

Dear Friends,

We hope you all are well and safe!

Here comes the Anti-poverty Working Group Update October 2020, which once again confirms the agility of our WG members and our WG as a whole in these challenging times.

7th Responsible Management Education Research Conference, Chur, Switzerland, 19-21 October

The [7th RME Research Conference](#) on *The Promise of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Responsible Management Education and Moving forward with the SDGs*, the event gathered more than 210 participants from all over the world. The event was co-organized and hosted by the University of Applied Sciences from Chur, Switzerland, where the 1st RMER conference took place in 2014.

Member's participating. Our WG, as per tradition, was very well represented, acting as presenters, track and session chairs, session moderators and/or speakers (including tracks and sessions not hosted by our WG). WG members that contributed to the conference's success included: **Meike Bukowski** (Austria), **Norman Arrudo-Neto**, **Claudio Boechat**, **Flavio Pinheiro Martins** (Brazil), **Anastasiya Marcheva** (Bulgaria), **Xuanwei Cao** (China), **Shirley Yeung** (China, Hong Kong), **Alexander Herzner** (Germany), **Divya Singhla**, **Shiv Tripathi** (India), **Consuelo Garcia de la Torre** (Mexico), **Anna Simaens** (Portugal), **Milenko Gudić** (Serbia), **Tay Keong Tan** (Singapore, USA), **Raymond Saner**, **Lichia Saner-Yiu**, **Lutz Schlange** (Switzerland), **Carole Parkes**, **Alec Wersun** (UK), **Geri Mason** and **Al Rosenbloom** (USA).

Projects highlighted. Several presentations referred also to *projects* that our WG conducted in recent years, including the *WG Global Survey on Student Voices on the SDGs and the Issue of Poverty in Management Education* (**Geri Mason** and **Al Rosenbloom**), *Anti-poverty Toolkit* (**Al Rosenbloom**, who presented the Toolkit as our WG "signature" project mentioned in the cross-association panel), *joint book project on Global Champions of Sustainable Development* (**Xuanwei Cao** and **Al Rosenbloom**), as well as our WG research and publishing activity *in general* (**Carole Parkes** as one of the panelists in the semi-plenary session on *Quo Vadis RME Research. Extending the Boundaries of the RME Field.*)

Thematic contribution. The WG provided leadership for and moderated a semi-plenary **conference panel** on *Building RME implementation Coalitions for Impact in the Decade of Action* that extended discussion of the first gathering of major players in the landscape of responsible management education, held as a WG initiative at the 6th RMER Conference, Jonkoping, Sweden. While presenting the "signature" projects and programs of their respective organizations and networks, which they offered for mutual sharing and collaboration, **Mathew Woods** (EFMD), **Dan LeClair** (GBSN), John North (GRLI), **Milenko Gudić** (PRME Anti-poverty WG), **Peter McKiernan** (RRBM) and **Florenzia Librizzi** (SDSN) each acknowledged the practice of having a continuous dialogue at future RMER events to foster synergy during the Decade of Action.

As an echo to this, **GRLI** (Global Responsible Leadership Initiative) published on 29 October a series of [three short blogs](#) by **Milenko Gudić** that are based on his contribution to the ASCOLFA 2020 Annual Conference in August, including the section on the *need for a global RME pandemic*, which he presented as a context for the cross-association Coalition Building panel in Chur.

2021 RMER Conference: The event in Chur ended with the announcement of the **8th RMER Conference** that will be held in 2021 in Suzhou, China, where our WG member **Xuanwei Cao** has already started working on the preparatory and organizational activities.

Fostering horizontal collaboration with the PRME B4P Working Group

In line with our WG attempts to contribute to the horizontal collaboration and coalition building within PRME community and beyond, and following previous exchange of information and invitations, the chair and vice-chair respectively of the PRME Business for Peace (B4P) Working Group **Christina Bache** (Belgium) and **Bob Sicina** (USA) and our WG co-chairs **Al Rosenbloom** (USA) and **Milenko Gudić** (Serbia) had a virtual conference call on 9 October. The conclusions and recommendations of the call are summarized in the following points:

