



UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



University Educators for Sustainable Development

An Erasmus Partnership of 53 members in 33 countries

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Contact us

University of Gloucestershire (UK)

UE4SD Project Leader and North Region
Hub Co-ordinators

[Prof Daniella Tilbury](#)

(University of Gibraltar)

[Dr Ingrid Mulà](#)

[Dr Alex Ryan](#)

[Ms Barbara Rainbow](#)

Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)

South Region Hub Co-ordinator

[Prof Javier Benayas](#)

[Mr David Alba](#)

Charles University in Prague Environ- ment Center (Czech Republic)

East Region Hub Co-ordinators

[Dr Jana Dlouhá](#)

[Mr Jiří Dlouhý](#)

Leuphana University of Lüneburg (Ger- many)

West Region Hub Co-ordinators

[Prof Clemens Mader](#)

[Ms Marlene Mader](#)

[Prof Gerd Michelsen](#)

UE4SD Newsletter No. 6 - September 2016

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Higher Education (HE), university educators, professional development, competences

University Educators for Sustainable Development" (UE4SD) is a three year project funded by the European Commission under the Lifelong Learning Programme - Erasmus Academic Networks. The project is working across Europe to locate and capture recent efforts to support the development of ESD capabilities of university educators. The aim is to draw on best practices, new initiatives and usable tools for professional development in ESD for university educators. The project draws together 53 partners across 33 countries, mainly in Europe. The partnership has been divided into four different regional hubs to ensure that regional scenarios and contexts are visible throughout the project.

Welcome to our UE4SD newsletter no.6! The purpose of the newsletter is to serve as a news and information platform for UE4SD partners and external stakeholders. It seeks to provide information about UE4SD activities, meetings, updates from project work packages as well as outcomes and resources that may be of interest to partners.

Project news

UE4SD project closes after three years of close cooperation with its 53 partners

Embedding sustainability into higher education curriculum is a long term ambition. We are all fully aware of the complexities that underpin the process of curriculum change. As well as advocating for new forms of student engagement with learning, and with real world issues, education for sustainable development requires an investment of time and resources in the professional development of university educators. UE4SD has given us the opportunity to reflect, learn and change a small component of our work to advance education for sustainable development. In the pilot universities the impact was deeper as teams engaged in institutional and educational change for sustainability.

Three years have gone by with such speed and although we have been very productive during these 36 months, we could do with some more time. As the project comes to an end, the coordinating institutions are sharing the outcomes and learnings of the project widely but also considering extending the pilot experiences across other countries and sub-regions. We are currently preparing a plan for future action and investigating possibilities for further funding. We are keen to keep the partnership together and maintain an elist where we could remain in touch sharing developments and best practice. When funding opportunities arise we can communicate possibilities via this elist. We are assuming that you would like to remain in touch and will keep you on this elist. If you wish to withdraw or add another colleague who has supported you in your UE4SD work please do advise us. Finally, a big thank you for making this project a valuable one.

*Prof Daniella Tilbury
(Project Director) and
the Coordinating Team*



Partner Updates

COPERNICUS Alliance Conference 2016

The 2016 COPERNICUS Alliance Conference was organised on September 14th-15th 2016, at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria. It was focused on the sustainability transformation of institutional, national and international science systems and aimed to reflect on policies and practices that support or hinder researchers and educators of higher education institutions to practice inter- and transdisciplinary approaches of sustainability science.

The two day conference – in addition to four invited keynotes by Mandy Singer-Brodowski (Free University of Berlin), Maik Adomßent (Leuphana University of Lüneburg), Dzulkipli Abdul Razak (IAU) and Lawrence Rajendran (University of Zurich) - provided a variety of participative opportunities: a “poster walk and talk”,

11 parallel interactive sessions fully designed by participants, and a screening of short-videos of contributors who could not attend in person. The UE4SD project was also presented and outcomes were shared with participants. This interactive format of the conference stimulated discussions, exchange of experiences, and collaborative activities.



The conference was organised as a “Green Meeting” under the directive of the Austrian Eco Label and was attended by 65 participants from 10 countries. Participants of the conference discussed on the following topics:

Participants of the conference discussed on the following topics:

- Inside the university: Required competences, barriers and factors of success for sustainability science and ESD.
- Interface between University and society: Possible ways to open up universities towards a more integrative exchange of knowledge and mutual learning processes with society and policy.
- Policy framework: How do global policies like the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development or the European Research Programme on Responsible Research and Innovation, impact higher education and what challenges do we face?

