

**15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference
July 5-8, 2009**

***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"***

CALL FOR PAPERS

Track nr 1C: *The role of education and universities in sustainable development –
Role of academia in Regional Sustainability Initiatives*

Track chairs: Prof. Paul Burger (University of Basel, Switzerland), Prof. Leo Jansen (Foundation Sustainable Higher Education DHO, The Netherlands), Prof. Alfred Posch (Karl-Franzens-University of Graz, Austria)

Goals and Objectives

To make modern societies fit to achieve the general objectives of Sustainable Development (SD) much more is needed than implementing adequate political instruments or promoting technological innovations only. There is widespread agreement within the SD community that SD requires fundamental transitions in societal decision-making, business management, individual behavior, and co-operation between societal partners, science, business, NGO's and governments. This again calls for development and dissemination of adequate knowledge and capabilities within societies. All universities are embedded in concrete regional systems, and have responsibilities to help their particular region on its way towards SD. However, are today's universities fit to fulfill these demands stemming from SD challenges? Do research and education themselves need substantial changes to cope with SD issues? How would a sustainable university look like?

This conference track is designed to address the central role of universities in general and of higher education in particular for supporting transitions towards a sustainable human development. Within the frame of the UN-Decade of Education for SD (2005-2014) we invite scholars and experts to contribute to this track either by presenting research activities in the fields of higher education for SD and of sustainable universities or by presenting reflected experience on innovative projects like new (international) curricula, linking SD-research with teaching, or successful knowledge transfer.

Themes and Topics

- Sustainable universities – in what respect do universities themselves need to be transformed?
- Research, innovation, and evaluation in higher education for SD.
- Knowledge, capabilities and capacity building – how does higher education for SD contribute to societal learning processes? What kind of capabilities do societal partners expect from graduates? What kinds of capabilities are essential for graduates in their professional life with respect to SD?
- Curricula and courses in SD – contents, institutionalization, disciplinary preconditions, didactic approaches.
- Disciplinary, inter- and transdisciplinary, as well as intercultural teaching approaches for SD.

- Standards in teaching and research for SD – do we need new criteria to assess them?

Outcomes and Publications

- Papers (accommodating the discussion at the conference) will be considered for publication in “Sustainable Development” etc. The guest editors for the special issue are Paul Burger, Leo Jansen, and Alfred Posch.

Please look at the detailed instructions and deadlines for submitting your abstract and paper, using the [Submission & guidelines](#) button at the left side.