

Copernicus Alliance Newsletter No. 8



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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**Elected President
(2012-13)**

Prof Clemens Mader
**Elected Vice-President
(2012-13)**

Dr Ingrid Mulà
CA Co-ordinator

COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter

This is the Copernicus Alliance (CA) Newsletter No.8. 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 6th November 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.

- ✦ **Sectorial Commission on Environmental Quality, Sustainable Development and Risk Prevention within the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE-CADEP), by Javier Benayas and David Alba**

The Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) is a Spanish non-governmental organisation set up by and for the 75 Spanish public and private universities in 2002. Its Sectorial Commission on Environmental Quality, Sustainable Development and Risk Prevention (CADEP) group was primarily launched to strengthen the management and environmental awareness of Spanish universities in an attempt to minimise the impacts of their activities upon local and global environments. It was also intended to promote cooperation for exchange of successful experiences and coordination with other social actors in order to promote the application of specific actions on campuses. Approximately 40 Universities are members of this commission and over 85% of Spanish universities have taken part in its activities, meetings and events.

At present, the commission has ten active working groups that deal with different themes such as: embedding sustainability into curricula, environmental participation and voluntary work, prevention of hazards in the workplace, evaluation of sustainability policies, environmental improvements of buildings, application of sustainable contracting, community engagement, university urban planning and sustainability, sustainable mobility and healthy universities.

Another key activity from the Commission is the drafting of institutional declarations on specific themes which are subjected to approval by the Plenary. An example of this is the declaration on embedding sustainability in curricula, on preventive culture or sustainable procurement measures.

For more information about CRUE-CADEP, its working groups and activities, please click [here](#).

CA News

✦ A warm welcome to new CA members!

CA extends a warm welcome to the [University Sains Malaysia](#) (USM, Malaysia), who has just joined the network as an international observer. We look forward to your participation in our planned activities for this year!

✦ New! Date for your diary: 9-10 January 2014, CA Conference and AGM

We are pleased to announce that the **CA Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will take place at the University of Gloucestershire (UoG, Cheltenham Spa, UK) from 9 – 10 January 2014.

Situated in the town centre of Cheltenham Spa, an inland spa resort of handsome Regency architecture, broad avenues and fine parks, UoG has been recognised as a UK sector leader in the area of sustainability for its pioneering and visionary approach in this area. UoG pursues sustainability as 'core business', across academic and corporate portfolios and ESD is an institution-wide priority, aiming to expand organisational

capabilities, student learning, research, outreach and professional development. The University has a large expertise in coordinating and managing national and international academic platforms, including CA.

The CA Conference will bring together national and international stakeholders engaged in transforming higher education (HE) towards sustainability. It will count with international renowned speakers such as Mr Mahesh Pradhan (UNEP and Founder of GUPES - Global University Partnerships in Environment and Sustainability, Kenya), Prof Geoff Scott (Executive Director of Sustainability and Professor of HE at the University of Western Sydney, Australia) and Dr Lorna Down (Teacher Education expert at the University of West Indies, Jamaica). Participants will be able to choose from a variety of capacity building workshops and social learning sessions on key sustainability and ESD topics.

The Conference will be followed by an AGM open to members only. The aim of this meeting is to provide a space for members to meet, share CA developments and progress for the period 2012-13, present CA financial accounts, vote the new Presidency team for the period 2014-15 and discuss future network plans.

Further information and details on the CA Conference and AGM will be communicated in the coming months. At this stage, we welcome ideas and feedback to ensure fruitful and enriching dialogues.

We would appreciate it if you could confirm your attendance as soon as possible and let us know if you would like to form part of the Conference Working Group. Please email us at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

✦ **New EU funded project “University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)”**

We are delighted to announce that CA has been successful in an Erasmus Academic Network Project submitted in February, which aims to progress the implementation of the [Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education](#) and support CA activities and meetings. This opportunity is aligned to the CA commitments made in the period 2012-13 and will contribute to enhance member collaboration as well as profile the network at an international level.

