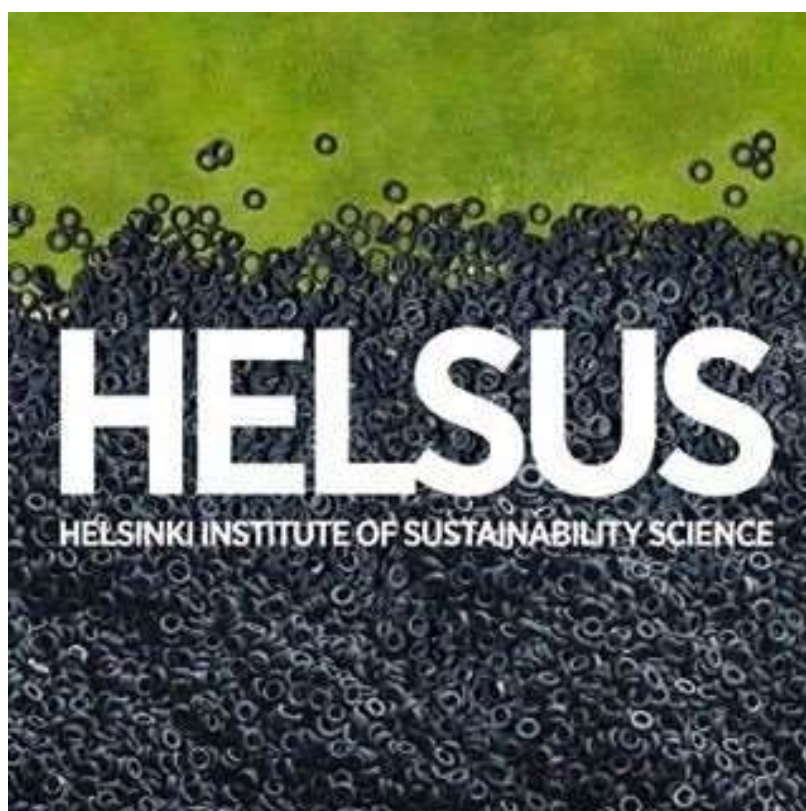


# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



# 1. INTRODUCTION

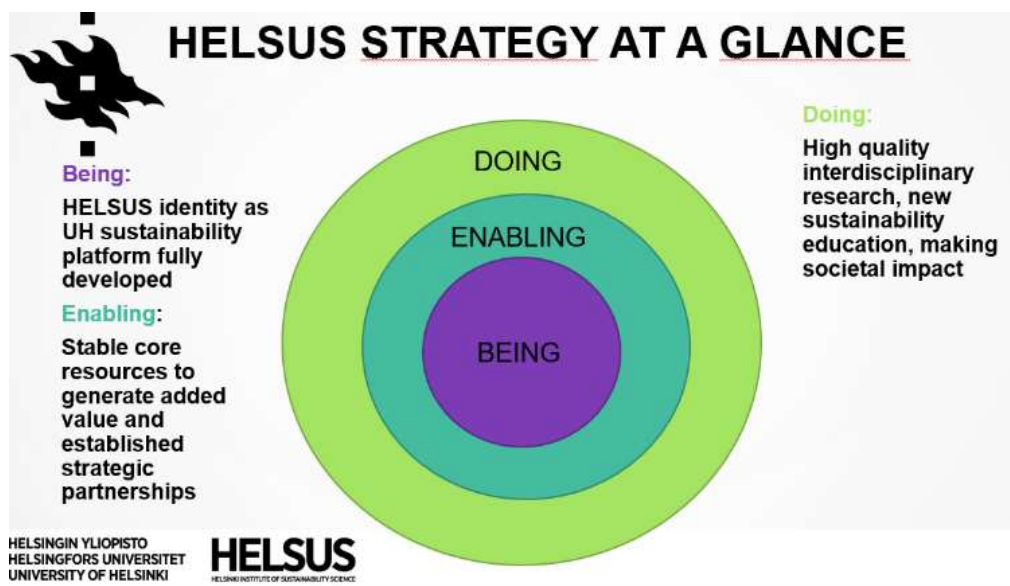
The Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS) was founded in January 2018. The second year of HELSUS has been marked by the commencement of various activities, working on the development of the research agenda, and by finalizing a strategy for the upcoming decade. This annual report summarizes the main aspects of HELSUS activities in 2019. The Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies URBARIA will deliver its own annual report.

