



Welcome to the early summer 2015 COPERNICUS Alliance
Newsletter!

COPERNICUS Alliance News

CA Conference Call for Papers

This years' COPERNICUS Alliance Conference will take place on the 24th November in Madrid. The focus will be on evaluation and assessment of higher education for sustainable development. Read the **draft programme**.



We welcome abstracts for posters and short presentations on the following topics:

- **Sustainability Assessment of Higher Education Institution**
- **General Session on Innovative Teaching and Learning for Sustainability in Higher Education**

Deadline 10th July 2015. More **details** on thematic areas and submitting an abstract.

Innovative teaching for sustainability in higher education - First CA Webinar

Keynote speaker Katja Brundiers, Community-University Liaison for the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University, US, opened a

stimulating discussion on the topic: "**Innovative teaching for sustainability in higher education: experiences and reflections from transdisciplinary cases**". **Watch the recorded webinar.**

We are now planning future webinars, so if anyone would like to suggest any topics in particular, we welcome your ideas. Please contact us at office@copernicus-alliance.org



CA Micro Fund

We invite CA members to apply for up to 500 EUR to support your projects, including the organisation of workshops, conferences, publications, networking and capacity building events. The deadline is 15th August. Read more **information** about requirements, eligible costs and conditions.

Global Alliance Tertiary Education Sustainability Network

The COPERNICUS Alliance is one of more than 20 networks organisations engaged in the establishment of a global alliance of tertiary education networks committed to sustainability. The aim of the alliance is to connect sustainability networks and provide a collective voice to contribute to global developments such as the Paris COP21 in December 2015. This global alliance will work in line with Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES). A shared vision is planned to be published in September 2015.

Please contact GLOBALALLIANCE-request@jiscmail.ac.uk if you represent a sustainability network and want to be added to the discussion.



University networks for sustainability

An abstract for a review of contributions, opportunities and challenges from a COPERNICUS Alliance perspective has been submitted for the **Global Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Conference**, its **Education for Sustainable Development Workshop**. The co-authors, led by Jana Dlouhá will contact CA members soon to seek information about their innovative practices in higher education (teaching, research, operations) that will be included in the article for the associated Journal via a structured questionnaire.

CA Members' News



Fostering exchange between research, teaching and practice

The EU funded project ConSus (Connecting Science-Society Collaborations for Sustainability Innovations) aims at strengthening the collaboration between academia and societal actors. This will be achieved by developing online available teaching materials and methods and delivering training. Nineteen participants from Albania and Kosovo attended the first training at Leuphana University of Lüneburg on inter- and transdisciplinary research from the perspectives of researchers, students and practice partners. Three CA members collaborate in ConSus: University of Graz, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Leuphana University of Lüneburg and also partners from Albania, Kosovo and Ireland.



Sustainability Day University of Economics in Vienna

Sustainability Day took place on May 13th and was organised by oikos Vienna, a student-driven organization for sustainable economics and management, the University's student union and the Sustainability Center of the University.

An interactive presentation on the commitment for sustainable development at the interface between universities, policy makers and practice began the day, followed by various exciting workshops conducted by the Society for Plural Economics, the Footprint Platform and Teach for Austria accompanied by a climate-simulation game and a clothes-swapping party. A panel discussion with Helga Kromp Kolb (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna), Jürgen Schneider (Environment Agency Austria), Wolfgang Pekny (the Footprint Platform), Armon Rezai (Institute for Ecological Economics, Vienna University for Economics and Business) and Martha Ecker (Technical University Vienna) completed

the day. The event was part of the **SusToGo** initiative, the first student driven inter-university movement addressing sustainability issues.

Enabling Leadership for Transformational Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Development

ELTT is a new professional development programme provided by the Sustainability Team of the University of Zurich (UZH) targeting university educators, to support capacity building for leadership in higher education for sustainable development (ESD).



**Universität
Zürich** UZH

Online webinars actively involve international experts in the field of higher ESD. **Workshops** enable peer learning, hands-on experience and active exchange among practitioners. There will be eight workshops during one year. **Thematic handouts** provide theoretical input to systematically understand and learn about the role and potentials of higher ESD.

The pilot implementation of the professional development programme ELTT invites up to 15 university educators from all Swiss universities and disciplines to bring in their engagement, experience and curiosity. It aims to initiate a peer-learning environment among university change agents across Switzerland and internationally.

ELTT will start in November 2015. For more information and pre-registration please contact info@sustainability.uzh.ch. Programme manager: Dr. Clemens Mader.

Global news

GUPES Partnerships Forum, 28th June 2015.

The **GUPES Partnerships Forum** will provide inputs to the 2015 World Environmental Education Congress, including WEEC side events on Sustainable Campuses – Universities Walking the Talk, and Developing a

Massive Open Online Course on Education for Sustainable Development through South-North Partnerships.



GOTHENBURG JUN 29 - JUL 2 2015

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONGRESS

8TH WEEC Planet and People

- how can they develop together?

