Greening Research Webinars Series

May-June 2024

Introduction

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Science plays a fundamental role in identifying climate change and mobilising societies in tackling this crucial challenge of our times. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 13 "calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" and the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 aims to mobilise everyone in tackling the climate crisis. Science Europe engaged with this challenge launching, together with partners, a Call to Action for the Net-Zero Transition of research organisations. The promoters of this initiative committed *"to supporting and enabling concrete actions which will help the research and education sector to address the many challenges of global sustainability"*. In 2023-2024, the Global Research Council addressed the challenge of "Making Research Itself Sustainable", providing a new opportunity to develop this topic at the international level.

This 2024 webinar series on "Greening Research" has the following objectives:

- **Raise awareness**: Explore the environmental impact of research activities, helping you understand research organisations' footprint.

- **Discuss solutions**: Dive into principles, challenges, and methods for reducing the ecological footprint of research activities.

- **Empower action**: Provide concrete examples and good practices for "greening research," offering actionable steps.

Webinar Programme

Webinar 1: Sustainability Strategies in Research Organisations

Tuesday 21 May, from 2 - 3 pm (CEST)

The first webinar explores how research organisations are working towards sustainability. Specifically, the speakers will delve into how research funding and performing organisations are assessing their environmental impacts and taking steps to reduce it.

- **Measuring Environmental Impact**: How do research organisations appraise their carbon footprint and ecological effects? What approaches do they use?

- **Sustainability Strategies**: What strategies and tools are research organisations currently using, or developing, to reduce or mitigate their ecological impacts?

- **Sharing Best Practices**: What are some effective actions and practices that research organisations can share with each other to promote the sustainability of the whole research system?

Webinar 2: Greening Digitalisation

Tuesday 28 May, from 2 - 3 pm (CEST)

This second webinar will focus on the environmental challenges posed by digitalization in research activities, and how to make digital processes more sustainable.

- **Reducing Environmental Impact**: How can we minimize the environmental footprint of digital research activities, which often require extensive computing resources and data processing?

- **Sustainable IT Equipment**: What strategies can be adopted to ensure that IT equipment used in research has sustainable life cycles, from design to disposal?

- **Balancing Performance and Environmental Impact**: How can researchers balance the need for computing power with the goal of reducing environmental impact? What criteria should be considered beyond just performance?

Webinar 3: Promoting Ecological Sustainability in Research Systems

Tuesday 4 June, from 2 - 3 pm (CEST)

This last webinar aims to address the actions needed to promote the ecological sustainability of research activities and the whole R&I systems. Acknowledging national differences, the speakers will address the following questions.

- **Promoting Sustainability in Research Organisations**: What steps can be taken to encourage and develop sustainability practices within research organisations?

- **Integrating Sustainability into Research Funding Processes**: How can sustainability considerations be integrated into the processes for funding research projects?

- **Challenges for Large Research Organisations:** What are the specific challenges faced by large research facilities and infrastructure in achieving ecological sustainability?

- **Collaborative Actions:** What collaborative efforts are needed to mobilise stakeholders and scale up existing sustainability initiatives in research?

Programme

Date	Title	Speakers & Moderators
Tuesday 21 May, 2 - 3 pm (CEST)	Sustainability Strategies in Research Organisations	**Speakers** Martin Farley & Jo Allatt (**UKRI**) Christiane Joerk (**DFG**) Paula Leskinen (**AKA**) **Moderator** Margarida Prado (**FCT**)
Tuesday 28 May, 2 - 3 pm (CEST)	Greening Digitalisation	**Speakers** Adel Nourredine (**University of Pau, France**) Ruggero Ricci (**INFN**) **Moderator** Yamine Aït-Ameur (**ANR**)
Tuesday 4 June, 2 - 3 pm (CEST)	Promoting Ecological Sustainability in Research Systems	**Speakers** Philipp Weber (**EMBO**) Sule Karamik (**Formas**) Anne Marie De Beaufort & Josef Stuefer (**NWO**) **Moderator** Sarah Achermann (**SNSF**)

Speakers

Martin Farley

UK Research and Innovation, UKRI

Martin started a career in research, however his interests in sustainability led him to take an alternate career path focused on making science more sustainable. Currently, Martin is the UKRI Associate Director of Environmental Sustainability. Prior to joining, he founded the consultancy Green Lab Associates, which helps researchers to reduce the energy and resources they use in their workspace. Martin also created the LEAF programme at UCL - the leading global standard in sustainable lab operations, as well as co-founded GreenED, a programme which improves the sustainability of NHS emergency rooms.

Jo Allatt

UK Research and Innovation, UKRI

Jo Allatt is a Chartered Environmentalist and UKRI Head of Sustainability (Policy and Engagement). Jo has played a key role in bringing stakeholders together across the research and innovation sector to explore opportunities to address the environmental sustainability of research practice, including collaborative development of a new sector-wide concordat. Jo also works closely with the UKRI Commercial team developing UKRI's responsible procurement work.