In the beginning of 2019, the Faculty of Educational Sciences joined HELSUS, making it the seventh Faculty to join thus far. During 2019, the first HELSUS member from the Faculty of Medical Sciences was approved, meaning that HELSUS members now represent nine Faculties of the University. The Rector approved a HELSUS working order and the HELSUS strategy process was finalized in 2019.

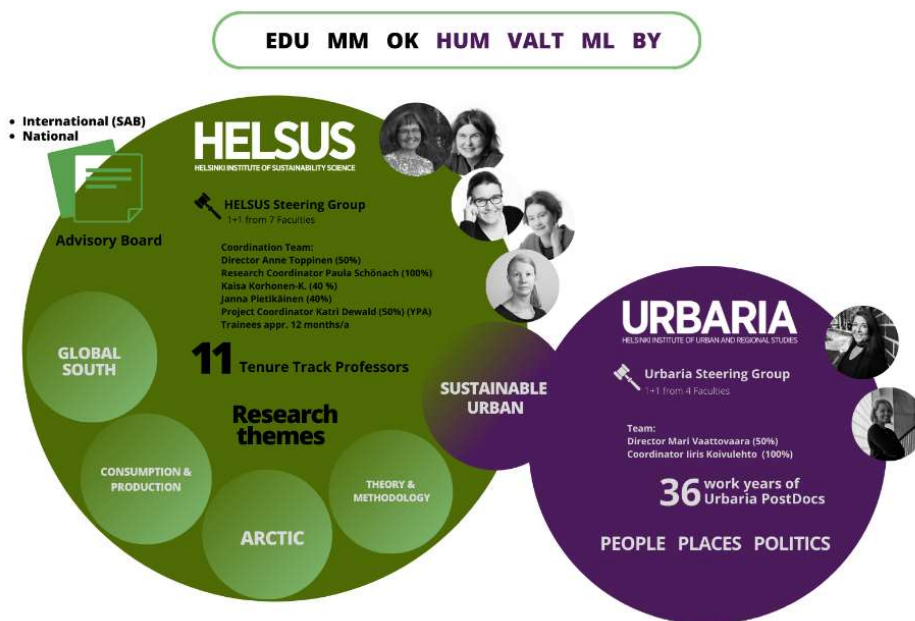
Moreover, HELSUS has gained notable recognition both within the University and other Finnish institutions working in the field of sustainability research in the past year. The interest from both domestic and international visitors towards HELSUS has remained great; for example, a HELSUS introduction was included in the programme of altogether 11 visitor groups of Polish university leaders and management of the education sector.

# 2. HELSUS ADMINISTRATION

The Rector approved a HELSUS working order on April 9, 2019. The HELSUS strategy process was continued and the finalized strategy was approved by the steering group in its meeting on August 27, 2019.



The administrative structure and research foci of HELSUS and URBARIA are pictured below:



## STEERING GROUP 2019

The HELSUS Steering group has two members from each participating Faculty.

Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

- Member: Professor Juha Helenius
- Deputy Member: Head of Ruralia Institute Sami Kurki

Faculty of Arts

- Member: Assistant Professor Pirjo Kristiina Virtanen
- Deputy Member: Professor Matti Miestamo

Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences

- Member: Professor Atte Korhola
- Deputy Member: Professor Sirkku Juhola (during fall 2019 substituted by Dr. Aleksi Räsänen)

Faculty of Educational Sciences

- Member: Professor Sirpa Tani
- Deputy Member: Professor Anna Uitto

## Faculty of Law

- Member: Professor Kai Kokko
- Deputy Member: Assistant Professor Niko Soininen

## Faculty of Science

- Member: Associate Professor Tuuli Toivonen
- Deputy Member: Academy Professor Timo Vesala

## Faculty of Social Sciences

- Member: Professor Anja Nygren (on research leave)
- Deputy Member: Professor Janne Hukkinen

Before September 2019, the Chair of the group was Professor Kai Kokko and the Vice Chair was Associate Professor Tuuli Toivonen. After September 2019, the Vice Chair has been Professor Sirpa Tani. The HELSUS Steering group had nine meetings during the year (out of which one was an e-mail meeting) and discussed a broad range of items. Additionally, the Deans of the participating Faculties met two times during the year. URBARIA has its own steering group, which is responsible for decisions concerning URBARIA.

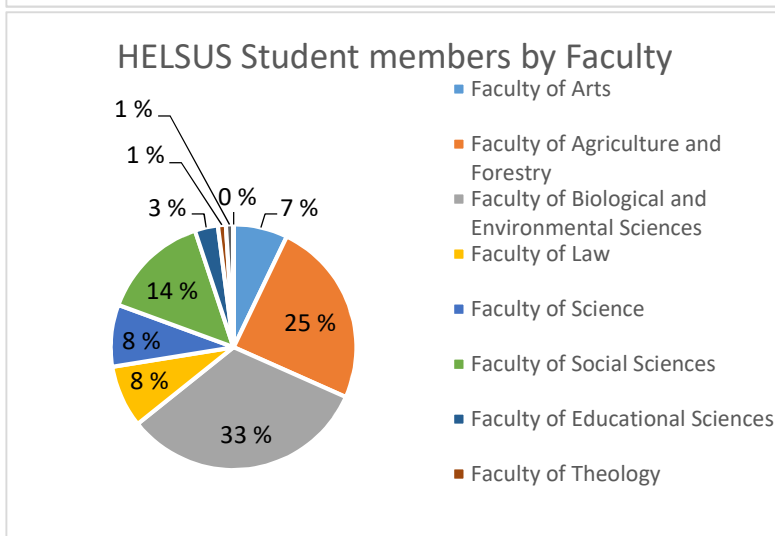
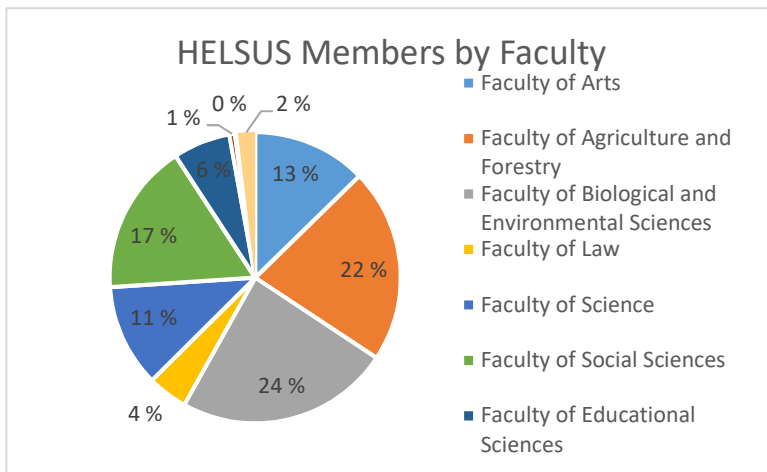
## HELSUS (SCIENTIFIC) ADVISORY BOARD (SAB)

The advisory board of HELSUS was chaired by vice-rector Hanna Snellman. The national division of the SAB held its annual meeting in March (28 March 2019). It was followed by a workshop contributing to the strategy process of HELSUS. The international scientific advisory board postponed its 2019 meeting to January 2020 due to scheduling challenges.

## **3. HELSUS PEOPLE**

### HELSUS MEMBERS

HELSUS membership has been open for applications since late 2017. New applications have been approved by the steering group four times a year. By the end of 2019, altogether 412 members have been approved, out of which 98 are student members, i.e. doctoral students.



## HELSUS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

The HELSUS postdoctoral researchers, HELSUS Fellows, were in the second year of their projects during 2019. After accepting another position, Dr. Anna Hausmann left the group and was replaced by Dr. Ricardo Correia. The international and multidisciplinary group of HELSUS fellows includes expertise from various disciplines within sustainability research, and the research areas cover all HELSUS thematic areas. They have presented their research on multiple occasions, e.g. in the HELSUS Brown Bag Lunch seminars.

