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Social Work and Sustainability: Opportunities and challenges for social work practice, education and research.

Social work is one of the promising disciplinary newcomers entering the transdisciplinary research field on the question, how to transfer societies towards sustainability. Social work is a practice-based profession and academic research that is in the first instance confronting the consequences of unsustainable development in the life of individuals and communities. The overexploitation of the Planet’s resources is inherently linked with issues of social justice and ethical codes of social work. Thus, sustainability paradigm in social work - called environmental, ecological, ecosocial or green SW – is growing worldwide. Nature-based interventions, ecosocial innovations and climate actions offer new impulses for practice and attract social work students. However, issues of sustainability are not simply additional topics, where social work has a stake to hold. Moreover, it will be discussed, how the transition to sustainability urgently challenges social work to critically rethink its own functional position and dependences regarding the systems of neo-liberal governance of welfare states and growth-oriented economy.