



**Welcome to the COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter April 2016**

## CA Members' News

### **Call for Contributions for the COPERNICUS Alliance Conference 2016 on Sustainability Transformation of Science Systems**

September 14th-15th 2016, Vienna, Austria  
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU Vienna)

[www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016](http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016)

It is our goal to organize this conference under the “Green Meeting” directive of the Austrian Eco Label

#### **About the conference:**

The 2016 COPERNICUS Alliance Conference focuses on the sustainability transformation of institutional, national and international science systems. It will reflect on policies and practices that support or hinder researchers and educators of higher education institutions to practice inter- and transdisciplinary approaches of sustainability science.

Sustainability requires new approaches to knowledge and education. Universities must take on a key role in contributing to a transformation towards sustainable development.

This transformation requires an interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and holistic collaboration at the interface of education, research, policy and practice. The concept of sustainability science has been recognized by UNESCO in its medium-term strategy (2014-2021) as an integrated, problem-solving approach to science and engineering for sustainable development.

In order to walk the talk, the two day conference will - in addition to a few invited keynotes - provide a variety of participative opportunities, such as a "poster walk and talk", parallel interactive sessions fully designed by participants, and a screening of short-videos of contributors who cannot attend in person. A digital conference handbook will provide a guide to the posters and interactive sessions. After the conference, participants will have the chance to submit full papers with findings from their discussions and research to partnering indexed journals.

### **Themes and questions:**

Participants of the conference will elaborate on:

1. Inside the university: Required competences, barriers and factors of success for sustainability science and ESD.
2. Interface between University and Society: Possible ways to open up universities towards a more integrative exchange of knowledge and mutual learning processes with society and policy.
3. Policy framework: How do global policies like the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development or the European Research Programme on Responsible Research and Innovation, impact higher education and what challenges do we face?

### **Call for contributions:**

Within the framework of the given themes and questions, you are invited to propose:

#### **• Interactive session**

Be the host of your interactive session! Combine a topic with your favourite participative methodological approach and design your concept for either a 45 minute or a 90 minute interactive session. Shorter activities will be grouped together. We encourage you to bring your own ideas and methods, however, if necessary, we will be pleased to support you with our experience. Suggestions for methods can also be found e.g. in the Sustainicum Collection (<http://www.sustainicum.at/en/tmethods>).

Please send us an abstract of your interactive action concept (1. title, 2. author/facilitator and contact person, 3. co-authors / co-facilitators, 4. institution, 5. email, 6. topic description 200-250 words, 7. method + procedure description of 200-250 words) as a word attachment.

If we select your interactive action, you will need to act as the host during the interactive session. You will need to bring all required materials to the conference. If informed sufficiently in advance, we will support your action the best we can.

#### **• Poster**

You may present max. 1 poster (format A0 or A1) as a main author. In the "poster walk and talk" you will be able to present your poster. Participants will be able to rate the posters in view of their interest in the topic. The authors of the 3 posters with the highest ranking will be invited to present their poster to the plenum (10 minutes pitch).

Please send us an abstract of your poster (1. title, 2. author/facilitator and contact person, 3. co-authors / co-facilitators, 4. institution, 5. email, 6. abstract 200-250 words) as a word attachment, or the poster screenshot as a pdf attachment if available.

Selected posters need to be submitted as pdf attachment (max. 10 MB) for the digital conference handbook. In addition, posters (format A0 or A1) have to be brought to the conference. Since a 10 minutes pitch for the final session will be expected for the highest ranked posters, you need to prepare the pitch in advance.

- **Short video**

A limited number of selected videos will be screened, in order to enable participants not travelling to Vienna to provide additional stimulations for the participants.

Please send an abstract of the video (1. title, 2. author, 3. institution, 4. email, 5. abstract of the video 200-300 words) as a word attachment. If selected, the video file will need to be uploaded to our server (more information below). Only high quality videos will be accepted (shot with a tripod, 1920x1080, high quality audio and video!).

If your video is selected, you will need to upload the final video file. The duration of the video may not exceed 4 minutes. The preferred format is \*.mov; video codec H264, size FullHD 1920x1080, 25fps; audio: AAC, Stereo, 48 kHz; max. size 1GB. Since the movie will be displayed on a big screen, please use a tripod for your recordings. If you upload videos in a different format, we will endeavour to convert your video to the required format but we cannot guarantee a successful conversion.