The 3 year-project, entitled “University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)”, will bring together 55 higher education institutions, organisations and associations in 34 countries in Europe and beyond, to support university educators, regardless of their courses or specialisation, to re-orient their academic practice and research towards sustainability. The project involves almost all CA partners, providing an opportunity to members to work together on something tangible for the first time.

Project outcomes include a mapping of opportunities for university educators to develop ESD competences through professional development; a publication and online platform of

resources to support changes to curriculum development and academic provision in universities; and the framing and trial of an European academy for ESD in HE (sustainability in HE professional development and networking platform) to provide guidance to universities on how to support the development of ESD competences of teaching staff.

CA has been awarded just under 600,000 Euros to lead this international project, through a competitive Erasmus scheme which had a success rate of only 36%. The project will be coordinated by the University of Gloucestershire (UK, host of CA Secretariat) and by a Steering Group composed by three CA members: Leuphana University (Germany), Charles University (Czech Republic) and Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain).

CA will regularly update its members on this project and will send a link to the project's website when it becomes available.

✦ **CA invited to attend the 8th Meeting of the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs in Nairobi, Kenya (24-25 November 2013)**

CA is member of the Ubuntu Committee of Peers since 2003 and has been invited at this meeting where applications for new RCEs to be acknowledged within this year will be reviewed and advice to the United Nations University (UNU) on policy and strategic matters will be provided. Participation at this meeting has been fully funded by UNU and both Prof Daniella Tilbury (CA President) and Prof Clemens Mader (CA Vice-President) will attend.

✦ **CA Membership Renewal 2013 – Deadline 31 October 2013**

We would like to remind you that membership for 2013 is up for renewal. Invoices were sent in July and we will need you to make the payment as soon as you are able. This is important to support Network developments and future activities. Please note that if have not received the fee before the end of October, we will need to close your membership.

Please contact Mario Diethart for more information on your membership status: mario.diethart@uni-graz.at

Updates from Members

✦ **University of Basque Country (UPV-EHU, Spain) – “A pedagogical proposal to integrate service learning at the University”, by Monike Gezuraga and Aitxiber Zallo**

Monike Gezuraga, lecturer at UPV-EHU, Department of Pedagogy and School Management, is engaged in a doctoral thesis which aims to develop a pedagogical proposal to enhance service learning at UPV-EHU. The main goal is to describe the implementation of service learning in UPV-EHU and interpret university community stakeholders' views on this type of learning. The outcome of the thesis will be a list of

recommendations to integrate service learning pedagogical approaches at the University.

Are you involved in providing service learning or aware of innovative experiences in this area in HE? If so, please contact Monike at: monike.gezuraga@ehu.es

✦ **Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM, Spain) – “Definition of indicators and assessment of commitments for sustainability at Ibero-American universities”, by David Alba and Javier Benayas**

The Sustainability Indicators at Ibero-American Universities Network of ARIUSA (Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment) is starting a cooperative project entitled “Definition of indicators and assessment of commitments for sustainability at Ibero-American universities”. This project involves universities in nine different countries which will review several systems of sustainability indicators.

The first set of indicators to be tested in each university and country during 2014 will be ready and presented in December at the 3rd ARIUSA Conference.

This project is led by UAM and supported by the Spanish Bank of Santander. More information: javier.benayas@uam.es

✦ **University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) and Vienna University of Economics and Business (VUEB) – “Sustainability Strategies for two Viennese Universities”, by Lisa Bohunovsky and Fred Luks**

Both BOKU and VUEB, CA members in Austria, have a strong public commitment to sustainability in the fields of education, research and operations. Both universities have now started individual processes to develop sustainability strategies which engage all relevant university stakeholders (e.g. teachers and researchers, students, management staff) and have a strong support from the universities’ senior management teams. Close cooperation between the two universities support synergies and mutual learning.

VUEB held four initial workshops in spring 2013. The sustainability process will continue in fall. The process is coordinated by the newly installed Competence Center for Sustainability. BOKU held a kick-off in June and starts with thematic workshops in October 2013. The Centre for Global Change and Sustainability is coordinating the process.

