



UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**October 3  
2014**

Prague  
Czech Republic

Copernicus Alliance Conference

Education for Sustainability:

# Building Capacity in Higher Education



**Higher education institutions have a prominent role within the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development**

(DESD, 2005-14) as they prepare the future generation of professionals, challenge dominant paradigms and produce ground-breaking research. There is evidence that universities and colleges have engaged and influenced policy and practice in the area of sustainability, but progress in reorienting the curriculum in relation to sustainable development has been slow.

**Ensuring a future quality academic practice in higher education**

requires institutional structures which support sustainability principles and practice, but also university educators who are motivated and capable of embedding sustainability in their teaching, regardless of the courses they teach. The reality, however, is that research and practice in higher education have primarily focused on student rather than staff competences and learning in the area of sustainability. There are only a few studies which have explored how university educators develop Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) competences through professional development; what strategic concerns they have in relation to ESD; or what ESD means in relation to quality.

This international Conference is taking place in the year the DESD comes to an end and the Global Action Programme on ESD is taking shape. **The Conference will review major trends and changes in higher education towards sustainability over the last ten years**, with an emphasis on whole-of-institution approaches, curriculum change, university educators, ESD competences and quality enhancement. A state of the art report which maps existing ESD professional development opportunities for university educators in Europe will be presented at the event. This report has been developed as part of a newly funded European project entitled **University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)** and coordinated by the **COPERNICUS Alliance (CA)** – see page 7 – for further information on UE4SD.

## Conference venue and context

**Charles University in Prague – Karolinum**, Ovocný trh 3, 116 36, Prague 1, Czech Republic

See map for details: <http://mapy.cz/s/a1j1>

Charles University in Prague is one of the oldest universities in the world (founded in 1348) and is a core UE4SD partner and member of CA. Currently, it has over 53,000 students – roughly a sixth of all students in the Czech Republic – enrolled in more than 300 accredited degree programmes. The Conference will take place at a historic University venue – the university rectorate building in the ancient Prague city centre.

More about Charles University: <http://www.cuni.cz/UKEN-114.html>

## Conference programme

09:00 – 10:00	Registration and coffee
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome by <b>Jan Konvalinka</b> – Vice-Rector of Charles University
10:10 – 10:30	Welcome address by <b>Daniella Tilbury</b> – COPERNICUS Alliance (CA), UK
10:30 – 11:15	<b>Keynotes</b> <b>Bianca Bilgram</b> – Representative of the Bureau of the UNECE Strategy for ESD, Germany Representative of the <b>Czech Commission for UNESCO</b> , Czech Republic (tbc) <b>Mark Pegg</b> – Leadership foundation for Higher Education, United Kingdom (tbc)
11:15 – 11:45	Panel discussion facilitated by <b>Alex Ryan</b> – University of Gloucestershire, UK
11:45 – 12:30	Discussion groups (follow-up of Panel discussion)
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Parallel sessions (selected contributions)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 16:45	<b>Keynotes</b> <b>Gerd Michelsen</b> – Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany <b>Jana Dlouhá</b> and <b>Clemens Mader</b> – Charles University, Czech Republic, and CA, Germany <b>Lenka Parkánová</b> – Oikos International, Switzerland/ Czech Republic
16:45 – 17:10	Panel discussion facilitated by <b>Fred Luks</b> , University of Economics Vienna, Austria
17:10 – 17:20	Summary of discussion groups and parallel sessions by <b>Dana Kapitulčinová</b> and <b>Andrew Barton</b> , Charles University, Czech Republic
17:20 – 17:30	Closing words

Saturday 4th October 2014 For CA Members only – Annual General Meeting and elections of CA President and Vice-President (9:00 – 12:00)

## Invited keynote speakers

### **Ms. Bianca Bilgram**

Representative of the Bureau of the UNECE Strategy for ESD and Head of the Secretariat UN DESD of the German Commission for UNESCO, Germany  
Bianca is member of the UNECE ESD Strategy and has been involved in the development of the ESD Competences Framework for Educators developed by UNECE member states and published in 2012.

