

# Sustainability in Learning Mobility: Exploratory Study

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# What and by whom?

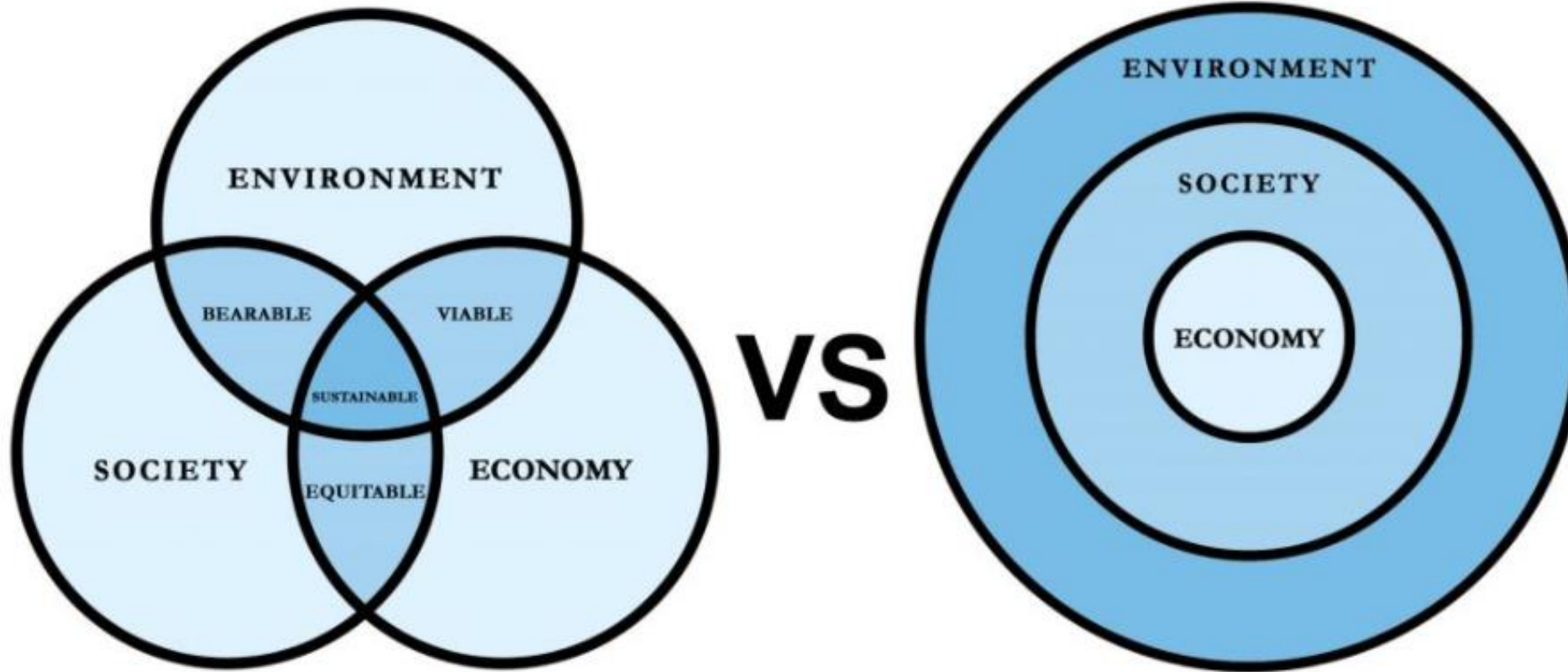
*„This study presents the first steps in efforts to make sustainability in learning mobility a practical concept supporting players in the field in pursuing sustainable principles in their activities.“*

- ▶ Ondras: Freelance youth researcher (youth participation, youth mobilities, volunteering)
- ▶ Marzena: Trainer, educator and researcher (quality in youth work, volunteering, intercultural communication, mediation in youth work and young people's essential skills) -> *Look around, she is here!*

# Sustainability

- ▶ *„Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (...) What is needed now is a new era of economic growth - growth that is forceful and at the same time socially and environmentally sustainable.“*
- ▶ **Brundtland definition** (UN General Assembly 1987: *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*)

# Tripple Bottom Line (TBL): What is it and where does it come from?



# TBL Dimensions

- ▶ **Environmental sustainability**
- ▶ **Planetary boundaries:**
- ▶ climate change, novel entities (i.e., chemical pollution), stratospheric ozone depletion, atmospheric aerosol loading, oceanic acidification, biogeochemical flows, freshwater use, land-system change, and biosphere integrity

# TBL Dimensions

## ▶ Social sustainability

- ▶ Rasouli and Kumarasuriyar (2016 in McGuinn et al. 2015: 26-27) list the following key aspects of social sustainability:
  - ▶ *“1. Macro-level: basic level of physical well-being: housing, food, clothing, health, sanitation;*
  - ▶ *2. Micro-level: quality of life and equity:*
    - ▶ *2.1. Social: social and cultural life, social homogeneity and cohesion, integration, diversity, sense of place, communication and participation, social justice and equity, social amenity, social security, social capital and well-being;*
    - ▶ *2.2. Services: access to goods, service and employment, education, training, equitable income;*
    - ▶ *2.3. Governance: democracy, engaged governance, system for citizen engagement.”*