## HELSUS and URBARIA COORDINATION

The HELSUS coordination team consisted of the following people during 2019:

Professor Anne Toppinen (50 %), Director of HELSUS

Dr. Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki (40 %), research coordinator

Dr. Paula Schönach (100 %), research coordinator

Dr. Janna Pietikäinen (40%), education coordinator

M.A. Katri Dewald Project (50 %) YPA project coordinator

Within the trainee programme of HELSUS, four trainees were working in the institute:

Maria McPartlin (spring 2019)

Sofia Kaipainen (spring 2019)

Saana Hokkanen (autumn 2019)

William Smolander (autumn 2019)

Trainees Saana Hokkanen and William Smolander at the HELSUS stand at the Opening carnival of the academic year, September 2019.



## SPACES

The HELSUS premises were upgraded by furnishing the coffee room and adding a telephone booth to the Hub. The flexible shared working space was equipped with screens and headphones.

## 4. RESEARCH AGENDA DEVELOPMENT

The work on developing the research agenda of the five theme areas within HELSUS progressed under the responsibility of the respective HELSUS professors. The activities included organizing workshops for building the research agenda together with key collaborators and stakeholders, joint research development in retreats, joint initiatives in the form of collaborative funding proposals and the co-authorship of manuscripts. The HELSUS webpage is under revision in order to better reflect the research agendas. All HELSUS professors have been invited monthly to a joint lunch to discuss progress and other topical matters.

### **Global South (Associate professor Franklin Obeng-Odoom)**

- Formulation of a joint statement on the research agenda
- Launch of the Global South Encounters seminar series



### **Urban (Professor Christopher Raymond)**

- The Development of a joint research agenda of HELSUS and URBARIA around the cross-cutting theme of urban sustainability began in 2019 and will be continued in 2020.
- A joint workshop to collect existing networks, research groups, and topics was held (28 October, 2019).



### **Arctic (Professor Reetta Toivanen, Associate Professor Jussi Eronen)**

- The work to bring together researchers with interest in interdisciplinary research on the Arctic started.

### **Consumption and production (Associate Professor Annukka Vainio, Assistant Professor Niko Soinen, Associate Professor Hanna Tuomisto)**

- A workshop with researchers from Luke and SYKE for research agenda development held in late 2019 (November 8, 2019)

### **Theory and methodology (Associate Professor Michiru Nagatsu)**

- Lead a joint writing retreat and co-authored paper with other HELSUS professors.

## **5. HELSUS ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

During the year 2019 HELSUS organized multiple events that were targeted at a range of audiences, which included the research community, stakeholders and the broader community.

### Sustainability Science Days

The biggest event of the year was the two-day Sustainability Science Days that was organized in early May 2019 in close collaboration with Aalto Sustainability Hub. The theme of the event was “**Making use of sustainability science**”, concentrating on SDG # 12. Altogether 650 participants registered for the events, including keynote sessions, 16 scientific sessions co-convened by researchers from Aalto and HELSUS. Additionally, a Think Corner event on decreasing academic flying was organized with the result that e.g. a notable funding foundation (Maj and Tor Nessling Foundation) modified their travel policies towards more sustainable modes of travel. The programme of SSD2019 included also one session on sustainability strategies of institutions of higher education.





SSD2019 Key note speaker Derk Loorbach, Director of DRIFT (Erasmus University Rotterdam) with ASH and HELSUS directors Minna Halme and Anne Toppinen.

Viikki sustainability research seminar

As part of strengthening collaboration with Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), both now based at the Viikki campus, a new jointly organized seminar series “Viikki Sustainability Research Seminar” was launched. On a monthly basis one common and topical sustainability theme is approached by three concise presentations by a researcher from each institution. After the session all presenters were available for informal discussion and mingling. All sessions are streamed for online participation, and recordings are made available in Unitube.



Regular and recurring events included:

- Biweekly Brown Bag lunch seminar (10 sessions in spring, 6 sessions in autumn) with altogether 186 participants.
- Viikki Sustainability Research seminar (4 sessions in spring, 3 in autumn) with roughly 1000 participants with notable online participation.
- Global South Encounters seminar series launched in September 2019 (4 sessions in autumn)

Apart from regular activities, HELSUS organized several individual events/training events that were open for researchers.