### **Key Dates:**

Submission of interactive session proposals, poster and video abstracts: June 30th 2016  
Notification of acceptance by July 31st 2016  
Early bird fee till August 14th 2016  
Upload of videos by August 22nd 2016  
Submission of full poster by August 31st 2016  
Last day of registration: September 5th 2016  
Conference: September 14th – 15th 2016  
(Annual General Meeting for CA members: September 16th 2016)

Please check the website: [www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016](http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016)

Please send all submissions and questions to: [office@copernicus-alliance.org](mailto:office@copernicus-alliance.org)



**Universität für Bodenkultur Wien**

## **Micro Funds**

We are pleased to support two events with Micro Fund grants. The Open University of the Netherlands will be supported in a workshop on the European Virtual Seminar for Sustainable Development and the University of Warsaw in the organisation of a one day conference, "The Sustainable University". Reports on these events will be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

**We encourage any interested members to apply for the next Micro Funds  
deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

# Memorandum of Understanding CA and IAU



The MoU between COPERNICUS Alliance and the International Association of Universities is in the final stages of preparation and soon we will be able to share with CA members the benefits resulting from this cooperation. The MoU will facilitate cooperation on a special issue of the journal Higher Education Policy and a generously-awarded prize for best papers.

## Emissions caused by business travel at higher education institutions

The sustainability units of the University Basel, ETH Zurich, University of Zurich (UZH) and EPFL Lausanne are cooperating to find solutions to reduce emissions caused by business travel in academia. Please support this work by participating in a short survey by the end of May.

The survey can be found here: <https://de.surveymonkey.com/r/emmissions>

## Call for Papers - Universities as Beacons of Change: Education for Sustainability Lighting up Pathways for a New World

**International Conference in Higher Education for Sustainable Development**



**27 – 29 June 2016, University of Gibraltar, Gibraltar, UK**

The conference seeks to address the following questions:

How can universities become beacons of change and good practice in ESD?

What type of teaching approaches and professional skills are needed to enable university educators to develop ESD in their own organisations?

How can we support university educators to develop professional competences in ESD?

What are the connections between ESD, professional development and quality enhancement in higher education?

Please send us your abstracts of between 200-300 words as word attachments before **30th April, 2016** to: [conference@unigib.edu.gi](mailto:conference@unigib.edu.gi)

## Webinar on Innovative Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Development

The Enabling Leadership for Transformational Teaching and Learning for sustainable development (ELTT) initiative of the University of Zurich sustainability team has published the fourth webinar in the series: Innovative Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Development, which gives insights into facilitating teaching and learning frameworks which support the development of competences for sustainable development. The

webinar guests were Kim Smith, Sociology Instructor at Portland Community College, Oregon, US and Coordinator of the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (<http://gpsen.org>, RCE Greater Portland) and Robert Barton, Management intern, Students Organisations and Programming, Arizona State University, US; Editor in Chief, The Sustainability Review <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRXQG0MWIRo>

## **Call for Papers for the first edition of the new Journal of Science-Society Interfaces.**



This new open source online journal is published by CA Member Vienna University of Economics and Business and will gather contributions in the field of transdisciplinary research, sustainability processes at the interface of science and society, Education for Sustainable Development as well as transformative learning processes and sustainable change. The first Issue will only gather German language contributions. Deadline for contributions is June 15th The first issue will be published by October 2016. Please find the full call for papers at: <http://openjournals.wu.ac.at/ojs/index.php/socience/>

## **Our Common Present 2016 Interdisciplinary Conference, Charles University Environment Centre**



The conference, “Great expectations, projects and mistakes – efforts to understand and control nature in the past and the present”, held on 31st March – 1st April was an interdisciplinary event drawing together scholars from the field of history, economics and ecology. Among the presentations was a contribution by Anna Kalinowski, University of Warsaw, CA member. The conference was successful in promoting an interdisciplinary dialogue on sustainable development among higher education institutions, reflected in the coorganisation which was shared between the Charles University Environment Centre, Charles University Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Economics at South Bohemia University, the Institute of Contemporary History, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, and the Pedagogical Faculty of Hradec Kralove University. The event was an opportunity to disseminate information about CA and the University Educators for Sustainable Development project. <http://www.ecoology.org/english/our-common-present-2016>

## **Featured CA Member Institution**

### **University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)**



**Universität für Bodenkultur Wien**

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna was founded in 1872 and is today an attractive place for more than 12 000 students. BOKU perceives itself as a teaching and research center for renewable resources, which are necessary for human life. It is BOKU's objective to help make a considerable contribution to the conservation and protection of resources for future generations by providing diversity in its fields of study. Within its 15 departments and 70 institutes, BOKU connects natural sciences, engineering, and economic sciences, and fosters the exchange of knowledge of the ecologically and economically sustainable use of natural resources.

An important feature of BOKU's research lies in its recognition of future problems and the efforts to provide and stimulate practical relevance.

BOKU provides 9 bachelor and 25 master studies. Its teaching is designed holistically and in a coordinated manner. It leads graduates to knowledge, understanding, and flexibility. From this program, they gain the willingness to face future challenges and the capability to meet them in a competent way. The cosmopolitan scientific vocational education and training enable them to understand complex interdisciplinary relationships.