Outcomes from these debates and other conference materials (e.g. photos from the conference, output from the interactive sessions and an open space for joint re-drafting COPERNICUS Alliance Charta) are now available on the conference web site: <http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/vienna2016>

Samothraki Summer University 2016!

The Samothraki Summer University 2016 took place from 9th to 22nd July 2016 in Samothraki Island (Greece) involving 70 participants from 21 countries engaged in the Integrated Management Approaches for Biosphere Reserves. The Summer School included two different courses: “Aquatic and Social Ecology- Theory and Practice” and “Integrated Water and Coastal Management - Educational and Participatory Approaches.”

Participants took part in group experimental activities and deepened their understanding of the value of Biosphere Reserves, as “laboratories” and “catalysts” of sustainable development, working on the unique case of the Samothraki Island (a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve candidate).

The Summer School was organised by the University of Athens/UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean and the Alpen-Adria University/Vienna together with a wide consortium of partners including universities, research institutions, national and local authorities, and supported by the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice and GWP.

More about the Summer School and full report are available here: <http://www.medies.net/articles.asp?cid=8&aID=1080>

SAIL – Sustainability Applied in International Learning and Teaching – for university educators

A multidisciplinary group of 34 university educators from 9 countries and 24 universities sailed one week on the North Sea from 30th June to 7th July 2016, participating in a seminar in sustainability on board the tall ship Fryderyk Chopin. It was the fourth time that The Baltic University Programme (BUP) organised this event for university educators - a similar but longer event has been arranged for students since 1990.

During the trip, from Stavanger in Norway to Antwerp in Belgium, educators participated in lectures, workshops, presentations and became part of the crew. The aim was to enhance their understanding on sustainability issues and teaching and learning methods in ESD, as well as exchange knowledge and develop skills for international cooperation.

This year the event was focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Educators formed working groups around thematic areas according to their field of expertise. Each group prepared a workshop for the rest of educators.

The BUP is a network of more than 200 HEIs in the Baltic Sea Region with 14 national centres and is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. This event was organised by the Finnish BUP Centre at Åbo Akademi University. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bup.fi/>

Invitation to apply for a PhD in ESD at the University of Gibraltar

The University of Gibraltar is a new, dynamic university located in one of the world's most important crossing points. The Straits of Gibraltar has served as both bridge and barrier between Africa and Europe, and the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, since prehistory. This makes it ideally placed to become a centre of excellence generating high-quality original academic research.

The University's flagship PhD Programme offers research candidates a unique doctoral experience. It provides students with the most up to date research facilities and equipment, access to world-class research collections, in-house training and tutorials and ongoing academic supervision as well as the possibility of engaging directly with leading academics in different specialist areas. The PhD programme has recently received a glowing external review of its first year of implementation.

The University is now accepting applications for the PhD Programme, and students with an interest in sustainability and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are encouraged to apply. To find out more about the programme, please visit the following website:

<http://www.unigib.edu.gi/research-institutes/phd/>,

or send an email to phdresearchers@unigib.edu.gi .



Events

II International Congress “Education, Environment and Development” (II CIEAD)

9-12 November 2016, Leiria (Portugal)

Oikos (Associação de Defesa do Ambiente e do Património da Região de Leiria) and the School of Education and Social Sciences – Politechnic Institute of Leiria are pleased to invite you at the Second International Congress “Education, Environment and Development” (II CIEAD) that will take place in Leiria from 9-12 November 2016. This year conference sub-themes include:

- Tourism and sustainability
- Water resources
- Participation, inclusion and citizenship
- Environmental education
- Development and sustainability
- Heritage and Identity

A call for papers is now open until the 25th October. Do not miss the opportunity to present your work at this international congress.

Details about the venue and programme can be found here: <http://ambiente.ipleiria.pt/>

World Symposium on Lifelong Learning and Sustainable Development

2-4 March 2017, Malta

The World Symposium on Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development is being organised on the perceived need to explore and present concrete case studies which illustrate how lifelong learning for sustainable development can be realised.

The Symposium is being jointly organised by the University of Malta, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK) , the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), and the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), in cooperation with various UN bodies, government offices and authorities, universities, enterprises, NGOs and grassroots organisations from across the world.

Education and sustainability researchers from across the world are warmly invited to attend and present their work at the Symposium: their active inputs will help to reiterate the potential of lifelong learning for sustainable development, and its contribution to the sustainable development agenda.

A Conference brochure is attached to this email.