

ICONSUS 2025

International Conference on Sustainability

Transforming higher education for a sustainable future

11-12 September 2025

Santarém, Portugal

Scope and goals of ICONSUS2025

ICONSUS2025 – International Conference on Sustainability: Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Future aims to provide a global platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among academics, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners committed to advancing sustainability in higher education.

The conference focuses on exploring innovative strategies, practices, and policies to integrate sustainability into teaching, research, and institutional operations. It seeks to address the critical challenges and opportunities in transforming higher education to align with the principles of sustainable development, equipping institutions to act as catalysts for change in their communities and beyond.

Organised in the scope of the Erasmus+ project [Time2Act@SD](#), ICONSUS2025 emphasises the role of higher education institutions in fostering critical thinking, interdisciplinary approaches, and actionable solutions to tackle global sustainability challenges.

The main goals of the conference include:

1. **Promoting knowledge sharing:** Facilitating the exchange of research findings, case studies, and best practices related to sustainability in higher education.
2. **Enhancing collaboration:** Strengthening partnerships between institutions, projects, and individuals working towards common sustainability objectives.
3. **Encouraging innovation:** Highlighting cutting-edge tools, methods, and frameworks that drive sustainable transformation in higher education.
4. **Raising awareness:** Inspiring participants to champion sustainability as a core value within their institutions and professional practices.

By bringing together a diverse and international audience, ICONSUS2025 aspires to inspire meaningful dialogue and action, contributing to a more sustainable future for higher education and society at large.



Conference Topics

This conference has the main objective the presentation of the results of the [Time2Act@SD](#) Erasmus+ project. Beyond that, the following topics could be covered.

1. Integrating Sustainability in Higher Education

- Strategies for embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into curricula.
- Innovative pedagogical approaches for teaching sustainability.
- Developing skills for global citizenship and sustainable leadership.

2. Research and Innovation for Sustainability

- Interdisciplinary research projects addressing sustainability challenges.
- Leveraging emerging technologies to tackle environmental, social, and economic issues.
- Translating research outcomes into impactful policies and practices.

3. Institutional and Operational Transformation

- Sustainable campus management (energy efficiency, resource use, mobility, etc.).
- Governance and policy frameworks for fostering sustainability in higher education institutions.
- Leadership models and strategies for cultural change within academic organisations.

4. Partnerships and Collaborations for Sustainable Development

- Building international networks to foster sustainability collaboration.
- Engaging universities, businesses, and local communities in joint sustainability efforts.
- Funding and supporting sustainability-driven initiatives in higher education.

5. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Training educators to incorporate sustainability into teaching and learning practices.
- Open educational resources and digital tools for sustainability education.
- Assessing and measuring the impact of ESD initiatives.
- Education for sustainable development in adult education and lifelong learning

6. Innovative Tools for Sustainability Education

- Development and use of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) focused on sustainability.
- Gamification strategies to enhance engagement with sustainability topics.
- Virtual reality-based educational games, web-based simulations, and mobile apps for sustainability learning.
- Interactive tools and platforms to foster experiential learning and critical thinking.

7. Impact of Higher Education on Communities and Society

- Community engagement projects addressing social and environmental issues.
- Promoting circular economy and regenerative practices through higher education initiatives.
- The role of universities in addressing climate change and social inequalities.

Keynote speakers

- **Luiz Moutinho**, Professor Luiz Moutinho (BA, MA, PhD, MAE, FCIM) is Dean of KBS, is visiting Professor of Marketing at Suffolk Business School, Faculty of Arts, Business and Applied Social Science, Univ. of Suffolk, Ipswich, England, UK, and at The Marketing School, Portugal, and Adjunct Professor of Marketing, GSB, FBE, University of the South Pacific, Fiji. In 2020, he was elected as a member of The Academia Europaea.
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/luiz-moutinho-65b3325/>
- **João Eustachio**, is an economist, researcher, and Head of Sustainable Developmental Research and Practice Unit at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, where he leverages his expertise in sustainability research, sustainability leadership, education for sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability policy.
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jo%C3%A3o-eustachio-b6503376/>
 - Topic: Sustainability leadership in the context of higher education institutions
- **Peter Wollaert**, is a distinguished social entrepreneur and thought leader with extensive experience in development cooperation, sustainable development, business ethics, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and social entrepreneurship. His work underscores the importance of bridging the gap between global sustainability agendas and local implementation. His leadership at CIFAL Flanders and his role as a UNITAR Fellow position him as a global advocate for creating sustainable and ethical societies.
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/peterwollaert/>

Committees and partners

Conference Chair

- Susana Leal, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal

Conference Co-Chairs

- Ana Loureiro, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Cláudio Barradas, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Inês Messias, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Sandra Oliveira, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal

Honorary Member of the Scientific Committee

- Professor Walter Leal Filho (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

Organizing Committee

- Adem Tekerek, Gazi University (Technology Faculty Computer Engineering Department), Türkiye
- Alper Güzel, Gazi University (School of Health Services), Türkiye

- Ana Loureiro, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Andriani Piki, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Büşra Duygu Çelik, Gazi University (Department of Computer Engineering), Türkiye
- Cláudio Barradas, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Eric Gelfgren, Learnmera Oy, Finland
- Fanos Tekelas, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Focaracci Elisabetta, Galileo IT, Italy
- Inês Messias, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Irene Polycarpou, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Joke Simons, Thomas More University of Applied Sciences, Belgium
- Josephina Antoniou, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Louis Nisiotis, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Nearchos Paspallis, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Nicos Kasenides, University of Central Lancashire (School of Sciences), Cyprus
- Nuno Monteiro, Learnmera Oy, Finland
- Paulo Costa, Rosto Solidário-Associação para o Desenvolvimento Social e Humano, Portugal
- Pierangelo Verbicaro, Galileo IT, Italy
- Sandra Oliveira, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Sílvio DuqueSilva, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Susana Leal, Santarém Polytechnic University, Portugal
- Tito Livio Mongelli, Galileo IT, Italy
- Veronica Gelfgren, Learnmera Oy, Finland
- Xander Michiels, Thomas More University of Applied Sciences, Belgium

Important dates

Deadline for abstract submissions:

16th March 2025

Notification of abstract acceptance:

15th April 2025

Submission of final versions of abstracts, if corrections have been requested:

20th May 2025

Deadline for full chapter submission to Springer Nature (optional):

20th May 2025

Early registration deadline:

30th April 2025

Late registration deadline:

30th June 2025

Programme announcement (tentative):

11st July 2025

Programme announcement (final):

5th September 2025

Conference date:

11-12 September 2025

Publication opportunities of ICONSUS2025

- All accepted and registered abstracts for the ICONSUS2025 will be published in the **Abstract Book** with an associated ISBN number. The Abstract Book will be available in e-book format on the day of the conference.
- **Springer Nature book chapter** (optional): In conjunction with this conference, authors will have the opportunity to submit a full paper for publication in the book "**Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Future**". The book will be edited by Professor Walter Leal Filho and published by Springer Nature, as part of the World Sustainability Series, the leading peer-reviewed book series on the topic, following the standard peer review process.

Conference venue

The conference will take place at the [School of Management and Technology](#) (Escola Superior de Gestão e Tecnologia) of the Santarém Polytechnic University (Instituto Politécnico de Santarém), Portugal.

Google maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/45jxzYkfYUmZC1SV7>

Hybrid event: Both on-site and virtual participation will be accepted.

How to submit

Submission guidelines

All authors are kindly encouraged to contribute and shape the conference through the presentation of their **abstracts** or **full papers** (full papers are optional). Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts or full papers via the submission system. Abstracts and full papers must be written in English.

Abstracts: Please submit a 100–250-word abstract outlining your proposed communication or poster, including the key arguments and relevance to 'Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Future'. Please be sure to include your name, affiliation and contact information in the abstract.

Full papers (optional): Full papers proposed for the Springer Nature book should be between 6,000 and 7,000 words, including references (300-500 word abstract).

Abstract Submission - Essential Guidelines:

- Abstracts should be submitted on-line through the <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/> platform. Please do not send abstracts via email.
- Authors should sign in with their user and password.
- All abstracts must be submitted and presented in **English**.
- Abstracts should be within the scope of the conference topic areas.
- The maximum length is **250 words**.
- Avoid citing sources in your abstract. The abstract should be self-contained and fully understandable without referencing external materials. However, if you do include any citations, follow APA 7th edition style guidelines.
- Authors should indicate whether their presentation preference is oral, poster or virtual. The Organising Committee reserves the right to decide on the final allocation and presentation method.
- After registering a new abstract, you will receive an email with your abstract ID.
- Abstracts are automatically sent for evaluation after the submission deadline.
- All participants will be notified by 15th April 2025 about whether their abstracts have been accepted, rejected or if they need modifications.
- If you run into any problems during the submission process or you do not receive an email confirmation, please contact the Conference Organising Committee at iconsus2025@ipsantarem.pt

Full Paper Submission (optional):

- Full papers should be submitted on-line through the <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/> platform. Please do not send full papers via email.
- If your abstract is accepted, a Final Paper can be submitted for publication in the Springer Nature book. The length of the final paper should be between 6000 and 7000 words (including references). Use the available template for the Final Paper.
- A paper should contain the description of your study and should follow the general structure of Abstract, Introduction, Methodology, Results, Conclusions, Acknowledgements (if applicable) and References.
- Please note that the title and the list of authors should coincide with those of the accepted abstract.
- It is mandatory to follow the template for formatting the paper (see document templates section).
- Use APA style 7th edition for references.
- Contributions will only be published in the Springer Book if at least one of the papers' authors is registered for the conference by 30th June 2025 (applicable to both in-person and virtual participants) and if accepted by the editors following the peer review process.

Document templates

Proposals must be uploaded in **.doc** or **.docx** format only. Please use the templates below:

- *Abstract template.* See <https://iconsus2025.ipsantarem.pt/submission-guidelines/>
- *Full paper template.* See <https://iconsus2025.ipsantarem.pt/submission-guidelines/>

Type of presentation: oral or poster

Oral presentations will be the main part of the sessions at the ICONSUS2025 conference. The presentations will take place in parallel sessions. Please note that oral presentations should not exceed 15 minutes (with 3 minutes for questions). The official language of the conference is English, but oral presentations in Portuguese will be accepted if the PowerPoint presentation is in English.

Posters are an opportunity to draw attention to your research. Posters will be presented exclusively in a digital format.

Oral presentations can be delivered either on site or virtually.

Copyrights

The paper must be original and unpublished and must not have been submitted to any journal or other conference.

It is the responsibility of the author to ensure that permission has been obtained from the copyright holder for any copyrighted material included in the paper.

Notification of acceptance

Authors will be notified of the decision by email. Inclusion of papers and posters in the programme is subject to the formalisation of the registration of at least one author.

Registration

Registration fees and dates

- The conference is free of charge (except for meals), but registration is mandatory. All registered authors will receive a certificate of attendance and a certificate of presentation by e-mail once attendance has been confirmed and the presentation has been delivered.
- Values for meals:
 - Lunch, day 11 (optional): to be announced
 - Dinner, day 11 (optional): to be announced
 - Lunch, day 12 (optional): to be announced

Contacts

- ICONSUS2025 email contact - iconsus2025@ipsantarem.pt
- ICONSUS2025 website - <https://iconsus2025.ipsantarem.pt/>