

PARTNERSHIPS ORCHESTRATING SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATIONS (POST)

SPRING SCHOOL

TOPIC: THE ROLE AND VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATIONS

24-26 MAY 2023

ORGANIZED BY: FRIEDRICH ALEXANDER UNIVERSITY ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG (FAU)

NÜRNBERG | BAVARIA | GERMANY

CONCEPT NOTE

Sustainability challenges fall into social, environmental and economic domains and are complex, wicked and transboundary in nature. Responding to them effectively requires different approaches and involvement and cooperation of different stakeholders - private companies, international organisations, civil society groups, academia, government bodies and local communities.

Partnerships Orchestrating Sustainability Transformations (POST) is dedicated to understanding cross-sector partnerships for sustainability transformations through exploring its meaning, dimensions, context and nature in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa through interdisciplinary research, exchange and collaboration.

It was initiated in response to the first funding call for joint institutional activities in September 2022 by three member-institutions of the [European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance \(EELISA\)](#):

1. Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Germany
2. Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS), Italy
3. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Spain

So far, two workshops have been organised by SNS and UPM in January and March 2023 respectively.

POST SPRING SCHOOL

POST Spring School will be organised by [FAU](#) from 24-26 May 2023 in Nürnberg, Germany by the Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg (CHREN) and Chair for Corporate Sustainability Management. It will focus on deepening the understanding of multi-stakeholder partnerships engaged in tackling grand sustainability challenges of our times. As

such, it will help participants explore the ‘values’ dimension of partnerships and probe it from two aspects:

1. Corporate Sustainability perspective
2. Business and Human Rights perspective

Businesses have had to adopt different pathways to influence positive transformation at both the organisational and societal levels. In this regard, a prominent approach has been to forge partnerships with cross-sector or non-business actors such as the government, civil society, practitioners, academia and community to collectivise ideas, resources, and action on sustainability.

Similar is the case when it comes to business and human rights. Today, it is increasingly being expected that corporate responsibility in regard to human rights must go beyond ‘doing no harm’ and include a proactive engagement to respect human rights. In order to do so, corporations need to partner with each other and with other well-positioned activist groups and organizations. One of the critical benefits of taking a multistakeholder approach is that it can potentially enhance the ‘leverage’ of companies, which refers to the capacity of companies to address harmful practices related to their business operations by influencing their own behaviour, as well as that of suppliers, customers, consumers and governments.

OBJECTIVES

1. **Build understanding** - To build an understanding of the nature and role of cross-sector partnerships from a Corporate Sustainability as well as Business and Human Rights perspective in dealing with the complexities and challenges of sustainability transformations.
2. **Create a community of practice** - Share best and failed practices for cross-sector partnerships, including challenges, opportunities and learnings.
3. **Develop skills** - Develop skills necessary to research on, build, manage, sustain and learn from effective cross-sector partnerships.
4. **Facilitate networking** - Creating opportunities for future collaboration amongst the participating institutions and its participants specifically on research on partnerships and collaboration.
5. **Promote innovation** - Encourage participants to think creatively and develop new approaches to cross-sector partnerships for sustainability transformation.
6. **Foster inter-cultural exchange** - Organize social and cultural activities to promote networking and inter-cultural exchange.

PARTICIPANTS

- PhD students/Postdocs from [EELISA institutions](#) engaged in research on partnerships, Corporate Sustainability, sustainability transitions or any aspect of Business and Human Rights.
- Researchers (PhD/Postdocs) and practitioners from other institutions who can support their participation financially

ABOUT THE HOST INSTITUTION

[FAU](#) is the host of the spring school with the [Centre for Human Rights Erlangen-Nürnberg \(CHREN\)](#) and [Chair for Corporate Sustainability Management](#) helping the overall designing, implementation and management of the programme. CHREN launched the International [Doctorate Programme](#) on ‘Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World’ in 2021 supported by the [Elite Network of Bavaria](#) - an initiative of the Free State of Bavaria that brings together 20 doctoral researchers from 13 different countries for an inter and transdisciplinary program focusing on 4 distinct areas:

- Global value chains and transnational economic governance
- Migration and changing labour relations
- Digital transformation
- Environmental sustainability

VENUE AND LOCATION

Date	Venue	Room	Time
Day 1: 24 th May	FAU, Lange Gasse	LG 2.429	1400 - 2000 hrs
Day 2: 25 th May	FAU, Findelgasse	FG 1.036	0930 - 1745 hrs
Day 3: 26 th May	FAU, Lange Gasse	LG 2.429	0915-1630 hrs

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

LANGE GASSE

The Lange Gasse is the main venue for students studying Business, Economics and Social Sciences. This is where the School of Business, Economics, and Society (WiSo) is located. The castle and city centre are only a short stroll away. The campus has its own library and cafeteria.

FINDELGASSE

In the city centre, just off the pedestrian precinct, is FAU’s Ludwig-Erhard building in the Findelgasse. The School of Business, Economics, and Society holds lectures and seminars here as well. The Chair for Corporate Sustainability Management is located here. The basement is home to the café ‘Der Trichter’, run by student volunteers.

Note: Detailed agenda will be shared shortly. Please check this webpage for regular updates.