



## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

### The 5<sup>th</sup> Responsible Management Education Research Conference:

### Leadership Development for Advancing the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

12-13 NOVEMBER, 2018

Center for Advanced Sustainable Management at Cologne Business School  
Cologne, Germany

The PRME Regional Chapter, DACH and the Center for Advanced Sustainable Management at Cologne Business School, Germany, in collaboration with PRME Secretariat, and PRME Anti-poverty Working Group, are pleased to announce the **5<sup>th</sup> Responsible Management Education Research Conference**.

The conference will be held on 12-13 November in Cologne, Germany in conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> PRME Chapter DACH (12 November) and 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainability and Responsibility (14-15 November) to which PRME is invited to contribute. All information is also available online at <https://www.international-csr.org/prme-research-conference/>

The conference general theme is:

***“Leadership Development for Advancing the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”***.

In their call for systemic changes in business and management education to accelerate progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to sensitize future business leaders to values like sustainability and responsibility, the United Nations Global Compact and Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) emphasize that business schools and management development institutions should play a key role in shaping the skills and mindsets of future leaders, and act as powerful drivers of corporate sustainability.

To be able to respond to the challenge and contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Global Goals, business schools must change the way they teach about business and leadership, and more systematically incorporate values like sustainability, ethics and responsibility into their teaching, research, stakeholder collaboration and campus leadership.

In this context, conference's goals include the following:

- Achieving a better understanding of the complexity, interconnectedness and multidimensional nature of the 17 SDGs and the respective 169 targets, with a general aim of moving from the predominantly discipline/silo focused management research and education towards a holistic and SDG related leadership development approaches and practices
- Understanding the related challenges, while also identifying new opportunities and sharing best practices in developing leadership capabilities for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Global Goals
- Establishing common ground for businesses, management education, policy makers, NGOs, youth, media, publishers, international organizations, associations and networks, and other stakeholders to create new and/or extend their already existing partnerships and dialogue through a better informed communication and collaboration.

Building on the four previous Responsible Management Education Research (RMER) Conferences held in Chur Switzerland (October 2014), Cairo, Egypt (September 2015), Krems, Austria (November 2016) and Curitiba, Brazil (September 2017), the aim of this year's 5<sup>th</sup> RMER Conference is to foster knowledge exchange and networking opportunities by connecting a wide array of hitherto rather loosely coupled communities. While not being exhaustive, these will encompass emerging as well as established PRME chapters, working groups, and other entities in the PRME community (both signatories and non-signatories), and UN Global Compact with key regional stakeholders, and the wider audience of educators and representatives of universities, students, business, government, media, and civil society organizations eager to advance and integrate their understanding, knowledge and skills related to responsible leadership and sustainable development into their respective professional efforts.

The conference invites contributions to research sessions, interactive panels and roundtable discussions as well as poster sessions and demonstrations on various aspects related to the advancement of the SDGs and the respective roles that the key stakeholders could and should play in making leadership development relevant and impactful on business practice, management research and education, and the economic and social transformation and change at large.

The conference will provide a forum for a truly global discussion that can help also in fostering collaboration, partnerships, and dialogue related to the role of research, management education and leadership development in the advancement of the implementation of the SDGs locally, nationally and globally.

## CONFERENCE TOPICS

Suggested topics for submission under the overarching conference general theme include, but are not limited to:

- SDGs as drivers for innovation and sustainable solutions
- Key leadership capabilities for the implementation of the SDGs and the related leadership development challenges and opportunities
- Theoretical research to improve our understanding of the responsible leadership for the advancement of the SDGs
- Applied research aimed at creating solutions and direct impact
- Specific challenges, solutions and opportunities in different socio-economic contexts
- Aligning curricula and research to create impact on leadership development for the advancement of the SDGs
- SDGs and leadership development related research as an opportunity to engage students
- SDGs and leadership development through the eyes, needs and expectations of the Millennials
- Executive education and leadership development for the advancement of the SDGs
- Leadership development to support entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship and the advancement of SDGs
- Leadership development and management education to support public institutions and administration in advancing SDGs
- Leadership development and the ICT for the SDGs
- Cross-cutting SDG: Implications for management research and leadership development
- Partnerships and dialogue to facilitate and foster responsible leadership development and the advancement of the SDGs
- Knowledge sharing and publishing
- Teaching and learning methodology that enables a whole person learning

## WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

There are two ways to contribute to the design and content of the conference:

- (i) To submit, promote and organize *conference tracks and session proposals* of special interest
- (ii) To submit *direct contributions* (papers, extended abstracts, work in progress, research proposals, etc.) to specific conference tracks/sessions and/or related to the conference general theme

The review process, as described below, will be accorded with the overall Conference Concept and Format.

## CONFERENCE CONCEPT AND FORMAT

The conference will be a 1,5-day event with a well-balanced combination of plenary sessions, interactive panel and roundtable discussions, posters and parallel sessions. Parallel sessions will be held in 90-minute blocks, while the conference program should accommodate minimum 4-6 conference tracks.

