TRAINING COURSE ON RESEARCH PUBLISHING ON SUSTAINABLE

DEVELOPMENT FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Manchester, UK, 10th May 2017

Organised by

Manchester Metropolitan University &

Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme

_Background

Members of the academic community are under increasing pressure to publish their work in peer reviewed and indexed journals, ideally with a good impact factor. Both senior academics and junior members of staff – as well as PhD students- are required to regularly publish. In some countries – in the UK for instance, where the preparations for the 2020 REF exercise are on the way periodical assessments of publication outputs may determine the extent to which funding for a particular Faculty, School or Department may be up-kept, reduced or increased. A similar trends is seen elsewhere in Europe.

But even though there are institutional requirements and demands on academic staff to engage in publishing, there is a paucity of training schemes which may prepare members of the academic community to be able to produce high quality papers, and fulfil the ever stringent requirements from quality and REF-relevant journals. This is especially so in the field of sustainability, where a variety of themes, research methods and approaches makes it often difficult to decide how and where to publish. Indeed, a considerable number of papers on sustainable development are subject to a "desk reject" or do not withstand the peer review process, due to the lack of knowledge among authors about how best to prepare, present and submit their papers.

Based on the perceived need to train academic staff in the rationale, methodology and strategy of academic publish on sustainable development, this course is being offered. Having more and well trained staff who may be able to publish in high level journals, is among the top priorities for any modern university. This training course is a contribution towards achieving this goal.

_The Importance of the course

The interplay between good writing, a sound formulation of ideas and innovation in the design of papers, combined with knowledge of the submission, peer review and editorial processes, is closely linked with the likelihood of academic staff at universities of publishing their work. Therefore, this training course aims to foster capacity among university staff interested in publishing, by providing them with the information and tools needed to increase their chances of success in publishing on sustainable development, hence increasing their professional profiles and contributing to their career development.

The training course will assist senior and junior members of staff as well as PhD students at higher education institutions, to become more knowledgeable on the procedures which are part of the publishing process, hence allowing them to be in a better position to take advantage of

the many personal and professional opportunities that publishing on sustainable development may offer to them.

_Methodology and Audience

The methodology used in the course consists of presentations, moderated discussions, simulations, and real case studies, where participants will become acquainted with the various elements which are part of the publishing process. The course will be conducted in English.

The course is devised for **academic staff** (e.g. lecturers, senior lecturers, assistant professors) as well as PhD students at higher education institutions, working on research in Science and Engineering and interested in publishing. These groups seldom interact, so the course will break a barrier and provide an opportunity for more communication and will foster a mutual understanding of publishing at various levels. In order to ensure maximum interaction, the attendance is limited to **40 participants** only.

_What will participants gain?

•   More knowledge and understanding of the publishing process

•   They will become familiar with some strategies which may help them to increase the likelihood of getting their papers accepted in journals and reduce the chances of rejection

•   Acquaint themselves with the tools which authors may use to improve the quality of their manuscripts on sustainable development

•   Experience real situations where papers are rejected and accepted, discussing the reasons why, allowing participants to become **more competitive** and more **successful** in this central aspect of academic life

The venue of the course is Manchester, UK. It will be held at Manchester Metropolitan University. The nature of the course, and its structure, means that a unique opportunity for institutional development on the one hand, and for **personal career development** on the other, will be provided.

_Contents

The course is structured around six main modules, tackling some fundamental issues in publishing. Among other matters, it entails an understanding the publishing cycle; knowing what makes a good paper and hence avoiding rejection; how to assess the potential impact of a

paper; and the most common mistakes in the submission and review process. The in-depth knowledge of these issues is very likely to substantially increase the chances of successful publishing in referred and indexed journals on sustainability issues.

As part of the didactic concept, participants attending the training course will be able to access the course leader for advice on how to **prepare or refine** their papers for a period of 3 months subsequent to it.

_About the Organisers

The course is organized by Manchester Metropolitan University, in cooperation with the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP). Founded in 2015, IUSDRP is the world´s largest network of universities undertaking research on matters related to sustainable development. Details on IUSDRP can be seen at: https://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/programmes/iusdrp.html.

_Coordination

The course will be led by Professor Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DL, DLitt, FRSA, FRGS, FSB), Chair of Environment and Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Professor of Environment and Climate Change Management at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany). Professor Leal, who is also Chairperson of IUSDRP, has over 25 years of publishing experience on sustainable development. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of 7 scientific journals, has acted as a reviewer for dozens of journals. He has in excess of 300 publications, among books, book chapters and papers in journals on matters related to sustainable development, to his credit.

_Certificate of Participation

The completion of the course (8 hours) entitles participants to a **Certificate of Participation**, issued by Manchester Metropolitan University.

_ Course Fees

Course fees are £ 300 (including VAT) for delegates registering until 20th February 2017 or £350 (including VAT) for delegates registering after that date. The fees **include** the presentations used in the course, samples of journals, lunches and refreshments during the day, and provision of advice to participants up to 90 days after the course. They **exclude** travel and accommodation. Since this is self-funded event, the organisers are unfortunately unable to provide any financial assistance to participants, and cannot waive the fees.

_Venue of the Course

The course will be held in Manchester, UK. Manchester is the second largest city in England, and is easily reached from Europe´s main airports. The full address of the course venue is:

Manchester Metropolitan University
Birley Fields Campus
Brooks Building
Bonsall Street
Manchester M15 6GX
UK

There are various reasonably priced hotels within a 10-15 minutes walk from the University Campus. Please contact the organizing team if you need further details.

_Registration and Conditions of Participation

The organisers need to make sure potential delegates are fully able to take advantage of the course. Therefore, a **selection procedure** will be used, bearing in mind the need for a balanced representation of organisations, and levels of seniority of staff. Potential participants should contact the course team to **express an interest** to attend the course, at: **info@iccip.net**.

Information on **registration** will be sent to those persons regarded as the most likely to benefit from the course, who should register as soon as they are accepted. The final deadline for registrations is the 30th April 2017 (due to the limited numbers of place, it is warmly recommended that interested participants enroll as soon as possible).

_Outline Programme

Arrival and Coffee (08:30-09:00)

Introduction of delegates and setting goals (09:00-09:30)

Module 1 (09:30-10:30)

- The publishing cycle
- What makes a good paper on sustainable development issues

Break (10:30-10:50)

Module 2 (10:50-11:50)

- Framing research for publishing: essential steps for bringing your research to a paper format
- Maximising the potential impact of your paper

Module 3 (11:50-12:30)

- Avoiding the risk of rejection
- Handling rejections

Lunch: 12.30-13.30

Module 4 (13:30-14:30)

- Battling for recognition: advice on authorship of papers
- Common mistakes in the submission and review process

Module 5 (14:30-15:30)

- Which journal to choose from? Hints on how to make a good choice
- Beyond a paper: taking more advantage of publishing opportunities

Break (15:30-16:00)

Module 6 (16:00-17:00)

- Interactive Session: shaping up your own paper

17:00- Course ends

Course Administration Team and contact points for further details

All questions related to registrations should be sent to:

Kate McCorry
Manchester Metropolitan University
Conference and Events Office
Facilities, Cavendish Building
E-mail: kxregistrations@mmu.ac.uk

Logistical questions should be sent to:

Richard Hammersley
Manchester Metropolitan University
School of Science and the Environment
E-Mail: sdevents@mmu.ac.uk