



# ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for  
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

News Bulletin  
1 October 2025

Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,

This News Bulletin includes:

- Countdown to the General Assembly Meeting and Elections.
- ITD Alliance Events:
  - Inaugural Workshop: Recognising the Contributions of Integration and Integration Experts, Online, 28 October 2025.
  - Recordings, Presentation and Report: Inaugural Workshops of the Organizational Change for ITD Working Group, 10 and 18 September 2025.
- New and Renewing Members.
- Member News:
  - Transdisciplinary Electives Program of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Transdisciplinary School shortlisted for QS Reimagine Education Awards.
- Member Publications: 4 publications, 7 members.
- Call for Abstracts:
  - Biodiversity recovery through transdisciplinary environmental systems reengineering session, World Biodiversity Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 14-19 June 2026.
- About this News Bulletin.

*Members are invited to engage with the community through the News Bulletin by contributing questions or announcements. See "About this News Bulletin" below.*



## Countdown to the General Assembly Meetings and Elections

**Agenda and papers:** ITD Alliance members should have received a link to the General Assembly agenda and papers in a mailout on 17/18 September 2025. You can also find them on the ITD Alliance website at <https://itd-alliance.org/general-assembly-2025-reporting-and-elections/>.

**Online meetings:** The General Assembly meetings are online on October 9 and 10 and are an opportunity to meet volunteers from the Leadership Board and Working Groups, plus the Executive Secretary, to discuss the reports in the agenda papers. Meeting times and the Zoom link are listed on the website: <https://itd-alliance.org/general-assembly-2025-reporting-and-elections/>.

**Online voting:** Online voting will be held from October 9-24. This is your chance to:

- Elect the new Leadership Board members, including the President. Candidate details are in the agenda papers.
- Elect the ITD Alliance's first life-time member.
- Respond to the financial report and 2025-26 budget.
- Provide feedback to the President, Executive Secretary and Leadership Board.

Voting information is in the agenda papers, along with reports on all these items.

The General Assembly meetings and voting are your opportunity to support the extensive, essential volunteer effort that underpins the ITD Alliance, to have your say and to influence the future direction of the ITD Alliance. We look forward to your participation!



## ITD Alliance events

### **Inaugural Workshop for new Working Group Project: Recognising the Contributions of Integration and Integration Experts, Online, 28 October 2025**

The inaugural workshop of the [Recognising the Contributions of Integration and Integration Experts Project \(Value Project\)](#) of the [Integration Experts and Expertise \(IEE\) Working Group](#) is open to everyone in the ITD community who is interested in exploring how the contributions of integration and integration experts could be recognised and valued.

Areas to be explored in first workshop:

- What are the current challenges in recognising the contributions of integration and integration experts?
- In which settings would more developed frameworks for assessing and articulating these contributions be most beneficial?
- What other complex assessment practices or models could inspire new frameworks in this area?
- What essential qualities should a conceptual piece from the IEE Value Project include to guide future work of the project?

**Date:** October 28, 2025

**Time:** 10:00-12:00 GMT

**Sign-up** (before 10 October, 2025): <https://doit.medfarm.uu.se/bin/kurt3/kurt/8889315>

NB: Do also use the form if you want to connect with the IEE Value Project, but are unable to attend the inaugural workshop!

## Recordings, Presentation and Report: Inaugural Workshops of the Organizational Change for ITD Working Group, 10 and 18 September 2025

The [Organizational Change for Inter- and Transdisciplinarity Working Group](#) hosted inaugural workshops on 10 and 18 September 2025. Two workshops were held to enable global participation from different time zones. The Working Group discussed the future directions, affirmative issues and key challenges related to promoting organizational change for inter- and transdisciplinarity. The participants were actively involved in co-creating plans for the future activities of the Working Group. The planning work will now be continued by the Core Group. Further events are to be announced based on these plans. 12 people participated in the first inaugural workshop. 12 people participated in the second inaugural workshop.

Recordings of the main sessions and breakout rooms (5 recordings) and presentations slides are available on the [Organizational Change for ITD web page](#).



## ITD Alliance new and renewing members

One of the goals of the ITD Alliance is to encourage and support networking among members. In this section we introduce our newest members and highlight our current members who have renewed since the 20 August 2025 News Bulletin. Thank you!

