



## Introductory note

The Sustainable Development Symposium (SDS) is an event geared mainly toward young researchers. It is an important annual conference organised in Europe, since 2011.

During these last four years, the Symposium has been building a unique platform for the discussion of such an important topic as this of the Sustainable Development. The Trinity College, of the University of Dublin (Ireland), was responsible for the first call; in the following years it was held at the Institute for Process and Particle Engineering, Graz University of Technology (Austria), at the Parthenope University of Naples (Italy) and in 2014 it was organised by the Faculty of Economics and Business of the Pan European University, in Bratislava (Slovakia).

The Faculty of Architecture and the Institute of Social and Political Sciences, both academic institutions of the University of Lisbon, was pleased to host the fifth edition of the Symposium, in Portugal, from the 15th to 17th of June 2015.

The aim of the SDS 2015 was to gather young researchers and academics from European Universities from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds (e.g., Architecture, Urban Planning, Technologies, Social Sciences, Engineering, etc.) who are devoted to build a more sustainable development, and so, to create a better and a more friendly environment for the present and for the coming generations.

At the end, the authors present at this event have come not only from Europe. They were from Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Check Republic, China, Germany, Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey.

Over three days stay, in Lisbon, it was an important opportunity to share and to discuss one's perception and achievements. Another goal of

this meeting was to create a research network for further synergies.

Among the proposed themes for the SDS2015 (<http://sdsymposium2015lisbon.weebly.com/aim--topics.html>), the presentations covered aspects mainly related to Architecture, Urbanism, Design, Natural Resources Management and Policies and Practices towards Sustainability were presented by architects, urbanists, designers, engineers (civil, chemical and materials), geographers, sociologists, economists, geologists, climatologists, environmentalists.

And thus, they were organized in twelve sessions: architecture & sustainability (2 sessions), architecture & sustainability, contribution of cultural & economic activities for sustainability, energy technologies & policies for a sustainable development, economic activities based on sustainable practices, methodologies for assessing sustainability, practices for a social sustainability, policies & practices on natural resources management (2 sessions), policies & practices on land planning & management, renewable energies, sustainable design (2 sessions), urban sustainable design & planning.

Apart from these theme sessions there was 3 conferences by invited keynote speakers: Eveline Durieux, from the LIFE Communication Team of the European Association for Information on Local Development (AEIDL), based in Brussels (Belgium), Alan Belward, the head of the Land Resource Management Unit, in the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, based in Ispra (Italy) and Martin Dolinsky, an economist and professor at Pan-European University, Bratislava (Slovakia).

*E. Freire (SDS 2015 Coord.) & J.L. Crespo*