



17th IRDO International Conference
SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY 2022:
Green, digital and inclusive transition:
how to make it happen?

DRUŽBENO ODGOVORNA DRUŽBA 2022:
Zeleni, digitalni in vključujoči prehod: kako ga izpeljati?
2–3 June 2022
Maribor, Slovenia, European Union
ONLINE

A part of **The Conference SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY 2022** is also the
2nd IRDO & Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia conference.



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**Conclusions of two conferences on
Social Responsibility & Sustainability.**
More at www.irdo.si !

Conference venue:
ONLINE (Zoom)
Official language: English

Organiser Info:

IRDO – Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility
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Maribor and Ljubljana, 8th June 2022



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Green, digital, and inclusive transition for socially responsible society

More than 70 authors with 36 papers from more than 10 countries have co-created 17th IRDO International Conference online on 2-3 June 2022.

(8th June 2022 - Maribor, Slovenia) The 17th IRDO International Conference “SOCIALY RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY 2022: Green, digital, and inclusive transition: how to make it happen?” has been held on 2 - 3 June 2022, online. Conference was also the 2nd IRDO & Citizens’ Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia Conference. More than 100 participants, 70 authors with 36 papers from more than 10 countries have co-created this conference. The European Business Network for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility (CSR Europe) was honorary sponsor of the conference. Organizers were IRDO - Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility, University of Maribor, Slovenia, Slovenian Society for Systemic Research (SdSr) and Citizens’ Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia. This event was an official Partner Event of the EU Green Week (30 May to 5 June 2022). In 2022 - the European Year of Youth organizers decided to support young Ukrainian musicians in Slovenia with donations among conference participants.

The main purpose of the conference was to explore conceptual framework(s), conditions and possibilities for a green, digital and inclusive transition that enables the development of a common sustainable future, in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its [17 SDGs](#). A precondition for sustainable coexistence is socially responsible behaviour of each stakeholder in the community (local, national, global). Without broad environmental and social responsibility, there is no survival of humanity. Social responsibility is a tool for achieving a sustainable future, connecting and integrating several other mechanisms. Sustainability is increasingly regarded as a process of societal and inclusive transitions. It makes social responsibility a crucial practice, needed in the entire society.

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The IRDO 2022 conference emphasis was on the implementation of a green, digital and inclusive transition as embraced by the [European Green Deal \(EGD\)](#) and other EU priorities and policies, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility/Plans. The EGD puts sustainability and, therefore, social responsibility at the heart of the EU policy-making, reflecting the need for systemic change.

This event was **an official Partner Event of the EU Green Week (30 May to 5 June 2022)**. The year **2022 is also the European Year of Youth**, so organizers of the IRDO 2022 international conference have decided to take this opportunity to help young Ukrainian musicians in Slovenia. On behalf of young musicians, the SMO Institute, the Gallus Foundation and the Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility, invite participants of the conference to help young Ukrainian musicians in Slovenia. Anyone who would like to make a donation can do so as soon as possible on the account of the SMO Institute.

Supporting partners of the IRDO International Conference were: World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics (WOSC), International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences (IASCYS), Pau, France, European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Salzburg, Bertalanffy Center



for the Study of Systems Science (BCSSS), International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR), Center of Risk & Crises Management (CRC), Vienna, Austria, COPERNICUS Alliance – European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development, CSR Europe, Danube University Krems, Austria, Slovenian Association for Quality and Excellence, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska, Slovenia, Association of Employers of Slovenia, Managers' Association of Slovenia, Network for Social Responsibility of Slovenia, Association Social Responsibility Academy, Gallus Foundation.

Co-financer was Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. Sponsors are: Nova KBM d. d., Pošta Slovenije d.o.o., Medis-M d.o.o., Prohit d.o.o., Press Clipping d.o.o..

So far, over 1.500 authors from all over the world have participated in the previous 16 IRDO conferences. More you can see at <https://www.irdo.si/en/irdo-conference/>. #

CONCLUSIONS of 2-days conference:

In English:

In November 2021, at the 26th UN Conference on the Endangerment of its own existence, humanity publicly acknowledged that it urgently needs the modernization of its mentality, values, culture, ethics, norms and customs to survive. It must promote an innovative, sustainable and socially responsible society, not just socially responsible organizations, much less just large companies. These days, the IRDO Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility contributed to it the findings and proposals of 70 authors from more than 10 countries from 4 continents at the 17th IRDO International Conference. The common denominator chosen this time is the question of how to make the world greener, digital and inclusive. Answer to it: the presented contributions and examples show that this is not only necessary, but also feasible and often implemented; examples are worth emulating. We humans influence as individuals - customers and associates and citizens, as organizations, local, national and international authorities, researchers and educators that responsibility for social impact, interdependence and integrity prevail as components of normal quality of business and life. We enclose excerpts from several papers.