### New Institutional Members

- Systems Beings Lab (SBL) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada (<https://systemsbeingslab.ubc.ca/>)  
*Systems Beings Lab (SBL) is a collaborative research collective to facilitate and elevate various approaches to grapple with complexity. We bring process-oriented approaches to foster non-linear dynamics of un/learning, and allow space and time to explore the messes of paradoxes, contradictions, and multiple perspectives. Responding to emergent literacy practices, we – as systems beings – enact multiple ways of knowing and learning (epistemologies) coupled with how we experience and co-construct the nature of reality as beings (ontologies). We have been supporting the Collaborative Transdisciplinary PhD cohorts that build certain core competencies and mindsets that are uniquely suited and critically needed for addressing the numerous challenges of climate emergency, including energy transition. TD remains a key approach to the work in SBL and with the PhD cohorts we work with.*

### Renewing Institutional Members

- Avans University of Applied Sciences – Research Group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education, The Netherlands (<https://www.avans.nl/international/for-international-organisations/centres-of-applied-research/future-proof-education/transdisciplinary-cooperation-in-education>)  
*The research group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education of Avans University of Applied Sciences performs research on how transdisciplinary teams learn and work together. We are part of the Center of Expertise Future Proof Education. Questions we relate to are: How do participants of transdisciplinary groups in education create more knowledge together and/or contribute to the solution of a problem? Based on research, we are developing a dynamic tool. This tool helps to create, implement and deliver transdisciplinary*

education. The aimed impact of the research group is ample evidence-informed transdisciplinary educational environments.

- Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures (Urban Futures), Sweden (<https://urbanfutures.se/en>)  
*Urban Futures is a transdisciplinary arena and platform promoting collaboration, co-production and knowledge integration to realise fair, green, and accessible cities. The centre is a direct, local continuation of the work of Mistra Urban Futures (2010-2019) – an international research and knowledge centre aimed at realising just cities. It is built on a formative partnership between 4 academic and 4 public institutions, together representing the main political, administrative, regulatory, educational and research institutions in West Sweden.*
- Centre for Unusual Collaborations (CUCo), The Netherlands (<https://unusualcollaborations.com>)  
*Supporting research that brings together early and mid-career scholars with diverse profiles seeking to transcend disciplinary boundaries so as to contribute to addressing pressing challenges, in humane collaborations; Gathering and documenting knowledge on the process of inter- and transdisciplinary; Facilitating and strengthening learning processes that enhance tentacular thinking and doing among scholars from diverse backgrounds; Advocating for institutional structures that recognise and reward more nurturing, inclusive, transparent and sustainable ways for scholars to learn from and collaborate with one another.*
- Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden (<https://www.bth.se/eng/about-bth/departments/tisu/>)  
*Researchers in the department are using transdisciplinary and action research approaches, closely working with different actors. At the core of it is the Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development, FSSD (Broman, Robèrt 2017). It has been suggested that the FSSD could be useful for structuring transdisciplinary academic education and research. The department is focusing on development of methods and tools for decision-making support at different levels. The Masters in Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability (MSLS) that has been created by the department is based on collaborations with the companies and administrative units and brings not only researchers, but also practitioners into the education.*
- University of Oulu, Finland (<https://www.oulu.fi/en>)  
*The University of Oulu, founded in 1958, is one of the biggest and the most multidisciplinary universities in Finland. We respond to global challenges with multi- and interdisciplinary expertise. Global challenges steer our research, education, and cooperation. As a university with a wide range of scientific disciplines, we aspire to be an international frontrunner in multi- and interdisciplinary collaboration. We promote interdisciplinary research through our university's profile areas and multidisciplinary research centres. Our Northern handprint is global.*
- Utrecht University, The Netherlands (<https://www.uu.nl/>)  
*One of UU's central principles is Collaboration across borders. We are an international university with multidisciplinary education and research. This is a quote from Utrecht University's strategic plan 2025: "The guiding principle is to train students to be critical global citizens with an eye for the importance of open society. We offer them opportunities to gain experience in different disciplines and to complete a large portion of the specialization phase outside their own program."*

For a full list of institutional members of the ITD Alliance, visit the public [Members page](#).

## New and Renewing Individual Members

### *Asia*

- Seema Purushothaman, Azim Premji University, India

### *Europe*

- Tamara Avellán, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- James Ayers, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Timothy Bland, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Nina Bohm, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Tom Bouwmeester, Centre for Unusual Collaborations, The Netherlands\*
- Jayne Bryant, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Tobias Buser, Koforges, Switzerland
- Rebecca Carlson, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Elaine Daly, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Anke de Vrieze, Centre for Unusual Collaborations, The Netherlands\*
- Febe DeVos, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Livia Fritz, EPFL, Switzerland
- Rachael Gould, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Simon Gusman, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Anastasia Hacopian, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Sjang Hagen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Frank Hakemulder, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Tekla Maria Heinonen, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Kerstin Hemström, Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures, Sweden\*
- Lars Heuver, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Annemarie Horn, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Nina Jackson, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Mirjami Jutila, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Coco Kanters, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Renate G. Klaassen, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands\*
- Anna Krzywoszynska, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Ulrike Kuchner, Suratómica, UK
- Julie Kurris, Avans University of Applied Sciences – Research Group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education, The Netherlands\*
- Anne Kustritz, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Sze Yin Kwok, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Rianne Lambalgen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Johanna Leinonen, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Christel Lutz, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Iikka Merilainen, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Alexandra Middleton, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Toine Minnaert, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*

