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 - 11:00  Parallel workshops  First session

Tyres Meet Theatre. A Sustainable Adventure between Entrepreneurship and Art
Hugues Chatelain (CEO Euromaster Suisse SA), 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 Euromaster Suisse SA, 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 - 12:00  Parallel workshops  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.
Meet an expert! Climate change: from monitoring to decarbonisation
Dr. Cristian Scapozza (SUPSI-IST), Dr. Nicola Storelli (SUPSI-IM), Francesca Gallina (SUPSI-ISAAC), Luca Monci (SUPSI-IDe)

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.

Students for Sustainability: Creating Connections (from 13:00)
Annuscha Wassmann-Tamura and Michelle Studer (Focus Sustainability)

If you are a student in Switzerland, you can’t miss this! In an engaging format, you get the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas with students and higher education institution representatives across the country who are interested in sustainability.

The ethical dilemmas of artificial intelligence
Dr. Alessandro Facchini (IDSIA USI-SUPSI), Prof. Luca Maria Gambardella (USI informatica, IDSIA-USI-SUPSI)

Artificial intelligence permeates many areas of our lives. In this workshop we analyze what contributions it brings in favor of sustainability and what ethical dilemmas we must face. A meeting-debate to analyze the opportunities of this technology and to reflect critically on its diffusion, led by experts in the field.

Solar: just a blunder or the energy of the future?
Cristina Gianella, Dr. Giovanni Pellegri (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 action with concrete starting points should result from the discussion.

Parallel workshops
12:00 Enjoy your meal!
13:30 - 14:15 Third session
Students for Sustainability: Creating Connections (from 13:00)
Annuscha Wassmann-Tamura and Michelle Studer (Focus Sustainability)

If you are a student in Switzerland, you can’t miss this! In an engaging format, you get the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas with students and higher education institution representatives across the country who are interested in sustainability.

14:30 - 15:15 Fourth session
Solar: just a blunder or the energy of the future?
Cristina Gianella, Dr. Giovanni Pellegri (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.

Call to action and final message
15:30
Aperitif
16:00
Site specific performance with master students of Accademia Teatro Dimitri
17:00

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