
Preface

We are pleased to introduce the first volume of the “*Handbook of Theory and Practice of Sustainable Development in Higher Education*”.

This publication, which consists of a set of volumes, introduces many of the papers discussed and presented at the World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSD-U-2016), which was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in Cambridge, MA, USA, in September 2016.

The aims of WSSD-U-2016, consistent with the goals of the WSSD-U series, were:

- i. to provide universities all round the world with an opportunity to display and present their work (i.e., curriculum innovation, research, activities, and practical projects) relating to education for sustainable development at university level;
- ii. to foster the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences acquired in the execution of projects, from successful initiatives and good practice;
- iii. to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to integrate the topic of sustainable development in the curriculum of universities;
- iv. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event was to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today.

To this purpose, the “Handbook of Theory and Practice of Sustainable Development in Higher Education” has been produced.

This volume is structured around two parts. Part I, under the heading “Sustainability in University Contexts,” presents a set of papers which describe a variety of ways via which sustainable development issues are handled in university structures. Many institutions have programs focused on building sustainability leadership skills, with varying designs and skills emphases, but these are hardly ever presented in an integrated way.

Part II focuses on “Implementation of Sustainability in Practice” and outlines examples where sustainability matters have been taken into account and implemented. In this section, readers will have here access to a formidable body of information and knowledge on matters related to the implementation sustainable

development in higher education, which will hopefully be helpful to them, and may inspire further works.

We thank the authors for their willingness to share their knowledge, know-how, and experiences, as well as the many peer reviewers, who have helped us to ensure the quality of the manuscripts.

Enjoy your reading!

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