Sustainable Places Research Institute (PLACE) is pleased to host the fifth training programme as part of the Marie Curie ITN project SUSPLACE.

With its interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary academics and internationally significant affiliates’ network, PLACE has wide experience of research and policy training and networking in sustainability science and place-making.

The SUSPLACE project is an institutional collaboration between seven European countries involving universities, research institutions, consultants, advisors, NGOs, SMEs, socio-cultural organisations and civil society together with 15 early stage researchers (ESR). The ITN’s primary objective is to develop innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to study and enhance policy and practice in sustainable place-making. PLACE is collaborating with Cardiff University, Welsh Government and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in organising and running this programme.
This training programme relates to the SUSPLACE ambitions of addressing societal challenges by contributing to the contested transitions for sustainable and inclusive development, promoting social innovation, place-based approaches, and enhancing spatial integration and social cohesion. This programme is agenda-setting in the sense that it aims to develop a critical approach to academic, policy and practice engagement bringing together a set of theoretical and analytical skills in sustainability science.

More specifically there are three key objectives/questions which all participants will address throughout the programme.

These are:

1. **What is the current state-of-the-art in the fields allied to the sustainability science, and what are some of the key recent path-breaking avenues of development?**

2. **How are the 15 individual ESR projects progressing and contributing to these avenues of development in terms of sustainable place-shaping?**

3. **What have we learnt so far, and how our collective knowledge contributes to advance the science of sustainability?**

We have also invited a range of key stakeholders and leaders in their respective fields including internationally renowned scholars, policy makers, practitioners, entrepreneurs, civil servants, community representatives and activists. Over a period of two weeks there will be a variety of interactive knowledge exchange events including hands-on lectures, seminars, discussions, workshops, fieldtrips etc. with a focus on new developments conceptualising, analysing and co-designing actions and steps to progress research, policy and practice in accordance with community needs and to identify ways to shape and design sustainable places.
Training programme

The training programme is designed to cater for the needs of young researchers to develop and share their intellectual skills and research, manage the everyday challenges, and obtain experience of research, policy and practice in action. The weeks are divided into two modules (of one ECTS credit each), as below:

Advanced Skills module (AS3) – Sustainability Science and Place-shaping

Key Speakers: Terry Marsden, Susan Baker, Francesca Farioli, Andrew Middleton, Chris Blake

This module will introduce the participants to the state-of-the-art in sustainability science research and place shaping whilst critically reviewing progress over the past decade in this interdisciplinary field. It will address the key challenges in sustainability thinking, participation and co-production. The participants will have a chance to meet Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. Fieldtrip to Brecon Beacons National Park will be arranged at the end of the week.

Advanced Skills module (AS4) – Spatial Development in Science, Policy and Society

Key speakers: Katherine Gibson, Bob Jessop, Gillian Bristow, Kevin Morgan, Mark Lang, David Rosser (Welsh Government), Ceri Davies (Natural Resource Wales), Matthew Quinn, Simon Johnson, Fern Smith

This module will assimilate the science, policy and society interface for sustainable spatial development with prominent academics, policy makers and practitioners in the field. It will address the key challenges in sustainability thinking, participation and co-production. The participants will have a chance to meet Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. Fieldtrip to Brecon Beacons National Park will be arranged at the end of the week.

Keep In Touch

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