- Merlina Missimer, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Elina Niemitalo-Haapola, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Jessica Nooij, Avans University of Applied Sciences – Research Group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education, The Netherlands\*
- Gemma O'Sullivan, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Jessica Oudenampsen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- BinBin J. Pearce, Department of Multi-Actor Systems (MAS), Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Heidi Peuraniemi, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Joki Poel, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Merritt Polk, Centre for Sustainable Urban Futures, Sweden\*
- Giles Redding Thomson, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Ges Rosenberg, University of Bristol, Mechanical Engineering, UK
- Mehrdad Rostomi, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Anu Rytivaara, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Anne Salmi, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Jana Semrau, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany
- Fieke Sluijs, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Inge Stegeman, Centre for Unusual Collaborations, The Netherlands\*
- Jillian Student, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands
- Yanping Tian, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Bart Van der Laar, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Iris van der Tuin, Utrecht University, The Netherlands\*
- Helma van Luttikhuizen, Centre for Unusual Collaborations, The Netherlands\*
- Lara van Peppen, Avans University of Applied Sciences – Research Group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education, The Netherlands\*
- Anne van Tuijl, Avans University of Applied Sciences – Research Group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education, The Netherlands\*
- Ioana-Monica Vasile, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Lisa Wälitalo, Department of Strategic Sustainable Development, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Sweden\*
- Marca V.C. Wolfensberger, Avans University of Applied Sciences – Research Group Transdisciplinary Collaboration in Education, The Netherlands\*
- Songlin Yang, University of Oulu, Finland\*
- Ulrike Zeshan, University of Central Lancashire, School of Humanities, Language and Global Studies, UK

#### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

- Danilo Streck, Universidade de Caxias do Sul, Brazil

#### *North America*

- M. S. (Peg) AtKisson, AtKisson Training Group, LLC, USA
- Chris Brookfield, Systems Beings Lab (SBL) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada\*
- Mimi Byun, University of North Texas, USA
- Naoko Ellis, Systems Beings Lab (SBL) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada\*

- Derek Gladwin, Systems Beings Lab (SBL) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada\*
- Michele Koppes, Systems Beings Lab (SBL) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada\*
- Dai Morgan, Systems Beings Lab (SBL) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada\*
- Denise Quesnel, Simon Fraser University, Canada

#### *Oceania*

- Saskia de Klerk, Australian Centre for Pacific Island Research (UniSC), Australia

#### *Sub-Saharan Africa*

- Glory Akinteye, Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development, University of Lagos, Nigeria
- Krystle Ontong, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Carolyn Gay (Tally) Palmer, Rhodes University, Institute for Water Research, South Africa



## Member news

### Transdisciplinary Electives Program of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Transdisciplinary School shortlisted for QS Reimagine Education Awards

The [Transdisciplinary School \(TD School\)](#) of the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), an ITD Alliance institutional member, has been shortlisted for the prestigious [QS Reimagine Education Awards](#). The awards recognise the most pioneering pedagogical approaches that enhance learning outcomes, improve employability, and advance sustainability education. Over 1,600 submissions were received across 18 diverse categories in 2025. The TD School's *Catalysing Transformative Partnerships at Scale: A University-Wide Transdisciplinary Electives Program* was shortlisted for the *The Power of Partnerships* Award, which will be announced at the [Reimagine Education Conference](#) in London from 1-3 December 2025. Congratulations to all our members at the TD School!



## Member publications

We are pleased to announce four new publications by seven ITD Alliance members. The full list for late 2024 and 2025 publications is sortable and searchable on the [Member Publications](#) web page. Congratulations to our members.

**Member author(s):** Bethany Laursen, M.S. (Peg) AtKisson

**Citation:** Laursen, B. K., AtKisson, M. S., Love, H. B., & Glauber, K. M. (2025). **To advance translational science, remove these roadblocks to studying team knowledge integration.** *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*, 9(1).

