



Welcome to the COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter July 2016

COPERNICUS Alliance news

CA Conference 2016 call for submissions deadline 15th July

For details of the call for submission please see <http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/call>
The conference programme is available online at <http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/programme>.



CA cooperation with the International Association of Universities



We are pleased to announce that CA is now an affiliated member of the IAU. This membership is a further step towards closer collaboration in recognition that the two organisations are working towards common objectives: the transformation of HE and research to better address SD issues.

Cooperation over the coming months and years will have following aims:

- develop guidelines for the integration of SD at all institutional levels
- jointly issue a special edition of The Higher Education Policy journal
- confer awards to authors of the best papers
- provide access of CA members to IAU global HESD portal
- develop a professional training programme on HESD Leadership
- systematic mutual invitation to events and networking between members

Micro Funds support events at University of Warsaw and the Open University of the Netherlands

European Virtual Seminar - European Learning Analytics Community Exchange

The EVS-LACE workshop was organized at the Open Universiteit in Heerlen, The Netherlands, 13th-14th April. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the application of 'learning analytics' in the European Virtual Seminar on Sustainable Development



(EVS), a web-based course, jointly organized and offered by about 10 universities from across Europe, including 5 CA members. Learning analytics refers to the use of data automatically generated by web-based learning platforms to support the learning process.

In EVS, the potential of learning analytics is being tested to support the collaborative learning of students. A major goal of EVS is to learn to work together with people with disciplinary and culturally diverse perspectives on sustainable development and to utilize this diversity in search for sustainable solutions. A major challenge for the teachers is to support this process as tutors.

In the workshop, the EVS tutors evaluated the performance of a feedback dashboard designed to stimulate student reflection, help to detect possible problems early and improve group atmosphere, collaboration and effectiveness. The conclusion was that the

feedback tool had a demonstrated potential to stimulate student activity, and that follow-up work was required to develop 'good practices' for the tutors on how to utilize the tool best in coaching their student team. The workshop was also an opportunity to present the COPERNICUS Alliance to participants from universities which are not yet CA members.

University of Warsaw conference and poster exhibition “Sustainable Development at Universities”



The University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (UCBS) at the University of Warsaw organized a one-day conference and accompanying exhibition of posters entitled “Sustainable Development at Universities” in order to communicate the concept of sustainability in higher education to students and members of the university administration, academics from University of Warsaw and other Universities from Poland, representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Polish Committee of UNESCO, City Council of Warsaw and many other key institutions for implementation of sustainability rules at different levels. The conference provided an opportunity to present the COPERNICUS Alliance, GUPES and University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD). Special guest Dr. Jorrdi Serra

(Delegate for Sustainability at the University of Barcelona) presented good practices of sustainability from the University of Barcelona.

The poster exhibition illustrated how different aspects of sustainable development are being implemented at Warsaw University and other universities in Poland and abroad: in the education, research, and primarily in the sustainable management of the university and the “greening” of campuses. All the posters and main presentations from the conferences are available on the UCBS website: <http://ucbs.uw.edu.pl/en/>

We welcome Micro Funds applications from CA members before the next deadline on 31st October. More details on applying for a Micro Funds grant is [available at the website.](#)

Micro Funds awarded to University of Gloucestershire



In the second round of applications for Micro Funds, the University of Gloucestershire was awarded a grant to support the conference Universities as Beacons of Change: Education for Sustainability Lighting up Pathways for a New World.

A report on this event will follow in the next newsletter! Applications are welcome for CA members before the next deadline **31st October.**

For more information please see <http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/initiatives/ca-micro-funds>

CA Members' news

Competences for SD video



Ecocampus, a program on sustainable higher education of the Flemish government, has made a video about how education can familiarize students with the changing society. The video introduces the viewers to the key competences for sustainable development. In 2 minutes 30 seconds, the viewer learns about systems thinking and the anticipatory, normative, strategic and interpersonal competences. The goal of the video is to challenge teachers to reflect on what these mean for their practice.

<https://youtu.be/8KerFUQtZmk>

Opportunities for PhD students, Leuphana University of Lueneburg

Leuphana University of Lueneburg is recruiting 5 PhD students to work on a project on higher education for sustainable development. This project generates evidence on how students can best be educated to acquire competencies to become impactful change agents. It addresses how competence acquisition can best be fostered.

