

Rationale

Many higher education institutions have been engaged in sustainable development activities as a whole and on research in particular. Research on sustainable development offers universities a unique opportunity to explore new ideas, tackle new dimensions and open up new perspectives. Research allows universities to meet their social obligations as innovation-led institutions on the one hand, and to realise their social mission as agents for change on the other. Research also allows universities to cater for a better teaching, and provides a sound basis upon which the principles of sustainability may be implemented. Making sustainability research a reality does not only require knowledge creation. Rather, it requires an integrated thinking, in the context of which research on, for and about sustainable development, may lead to changes and to improvements in the way society sees, perceives and treat the environment.

But despite the fact that research on sustainable development is important, and it delivers decision-making tools for future oriented action and for a sustainable society, there is at present a need to strengthen and accelerate the initiatives from higher education institutions in this key area. It is against this background that the Symposium “**Accelerating the Implementation of Sustainable Development in Research Programmes**” is being organised by the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme, the World Sustainable Development Research and Training Centre, the European School of Sustainability Science and Research, the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (Italy), the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and the Politecnico di Torino (Italy) in cooperation with a number of institutions of higher education active in this field. It will involve researchers in the field of sustainable development in the widest sense, from business and economics, to arts and fashion, administration, environment, languages and media studies.

The Symposium will focus on the means to integrate, promote or otherwise catalyse the implementation of research on sustainable development at higher education institution, assisting them in their efforts to implement the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and will contribute to the further development of this central topic.

The Symposium is part of the “**Accelerating Sustainable Development Series**”, which consists of three related events on sustainable development with a focus on research (Turin, 1st-2nd July 2019), teaching (Stockholm, 9th-10th September 2019) and on campus activities (Spain, 2nd-3rd December 2019).

Aims

The aims of the Symposium “**Accelerating the Implementation of Sustainable Development in Research Programmes**” are as follows:

- i. to provide researchers at universities active and/or interested on sustainable development and the SDGs, with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. innovation studies, empirical work, activities, case studies and research projects);
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the implementation of sustainability research, especially successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of how sustainability can be further considered and embedded on university research programmes;
- iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on implementing sustainability research available today. To this purpose, papers which have been accepted, presented and discussed at the event may be submitted for a **special issue** of the **International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education**, published by Emerald Publishing (UK), which is the world’s leading journal on sustainability in a higher education context: <http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/ijshe.htm>.

Profile of participants

Delegates attending the Symposium “**Accelerating the Implementation of Sustainable Development in Research Programmes**” will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

- i. research and teaching staff
- ii. student groups;
- iii. members of university administrations;
- iv. project officers and consultants;
- v. other people interested in the field.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for integrated approaches towards sustainable development research and, hence contribute towards advancing this field of work even further.

Structure of the event

The Symposium will be organised around two main strands:

Strand 1: the posters

Participating universities will be able to put-up posters describing their works and research projects, and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, divided into two main sections will be organised, dealing with issues of strategic value in reviewing the state of the art of sustainability research today. These are:

Session 1: Research on sustainability principles and theory

Session 2: Research on the practice of sustainable development

The papers will be classified in one of two of the above sessions. Innovation and links to the SDGs are cross-cutting issues of the sessions.

Terms and conditions of participation

The events organised as part of the “**Accelerating Sustainable Development Series**” are high level events, which count on a strong participation of interested colleagues and vibrant discussions. Therefore, it is important to note that the submission of papers to the event and their subsequent consideration for the **International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education** are subject to the following condition: only papers from researchers who have registered, attended the event and presented and discussed their works will be considered for the special issue. Submissions which do not meet this criteria, will not be considered.

Schedule and Location

The Symposium will be held in Turin, Italy, on 1st-2nd July 2019 at the spectacular Unesco site of Valentino castle. It is hosted by the Politecnico di Torino, a technical university based in Turin, Italy. Established in 1859 and with approximately 35.000 students, it is Italy’s oldest technical university. The university offers several courses in the fields of Engineering, Architecture, Spatial Planning and Industrial Design. Turin is easily reached by air, road or rail. The schedule is as follows:

1 st July 2019 (Monday)	1 st July 2019 (Monday)
Morning: Arrival and set-up of displays Plenary Session Exhibition and visit to displays Parallel Sessions	Afternoon: Exhibition and visit to displays Plenary Session Parallel Sessions Evening: Reception
2 nd July 2019 (Tuesday) (morning)	2 nd July 2019 (Tuesday) (afternoon)
Morning: Plenary and Sessions Exhibition and visit to displays	Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions Exhibition and visit to displays Conclusions with the hand over of the Awards for the best papers

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to travel back on or after 16:00 on 2nd July 2019, so they do not miss hand-over of the **best papers awards**.

