrating it into all activities. The project runs from 13 August 2018 until the end of 2019 and is divided into three sub-projects according to the three areas of development mentioned above. It is conducted in collaboration with leading researchers in gender studies. An academic consultant will support the group and run a teaching network consisting of representatives of the project, researchers and experts.



Work Environment

ORUSB is aware that incessant efforts are necessary in order to establish and maintain an environment that our teachers, researchers and students feel comfortable in and that enables their successful work and studies. ORU has adopted the *Policy for a good work and study environment*. The systematic efforts for a good work environment at ORU and ORUSB take place in collaboration between managers, employees and students. This entails continuously investigating, assessing, correcting, and following up on the work environment continuously.

Achieving a good work and study environment within Örebro University means, e.g., that:

- Regular analyses of the study environment are conducted.
- ORU strongly counteracts all types of offensive treatment and discrimination through its policies and actions.
- ORU offers employee and student health care.
- Each Head of Department annually conducts individual performance reviews with each employee. Employees are encouraged to voice any thoughts and issues they have about their working situation. This includes content and number of tasks and workload, but also physical and psychological work environment.
- ORU provides every employee the opportunity to take responsibility for her or his health through a wellness program: one paid hour of physical activity each week plus a certain amount that can be used, e.g., to pay for the gym each year. In this way, ORU aims at ensuring long-term health and well-being for its employees.



Organisational Practices – Objectives and Challenges

ORU and ORUSB have begun to focus on the implementation of the *Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming*. It is planned that the work on the initial integration of the issues will be completed by the end of 2019. The follow-up, therefore, will be presented in ORUSB's next PRME SIP report in 2020. The implementation of the *Action Plan for Sustainable Development* will also be further accelerated. Areas of improvement are, for instance:

New staff for the implementation of sustainability and equal opportunity in study programmes and courses have been hired at the ORU level. It will be their responsibility to integrate and customise sustainable development for the individual subject areas university-wide, also at ORUSB, in collaboration with our teaching staff.

An increase in pedagogical courses for faculty is expected: so far, sustainable development has mostly been taught as a part of two courses. This going to change gradually, and the beginning has been the course *Sustainable development in education – from thought to graduate students*, given in November 2018. More courses for faculty and staff solely focused on sustainable development will also be offered in the future.

Students first come into contact with topics of sustainable development during their introductory events for their studies at ORU/ORUSB, for instance in the lecture *Food and talk for sustainable development* or at student fairs at the beginning of each semester. Follow-up events for students in similar form are planned to take place during the whole period of their studies at ORU and ORUSB. The certification of 'sustainable student union sections' will be introduced. Student union sections will be able to apply for a certification and have to fulfill certain criteria to be certified.

Recycling facilities are today present in all student and staff areas, but not in general areas. The aim is to reduce combustible waste everywhere at ORUSB and ORU.

Energy consumption will be decreased further, according to the action plan, and travel-free meetings will be further supported by means of better introductions to technology for employees.

Diversity is an important criterion in all of ORU's and ORUSB's recruitment processes. However, more work needs to be done in this respect: While ORU aspires to be an equal study and work environment and has 61% female students, 58% female doctoral students and 53% female senior lecturers, only 32% of the full professors at ORU are female. The numbers at ORUSB in this regard are even lower with about 19% female professors. Therefore, ORU plans to increase the number of female professors by means of, for instance, funds and clear guidelines for equal recruitment. ORUSB's plans are fully aligned with the university-wide measures. Regular follow-ups during the next years will measure the plan's successful implementation.

The above-mentioned measures are long-term projects. Necessary changes are systemic and require large efforts, and ORUSB is fully aware that much more work has to be done in the near future. Follow-ups and adjusted measures will be presented in the next report.

Appendix

Selected publications relevant for PRME

2018

- Andrén, D. (2018). Well-being and the Willingness to Pay for an Intervention Aimed to Decrease Depression. Konferensbidrag vid Sjunde nationella hälsoekonomiska konferensen, Lund, Sweden, March 14-15, 2018.
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- Hultkrantz, L. (2018). Benefit-Cost Evaluation of Prevention and Early Intervention Measures for Children and Youth in Sweden. I: Mario La Torre, Mario Calderini, *Social Impact Investing Beyond the SIB: Evidence from the Market* (ss. 177-194). Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.
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- Vimefall, E. (2018). Willingness To Pay for Suicidal Prevention. Konferensbidrag vid Sjunde nationella hälsoekonomiska konferensen (SHEA), Lund, Sweden, March 14-15, 2018.

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Örebro University School of Business' first PRME Sharing Information on Progress Report has been prepared by PRME Coordinator Hannah Scharf, in collaboration with the PRME Project Group consisting of Ida Andersson-Norrie, Tommy Borglund, Sven Helin and Frans Prenkert.

ORUSB's faculty members, students and other stakeholders have provided information and contributions for the report and have been involved as interview partners during the process of data collection.

Format and layout have been prepared by Hannah Scharf and Örebro University's Department for Communication and Collaboration.

CONTACT

***Visiting address:* Örebro universitet Handelshögskolan
Fakultetsgatan 1. Novahuset. 701 82 Örebro, Sweden**

***Postal address:* Örebro universitet Handelshögskolan. 701 82 Örebro, Sweden**

***E-mail:* hh@oru.se *Phone:* +46 19 30 30 00**

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<https://www.oru.se/hh/english>