



ISCN 2020
ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION
AND SUSTAINABILITY IN EDUCATION

SwissTech Convention Center | EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

24-26 JUNE 2020

CALL FOR
SESSION PROPOSALS
AND ABSTRACTS

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
24 JAN. 2020



Contact: ISCN2020@epfl.ch

ISCN 2020 | Accelerating Climate Action and Sustainability in Education

SwissTech Convention Center | EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

24-26 June 2020

We are delighted to announce that ISCN 2020, the 14th annual conference, will be hosted by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) in Lausanne, Switzerland!

Located on the shores of Lake Geneva, EPFL is one of Europe's most vibrant and cosmopolitan science and technology institutions. It welcomes students, professors and collaborators of more than 120 nationalities.

Conference Concept and Overview

After education, research and innovation, universities now have a fourth mission, which is to co-create sustainability in collaboration with society and address the most pressing sustainability challenges such as the climate crisis, sustainable energy access, mass extinction of biodiversity and more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Universities are increasingly being recognized as key players in dealing with today's development challenges due to their role as promoters and generators of innovation, knowledge, capabilities and skills.

Indeed, by training and educating people, strengthening human capital and fostering public awareness about sustainable development, the next generation of citizens and professionals will be better prepared to face fast-changing, complex global challenges. To better integrate sustainable development into the curricula and operations of Universities, as well as to overcome compartmentalization, a systemic, multi- and transdisciplinary perspective is necessary. There is a need to focus on skills development that lie at the interface between technical, socio-economic and cultural factors, and where quantitative and qualitative methods intersect in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ultimately shift the world on a more sustainable path.

Aim of the Conference

The ISCN 2020 Conference will provide a timely opportunity to exchange ideas on how sustainable development at Universities can be fostered from an academic, operational and student perspective.

*Potential topics for conference tracks include, but are not limited to:

- How to create institutional support for sustainability in education?
- The Times Higher Education (THE) SDG impact ranking – A leverage point for sustainability?
- Students as a driving force of sustainability in academic institutions
- The campus as a living lab – education, research and collaboration in campus projects
- Tackling the climate crisis: accelerating climate action from the perspective of universities and other higher education institutions
- Multi and trans-disciplinarity: de-compartmentalizing sustainability
- Sustainable purchasing and public procurement
- Mobility as an avenue to reducing carbon foot-print

- Sustainable food: the role of institutions in driving change
- Green campus operations: waste management, low and zero carbon emissions
- Promoting sustainability by fostering partnerships between cities and universities
- Sustainable meeting solutions: how higher education institutions reduce their own impacts by using technology for travel-free meetings
- Sustainable project platforms for university communities: experiences and recent developments
- Project-based learning for sustainable development

** Please, note that the topics are not limited to the ones listed above.
Feel free to propose your own session topic.*

Call for breakout session proposals and abstracts for oral & poster presentations

We are delighted to invite interested parties to submit proposals for breakout sessions and abstracts for oral & poster presentations. We encourage proposals that offer new and innovative approaches in terms of format (virtual participation, hackathon, structured interaction with the audience etc.) in order to have a high degree of interactivity.

Breakout session proposals and abstracts for oral & poster presentations will need to provide an overview under the headings outlined in the [prescribed templates](#) (see Annex 1 & 2) that are available for download on the ISCN 2020 Conference website:

- Title of session proposal/abstract for oral and poster presentation
- Short description, alignment with ISCN's mission, conference themes (or proposed topics), objectives, format and expected outcomes
- Summary of discussion/focus and target audience

Breakout session proposals and abstracts should be submitted by the abstract submittal system.

Criteria for Selection

The following criteria will guide the selection process of breakout sessions, as well as abstracts for oral and poster presentations:

1. **Relevance to the ISCN's mission, conference's main theme or potential topics:** Breakout session proposals and abstracts for oral & poster presentations can have an academic or a campus operation focus. The key is to be as interactive as possible, giving participants the chance to contribute.
2. **Quality of proposals and abstracts:** The proposals and abstracts are easily understandable, clear in terms of objectives, format and outputs.
3. **Innovation:** How innovative and interactive is the breakout session proposal or abstract for oral and poster presentation?

A. Breakout Sessions

The breakout sessions span over 1.5 hours (90 minutes) and are at the core of the conference. Sessions are intended to be an opportunity for participants to take on an active role in sharing innovative approaches and case studies, as well as generating new knowledge. Session formats are open, but the structure of the sessions should be as interactive as possible.

The Session Leaders of selected breakout sessions proposals will be **responsible for:**

1. Reviewing, providing feedback, and assisting in the selection of abstracts that have been proposed by the Conference Planning Sub-Committee to be part of their breakout sessions.
2. Informing the abstract applicants about the acceptance or their (justified) rejection.
3. Chairing the breakout session, including a short introduction on the main objectives of the session, a short introduction of each of the presenters, managing the time schedule, leading the discussion,

rounding up the discussion, reporting to the plenary moderator, and participating in plenary sessions if requested.

Proposals for breakout sessions must be submitted **by January 24, 2020**, using the provided template (*see Annex 1*). Acceptance decisions for the sessions will be made **on February 21, 2020**. Once breakout session proposals have been accepted, session leaders will review and select abstracts related to their session's overall theme. Session leaders will then inform authors of abstracts about their proposals acceptance, rejection or propose a poster presentation. Session leaders will inform authors of abstracts of their final decisions on **March 13, 2020**.

