

34.18/26/1/EC1 EURO PhD School on Sustainable Supply Chains,
June/July 2025, Graz, Austria

EURO PhD School on Sustainable Supply Chains 2025

June 30 – July 4, 2025

University of Graz, Austria

Final Report

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1 General information about the EPS on Sustainable Supply Chains 2025

1.1 Dates and venue

The EURO PhD School on Sustainable Supply Chains took place at University of Graz, Austria, from June 30 to July 4, 2025.

During the PhD school, the students were accommodated in the OeAD-Gästehaus Neubaugasse in Graz.

1.2 Organizing committee

- Marc Reimann (Chair)
(University of Graz, Austria)
- Gernot Lechner
(University of Graz, Austria)
- Iris Etzinger
(University of Graz, Austria)
- Sabrina Rinder
(University of Graz, Austria)

1.3 Scientific committee

- Marc Reimann (Chair)
(University of Graz, Austria)
- Renzo Ackermann
(Wageningen University, Netherlands)
- Ana Paula Barbosa Povoia
(Instituto Superior Tecnico, Portugal)
- Gernot Lechner
(University of Graz, Austria)
- Gil Souza
(University of Tennessee, USA)

1.4 Aims and scope

The PhD School offers an active forum for PhD students and early career researchers to enhance their knowledge in facilitating Operations Research methods for sustainable supply chain management, especially from a multi-criteria (triple bottom line) and an interdisciplinary (life cycle sustainability assessment, circular economy) perspective.

Topics of the school were:

- A Tutorial on Research in Closed-Loop Supply Chains

- Behavioral in Closed-Loop Supply Chain Management
- Utilizing Simulation for Decision-Support in Sustainability
- Writing Pedagogical Case Studies to teach Sustainable Supply Chain Management

1.5 Terms and conditions

25 PhD students were admitted to the school. There was a registration fee of €150. The EURO support and the registration fee covered accommodation, all meals, social activities, and all traveling within the school activities. Travel costs to and from the school had to be covered by the participants, either by themselves or through external funding.

The students were awarded 1.5 ECTS. They had the possibility to gain 0.5 extra ECTS for presenting a poster or having an oral presentation at the 5th Conference of the Euro Working Group (EWG) on Sustainable Supply Chains.

The website of the EURO PhD School can be accessed through this link:

<https://sustainable-supply-chains.uni-graz.at/de/phd-summer-school-on-sustainable-supply-chains-2025/>

The website of the conference can be accessed through this link:

<https://sustainable-supply-chains.uni-graz.at/de/5th-conference-on-sustainable-supply-chains/>

2 Academic program

2.1 Schedule

The schedule of the school (excluding social activities) comprised in-class lectures, tutorials, and super-vised trainings. Throughout the week, the PhD students additionally worked on case studies provided by Compuritas GmbH, Gorenje gospodinjski aparati d.o.o. and inloop Consulting. These case studies were introduced by company representatives on the first day of the school. The participants presented their solutions to the case studies on the first day of the conference. The company representatives commented on the outcomes of the case study and the teams clarified questions from the audience.

In addition, the students were also invited to attend the 5th Conference of the EWG on Sustainable Supply Chains and to present posters on their PhD project.