- The two working groups believe in the power of synergy making collaboration and suggest working together with their respective memberships.
- The two groups will regularly exchange information on their ongoing and future activities. 12 November is the next B4P Webinar on *Testing innovative social impact measurement by businesses in complex contexts*. WG members can register [here](#).
- In the near term, this will include posting relevant information, publications, calls and links on the respective WG B4P webpage and Anti-poverty Toolkit platform.
- The B4P WG will welcome 1-2 speakers from our WG to present their research to the B4P WG members in spring 2021.
- Longer-term, the two WGs agreed to explore possibilities of launching joint projects, involving research and publication, joint and collaborative sessions at the future responsible management education research conferences, PRME events and gatherings of other associations and organizations operating in the landscape of responsible management education.
- To engage our respective members, the two WG agreed to ask their members to come up with suggestions and ideas for further avenues and modalities for mutual collaboration.
- The two WGs will start exploring fundraising possibilities that could support joint research and other projects.
- The whole process will be monitored and facilitated by regular meetings between the two group's co-chairs.

Working Group Supporting Members' and Youth related projects

As a reminder the International Student Essay Competition organized by our WG member **Anastasiya Marcheva** and D.A. Tsenov Academy, Svishtov, Bulgaria, which is co-sponsored by our WG, has extended its deadline to 30 November. The topic of this year's contest is [Youth Entrepreneurship – Current State, Problems, Opportunities](#). On behalf of our WG, we particularly welcome contributions related to the role of youth entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation and the advancement of the SDGs.

News from our Members and Partners

- Our WG member **Ali Awni** (Egypt) continues with his series of Post Covid-19 related webinars organized by the Gerhart Center, the American University, Cairo. Starting from 4 November there will be five webinars scheduled until 9 December. For free registration please visit [webinar series](#) where recorded videos from all the previous events from this series can be viewed.
- Our member **Shirley Yeung** (Hong Kong) was nominated for the "Global Corporate Sustainability Award, Outstanding Professional". She also informs of three publications from LAMBERT

Academic Publishing [Yeung, Shirley M.C. & Song, Yang (2020) “Art Life Business (SYART + SYED) via UNSDGs”, Yeung, Shirley & Yeung M.C. (2020) “Innovative Services with SDGs under COVID19 for Transformations+ Talent Development” Yeung, Shirley & Yeung M.C. (2020) “Sustainable Brand with Transformations + UNSDGs A learning Organization – Memorigin”] as well as a video [Cross Generation Transformation co-produced with movie director Mr Hor Fung and students from Gratia Christian College, HK, <https://youtu.be/KHdWce1jcPc>.

- Our member from Brazil **Flavio Pinehiro Martins** helped organize two virtual events involving prominent members from the PRME community and beyond: (1) *Another Crossroads? Management Education Role in Reshaping a Post Crisis World*, and (2) *Managing the Aftermath: The Role of Universities in Responding to Crisis*, as well as (3) participating in a panel on *Poverty, Pandemic and Agenda 2030: Civilizing Ambitions*, in which our WG member, Claudio Boechat was also a panelist. For more info, please contact Flavio at: fpmartins@usp.br
- Our WG member **Mohamed Buheji** (Bahrain) announces that his book, *Insights (Thoughts Pioneering the Future of Our Socio-Economies)*, published in September, can be downloaded [here](#)
- Our friend **Florenzia Librizzi** (SDSN) highlights the following three things of interest to WG members: 1. The New Guide "[Accelerating Education for the SDGs](#)" which SDSN considers as a MUST resource to support your work!; 2. The Community of Practice which you can join --no fee-- as a member this year; and 3. The [SDG Academy Annual Report](#) that looks at other opportunities that might be beneficial to you. For more info, please feel free to contact Florenzia at: florenzia.librizzi@unsdsn.org
- Our friend **Dan LeClair** (GBSN) is sharing that due to Covid-19, GBSN is reinventing its 2020 Annual Conference. Following a set of three parallel sessions for students, faculty members and school administrators and partner organizations held in October, the culminating virtual event, scheduled for 9-13 November, will bring these groups together through a program that includes keynote fire starters, development workshops, roundtable discussions, innovation showcases and social activities.
- **Anne Tsui**, our friend from RRBM, is sharing the latest [RRBM Newsletter September 2020](#) that explores “Many Ways to Get Involved with RRBM and Advance Responsible Research.”

Looking forward to our future communication, collaboration and meetings,

With best wishes,

Al Rosenbloom and Milenko Gudić

P.S. Attached please find the latest updated **WG membership list**, which includes **217 members** from 175 institutions in 62 countries!