



5th WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITIES (WSSD-U-2020)

Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals



Following-up the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

**University of Uppsala, Visby Campus,
Gotland, Sweden
26th-28th August 2020**

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

5th WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITIES (WSSD-U-2020)



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/// BACKGROUND

The **2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development** (UNCSD), also known as “Rio+20”, was an historical event. Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, this landmark gathering agreed on various sets of actions to make the world a better and more sustainable place to live in. In particular, the document “The Future We Want”, outlined many of the measures countries across the world should pursue and implement, in order to translate the principles of sustainable development into practice.

As a parallel event to UNCSD, the **1st World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2012)** was held in Rio de Janeiro on 5-6 June 2012. It was then followed up by the **2rd World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2014)**, which was held in Manchester, UK in September 2014, the **3rd World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2016)**, hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) held in September 2016, and the **4th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2018)**, hosted by the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in August 2018.

The events have led to many ground-breaking publications on the theory and practice of sustainable development, and showed the need for a continuation of the dialogue among sustainability academics and practitioners, so as to address the issues, matters and problems at hand.

It is against this background that the **“5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2020)** will be organised by the University of Uppsala (Sweden), Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), and the European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR), in cooperation with the World Sustainable Development Research and Transfer Centre, the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP) and the United Nations University initiative “Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development” (RCE).

The **“5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2020)** will focus on **„Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”**, and will contribute to the further development of this fast-growing field. As the slogan of the event suggests, we are as always looking for practical experiences on Education, Research and Extension (the so-called 3rd Mission, whereby universities outreach to society as a whole (e.g. to local communities, organisations, industry and other groups) with the aim of documenting such experiences and making them available to a wide audience.

/// AIMS

Consistent with the goals of the WSSD-U series, the aims of the **“5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2020)** are as follows:

- i. to provide universities all round the world with an opportunity to display and present their works (i.e. curriculum innovation, research, activities, practical projects) as they relate to sustainable development at university level and links with society at large;



- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of projects, from successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to integrate the topic of sustainable development in the curriculum of universities; to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation;
- iv. to enable scalability of existing and future models of cooperation between universities and society.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, the book „**Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**“ will be published, with all accepted papers. It will be part of the **award-winning** “World Sustainability Series”, published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers (<http://www.springer.com/series/13384>).

As countries of the world currently strive to implement the UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, WSSD-U-2020 will demonstrate how universities can cooperate and interact with society and societal groups at large, demonstrating approaches, methods and projects which may be replicable elsewhere.

/// PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the “**5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities**” (WSSD-U-2020) will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. They are:

- i. faculty (i.e. teaching and research staff)
- ii. members of university administrations;
- iii. campus sustainability officers/directors
- iv. campus facilities and operations staff;
- v. project officers and consultants;
- vi. student leaders;
- vii. 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 and, hence contribute to the further implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

/// STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The “**5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities**” (WSSD-U-2020) will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the posters

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

Strand 2: the presentations

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

Session 1: Innovations in the Curriculum and in Research

Session 2: Collaborative Community Partnerships and Engagement

Session 3: Cooperation between universities and social groups

Session 4: Comprehensive approaches to Sustainable Development: the integration of Curriculum, Research and Operations

Session 5: Student Participation and Engagement in Sustainability Issues



A set of special sessions will also be organised, **showcasing excellent examples of how universities interact with society and societal groups**, and how to mobilise academics, local communities, industry and other groups in achieving the SDGs. The participation from **universities from the Baltic Sea Region** and members of the **Baltic University Programme, and of the European School of Sustainability Science and Research** is especially welcome, using this unique opportunity to interact with colleagues from other parts of the world.

/// TIME-TABLE

The “**5th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities**” (WSSD-U-2020) will be held from **26th to 28th August 2020**. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday 26th August 2020: arrival and set-up of displays, key note speech and cocktail reception (16:00-18:00)

THURSDAY, 27th AUGUST 2020	FRIDAY, 28th AUGUST 2020
All day: Exhibition and visit to displays Morning: Session 1 Afternoon: Session 2 Evening: Joint Dinner	All day: Exhibition and visit to displays Morning: Session 3 Afternoon: Session 4 14:00-14:30 Final Session and hand over of the best papers awards

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 arrive in Visby in the course of Wednesday the 27th August 2020 at the latest, and travel back after the 28th August 2020, so that they do not miss the final session (especially the best papers awards) and information on follow-up activities.

/// DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th October 2019

Deadline for submission of papers: 30th January 2020

Deadline for full, revised papers: 30th March 2020

Deadline for early-bird registrations: 30th March 2020

Final deadline for registrations: 30th May 2020

Since the publication „**Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**” - as part of Springer’s World Sustainability Series <http://www.springer.com/series/13384> - will be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

/// THE VENUE

The event will be held on the Campus of Uppsala University, in the city of Visby, on the island of Gotland, Sweden, in the middle of the Baltic Sea. Uppsala University is a research university, with over 40.000 students. Founded in 1477, it is the oldest university in Sweden and all of the Nordic countries still in operation. It ranks among the world's 100 best universities in several high-profile international rankings. Visby has its own airport, which has a variety of national and international connections. **Full details on buildings, rooms and a map of the campus will be sent to all registered delegates.**

/// FEES AND CHARGES



A conference fee of Euro 250 (Euro 150 for students) will be charged so as to offset the preparation costs. The fee includes **free lunches and coffee breaks on 27th-28th August 2020 and a free on-line copy of the publication „Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”,** to be made available to the authors who contributed to it.

Organisations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be waived in special cases. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation, provided their **full papers** (and not only the abstracts!) have been accepted.

/// REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until 30th May 2020. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline may not be possible. Since the space for posters and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to 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 space for posters. 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 Chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee. All submitted papers are subject to peer-review and only those which have passed review may be considered for the book **„Universities, Sustainability and Society: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”**.

Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g. visa fees) related to their trip to Sweden. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind**. Letters of invitation to enter Sweden can be only be sent to *bona fide*, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers.

/// ORGANISERS

- University of Uppsala (Sweden)
- Baltic University Programme
- Baltic Research and Publications Office (BUPRaP)
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” (FTZ-NK)
- European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR)
- World Sustainable Development Research and Transfer Centre (WSD-RTC)
- Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRUP)

/// INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- Baltic University Programme
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)
- Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC)
- Manchester Metropolitan University (UK),



/// SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chairpersons

- Prof. Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt), Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, HAW Hamburg and RCE Hamburg and Region, Germany
- Dr Madeleine Granvik, Director, Baltic University Programme, Sweden

Advisory Committee

Prof. Maria de Fátima Pereira Alves, Universidade Aberta, Portugal
Dr. Nelson Amaro, Galileo University, Guatemala
Prof. Ulisses Azeiteiro, University of Aveiro, Portugal
Prof. Luciana Brandli, University of Passo Fundo, Brazil
Prof. Sandra Caeiro, Universidade Aberta, Portugal
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Leanne Denby, President, Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)
Prof. Baltasar D'Andrade Guerra, UNISUL, Brazil
Professor Sadiq Hussain, Ibri College of Applied Sciences, Sultanate of Oman
Prof. Dzintra Ilisco, Daugavpils University, Latvia
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Prof. Linas Kliucininkas, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
Prof. Violeta Orlovic Lovren, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Dr. Karel Mulder, TU Delft, Netherlands
Dr. Julie Newman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
Prof. Maria Novo, National University on Distance Education, Spain
Prof. Paul Pace, University of Malta, Malta
Prof. Joost Platje, University of Opole, Poland
Prof. Anita Pipere, Daugavpils University, Latvia
Prof. Diana-Mihaela Pociovalisteanu, Constantin Brancusi University, Romania
Prof. Elizabeth Price, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
Prof. Osvaldo Quelhas, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
Prof. Mikhail Shilin, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, St. Petersburg, Russia
Prof. Luis Vargas, University of Chile, Chile
Prof. Luis Velazquez, University of Sonora, Mexico
Prof. Sergei Zenchenko, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Belarus
Ms. Meghan F. Zahniser, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, USA
Dr. Michaela Zint, University of Michigan, USA

/// CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Professor Walter Leal, European School of Sustainability Science and Research HAW Hamburg (Germany)
Contact e-mail: iusdrp@ls.haw-hamburg.de



/// INFORMATION ON ACCOMMODATION

There are various hotels and “Bed and Breakfast” accommodation in Visby, which delegates may choose from. The details and options can be seen here: <https://www.destinationgotland.se/en/accommodation/>.

Delegates are kindly requested to check their preferred hotel type, according to their own budgets, and to make their own bookings directly. Earlier bookings are recommended, so as to avoid any last minute stress.

/// THE VENUE

The Symposium will be held at Uppsala University, Campus Gotland. It is located in Visby on the Baltic island of Gotland. Address: Cramérgatan 3, 621 57 Visby, Sweden.

/// CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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

Dr. Mihaela Sima
European School of Sustainability Science and Research
E-mail: 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 names and 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 page 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 send your abstract to: Dr. Mihaela Sima: simamik@yahoo.com

Some developments on education for sustainable development in higher education institutions

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Abstract

The implementation of sustainable development in higher education is a global trend. Yet, the intensity and the depth with which higher education institutions are taking on the challenge of sustainability, significantly differs.

This paper presents a global analysis about how higher education institutions are including sustainability issues in the different areas (e.g. teaching, research, outreach and institutional management) and describes the progress made in this field during the last 10 years. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers which prevent developments in respect of the integration of sustainability issues in higher education. Finally, some concrete steps which may be undertaken in order to allow universities to integrate sustainable development in their activities but also in regional development, are outlined. This paper will be useful to anyone interested in the different levels of emphasis given to sustainable development at higher education institutions across the world.



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PLEASE REGISTER ON LINE AT:

<https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/wssd-u-2020/registration.html>

/// REGISTRATION FORM

1. Surname: _____

2. First Name: _____

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

4. Institution: _____

5. Address: _____

6. Telephone (please include national and local code): _____

7. Fax (please include national and local code): _____

8. E-mail: _____

9. You intend to participate by means of: () Presentation () Poster () both

10. Title of presentation _____

11. Session chosen (please tick): _____

Session 1: Innovations in the Curriculum and in Research

Session 2: Collaborative Community Partnerships and Engagement

Session 3: Cooperation between universities and social groups

Session 4: Comprehensive approaches to Sustainable Development: the integration of Curriculum, Research and Operations

Session 5: Student Participation and Engagement in Sustainability Issues

12. Title of Poster: _____

12. Do you need a visa to enter Sweden? () Yes* () No

(*) If you need a visa, please contact us supplying us with the following details: place and date of birth, passport number, home address, address of your employers.

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

A conference fee of Euro 250 (Euro 150 for students) will apply. You will be sent an invoice upon registration. In order to prevent the misuse of the event for illegal travel to Sweden, only bona-fide delegates whose papers have been accepted and whose fees have been paid, will receive an official invitation, with which they can apply for a visa. Registrations fees may be refunded in case of cancellations (with a 50% charge) until 30th June 2020. After that date, no refunds are possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGISTRATION.