

Annual report of the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS): 2021-2022 Including Finances for 2021

May 20, 2022, Stockholm, Sweden

Contents

[Summary](#)

[Mission](#)

[Executive Committee and Board](#)

[ISDRS Board Membership](#)

[Sustainability of ISDRS](#)

[Election Committee](#)

[Membership](#)

[Institutional members](#)

[Financial information](#)

[Communications](#)

[Topic groups](#)

[Conferences](#)

[Best Paper Award](#)

[Partnerships including with publishers and publications](#)

[Networking activity](#)

[Role of the assistant](#)

Summary

By: Peter Dobers

The year of 2021 has been clearly marked by the covid-19 pandemic. Even before the year had begun, the ISDRS Board decided to organize an online-only conference. After a few weeks of planning during the end of 2020, Mid Sweden University under the lead of Volker Mauerhofer took on hosting the conference. Learning from ISDRS 2020 and the Budapest online-only conference, we could further lower the registration fee. The move from ExOrdo to Oxford Abstract needed some learning, but meant also a cut in the platform cost by 75%. Online only conferences did also mean online board meetings at the conference.

After two years as President, and many more years as Vice President, Pauline Deutz handed over the task as President to Peter Dobers. This also meant that some new positions came into place on the Executive's Board: Director of Membership to work a bit more on membership-related issues.

Thanks to the waiver of conference costs of ISDRS 2020 as calculated during the fall of 2021, we could thankfully not a very positive economic situation after a few years of economic decline.

Many scholars of the ISDRS community are very active and we are happy to see an increasing number of books in our ISDRS Routledge Series on Sustainable Development Research and special issues in several journals.

Mission

- To generate research and knowledge about sustainable development. As a research society, we have an obligation to facilitate the work of those who labour to create new knowledge regarding sustainable development, as broadly defined.
- To disseminate knowledge about sustainable development. Consistent with knowledge generation, the Society also obligates itself to the task of spreading knowledge worldwide for the benefit of those with a similar interest.
- To educate others about sustainable development. Sustainable development places multiple and urgent demands upon global and local societies who will eventually determine the degree to which the Earth's resources are sustained. Thus, the ISDRS feels compelled to become involved in the practical work of sustainable development.
- To establish an information exchange for sustainable development. Given the proliferation of sustainability entities and venues, the Society will strive to provide a coordinating role for linking all these efforts together.

Executive Committee and Board

By: Peter Dobers

After the executives of ISDRS had changed into new position at years end of 2020 / years beginning of 2021, the Executive Committee has remained the same since January 2021.

Table 1: Executive committee membership and roles

Executive role	2021 holder	2022 holder
President	Peter Dobers	Peter Dobers
Vice president	Volker Mauerhofer	Volker Mauerhofer
Secretary	Olawale Olayide	Olawale Olayide
Treasurer	Hanna Ahlström	Hanna Ahlström
Communications Officer	Janaina Macke	Janaina Macke
Memberships	Shainesh G	Shainesh G

The previous president, or president emeritus, Pauline Deutz, continue to provide support, Pauline now in the official function as “Past President” for 2021-2022. The board assistant provided a critical continuity over the years, and ideally will do next time as well 2022-2023.

ISDRS Board Membership

By: Peter Dobers

At the end of 2021 two board members left the ISDRS Board: Eduardo Willis Hererra and Zengwei Yang. Many thanks to both of them, hosting ISDRS 2017 in Bogota, Colombia (Eduardo) and ISDRS 2019 in Nanjing, China (Zengwei). Six board members were re-elected: Marlen Gabriele Arnold, Francisco A Comín, Alex Franklin, Simon Lockrey, Roberto Merli and Sebastian Thomas. And Gustavo Nicolas Paez and Prajal Pradhan were welcomed to the board for the first time (see Table 2).

Table 2: Composition of the ISDRS board in 2021 and for 2022 in alphabetical order to surname

	Name	Function 2021 / 2022	Elected to the board
1	Hanna Ahlström	New Professional Group, Treasurer / New Professional Group, Treasurer	Elected for 2021-2022
2	Marlen Arnold	Co-editor newsletter; Best Article Award Committee / Co-editor newsletter; Best Article Award Committee	Elected for 2022-2023
3	Francisco Comín		Elected for 2022-2023
4	Pauline Deutz	Past President / Past President	P 19-20; PP 21-22
5	Peter Dobers	President / President	VP 19-20; P 21-22; PP 23-24
6	Alexandra Franklin	“Sustainability Committee”	Elected for 2022-2023
7	Eduardo Wills Herrera		Not re-elected 2021
8	Rasyikah Md. Khalid		Elected for 2021-2022
9	Simon Lockrey	Communications Committee	Elected for 2022-2023
10	Janaina Macke	Best Article Award Committee/ Communications	Elected for 2021-2022
11	Volker Mauerhofer	Vice President / Vice President	Elected for 2021-2022
12	Roberto Merli		Elected for 2022-2023
13	Olawale Olayide	Communications officer; Best Article Award Committee / Secretary	Elected for 2021-2022
14	Roberta Salomone	Best Article Award Committee	Elected for 2021-2022
15	G. Shainesh	Membership secretary / Membership secretary	Elected for 2021-2022
16	Sebastian Thomas	“Sustainability Committee”	Elected for 2022-2023
17	Sigurd Vildasen	Treasurer until 2020	Elected for 2021-2022
18	Sjors Witjes		Elected for 2021-2022
19	Marc Wolfram		Elected for 2021-2022
20	Zengwei Yuan	Best Article Award Committee 2021	Not re-elected 2021
21	Gyula Zilahy		Elected for 2021-2022
New	Gustavo Paez		Elected for 2022-2023
New	Prajal Pradhan		Elected for 2022-2023
-	Richard Welford	Honorary Member	Life membership

- VP = vice president
- P = president
- PP = past president
- Elected years indicate for which years the board member has been elected for. Election takes place the fall before the first year (for instance: Gustavo and Prajal were elected in the 2021 year election, but their terms are for 2022-2023)

This takes the number of women to seven and number of people based outside of Europe to eight, albeit mostly from upper-middle- and high-income countries. We are grateful to the

Election Committee for their work identifying potential new board members and preparing the elections.

Charlotte Mummery continued throughout entire 2021 as the assistant to the board, having begun in March 2018. The Society is very happy to note, that Charlotte has defended her thesis during spring of 2021. Congratulations Charlotte!

ISDRS Membership

By: G. Shainesh

ISDRS has two categories of Memberships – Individual and Institutional. Institutional members are equivalent to individual members (e.g. eligible to stand for office, and vote).

ISDRS Conference fee includes membership – so everyone who registers and pays for the conference becomes a member if they weren't one already. Conferences are an opportunity to increase the number of individual members. Memberships should be explicitly offered to non-member delegates when they register for the conference. Offering membership (for GDPR reasons) to non-member delegates is required for them to know that they are joining ISDRS. Instead of a 'non-member' conference fee, switch to a 'conference plus membership fee'.

Individuals benefitting from institutional members will have to identify themselves and register on the website for ISDRS to get an idea (& count) who they are.

Current membership rates of Euros 95 (high income), Euros 55 (for medium-low income countries and PhD students).

- Discussions on a 20 euros option for med-low income country students.
- Option not listed on the membership site <http://isdrs.org/membership-options-2/>
- Membership Timing - 12 month duration of membership for people joining via the conference. This will ensure that membership expires by the conference next year.

The number of paying members joining directly through the ISDRS website appears to have declined this year (Table 3). This reflects ongoing issues in determining the precise number of members. This year also the non-member fee explicitly includes membership for the 12 months following payment (also estimated in Table 3).

Note that the number of individuals shown as green or green + members includes 12 members benefitting from an institutional membership (see below).

The discount rate for the conference was changed from its previous basis of whether the country of residence is a member of OECD to whether or not it is a high-income country in the World Bank classification. This will also be changed on the ISDRS website for those joining/renewing directly as individuals or institutions.

The number of followers (registered on the website but not paying) has increased. This is good of course, but we need to be careful to avoid calling followers 'members'. There is confusion amongst the followers as to whether they are or are not members. For example, non-members have volunteered for roles (such as the audit committee), despite the call for volunteers explicitly stating that only paying members were eligible.

Table 3: Membership levels from 2017-2022

Year	Green Full Fee	Green Reduced Fee	Green + Full Fee	Green + Reduced Fee	Board Full	Board Reduced	Followers
2017	39	53	14	12	16	2	1731
2018	49	46	9	3	18	2	2362
2019	47	28	22	9	16	3	2439
2020	22 (43)*	17 (45)*	7	4	17	4	2658
2021 (June)	56				22		2889
2022 (May)	55				18	4	2995

Institutional members

By: G. Shainesh

Currently ISDRS has 10 **institutional members** as compared to 16 last year (Tables 4 & 5).

If the maximum number of individuals at each institution took up their right to register on the ISDRS website, this would provide 57 members. In practice only 12 individuals have so far registered (five of those from one institution). More than 12 have claimed the members' discount for the conference, however. It will in due course be possible to identify those individuals and either contact them to encourage them to register, or (if allowable under data protection rules), manually register so that they have to opt out rather than opt in to receiving the newsletter and other communications. At the moment these institutional memberships look like a good source of income for ISDRS, but it would be highly preferable if they also yielded active members.

Table 4: Institutional members (July 2021)

Name	Membership level	OECD
Copernicus Institute, UU, NL	Large	Y
Södertörn University, Sweden	Large	Y
University of Hull, UK	Medium	Y
Universidad de los Andes, Colombia	Medium	Y
Centre for Sustainable Development, U Ibadan, Nigeria	Small	N

Department of financial Accounting Faculty of Finance and Law, Cracow University of Economics, Poland	Small	Y
SERI Institute, Germany	Small	Y
University of Navarra, Dept of Industrial Organization, Spain	Small	Y
Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), Austria	Small	Y
Mid Sweden University, Sweden	Small	Y
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland	Small	Y
NTNU Norway	Small	Y
University technology of Troyes, France	Small	Y
Dipartimento di Economia Universita "G.d Annunzio" Chieti" Pescara, Italy	Small	Y
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary (complimentary membership for 2020)	Medium	Y

Table 5: Institutional members (March 2022)

#	Name	Membership level	OECD
1	Leibniz-Institut Fur Okologische R	Medium	
2	Mittuniversitetet	Medium	
3	Sodertorns Hogskola	Large	
4	Sustainable Europe Research Instit	Small	
5	Universidad De Los Andes	Medium	
6	Universidad De Navarra	Small	
7	Universita' Degli Studi G. D'annun	Small	
8	Universiteit Utrecht	Large	
9	University Of Hull	Medium	
10	Ddfip Aube	Small	

Financial information

By: Treasurer, Hanna Ahlström

The board discussed the financial situation for 2021 during its board meeting on 19 April 2022 and presented to the members meeting at the ISDRS Stockholm conference 2022. The total annual ISDRS surplus of 2021 was €15,310.33. For the NOK account, we have used the XE.com website in order to calculate the NOK/Euro exchange rate. The 2021 income was as expected, and costs lower than expected according to the budget.

Table 5: 2021 opening and closing bank balance

Balance 01-01-2021	
NOK account DNB	€ 41 255,0745
Eur Account DNB	€ 23 731,64
	<hr/>
	--> € 65 775,028
Balance 31-12-2021	
NOK account DNB	€ 21 591,8715
Eur Account DNB	€ 58 133,40
	<hr/>
	--> € 80 137,855

Table 6: Income and expenses related to 2021 activity

Category	Income €	Expense €
Individual membership	4070	
Institutional membership	5750	
Non-member conference fee	9,347	
Donation (BME)	9,000	
Publishing sponsorship and fees	0	
Other income (interest)		
Total	36,540	
Office support costs (Assistant) and expenditures executive board		17,200.67
Transaction/banking costs		970
Website and office supplies		1,042
Conference costs (OA)		2,000
Total		21,229.677
Surplus		15,310.33

In terms of the conference income and costs for ISDRS, ISDRS 10% fees are of total revenue less membership fee retention (10% of €38077-€9347). ISDRS will retain €17,720 of the total income from ISDRS 2021 of €38,077. Due to an unfortunate delay, MUIN did not invoice ISDRS €20,357 in 2021. Therefore, for the 2022 accounts, this amount is ringfenced.