Jo joined the UKRI sustainability team in September 2020, moving across from the Knowledge Exchange (KE) team in Research England. Previously, Jo worked in Local Government, specialising in Environment, Energy, Fuel Poverty and Community Development roles. Jo also volunteers with local environmental action and conservation groups, is a trustee of a local preschool and doing crafts, tending her allotment and spending time with her family.

Christiane Joerk

German Research Foundation, DFG

Christiane Joerk works as a Programme Director at the German Research Foundation DFG. She is experienced in the area of economics/business administration as well as social and behavioural sciences in a broader sense. Particularly, she also covers the interdisciplinary topic of sustainability and global change research. With regard to evaluation procedures, she provides expertise on a broad range of different national and international funding programmes, and moreover on the structures of the German science and research system.

Paula Leskinen

Research Council of Finland, AKA

Paula Leskinen works as a Science Adviser at the Research Council of Finland (AKA). Her current tasks are related to the development of scientific reporting and providing advice on project management. Prior to this position, she was a member of the research infrastructure team at the Research Council, mainly working on managing funding calls. Her background lies in molecular ecology with a strong interest in accountability (including sustainability) of research and research funding. She is a member of Science Europe's working group 'Greening Research since its initiation in 2021.

Margarida Prado

Portugal's Foundation for Science and Technology, FCT

Margarida Prado is a Scientific Officer at Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) with experience in the monitorisation and developing evaluation processes of diverse funding instruments supporting research organisations and scientific employment. Her science background is in Cell Biology (PhD), with post-doctoral experience at the Fraunhofer Institute (Germany) for Interfacial Engineering & Biotechnology, and a post-graduation in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies.

Adel Nourredine

University of Pau, France

Dr Adel Noureddine is an Associate Professor in computer science at the University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour, France. He holds a PhD in computer science from the University of Lille and Inria in 2014 and has worked in computer science in France and the UK, and in the private and public sector.

His main research areas are around green IT and green software engineering, behavioural computer science, empirical software engineering, and autonomic computing. In particular, he is interested in the role of software and its generated data in energy-efficient, green, autonomous and smart adaptations in cyber-physical systems.

Ruggero Ricci

Italy's National Institute for Nuclear Physics, INFN

Ruggero Ricci is the Head of Electrical Installation group of the Frascati National Laboratories of INFN (Italy). He holds a MEng in Electrical Engineering interventions. He has extensive experiences in the fields of high and medium voltage electrical installations and operation and maintenance, power plants for particle accelerators, energy efficiency, and Data Center infrastructure. For more than 10 years he has been the Energy Manager of the Laboratories, where he performs energy analysis of infrastructures and has proposed and implemented various energy efficiency interventions. He also held technical courses on Data Centre electrical installation and their maintenance, Particle accelerator technological plants, and Electrical systems in particle accelerators for hadron therapy.

Yamine Aït Ameur

French National Research Agency, ANR

Yamine AÏT Ameur is Full Professor since 2000. Since September 2011, he has been at Toulouse's National Polytechnique Institute (INP) in France and a member of the Toulouse Research Institute in Computing (IRIT-CNRS). Two main essential aspects characterise his research activities: the development and use of state-based formal modelling techniques based on refinement and proofs and the operational applications, allowing the validation of the proposed approaches. Embedded systems in avionics, engineering, interactive systems, and CO_2 capture are some of the application domains targeted by his work. Since September 2021, he is the head of the digital sciences and mathematics department at the French National Research Agency (ANR).

Philipp Weber

EMBO

Philipp Weber is the Sustainability Project Officer at EMBO, an organisation that promotes excellence in the life sciences in Europe and beyond, and co-founder of Green Labs Austria. He received a PhD in cell biology from the University of Vienna and is active in a number of areas relevant to the sustainable development of life science research. One of his goals is to promote exchange between different stakeholders, such as funding organisations, research institutions and bottom-up initiatives.

Sule Karamik

Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development, FORMAS

Sule Karamik has a background in Economics and works as an analyst at Formas, the Swedish research council for sustainable development. Her primary responsibilities include monitoring the calls within the National Research Programme on Climate, a 10-year research program initiated by the Swedish Government and contributing to Formas' strategic agenda. She also holds the role of sustainability coordinator, where she oversees, implements, and fosters the enhancement of various sustainability initiatives within the organization.

Anne Marie De Beaufort

Dutch Research Council, NWO

Anne Marie de Beaufort is sustainability officer at NWO. She is responsible for the development and implementation of NWO's policy on sustainability, its implementation and coordination. She has a background in development economics with experience in sustainability projects within the NGO sector. She is president of a local association focussing on the acceleration of the transition towards circular entrepreneurship amongst SMEs.

Sarah Achermann

Swiss National Science Foundation, SNSF

Since 2021, Sarah Achermann is Head of Sustainability at the SNSF, tasked with the implementation of the organisations' strategy on sustainable development. After completing her Geography degree in 2011, she worked as research associate at the Centre for Development and Environment of University of Bern. Before joining the SNSF in 2019, she worked as consultant in international development projects focused on sustainable water management, climate change adaptation and sustainable regional development.