

COPERNICUS ALLIANCE – European Network on
Higher Education for Sustainable Development

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Email: office@copernicus-alliance.org
Fax: 0043 316 380 9886

Dear Sir or Madam,

it is a great pleasure for us to inform you about the ***COPERNICUS Alliance – European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development***. With this letter we would like to provide an overview on the Alliance and invite you to actively participate and become member of the *COPERNICUS Alliance* with your institution or as person.

The vision of the *COPERNICUS Alliance* is to promote the role of sustainable development in European higher education to improve education and research for sustainable development in partnership with the society. It stands for:

- **Network:** to exchange and enhance knowledge on Education for Sustainable Development between European higher education and student organizations that work for sustainable development
- **Policy:** to promote Higher Education for Sustainable Development in European policy
- **Service:** to disseminate tools for sustainability integration in higher education
- **Outreach:** to promote sustainable development in European higher education
- **Representation:** to represent European HESD in international committees on ESD

We want to achieve these goals through a growing network of European higher education institutions and develop a platform to strengthen integration of sustainable development in higher education management, education, research and society.

The *COPERNICUS Alliance* is strongly dependent on the participation of its members. Based on their activities it should form an innovation network for integration of sustainable development at higher education institutions with multiple contacts and possibilities of exchange at a European level.

Here are six good reasons for becoming a member:

- **Institutional Membership includes all staff and students**
All staff and students benefit from the following membership advantages and are invited to connect with other members of the COPERNICUS Alliance to build up an innovation network contributing to sustainable development in the European higher education area.
- **Access to COPERNICUS Alliance Working Groups**
In the course of the 1st COPERNICUS Alliance Workshop in Graz, July 2nd-3rd 2010, working groups will be initiated. The groups will cover topics like funding, students' initiatives, Bologna as well as other topics according to the interests and initiatives of COPERNICUS Alliance members.
- **Access to quarterly COPERNICUS Alliance newsletter including:**
 - opportunities for project cooperation
 - presentation of good practices – members and their good practices will be presented
 - working group news
 - calls for project proposals, conferences and papers
 - relevant policy news (EU, UN, ...)
- **Reduced participation fees in COPERNICUS Alliance and partner events**
- **Access to COPERNICUS Alliance studies**
The COPERNICUS Alliance will run investigations on questions related to sustainability in higher education. The COPERNICUS Alliance studies should support universities in their realization and management of sustainability activities as well as support the COPERNICUS Alliance in its argumentation while promoting sustainability in higher education in Europe.
- **Access to the members' area at the COPERNICUS Alliance website**
This online area focuses on the exchange between members and builds the platform for working groups. Furthermore, member's annual reports will be found in the member area to support in each other's actions and exchange challenges and good practices.

We are looking forward to welcome you as a member in our network!

Sincerely yours

Prof. Dr. Friedrich M. Zimmermann
University of Graz,
President CA

Prof. Dr. Gerd Michelsen
University of Lüneburg,
Vice-President CA

Prof. Dr. Hans van Ginkel
Universiteit Utrecht,
Scientific Chair CA