The conference costs for the ISDRS Östersund conference of 2021 were the payment for the online system Oxford Abstract (OA) of €1,500. There were no additional costs concerning ISDRS. The non-members conference fees for ISDRS were €9,347 (this number includes full-non member €7,505 and discounted non-member €1,210 and an additional split difference between MIUN and ISDRS of the unreconciled and non-payment fee invoices amount to €632).

Table 3: Final figures for ISDRS retention from conference income

ISDRS franchise Fee (incl. OA)	3,500 €
ISDRS support	2,000 €
ISDRS membership fees	9,347 €
ISDRS extra 10% fee	2,873 €
Total	17,720 €

As noted in the 2020 Annual report, €9000 was ring fenced for the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). In the end of 2020, we were still waiting for the invoice. Unfortunately, due to some administrative and bureaucratic procedures of BME, they were not able to invoice and request these money from ISDRS, which left us with the €9000 as an additional surplus for the year of 2021.

As reported in the 2020 annual report, we have experienced quite some challenges with the accounting system Zoho. A main issue is that Zoho registers all of the imports from the DNB EUR account in NOK but does not convert the numbers into NOK and it is not possible to change the Zoho 'base' currency from NOK into EUR. This is the reason for us closing the Zoho system account just before the 2022 conference. We will change accounting system starting in 2023.

During the course of 2021, we have still used the Zoho system for the service and functions that still benefits us. We have been able to track and document invoices and sent reminders of membership payments to institutional members. We have continued to do all bookkeeping manually in Excel through downloading the account numbers from the DNB website.

We are grateful to this year's auditors Romana Rauter and Santiago Perez.

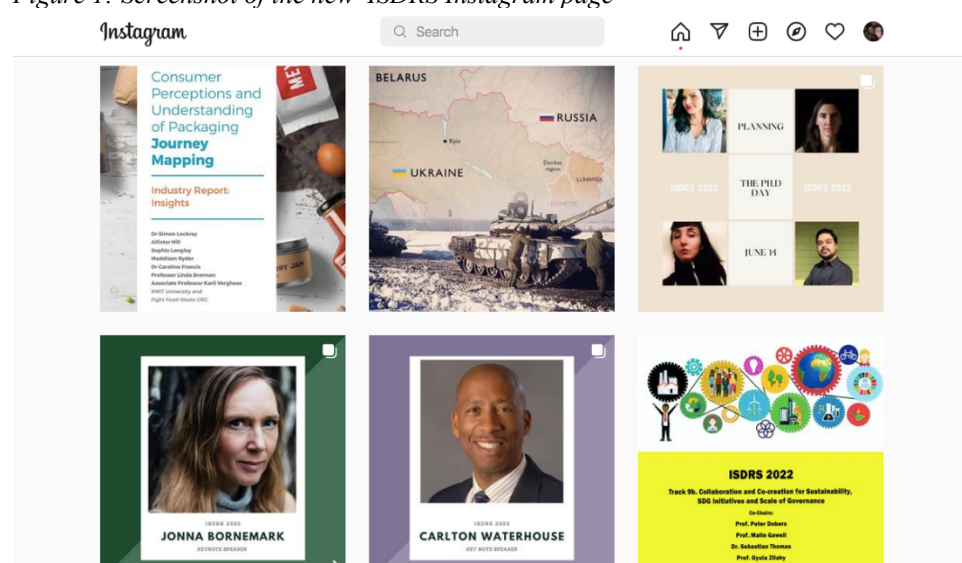
Communications

By: Janaina Macke

This section highlights the activities of the communications section of ISDRS since the last conference. The communications channels engaged during this period include the quarterly newsletter, LinkedIn group, Facebook, Twitter, website posts (Figure 1) and blogs. ISDRS

Introduced the new Instagram account at the end of 2021, see figure 1. ISDRS Instagram has 48 followers and 24 postings as of April 4, 2022.