Two researcher trainings on transdisciplinary sustainability research:

- Research Impact Pathways and Theory of Change, workshop held by **Professor Brian Belcher**, Canada (12.11.2019 at 9.00 - 16.00)
- Transdisciplinarity Co-production – workshop ran by **Professor Merrit Polk and Henrietta Palmer**, Göteborg (9.10.2019 at 9.45 - 16.00)

Other events around sustainability research and outreach

- Roundtable & workshop “Sustainability Challenges in the Humanities and Social Sciences”, themed Situating Sustainability Concepts hosted by **HELSUS Professor Reetta Toivanen** (Feb 26, 2019)
- HELSUS and Aalto Sustainability Hub World shared a stand at the Circular Economy Forum (June 2019, Finlandia Hall) with four HELSUS research groups presenting their research.
- Several HELSUS researchers participated as “teachers” in the open Climate School, organized by the City of Helsinki as part of the Helsinki Design Week programme at the City Hall (Sep 9 -13, 2019)
- “Knowledge brokering clinic”: workshop by Sitra for HELSUS to develop science-policy interface activities (August 29, 2019)



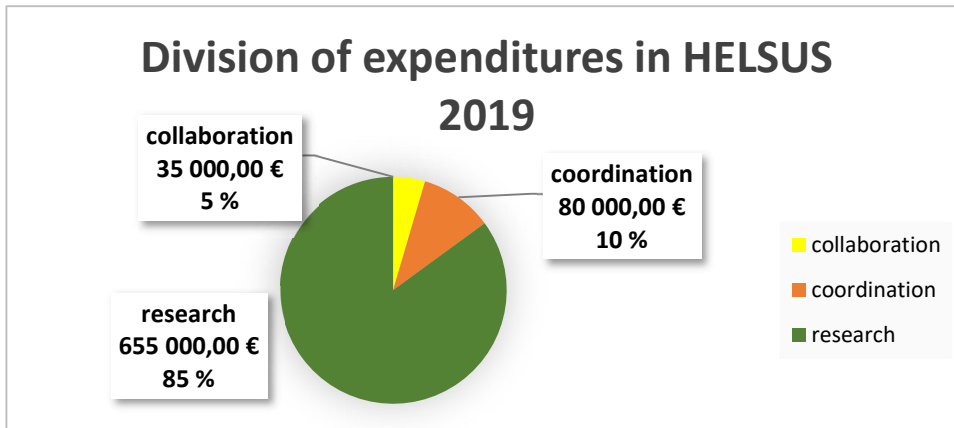
Eero Kiviniemi presenting Fungal co-life at the WCEF stand (Taina Lundell's research group)

As networking and community building is an important part of our mission, several informal events for HELSUS members were organized:

- Summer get-together at Lonna Island (August 26, 2019)
- Mingling with INEQ (September 27, 2019)
- Pre-Christmas party together with URBARIA (November 29, 2019)

## 6. HELSUS FUNDING

The HELSUS budget consists of funding from the joining Faculties of HELSUS, strategic funding from the Rector of the University of Helsinki, and donations. Apart from covering costs of the operation and coordination, it is used to fund research and advance collaborations in sustainability science.



The running expenses for 2019 show a surplus of 16,000 € in comparison to the budget. This is mainly because the SAB meeting was rescheduled to early 2020, and the promotional video was not done because of delays in coordination with UH communications and their plans about a University level promotional video on sustainability. Furthermore, some funding originally budgeted for travelling was not used.

The funding for research consists of two-year projects carried out by post-doctoral researchers, seed funding for the preparation of major research applications and an international visitors' programme to invite renowned international scholars to HELSUS.

During 2019 two Calls were opened.

In spring 2019 a Call for Seed funding only for HELSUS Members of the Faculty of Educational Sciences was opened. In total, 37 000€ were granted to

- Kalle Juuti: *Learning and assessing sustainability competences at school*
- Ilona Södervik: *BIODIV-project*
- Lili-Ann Wolff: *The Suomenlinna Project: A Phenomenon Based Sustainability Learning Approach*

The Fall 2019 Call was open to all and altogether 1,033,000 € was granted. This was divided into:

- Post-doctoral projects: 8 two-year projects, 1 one-year project funded (total 1,020,000 € for two years starting from 2020)
- Visitor programme: Six visitors funded (total 13,000€)
- No seed funding was granted.

