

– work in progress –

## **Matching publicly funded research projects with one's own PhD project**

Some thoughts using the example of the German “Energiewende”

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### **Abstract**

The German “Energiewende” is one of the grand challenges society faces today and will face in the coming years and decades. Achieving the socio-technical transition to a sustainable, low-carbon, energy-efficient energy system requires extensive joint efforts from science, politics, and society. Therefore, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) brought into being several interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary funding initiatives in order to foster innovation and sustainability research. The underlying assumption is that inter- and transdisciplinarity gives the opportunity to analyze, evaluate and synthesize information and perspectives from multiple sources and disciplines for the reason of an epistemically robust and socially compatible generation and implementation of innovations.

In my presentation, I try to explore how such inter- and transdisciplinary research projects could be examined regarding their function and ability to generate and implement successful innovations. In order to do that I will first introduce and characterize two projects – the Forschungscampus “Future Electrical Networks” (FEN) and the Innovationsgruppe “Regional Dialogue on Energy Transitions” (render) – as the objects of my study. I will then give hints on theoretical and empirical approaches to understanding and studying these projects, before I will finish some thoughts on how to match these publicly funded research projects with my own PhD project.

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