# TBL Dimensions

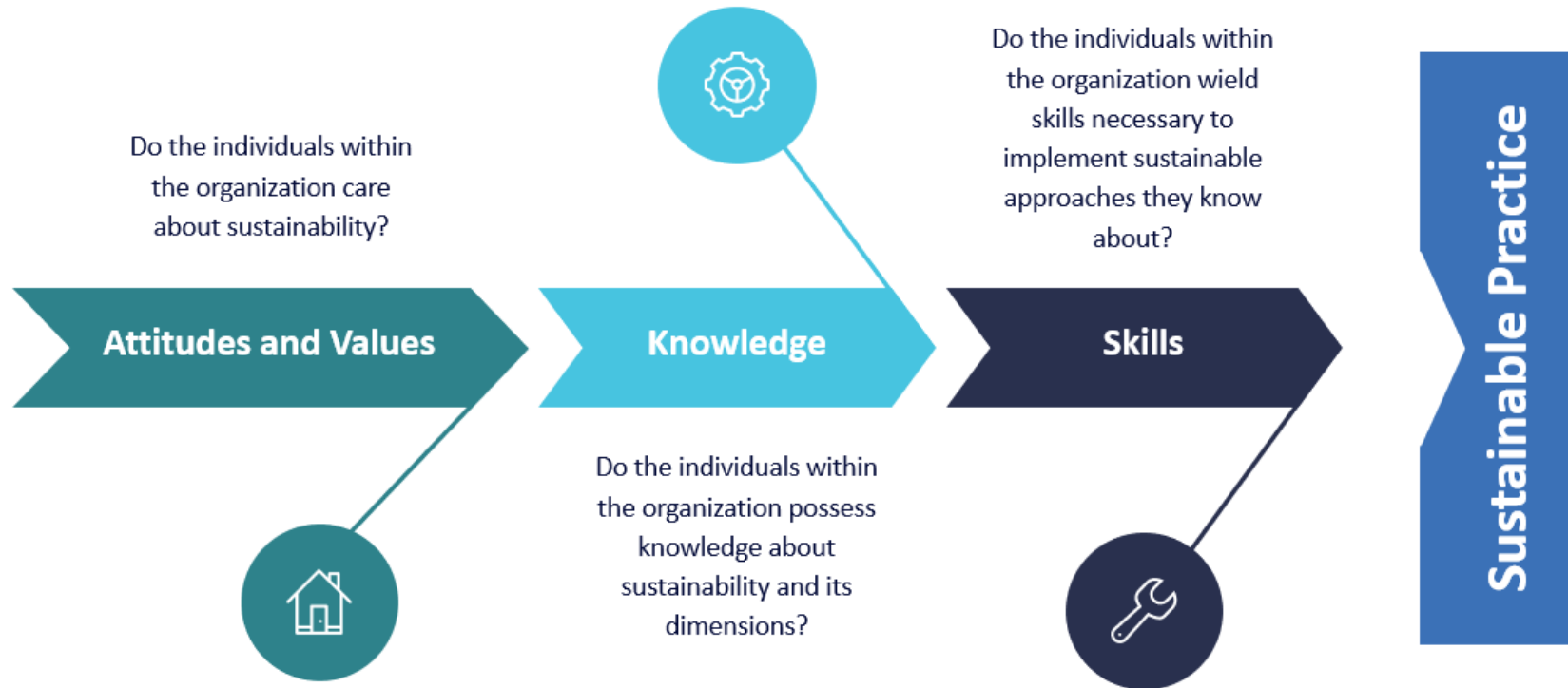
## ▶ Economic sustainability

- ▶ *“In the economic debate, sustainable development is most often described as the need to maintain a permanent income for humankind, generated from non-declining capital stocks (Hicksian income).” (Spangenberg 2005: 48)*

