

World Sustainability Series

Walter Leal Filho · Amanda Lange Salvia ·  
Rudi W. Pretorius · Luciana Londero Brandli ·  
Evangelos Manolas · Fatima Alves ·  
Ulisses Azeiteiro · Judy Rogers ·  
Chris Shiel · Arminda Do Paco *Editors*

# Universities as Living Labs for Sustainable Development

Supporting the Implementation of the  
Sustainable Development Goals

 Springer

# **World Sustainability Series**

## **Series Editor**

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Due to its scope and nature, sustainable development is a matter which is very interdisciplinary, and draws from knowledge and inputs from the social sciences and environmental sciences on the one hand, but also from physical sciences and arts on the other. As such, there is a perceived need to foster integrative approaches, whereby the combination of inputs from various fields may contribute to a better understanding of what sustainability is, and means to people. But despite the need for and the relevance of integrative approaches towards sustainable development, there is a paucity of literature which address matters related to sustainability in an integrated way.

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# Preface

A living labs approach provides good opportunities to improve the environmental sustainability of universities, combining the expertise of staff and students, and encourages the application of knowledge to a real-world context. But despite its relevance and applicability, the use of a living labs approach is not as widely used as it can- or should-be.

This book addresses the need for academic materials related to living labs in a sustainable development context. It contains a set of papers presented at the “4th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2018), which was held at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Malaysia, organised by Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), the Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), and the World Sustainable Development Research and Transfer Centre, in cooperation with the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP) and the United Nations University initiative “Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development” (RCE).

The “4th World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities” (WSSD-U-2018) focused on “Universities as Living Labs for Sustainable Development: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals” and provided a contribution to the further development to the debate on the use of a living labs approach as a means to foster the cause of sustainable development at higher education institutions.

This book is structured around three main parts as follows:

- Part I: Campus as Living Labs for the SDGs
- Part II: Education for Sustainable Development
- Part III: Sustainability Processes and Practices

This publication documents practical experiences on education, research and extension (the so-called 3rd Mission, whereby universities outreach to local communities, industry and other groups) and makes them available to a wide audience.

It outlines many initiatives performed at universities to promote environmental sustainability and many interesting case studies from around the world.

We thank the authors for their efforts in elaborating the manuscripts and the reviewers for the many useful comments provided. We hope this book will inspire further initiatives in this rapidly growing field.

Hamburg, Germany

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Johannesburg, South Africa

Passo Fundo, Brazil

Komotini, Greece

Porto, Portugal

Aveiro, Portugal

Melbourne, Australia

Poole, UK

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