



Welcome to the COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter

May 2017

COPERNICUS Alliance news

Registration is open! CA Conference 2017: Hamburg Sustainable Development Summit, 26th-29th September

The CA Conference 2017 will be hosted as part of the [Hamburg Sustainable Development Summit 2017, 26th-29th September](#) by CA member, the University of Hamburg. The event will focus on aspects of sustainable development at Higher Education Institutions, and in particular, contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within education, research, governance, operation and outreach initiatives.



Key topics to be addressed:

- Contribution of Higher Education Institutions to global SDGs: How do the SDGs impact HEI and vice versa?
- Sustainability at Higher Education Institutions (HEI): How is sustainability integrated into education, research, governance, operation and outreach? What good practice examples and cases can be identified for “whole institution approaches”? How can institutional sustainability strategies be developed and implemented?

CA members are eligible for a reduced fee of 100 EUR, while the fee for regular participants is 150 EUR. Registration details can be found [here](#).

Conference website: <https://www.hsds.uni-hamburg.de/en.html>

Essay competition and CfP, Higher Education Policy Journal Deadline 31st May!



The deadline for abstracts for the special issue of the Higher Education Policy Journal “Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development: A New Academic Discipline?” is extended until **31st May 2017**. **Two Prizes, each worth 2 000 EUR**, will be awarded to recognize outstanding work by two scholars: one from IAU and one from CA Member Institutions or Organisations. Read more details [here](#).

CA Micro Funds application Deadline 31st May!

The second round of calls for CA Micro Fund applications is open until 31st May. Applications are welcomed from CA members for workshops, publications, networking events etc. that contribute to the overall CA ambition to build capacity in higher education for sustainable development. Up to three projects will be funded with max **1000 EUR**. See more information about conditions [here](#).

CA Members' news

RCE Czechia launched!



After receiving approval in April from the United Nations University, the inaugural meeting of RCE Czechia was held on 27th April. Coordinated by Charles University, this is the first RCE in the Czech Republic.

The meeting gave representatives from 27 organisations including government ministries, universities, schools, environmental education providers, environmental, cultural and educational and humanitarian NGOs and a sustainable business network. Themes of interest to the network include teacher training, outdoor and experiential learning, arts and cultural sustainability, lifestyle change, sustainable food consumption, sustainable tourism and entrepreneurship. The RCE members committed to using methodologies such as social learning, participative approaches and citizen science.

RCE Czechia website: <http://rce.czp.cuni.cz/en/>

Information and Communication Technology for Sustainability Summer School

31st July - 4th August 2017, Lorentz Center@Oort – Leiden

**Lorentz
center**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has a central role to play in the transition to a sustainable society. ICT offers a rich set of tools to collect and analyze diverse sources of data to help us develop and share new solutions, and increasingly, ICT provides new low-energy alternatives to physically moving people and goods around the planet.

But at the same time, ICT can seduce us into patterns of overconsumption and waste, as we buy and discard an ever-growing set of gadgets.

The aim of the workshop is to identify a core set of theories and tools from multiple disciplines, representing the things that every student in this field ought to be familiar with.

Lorentz Center meetings dedicate a considerable amount of time to discussion sessions involving both senior and junior scientists, thus stimulating an interactive atmosphere and encouraging collaborations between participants.

There is no registration fee. Approval to attend is at the discretion of the workshop organisers. The scientific committee includes CA member Lorenz Hilty, University of Zurich.

Deadline for registration: **4th June 2017** via the workshop webpage.

CA Micro Funds support European Virtual Seminar professional development workshop



From 6th to 7th April 2016, the EVS consortium organized a professional development workshop, hosted by the Maastricht University Graduate School of Sustainability Science (ICIS-MUST), in the Netherlands.

EVS (European Virtual Seminar on Sustainable Development, www.ou.nl/evs) is a web-based course, jointly organized and offered by 10 universities from across Europe, including 5 CA members. In EVS, international, multi-disciplinary student teams conduct case studies in European sustainable development, coached by teachers.

In the workshop, EVS teachers from CA and non-CA members jointly reflected on the value of EVS for their professional development. Three major aspects of EVS as a professional opportunity in ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) were identified: EVS as an on-the-job training opportunity, as an international staff mobility opportunity, and as an active learning and innovation community. Particular attention was paid to the development of ESD competences of tutors through participation

in EVS, based on the UNECE (2011) competence framework.

