



ITD Alliance

Global Alliance for
Inter- and Transdisciplinarity

News Bulletin
16 September 2025

Dear ITD Alliance Members and Colleagues,

This News Bulletin includes:

- Information about September-October ITD Alliance General Assembly.
- Leadership Board News.
- ITD Alliance Events:
 - Inaugural Workshop: Recognising the Contributions of Integration and Integration Experts, Online, 28 October 2025.
- Working Group News:
 - New Projects and Leaders for the Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group.
- Member Conference News:
 - Call for proposals: European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) conference 2026, 3-6 March 2026, Oulu, Finland.
- Member Course:
 - Online International Winter School on Sustainable Development for Bachelor's and Master's Students, University of Bern, 2 December 2025 and 26-30 January 2026, Bern, Switzerland.
- Member Publications: 4 publications, 11 members.
- 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.



Information about September-October ITD Alliance General Assembly

The September-October General Assembly, which focuses on membership and elections, is imminent (details are available at <https://itd-alliance.org/general-assembly-2025-reporting-and-elections/>). It has three components:

- the agenda papers, which will be mailed out later this week

- the two online meetings which will be held on October 9 and 10
- voting which will open at the end of the General Assembly meeting on October 9 and close on October 24.

The written and verbal reports provide an opportunity to review, acknowledge and celebrate the extensive voluntary work by the Leadership Board, working group co-ordinators and others who are so central to the ITD Alliance achievements as a global hub for inter- and transdisciplinarity. They also highlight the essential contribution of the Executive Secretary to providing a solid administrative base for much of the volunteer work.

Members will have an opportunity to vote on:

- the financial report and 2025-26 budget. While the financial situation of the ITD Alliance has substantially improved, there is still not enough funding for all the activities that a well-functioning Alliance needs.
- reports of the President, Executive Secretary and Leadership Board. These are an opportunity to provide feedback.
- the ITD Alliance's first life-time member.
- the election of the President. Although there is only one candidate, at least 50% support is required.
- the election of 6 members to the Leadership Board, with three places reserved for members from the Global South. There are 11 candidates, 6 of whom are from the Global South.

The General Assembly meetings and voting are your opportunity to have your say and influence the future direction of the ITD Alliance. We look forward to hearing from you!



Leadership Board News

The Leadership Board meetings on September 11 and 12 were the last meetings for this configuration of the Leadership Board. The terms of six Leadership Board members will end in October. Three are standing for re-election (Steve Fiore, Alexandra Lux and Basirat Oyalowo). Three will step down (Maria Perevochtchikova, Mariana Pereyra and Ulli Vilsmaier) and we thank them very much for their contributions. Ulli Vilsmaier deserves a particular mention and thanks. She was involved in the original (2017) conversations that led to founding the ITD Alliance, and since then has worked tirelessly to help build the ITD Alliance, actively contributing to many aspects and especially championing diversity and recruitment of members from the Global South. She will be sorely missed on the Leadership Board.

Since the last report in the 24 June News Bulletin, the Leadership Board has continued to meet every month, split across two meetings covering different time zones, allowing everyone to attend at a reasonably convenient time. Meetings have dealt with a range of issues, including:

- Implementation of bylaw changes and clarifications, as well as procedural changes, from the June-July General Assembly
- Preparation for the September-October General Assembly
- Recording [ITD Alliance achievements](#) on the website, along with a list of [publications about the ITD Alliance](#)

- A change in procedure for approving new institutional members, which is now done by the Executive Committee, unless the proposal would benefit from wider discussion
- Input into the planning of the ITD27 conference
- A process for developing a series of short videos for the ITD Alliance website on different ways of thinking about, and terminologies for, inter- and transdisciplinary research and practice, with Ulli Vilsmaier kicking off the series
- Approval to establish a “President’s Committee on the Global Advancement of Inter- and Transdisciplinarity” (more information to come in a future news bulletin).

The September meeting concluded with reflections from Leadership Board members on the functioning of the Leadership Board, with particular appreciation expressed for the organisational and cultural transformations achieved; volume of work undertaken, including on the bylaws; the structure of the meetings, which allows them to be as productive as possible; the warmth, richness and value of the interactions and networking, and especially the benefits of diversity; and the opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways, including to the growth of the ITD Alliance.



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!



Working Group news

New Projects and Leaders for the Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group

Motivated by productive events during the ITD24 conference in Utrecht, the ITD Alliance Integration Experts and Expertise Working Group is now focused on three concrete output-oriented projects led by new co-leaders and a fourth project in formation. See the [Integration Experts and Expertise web page](#) for details on the projects and how to get involved.

- **Integration Tools:** Study integration tools and toolkits that support integration experts and that they should know about (Co-Leads: Monique Arkesteijn, Bethany Laursen)
- **Recognising the Contributions of Integration and Integration Experts:** Assess and articulate the contributions of integration expertise (Co-Leads: Claes-Fredrik Helgesson, Helena Grönqvist, Giedre Kligyte)
- **Learning, Teaching and Training on Integration:** Examine, create and document (academic and extra-academic) learning, teaching and training on integration (Co-Leads: Gemma O'Sullivan, Simon Scott)
- **Topography of Roles of and for Integration in and outside Academia:** Develop a topography of roles of, and competencies for, integration (Co-Leads: in discussion)

Thank you to all the new co-leaders for leading these new projects. And many thanks to Sabine Hoffmann, Christian Pohl, and Bianca Vienni Baptista for their previous leadership.



