

Ausgezeichnet mit dem EMAS Award - die HNE Eberswalde



v.l.n.r.: Dr. Edward Zammit Lewis (Minister für Tourismus auf Malta), Prof. Dr. Wilhelm-Günther Vahrson (Präsident der HNEE), Karmenu Vella (EU-Kommissar für Umwelt, Fischerei und maritime Angelegenheiten) und Prof. Hans Bruyninckx (Direktor der Europäischen Umweltagentur), Bild: UGA GS, Mario Lodigiani

Alle zwei Jahre vergibt die Europäische Kommission den EMAS Award an nach EMAS Standards zertifizierte Organisationen für vorbildliches Umweltmanagement. Nachdem die Hochschule bereits 2010 diesen Award erhalten hat, ging der Preis 2017 zum Thema „Ressourcenschonung und Kreislaufwirtschaft“ in der Kategorie „Organisation des öffentlichen Sektors“ erneut nach Eberswalde.

Der Laudator Prof. Hans Bruyninckx, Direktor der Europäischen Umweltagentur, begründet die Entscheidung der Kommission wie folgt:

“The Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development is a great example of how environmental management can be much more than an additional element of attention for strategic management. It is in fact the starting point for many of the choices made at the University. Choices regarding buildings, procurement, energy use, food, etc. are made to contribute to sustainability, to be a part of the transition to a low carbon, circular economy, and to protect natural capital. EMAS is seen as an instrument in support of this core mission of the organization. Not as an obligation to improve at the margins. Students are immersed in a learning environment that is pointing towards the future, that breaths the challenges, but also the great opportunities of the society of the 21st century. This is a place where scientific advances, new methodologies, innovative technologies, and more integrated and systemic understanding of climate change and biodiversity loss and the necessary transition — ‘Wende’- towards a Green Economy are at the heart of the University’s mission. While education for sustainable development is much debated, it is rarely practiced in places of higher education, much less is it seen as the starting point or one of the core principles. The basis of this is a long, although interrupted, tradition. For over a century, environment, natural resources and sustainability have formed the core identity and mission at Eberswalde, making it one of the oldest institutions for higher education with this focus. We can only hope that the EMAS award will signal to all those involved in the University, that this is not going unnoticed, and will serve as an encouragement to stay at the forefront of science and education for nachhaltige Entwicklung.”