



Welcome to the COPERNICUS Alliance Autumn Newsletter

Members' news

Evaluation and Assessment of Higher Education for Sustainable Development: COPERNICUS Alliance Conference 2015



Join us in Madrid for the COPERNICUS Alliance Conference on the 24th November 2015. As well as a range of interesting speakers from across Europe there will be time during the programme for lively group discussions to share and generate new ideas and encourage informal networking.

Find out more about the conference [speakers, programme and registration](#).

Welcome to our new partners!

We are delighted to welcome the [University of Zurich](#) and the [University of Hamburg](#) as new members of the COPERNICUS Alliance, and look forward to presenting their activities in future editions of the newsletter.

ELTT virtual launch

New CA member University of Zurich has just launched the ELTT professional training programme (of which CA is also a partner). The programme aims at enabling university educators to take leadership in transformative teaching and learning for sustainable development. During an eight module course participants will learn and exchange through blended learning formats.

ELTT Webinars and ELTT Handouts are open source and have time flexible access to learn from or to use at other institutions for capacity building initiatives. ELTT workshops take place at the University of Zurich and promote interactive exchange among participants.

The first ELTT Webinar is now available at: <https://youtu.be/ctOeqQpv3yU>

The first ELTT Webinar focused on global frameworks for ESD and local implementation. Two distinguished panelists brought their insights from policy and practice:

Dr. Alexander Leicht, Director ESD, UNESCO Paris, France and Prof. Ibrahim Abouleish, President, Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, Cairo, Egypt.

You are welcome to share this link and join the exchange with workshop participants through an ELTT LinkedIn Discussion Group. For more information please contact: Clemens Mader, ELTT Program Lead, Sustainability Team, University of Zurich. mader@sustainability.uzh.ch

CfP: Professional Development in Higher Education for Sustainable Development



The special issue of the **International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education** focuses on capacity building of university educators and their role in promoting ESD. The following objectives will be addressed: (a) identifying national, regional or institutional policy frameworks that support ESD professional development, (b) concepts of professional development, (c) competence frameworks and ESD approaches, and (d) principles for scaling up successful capacity building initiatives. Please find the detailed call [here](#). We are looking forward to receiving your abstracts (max. 500 words) by 15 October 2015 (please send them to unesco-chair@uni.leuphana.de). For

further information please contact Marlene Mader, Leuphana University of Lüneburg (e-mail: marlene.mader@leuphana.de). The full papers are due by end of February 2016.

COP21 Ministers urged to partner with universities, colleges and students

A global alliance of tertiary and higher education sustainability networks and associations including the COPERNICUS Alliance, representing more than 3000 universities and colleges worldwide, today jointly issued an [Open Letter](#) urging Ministers and Governments to acknowledge and strengthen the research and education role that universities and colleges play in addressing climate change. The Open Letter from the global alliance will be handed to COP21 General Secretary Pierre Henri Guignard on 14 October at the UNESCO Headquarters during the Higher Education for Climate Change Action Event.

CA joins Sulitest Senior Advisory Board



**the
sustainability
literacy test**

The “Sustainability Literacy Test” is a tool for initiatives on sustainability lead by HEIs to assess and verify the sustainability literacy (but not yet ESD competences!) of their graduates. It assesses the knowledge in economic, social and environmental responsibility for

higher education students, applicable in any kind of Higher Education Institution (HEI), in any country. The presence of the CA in the senior advisory board should provide members with the opportunity to shape and contribute to the development of the assessment tool. We invite your feedback, questions and comments! Check: http://www.sulite.org/en/substainability_home or contact the CA at: office@copernicus-alliance.org

Conference on organisational structures for sustainable tertiary education



The Flemish Annual Environmental and Sustainability Education Conference takes place on the 10th of November in Brussels. During the conference, a pathway for tertiary education is organised by Ecocampus. Attendees get the opportunity to learn at first hand from international best practices on organization for sustainability.

The way in which institutions of tertiary education are organized today, strongly based on “siloing” disciplines, is a major challenge for sustainable tertiary education.

During the conference, several international speakers will explain how they searched for forms of organization that enable education and research for sustainability. Please see the conference website <http://www.lne.be/themas/natuur-en-milieueducatie/nme-evenementen/vlaamse-nme-dag-2015> or for more information on the conference please email ecocampus@lne.vlaanderen.be.

CA Micro Fund

The next deadline for the Micro Fund call is **15th December!**

An amount of up to 500 EUR can be made per application by CA Institutional Members. These activities might involve (but are not limited to):

- Workshops
- Conferences
- Publications
- Networking (CA capacity building)

For more information about eligible costs and conditions [please see the CA website](#).

Investigating Sustainability Science



The German Commission for UNESCO hosted a meeting for representatives of 16 higher education and research institutes from across Central and Eastern Europe to discuss the future of sustainability science. This meeting was a follow-up of the [first meeting held in Bratislava in 2014](#) which concluded a [summary statement](#) noting the specific sustainable development challenges of the region, agreeing on aspects of sustainability science and how it can be structurally implemented. Several colleagues from COPERNICUS Alliance member organisations (Charles University of Prague, University of Graz, Leuphana University of Lüneburg, University of Zurich, University of Warsaw) attended this year's Warsaw meeting where a research consortium was initiated.