The participants concluded that EVS is an effective opportunity for developing a range of ESD competences, especially for junior university staff. Web-based, internationally networked courses like EVS, with a pedagogical approach and design focused on ESD, have a large potential in providing effective opportunities within university curricula to acquire and practice ESD competences for teaching staff. However, to realize this potential, active uptake of the approach by the existing networks for ESD in higher education is needed.

5th Viennese Talks on Resilience and Networks - registration open until 12th May!

5th Viennese Talks on Resilience and Networks
Monday, 22nd of May 2017

Resilience of Place: Networking in an age of division

FAS from networks to strategy
research



International Institute for
Applied Systems Analysis



The event will explore and discuss the important issues related to resilience of place, in particular the apparent divide between urban and rural experiences and perceptions. Progress toward sustainable development requires contributions and coordination from both locales.

Invited speakers will focus on the following critical topics:

- Building diverse, cross-scale community networks within sustainable places
- Recognizing place as a resource for experimentation of responsive variety to provide solutions for ecological balance
- Learning and exploring how to overcome the perceived divide

The Event takes place on Monday, the **22nd of May 2017** from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU Campus). Participation is free. Please register at the following address: resilience@fas-research.com. For more information please see the [event website](#).

International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2017 **11th-15th September, Lüneburg**

Early bird registration fees until 31st May!!

td-net
Network for Transdisciplinary Research



Registration is open for the td-net conference "Transdisciplinary Research and Education — Intercultural Endeavours" hosted at Leuphana University of Lüneburg. See information about registration [here](#).

Although the main call for contributions is closed, submissions for poster, open stage performances

and special meetings are still welcome. More information about the call can be found [here](#). For more details please visit the [conference website](#).

Featured CA Member Institution



CYPRUS SCHOOL
of molecular medicine

A SCHOOL OF THE CYPRUS INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGY & GENETICS

The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING) was established in 1990 as a private, bi-communal, non-profit, academic center with the aim of providing research, services and education in the areas of neurology, genetics and biomedical sciences. Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine (CSMM) is a postgraduate school which is a distinct entity within CING.

CSR and Sustainability Committee and Sustainability Plan

The CING/CSMM has committed to form a CSR & Sustainability Committee that will oversee the sustainability initiatives of the organization. It also commits to develop a Sustainability Plan, following consultation with a wide range of the organization's stakeholders. The Plan will recognize that creating a sustainable operating environment will strengthen the organization's three pillars: Research, Education and Services. This is an essential step forward in building a future in which our research and teaching will provide solutions to problems in our organization and beyond, such as: a) water and energy savings in our labs, b) failure to incorporate sustainability principles in our teaching and research, c) failure to educate the society in combating global challenges, such as climate change, resource scarcity and air pollution. The Sustainability Plan will provide guidance on how to embed sustainability in each one of the five significant pillars for the implementation of sustainability in Academic Institutions: Teaching, Research, Operations, Promotion-Outreach to the Community and Culture.

The institutions' interest, hopes and expectations through joining the COPERNICUS Alliance include strengthening of our efforts to educate and practice sustainability through an active learning environment for our students and staff. The CA will open many doors for CSMM, as this is still relatively a new concept in Cyprus and we are keen to be inspired and motivated through all members' activities.

The main contact persons within the Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine who will engage in COPERNICUS Alliance activities are:

Marinos Voukis – Education Office Manager of the Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine. Research interests include the incorporation of sustainability in all pillars of the Higher Educational Institutions and the implications of this action in the brand enhancement and the establishment of a competitive advantage. Twitter profile: [@m_v_22](#)

Maria Theocharidou – Health & Safety and Quality Office of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology & Genetics. Master of Science in Environmental Management (Pollution Control). In the education field, worked as trainer in the fields of H&S, environment, sustainable development and equal opportunities at work.

Institutional webpage: www.cing.ac.cy/csmm

Global news

GUNi Report: 'Towards a socially responsible university: Balancing the global with the local'



The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) launched its 6th World Report on Higher Education on 10th March 2017. Focusing on balancing responsibilities at both global and local level, the report explores the challenges of contributing to a more equitable and sustainable society and the race for global competitiveness.

Download the full report [here](#).

ESD Okayama Global Award 2017 - Call for applications



The award will reward outstanding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) practices in local communities around the world. Closing date for nominations is 30th June 2017. Please see the [website](#) for more information.

Our mailing address is:

office@copernicus-alliance.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

