

Copernicus Alliance Newsletter No. 6



COPERNICUS Alliance

European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development

Promoting transformational learning and change for sustainable development in higher education

Useful links

[COPERNICUS Alliance Homepage](#)

[COPERNICUS Charta 2.0](#)

[Become a member](#)

Contact us

[Prof. Dr. Daniella Tilbury](#)
Elected President
(2012-13)

[Dr. Clemens Mader](#)
Elected Vice-President
(2012-13)

[Dr. Ingrid Mulà](#)
COPERNICUS Alliance
Co-ordinator

COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter

This is the Copernicus Alliance (CA) Newsletter No.6. We hope that it provides a valuable knowledge sharing platform for members.

If you would like to make a contribution to the next newsletter please contact Ingrid Mulà by the 6th June 2013 at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

We would also appreciate it if you could tell us whether you find the newsletters useful and give us some feedback and suggestions for improvement.

The newsletters are only available to CA members.

Partner of the Month

In every CA Newsletter, we showcase the work and activities of one of our partner organisations. The partner of the month is selected for its contribution to sustainable development and ESD.

London South Bank University (UK), by David Clemson

London South Bank University (LSBU) is one of London's largest and oldest universities and a founder member of the CA and a signatory to the UN Global Compact's Principles of Responsible Management Education. Building on the foundations of the MSc in Education for Sustainability which we began in 1994, sustainability and education for sustainability are important and inclusive themes with a strong presence in the teaching and research activities at LSBU. Specifically within the Faculty of Business, sustainability themes are given specific attention in the BA Business Administration, BA Business Management, BA Accounting & Finance, MBA, MSc International Business and DBA programmes. Examples of modules where sustainability features particularly are Business Risk Management, Knowledge, Globalisation & Development and Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship. Across the curriculum, sustainability is embedded in topics such as corporate social responsibility (CSR), socially responsible investment and sustainable employability.

The Centre for Efficient and Renewable Energy in Buildings (CEREB) demonstration and research facility at LSBU is now fully operational. Visits to the facility are included in MBA, MSc International Business and many Faculty of Business undergraduate programmes. With substantial funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the London Development Agency (LDA), this on-campus facility sits within the £1.5 billion Elephant and Castle regeneration zone and forms part of a London Energy Action Zone.

A number of Faculty of Business academics have contributed to the highly successful cross-faculty conferences on Embedding Sustainability within the Curriculum (2012 and 2013). The Faculty also completed a comprehensive curriculum review exercise in 2011. As a result, it has introduced sustainability themes in its major programmes. Moreover, the Faculty's Learning and Teaching Committee has a standing agenda item on education for sustainable development.

For more information about LSBU and its sustainability commitments and work, please visit the [University's website](#) or contact David Clemson at: d.clemson@lsbu.ac.uk.

News

✦ A warm welcome to new CA members!

CA extends a warm welcome to the [University of Siena](#) (Italy) as new institutional member. We look forward to your participation in our planned activities for this year.

✦ New! The programme for the CA/UNU IAS (RCE) Side Event held during the GUNi 6th International Conference on Higher Education is now available! (Barcelona, 13 May 2013, 9-13h)

As part of our commitment to influence international dialogues, CA has joined forces with UNU IAS to co-organise a side event on the 13th of May during the GUNi Conference. The event, entitled "**The People's Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education: Engaging communities of learning in change for sustainability**", seeks to:

- share innovative approaches and practices which contribute to the implementation of the HE Treaty
- seek contributions for a UNU IAS/CA publication which will be launched at the end of the year

The side event will bring together CA members, Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) and signatories of the Treaty to share insight, challenges and successes in engaging learning communities in change for sustainability. The side event is free of charge.

Please click [here](#) for more details and [here](#) to view the programme.

There are still places available at this event and we would like to encourage all CA members to join the dialogues. Please note that a CA informal meeting for members will be organised on the same day, where CA activities and future network plans will be discussed. Please see news item below.

For further information or to reserve a place for the event or CA informal meeting, please email Ingrid Mulà at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

✦ Join us at a CA informal meeting for members organised during the GUNi Conference (Change of date! 13 May 2013, 8.30pm)

CA is planning to organise an informal meeting for members, which will take place on the evening of the 13th May over dinner in Barcelona. The aim of the meeting is to provide an informal space for members to meet, share CA developments and progress as well as to discuss future network activities. Details of this meeting will be confirmed soon. We hope that all of you will be able to attend and participate in the dialogues!