### **Dr. Jana Dlouhá**

Researcher at the Department of Education for Sustainable Development at Charles University, Czech Republic

Jana is a member of the UE4SD project, a partnership of 55 partners in 33 countries, and has an extensive expertise on ESD teaching and learning in higher education.

### **Dr. Clemens Mader**

Vice-President of CA and Visiting Professor at Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany

Clemens has played a key role in the development of the UE4SD state of the art report which maps opportunities that exist for the development of ESD competences for university educators across the UE4SD partnership.

### **Prof. Gerd Michelsen**

UNESCO Chair in Higher Education for Sustainable Development at Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany

Gerd's expertise is on transformative research in higher education and research partnerships and alliances for sustainability.

### **Ms. Lenka Parkánová**

President of Oikos International 2013 & 2014, Switzerland/Czech Republic

Oikos is an international student-driven organisation for sustainable economics and management which was founded in 1987 in Switzerland.

### **Dr. Mark Pegg (tbc)**

Chief Executive of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, UK  
The Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, UK is committed to developing and improving the management and leadership skills of existing and future leaders of higher education.

### **Prof. Daniella Tilbury**

President of CA and Chair of the UNESCO Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Group for the DESD, UK

Daniella directs the UE4SD project and has been actively involved in the DESD M&E process since 2005. She will be coordinating one of the M&E strands at the ESD World Conference in Nagoya.

## Conference fees and registrations

Standard fee (Friday only)	60 €
Reduced student fee (Friday only)	30 €
UE4SD partners and CA members	free (first delegate of each institution)

**Please register on the conference website before 15th July 2014. Details about payment options are included in the registration form.**  
<http://www.ue4sd.eu/copernicus-conf>

For further information about the conference, please contact the organizing team at [copernicus2014@czp.cuni.cz](mailto:copernicus2014@czp.cuni.cz).

Note: If you want to become member of CA prior to the Conference, please contact [office@copernicus-alliance.org](mailto:office@copernicus-alliance.org)

## Abstract submissions

Contributions are welcome in the areas of ESD, whole institutional approaches, university educators, ESD competences, quality enhancement and the Global Action Programme. The following questions may help framing the contributions:

- Have universities responded to the opportunity of the DESD and how? Have they been effective in their ESD efforts?
- What are most important principles of the ESD transition at the higher education level and how are they being incorporated into current practice? The focus will be on the teaching/learning process and its prerequisites.
- How are these ESD principles reflected in curricula and disciplinary/departmental structures at the university level?
- Can changes be observed in communication patterns (within and beyond academia)? How have developments in publication processes, genres and media impacted on the ESD discourse?
- Is reorientation of teaching/learning objectives part of the transition process and how could this be demonstrated? What is the role of ESD competences in this process? Are there regional specifics of the higher education system with special attention to ESD and competences?
- How do universities intend to follow up on the initiatives within the framework of the DESD, and how will they address the goals of the Global Action Programme on ESD? What strategies have they developed to implement the Action Programme?

**Please submit your abstracts of between 200–300 words as part of your registration before 15 July 2014.** There is a specific space devoted to Abstract submission in the registration form. Please do NOT send us your abstract by email.

Abstracts must include the following details:

- Title: no more than 15 words
- Authors: names for each author with surname first
- Institutional affiliations: name of institution of each author
- Contact details: email address and telephone number for the presenting author

There are limited spaces for presentations during the event. **A selection of contributions will be made by the organisers and communicated to authors by 31st July 2014. Conference fee payments will be required only after this date.**

**Full papers might be published in the journal *Envigogika*** —see call for papers: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14712/18023061.442>

## Accommodation

Hotel rooms have been reserved for conference participants in a number of hotels in Prague ranging in price and location. When making your booking in one of these hotels, **please use the code: "CUEC" before 31st July 2014** (the rooms will be released after this date). Accommodation costs are not covered by the conference fee and are the sole responsibility of the participants. Apart from these selected hotels, there are numerous other hotels in Prague for you to choose from.