# Sustainability in Learning Mobility

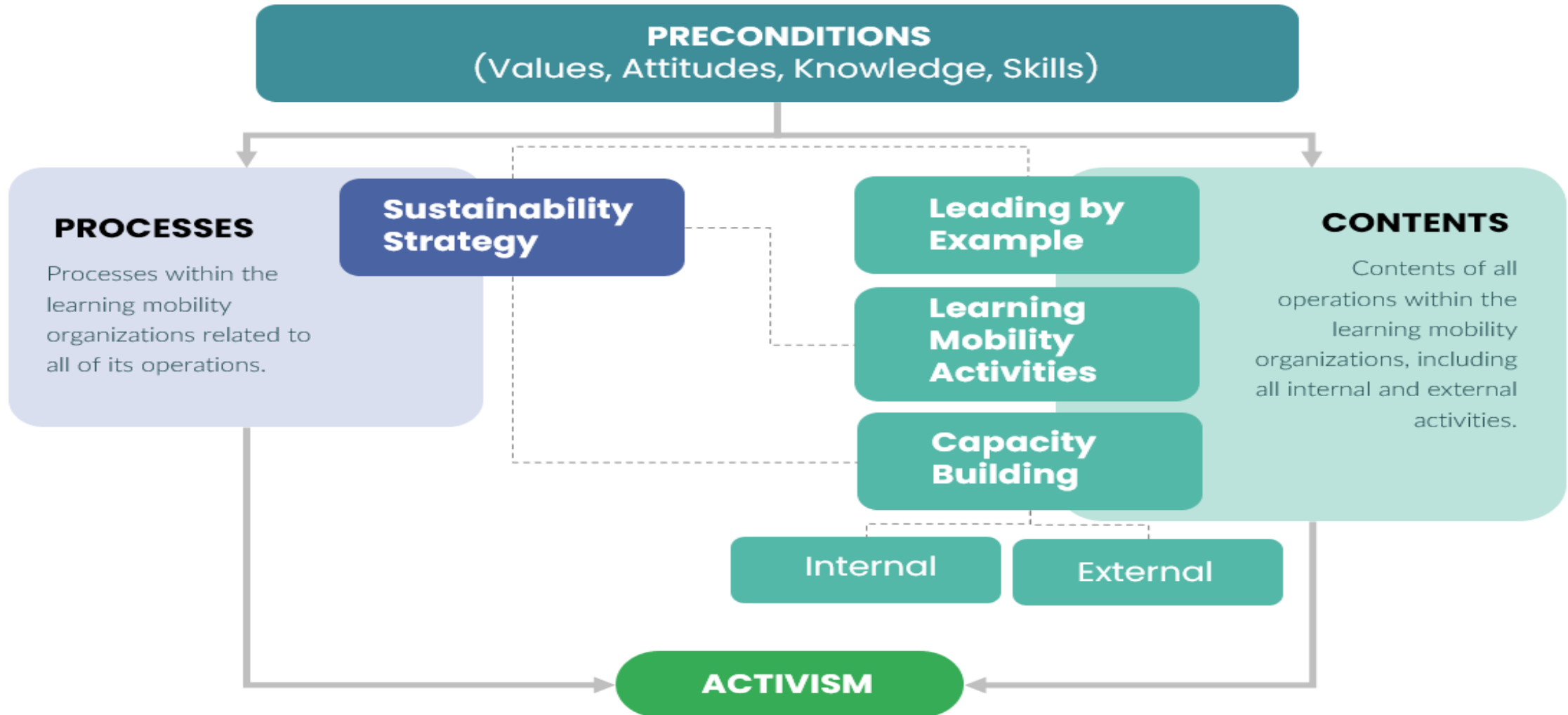
- ▶ **All three domains of sustainability are applicable in the learning mobility settings!**
  - ▶ **Environmental sustainability** can be present as a topic (e.g., focusing on sustainability competences; see Guia 2020, c.f. UNESCO 2019) and is always present as a procedural aspect of organizing learning mobility initiatives (i.e., the learning mobility can be organized in a more or less sustainable manner).
  - ▶ **Social sustainability** is a (cross-cutting) topic inherently present in many learning mobility initiatives and connected to the nature of learning happening within these mobilities (e.g., the emphasis on social inclusion, see Cairns 2015).
  - ▶ **Economic sustainability** may be harder to encompass in learning mobility organizations which often do not focus (primarily) on profit. Nevertheless, as the learning mobility organizations frequently use public funds to financially support learning mobility projects and their own internal processes, there are economic sustainability domains that should be taken into account: in procurement and anti-corruption areas, for instance (GRI 2020).





# Preconditions to Sustainable Practice

# LEVELS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN LEARNING MOBILITY ORGANIZATIONS



# Sustainability Strategy for Learning Mobility Organizations

## 3. Engage External Actors

How will partner organizations be included?

How will learning mobility participants be included?

## 2. Set Concrete Sustainability Goals for the Organization

How will you achieve the sustainability goals defined in the previous step?

Will you reduce meat consumption at your events?

Will you reduce plastic use?

Make these goals SMART!

## 1. Define Key Sustainability Priorities

Mission statements or other strategic documents are a good place to include them!



## 4. Evaluate the Sustainability Goals

Have the sustainability goals been reached within the given timeframe?

What obstacles have occurred? What examples of good practice can be seen? What lessons can be learned for the future?

## 5. Disseminate the Results

Annual reports on organization operations are a good place for disseminating the sustainability evaluation.

Other opportunities for dissemination can arise as well: conferences, round table meetings, social media posts, or regular communication with partner organizations.

## 6. Adjust the Sustainability Strategy

Are the priorities set well? Do the goals need to change? Is engagement of external actors sufficient? Is the evaluation strategy appropriate? Are the dissemination channels designed and used well?

# Defining Sustainability in Learning Mobility

- ▶ **Sustainability in learning mobility means aligning operations of a given learning mobility organization on the procedural level with environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles.**



# Questions and (some!) Answers