

Copernicus Alliance Newsletter No. 2



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 (2012-14)

[Dr Clemens Mader](#)
Elected Vice-President (2012-14)

[Dr Ingrid Mulà](#)
COPERNICUS officer

COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter

Welcome to the COPERNICUS Alliance Newsletter! We hope that it provides a valuable knowledge sharing platform for members.

If you would like to make a contribution to the April newsletter please contact Dr Ingrid Mulà by the 20th April 2012 at: office@copernicus-alliance.org

The newsletters are only available to COPERNICUS Alliance members.

News

✦ Update on Rio+20, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012

Following the February Newsletter, we would like to update you on the progress of our involvement in the Rio+20 negotiations:

1. *The People's HE for Sustainability Treaty*

Our first newsletter outlined the process and outcomes

associated with the HE Treaty for Rio+20 which CA is leading. The intention is to join forces with groups with similar interests to influence the internationally agreed agendas in Sustainable Development and to strengthen and support the role of HE in the achievement of more sustainable societies. Thank you to members who volunteered their time to contribute to this important CA initiative.

We are pleased to confirm the involvement of over twenty key HE associations and agencies as well as students groups from across the globe including Universities Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in Africa (MESA), Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSD), Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS), Korean Association for Green Campus Initiative (KAGCI), Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net), Asian Universities Alternative Appraisal (AUA), China Green University Network, Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), Fondaterra, Conferencia de Rectores Universitarios de Universidades Españolas (CADEP-CRUE), Learning for Sustainability Dutch National Programme (LFS), Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA), Education for Sustainable Development HE Programme of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Iberoamerican Network of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA), Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI), United Nations Environment Programme – Environmental Education and Training Unit (UNEP-EETU), International Association of Universities (IAU), Sustainable Futures Leadership Academy for HE (SFA), UNESCO Chairs in Higher Education, Regional Centres of Expertise in ESD (RCE), UN Education Caucus (EDC), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), The Reorienting Teaching network, Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES), Postgraduate Researchers Interested in Sustainability Matters (PRISM), Edusost and World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD).

Please visit the CA [website](#) for more information about the People's Treaties ambition, timelines and plans. There will be an opportunity for CA to inform the contents of the HE Treaty. A CA volunteer, Mr Philipp Schoeffmann, will be coordinating the CA consultation process which will take place next month.

The partnership is negotiating a collective vision regarding higher education and sustainability for the

Earth Summit. This coordinated approach is critical to enhance the profile of higher education during and beyond the Rio+20 Conference.

2. Rio + 20 Side Event

Alongside the HE Treaty are plans for a Rio+20 side event. AASHE is coordinating this contribution and has submitted a request for a half day formal event to be scheduled around the intergovernmental meetings planned. The event aims to raise the profile of higher education at the Rio+20 Summit and propose recommendations on how the sector can contribute to the green economy. CA is one of 10 partners involved and will have an opportunity to contribute with a presentation at the event.

Formal plans for the side event will be submitted to Rio+20 organisers by 30 March 2012. We are aware that there are limited spaces for side events at the Conference and that the UN has already received many submissions from a wide range of organisations. We will know later in April as to whether AASHE's proposal has been accepted.

For more information, please visit our [webpages](#)

✦ CA - IAU Horizons Partnership

[Horizons](#) is a global higher education magazine published by the International Association of Universities (IAU). The magazine includes informative articles and features on contemporary issues in higher education, as well as news on IAU activities, publications and upcoming projects. **The next issue, Vol.18, no.2, focuses on sustainable development and is a CA and IAU collaboration drawing together contributions from various regions around the globe. Several CA members have been asked to contribute to this edition making visible our activities at the international level. The CA Secretariat will share a link to the publication once the magazine is available online.**

✦ CA and UNU IAS Publication

As a follow-up from the CA Annual Meeting in Kerkrade, the CA will be co-editing a publication with UNU-IAS on HE assessment and quality management in the area of sustainability. **Various CA members engaged with this agenda will be contributing to the publication which is due for release** in early 2013.

✦ COPERNICUS Alliance membership

We would like to remind you that membership for 2012 is up for renewal. Please find attached in this email a (i) a document which outlines the benefits of being a CA member and (ii) a registration form to formalise your membership which we would kindly ask you to send it to us at: office@copernicus-alliance.org before 15 April 2012.

If you have any questions regarding membership renewal or network activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

✦ Updates from CA Members

This is your spot to showcase the work that you are doing at your institutions and seek the engagement of other members in planned events, research and other projects. Please remember to send us your updates before the 20th of April at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

The University of Eastern Finland, Update provided by Sirpa Suntioinen (sirpa.suntioinen@uef.fi)

The University of Eastern Finland is participating in the "Education for Sustainable Development in Academia in the Nordic Countries, ESDAN" Project, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers from 2011-13. The Project aims to develop guidelines on how knowledge for sustainability can be embedded in curricula as well as identify and publish good examples in this area within higher education institutions in the Nordic countries.