### Reserved hotels in Prague:

Hotel	Prices per night (incl. breakfast)	Distance to the conference venue	Number of rooms reserved (CUEC)
<b>Hotel Krystal</b> <a href="http://www.prague-hotel-krystal.cz">http://www.prague-hotel-krystal.cz</a>	25 – 40 €	25 min public transport + 10 min walk	35
<b>Hotel Anna</b> <a href="http://www.hotelanna.cz/en">http://www.hotelanna.cz/en</a>	50 – 65 €	5 min public transport + 5 min walk	15
<b>Rezidence Dlouhá 17</b> <a href="http://www.rezidencedlouha17.cz">http://www.rezidencedlouha17.cz</a>	60 – 80 €	10 min walk	24

Detailed information on transport options between important locations (airport, train station, hotels etc.) can be found on the conference website.

## More information

More information about the COPERNICUS Alliance Conference can be found at the conference website:

<http://www.ue4sd.eu/copernicus-conf>

For further information please contact the conference organizing team at [copernicus2014@czp.cuni.cz](mailto:copernicus2014@czp.cuni.cz)

## COPERNICUS Alliance - Over 20 years of experience and commitment

CA is a European network of universities and colleges committed to transformational learning and change for sustainable development. Working in partnership with strategic stakeholders, the Alliance seeks to inform higher education policy developments, international initiatives (such as the Global Action Programme for ESD and UNECE ESD Competences), as well as support individual institutions in their efforts to lead change for sustainability.

The Alliance is:

- Host of the CRE COPERNICUS Charta launched in 1993 and signed by 326 European universities and COPERNICUS Charta 2.0 launched at the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) Conference 2011.
- Lead organisation for the Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education presented in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 and signed by over 100 international higher education organisations.
- Coordinator of the recently awarded ERASMUS Academic Network UE4SD.

Find out more at: <http://www.copernicus-alliance.org>

### **Global Action Programme on ESD**

The Global Action Programme on ESD is the follow-up initiative after the DESD and seeks to generate and scale-up ESD action. Led by UNESCO, it is intended to make a substantial contribution to the post-2015 agenda. The overall goal of the GAP is to generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education and learning to accelerate progress towards sustainable development. The Action Programme will be launched at the 2014 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which will take place from 10-12 November 2014 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

For further information, please visit the UNESCO ESD website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014/>

### **Rio+20 Treaty in Higher Education**

The Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education is an international initiative coordinated by the COPERNICUS Alliance which presents the collective vision of higher education networks, groups and institutions that are seeking to build more sustainable futures. It was developed through a lengthy collaborative process involving civil society and key experts on higher education and sustainability, and was launched in June 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference in Rio de Janeiro. The Treaty has been signed by over a 100 signatories from around the globe.

For more information about the Treaty or to become a signatory, please visit the following website: <http://hetreatyrio20.com>

### **University Educators for Sustainable Development (UE4SD)**

UE4SD is a partnership of 55 higher education institutions, organisations and associations in 33 countries in Europe and beyond which seeks pathways for progressing sustainability innovation in the higher education curriculum. The project, coordinated by COPERNICUS Alliance, is focused on developing the capabilities of university educators in the area of sustainability. The intention is to increase opportunities for students, regardless of their courses or specialisation, to understand and engage with professional and global responsibilities in sustainability. This initiative commenced in 2013 and is funded by the EU for three years.

For more information, please visit the project website:

<http://www.ue4sd.eu>

<http://www.ue4sd.eu/copernicus-conf>

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

<http://www.cuni.cz>

<http://www.stuz.cz>

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Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme



Technology Agency  
of the Czech Republic



**GAČR**  
CZECH SCIENCE FOUNDATION