Key Dates (Breakout Sessions)

Call for breakout session proposals launched	November 15, 2019
Breakout session proposals submission closes	January 24, 2020
Session Leaders receive decision of proposal acceptance	February 21, 2020
Authors of abstracts for oral and poster presentations receive decision of acceptance	March 13, 2020
Authors of abstracts for oral and poster presentations that have been selected, confirm their participation by registering to the conference by April 3, 2020	April 3, 2020

B. Abstracts for Oral and Poster Presentations

Guidelines

- The abstract should include:
 - A focused description of a project, a case study, or an experience of implementation of a new practice or course.
 - Potential impact on sustainable development in Universities.
 - Recommendations for future research, project development and application in practice.

Please adhere to the 200 word limit and prepare your abstract using the prescribed [template](#) (*see Annex 2*).

General Information

- You are cordially invited to submit an abstract for an oral or poster presentation focusing on research, projects, case studies, or challenges relevant to either the [ISCN's mission, the conference's main theme, or its potential topics](#).
- Submissions of [abstracts for oral and poster presentations](#):
 - Abstracts (200 words max).
 - Abstract submissions should be oriented towards [the ISCN's mission, the conference's main theme or its potential topics](#). Based on this orientation, the Conference Planning Committee will direct abstract submissions towards breakout sessions whose overall theme match.
 - The selection of poster presentations will be based on the submission of an abstract only.

- Abstracts for oral or poster presentations should be clear, concise, and written **in English**. The abstract must be well written and should be checked by someone well versed in English writing as they will be published in the conference brochure if selected (you will have time to review them before publication).
- For **selected abstracts**, presenters will be duly informed by the session leader about the type of session format and on any special requirements.
- Presenters of a **poster** will be expected to make a 3-minute presentation during a set time-slot at the conference to explain their poster and hand out any leaflets, or other information materials, they have available for viewers of their poster. A special panel will evaluate and select the "**Best ISCN 2020 Poster**."

All presenting authors whose extended abstract or poster presentation has been accepted **MUST** be registered and the conference fees fully paid **by April 3, 2020**. Arrangements and payment of travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of the participants.

Key Dates (Extended Abstracts and Posters)

Call for abstracts for oral and poster presentation launched	November 15, 2019
Abstracts for oral and poster presentation submission closes	January 24, 2020
Session Leaders receive decision of proposal acceptance	February 21, 2020
Authors of abstracts for oral and poster presentations receive decision of acceptance	March 13, 2020
Authors of abstracts for oral and poster presentations confirm participation by registering to the conference by April 3, 2020	April 3, 2020

Annex 1: Breakout Session Submission Template (Available for download on ISCN 2020 Conference Webpage)

Name:

Title:

Institution:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Address:

Potential Topics: Please tick on the box in front of the topic of your interest

- 1. How to create institutional support for sustainability in education?
- 2. The Times Higher Education (THE) SDG impact ranking – a leverage point for sustainability?
- 3. Students as a driving force of sustainability in academic institutions
- 4. The campus as a living lab – education, research and collaboration in campus projects
- 5. Tackling the climate crisis: accelerating climate action from the perspective of universities and other higher education institutions
- 6. Multi and trans-disciplinarity: de-compartmentalizing sustainability
- 7. Sustainable purchasing and public procurement
- 8. Mobility as an avenue to reducing carbon footprint
- 9. Sustainable food: the role of institutions in driving change
- 10. Green campus operations: waste management, low and zero carbon emissions
- 11. Promoting sustainability by fostering partnerships between cities and universities
- 12. Sustainable meeting solutions: how higher education institutions reduce their own impacts by using technology for travel-free meetings
- 13. Sustainable project platforms for university communities: experiences and recent developments
- 14. Project-based learning for sustainable development
- 15. Other: **(PLEASE INCLUDE TOPIC IN THIS SPACE AND KEEP IN RED FONT)**

Brief Bio (max. 80 words) of Session Leader(s):

Title of breakout session proposal (max. 10 words)

Abstract

(max. 200 words – text will be used in informative material)

Objectives / Outputs (recommendations, position statements, short video etc.)

What will the audience take away/gain from your session (max. 100 words)

Session Format

Describe the format of your session. How will you structure the session and make it as interactive as possible for participants? (100 words)

Innovative Perspective

What are the perspectives that will be featured in your session and why are they innovative? (200 words)

Logistics and Special Considerations

Are there any special room set-up considerations we should be aware of? (Please note: our configuration options are limited and requests may not be accommodated). (50 words)

Annex 2: Abstract Submission Template (Available for download on ISCN 2020 Conference Webpage)

Please indicated below the type of submission (**oral** or **poster presentation**). Also, please choose only one of the potential topics. If the topic you wish to present is not listed below, please click on other on the last line and fill out your proposals topic between the parentheses. Keep the **RED** font.

Type of Submission: Please tick on the box in front of the topic of your interest

Oral Presentation

Poster Presentation

Potential Topics: Please tick on the box in front of the topic of your interest.

- 1. How to create institutional support for sustainability in education?
- 2. The Times Higher Education (THE) SDG impact ranking – a leverage point for sustainability?
- 3. Students as a driving force of sustainability in academic institutions
- 4. The campus as a living lab – education, research and collaboration in campus projects
- 5. Tackling the climate crisis: accelerating climate action from the perspective of universities and other higher education institutions
- 6. Multi and trans-disciplinarity: de-compartmentalizing sustainability
- 7. Sustainable purchasing and public procurement
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- 13. Sustainable project platforms for university communities: experiences and recent developments
- 14. Project-based learning for sustainable development
- 15. Other: **(PLEASE INCLUDE TOPIC IN THIS SPACE AND KEEP IN RED FONT)**

Title**Authors names and institutions:**

Example : John Smith¹, Jane Jones²

¹Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

²Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

Presenting author's email address: john.smith@abc.ch

Biography of Presenting Author (max 80 words):

Abstract

(max 200 words max. 200 words – text will be used in informative material)