SUSPLACE is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Innovative Training Network funded by the European Commission, to train Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to study sustainable place-shaping practices.

The network provides training in scientific and professional skills to enable ESRs to pursue academic or high-professional careers at various institutions such as governments, NGOs, consultancies and businesses.

SUSPLACE brings together six universities and seven non-academic partners in seven European countries: The Netherlands, United Kingdom (Wales), Latvia, Lithuania, Belgium, Finland and Portugal. The SUSPLACE approach provides insight into how to utilize the full potential of places and communities for development and help to build capacities of people to engage in place-shaping processes and thus strengthen connectivity between policy-makers, academics, businesses and civil society.

The Sustainable Places Research Institute is hosting three ESRs in Cardiff in order to support the development of research and expertise in three specific areas:

- **Place Ambassadors**: exploring the role of private sector businesses in supporting sustainable place-shaping through their enrolment in formal ‘place ambassador’ schemes.

- **Connected Learning Spaces**: exploring the learning landscapes of higher education for sustainable development (HESD) by studying student perceptions and practices of sustainable place-shaping and students’ learning experiences within the broad area of sustainability.

- **Sustainable City Regions**: promoting a better understanding of the relationship between the different sustainability pillars at a regional scale.

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