More information on progress related to these sustainability strategies will be communicated through the CA Newsletter. If you are interested in learning more about these initiatives, please contact Lisa Bohunovsky (lisa.bohunovsky@boku.ac.at) and/or Fred Luks (fred.luks@wu.ac.at)

Events

✦ UGAF Green IT School (Oslo, 7-11 October 2013)

Green IT is much more than turning printers and monitors off when you leave the office: it embodies an entire cycle including manufacture, procurement, use and disposal of IT technologies and services. The 1st UGAF School on Green IT (University of Oslo, 7-11 October) will provide a comprehensive understanding of the planning and implementation of Green IT strategy and practice.

TARGET GROUP: Professionals including: IT Managers, IT Technical Staff, systems and network administrators, IT Postgraduate students. Capacity: 30-50 participants

OPEN TO: CA members, representatives of UNICA member universities, Nordic Sustainable Campus Network, University of Oslo's Erasmus partners and other Norwegian universities.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION: Participants will obtain certificates on the completion of the course.

The School is free and some free daily meals and accommodation will be provided. To register please send an email to Maryam Faghihimani before 1st October at: maryam.faghihimani@admin.uio.no.

✦ The Turin 2013 Learning Link (Turin, 28-31 October 2013)

The [Learning Link](#) is a global event which brings together representatives of development learning and training institutions and their partners to share practices, strengthen cooperation and enhances effectiveness in contributing to contemporary capacity development challenges. The third edition of the event will take place in Turin, from 28 to 31 October 2013. The Link will promote discussions amongst capacity development organisations about three interrelated dimensions of 'Sustainable Learning': the Economic, Social and Environmental dimensions. The Steering Committee is composed of GIZ, CEPEI, the ITC-ILO and JICA.

Participants can register [here](#).

Publications and resources

✦ Leuphana University's new publication: "Higher Education for Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern Europe"

Why should we care about the conditions that promote or hinder ESD endeavours in the HE sector in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe? The answer is easy. Because although noteworthy sustainability related initiatives are to be found here, relatively

little has been published so far. And this region is of particular interest.

This book aims to fill that gap in research by providing thirteen comparative case studies, all written by researchers from this region and providing policy analysis of ESD initiatives in a hitherto uncharted territory.

This edited volume emerged from the international summer school “Implementation of Sustainability into Research and Teaching of Higher Education Institution in Eastern Europe” that took place in 2011 under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair “HE for Sustainable Development” in Lüneburg, Germany. This publication also draws on research supported by a grant from the DBU – Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt.

Please click [here](#) to download this publication.

✦ **Special Issue (Vol 4, 3) of Sustainability Accounting Management and Policy Journal on “Effective Change Management, Governance & Policy for Sustainability Transformation in Higher Education”**

This special issue has been edited by Prof Clemens Mader (Leuphana University, CA Vice-President), Prof Geoff Scott (University of Western Sydney) and Prof Dzulkipli Abdul Razak (International University Association) and will be published in November 2013.

Numerous policy announcements and articles have been produced over the past 20 years calling for higher education institutions to give greater focus to social, cultural, economic and environmental sustainability in their curriculum, research, engagement activities and operations. However, there has been much less attention given to establishing how to ensure these desired developments are successfully initiated, implemented and sustained. It is to these key areas of effective change management, leadership, support and governance for embedding sustainability into the core activities of higher education institutions through transformation that this special issue of SAMPJ gives focus.

For further information, please click [here](#).

✦ **“Uncharted waters: voyages for Education for Sustainable Development in the higher education curriculum”, Alex Ryan and Daniella Tilbury**

This article written by Dr Alex Ryan and Prof Daniella Tilbury (University of Gloucestershire) explores the potential for engagement with the HE curriculum by bringing ESD into its quality assurance and quality enhancement system. It builds on insights gained from a national project funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which worked in collaboration with the UK Quality Assurance Agency and a consortium of five universities. It considers the ways that ESD has entered the UK higher education sector and the potential connectivity that exists between ESD and quality.

Download this article [here](#).

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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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