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swiss academies of arts and sciences

Sustainable University Day

29 April 2022

Higher education institutions and the Agenda 2030: What role do social challenges, dialogue with the territory and student engagement play?

09:00 Welcome Coffee

09:30 Welcome

10:15 - Parallel workshops
11:00 First session



Tyres Meet Theatre. A Sustainable Adventure between Entrepreneurship and Art

Prof. Demis Quadri, Susanna Lotz, Emmanuel Pouilly (Accademia Teatro Dimitri)

This lecture-workshop aims to present an innovative collaboration between a university of applied arts specialising in physical theatre and a leading company in the tyre industry, to generate a positive impact on society.



Priority themes for sustainability research

*Dr. Christian Pohl, (ETH Zurich and president of the U Change board of Directors),
Dr. Gabriela Wülser (Sustainability Research Initiative, SCNAT), Peter Edwards
(ETH Zurich and president of the Sustainability Research Initiative, SCNAT)*

In a recent report, the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences outlined Switzerland's most urgent research needs in order to meet the UN SDGs. In this workshop, the overarching priority themes will be critically discussed. Join us and contribute your perspective on key open sustainability questions that need to be put on the scientific agenda.



The lean, mean greenwashing Machine

Prof. Peter Seele (USI)



When words do not live up to deeds in sustainability issues, we call this greenwashing. And greenwashing spreads to many more domains beyond environmental issues. In the meeting we present examples and definitions and discuss why it is worthwhile to claim for more credibility.

11:15 - Parallel workshops
12:00 Second session



Viavai di culture. Theatre workshops for the prevention of racism and the development of critical thinking

*Prof. Demis Quadri, Veronica Provenzale, Shahaf Michaeli, Kate Weinrieb
(Accademia Teatro Dimitri)*

The meeting explores the collaborative process of developing pathways to address the issue of racism by means of theatre and human rights perspectives in primary schools and more generally in society.



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Simultaneous translation service



Meet an expert! Climate change: from monitoring to decarbonisation

Dr. Cristian Scapozza (SUPSI-IST), Dr. Nicola Storelli (SUPSI-IM),
Francesca Cellina (SUPSI-ISAAC), Luca Morici (SUPSI-De)

Environmental monitoring on the ground shows clear evidence of ongoing climate change. Experienced researchers help us understand the data and processes involved and explore mitigation strategies and practices at the level of individual behaviour.



The role of each individual and the role of U Change: jointly finding strategies to move higher education institutions forward

Yves Gärtner and Lucrezia Oberli, (U Change, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences)

What does the higher education institutions of the future look like? What is missing to achieve this vision and how can we support everyone's contribution to this change? The answers to these questions will be explored through this participatory workshop.

12:00 Enjoy your meal!

13:30 - 14:15 Parallel workshops
Third session



Students for Sustainability: Creating Connections (from 13:00)

Annuscha Wassmann-Tomura and Michelle Studer (Focus Sustainability)

In an interactive World Café format, students and higher education institution representatives develop creative ideas on how student engagement with sustainability can be promoted across Switzerland. The exchange of ideas and required competencies offers the opportunity for networking. The results of this workshop will be incorporated into the work of the national centre Focus Sustainability.



The ethical dilemmas of artificial intelligence

Dr. Alessandro Facchini (IDSIA USI-SUPSI), Prof. Luca Maria Gambardella
(USI informatica, IDSIA-USI-SUPSI)

In an interactive World Café format, students and higher education institution representatives develop creative ideas on how student engagement with sustainability can be promoted across Switzerland. The exchange of ideas and required competencies offers the opportunity for networking. The results of this workshop will be incorporated into the work of the national centre Focus Sustainability.

14:30 - 15:15 Parallel workshops
Fourth session



Solar: just a blunder or the energy of the future?

Cristina Gianella, Dr. Giovanni Pellegrini (L'ideatorio, USI), Claudio Caccia (Swissolar)

Can photovoltaics ensure the energy transition and compensate for the abandonment of fossil fuels and nuclear power? What are the challenges ahead? What do you think about it? Come and discuss it with an expert.



Jointly engaged for more sustainability: discussion round with actors from the academic and student world

Yves Gärtner (Head of project, U Change, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences)

The goal is clear, but the way to achieve it is not: higher education institutions should become more sustainable! In a moderated discussion with people from the academic and student world, and with the opportunity for everyone to participate, possible partnerships and appropriate fields of action will be explored. In the end, a call to

15:30 Call to action and final message

16:00 Site specific performance by the Master students of the Accademia Teatro Dimitri
Open Discussion with Prof Riccardo Blumer

17:00 Aperitif

Visit the **marketplace of projects** at Palazzo Canavée (from 13:00 to 15:30)
Get to know the diversity of sustainability projects. The wide range of projects and organisations presented intends to inspire, invite networking and facilitate partnerships.

The Sustainable University Day will take place in Mendrisio. In the morning at the SUPSI Campus. In the afternoon at the USI Academy of Architecture.

For more information about the programme and the workshops, see the **website**
To the **registration**