Please confirm your attendance at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

✦ CA new member, University of Siena, selected as the Mediterranean Hub for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

We are delighted to announce that CA member, the University of Siena (Italy), has been selected by the United Nations as the Mediterranean hub for the [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#). This regional network, called the [Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network](#), MED-SDSN, will gather member universities, research centres and businesses interested in identifying and promoting Solutions Initiatives in the Mediterranean basin.

The University of Siena and the SDSN are now launching a [call for proposals](#), a competition among researchers/practitioners and students for the most practical and transformational solutions for sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

The Solutions Initiatives should be practical project proposals involving novel technologies, business models, institutional mechanisms, and/or policies that are promising but not yet proven. They should address a well-defined set of problems, have a transformative impact on sustainable development and be scalable, following a successful demonstration. They must be technically feasible and implementable within a reasonable timeframe without the need for

primary research.

The teams proposing the most promising solutions will be invited to present their ideas at the Siena Conference on the 5th of July.

For more information about the MED-SDSN and to submit your solution initiative, please click [here](#).

✦ **CA supports Charles University Environment Center and Schumacher Institute for Sustainability Systems Conference “Transdisciplinary Research on Sustainability in Europe: generic issues” (Prague, 23-24 May 2013)**

The Schumacher Institute for Sustainability Systems and the Charles University Environment Center, supported by CA, will co-host a transdisciplinary research workshop in Prague, Czech Republic, on May 24&25 under the auspices of the CONVERGE EU FP7 research project and Czech MOSUR project. The one and a half day workshop is designed for experts from across the EU area who are working in Transdisciplinary Research for Sustainability (TDRS). The event is for professionals from European Research Area (ERA) organisations and policy areas and for those who are running (or have run) transdisciplinary research projects on sustainability. The aim of the workshop is to help inform the EU’s research agendas and meta-agendas about evaluation, conduct and processes of TDRS with information, perspectives and analyses from practitioners, and to discuss and develop recommendations to the ERA to help enable better and more productive TDRS. For more information and to register your interest in participating, click [here](#).

✦ **CA contributes to Sustainability in Higher Education training for Moroccan Universities, Rabat (23-24 April 2013)**

On 23-24 April, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the University of Athens (NKUA) co-organised a training at the University Mohamed V Souissi in Rabat, Morocco. The workshop, entitled “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the University: Theory and Practice” was organised within the framework of the Horizon 2020 CB/MEP project, funded by the European Commission and coordinated by MIO-ECSDE. Prof Daniella Tilbury, President of CA, and other experts in higher education and sustainability were invited to lead training sessions and provide training to around 40 participants from 14 Moroccan Universities of different regions of the country.

✦ **CA invited at the 7th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) in Marrakesh (9-14 June 2013)**

The 7th WEEC will take place in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 9 to 14 June 2013. For the first time, a WEEC is being held in a country with an Arab - Muslim culture; and for the first time a theme (the relation between city and countryside in search of harmony) will be the object of great transversal attention across all the thematic areas.

Prof Daniella Tilbury, President of CA, has been invited at this international conference to present CA activities and the Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education. Her keynote presentation will take place on the 13th June at the Plenary Session 3: “Diversity of Perspectives on Environmental Education: A dialogue between current knowledge and disciplines.”

For more information about the 6th WEEC, please visit the [Conference website](#).

✦ **Update from London South Bank University (LSBU, UK), by David Clemson**

- **“Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum: Practising what we teach” (Tuesday, 12 March 2013)**

This was the second Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum workshop at London South Bank University – the first was held last year, organised jointly with the London RCE. This year’s workshop attracted sponsorship from the Higher Education Academy, CA, London RCE and UNPRME and included the book launch of *Enhancing Education for Sustainable Development in Business and Management, Hospitality, Leisure, Marketing, Tourism* (2013). Over fifty people attended from all over the UK and mainland Europe and importantly this also included students, social entrepreneurs and NGOs.

The keynote speaker, Prof Clemens Mader, Vice President of CA, from Leuphana University, Germany took as his theme Higher Education for Sustainable Development – regional and global capacity building for transformative change. Clemens spoke of the work of the COPERNICUS Alliance and, in particular, the role of higher education institutions in building capacity for sustainable development. His main purpose, however, was to introduce the

principles of the 2012 People's Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education – key among them being that to be transformative, higher education institutions must also transform themselves.

The book edited by Richard Atfield and Patsy Kemp was formally launched by Prof Daniella Tilbury, President of COPERNICUS Alliance. We invite you to [download](#) some (or all) of the chapters.

