

Do each of us have a social responsibility?

For many years we have been living in increasing prosperity, in democratically oriented societies and in a peaceful Europe, but unfortunately these achievements have been put at great risk by the tensions of the zeitgeist and people like Trump or Erdogan and an incredible increase in the nationalist aspirations of an AfD in Germany, and we are increasingly confronted with forces that want to destroy multinational trade relations, our democracy and the associated peace and prosperity of recent decades.

At the same time, we have been using our earth's resources in an unsparing way for many years, as if we had several earths at our disposal, as **Sitting Bull** has said: "We did not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrowed it from our children" - the climate, nature and respect for life - "Only when the last tree is cut down, the last fish is eaten, they will understand that money cannot be eaten" - we are on the best way to describe our climate, our environment and thus our livelihood.

We can only make our modest contribution to the previously demanded social responsibility with the Madame-Ilsa-Foundation gUG in Morocco with your help. without your support and your donations for social commitment, measures in the field of education - also in adult education and the acquisition of language skills - and with **GREENLIGHT** for sustainable and affordable energy as the essential prerequisite for social development, fairly remunerated work and thus hope for a future in our own country, we will not be able to reduce the causes of flight and stabilise an important emerging country.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Lieber, Rector of the University of Applied Sciences Offenburg, highlighted this aspect at our **GREENLIGHT Symposium 2017 at the** University of Applied Sciences Offenburg in the context of his keynote lecture, formulating an assignment of the sciences to Aristotle in three core areas with different goals:

- 1) Theoretical science,
- 2) practical science and the
- 3) poetic science.

The natural sciences represent a prototype for the theoretical sciences, the social sciences and the humanities, as practical sciences, are in search of truth and justice, while at the centre of poetics is creation and design in the sense of quality, sustainability, usability and - above all - functionality, Lieber stresses, i.e. in this context a special responsibility of the engineering and natural sciences

for society can be derived. The understanding that their responsibility extends far beyond the development or operation of a plant is now laid down in their code of conduct in many companies - but social responsibility also requires commitment on the part of the employees in the companies.

Global population growth, networking and digitization, demographic change, global innovation competition, future mobility or climate change, resource and water scarcity in terms of ecology and the various fields of technology such as sustainable energy production require our utmost attention and commitment.

Unusual weather phenomena indicate that climate change will increasingly affect Germany and that climate change will also have a considerable impact on this part of the world.

We are replacing our dependence on oil and gas, mostly produced in non-democratic states, by the dependence on lithium and especially cobalt, with 95% available reserves in the Congo. The price of cobalt has multiplied in the last three years and the list of goods, which are considered to be scarce and limited, will become longer.

"GREENLIGHT for Morocco", i.e. "Green Light", is an initiative of the **Madame-Ilsa-Foundation gUG** - by **Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Michael Schmidt (Hochschule Offenburg)** and **Dr.-Ing. Karl-Heinz Sternemann (Madame-Ilsa)**, students from both countries, who are involved in **"GREENLIGHT projects"** together with their professors, are working on innovative concepts and ideas.

In return, the students train solution-oriented systems thinking, communication and cooperation skills and intercultural team competences through these projects - in a global (work) world in which diversity in all possible facets continues to increase, crucial for the successful shaping of the future.

The Landesstiftung Baden-Württemberg Foundation supports this cooperation in the programme **"Regional Development Policy Component (REK) of the Baden-Württemberg Scholarship"**: German and Moroccan students from different semesters and disciplines as well as doctoral students are involved in **GREENLIGHT projects** for a sustainable improvement of the living conditions of children and young people in Morocco, which is only possible in this form, through the sustainable financing of the exchange and workshops by the **Baden-Württemberg Foundation**.

This spring, three PHD students from Marrakesh and Agadir spent three months working on **GREENLIGHT projects** and their dissertations at **Offenburg University**, while one student from Offenburg was in Morocco to study the scientific work of **Ibn Zohr, Cadi Ayyad University** and **IRESEN Green Energy Park**, while a group of students visited these universities, the huge **NOOR** solar plant in **Quarzazate** and several organisations - **Association AHLI** (Haus der Straßen

In another sub-project, the **Madame-Ilsa Foundation's GREENLIGHT initiative**, which is responsible for numerous other projects in Morocco, has set up a vocational training programme so that young people in the "House of Street Children" (Taroudant) can produce lamps with energy-saving LED technology in Moroccan design. In a next step, the functionality of LED lamps will be expanded with software functionalities in the sense of "Smart Home Concepts" - a major step towards efficient energy use.

Many of our friends and sponsors have already found their way to the projects in Morocco, have been able to get an impression for themselves with the support of **Horst Grulke** and **Ibrahim Ait-Ouamoum**, inspect the previous measures and convince themselves of the meaningful and needs-oriented use of funds.

The Moroccan population has a great need for affordable energy, which has many positive aspects: the young people learning to manufacture lamps with LED technology can earn an income and the users enjoy sustainable lighting at an affordable price, which makes other investments possible thanks to the savings, so the members of the **GREENLIGHT initiative** are living up to their social responsibility in many ways.

GREENLIGHT also stands for the sustainable use of our resources, our planet and our climate. 96% of Morocco's energy requirements are still imported, 89% of which come from fossil fuels. 89% of what the students of both countries realize on a small scale is also the goal of the Moroccan government on a large scale.

Our approach at **GREENLIGHT** to enable students from both countries and faculties to work together on interdisciplinary projects is an approach that will increasingly benefit not only intercultural mutual understanding but also the technological sector: "Because individual technologies are good, but their combination is better, and the projects are also exemplary in another respect, because energy and resource efficiency and their availability will be a decisive prerequisite for the competitiveness of industry over the next ten years," formulated Lieber.

"**Christoph Huß**, Chairman of the VDI Gesellschaft Fahrzeug- und Verkehrstechnik, described this connection between the various facets of social responsibility and sustainability very aptly: "Without economic strength, without education, no innovation, without innovation, no introduction of renewable energies, without new energy supply systems, no reduction in resource consumption."

This is precisely where the **GREENLIGHT initiative** comes in by helping people in Morocco to use and develop resource-saving technology through intercultural cooperation.

Stuttgart's Lord Mayor Rommel once said that coming to the end was the hardest thing to do, so it's best to just stop.

In this sense, I would like to answer the initial questions "Do each of us have a social responsibility" and "Do engineers have a special social responsibility?" with a clear yes and hope that these remarks will provide you with some suggestions for the fact that what is understood by social responsibility is subject to constant changes due to external factors.

And: a lot depends on your willingness to "help-to-can" us.

There are many ways to become active and help us.

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