Deadlines

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 15th January 2019

Deadline for submission of papers: 15th March 2019

Deadline for full, revised papers: 15th April 2019

Deadline for registrations: 30th May 2019

Since the special issue of IJSHE will be produced soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

Fees and Charges

A fee of Euro 250 will be charged to delegates to offset the preparation costs. The fees includes **free lunches and coffee breaks on 1st and 2nd July 2019**. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 30 days before the event. After that, no refunds are possible.

Registration and Conditions of Participation

Registrations are now open and are possible until 30th May 2019. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline may not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to submit their abstracts and register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations, or in respect of space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairperson, following consultation with the organising committee.

Organisers

- Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
- Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development, Italy
- Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme
- World Sustainable Development Research and Transfer Centre

Chairpersons

- Prof. Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt), Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Chair of Environment and Technology, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
Prof. Patrizia Lombardi (BA, MA, MSc, Ms, PhD), Deputy Rector of the Politecnico di Torino and appointed chair of the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (Italy)

Organising Committee

Professor Stefano Corgnati, Vice Rector of Scientific Research, Politecnico di Torino

Professor Bruno Dalla Chiara, Mobility Manager, Politecnico di Torino,

Professor Debora Fino, Green Team Manager, Politecnico di Torino

Professor Gianvincenzo Fracastoro, Green Team Vice Coordinator, Politecnico di Torino,

Professor Alberto Poggio, Energy Manager, Politecnico di Torino

Professor Fabio Pranovi, former Chair of the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development, University of Cà Foscari, Italy

Professor Paolo Tamborrini, Green Team Manager, Politecnico di Torino

Contacts

All questions related to the programme and logistical details on Turin should be sent to:

Mara Baccolla, Politecnico di Torino and Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development

E-mail: [**greenteamoffice@polito.it**](mailto:greenteamoffice@polito.it)

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the special issue at IJSHE should be sent to:

Professor Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

E-mail: iusdrp@ls.haw-hamburg.de

All questions related to registrations and abstracts should be sent to:

Dr. Mihaela Sima, Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme:
simamik@yahoo.com.

How to submit an abstract

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT –PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT. PLEASE SEND YOUR ABSTRACT TO:

Dr. Mihaela Sima, Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme
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Campus Greening: Using Living Labs to Foster Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education Institutions

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Abstract

The use of university campuses as learning and research areas is not as widely made as it should. Part of the problem lies on the fact that facilities are often not well structured or organized, which makes it difficult to use them for teaching, learning, or for research purposes. This paper presents a the results of a study aimed at identifying the extent to which higher education institutions are using their campuses for teaching, learning and for research, and at describing the various modalities of use. A special attention is paid to the role that campuses can play as “living labs, where the integration of sustainability issues in higher education can be demonstrated. Finally, some concrete steps which may be undertaken in order to allow universities to better take advantage of university campuses as learning and research areas, are outlined. This paper will be useful to anyone interested on using university campuses as bridges between the theory and practice of sustainability in higher education institutions, across the world.

**ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
IN RESEARCH PROGRAMMES
Turin, Italy, 1st-2nd July 2019**

/// REGISTRATION FORM

1. Surname:

2. First Name:

3. Title (Prof., Dr. Mr, Ms, etc):

4. Institution:

5. Address:

6. E-mail:

7. You intend to participate by means of: () Presentation () Display ()
both

8. Title of presentation/display:

9. Session chosen (please tick):

Session 1: Research on sustainability principles and theory

Session 2: Research on the practice of sustainable development

10. Do you have any dietary requirements? () Yes () No

If so, please specify:

A fee of Euro 250 will be charged to you via invoice, upon receiving your application. The fees includes the **lunch and coffee breaks on 1st-2nd July 2018**. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until 30 days before the event. After that, no refunds are possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGISTRATION.