

# ProSPER.Net E-Bulletin

March 2013

## Message from the ProSPER.Net Secretariat:

Dear colleagues and friends,

In response to your feedback, we are revising the ProSPER.Net E-Bulletin to ensure more frequent delivery of ESD and ProSPER.Net news. The bulletin will now be issued once a month and will feature a short synopsis of the latest news, events, publications, and recognitions. It will also include relevant links, where you can find out more.

We hope this redesigned bulletin will better meet your needs. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the new design. And of course we look forward, as always, to receiving your news so we can share it with the wider ProSPER.Net community.

We have also created a new website for ProSPER.Net (<http://www.ias.unu.edu/prospernet/>) to better showcase the excellent work being done within the network. We are currently testing the website among ProSPER.Net members and close partners only and we would like your feedback on its design and usability. Once we have incorporated your feedback, we will use the website as the main portal for sharing news and information about ProSPER.Net's work. Please send your feedback on the site to [prospernet@ias.unu.edu](mailto:prospernet@ias.unu.edu).

With much appreciation,

The ProSPER.Net Secretariat

## Upcoming Events:

### 6th GUNi International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education

The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) is organizing the 6th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education, “**Let’s Build Transformative Knowledge to Drive Social Change**” from May 13 to 15, 2013. The Conference will provide visibility and will critically examine one of the most significant trends: the growth of the theory and practice of engagement as a key feature in the evolution of higher education. For more information, please visit the [GUNi Conference website](#). To download the flyer and press release, [click here](#).

UNU-IAS, through its Regional Centres of Expertise on Sustainable Development Network (RCEs), will be organizing a side event with the COPERNICUS Alliance that will take place in Barcelona prior to the GUNi event. The side event is aligned to a UNU publication on sustainability in higher education and the Rio+20 People's Treaty on Higher Education. If you are interested in participating or would like further information please contact Daniella Tilbury ([dtilbury@glos.ac.uk](mailto:dtilbury@glos.ac.uk)) or Ingrid Mula ([imula@glos.ac.uk](mailto:imula@glos.ac.uk)).

## Latest News:

### Tenth ProSPER.Net Board Meeting

The 10<sup>th</sup> ProSPER.Net Board meeting was held at TERI University in Delhi on 1-2 February 2013. Board members gathered to discuss organizational issues, network strategies, communication and promotion, linkages with other networks and reported about the joint research projects. For more information on outcomes from the Board meeting, please contact [prospernet@ias.unu.edu](mailto:prospernet@ias.unu.edu).

### Call for Papers and Presentations: 13<sup>th</sup> International ACTS Conference

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) is organizing its 13th International Conference on 25-27 September on the theme “Sharing Learning: Lessons from sustainability communities”. The call for presentations, posters and paper proposals is open until May 2013. For more information, [visit the ACTS website](#).

## Researching Resilience: Young Scholars Look to Communities as Classrooms

A new article and video from the ProSPER.Net Young Researchers' School (YRS) has just been released. The video showcases a group of refugees living in a temporary settlement after the eruption of Mount Merapi in 2010. The shelter serves as an excellent model of a resilient society in the context of post disaster management. Scholars from the 2012 YRS visited the refugees to learn more about the various modes of production they've developed, such as the production of crackers from cassava and sweet potato, as well as the manufacturing of accessories. Watch the video access the full article by [clicking here](#). If you like it, we encourage you to share it widely with your friends and colleagues.

## Update from UNECE Secretariat

The UNECE Steering Committee meeting and the UNESCO-UNECE regional consultation meeting on the assessment and follow up of the UN Decade on ESD are both taking place in early 2013. A hard copy of a publication on "learning for the future", which was made possible thanks to generous support from the Netherlands, will be distributed in hard copy form at the meeting. A PDF of that document is attached. Additionally, the document "Empowering Educators for a Sustainable Future: Tools for policy and practice workshops on education for sustainable development competences" was distributed to all Steering Committee members as an official UN document in three languages ECE/CEP/AC.13/2013/4. This document is attached and is also available in the UN library catalogue. For 2013 UNECE also received clearance to produce a UNECE publication on the tools for policy and practice workshops in three languages. A draft version of that publication is attached as well.

## Call for Applications: New Regional Centres of Expertise

The United Nations University is now calling for applications for new Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs). For more information about RCEs, visit the [RCE page on the UNU-IAS website](#). Those organizations interested in becoming an RCE are requested to send expressions of interest to UNU-IAS by Monday, 15 April 2013. RCE candidates are then requested to submit an application and an application summary by Monday, 3 June 2013. For more information regarding guidelines for applications and for further information, visit the [RCE Call for Applications page](#).

## New Publications and Resources:

### ProSPER.Net: Developing a New Generation of Leaders 2008-2013

We are delighted to announce the publication of a new booklet entitled "ProSPER.Net: Developing a New Generation of Leaders 2008-2013". The publication showcases successful research projects and initiatives that have been launched by ProSPER.Net members. The publication stands as an excellent representation of the work being done by the network as a whole. To download a PDF of the booklet, visit our [Publications page](#) or [click here](#).

### New Online Guide to 'Quality and Education for Sustainability in Higher Education'

The University of Gloucestershire has led a unique sector wide research project, which aimed to change the face of the higher education curriculum to make it more relevant to global sustainability challenges. Funded through the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) Leadership Governance and Management Fund, it is the largest national project to deal with sustainability as a curriculum and whole-of-institution priority. The online guide contains video clips, insights, tips and adaptable tools for institutions, to support them in embedding EfS through quality assurance and enhancement systems.

At institutional level, five pilot universities (University of Gloucestershire, Aston University, University of Brighton, University of Exeter and Oxford Brookes University) developed curriculum change projects to connect EfS with their current approaches to teaching and learning quality. The experiences and lessons from the pilots are embedded in the [resource](#).

### Former UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel Lecture

The former rector of United Nations University and a leader in the field of ESD, Hans van Ginkel, recently delivered a lecture at the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies. During his lecture he noted how *Regional Centers of Expertise on Sustainable Development*, based on the principles of the *Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development*, could serve an important function in acquiring information, in planning and in decision-making around sustainable development issues. Thinking about education for sustainable development beyond 2014, he highlighted how it would be important to further promote and strengthen the mobilization of people and knowledge for

sustainable development through such centres. The full lecture will soon be available in the [multimedia section of the UNU-IAS website](#).

## **Transdisciplinary Approaches in Higher Education**

Professor Russ Volckmann, PhD from Integral Leadership Review, and co-author (with Sue L.T. Mc Gregor, PhD) of [Transversity: Transdisciplinary Approaches in Higher Education](#) recorded a [YouTube presentation](#) to share with all ESD stakeholders. For further information please contact Professor Volckmann at [russ@leadcoach.com](mailto:russ@leadcoach.com) or [russ@integralleadershipreview.com](mailto:russ@integralleadershipreview.com)

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**This is a publication of UNU-IAS ProSPER.Net Secretariat.**

**Please send your comments, suggestions and materials to [prospernet@ias.unu.edu](mailto:prospernet@ias.unu.edu)**

Visit the [ESD Programme's News and Events page](#) regularly for up-to-date news and event information.

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