Funded personal fellowships:

- Johanna Eklund (Faculty of Science): *The missing piece in the impact puzzle: the role of funding in achieving sustainable conservation outcomes for protected areas*
- Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares (Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences): *Indigenous sustainabilities in an era of infrastructure expansion*
- Johan Munck af Rosenschöld (Faculty of Social Sciences): *Sustaining co-produced knowledge: Learning from transdisciplinary projects in social networks (SCOPE)*

- Heli Korkka-Knuts (Faculty of Law): *The Role of Behavioural Regulatory Design in Optimization of Environmental Corporate Crime Prevention (BiRD)*
- Dorothee Cambou (Faculty of Arts): *Corporate Responsibility to respect indigenous peoples' rights: Defining the role of the law to ensure corporate due diligence for the rights of indigenous peoples in Finland and Sweden*

Funded projects, including the recruitment of a postdoctoral researcher:

- Mar Cabeza (Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences): *Understanding pastoralism sustainability through an interdisciplinary lens*
- Annukka Vainio (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry): *Embedding environmental sustainability norms in society (Embed)*
- Marko Lindroos (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry): *Eutrophication and fisheries in the Baltic Sea*
- Minna Autio (Faculty of Education): *Education for Everyday Sustainability - Learning Skills at School for 1.5 Degree lifestyle (Sus-LIFE)*

Funding was also granted for inviting international visitors:

- Hanna Tuomisto (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry) for inviting Associate professor Miguel Brandão, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and CEO Andreas Ciroth, GreenDelta
- Barry Gills (Faculty of Social Sciences) for inviting Professor Robin Broad, American University
- Charles Parker Krieg (Faculty of Arts) for inviting Guest Professor Steven Hartman, Mälardalen University
- Friederike Lüpke (Faculty of Arts) for inviting Dr Gladys Ansa, University of Ghana, Legon
- Seona Candy (Faculty of Science) for inviting Professor Jonathan Grant, Kings College London, United Kingdom
- Bodo Steiner (Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry) for inviting Professor Joshua Graff Zivin, UC San Diego

## 7. COMMUNICATION

HELSUS communication receives support from the University communications team. A regular HELSUS communication team has been established with expertise from science communication, digital communication, marketing and fundraising, comprising of representatives from each campus with HELSUS Faculties.

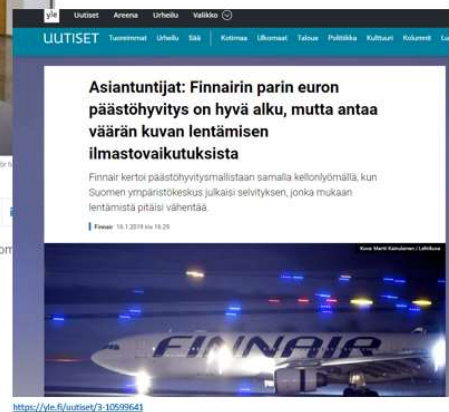
During 2019, HELSUS communications continued to build up its visibility and recognition and worked on the crystallization of the main messages, improving the website and social media visibility. To encourage researchers to be more active in science communication, both a more general communications training was organized (April 25, 2019) and a Twitter training was organized (November 18, 2019).

In collaboration with the ROUTE-project and students in the Master's programme Environmental Change and Global Sustainability (ECGS) created a blog platform (Voices for Sustainability), which was launched in May 2019. An editorial board for the blog was also established. It consists mainly of HELSUS student members, with Dr. Dalia D'Amato as its chair. Altogether 15 blog posts have been published during 2019.

