



INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS



In your work, you combine direct research and research management for a sustainable future. What do you enjoy most about your work?

A broad and varied field of work naturally always provides new challenges, for example we are currently working very intensively on a sustainability strategy for PLUS. But my specialist area in chemistry in particular, the production of new materials using sustainable synthesis methods, for example to store or save energy, is something I'm particularly passionate about. My working group is researching functional materials such as polymers and how these can be replaced by renewable raw materials, for example tannins.

How would you rate the framework conditions for your research in Austria and if you could change one thing in your work, what would it be?

A unique feature of the Austrian research landscape, which is particularly important for my work, is the great funding instruments for applied research. The FFG or the Christian Doppler Society, for example, offer an easy way to start working with industry partners. Funding is also provided specifically for transformative research, which strengthens Austria as a location for innovation. However, a great deal of potential could still be unleashed if bureaucratic hurdles in the processing of research projects were removed.

Name: Nicola Hüsing

Institution: Paris Lodron University Salzburg

Field: Development of new synthesis routes to functional, hybrid and/or porous materials; sol-gel syntheses; aerogels; understanding development for synthesis - structure - property relationships for porous materials

Role in the member organization:
Vice Rector for Research and Sustainability
at the PLUS





How did you first come into contact with the CCCA and how can cooperation be improved?

I really came into contact with the CCCA through my position as Vice-Rector for Research and Sustainability. Membership of the Alliance of Sustainable Universities in Austria also plays an important role in this. A lot of good things are already happening within the universities and the university network. However, there is still potential in communicating these projects and initiatives to the outside world.

With Dr. Isabella Uhl-Hädicke, we have an incredibly active person at PLUS in these areas, but of course she can't do everything. It would therefore be a unique opportunity if these other positions and memberships could also be brought together under the CCCA membership.

What do you personally see as the biggest challenge in the fight against climate change?

There will of course be technological advances that will also solve some of the problems. There will be opportunities here, especially in the global North. However, a large proportion of humanity still has the path to industrialized affluent societies ahead of it, which means that the demand for energy and resources will continue to rise. One crucial challenge is how the necessary energy can be produced sustainably, and here, of course, the responsibility also lies with us. The other I see a major challenge in future upheavals and migration flows and the inadequate cooperation between the West and the African continent to date.