<https://doi.org/10.1017/cts.2025.10137> [Open Access]

**Description:** Gaps persist in what we know about knowledge integration, especially for translational research teams. In this perspective piece, we crystallize 4 roadblocks preventing translational scientists from filling these gaps.

**Member author(s):** Ges Rosenberg

**Citation:** Newberry, P., & Rosenberg, G. (2025). *Improving Collaborative Research Practices: Insights from knowledge exchange activities with UKPRP-funded consortia and networks*. <https://doi.org/10.71706/dab67a90-a185-4b70-ae7c-310bc4afca2c> [Open Access]

**Description:** This report investigates perceptions and case studies in what comprises 'good' inter/transdisciplinary research (ITDR) and identifies recommendations for improving the effectiveness of such collaborative research projects. It sets out the common challenges and captures the innovative ways research networks and consortia have been able to operationalise their ITDR projects.

**Member author(s):** Rick Szostak

**Citation:** Szostak, R. And Smiraglia, R. (2025). *A Domain Analytic View of Interdisciplinary Studies*. *Proceedings from North American Symposium on Knowledge Organization, 10*. <https://doi.org/10.7152/nasko.v7i1.95649> [Open Access]

**Description:** We performed a domain analysis of citations and abstracts in the Encyclopedia of Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity and the Handbook of Interdisciplinary Teaching and Administration. We identified most cited authors and publications, co-citation patterns, and the most commonly employed words and phrases in the abstracts.

**Member author(s):** Jialin Zhang, Hanna Salomon, Sabine Hoffmann

**Citation:** Zhang J, Salomon H, Huber MN, Bugmann H, Dolker JE, Konig L, Krahenbuhl J, Lieberherr E, Logar I, McArdell B, Molnar P, Quatrini S, Schick V, Schlunegger F, Schmidt C, Zabel A, Hoffmann S. (2025). *Developing a conceptual framework for interdisciplinary communication, collaboration, and integration: A structured approach*. *Ambio*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02210-z> [Open Access]

**Description:** Conceptual frameworks can act as boundary objects in interdisciplinary teams, facilitating integration in contexts with incomplete knowledge, nonlinearity, and divergent interests. The paper presents a structured approach to develop such framework and applies it within a research project focused on enhancing the resilience of Swiss Alpine ecosystems.

View the [Member Publications](#) web page and submit your publication to share.



## Call for abstracts

**Call for abstracts, Biodiversity recovery through transdisciplinary environmental systems reengineering session, World Biodiversity Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 14-19 June 2026**

The fourth edition of the World Biodiversity Forum (WBF) will take place from Sunday, 14 June to Friday, 19 June 2026 in Davos, Switzerland, with over 90 sessions in 10 thematic tracks. ITD Alliance member Ndubuisi Idejiora-Kalu is convening the session "[Biodiversity recovery through transdisciplinary environmental systems reengineering](#)" and encourages

the submission of abstracts from colleagues and students. Contact Ndubuisi Idejiora-Kalu at [ndukalu@yahoo.com](mailto:ndukalu@yahoo.com).

**Call for Abstracts Deadline:** 18 November 2025

Review the [Call for Abstracts](#), including Session Programme and Submission Guidelines. [View details and submit an abstract](#) for this session.



## About this News Bulletin

This News Bulletin focuses on the activities of the ITD Alliance and its members.

Members are encouraged to engage with the community through the News Bulletin by contributing to sections of the bulletin (these do not appear in every issue):

- Consult the community – Ask questions of the community and respond to member questions to support our teaching and learning, as individuals and as a community.
- Member conferences and events – Announce inter- and transdisciplinarity related events hosted by you or your institution.
- Member news – Share news of inter- and transdisciplinarity related reports on activities, awards you have received or other good news.

We also welcome contributions that may interest members such as:

- Opportunities for consulting or employment, grants and prizes or visiting fellowships
- Policy news in education, funding and research
- Conference calls and reports
- Journal calls for submissions to special issues related to inter- and transdisciplinarity.

Please send contributions to Caryn Anderson ([caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org](mailto:caryn.anderson@itd-alliance.org)) at least a week before you would like to see them published. We aim to publish every two weeks, but the day may vary.

The News Bulletin is sent to all members of the ITD Alliance and to interested colleagues who have joined the mailing list at <https://itd-alliance.org/newsletter>. To be sure News Bulletins don't end up in a spam folder, add [info@itd-alliance.org](mailto:info@itd-alliance.org) to your contacts list. Feel free to share the News Bulletin with anyone who may be interested.

Explore past newsletters on our website: <https://itd-alliance.org/newsletter/>.