

Towards healthy space and planets: a pathway for a transdisciplinary, inclusive and sustainable development of Earth, Space and Planetary Sciences

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Global networking, inclusivity, diversity, equality, trans-disciplinarity and green research have been identified as driving keywords for the development of earth, space and planetary sciences in the XXI century. Unfortunately, the goal of building a global, diverse and fertile environment for research already turned out to be difficult to sustain. Global networking and inclusivity have been pursued through an increasing number of physical connections among researchers and large meetings, which require an escalating number of long distance travels thus causing substantial environmental impact. While scientific research at the global level is undoubtedly and profitably supporting sustainable development, the above impact is a matter of real concern and calls for a unified effort to identify solutions. We need innovative ideas and approaches to networking for ensuring equality of opportunities in a green context. Scientists need to get ready to rethinking how their work is organized. They need to profit at best from innovative technologies and opportunities to cross the barriers of disciplines and physical locations. Physical and virtual meetings can be optimally combined to make sure that information and interaction is globally accessible in a open, transparent and green environment. Worldwide cooperation with a much more limited environmental impact is possible, but a coordinated effort of the scientific community at the international level is needed. A key role is to be played by scientific associations that need to put together an agreed and coordinated strategy. This talk will outline potential pathways to a transdisciplinary, inclusive and sustainable development of Earth, Space and Planetary Sciences, by summarizing on-going ideas, initiatives and actions.