Figure 1: Screenshot of the new ISDRS Instagram page



The quarterly newsletter goes to all members and followers and has continued consistently with four issues released in 2021 (Table 1). The editorial committee members (Jana Macke and Marlen Arnold) continued with overseeing and supporting the making of the quarterly newsletter with assistance from Charlotte Mummery. The ISDRS Twitter and Facebook platforms were used more than previously for promotional purposes, and for eliciting feedbacks from readers. Keyvan Hosseini is now assisting with ISDRS social media and managing both the Instagram and Facebook pages. With slightly increased membership (including followers), we would be able to significantly increase and improve on our outreach without much expense.

Table 1: Newsletter Statistics 2021 - 2022

Item	2021				2022	
	Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3	Issue 4	Issue 1	Issue 2
All Sent	1 750	1716	1 662	1632	1557	
Unsubscribe	3	7	1	3	1	
Clicked	5.6%	3.9%	4.8%	2.0%	3.4%	
Opened	343 (19.6%)	324 (18.9%)	427 (25.7%)	184 (11.3%)	177 (11.4%)	

Note: Individuals clicking more than once are not counted in the % count, only the number of clicks.

The number of subscriptions to the newsletter has reduced slightly while the proportion of active engagement (clicked and opened) remained static. The number of recipients unsubscribing remains low.

The ISDRS LinkedIn group has continued to increase from **2 479** in 2020 to **2 929** in 2021. LinkedIn engagement has increased due to greater content being shared and the promotion of the newsletter on LinkedIn.

The Facebook membership count has only increased slightly from **1 571** in 2020 to **1579** in 2021. ISDRS has not focused on Facebook in the 2021 period, however Keyvan Hosseini is now managing the Facebook page and the number of posts have increased significantly, followers should increase as a result. The number of members in the ISDRS New Professionals Group has also been increasing since 2019. The NPG Facebook page will be managed by the new group leaders from 2022.

Similarly, the number of Twitter followers increased from **505** in June 2020 to **671** at the end of 2021.

The growth of LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter reflects the potential to get more promotional value when pursuing this more actively. We still require members (especially board members) to demonstrate more support by 'liking' and retweeting messages, and targeting tweets they send @ISDR_society. This continues to improve in the last 12 months, with an impressive 19.9k impressions from tweets sent in July during the ISDRS2021 conference (Figure 2). There is now a request with the call for Newsletter content to also provide social media content and a new ISDRS media email has been set up (socialmedia@isdrs.org). Whilst the social media team have been finding content to use, only a small amount has come from members or board members. We have the support in place for improving ISDRS social media, we just need members to provide content.

Figure 2

Jul 2021 • 31 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

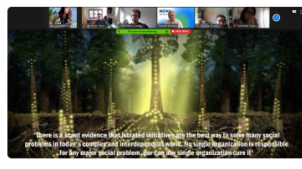
Top Tweet earned 1,738 impressions

Keynote Speaker: Åsa Persson
@SEIresearch Stockholm Environment
Institute) is discussing Politicizing the
SDGs: Why sustainable development must
tackle inequality at the ISDRS 2021
conference, hosted by @Mittuni
#sustainabledevelopment #inequality
pic.twitter.com/vorq6rXNaK



Top mention earned 209 engagements

Małgorzata (Gośka) Lekan
@g_lekan · Jul 14
Happy to share my recent #research
findings on how to empower networks for
#circulareconomy development at the city
level at #isdrs2021 conference
@ISDR_Society @crestingITN
pic.twitter.com/MGYwQDxmGd