V slovenščini:

Človeštvo je novembra 2021 javno priznalo na že 26. konferenci OZN o ogrožanju svojega obstoja, da za svoj obstoj nujno potrebuje posodobitev miselnosti, vrednot, kulture, etike, norm in navad. Uveljaviti mora inovativno, trajnostno in družbeno odgovorno družbo, ne le družbeno odgovornih organizacij, še manj samo velikih podjetij. IRDO - Inštitut za razvoj družbene odgovornosti je te dni k temu prispeval spoznanja in predloge 70 avtorjev iz več kot 10 držav s 4 celin na 17. mednarodni konferenci. Tokrat izbrani skupni imenovalec je vprašanje, kako naj svet postane bolj zelen, digitalen in vključevalen. Odgovor nanj: prikazani prispevki in primeri kažejo, da to ni le nujno, ampak tudi izvedljivo in večje izvedeno; zgledi so vredni posnemanja. Vplivamo kot posamezniki – odjemalci in sodelavci in občani, kot organizacije, oblastni organi na lokalni, državni in mednarodni ravni, raziskovalci in izobraževalci, da odgovornost za vplive na družbo, soodvisnost in celovitost prevladajo kot sestavine normalne kakovosti poslovanja in življenja. Prilagamo izvlečke iz več prispevkov.

Some highlights from author papers & presentations at the conference:

1st Day of the conference (2nd June 2022): Green, digital, and inclusive transition: how to make it happen?

- The main reason for implementing social responsibility measures turned out to be the fact that social responsibility strengthens the culture and reputation of the company/organization as an employer. (Alenka Jakomin)
- Ethically correct and feasible data sharing negotiation protocols would deliver an important step toward a digital, socially responsible society. (Igor Perko, Žan Domanjko)
- Each professional should give up full autonomy for decisions in his/her field and take part in the responsibility for compliance with other parts of a requisitely holistic solution. To be able to do this, each profession should not base its knowledge exclusively on its own subsystem but should upgrade it with an understanding of the function of its subsystem in a bigger system. (Marko Kiauta, Tugo Borina)
- Corporate reporting should include current implementation levels of a voluntary commitment, map key Human Rights topics as identified by companies and provide insight into corporate practices. The analysis could assist in monitoring trends and identifying any measures needed to address and monitor human rights in business more effectively. (Lucija Glavič, Maruša Babnik)
- Public employees have a specific role in processes of wealth creation by informatization in the context of social partnership. (Mihael Sket)
- Accounting and management in accountancy are directed to most important information from social responsibility point of view: the value added. (Živko Bergant)
- Fundamental change (metanoia) required by current environmental and climate challenges will not be possible without expanding the realization that we live in the more-than-human world. The monograph *Eco, zeleno, modro, trajnostno v humanistiki* (Eco, Green, Blue, Sustainable in the Humanities) addresses these humanistic issues that can help make the necessary steps towards “our” (i.e., equally of humans, animals, plants, air, water, and soil) common environment bolder and more determined. It is the first work in Slovene that systematically deals with issues of environmental humanities in its wide field, and at the same time calls for new reflections. (Ignac Navernik)
- Systemic exclusion can be overcome with public statements, as for instance with Wall art, presented in video *Changing the World, One Wall at a Time* at the conference. (Saleem Vaillancourt, Maziar Bahari et al)
- We can confirm that reflexive responsibility is an important concept in considering society complying with the demands of Industry 5.0 - as meta-reflexivity is a crucial factor of socially and environmentally responsible behaviour. (Tea Golob)
- The proposed framework has to boil down into a viable technology that tentatively materializes the cybernetics of Hybrid Reality under constructivistic approach. There enters the holon concept into societal-AI research, mostly because we have still to fully understand what we are not, and what we should not. (Massimiliano Pirani)
- Key stakeholders identified by companies in practice are similar to those determined by different theoretical frameworks (in a research). Some companies seem to include key stakeholders in their reporting, but they do not describe their communication and results

in detail. This could lead to the potential threat that some companies do not have appropriate communication channels established with their key stakeholders, but still they include it in their reporting. (Matic Čufar)