- **Knowledge, Globalisation & Development – Engaging students in sustainability challenges**

One of the modules offered at LSBU – Knowledge, Globalisation & Development – has a sustainability conference as part of its assessment, where learners assume the roles of CEOs of multinational corporations and have to contend with 'wicked' real world challenges. A group representing mining and oil/gas sectors were joined by Clemens Mader, Falko Schmidt (DESERTEC and London RCE) and David Clemson on Monday 11 March to discuss key environmental and sustainability challenges.

✦ **Updates from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU, Austria), by *Matthew Aversano-Dearborn***

- **Networked Climate Research in Austria**

Each year the Austrian Climate Day provides an opportunity to gain an overview of the issues related to climate change, its impacts, adaptation and mitigation that are currently being researched and discussed in Austria. Around 190 Austrian researchers and interested individuals presented and spoke at the 14th Austrian Climate Day on the 4th and 5th of April. This was the seventh time that the event was held at BOKU, Vienna.

The event was organized by the [Climate Change Centre Austria](#), the [Climate and Energy Fund](#) and [BOKU](#), Vienna.

Further details and the event program (in German) can be found [here](#).

- **Development of University-wide Sustainability Strategies**

One of the key achievements of the Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria in 2012 was the inclusion of the development of a university-wide sustainability strategy with milestones and a time frame in many of its members' target and performance agreements with the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research. As a result, the Alliance is currently developing a handbook for the drafting of university sustainability strategies that aims to facilitate its members' efforts to elaborate their own sustainability strategies.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Thomas Lindenthal (thomas.lindenthal@boku.ac.at)

Dr. Christian Rammel (christian.rammel@wu.ac.at)

✦ **Updates from the "Conferencia de Rectores de Universidades Españolas" (CRUE), by *Javier Benayas***

- **New! Summer Course: "University and Institutional Planning: The urban role of university campuses"**

The aim of this course is to explore approaches and tools used to transform university campuses towards learning and social reflection in the area of sustainability.

The course will provide key insight on different Spanish experiences in university planning, review international experiences, policies and mobility plans, as well as explore key issues in urban transformation.

If you would like to know more about this course, please email Javier Benayas at: Javier.Benayas@uam.es.

Events

✦ **World Student Environmental Summit (16-20 September 2013, Leuphana University,**

Germany)

The 6th World Student Environmental Summit (WSES) 2013 will be hosted at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany. Students from more than 40 different countries with different cultural and academic backgrounds will come to Lüneburg during 16-20 September 2013 to discuss urgent sustainability challenges.

In 2008, students of the Doshisha University in Kyoto organized the first WSES in Japan in the run-up to the G8-Summit. Since then the World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) organizes the WSES each year at a different country: Japan (2008), Canada (2009), Germany (2010), Sweden (2011), and Switzerland (2012).

The next WSES 2013 calls for Universities acting for sustainability! The aim is to connect and empower students to create long-term sustainability projects in their home countries.

Please visit the [WSEN website](#) for more information about this Summit.

Publications and resources

✦ The Future We Want: A Global Expert Discussion on the Future of Rio+20 Efforts on Higher Education

In February 2013, Prof Daniella Tilbury (CA President) and Prof Clemens Mader (CA Vice-President) together with representatives from other higher education for sustainability networks participated in a global expert discussion on the future of Rio+20 and higher education. This discussion has been recently published and is available [here](#).

✦ Call for papers for a new English issue of the journal *Envigogika*

Envigogika, the Czech national peer reviewed electronic journal for environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD) is preparing its [first issue fully in English](#). The journal has been published by the Charles University Environment Center in Prague since 2006 and includes original academic papers, inspirational and informative articles, and reviews. The Czech editorial board includes active advocates of EE and ESD striving to promote professional dialogue in this field. The first English issue will be primarily focused on "mapping the field" in the Czech Republic, thus providing an insight into the state of the art with the intention to raise interest among the international community.

The editorial team is currently seeking support in the preparatory stage of this issue. Those willing to help as reviewers, (active) members of the editorial board, and also those who want to contribute articles or messages that would help to build links for development on the international scene, are welcome! The issue will be published by the end of June and one more will follow at the end of 2013.

For more information and to express your interest, please contact: Envigogika@czp.cuni.cz or email directly the English Issue editor - Dana Kapitulčinová – Dana.Kapitulcinova@czp.cuni.cz.

✦ Call for papers - Special issue "Pedagogy for Education for Sustainability (EFS) in Higher Education (HE)"

Deadline for Submissions: 30 August 2013

This special issue at the "Sustainability" Open Access Journal seeks contributions from scholars and practitioners whose theoretical or practical works examine issues associated with the development and delivery of curriculum, to contribute to the emerging discussion around the pedagogy for EFS/ESD in HEIs. For more information, please click [here](#).