In its sustainability strategy, BOKU amongst others committed to one important goal: "During their study life, every BOKU student must at least once intensively deal with the topics of sustainability". In order to reach this high aim, BOKU reorganizes the existing teaching structures and creates new learning opportunities for students as well as lecturers to deal with education for sustainable development.

With the Copernicus Alliance membership, BOKU primarily aims to foster inter- and transdisciplinary exchange of good practice and knowledge on ESD as well as to have access to up-to-date solutions for current ESD challenges.

The Copernicus Alliance Conference 2016 is a great opportunity for both the Alliance and BOKU, the conference host. Our goal is for BOKU to organize this conference under the "Green Meeting" directive of the Austrian Eco Label. Hence, Copernicus Alliance will be able to present a green meeting certified conference for the first time since the foundation of the Alliance. BOKU accepts this great challenge with honor.

## Global news, events and publications

### Job opportunity at IAU



IAU seeks a **Programme Officer** to work full time in the IAU offices in Paris. The Programme Officer will contribute to the development of IAU programmes and projects in higher education-related topics such as Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development, issues of ethics and values in higher education and others. Work includes desktop research and analysis, on-going development of the IAU Global Portal on Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD): [www.iau-hesd.net/fr](http://www.iau-hesd.net/fr) as well as other parts of the IAU website ([www.iau-aiu.net](http://www.iau-aiu.net)). The Programme Officer will also assist with the elaboration and editing of IAU Horizons, the Association's magazine.

The Programme Officer needs to be fluent in English and have strong capacity in French. He/she will join a highly inter-cultural staff at the IAU secretariat and work with a large international network of experts and IAU contacts in higher education institutions and organizations around the world. Contact: Ms. Angella NINO, Manager, Finance and Administration



## Partnerships for SDGs online platform goes live

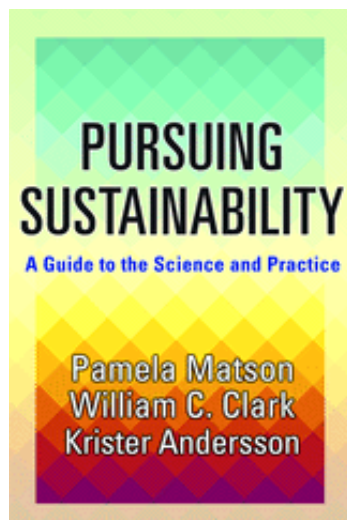


The new version of the Partnerships for SDGs online platform is now available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/>

The website allows reporting on progress ready for the Partnership Exchange, part of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Partnership Exchange, organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), is scheduled to be held on 18 July 2016.

Updates on Higher Education in Sustainability Initiatives are accessible at the following page: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/hesi>

## Pursuing Sustainability: A Guide to the Science and Practice, Pamela Matson, William C. Clark & Krister Andersson



This publication intends aims to provide students and practitioners with a strategic framework for linking knowledge with action in the pursuit of sustainable development. It is designed as a companion to more narrowly focused courses on sustainability topics and utilizes interdisciplinary approaches and systems perspectives, illustrating concepts with a set of case studies used throughout the book. Pamela Matson is dean of the School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences and the Goldman Professor of Environmental Studies at Stanford University. William C. Clark is the Harvey Brooks Professor of International Science, Public Policy, and Human Development at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Krister Andersson is professor of political science at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10777.html>

## IST 2016 – Exploring Transition Research as Transformative Science



International Sustainability Transitions  
Conference 2016



The 7th International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference will take place in Wuppertal from 6-9 September 2016. The theme for this IST conference is “Exploring Transition Research as Transformative Science”. for more information please visit the website:

<http://www.ist2016.uni-wuppertal.de/home.html>

## Learning and Legacy: The Role of Education in Creating Healthier, Happier Cities



The 20th EAUC Annual Conference will take place at the University of the West of England (UWE) on 25th - 26th May 2016.

<https://www.eventsforce.net/assuredevents/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=42694&eventID=104&traceRedir=2&eventID=104>

# UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

18 Jul 2016

Conference room 1, UNHQ, New York



SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS - ENSURING THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

The theme for the 2016 Partnership Exchange is **"Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals through multi-stakeholder partnerships - ensuring that no one is left behind"**

## International Sustainable Campus Network 2016 Conference, "Leadership for a Sustainable Future" June 13-15, 2016.



The ISCN conference will bring together approximately academic experts, students, practitioners and other guests for discussion of themes such as managing societal change, leadership for managing a changing planet, corporate-university collaborations for a sustainable future, food sustainability and higher education's contribution to actionable Sustainable Development Goals. A brief description of the conference is available at this link: <http://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/conferences/siena-2016>

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