

Copernicus Alliance Newsletter No. 7



COPERNICUS Alliance

European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development

Promoting transformational learning and change for sustainable development in higher education

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

[Prof 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.7. 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 Dr Ingrid Mulà by the 31st July 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.

University of Siena (Italy)

News

✦ **New! CA officially acknowledged as an observer of the Steering Committee of the UNECE Strategy for ESD**

We are delighted to announce that CA has officially been acknowledged as an observer of the Steering Committee of the UNECE Strategy for ESD. CA is now on the list of continuous observers through which it will receive all information about the registration and participation in the UNECE ESD process.

CA will also participate in a UNECE online thematic working group on teacher education and sustainability. The aim is to support the implementation of the UNECE ESD priority action areas by collecting and making relevant resources available to the Committee and identifying resource gaps.

This is an exceptional opportunity for CA to be better positioned to inform and influence international policy developments, and aligned to CA commitments made in the period 2012-13.

For more information about UNECE ESD activities, please find attached to this email the UNECE ESD Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development Newsletter no.4.

✦ **Check out the new Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education Website!**

We are pleased to announce that the [new website](http://hetreatyrio20.com/) for the Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education is now live (<http://hetreatyrio20.com/>).

The Rio+20 Treaty is an initiative led by CA which was launched at the UN Rio+20 Summit and presents the collective vision of higher education networks, groups and institutions that are seeking to build more sustainable futures.

The [Treaty's website](#) provides information about the Treaty process, recent developments and commitments made by over 80 signatories. If you would like to become a signatory, please download the form from the website and send it to us at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

✦ **The CA/UNU IAS (RCE) Side Event at the GUNi 6th International Conference on Higher Education (Barcelona, 13 May 2013) was a success!**

As part of our commitment to influence international dialogues, CA in partnership with UNU IAS (RCE) co-organised a side event on the 13th of May during the GUNi Conference in Barcelona. The event, entitled "The Rio+20 Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education: Engaging communities of learning in change for sustainability", sought

- to share innovative approaches and practices which contribute to the implementation of the HE Treaty

- contributions for a UNU IAS/CA publication which will be launched at the end of the year

The event brought together over 40 delegates from different countries across the world who shared their insight, challenges and successes in engaging learning communities in change for sustainability. Over fifteen contributions were selected and presented in the four different thematic panels: (i) whole-institutional approaches to sustainability; (ii) social responsibility; (iii) learning for sustainable development; and, (iv) community engagement. These contributions will form part of a UNU IAS/CA publication which is currently being developed.

The photos of the event are now available at the [CA website](#).

If you could not attend the event but would like to feature in the UNU IAS/CA publication, please contact us to discuss your contribution at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

✦ **CA informal meeting for members organised during the GUNi Conference (Barcelona, 13 May 2013)**

CA organised an informal meeting for members, which took place on the evening of the 13th May over dinner in Barcelona. The meeting was attended by six CA members, including: Charles University Environment Center, CRUE-CADEP, Leuphana University, London South Bank University, University of Gloucestershire and University of País Vasco.

The aim of the meeting was to provide an informal space for members to meet, share CA developments and progress as well as to discuss future network activities.

After the meeting, Jana Dlouhá, from Charles University, worked on a brief agenda of ideas that you can find attached to this email. Your comments are most welcome. You can send them to us at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

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

The 7th WEEC has recently taken place in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 9 to 14 June 2013. For the first time, a WEEC was 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) was the object of great transversal attention across all the thematic areas.

CA was invited at this international conference to present network activities and initiatives. Prof Daniella Tilbury, President of CA, represented CA and presented its Rio+20 Treaty on HE at the following sessions and side events:

- Moderator at the UNESCO Side Event on ESD "Preparing

for the Future of Education for Sustainable Development” (11 June 2013)

- Event facilitator of the MIO-ECSDE Side Event “Embedding ESD in Higher Education Systems: Quality Matters” (12 June 2013)
- Keynote Speaker at the WEEC Plenary Session 3 “Diversity of Perspectives on Environmental Education: A dialogue between current knowledge and disciplines” (13 June 2013)

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

✦ **CA Membership Renewal**

We would like to remind you that the CA membership for 2013 is up for renewal. In 2013, CA is providing opportunities to: inform global dialogues and international events on HE for sustainability; engage in networking and joint bidding with European higher education institutions; participate at the CA Conference at the end of the year; and contribute to international publications.