World Environmental Education Conference

WEEC is an international congress addressing education for environment and sustainable development. The congress is the meeting point for everyone working with or having an interest in education for environment and sustainable development. The congress is an opportunity to learn more about the latest in environmental and sustainability education, to discuss with people from all over the world, to share your own work and to learn from others. Participants from a wide range of countries are expected. <http://weec2015.org/>

Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) : From Rio to Paris: Higher Education for Climate Change Action

Paris - October 14, 2015

**HIGHER EDUCATION
SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE**



This international event will bring together HESI sponsors and signatories, as a follow-up to the United Nations Summit and in preparation for COP 21

More information on the conference at the GUNI website.



Expanding the Dialogue: Sustainability in a Connected World

June 17 - 19

Hosted by:

The University of Hong Kong



The **ISCN conference** will address themes such as the challenges of sustainable urban development in the 21st century, regional perspectives on global change, and how universities can meet the changing needs of employers and other key stakeholders.

Sustainable Development Certification of Education Institutions in Finland

The OKKA Foundation oversees the certification of educational institutions, which currently numbers 77 institutions. OKKA is considering extending the certification system to higher education institutions and is seeking possibilities for international cooperation / knowledge exchange on this topic. Please contact Erkka Laininen: erkka.laininen@okka-saatio.com

Green Gown Awards 2015

Awarding sustainability excellence

The International Green Gown Awards are delivered on a regional



basis in Australasia, UK and French speaking Europe and Canada. The winners of each region then go head to head for the International Green Gown Awards. Entry closes at noon on 12 June 2015

The Learning and Skills category has been revised for this year. Also of particular interest might be the Research and Development category which recognises research-based and knowledge-transfer activities within tertiary education which have had tangible effects on practice with regard to sustainability. Eligible entries can include both large-scale projects with major impacts as well as small-scale projects that provide tangible impacts in focused areas, or amongst specific target audiences.

Introduction to Learning for Sustainability

8 June- 26 June 2015,
The University of
Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Participants in the **summer school** will consider educational responses to the contested concept of 'sustainability'. This will involve participants considering the breadth and complexity of concepts of 'sustainability', and necessarily challenging and partially re-grounding their present understandings and practices by comparing these with the internationally diverse set of practices that sail beneath the 'flag of convenience' that is "Learning for Sustainability", "Education for Sustainable Development" and their variants.

UNEP's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Disasters and Ecosystems: Resilience in a Changing Climate

More than 12,000 people from 183 different countries signed onto UNEP's first MOOC which began in mid-January. The MOOC - titled **Disasters and Ecosystems: Resilience in a Changing Climate** - was developed in collaboration with UNEP's Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES) and Cologne University of Applied Sciences (CUAS), Germany. The MOOC presents a major opportunity to

upscale training and reach many more people than would be possible with in-person delivery.

Massive Open Online Course on Pathways to climate change adaptation: the case of Small Island Developing States.

The **course** provided an overview of climate change adaptation for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with a focus on the environmental perspective. It presented key concepts regarding the issues of adaptation to climate change and the methodological tools needed to analyse challenges faced by SIDS, in order to propose sustainable solutions.



Endorsement of the African Environmental Education and Training Action Plan

March 2015, Cairo, Egypt. UNEP presented the draft action plan for endorsement by the African Ministers at the 15th Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEM). The main objective of the AEETAP is to enhance community environmental education and training within the continent, through various formal education; training; life-long learning; and capacity building programmes and projects.



International Students Conference on Environment and Sustainability: “Biodiversity and Sustainable Urbanization” Shanghai, China 2nd – 7th June

ISCES serves the student community in promoting awareness, capacity and networking amongst students as future leaders, policy makers and activists and updating them of recent challenges and developments in the area of environment and sustainability. This year, the **conference** will attract the sustainability-oriented enterprises and NGOs. With the support of UNEP, Tongji University and Beijing Green Future Environmental Foundation promoting good practices and concepts of sustainable development among university students.

Partner of the Month

University of Warsaw

University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development



The University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (UCES) is a unique, interdisciplinary institution in the field of establishing standards of education for sustainable development and it is widely recognized in Poland.

UCES initiated the University of Warsaw's membership of the COPERNICUS Alliance European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development. The flagship activity of the UCES is an open cycle of lectures on "Selected Issues of Sustainable Development" aimed at students from all faculties and also journalists, teachers and all interested academic staff. We aim to introduce sustainable development not only in terms of academic theory but also in practice in all spheres of University life.

Becoming a member of the COPERNICUS Alliance provides us opportunities to learn from good practices from other Higher Education Institutions carrying out sustainability initiatives and challenges us to strengthen our efforts. The University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development is a partner in the international European project, University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD), and this activity and membership in the COPERNICUS Alliance accords with the University of Warsaw's commitment to social responsibility.

For more information about the University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development please contact Dr. Anna Kalinowska (Director, UCES) anna.kalinowska@pro.onet.pl or Dr Anna Batorczak a.batorczak@uw.edu.pl

<http://ucbs.uw.edu.pl/>



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