



## **Welcome to the COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter February 2016**

### **Members' news**

### **Save the date! COPERNICUS Alliance Conference 2016**

**September 14th-15th 2016, Vienna, Austria**

**Topic: Sustainability Transformation of Science Systems**

A "Green Event" at University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.

The 2016 COPERNICUS Alliance Conference will focus on sustainability transformation of institutional, national and international science systems. It will reflect on policies and practices that support or hinder researchers and educators of higher education institutions to practice inter- and transdisciplinary approaches of science for sustainable development.

The conference will include interactive sessions and panels that allow participants to elaborate on their good practices, theoretical and empirical concepts. A call for contributions will be published by the end of February. Please stay updated by checking the website: [www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016](http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016)



**Universität für Bodenkultur Wien**

## **Enabling Leadership for Transformational Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Development Webinars**

The Enabling Leadership for Transformational Teaching and Learning for Sustainable Development (ELTT) project has developed a series of webinars with distinguished guests. There are three webinars available on you tube with 6 more planned until the end of June. Webinars available thus far:

- From global programmes on ESD to local implementation
- Taking Leadership for implementing sustainability in higher education
- Competences for Sustainable Development

The webinars are available at the following youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEF-BCONqes6yGHVGzwpZMw>

## **Postdoctoral Research Associate Opportunity In Higher Education as a Motor of the Sustainability Transformation**

Leuphana university is starting a project this year looking at how competence development to contribute to a more sustainable future can be supported in the higher education curricula. The project will run for 3.5 years and we advertise for 2 postdoc and 5 PhD positions. For information about the job, please visit <https://edufuca.wordpress.com/>.

## **Long Night of the Careers: Competences for Sustainability Careers**

The Sustainability Team of the University of Zurich co-organised and hosted an event in November to support university students develop competences which are especially important for a career in the field of sustainability. The following competences were emphasised as essential to a career in sustainability:

- disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding,
- systemic thinking,
- intrinsic motivation, which can for instance be seen in previous voluntary engagement,
- self management,
- communication skills, including being able to listen well and to communicate clearly what one wants to say, and
- personality and authenticity.

The panelists showed various ways of how students can acquire such knowledge and competences, for instance by attending classes outside of their discipline, voluntary engagement in a student organisation or internships during the semester breaks. For more information visit <http://www.sustainability.uzh.ch/en/team/projects.html>

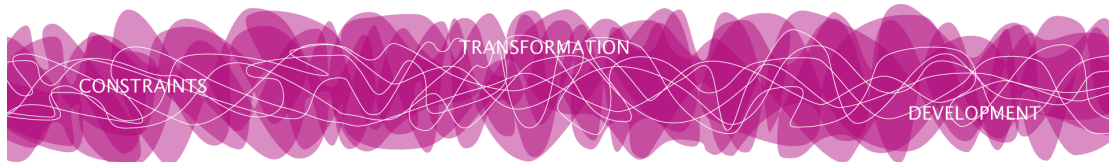


Picture: Omar Kassab

## 3rd International Conference Growth in Transition 2016



3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE GROWTH IN TRANSITION 2016



### HOW CONSTRAINTS MAKE US GROW SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

22-24 FEBRUARY 2016 VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

<http://www.growthintransition.eu/conference2016/>

tickets:<http://www.growthintransition.eu/conference2016/tickets/>

Our understanding of the natural constraints of our planet is continually growing and deepening. What prevents us from making changes to our lifestyles and economic activities and especially from placing them on a sustainable footing? Why is no change of direction taking place?

This theme will be tackled by speakers such as Tim Jackson (Professor for Sustainability, University of Surrey), Sigrid Stagl (Ecological Economist, WU), Hans Herrn (Recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, Millennium Institute), Martine Durand (Chief Statistician OECD), Gerald Hüther (Professor for Neurobiologie, University of Göttingen), Shalini Randeria (Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences, Director of Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), Hans Bruyninckx (Head of European Environment Agency) among others.

**Leading Practice Publication: Professional development of University Educators on Education for Sustainable Development in European Countries**

The “Leading Practice Publication: Professional development of University Educators on Education for Sustainable Development in European countries” that brings together - for the first time - best practice in higher education professional development and ESD. The book presents 13 best practice examples from 10 countries across the European region.

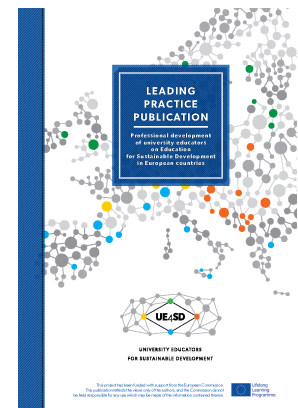
The publication is an outcome of the EU-funded "University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)" project, a COPERNICUS Alliance initiative building on the knowledge and experience of 53 partners from 33 countries active in the area of ESD at European higher education institutions. See below more information about the project and a link to the electronic version of the publication:

UE4SD project website: <http://www.ue4sd.eu/>

Leading Practice Publication: <http://www.ue4sd.eu/images/2015/UE4SD-Leading-Practice-PublicationBG.pdf>

We hope that you will find the book both interesting and useful in your professional activities. We would truly appreciate it if you could share it among your networks.