Several seminars have been organised and are planned during the implementation of the Project. The aim is to develop a teaching and learning tool to enhance ESD in higher education. The first seminar was held on 13 October 2011 at the University of Gävle in Sweden and the second on 15 March 2012 at the Novia University of Applied Sciences in Turku, Finland.

Bern University of Applied Sciences (BUAS), Update provided by Eva Schuepbach (eva.schuepbach@bfh.ch)

"The Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Energy Technology" Project, Dept. Engineering and Information Technology

Developing Sustainable Energy Technology in the Context of Globalisation

Sustainability education for engineers includes making the connections between local and global scales. The new Institute for Energy and Mobility Research (IEM) at BUAS aims at offering both a research and learning platform in the field and develops sustainable energy technology that is deployed to emerging and developing countries. Among the sustainable energy technology developed by BUAS in Biel is the "Swiss Solar Water Pump", a unique low cost 80-160 W photovoltaic system.

Beyond Engineering Knowhow: Practical Implementation of Sustainable Technology in India

To build a sustainable energy future, application of engineering knowhow needs to follow the avenue of a combined economic, social and environmental approach. All three aspects of sustainability are addressed in a new course (sustainability in engineering) given by Prof. Dr. Eva Schüpbach in the summer semester 2012. The course draws on a collaboration with US colleagues on the theory of system's thinking for sustainability. It also involves the participants in a new research and education project with India. Research in this project concentrates on implementing the "Swiss Solar Water Pump" with village people in rural India.

For more information about the Swiss Water Pump, please click [here](#)

Award and Medal of Prince Albert II from Monaco

The COPERNICUS Alliance would like to congratulate Prof Eva Schuepbach for the Award and Medal of Prince Albert II from Monaco received for the organisation of a Special Session on "Sustainable System Education in Ecological Vehicles and Renewable Energies" on 23 March 2012, at the Seventh International Conference and Exhibition on Ecological Vehicles and Renewable Energies in Monte-Carlo, 22-25 March 2012 (EVER'12).

For more information, please click [here](#)

Member of the Month: Aalborg University

Aalborg University: The Green Lean Project

At Aalborg University we work with environmental improvements and sustainability in three different areas: Green Campus, which focuses on minimising the environmental impact caused by university operations; Green Knowledge, which focuses on further integration of sustainability in the university programmes, research and outreach; and Green Mind, which focuses on engaging staff and students in sustainability.

Since November 2011, Aalborg University has been running a Green Lean Pilot project at the Department of Development and Planning. The aim is to encourage staff to implement their own proposals for improvements regarding the environment, implement concrete actions, enhance an environmental culture and ensure ownership among staff. The Green Lean pilot project aims to enhance all three: Green Campus, Green Knowledge and Green Mind. Green Lean is an integration of Lean and environmental management in which Lean is focusing exclusively on the reduction of environmental waste. The tools which have been developed and applied at Aalborg University are flexible and were developed with a special focus on universities as a target group.

In the autumn of 2011, 180 employees were invited to participate in the pilot project and proposed several actions for sustainability improvement. The intention was, via Green Lean, to outline the expert knowledge on Green Lean's environmental board and prioritise it in a Green Lean environmental matrix. The employees outlined 92 different proposals for improvement (eg., actions related to car-pooling at the department level, environmentally friendly canteens, outdoor lighting, etc). All proposals were prioritised on the basis of their expected impact on the environment/the environmental culture at the department, and their expected resource consumption.

At Aalborg University we have experienced that by using Green Lean we ensure the implementation and embedding of the environmental improvement proposals of our employees, which contributes to an actual positive impact on the environment and the enhancement of an environmental culture among staff. The Aalborg University has decided to implement Green Lean at five new departments in the spring 2012, and the results are anticipated with great expectations.

Information provided by Anne Mette Dalum Kaalund (kaalund@adm.aau.dk) and Niels Dahl Thellufsen (ndt@adm.aau.dk)

COPERNICUS Working groups

There are many opportunities for CA members to actively contribute to the network through its working groups. You can participate in any of the existing groups by subscribing at our [website](#) or contact the conveners of the group (see below). If you would like to create your own group, please do email us at: office@copernicus-alliance.org.

Existing groups:

- ✦ *Implementation of Sustainability in Universities (Clemens Mader)*
- ✦ *Innovative Teaching & Learning (David Clemson)*
- ✦ *European Interdisciplinary Research on Sustainability (Jenneth Parker)*
- ✦ *Policy Lobbying (Maik Adomssent)*
- ✦ *Outreach (To be confirmed)*

Events

Past Events

- ✦ **Bonn International Workshop on ESD “Horizon 2015” (Bonn, 27-28 February 2012)**

The German Commission for UNESCO organised an international ESD workshop in Bonn during the 27 to 28 February 2012. The Workshop entitled “Horizon 2015” contributed to the on-going international discussions about the future of ESD and the UN DESD beyond 2014. This meeting provided a platform for around fifty acknowledged experts and government officials from across the world to take stock of the UN DESD implementation and Bonn Declaration (2009) as well as to discuss perspectives for ESD beyond 2014.

