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**Hochschule  
Bonn-Rhein-Sieg**  
University of Applied Sciences

# **Call for Applications**

for students (PhD, Master and Bachelor)

**Deadline June 20, 2021**

Apply now to join the

## **International Symposium**

***“Green Economy, Climate and Biodiversity Conservation and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for a Sound Prosperity – An Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Dialogue Platform on the Italian Island of Sardinia”***

in Sardinia, Italy.

This Symposium will be held in the town of Sassari between **the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021** and is jointly organized by the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE) of the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (BRSU) and the University of Sassari (UNISS).

Experts from the following German and Sardinian institutions will participate:

- International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE), Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (BRSU) - Coordinator (<https://www.h-brs.de/en/izne> and <https://www.h-brs.de/de/green-economy-climate-and-biodiversity-conservation-and-education-sustainable-development>)
- University of Sassari (UNISS) - Coordinator: Department of Agricultural Sciences (<https://agrariaweb.uniss.it/en>)
- Nees-Institute for Plant Biodiversity, University of Bonn
- Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn
- Global Nature Fund
- BIO-Diverse
- Istituto Sardo di Scienze, Lettere e Arti - ISSLA
- Sardinian Regional Agency for Rural Development - LAORE
- Sardinian Environmental Protection Agency - ARPAS

Please note:

The Symposium is planned and organized as in-person meeting on-site in Sardinia. However, depending on the development of the Covid-19 situation in both Italy and Germany

and the associated legal framework and travel restrictions we may be forced to move it to a virtual (on-line) format.

## Topics

The last decade-long economic crisis has provided evidence for growing environmental, economic and social challenges and for the growth of inequalities in Italy. Therefore, it is essential to identify and share policy solutions capable of stimulating and balancing sound prosperity. In line with the UN 2030 Agenda and their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), implementation should aim to a circular, low or better zero emission economy, resilient to climate change impacts and to other global challenges. Priority should be especially given to combatting climate impacts, biodiversity loss, the alteration of the fundamental biogeochemical cycles and land-use changes. Transformation is necessary towards ecologically sound economic practices and actions. The implementation needs the collaboration and support of universities and research agencies, and of regional authorities, as well as the engagement of civil society and consultations with public and private institutions.

The Symposium will address the following key questions:

- How can Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Capacity Building be improved to achieve a sustainable and sound development in Sardinia in line with the SDGs and in order to overcome the weak economic development with high unemployment and social inequality towards sound prosperity exemplarily for Italy?
- How can Green Economy contribute to sustainable development and nature conservation on the island? Which peculiarities is Sardinia facing?
- How can new and innovative jobs be created through the protection and conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and climate? Which specific trainings are necessary?

The Symposium's objectives are:

- To develop innovative measures for an Education for Sustainable Development in Sardinia based on the SDGs and following an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach;
- To improve capacity building and bridge the gaps between science, practice and policy;
- To actively involve students as *change agents* in the development of these new learning programs;
- To transfer knowledge on the benefits of green economy and of biodiversity conservation for sustainable development and the creation of new jobs, but also in order to protect natural resources, to support climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as the management of environmental risks;
- To focus especially on sustainable land use (agriculture and forestry) and sustainable tourism along the coasts, which are the main economic drivers of the island;
- To draw up recommendations for local universities and for decision and policy makers in Sardinia to improve education programs in line with a sustainable development;
- To strengthen the already existing cooperation among scientists from academic institutions in the two regions of Sardinia (Italy) and Bonn-Rhein-Sieg (Germany).

The Symposium will be held in English and will consist of presentations, workshops, excursions and a final public event with the overarching goal to establish a long-term dialogue platform for future activities.

You will learn a lot from experts on these topics, but your own contribution of ideas to the symposium with ideas and suggestions will be crucially important.

## Participation

Once selected, students are expected to prepare themselves for active participation in discussions within the Symposium, especially its workshops. In particular, students are expected to search for, analyse and summarize ideas and information on one topic related to further possible future activities concerning green economy, climate and biodiversity conservation, education for sustainable development and sound prosperity.

The **planned workshops** are:

- Biodiversity & Green Economy in Sardinia: focus on Coastal Habitats
- Biodiversity & Green Economy in Sardinia: focus on Rural Habitats
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Internships
- Summer School
- Networks & Dialogue Platform

Topics will be assigned by the expert committee after the selection process.

## Eligibility

Eligible candidates are Bachelor, Master and PhD students from the disciplines agronomy and forestry, biology and natural sciences, business administration, economics, and related fields, who are either members of the above partner universities BRSU and UNISS, of another Sardinian university or of the University of Bonn.

## Application

Please apply by submitting your application documentation (in English) in one PDF-file via e-mail and no later than **June 20, 2021** to

[sardinianbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:sardinianbiodiversity@gmail.com)

including

- a cover letter with information about your motivation, your study area, and e-mail address for correspondence (1 page);
- your possible contribution to the Symposium (see above planned workshops, 300 - 500 words);
- your CV with focus on the Symposium (tabulated, 1 page);

- Annex to CV (latest exams grades, title of PhD thesis);
- proof of good knowledge of English (level at least B1).

After a careful review process by the expert committee, grant applicants will be notified by 15.06.2021 (June 15, 2021) about the success of their application. Applications to the Symposium will be assessed based on three different criteria, namely,

- the relevance of the own research/study area for the symposium's agenda;
- the quality of the application and the level of personal motivation and contribution;
- a balanced representation between male/female/diverse applicants.

Altogether, 15 grants are available for:

5 students from Germany: open for Bachelor, Master and PhD students, and

10 students from Sardinia: open for Bachelor, Master and PhD students.

## Costs & Logistics

The Symposium will take place at the University of Sassari (Italy), Department of Agricultural Sciences (Viale Italia 39/A – 07100 Sassari) and will include two field excursions in two protected areas.

Grants for all selected applicants will be available as follows:

- Students from Germany: travel costs (up to 400 Euro per student) and a contribution per student for accommodation and meals for four days will be reimbursed by the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (BRSU).
- Students from Sardinia: contribution for four days per student are available as contribution for meals. BRSU will pay directly the meal provider in Sardinia.

In addition, a catering service free of charge will be provided during the Symposium (coffee breaks).

Students from Germany will have to organize their travel from Germany to Sardinia. BRSU may, if necessary, anticipate travel costs (more information will be given after the selection process). We suggest arriving at the Olbia airport (<https://www.geasar.it/>).

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any questions, sending an e-mail to:

[sardinianbiodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:sardinianbiodiversity@gmail.com)

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