	Monday, 30.06.2025	Tuesday, 01.07.2025	Wednesday, 02.07.2025	Thursday, 03.07.2025	Friday, 04.07.2025	Saturday, 05.07.2025
07:30-08:00					Breakfast @ Café Global	Breakfast @ Café Global
08:00-08:30		Breakfast @ Café Global	Breakfast @ Café Global	Breakfast @ Café Global	5th Conference on Sustainable Supply Chains (if registered)	5th Conference on Sustainable Supply Chains (if registered)
08:30-09:00						
09:00-09:30		Lecture 2: Utilizing simulation for decision-support in sustainability by <i>Gernot Lechner</i>	Lecture 3: Behavioral Research in Closed-Loop Supply Chain Management by <i>Guido Voigt</i>	Lecture 4: Writing pedagogical case studies to teach sustainable supply chain management by <i>Morgane M.C. Fritz</i>		
09:30-10:00						
10:00-10:30	Get-together Brunch	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break		
10:30-11:00						
11:00-11:30	Welcome & Introduction	Training 2: Utilizing simulation for decision-support in sustainability by <i>Gernot Lechner</i>	Training 3: Behavioral Research in Closed-Loop Supply Chain Management by <i>Guido Voigt</i>	Training 4: Writing pedagogical case studies to teach sustainable supply chain management by <i>Morgane M.C. Fritz</i>		
12:00-12:30	Lecture 1: A tutorial on research in closed-loop supply chains by <i>Gil Souza</i>	Lunch @ Café Global	Lunch @ Café Global	Lunch @ Café Global		
12:30-13:00						
13:00-13:30	Coffee break	Group work on cases	Group work on cases	Group work on cases		
14:00-14:30	Training 1: A tutorial on research in closed-loop supply chains by <i>Gil Souza</i>	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
14:30-15:00						
15:00-15:30	Coffee break	Group work on cases	Group work on cases	Group work on cases		
16:00-16:30						
16:30-17:00	Case study introduction					
17:00-17:30						
Evening	Pick-up of Lunch Bags @ Café Global	Social event and dinner	Pick-up of Lunch Bags @ Café Global	Get-together Conference @ Meerscheinschlössl	Conference Dinner	

2.2 Instructors

The in-class lectures, tutorials, and supervised trainings were presented by the following instructors:

- Gilvan C. Souza
(Haslam College of Business, University of Tennessee)
- Guido Voigt
(Institute for Logistics and Supply Chain Management, University of Hamburg)
- Gernot Lechner
(Department of Operations and Information Systems, University of Graz)
- Morgane M.C. Fritz
(Supply Chain, Purchasing & Project Management Department, Excelia Business School)

2.3 Company representatives

The case studies were presented by the following company representatives:

- Matthias Di Felice, CEO, Compuritas GmbH
- Aleš Mihelič, Predevelopment - Open Innovation Manager, Gorenje gospodinjski aparati d.o.o.
- Rafaela Rubas, Senior Consultant, inloop Consulting

3 Social program

A social program was included in the schedule of the PhD school with the aim that the participants connect with their peers, instructors, and experts in a casual atmosphere to expand their scientific network in the field of sustainable supply chain management and to make new contacts.

The following social activities were carried out:

- Monday, June 30, 2025: Get-together Brunch
- Tuesday, July 01, 2025: Social event and dinner
- Thursday, July 03, 2025: Get-Together Conference
- Friday, July 04, 2025: Conference dinner

4 Participants

4.1 Application process

The participants had to be from a EURO member society country or studying in a EURO member society country. They had to be enrolled in a PhD program and, preferably, had to be in an early stage of their studies. A maximum number of 25 participants was accepted.

The following application documents must be submitted to sustsc2025@uni-graz.at by February 14, 2025

- Application letter, including:
 - o Name, affiliation, and email-address,
 - o PhD program you are enrolled in, current stage of studies, as well as your PhD supervisors' names,
 - o Background in Sustainability and in Operations Research, and
 - o Motivation to attend the PhD School.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Recommendation letter from the PhD supervisor

The notification of acceptance was sent to the participants by the end of February 2025.

4.2 Admission process and participants

In total, 25 students from 14 countries (country of nationality) applied for the PhD school. These applications were carefully reviewed by the by the scientific committee according to the following criteria:

- Motivation for attending the PhD school and research focus on sustainable supply chain management as elaborated by the applicant and the supervisor
- Early stage of a PhD program
- Good distribution of the participants among the EURO member societies
- Gender balance

Overall, 18 female and 7 male students from 14 countries were admitted (cf. below). One student had to cancel the participation at such short notice that it was impossible to invite another candidate.