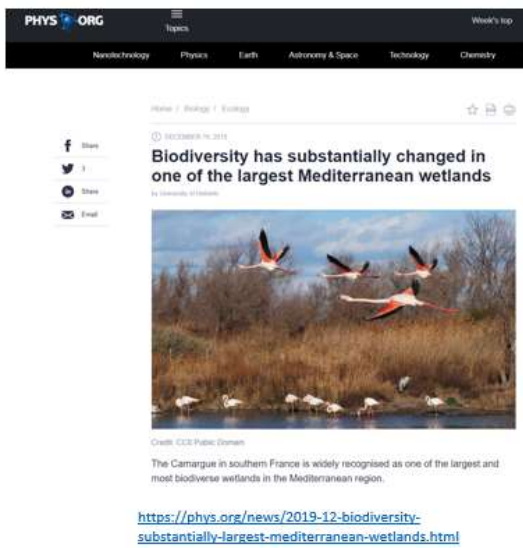


## NEWS COVERAGE

During 2019, altogether 14 media articles mentioned HELSUS as an institute (Meltwater), however this number does not include mentions of individual HELSUS members.



Internationally altogether 75 media hits mentioned HELSUS. 75 % of them were related to the study by HELSUS member Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares on the sustainability knowledge concealed in Indigenous music.



## HELSUS WEBPAGE

During 2019, the HELSUS English language webpage had a 27% increase in the number of visitors compared to 2018. The increase of the Finnish website traffic was + 163 %. The page views increased in both categories by 20 %. The number of visitors accessing the pages from mobile devices increased considerably. Furthermore, access through Twitter has increased by 5%. While Finland is the most common country to access HELSUS webpages, 66 % of the total traffic comes from abroad.

## THE DIVISION OF WEB PAGE VISITORS BY COUNTRY

Käynnit maittain

Country	Sessions
Finland	6,262
United States	612
Ethiopia	576
Malaysia	576
Nepal	576
Nigeria	540
Germany	468
Pakistan	468
Turkey	468
Thailand	432




## SOCIAL MEDIA

HELSUS has accounts in Facebook and Twitter. For the year 2019 HELSUS (@HELSINKISUS) had no exact numerical targets, but aimed at increased visibility, likes and impressions in social media. These goals were clearly achieved. The most successful tweet of the year was about awarding Mar Cabeza as the HELSUS Sustainability Champion of 2019 with nearly 8000 impressions.

	31.12. 2019	Change 2018
Facebook likes	1130	+ 86 %
Twitter followers	2053	+ 99 %
Tweets (own)	305	+ 34 %



The Sustainability Science Days 2019 conference pages were viewed nearly 10,000 times during April and May 2019, and e.g. the tweets from the conference gained very good engagement rates.

 <b>HELSUS</b> @HELSINKISUS · May 10 Many thanks for @niemela_jari @OsaiNaukkarinen @LiisaRohweder @TomBohling @vuorento @HannaLeenaPesu for attending the discussion on the role of sustainability in universities' strategies #sustainabledevelopment #SSD_2019 pic.twitter.com/KcUjUp3qOz8 <small>View Tweet activity</small>	1,739	62	3.6%
 <b>HELSUS</b> @HELSINKISUS · May 10 Suuri ympäristötutkimuksen rahoittaja Nesslingin säätiö ottaa @MinttuJaakkola mukaan matkustamisen ohjeistamisen harkintaan syksyn 2019 rahoitushaussal @NesslingSaatio #SSD_2019 pic.twitter.com/rjxF5B1y7v <small>View Tweet activity</small>	3,401	120	3.5%
 <b>HELSUS</b> @HELSINKISUS · May 9 UH Vice President @TomBohling opening the second day of Sustainability Science Days - Right now in discussion is sustainability in universities' strategies. #SSD_2019 pic.twitter.com/lHhQbrR64Pu <small>View Tweet activity</small>	1,487	44	3.0%

## 8. HELSUS PROJECTS

During 2019, HELSUS led or participated in the following externally funded projects:

- The project Polku2030 – Suomen kestävä kehityksen arviointi / Path2030 - An evaluation of Finnish Sustainable Development Policy was finalized in March 2019. The project was part of the Finnish Prime Minister's Office's research and reporting functions and conducted together with Demos Helsinki and Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE). A [report](#) and a policy brief were published, and the results were

presented, among other things, in an open consultation of three committees of the Finnish Parliament. The Finnish Evaluation Society rewarded the work with a prize for the best evaluation of the year 2019.