The project adopts a multi-methodological approach, combining in-depth qualitative case studies with a quantitative sample study to generate both detailed as well as generalizable insights. The project conducts its research on two universities that have pioneered sustainability education in Europe and North America, namely, Leuphana University of Lüneburg in Germany

and Arizona State University in the United States. The project focuses on acquisition of sustainability competencies in sustainability programs, teacher education programs, and extra-curricular programs on social entrepreneurship at both universities.

For more information on the positions please follow this link:
<http://www.leuphana.de/news/jobs-und-karriere/forschung-lehre.html>

University of Zurich ISCN 2016 Award Winner



UZH is among the 5 universities to be awarded Excellence in Student Leadership for their contribution to Sustainability Week in Zurich. The Swiss Student Union held a conference during the week and presented a paper demanding Swiss universities to integrate sustainability measures into their operations.
<http://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/awards/2016-award-winners>

NUS Sustainability Survey seeks global collaboration

The UK National Union of Students (NUS) has jointly launching the sixth year of a joint survey on perceptions of sustainability in HE, bringing the number of respondents to c.30,000. The survey came about in the context of the UNSECO DESD. Findings demonstrate the strong student demand for sustainable development. This longitudinal research makes it clear how much students care about sustainability. Over the past five years the results have been consistent:



80 per cent of students want their institution to be doing more on sustainable development
60 per cent of students want to learn more about sustainability

In 2015, for the first time, the survey has included employers as part of this research to find out what skills and attributes employers want from emerging graduates – especially relating to sustainability. Results show that employers thought that a range of skills for sustainability were important when they were recruiting, and this will be a theme for future research. The survey has led us securing the £5m Students' Green Fund for unions and also our innovative [Responsible Futures](#) ESD programme, as well as being drawn upon by countless universities and colleges in the UK to help win support for ESD locally.

NUS are also looking to collaborate with other partners globally to further the body of evidence around this topic. For more information visit [the NUS](#)

[website](#) or contact rachel.drayson@nus.org.uk.

ELTT webinar

BOKU Sustainability day 2nd June 2016



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien

The BOKU Sustainability Day is a central measure of the university's sustainability strategy. The event offered a broad spectrum of activities, keynotes, discussion sessions, etc. and was accompanied by an artistic programme. Entitled "(Un)finity. Limited resources Boundless ideas" the

event explored the tension between finite resources and infinite opportunities. The whole day and evening program was then aligned along the axis Earth, brain, heart and hand with parallel sessions held in these categories. [Read more here about the event.](#)

Dario Piselli, CA Board Member, addresses the 2016 International Sustainable Campus Network Conference.



Dario Piselli is Project Leader, Solutions Initiatives – SDSN Youth. The address focused on 1) the role of epistemic communities, 2) the importance of universities being key actors in implementation and monitoring processes and harnessing the power of data to support countries' efforts towards sustainable development 3) the need to promote dynamic ecosystems of universities interacting with each other, the larger epistemic community, and national/local governments and 4) the need to involve young people, and students more in what universities are doing to make the most of their skills, their capacity to adapt, and their fluid intelligence which is crucial to solve today's complex problems. The full address can be accessed at the [SDSN-Y webpage.](#)

Featured CA Member Institution

University of Maribor, Slovenia



The University of Maribor (UM) is a public institution of great national importance. UM is following a research strategy focusing on a creative environment encouraging academic freedom with the purpose of promoting sustainable and socially responsible development and producing outstanding scientific results encouraging the University's participation in the European integration of scientific research. A close link between science and technology, which is manifested in innovations, will increase the visibility of the University at home and abroad, and influence the development of the less advanced region of Podravje and the entire country.

This new model of a sustainable and socially responsible university will contribute to a deeper understanding of the interactions between the environmental, economic, social and ethical dimensions of sustainable development. We sincerely hope that the University of Maribor will be able to convince other public, private, governmental, non-governmental and industrial organizations to follow its lead.

The University of Maribor comprises various faculties with more than 23 000 students and staff members. The consumption of energy, water and materials is, therefore, not comparable to the consumption of large businesses. Environmental pollution is not generated only in lecture halls and laboratories, but also in offices, at parking lots, etc. The transformation of the University into a sustainable and socially responsible institution requires the incorporation of all four dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, economic, social and ethical.