2nd Day of the conference (2nd June 2022): New knowledge on environmental challenges and action for a green transition

- In times when global, mutually reinforcing challenges are becoming increasingly more severe and threatening, ambitious goals and agendas for sustainability transitions of the European Union are supported by the powerful new knowledge base with ecosystem approach, system innovations, systemic approach to policy and assessment. (Introduction)
- The future is predictable – we know the human needs (food, shelter, clothes, mobility), and the Earth regeneration ability, biocapacity (photosynthesis). Humanity average demand is 73 % higher than the Earth regeneration ability, and it is increasing very fast. We must reduce our ecological and carbon footprints to the regeneration ability of the one Earth. The resource-constrained future is arriving faster than cities, companies or countries are meaningfully preparing themselves for it. Acting swiftly is essential – those who hesitate with their transition are exposed to far larger risks. (Wackernagel)
- Humanity has already overshoot the limits that define a safe operating space for four out of nine planetary boundaries: biosphere integrity, climate change, land system change, and biogeochemical flows. Footprints complement planetary boundaries and directly link to economic parameters. Both concepts are linked to the Human Development Index and doughnut economics. Together they can provide decision-makers with accurate, relevant, and empowering information making sustainable development relevant to investment decisions, risks and opportunities, costs and benefits. (Piciga, Kovač)
- To address complex, systemic environmental issues, new approaches and new knowledge are needed for the preparation of integrated assessments in Slovenia. Slovenia will continue to cooperate with the European Environment Agency in their Eionet network on co-creation and exchange of knowledge and good practices. Our goal is to improve integrated environmental assessments to better support decision making. (Bernard Vukadin)
- EIT Climate-KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Community) is addressing climate change through innovation, with the objective of building a decarbonized economy. Their Deep Demonstration wants to achieve decarbonization through becoming a fully circular economy and society, with a systemic approach. The cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary project Deep Demonstration Slovenia is working across boundaries, silos and departments, establishing partnerships with a sizable number of stakeholders from all levels and spheres, tackling production and waste flows across key economic systems and selected value chains, and placing a key emphasis on establishing an open platform of knowledge transfer for all. (Stegeman)
- Coal phase-out in 2033 in Slovenia is an ambitious and necessary goal that requires political will, attention to environmental, social and economic impacts and transition, and collaboration with local stakeholders for a just transition. Slovenia can use the chance to wisely invest the Just Transition Fund and other financial resources in coal phase-out. Global and local socio-economic challenges in two coal regions (Zasavje and Savinjsko-Šaleška) deal with people who are a vulnerable population. The government institutions

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need to provide assurance for the people of these regions in relation to all SD dimensions. (Beltran, Mulec and Stritih)

- It is vital to integrate the new knowledge on sustainability transitions in all levels of education, including non-formal education. This is possible in the context of already well-established Education for sustainable development (ESD): new competences for sustainability (e.g., systems thinking, futures literacy, etc., as in GreenComp, the European sustainability competence framework) can be related to the knowledge base being developed by the European Environment Agency. (Piciga)
- Foresight is a key approach for dealing with most of the systemic or more specialized topics in the long-term perspective. Therefore, it needs to be integrated and institutionalized in everyday operational activities and in all societal sectors in a systemic way. Building competencies and learning about the sustainability transitions, resilience and about the potential of foresight and how it should be used as a tool for successful sustainability outcomes in the future, is an important area which needs specific address and improvement. (Pirc Velkavrh)
- Analyzes of internal functioning and weaknesses of the ecosystems that are responsible for the maintenance of life on Earth (research on planetary boundaries) reveals that Earth is contaminated with too many fertilizers that break nitrogen and phosphorus cycles. The loss of fertile soil presents a great burden for agriculture and can be seen as a line between life and death. A number of nature-based solutions in agriculture (e.g., permaculture) can be effectively implemented to enhance resilience in agriculture and food production, and to ensure the survival of planet Earth. (Vovk)
- Green transition of education, grounded in the concepts of sustainability and social responsibility, is along digital inclusion and transition a national priority. The two-year project on a systemic response of education to climate change, aimed at incorporation of climate goals into the ongoing educational practice, is executed in a coordinated way by four Slovenian public educational institutions in cooperation with responsible ministries. Preliminary results are linked with the Education for sustainable development practice, with systematic elaboration of climate goals and contents, and key sustainability competences still to follow. (Bogataj, Kregar, Uršič, Belasić)
- Nature-based solutions, including measures on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, are increasingly being promoted in development strategies and policies. European policies and initiatives provide a conceptual framework for bottom-up approaches to climate change education for sustainable development and adaptation learning. They have been implemented in the project ECO-SMART, Interreg Slovenia-Italy cooperation programme, with focus on vulnerable coastal areas. (Vižintin)
- The essential part of a green global transition are young people and their activation, yet they are lacking the wholesome competencies and skill-sets to achieve circular economy and green entrepreneurship related to business. Therefore, we should aim at providing them high-quality learning content, mentoring and financial incentives. (Žunec, Kovačič)