Member conference news

Call for proposals: European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) conference 2026, 'Citizen Science between Centre and Periphery', 3-6 March 2026, Oulu, Finland

[European Citizen Science Association \(ECSA\) conference 2026](#) will be hosted by the University of Oulu, an ITD Alliance institutional member, in March 2026. ECSA's main goals are to increase the democratisation of science, encourage the growth of citizen science in Europe, and support the participation of the general public in research processes – across the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts.

The Call for Papers, Contributions, Posters and Showcase Pitches is open until October 7, 2025. The theme of the 2026 conference is *Citizen Science between Centre and Periphery*. This [theme](#) explores the diversity of contexts in which citizen science unfolds, from urban metropolitan hubs to remote northern and southern spaces. It explores citizen science's vital connections to sustainability, culture, history, political and legal systems, resources, public health and more.

Deadline: 7 October 2025

Call details and submission instructions: <https://www.ecsa2026.ngo/cfp/>



Member course

Online International Winter School on Sustainable Development for Bachelor's and Master's Students, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, 2 December 2025 and 26-30 January 2026, Bern, Switzerland

Current global sustainability challenges are increasingly complex. Truly understanding what's at stake requires knowledge on systemic interactions and on competing claims by different actors. Science has a major role to play in informing negotiations and solutions to guide the societal transformations. The [Online International Winter School on Sustainable Development for Bachelor's and Master's Students](#) kicks off on 2 December 2025 with preparatory tasks and activities. The main programme will take place from 26 to 31 January 2026.

Deadline for applications: 15 October 2025

[Application details](#)



Member publications

We are pleased to announce four new publications by eleven 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): Alex Baumber, Giedre Kligyte, Susanne Pratt

Citation: Kligyte, G., Pratt, S., van der Bijl-Brouwer, M., & Baumber, A. (2025). Educating for societal transitions. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 44(6), 1315–1329. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2025.2538988>

Description: [Editorial] This special issue explores how higher education can contribute to societal transitions. The editorial outlines conceptual foundations and signals of systemic change in universities: mutual transformation through real-world engagement, shifts in learning and teaching practices, and paradigm-challenging approaches. Among other themes, it highlights transdisciplinary approaches that connect universities with communities, embrace complexity and uncertainty, and broaden knowledge systems to support societal shifts toward inclusive, sustainable, and just futures.

Member author(s): Lucy Allen, Barbara Doran, Giedre Kligyte, Bem Le Hunte, Jacqueline Melvold, Susanne Pratt

Citation: Allen, L., Pratt, S., Le Hunte, B., Kligyte, G., Melvold, J., Doran, B., & Ross, K. (2025). Embodied learning for wicked problems and societal transitions: perspectives from transdisciplinary higher education practitioners. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 44(6), 1462–1479. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2025.2514514>

Description: Educators are increasingly drawn to embodied approaches in transdisciplinary education to prepare students for wicked problems and societal transitions. Through autoethnographic analysis, a group of Australian educators identify four embodied practice dimensions: transdisciplinary sensemaking, emotion-driven creativity, empathetic enactment, and embodied boundary-spanning. Supporting the integration of felt experiences with analytical thinking, these approaches enable students

to address complex societal challenges and develop the necessary boundary-spanning capabilities.

Member author(s): Nina Bohm, Renate Klaassen

Citation: Bohm, N. L., Klaassen, R. G., den Brok, P., & van Bueren, E. (2025). Adaptive guidance for uncertainty: how teachers use scaffolding in transdisciplinary courses. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 44(6), 1444–1461.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2025.2514513>

Description: This study explores how teachers guide students through uncertainty in a 16-week transdisciplinary “Living Lab” course. Using reflective questionnaires and focus groups, it reveals the scaffolding strategies that teachers use to support students through the uncertainties of working on societal transitions. Findings also highlight the challenges for teachers in diagnostics, grounding, and clarity, offering insights to strengthen teaching in a transdisciplinary learning environment.

Member author(s): Giedre Kligyte, Annabelle Lewis, Jacqueline Melvold, Fanny Salignac

Citation: Lewis, A., Kligyte, G., Melvold, J., & Salignac, F. (2025). Future-oriented capabilities impact framework: measuring transdisciplinary higher education programmes’ contribution to societal transitions. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 44(6), 1497–1511. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2025.2514511>

Description: Given universities’ critical role in facilitating societal transitions, more meaningful performance measures than graduate employment or satisfaction are needed. The paper proposes a practical framework to evaluate the direct and indirect outcomes of programmes that develop transdisciplinary future-oriented capabilities. It thus prompts educators to measure their impact beyond university boundaries.

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



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) 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 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/>.