The general frame and concept of the conference will therefore include:

- A couple of **plenary sessions** (proposed by the organizers) to address the key issues related to the role of management research and leadership development in the promotion and implementation of responsible management education and the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals
- One or two **panels and/or roundtable discussions** with invited speakers on behalf of major stakeholders (proposed by the organizers and/or selected through the proposal submission and approval process)
- A **poster session** to accommodate an active participation of students and youth
- **Parallel sessions/conference tracks** proposed by different stakeholders, as described below, will be based on the research contributions submitted and approved through the Call for Contributions and the respective review process.
- **Open engagement sessions** formats such as world café and a hackathon will be considered

The conference tracks/parallel sessions, as well as interactive panel and roundtable discussions, will be based on (a) proposals received by PRME Working Groups, entities and streams, (b) proposals received by other conference co-organizers, and (c) research community in general, which all will be approved by the Conference Program Committee. The conference program design will ensure the overall coherence as well as openness to innovative proposals, including the main conference topics, by warmly welcoming an active participation and innovative proposals from PRME community, research community in general, and other stakeholders from different parts of the world.

1. **Theoretical and applied research papers and other contributions** whose purpose is to advance our understanding of the SDG related issues, both global and contextual, and the impact of management research and education on the advancement of the SDGs through sustainable business practice and responsible management education and leadership development
2. **Interactive panel discussions** are panels, interviews or debates that bring together practitioners from the field and educators to openly introduce and discuss proven strategies and innovations, as well as challenges and opportunities for leadership development aimed at advancing of the implementation of the SDGs
3. **Round table discussions** are means to further explore and/or expand the issues and bring in additional individual and organizational/institutional insights, experiences and lessons learned
4. **Conference poster sessions** that will cover work-in-progress and showcasing projects on responsible leadership and the advancement of the implementation of the SDGs. Undergraduate students are encouraged to apply.
5. **Open engagement sessions** that encourage creative and collaborative forms of engagement such as speakers corner, world café, Hackatons or working lunch.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

**Conference tracks and session proposals:** To be considered for review the submission should include a one page summary of the following:

- A clear title related to the conference general theme and its topics as outlined in the call
- A background summary of the problem, challenge or opportunity
- Name, affiliation, bio and email address of the track/session proponent(s)
- Target groups that are interested in the subject and will be invited/mobilized to contribute

The review process will be run by the conference Program Committee, who will also suggest the respective format and schedule for the accepted tracks/session.

**Interactive Panel/Roundtable Discussions:** To be considered for review, a panel/roundtable discussion proposal should include a one page summary of the following:

- A clear title related to the conference general theme and its topics as outlined in the call
- A background summary of the problem, challenge or opportunity
- Name, affiliation, bio and email address of the Panel Session Leader
- Names, affiliations of the proposed Panel Speakers

The review process will be run by the conference Program Committee, who will also suggest the respective format and schedule for the accepted panel discussions.

**Theoretical and applied research papers:** abstracts, extended abstracts, working papers and/or work in progress in English. To be considered for review the submissions must include:

- A clear title related to the conference general theme and its topics as outlined in the call
- A clear statement of the background and research objective/s
- A short account of the contribution to the field, research design, preliminary conclusions.
- Three to five keywords

The review process will be run by the conference track/session proponents and chairs, who will also suggest the respective presentation format for the accepted contributions.

**Poster Sessions:** To be considered for review in the poster session track a one page summary of the following should be included:

- A clear title related to the conference general theme and its topics as outlined in the call for papers
- A background summary of the problem, challenge or opportunity
- A short account of the contribution to the field, and design

The review process will be run by the conference Program Committee, who will also suggest the respective format and schedule for the poster session.

**Open Engagement Sessions:** To be considered for review in the break out sessions a one page summary of the following should be included:

- A clear title related to the conference general theme and its topics as outlined in the call for papers
- A background summary of the problem, challenge or opportunity
- A short outline of the methodology and aim of the session
- Proposed number of participants

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

- 24 March 2018 for submitting PRME group organized conference session and panel proposals
- 20 April 2018 notification of PRME group organized conference session and panel acceptance
- 31 May 2018 deadline for submitting research inputs (abstracts, working papers, work in progress)
- 2 July 2018 notification of acceptance of research inputs
- 17 October 2018 deadline for final papers, presentations and videos

Please submit your contributions at <https://www.international-csr.org/prme-research-conference/>  
Submission starts 5. March 2018

### **CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE:**

- Milenko Gudić, Conference Program Committee Co-chair, PRM Anti-poverty Working Group Co-chair
- Nikolay Ivanov, Coordinator, PRME Secretariat, Responsible for coordinating PRME Champions and Working Groups
- Monika Kolb, Conference Organizer, Conference Program Committee Co-chair, Center for Advanced Sustainable Management, Cologne Business School, Germany
- Lutz Schlange, Conference Program Committee Co-chair, PRME Regional Chapter DACH Speaker
- Rene Schmidpeter, Conference Organizer, Conference Program Committee Co-chair, Center for Advanced Sustainable Management, Cologne Business School, Germany

**VENUE:**

**MONDAY, 12. NOVEMBER**

**Cologne Business School**

Hardefuststr. 1  
50677 Cologne  
Germany

**TUESDAY, 13. NOVEMBER**

**Flora**

Am Botanischen Garten 1a  
50735 Cologne  
Germany

**REGISTRATION:**

The conference is open to the public, but space is limited and registration is required. A registration fee of Euro 290 is applied. Registration deadline for presenters is the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Registration can be done online: <https://www.international-csr.org/prme-research-conference/>

**QUESTIONS:**

For questions, please contact the Conference Secretariat at the following email:

Monika Kolb

[conference2018@cbs.de](mailto:conference2018@cbs.de)