JUL 2021 SUMMARY

Tweets	Tweet impressions
34	19.9K
Profile visits	Mentions
2,194	35
New followers	
17	

Topic groups

By: Volker Mauerhofer

ISDRS has Topic Groups, which are clustered in 10 Themes closely related to the UN-SDG's. In total we have about 30 Topic Groups. Scholars in these Topic Groups collaborate in exchanging experiences, identifying new developments and facilitating discourse at the conferences, including writing of Calls for Papers. Most groups are represented by tracks at the Conference; some others (such as some tracks within theme 7) are still not attracting sufficient contributions to run a conference session. It is difficult to assess the activity of these groups outside of the conference. Thanks to the efforts of new board members, and other active ISDRS members, there are now only a handful topic group webpages with little or no content. Several others have limited or out of date content, but that is less conspicuous to the casual viewer. Overall there is always more to do but a vastly improved situation and we are very grateful for all contributions received.

Conferences

By: Volker Mauerhofer

ISDRS 2020 online, Budapest

Owing to the disruption associated with Covid-19, the 2020 year's conference was entirely online. This was the first time we have had more than a very token online presence (a small number of keynote or delegates have presented online in the past; keynote presentations have also been streamed online). This has been an instructive experience and should be maintained, albeit ideally alongside a face to face conference. We are highly

grateful to Gyula Zilahy and his team for his work on the conference under the most challenging circumstances.

ISDRS 2021 online, Mid Sweden University

The ISDRS conference was 12th till 14th July 2021 organized for the 27th time and gathered researchers from around the world within the field of sustainability. The theme for the 2021 conference was “Accelerating the progress towards the 2030 SDGs in times of crisis?”, taken over by the originally planned organizer from California. Mid Sweden University took over date and theme as host when the intended organizer in Los Angeles withdrew due to the difficulties arranging a large digital event during the pandemic. The registered researchers represented 47 countries from almost every continent. Researchers from low-income countries could participate at a reduced cost. A detailed conference website has been created (<https://2021.isdrsconferences.org/>). Furthermore, this interactive online program has been the first time created by means of Oxford Abstracts (accessible for registered participant via the above-mentioned link).

By end of 11th July the conference has 463 registrations, 337 participants had already paid, 86 are invoiced and 40 registrations are in progress. The day before the actual conference, workshop for all kinds of early career researcher (“PhD workshop”) takes place. Out of 117 original expressions of interest, 60 PhD students have been admitted and finally 49 will present in and are being supervised by professors and senior researchers. This is a largest number of students since ISDRS started with such workshops during the Conference in Hull.

ISDRS2021 covered ten different themes with 32 different tracks. 400 research articles will be accepted for oral or poster presentation. There were a total of 47 sessions arranged using Zoom. In addition, 12 keynote speakers and plenary speakers participated in the joint program sessions. The twelve guest speakers came from Asia, Europe, North- and South America as well as Africa. These keynote and plenary speakers were in alphabetical order:

- Ranjula Bali Swain, Professor of Economics, Södertörn University,
- Hans Brunynckx, Executive Director, European Environmental Agency – EEA
- Joji Carino, Ibaloi-Igorot from the Cordillera, Philippines. Senior Policy Advisor of Forest Peoples Programme
- Professor Marie-Claire Cordonier Segger, Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor, University of Cambridge
- Mark Elder, Director of Research and Publications at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan.
- Jane Kabubo-Mariara, Professor at the University of Nairobi, Executive Director of the Partnership for Economic Policy.
- Elizabeth M. Mrema, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity – CBD.
- Hien Ngo, Biodiversity and pollination expert at the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO/United Nations
- Åsa Persson, Research Director and Deputy Director at the Stockholm Environment Institute.
- Marcos Regis da Silva, Executive Director Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
- Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, USA.
- Professor Richard Welford is Senior Advisor to the ELEVATE group of companies, a global sustainability consultancy based on Hong Kong and Chairman of CSR Asia

The conference was between the 13–15 of July broadcasted from a studio at Campus Östersund, Mid Sweden University. All researchers participated online and present their lectures digitally. During the conference,

- the ISDRS board meetings and the membership meeting is held in two parts respectively in order to allow participation in different time zones.
- A ISDRS mentorship program mingle event was also held. This activity and the above-mentioned PhD-Workshop were developed in close collaboration with the ISDRS New Professional Group

With the help of a sponsor, the Organizing Committee was able to support the free participation of 9 persons from low income economies (8 tickets for all three days, 1 ticket for one day).