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Transition to Integral Society in different Cultures

- **From Integral Green Europe ...:** The concluding panel presented powerful conceptual and practical social innovations for sustainability in Europe (including Slovenia and Ukraine), Africa, Middle East and other World regions based on the Integral Worlds (IW) approach (Lessem & Schieffer). This approach, as a holistic conceptual and practical innovation for sustainable development, emphasizes a dynamic balance among the centre (moral core, inspiration) and four mutually reinforcing dimensions (“worlds”): Nature and Community (South), Culture, Consciousness and Spirituality (East), Science, Knowledge and Technology (North) and Economy, Finance and Enterprise (West). Building on Europe’s strong potential for an integral “northern” navigation toward SDGs, with smart integration of several policies and potentials, it is proposed that an Integral Green Europe works intensely with other cultures (Piciga, Schieffer).
- **...to Zimbabwe:** The Integral Kumusha is only one of several inspiring initiatives within an integral development framework, building on its authentic African and Zimbabwean culture, including the re-visiting of age-old African Ubuntu values. A home-grown socio-economic model that emerged from applying the IW approach to a simple African homestead (kumusha) with the objective to eradicate poverty, hunger and marginalisation among rural people, it is now hailed as a national role model, focusing on people living in harmony with nature, guided by the values of oneness, brotherhood and interdependence (Taranhike).
- **... on to Nigeria:** Pax Herbals, an integral enterprise-in-community in Nigeria, was established for the scientific cultivation, identification, utilisation, and promotion of traditional herbal medicine, and became one of the largest phytomedicine research institutes and manufacturers of natural supplements in Africa. Embedded in the socio-economic philosophy of Communitarism, Paxherbals' model, drawing on the IW approach, has put the local community's interest at its centre, while realising its natural, economic, technological, and cultural genius. Communitarism addresses the four critical dimensions of integral development, namely integral community (communis); Integral awakening (spiritus); Integral education (scientia); and Integral economics (economia) (Adodo).
- **... to Jordan in the Middle East:** Ahliyyah and Mutran are two deeply rooted and mission-driven schools that have been providing progressive quality education in Jordan since 1926. The schools aim to empower their students through an integral model and transformational journey founded on the five pillars, inspired by the IW approach: Arab Emancipatory Education, Innovative Learning, Wellbeing, Community Engagement, and Enlightened Humanism. Within a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning, aligned with the principles of an integrally framed ESD, they seek to provide students with an education that is rooted in the values of their Arab heritage, in particular profound respect for human dignity, service, and ingenuity (Abdul-Majeed, Houry).
- **United by Transcultural, Transsocietal Collaboration:** All cases work closely together, within the Homes for Humanity movement, which brings together these and many more integral innovators to a full-fledged transcultural and transsocietal collaboration with a shared purpose of co-creating integral societies.

Organizer:



Co-organizer:



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In cooperation with:

- World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics (WOSC)
- University of Maribor, Slovenia
- Slovenian Society for Systemic Research (SdSr)
- Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia
- International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences (IASCYS), Pau, France
- European Academy of Sciences and Arts, Salzburg
- Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science (BCSSS)
- International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR)
- Center of Risk & Crises Management (CRC), Vienna, Austria
- COPERNICUS Alliance – European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development
- CSR Europe
- Danube University Krems, Austria
- Slovenian Association for Quality and Excellence
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Štajerska, Slovenia
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