It is now time to think to the future and how best to **follow up** on project activities. UE4SD members will be contacted soon in this regard.



## Featured CA Member Institution

### National Union of Students

NUS exist to make students' lives better and students' unions stronger. Our members are 600 students' unions who collectively represent 7 million students. We are student led, have 240 staff, of which 25 are dedicated to sustainability with our programmes being delivered in over 100 UK universities and now, internationally.

Our vision is that sustainability should be a consistently important issue to students and student representatives. We want to see students' unions known for being proactive and effective enablers of the agenda, with the tertiary education sector routinely providing students with learning opportunities that are interdisciplinary and enquiry-based, exploring grand challenges and global citizenship perspectives, developing critical thinking skills and political agency. We feel all students should leave tertiary education with a desire and willingness to tackle social, environmental and economic issues, and go on to provide societal leadership that creates a more responsible and sustainable future.

To reach this vision, NUS provides leadership within the student movement through the publication of robust and insightful research, the delivery of impactful interventions and programmes, and by enabling and empowering our supporters to progress the agenda at their institutions. We use our convening power to bring stakeholders together locally, nationally and internationally, and we seek to influence politicians and policy. We create positive interconnections between our work and that of other student-focused policy, campaigns and projects to ensure we deliver social, environmental and economic goals with allies.

I have worked for NUS since 2010, and have been involved in sustainability since I was a student myself – my student volunteering led to me change my career plans, my academic focus and make considerable changes to my personal life. I know first-hand the power that tertiary education can have. Over the past decade, it's been fascinating to see the sector's focus and priorities change: from reducing the negative impact of campuses to doing more good; from estates and carbon management to transforming the curriculum; challenging the core purpose of educational institutions. NUS has been working with key bodies across the sector such as professional bodies, trade unions and student groups as well as with its member students' unions and their institutions, to really drive this transformation. Our behavioural change work establishes sustainability as a social norm on campus and within the community but through curriculum reform we will see students leaving their education as part of the solution to global social responsibility and sustainability challenges. Through our membership of networks such as the

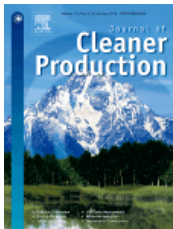
Copernicus Alliance, we seek to catalyse this transition to a truly sustainable education system, and ensure students' voices are at the heart of the change.

Both personally and professionally, I'm known for my love of cakes, pub quizzes and my many bicycles. When I'm not travelling I work from home on the North Yorkshire coast. Therefore the improvement and normalisation of tele-working in the last ten years has been instrumental to my ability to work efficiently and to my quality of life. It delights me that I can be in the Copernicus Alliance's AGM in Madrid in the morning having dialed in with Skype, and be training students in York in the afternoon.

For more information visit, [www.nus.org.uk/sustainability](http://www.nus.org.uk/sustainability) or contact Charlotte at [charlotte.bonner@nus.org.uk](mailto:charlotte.bonner@nus.org.uk). Follow NUS on Twitter using @NUSUK or #NUSGlobal.

## Global news, events and publications

### Call for papers: Continuing to Embed Sustainability as a Golden Thread Throughout All Levels of Education



The **Journal of Cleaner Production** has issued a CfP for a special edition dedicated to sustainability in education. Authors are invited to submit extended abstracts of 1000–1500 words of their proposed papers to Dr. Tove Holm ([tove.holm@sykli.fi](mailto:tove.holm@sykli.fi)) by 20th March 2016.

More information about the call can be viewed here: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652616000342>

### UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development 2016 Call for Nominations Open

Aiming to showcase and honour efforts by individuals, institutions and organisations engaged in ESD, the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development awards USD 50,000 per recipient. The second call for nominations is open until 30th April. [Read more at the website.](#)

### ISCN Working Group Call for Abstracts

The ISCN Working Group Co-Chairs are looking for contributions relevant to the following themes:

- Innovative Infrastructure and user behavior
- Holistic campus planning and sustainable urban models
- Sustainability skills and competencies

Abstracts are due by February 26, 2016. Please visit the [ISCN website](#) for more information about the call for abstracts.

### Global Action Programme ESD Clearinghouse and Resource Bank Launched



The ESD Clearinghouse is an online platform which showcases learning resources, documents, good ESD practices and innovative research from all UNESCO regions. Visit the webpage for more information: <https://en.unesco.org/gap-esd-clearinghouse>

## 8th International Conference on Engineering Education for Sustainable Development



September 4-7, 2016 (Bruges, Belgium)

For more details regarding the conference visit [www.eesd2016.org](http://www.eesd2016.org)

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