ISDRS 2022, Stockholm

Preparations continue for the planned conference in Sweden co-hosted by a consortium of six universities led by Peter Dobers. Their hope is it to offer a face-to-face conference with a parallel online presence of some tracks and events.

ISDSR 2023

The board has decided to follow up the interest of a previous bidder to the 2021 conference and nurture the relationship with the potential conference chair and their home university.

Best Paper Award 2020 at the ISDRS 2021

By: Marlen Arnold

This year's Best Paper Award committee was once again led by Marlen Arnold with the assistance of Charlotte Mummery. The committee continued with the new procedure from the 2019 Best Paper award so that only 4 papers were shortlisted, to increase the likelihood of voters having read all papers before making their decision. Given the distribution of votes (a very clear winner and the next papers close with each other) we are awarding first place and joint runner up (to be announced during the conference). Non-board members on the committee were Joachim H. Spangenberg, Walter Vermeulen, Ayla Esen and Marcia Vaclavik. We are grateful to all the committee for their work.



Partnerships, Publications, Networking and Elections

By: Olawale Olayide

Partner Organisations

ISDRS existing partner organisations are: World Sustainability Forum (WSF), Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI), UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity (IUNCBD), World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD), Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), and the League of Professional Women (LPW), Ukraine. We hope to finalise partnership discussion with some other organisations in the other regions of the world, including the Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative in Africa.

We would be pleased to have discussions with potential partners and other third-party organisations. For more information on how to be a partner organisation, please contact the Secretary via secretary@isdrs.org.

Publications

Routledge ISDRS Book Series on Sustainable Development Research

The first and the second book have been published in our sustainable development research series and the third one is on pre-order:

1. Keitsch and Vermeulen (Eds) (2020): *Transdisciplinarity for sustainability: aligning diverse practices*
2. Mauerhofer (Ed.) (2021): *The Role of Law in governing Sustainability*

3. Khalid and Maidin (Eds.) (preorder in May 2022): *Good Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals in Southeast Asia*

One more book is in progress:

4. Skjerven and Fordham (Eds.) (Forthcoming): *Gendered Sustainability by Design: Social Innovation for Resilience*

Routledge International Handbooks

Two handbooks at Routledge International Handbooks are under development based on a special track at ISDRS 2022, as invited by the launch of website in October 2021.

- Routledge Handbook of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Research
- Routledge Handbook of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Policy and Practice

Both edited by Ranjula Bali and Peter Dobers, to be published in 2023.

Journals

Our annual conference is also linked with special issues in reputable journal outlets, including Elsevier and Wiley. Here are two:

Academics for sustainable development: Exploring consequences and dilemmas of transdisciplinary research approaches

Sjors Witjes, Hanna Ahlström, Sigurd Vildåsen, Monica Ramos-Mejia

First published: 29 November 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1002/sd.2254>

Special issue of the Wiley *Sustainable Development* journal

Sustainability in Transforming Societies

Gyula Zilahy and Peter Dobers

Under review

Special issue of the Wiley *Sustainable Development* journal

Networking activity

Our networking and participation at events hosted by partner organisations has been limited to online meetings and conferences due to the pandemic, global uncertainties and travel restrictions. However, we foresee improvements and flexibility as more events are now held in hybrid (physical and online) format.

Organised by The European Union Association, the President and Past President of the ISDRS, Peter Dobers and Pauline Deutz, participated on October 7, 2021, in a high level online webinar entitled: "Global Pandemic Impact on Sustainability and Higher Education". And twenty days later, on October 27, 2021, The European Union Association and The Asia Europe NGOs

Network organised a follow-up online webinar with an east-bound focus entitled "Global Pandemic Impact on Sustainability and Higher Education. Perspectives from the UN, Asia & Europe", again with the participation of the current and past president of ISDRS, Peter Dobers and Pauline Deutz. Both events can be viewed in full length online at: <https://www.euun.org>.