Featured CA Member Institution



Ecocampus: Programme for sustainable tertiary education of the Flemish Ministry of Environment, Nature and Energy

Countries throughout Europe agree on the pivotal role of tertiary education in sustainable development. This has been confirmed by several international agreements like the EU Sustainable Development Strategy or the UNECE ESD-strategy. But can tertiary education independently deliver on these big expectations? In Belgium, the Flemish government decided to support tertiary education in its orientation towards sustainability. Thus, the Ecocampus program was born in 2008.

The Ecocampus program was built on principles of transition management, like a high degree of participation and a system-wide approach. Ecocampus focuses on educators, researchers and students.



The goal is threefold:

First, stimulate experimenting with sustainability issues. Second, stimulate the development of a sustainability reflex in teaching-practice, research-practice and student life. Third, augment the group's power to act by stimulating a favourable and enterprising environment in tertiary education. The output of the program so far has been varied. They include different instruments like the guidebook "sustainable development as a compass for

defining learning outcomes" or the EDGE-kit to help integrate sustainability in economic majors. They include various platforms through which exchange is possible, like the learning networks and the Commission "Sustainable Tertiary Education" for the board-members of institutions. They include a database with good practices and many more.

A recent update of the program added a new dimension to the program. Ecocampus aims to be the bridge between the international 'sustainable tertiary education'-community and Flanders. In this light, Ecocampus became a member of the COPERNICUS Alliance. Membership provides us with opportunities to learn from others and spread international good practices in Flanders. We also hope to share Flemish good practices with COPERNICUS. Finally, we hope to learn what the international community defines as current priority barriers in order to set up new pilot projects – and possibly international collaborations – concerning these barriers.

- An English website on Ecocampus will be up and running by the beginning of 2016. In the meantime, please discover our English publication "Sustainable Higher Education –

Understanding and Moving Forward”.

<http://www.vlaanderen.be/nl/publicaties/detail/ontwerpen-voor-het-onbekende-1?section=1>

- For more information on Ecocampus, please contact peter.schildermans@lne.vlaanderen.be or ecocampus@lne.vlaanderen.be.

You can read more about Peter Schildermans, our COPERNICUS Alliance Ecocampus colleague at <https://be.linkedin.com/pub/peter-schildermans/3a/a58/670>.

Global news, events and publications



The World's Largest Lesson – inspiring change within a generation

The Global Goals organisation has developed an [open platform](#) with creative, thought-provoking resources to help teachers integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into their school lessons. Food for thought for pedagogical faculties? Inspiration for higher education institutes?



Developing Skills for Future Leaders publication



The report presents Sustainable Campus Best Practices from ISCN and GULF Schools and was presented at the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF) session of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2015. Download the report here.

<http://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/downloads/general/404-2015-iscn-gulf-best-practice-report/file>

AASHE Conference: Transforming Sustainability Education

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) annual Conference & Expo will bring together, from the 25th to 28th October, sustainability professionals, senior leaders, students, faculty, staff, businesses and media for a four-day conference that celebrates and inspires campus sustainability innovations.



A new generation of sustainability leaders: Students Organising for Sustainability



SOS is a newly established international alliance of student organizations and initiatives that collaborate to progress their work on social responsibility and environmental sustainability and aims to create a movement of young sustainability leaders. SOS is open to organizations dedicated to sustainability and social responsibility, as well as generic student organizations that have an interest in these issues. SOS is already planning to collaborate on research on student demand for education for sustainable development among other activities. [Read more here](#).

Emerald Award of Excellence in International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education



Katja Brundiers, Arizona State University, who was guest speaker at the first CA Webinar on "Innovative teaching for sustainability in higher education", and co-authors Arnim Wiek, Angelo Xiong and Sander van der Leeuw have won the Outstanding Paper Emerald Award of Excellence 2015 for their work on "Integrating problem- and project-based learning into sustainability programs: A case study on the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University". It is the winner in the "International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education" and as the winning paper, the publisher makes it [freely accessible to download](#).

Contribute your SD and climate change achievements to UN Progress report

To prepare for the event [From Rio to Paris: Higher Education for Climate Change Action](#) on 14th October, UN-DESA is putting together a ***Progress report on the impact of Higher Education institutions in advancing sustainable development and climate change***. Higher education institutions are invited to share their achievements by responding to the following questions:

What initiatives has your higher education institution taken towards making progress towards climate change action, in terms of teaching, research, outreach, or greening campuses?

Submissions of 500 words should be submitted here by 1 October 2015.

Call for university student climate change proposals



The IARU [Global University Climate Forum](#) is a one-day workshop on 5 December in Paris during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations (COP21) where student teams from around the world will present their ideas for local-scale projects that will yield measureable impacts over the course of one year. To participate, student teams should apply online during the month of

September.

International Sustainable Campus Network Conference 2016

The ISCN has announced that the [10th Annual Conference](#) will take place on 13-15th June 2016 at the University of Siena in Tuscany.

Campus Sustainability Month



AASHE will celebrate Campus Sustainability Month throughout October. The month will provide opportunities to engage and inspire incoming students and other campus stakeholders to become sustainability change agents.

<http://www.aashe.org/campus-sustainability-month/>

Our mailing address is:

office@copernicus-alliance.org

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