## 9. HELSUS RESEARCH

During 2019, HELSUS researchers published 419 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters (data as of January 24). The total number of publications and other types of research output is 599. Final numbers for 2019 will be available later in 2020.

### 1. Analysis of research outputs

Analysis of Count on Research outputs

Ministry of Education publication type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
A Peer-reviewed scientific articles - A1 Journal article-refereed	12	20	28	391	342	13	806
A Peer-reviewed scientific articles - A2 Review article in a scientific journal		1	2	20	18		41
A Peer-reviewed scientific articles - A3 Book chapter	4	2	5	71	49	4	135
A Peer-reviewed scientific articles - A4 Article in conference proceedings	2		2	15	10		29
B Non-refereed scientific articles - B1 Journal article	2	1	5	37	31		76
B Non-refereed scientific articles - B2 Book chapter		1		25	17		43
B Non-refereed scientific articles - B3 Article in conference proceedings				6	3		9
C Scientific books (monographs) - C1 Scientific book				3	3		6
C Scientific books (monographs) - C2 Edited book			1	9	11		21
D Publications for professional communities - D1 Article in a trade journal	1	2	7	28	21		59
D Publications for professional communities - D2 Article in professional manuals or guides or professional information systems or text book material			2	6	3		11
D Publications for professional communities - D3 Professional conference proceedings	1		1	2			4
D Publications for professional communities - D4 Published development or research report or study	4	3	3	20	9		39
D Publications for professional communities - D5 Text book, professional manual or guide or a dictionary			2	9	5		16
D Publications for professional communities - D6 Edited professional book				1	3		4
E Publications for the general public - E1 Popularised article, newspaper article	4	5	3	44	25		81
E Publications for the general public - E2 Popularised monograph			2	4	4		10

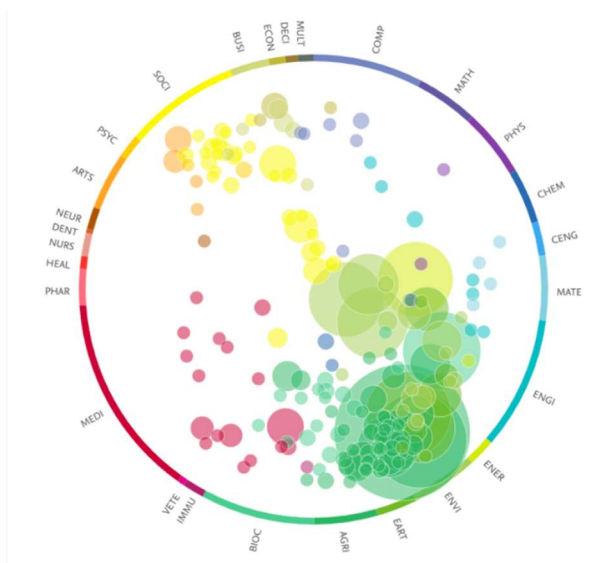
Ministry of Education publication type

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1532</b>

The above report is produced using the following setup

Limited by: Associated organisational unit = Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS); Workflow > Step: Selected workflow steps one of [approved]; Contributors > Person > Organisations > Organisational unit is one of Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS); Is greater than or equal to 2015  
 Grouped on: Ministry of Education publication type; Publication statuses and dates > Date > Year

Publications clustered by topic (only Scopus, Source: Scival, date of retrieval Nov 13, 2019)



## 10. HELSUS EDUCATION

As a continuation to the training “**Tvättstugan – Learning for Sustainable Development**”, organized in 2018, a follow-up meeting was held in 2019 for the 30 participants, who continued their work on integrating sustainability perspective in their own courses and teaching.

**HELSUS Co-Creation Lab** was initiated in October 2019. The lab offers master's students' the opportunity to find topics for their theses, help with their research work, a chance to develop transdisciplinary skills and to get in touch with actual sustainability challenges. Practitioners are given the opportunity to gain new insights, ideas and possible solutions to their sustainability challenges. Four partners and 11 students started in the lab 2019 which will continue until May 2020. The topic of the first lab is circular economy.