Elections

The proposed timelines for the elections (Executive Board and Board) is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Timelines for ISDRS Elections 2022

S/n	Activity	Timeline (2022)
1.	Approval of Election Committee by the Board	April
2.	Presentation to members	June
3.	Expression of interest	August
4.	Nomination	September
5.	Shortlisting	October
6.	Election	November
7.	Announcement of election result	December

Election Committee

By: Wale Olawale

The activities of the Election Committee starts in 2021 and commence officially between the annual conference 2021 and the annual 2022 for the annual year of 2022, and will be concluded by the third quarter of 2022 with elected Board members assuming duties by next January. The Election Committee consists of two or three members of the Board and the Executive Secretary as chair (this year: Wale Olayide as chair, Sigurd Vildasen, Janaina Macke). The Election Committee ensures that eligible members are invited to stand for nomination to the Board, prepares a proposal to the Board aiming at a balanced selection of nominees, reflecting the diversity, considering the required size of the Board and formally required executive functions (making a total of 21 members and an honorary member). It is instructive to note that 10 members of the Board are currently due for re-election. There will be call for nominations. The Board, after considering the advice of the Election Committee will determine the final list of nominees eligible for election by the members. The election will be held by means of an online balloting process.

Sustainability of ISDRS

By: Peter Dobers

Whilst our activities are flourishing, membership levels are precarious. Our partnership-building activities have not so far generated additional members/conference delegates albeit the number of institutional memberships is growing. Thus, we are very happy to have seen

the first year in 2021 that our executive board was strengthened by the new role of Director of Memberships, having Shainesh G as the first to fill this role.

We need to continue to work hard at promoting the annual conference, which is both our most conspicuous activity, an important activity for inclusion and can be an excellent source of revenue. We also need to continue to refine the membership systems to enhance/protect income and to enhance our communications with members to enhance our retention rate. In sheer numbers, the PhD Day at ISDRS online conference 2021 was more successful than ever, with about 60 PhD students participating. This growth of the number of young scholars taking part in the PhD Day, including the first round of mentorship program during 2021, is very promising to the long-term sustainability of ISDRS.

While we are heavily reliant at the assistant, we have for ISDRS 2021 moved away from the costly Ex Ordo conference management system to the more affordable Oxford Abstracts version, reducing that cost by more than 75%. The annual conference was a steep learning curve that was taken by the Mid Sweden organizing team, and the set-up and use of Oxford Abstracts will certainly be improved even more so in the preparations for ISDRS 2022, to be held in Stockholm, Sweden.

Role of the assistant

ISDRS Assistant: Charlotte Mummery

In 2021 the Assistant's role continued at 2 days per week. Charlotte's time in 2021 was divided as in Table 8. Responsibilities in 2021 have included support for the conference organising committee.

Table 8: The proportion of the Assistants spent on her various duties (2020)

Activity	Time (%)
Other, including assistance with conference ISDRS2021	19

Website	18
Bookkeeping	13
Newsletter	13
Awards	13
Email admin	7
Board meetings	6
Institutions and partners	6
Meeting with president	2
Social media	2
Member mailings	1

The duties listed are all vital activities in our given style of operation. Some responsibilities for social media posts (Instagram and facebook) have been taken over by Keyvan H. We have tried to delegate more responsibilities to the executive and board members 2021, for example with the chair of the Best Paper Award Committee taking on some of the communications. The newsletter in 2021 was edited by Jana Macke and Marlen Arnold. Charlotte circulates announcements, receives and compiles contributions as well as finalising and circulating the newsletter. There is also work on the website and social media. Much of the day to day financial transactions, are done by the assistant. The accounting duties are more onerous and complex than in the past. We have a lot more transactions now since ISDRS receives the conference payments.