



UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



University Educators for Sustainable Development

An Erasmus Partnership of 53 members in 33 countries

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UE4SD Newsletter No. 3 - Autumn 2015

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 the third of our bi-annual UE4SD newsletters! 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.

The UE4SD project secretariat would value feedback. Please could you take a minute to let us know if the newsletter serves its purpose and advise how it could be improved. Please send your feedback at: ue4sd@glos.ac.uk.

Project News

2015 UE4SD Annual Meeting and CA Conference countdown is on!

Madrid is the place to be in November! Our second UE4SD Annual Meeting and COPERNICUS Alliance (CA) Conference will take place on 23-24 November 2015 at two rather special meeting venues located at the very historical core of the Spanish capital city.

So far, we have received registrations from over 70 colleagues to attend the UE4SD Annual Meeting and 100 participants to the CA Conference.

The Annual Meeting will be attended by UE4SD partners only and will be focused on presenting key project outputs and outcomes as well as discussing future developments of the project. Small group discussions, breakout sessions and interactive activities have been planned for partners to meet and interact with each other. The CA Conference is opened to the public and will be focused on evaluation and assessment of higher education for sustainable development. It will include presentations from renowned keynote speakers and opportunities for colleagues to present their work and research. The keynotes confirmed include:

- Mahesh Pradhan. Chief of UNEP-ETUU and GUPES, Kenya.
- Fernando Galván. President of CRUE Sustainability Commission & Rector of the University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain.
- Dzulkifli Abdul Razak. President of the International Association of Universities, France.
- Daniella Tilbury. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gibraltar, UK.
- Peter Glavic. Emeritus Professor of the University of Maribor, Slovenia.
- Rodrigo Lozano. Assistant Professor at the Utrecht University & Associate Editor, Journal of Cleaner Production, the Netherlands.
- Miguel Angel Galindo Martí. Director of the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain.
- Fuensanta Garcia. Member of the CRUE Sustainability Commission and research group on Evaluation Platform for the Sustainability of Spanish Universities, Spain.

Check out the updated programmes at:

<http://www.ue4sd.eu/madrid>

<http://www.copernicus-alliance.org/madrid>

Leading Practice Publication to be launched at the UE4SD Annual Meeting in Madrid

Work on the Leading Practice Publication (LPP) – a book of leading examples of professional development in ESD in European Higher Education – has been underway for several months now and is currently nearing its final stages.

We would like to acknowledge all UE4SD partners as well as external authors who contributed to the publication with their case study texts and thank them very much for their cooperation. UE4SD partners can look forward to receiving a copy at the UE4SD Annual Meeting in Madrid!

Help us build the online platform! New UE4SD website of resources to be shared at Madrid event

One of the key UE4SD outputs – and an important legacy of the project – is the UE4SD online platform of ESD professional development resources. The University of Gloucestershire team is leading this work package and has been working with an IT consultant to design and develop the website. The main structure and introductory sections will be ready for partners to view and discuss in Madrid. See the screen capture of the front page below.

The next step is involving partners in reviewing the initial design and helping to develop the content, so this resource will be of value for members of the network as well as the wider ESD and education community. The idea is that the resource helps us all to learn from existing experiences, methods and tools in ESD professional development to support our future work.



Welcome

We already have some examples of projects and activities to include, based on the cross-European mapping and the Leading Practice Publication. After the discussions in Madrid, we will invite all partners to review the site and provide feedback on how it can be improved, extra materials to be added, and how we can make it as user-friendly as possible.

As well as documents and materials, the online platform will have video clips of UE4SD partners and other key colleagues talking about their experiences and the importance of ESD professional development for higher education. Ingrid Mulà will be in touch with some of you shortly to arrange a time to film you during the Annual Meeting in Madrid and add these short films to the website. We look forward to this activity!

Do not miss the opportunity to publish in the UE4SD special issue of the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education!

We are delighted to announce that we have received 46 abstracts for our special issue on **Professional Development in Higher Education for Sustainable Development** which will be published at the International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education.

This special issue focuses on (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. Opportunities for partners to act as external reviewers will be discussed in Madrid.

You are also kindly invited to forward the call for papers to your national and regional networks!

Plans for the Academy for ESD in Higher Education are underway

We are excited to inform you that plans for one of our most innovative outputs, the development of an Academy for ESD in Higher Education, have already started. The intention is to frame a professional development programme in the form of an Academy to support university educators to develop their own ESD competences. Participants of the Academy will be asked to develop and implement institutional programmes and initiatives focused on building the capacity in ESD of teaching staff. Colleagues will be supported and mentored throughout this action learning process, ensuring that the Academy can generate impact and institutional change that can continue well beyond after the project.

The Autonomous University of Madrid is leading this work package and will be working closely with four UE4SD partner universities in Spain to pilot this initiative. Participants will share their projects and experiences, challenges and lessons learned during the process as well as discuss sector wide issues relevant to the national context in which the projects are being implemented.

In Madrid, the four participating universities will present their project proposals and all UE4SD partners will be invited to join different working groups that can act as critical friends and provide feedback and guidance to ensure an effective implementation of these institutional initiatives.

Lessons learned and challenges will be identified during the Academy process in order to support the development of similar actions in other universities. We welcome your ideas and suggestions on how to continue developing the Academy in other partner countries!

Save the date! Final UE4SD Annual Meeting and Conference to take place in Gibraltar (UK), 27-28 June 2016

We are pleased to announce that the final UE4SD Annual Meeting and Conference will take place during 27-28 June 2016 in Gibraltar (UK). Our hosts will be the University of Gibraltar, a newly established University and UE4SD partner committed to respond to global issues as well as priorities of relevance to the Mediterranean region. Please do save these dates in your diaries. We will send further details about this event in the new year.

COP21 Ministers urged to partner with universities, colleges and students

The collective voice of the world's universities, colleges and students will be heard at COP21 when the United Nations Climate Change Conference takes place in Paris, France during the first week of December.

UE4SD has joined a global alliance of tertiary and higher education sustainability networks and associations, which have 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 celebrates and confirms the critical role universities and colleges play in finding and implementing solutions towards climate change mitigation and adaptation, placing it in the context of addressing wider issues of sustainability, including social and economic policies and practices.

Addressed to COP21 Ministers and Governments the letter also calls for more specific measures to be taken such as showcasing universities and colleges as living laboratories for climate change adaptation and mitigation, increasing support for transdisciplinary learning, teaching and research approaches, and using university and college campuses and operations as a leverage agent to accelerate the transition to clean energy sources.

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 Ac-

tion Event. The event is hosted by The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative- HESI which was created by a consortium of UN entities UNESCO, UN-DESA, UNEP, Global Compact and UNU.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#).

UE4SD included in the IAU Global Portal on HESD

We have recently learned that the International Association of Universities (IAU) has included the UE4SD initiative in the [IAU Global Portal on HESD](#). The purpose is to make our higher education for sustainable development related initiatives visible globally and to connect them with other initiatives developed by other institutions and organisations. We are delighted to know that our project has been selected as a best practice example and will continue to update the portal with new developments!