UM is also a member of various international associations, e.g. European University Association (EUA), Alps-Adriatic Rectors' Conference (AARC), Danube Rectors' Conference (DRC), Leveraging Education into Organisations (LEO-NET), European Network of Academic Sports Services (ENAS) and University Network of the European Capitals of Culture (UNEECC), and now also the COPERNICIUS Alliance, which we are very proud of and looking forward to cooperate with other colleagues.

Full prof. PhD. Peter Glavič
Joanna Bertoncej

Global news

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth invites cooperation



The Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth (SDSN Youth), the global youth chapter of the SDSN directed by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, is launching the first edition of its Youth Solutions Report before the end of the year. The Youth Solutions Report will aim to identify and celebrate youth organizations, youth-led projects and ground breaking ideas that are successfully working towards achieving the targets set in the 2030 Agenda. Covering an

international spectrum, it will consolidate information on 50 projects run by youth organizations and individuals committed to implementing the SDGs and making them a reality.

In the vision of SDSN Youth, creating the Report, presenting it at major conferences and establishing meaningful partnerships with UN Agencies, companies and media outlets will facilitate the dissemination of promising youth-led solutions, giving them additional fora to showcase their work and opportunities to draw interest from potential supporters. In turn, this will help investors, donors and supporters better understand the multi-faceted role of young people in the 2030 Agenda.

From this perspective, **SDSN Youth is pleased to invite all members of COPERNICIUS Alliance to get involved in the drafting of the Solutions Report**, starting from the possibility of recommending youth Solutions that you are familiar with for inclusion in the Report. These could be initiatives that your institution is already supporting (e.g. student start-ups), but also projects that are being implemented by one of your partners or more generally in your region. If you believe that they are aligned with the vision that SDSN Youth is pushing forward with the Report, make sure the proponents submit their story at <http://www.youthsolutions.report> in order for it to be evaluated for inclusion by an Advisory Panel composed of world-leading experts in the field of sustainable development. By visiting the website, you can also learn more about the evaluation criteria and the initiative itself, and stay updated with all relevant information.

Don't hesitate to contact SDSN Youth at solutions@sdsnyouth.org if you have any question.

Global Climate Change Week - resources for academic communities



Global Climate Change Week (GCCW) (<http://globalclimatechangeweek.com/>) took place for the first time last year (the GCCW 2015 report is available at <http://globalclimatechangeweek.com/report-on-gccw-2015/>) which focused directly on academics. In 2016, GCCW, 10th-16th October, will focus on whole 'academic communities' - academics, students (including undergraduate students), non-academic (including professional and union) staff at universities, and alumni to ensure an inclusive environment and make the most of the energy and commitment of students and non-academic staff.

A new page on the website 'For non-academic staff' (<http://globalclimatechangeweek.com/for-professional-staff/>) provides ideas, information, and resources to support non-academic staff interested in participating. GCCW organisers welcome any feedback on the website resources, and would be interested to hear any other ideas for ensuring the active participation of non-academic university staff in GCCW.

21st Century skills for graduates: Flipcurric online teaching guide

FLIPCurric

FlipCurric assists program teams in higher education institutions to equip graduates to meet the social, cultural, economic, resource and environmental challenges of the 21st century. The guide was co-created with 3700 learning and teaching leaders from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific, East Asia,

Europe, the UK and North America during a National Senior Teaching Fellowship at the Australian Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT). Devoted to assuring achievement standards and the quality of assessment in universities and colleges, the fellowship was undertaken during 2014-16 by Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Scott, who was hosted by COPERNICUS Alliance members during his work. The guide outlines '6 Keys' to 'flipping' the curriculum, and has diverse searchable resources. You can access the Flipcurric guide at the website <http://flipcurric.edu.au/>

AASHE award for sustainability in HE research



In an effort to build stronger connections between campus sustainability practitioners and higher education sustainability researchers like yourself, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has created a new award for published research on sustainability in higher education. The goal is to help ensure that practitioners can take advantage of findings from the research community and also to encourage research on topics of practical importance to the field.

If you (or students with whom you work) have published papers on sustainability in higher education in the last year, submissions are invited for the research award. Award winners will receive: one complimentary pass to the 2016 AASHE Conference & Expo this October in Baltimore.

All submissions will be shared via the new Campus Sustainability Hub, which will help practitioners find and benefit from research in an ongoing way.