In the following weeks, Mr Mario Diethart, from the University of Graz (Austria), will send you an invoice to renew your membership. We would kindly appreciate it if you could process the payment as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding membership renewal or network activities, please do not hesitate to contact us at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

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

Please click [here](#) to view an exciting piece of work developed by LSBU MSc International Business students taking the module on Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship. This authentic piece is also part of a social enterprise project and students have set a target of 100,000 views!

✦ **Update from Nottingham Trent University, by Tim Cooper**

Nottingham Trent University is to host a new research centre, UK INDEMAND, in partnership with the universities of Cambridge, Leeds and Bath. The centre is now advertising for 3 Research Fellow posts and and 3 PhD Studentships.

[Research Fellowships \(deadline for applications, 23 June 2013\):](#)

Research Fellow in Product Lifetimes - to increase knowledge and understanding of key factors influencing product longevity in the UK.

Research Fellow in Sustainability, Value and Depreciation - to increase knowledge and understanding of how the value of products changes over time, in markets and in people's perceptions.

Research Fellow in Product Life Extension - to increase knowledge and understanding of people's willingness and ability to maintain, repair and upgrade products.

Please click [here](#) for further information about the posts.

[PhD Studentships \(Deadline for applications, 8 July 2013\):](#)

Proposals should address one or more of the following topics:

- Consumer preferences and market demand for premium quality products
- The relationship between price and quality
- How and why products depreciate in value over time
- The growth of 'discount retailers' and the affordability of quality
- Business models and systems of provision for repair and reuse
- Economic implications of increased product lifetimes
- Challenging passive product-user relationships through make-it-yourself, upcycling and repair through networked learning
- Community based social innovation such as repair cafes
- Design for upgradability and/or adaptability
- Trade-offs between durability and recyclability
- Use and reuse through collaborative consumption

Please click [here](#) for further information and a link to the application form.

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

✦ **Searching for Resilience in Sustainable Development: Learning Journeys in Conservation – John Blewitt and Daniella Tilbury**

This new publication examines ways in which resilience may be created within the web of ecological, socio-economic and cultural systems that make up the world in. The authors embark upon a learning journey exploring both robust and fragile systems and asking questions of groups and individuals actively involved in building or maintaining resilience.

This book is ideal for students and researchers working in the fields of conservation, sustainable development, education, systems thinking and development studies. It will also be of great interest to NGOs and government officers whose interests and responsibilities focus on conserving or reconstructing biodiversity and system resilience.

If you would like to pre-order a copy, please click [here](#).

✦ **New German-speaking publication on Sustainability in Higher Education**

Please click [here](#) to download the new German speaking publication on Sustainability in Higher Education which identifies key ideas for embedding and implementing sustainability at the core of higher education institutions. The publication is the second and updated edition published by the German Commission for UNESCO. Cases from our members from Austria, Germany and Switzerland are included in the publication as well as a section on CA.

✦ **The Spanish Journal on Sustainable Development, YAMU, is now available online**

The second edition of the Spanish Journal on Sustainable Development ([YAMU](#)) is now available online. The journal is published by the University of Extremadura and its UNESCO

Chair in Sustainable Development (CUDSUEX). It aims at promoting reflection and dialogue on areas related to sustainable development, environment and cultural singularity.

If you would like to contribute to the next editions, please send your articles, notes, reviews or other information to Rocío Jabois Ramírez: taouma@unex.es.

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Comments concerning this page to [Webmaster](#)

The Copernicus Alliance brings together higher education institutions from across Europe which are committed to re-orienting universities so that they can make a meaningful contribution to sustainable development. These institutions have signed the [Copernicus Charta](#) which identifies ten change pathways for sustainable development in higher education.

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