The Workshop included keynote speeches from respected ESD leaders, including our CA President Prof Daniella Tilbury, and a range of interactive sessions which allowed the participation of each expert invited at the meeting. The outcome document, the “Bonn Recommendations on ESD beyond 2014”, was developed during the Workshop under the supervision of a drafting group representing the participants of the meeting. This document is available in our [CA website](#). The document proposes 17 recommendations to continue the ESD efforts after the end of the UN DESD in 2014. **CA members are invited to use and share this document in their respective countries and networks to advocate for follow-on activities to the UN DESD.**

Dr Ingrid Mulà, CA Secretariat, was appointed as the rapporteur of the Workshop. Together with Mr Olivier Laboulle, German Commission for UNESCO, she has written the report of the Workshop which will be made available in April 2012. **We will provide the link to the publication in our next CA newsletter.**

✦ **Leuphana Sustainability Summit (Leuphana University, Lüneburg, 29 February-2 March, 2012)**

The Leuphana Sustainability Summit was a great success as more than 300 people from Europe and across Europe participated in this conference focusing on the topic of: “Sustainability: Enabling a Transdisciplinary Approach.” The following questions were guiding questions for the conference and working sessions: (i) What insights about the role of transdisciplinarity for sustainability transitions have we gained over the last 10 years? (ii) What gaps in research still remain? (iii) How can we fill these gaps?

Information on the summit can be found [here](#). Abstracts of contributions can be downloaded [here](#).

✦ **Sixth meeting of the UNECE Expert Group for Competences for ESD (Utrecht, 26-28 March 2012)**

The meeting was called at short notice and in response to a UNECE Steering Committee decision that a workshop framework to support the UNECE ESD competences needed to be developed. Over 12 experts from across the UNECE attended a meeting in the Hague to advise on the development of the workshop framework and accompanying materials. Prof Daniella Tilbury joined the meeting via skype and will be sharing the outcomes of the workshop once they are ready for dissemination.

For further information, please contact Ms Simone Hofner at: esd@unece.org or visit the [UNECE ESD Competences website](#).

Forthcoming Events

✦ **International Sustainable Campus Network Excellence (ISCN) Award**

Applications are due March 31, 2012

Call for entries for the Fourth Annual 2012 ISCN Awards is now open. The ISCN Awards recognise sustainable campus projects that demonstrate leadership, creativity,

effectiveness and outstanding performance in the areas of Building, Campus, Integration and Student Initiatives.

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#). You will be directed to a short online form that will be used as the first round entry application. Finalists will be selected, and additional information will be requested at that point.

Publications, Resources and Call for Papers

✦ Special issue from the Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal – CALL FOR PAPERS

Special issue: "Effective Change Management, Governance and Policy for Sustainability in Higher Education" - This special issue is edited by: CA Vice-President, Dr Clemens Mader as well as Prof Geoffrey Scott and Prof Dzulkifli Abdul Razak

Submission deadline: 1st December 2012

A key challenge in transforming the role of higher education in curriculum, research, operations and the region is to address the interlaced challenges of social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability involving the need to shift away from a single disciplinary focus to one which is more transdisciplinary/interdisciplinary. Sustainability oriented Management, Governance, Leadership and Policies are key to this transformation. In this special issue, we invite those active in addressing the above challenges and have identified effective approaches to submit papers on how these challenges have been productively addressed.

For more information about this special issue, please click [here](#).

✦ Decolonising The University: The Emerging Quest for Non-Eurocentric Paradigms

This book of essays as a sequel to the "International Conference on Decolonising Our Universities" held in Penang, Malaysia from June 27 to 29, 2011. The Conference was jointly organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia and Citizens International in cooperation with the Higher Education Leadership Academy of the Malaysia Ministry of Higher Education. For more information, please click [here](#).

✦ **Putting the 'S' into ED - Education for Sustainable Development in Educational Development**

Edited by: Debby Cotton, Stephen Sterling, Vivian Neal and Jennie Winter

How and why might we embed sustainability in the curriculum, campus and culture of HE institutions? This is a key current issue, both in the UK and internationally. This SEDA Special is targeted at the educational development community, sustainability co-ordinators or others seeking whole-institution change around sustainability. The wide range of thirteen UK and international authors provide unique perspectives on issues as diverse as formal and informal learning through the campus and curriculum, sustainability pedagogies, sustainability and employability and the development of communities of practice. This Special is practical and accessible to the non-expert, providing clear advice and guidance built on contributors' successes and failures in this fascinating and important area of rapidly-developing practice. The foreword has been written by Brian Chalkley, Emeritus Professor at Plymouth University.

For more information, please click [here](#)

Other

✦ **Vacancy Announcement, 4 Postdoctoral Research Fellows in 2012**

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATION: 31 MARCH 2012

International Ecosystem Management Partnership

For more information, please click [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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