

## International Sustainability Transitions Conference: Call for Conference Ambassadors, August 18-21 2020, online hosted from Vienna

### **Want to become part of the international sustainability transition research community?**

WU Vienna and the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology are organizing the International Sustainability Transitions Conference (IST2020, [ist2020.at](http://ist2020.at)) taking place from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2020 online hosted from Vienna. Therefore, the Institute for Law and Governance is looking for Conference Ambassadors to work for this online conference.

Following this year's theme "Governance in an Era of Change – Making Sustainability Transitions Happen" the conference will bring together around 400 participants engaging in a broad variety of sessions to address structural issues and causes for current global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, accelerating biodiversity loss and increasing global social inequalities. Sustainability transitions research aims to design transformative governance so policies for systemic change can be implemented. In order to foster a just transition, scholars, policymakers and non-state actors like intermediaries from the private industry or social movements have to work in collaboration. The IST2020 provides the space for starting and deepening such collaborations that strive for a low-carbon future to move society in the direction of sustainability.

To ensure a productive environment for our conference guests and to harvest and spread the content within the scientific community as well as the general public, we need your support.

### **What are your tasks?**

As Conference Ambassador you will have a vital role in creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere for delegates from all over the world and assist the organizing committee to deliver a professionally run conference. We are looking for Conference Ambassadors who:

- ... will play a key role in making the conference visible, raising awareness and its profile throughout the international research community as well as with Vienna's stakeholders and population. Your aim is to foster public interest for and understanding of sustainability transitions research.
- ... will contribute to establishing our science-society-interface. Besides, you will assist in extending our scientific network. This will include reporting from key note and dialogue sessions and harvesting content from selected sessions and specific topics.
- ... as participant of the conference you are requested to actively engage in discussions and articulate perspectives and questions important to the generation you are part of. Then, as ambassador, you are able to report back to your community and generation.

### **What are your working hours?**

If feasible, you are required to be present at WU Vienna during the time of the conference, 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2020. We are providing working areas in accordance to official health guidelines. You will be responsible for a specific conference track and selected sessions. Thus, your working hours will be arranged according to the schedule for these specific sessions.

Conference Ambassadors are required to attend a first online meeting in July 2020 (2 hours). Prior to the conference, there will be online warm-up sessions in August 2020 (3-4 hours).

### **Our offer**

Working at the IST2020 provides the opportunity to become involved in the internationally renowned Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN, [transitionsnetwork.org/](https://transitionsnetwork.org/)). You will get to know and network with practitioners, academics, policymakers, industry representatives and students who work at the forefront of unleashing sustainability transitions. You will receive a free registration at the conference that you can attend outside your shifts. All ambassadors will be able to take part in all keynote sessions. As part of the team, you will receive an employment certificate and be provided with food and beverages during your working hours, if you work from WU campus at Vienna

For your efforts, you will furthermore receive a compensation of 480 EUR (before tax).

### **How to apply**

We are looking for master students, master graduates and early PhD students who have the dedication and enthusiasm to assist us in delivering a successful international event. Would you describe yourself as professional, committed, reliable and culturally sensitive? Then you are exactly who we are looking for! With the decision to make this conference an online event, we are excited that now Conference Ambassadors do not necessarily have to be situated in Vienna this August to be a part of our team. However, in the application process we will favor candidates who can commit to being present at WU campus during the conference. Please indicate whether this is feasible for you.

If you are interested in participating, please send your CV and a short statement of motivation (max. 400 words) to [michaela.neumann@wu.ac.at](mailto:michaela.neumann@wu.ac.at) until 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020. In your statement, specify your interest for and connection with sustainability transitions research. You might guide it along the following questions: How do your prior experience and interests connect with the STRN? What is your area of expertise? Which particular themes and topics covered by the IST2020 are you interested in? Do you have ideas on how you could realize your role as Conference Ambassador and distribute the conference's content among a wider audience?

More information on the respective conference tracks can be found here: [ist2020.at](https://ist2020.at) and here [transitionsnetwork.org/about-strn/research\\_agenda/](https://transitionsnetwork.org/about-strn/research_agenda/). We particularly invite applicants not yet familiar with the sustainability transitions approach, too. In case you would like to get an overview of this approach, see the crash course developed within last year's conference available at [carleton.ca/istconference/crash-course-on-sustainability-transitions/](https://carleton.ca/istconference/crash-course-on-sustainability-transitions/). For any remaining questions, please contact [michaela.neumann@wu.ac.at](mailto:michaela.neumann@wu.ac.at).