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## Newsletter #01/2025

We hope you enjoyed the winter holidays and would like to wish you a Happy New Year 2025! We have collected many updates and insights for you. First, we would like to thank everyone who took part in our community survey. Your feedback has been very helpful for our work!

The year 2025 marks the final months of the tdAcademy project. As we approach the conclusion of this journey at the end of May, we aim to reflect on our achievements and explore future directions together with you. A key opportunity for this exchange is the inaugural annual conference of the Society for Transdisciplinary and Participatory Research (GTPF), which we are proud to co-organize. Titled "*GTPF Annual Conference 2025 – New Horizons in Transdisciplinary Research*", the conference will take place in early April 2025. We look forward to welcoming many of you there to share ideas and shape the future of transdisciplinary and participatory research.

In this first newsletter of the year, we have prepared inspiring content for you: A collective report on our contributions to the ITD24 Conference, reports from workshops organized within Intersection 2: Context dependency of formats, and a blog post and video from our fellowship program. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and find some inspiration for the new year.



**Event | April 2-3, 2025 | 1st GTPF Annual Conference 2025 - New Horizons in Transdisciplinary Research | Register Now**



**Report | Contributions on the Societal and Scientific Impact of Transdisciplinary Research at the ITD24 Conference**

The [Society for Transdisciplinary and Participatory Research \(GTPE\)](#) warmly invites its members and all interested individuals to its inaugural annual conference, "*New Horizons in Transdisciplinary Research.*" Organized in collaboration with the research platform [tdAcademy](#), this event is designed for researchers and funding institutions dedicated to advancing excellent transdisciplinary and participatory research. The conference will take place from April 2 to 3, 2025, in Frankfurt am Main. While the primary conference language is German, contributions in English are welcome. Join us to network and help shape the future of transdisciplinary and participatory research! Participation is free of charge but requires mandatory registration. Registration is now open.

[Check out](#)



### **Report | Workshops on the Context-Sensitive Selection and Adaptation of Formats in Transdisciplinary Research**

In October 2024, the Oeko-Institute and the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) hosted an online workshop as part of the tdAcademy project, focusing on how contextual factors shape the selection and adaptation of transdisciplinary (TD) research formats. The session began with an introduction to TD research, using the "Framework of 9 Context Factors" and examples from the phases of Co-Design, Co-Production, Co-Integration and their Co-Evaluation. Key challenges, including power asymmetries, trust-building, and cultural differences, were highlighted as critical intersections influencing collaboration.

The ITD24 conference, "Inter- and Transdisciplinarity Beyond Buzzwords: Educational Pathways for Sustainable Research Collaborations," took place in November 2024 in the Netherlands. Members of tdAcademy were represented with three contributions focusing on societal and scientific impact. These included the workshop "Fostering Effectiveness of Transdisciplinary Research by Reflecting Possible Impact Pathways" and the poster "Fostering Reflective Impact Orientation in Transdisciplinary Research – a Multi-Method Workshop Format," both exploring how impact pathways link research activities to societal impacts. The session "Synergies and Trade-offs Between Scientific and Societal Effects" tackled the challenge of balancing these impacts in research processes. Read the short report to learn more.

[Learn more](#)

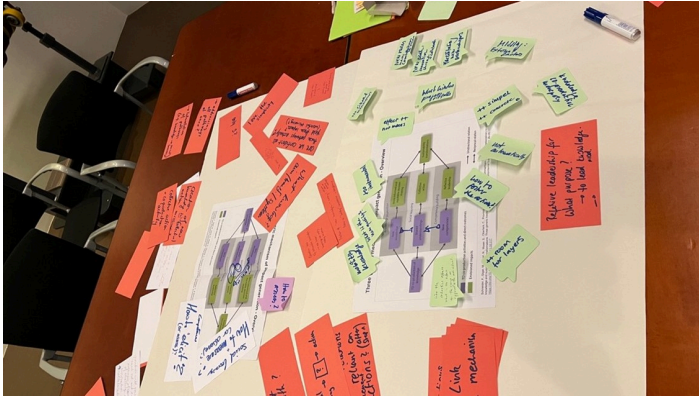


### **Report | Workshop with Leuphana University Students: Reflecting on Context and Formats in Transdisciplinary Research**

In October 2024, the tdAcademy, represented by ITAS and the Oeko-Institute, visited Leuphana University Lüneburg to hold a workshop for Sustainability Science master's students. The students, who are working on year-long transdisciplinary (TD) research projects with urban stakeholders, explored the influence of contextual factors, formats, and methods on their projects. The workshop started with an introduction to the concepts of context, formats, and methods in TD research. In group discussions, the students reflected on how these factors influence their work and shared experiences with methods like stakeholder mapping and visual approaches.

Participants engaged in group discussions on contexts, formats, and cultural settings, addressing how these factors interact and affect TD research. A concluding plenary session synthesized insights, emphasizing the importance of open communication, mutual respect, and trust-building to navigate cultural and institutional complexities. Read the full report for further details.

[Learn more](#)



## Blog | Pathways to Societal Impact for Transdisciplinary and Transformative Research

How can transdisciplinary and transformative research (TTR) better address urgent societal and ecological challenges? A tdAcademy Fellowship brought together research teams from TU Berlin, ISOE Frankfurt, and the University of Bern to explore "impact pathways"—concepts that connect project activities to societal outcomes. At the ITD24 conference, the teams shared insights from three distinct approaches, showcasing how pathways can guide behavioral changes, governance innovations, and infrastructure development. Discussions highlighted the benefits of understanding these pathways, such as enhanced project planning and evaluation, while revealing gaps in addressing complex real-world challenges. Read our blog post and explore how this work advances our understanding of societal impact in TTR.

[Learn more](#)

The interactive session also addressed critical questions, such as: When is TD research truly transdisciplinary? The plenary discussion highlighted shared challenges, including time constraints and the role of practice partners. Read the full report for more insights and the workshop outcomes.

[Learn more](#)



## Video (EN) | Health under Climate Pressure... and Why a Transdisciplinary Approach Is Necessary

In November 2024, former tdAcademy fellow Isabella Radhuber hosted a webinar titled "Health under Climate Pressure... and Why a Transdisciplinary Approach Is Necessary." During her fellowship in fall/winter 2023/24 in Karlsruhe, she focused on the critical role of qualitative research in understanding how people experience extreme weather events and their health implications. Radhuber presented health as a multidimensional concept, shaped by the interplay of biological, ecological, and socio-political-economic factors across time and space. The webinar featured an engaging dialogue with participants, exploring both the opportunities and challenges of applying transdisciplinary methods in this complex field of study. Interested in the presentation but couldn't make it? The webinar was recorded and is now available online.

[Learn more](#)

## Project Partners & Funding Agency



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Responsibility for the content of this newsletter lies with the project.

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