Greening Research Webinars Series

May-June 2024

Science Europe
Rue de la Science 14, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 226 03 00 | Fax: +32 (0)2 226 03 01 |
Email: office@scienceeurope.org |
www.scienceeurope.org

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 n.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?