First name - Last name Institution - Country of Study

Sonia Alikhah - University of Karlsruhe - Germany

Tobias Breitenbach - University of Mannheim - Germany

Linda Javiera Canales Bustos - University of Lisbon - Portugal

Justin Carton - Atlantic Technological University - Ireland
Renjie Cui - University of Zurich - Switzerland
Inês Duarte - University of Lisbon - Portugal
Catriona Eldridge - University of Aachen - Germany
Mariam Elmofti - Atlantic Technological University - Ireland
Francisco Encina - Hamburg University of Technology - Germany
Leonie Engemann - University of Augsburg - Germany
Busra Gultekin - Wageningen University - Netherlands
Laura Jefimovaitė - University of Lithuania - Lithuania
Johannes Kager - Technical University of Munich - Germany
Elif Kuscu - University of Zurich - Switzerland
Soo Youn Kwon - Technical University Munich - Germany
Catarina Mansilha - University of Lisbon - Portugal
Christine Mendoza Pardo - University of Bayreuth - Germany
Mohammadjalal Mirbeygishahabad - University of Mannheim - Germany
Qihao Ran - University of Aachen - Germany
Victoria Riemer - University of Hamburg - Germany
Irina Shepeleva - University of Primorska - Slovenia
Anika Schmitt - University of Graz - Austria
Wenjie Tu - University of Zurich - Switzerland
Marieke van Keeken - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Netherlands
Nadja Vierzigmann - University of Aachen - Aachen

5 Financial support

The PhD school was financially supported by EURO, ÖGOR, and the University of Graz. Additionally, the registration fee of all participants of the PhD school joining the 4th Conference of the EWG on Sustainable Supply Chains were covered by EURO.

6 Impressions



7 Financial report

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 25

INCOME

12.500 EUR Financial support EURO

500 EUR Financial support ÖGOR

3.750 EUR Registration fees (150 EUR per participant)

16.250,00 EUR TOTAL

EXPENDITURE

3.900 EUR Waiver of fees for conference participation

3.220 EUR Accommodation participants

488 EUR Transportation participants

2988 EUR Accommodation and travelling speakers

2.653 EUR Food participants and speakers

120 EUR Leasing dishes (cups, spoons, glasses)

673 EUR Social program

2000 EUR Administration, secretariat, and student assistants

21 EUR Materials, Prints, IT

119 EUR Credit Card Fees

16.182,00 EUR TOTAL

8 Acknowledgements

We would especially like to thank:

- EURO for the initiative to offer EURO PhD Schools as a training-oriented instrument for the education of doctoral students in a school format.
- EURO, ÖGOR, and the University of Graz for the financial support.
- Universität Graz for the administrative support and their facilities to host the school.
- Morgane Fritz, Gernot Lechner, Gil Souza, and Guido Voigt for their time and effort in sharing their knowledge and experience with the PhD students.
- Matthias Di Felice, Aleš Mihelič and Rafaela Rubas for providing case studies related to real-world planning issues in sustainable supply chains.
- all the PhD students who came to Graz and made this PhD school a success.

9 Feedback

“The course/program was well-organized. The organizers were so helpful, nice, and friendly. I loved that there was a training session after each taught lecture which allowed us to actually apply what we've learned (made all the difference). The social events and the outings were fun and amusing, making us look forward to them. The teachers/ speakers were approachable and welcomed any questions. Over all a very good experience.”

“The conference was exceptionally well-organized and provided excellent opportunities for meaningful academic exchange and networking within our research community. I was genuinely impressed by the University of Graz facilities, the beautiful city, and especially the remarkable kindness and professionalism of the organization team. Your warm hospitality and attention to detail made this event truly memorable and successful. This experience has reinforced my commitment to sustainable supply chain research, and I very much hope to contribute to this scientific community again in future conferences and collaborative endeavors.”