



2021 Academic Advisory Council Annual Meeting:
Research Frontiers on the Adoption, Impact and Effectiveness of VSS
4-5 November 2021
Hosted at the EUI, Florence, Italy + hybrid

The **2021 Academic Advisory Council (AAC) annual meeting** brings together an international mix of academic and policy experts from various disciplines and backgrounds to consolidate the knowledge on VSS and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of VSS impact and effectiveness.

Academic and policy sessions are held to foster the debate on VSS as a tool to enhance sustainable development. The sessions discuss the role of VSS in international trade, the impact of VSS on socio-economic and environmental sustainability, the role of VSS in public policy, and the future of VSS. While the meeting mainly aims to foster the knowledge on VSS, it also seeks to link researchers to policy makers in a way that assists in creating informed policies through research. In addition, it intends to provide inputs to empirical and theoretical research and develop a common foundation upon which further research can be conducted.

Draft Agenda

4 November 2021, Time (CET)

10:00	Arrival
10:00-10:15	Opening Remarks by AAC Co-Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernard Hoekman, EUI • Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, UNFSS/UNCTAD
10:15-11:45	Academic Panel 1: VSS in International Trade Chair: Elisabeth Tuerk, UNECE Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To trade, or not to trade, that's the question: Insights on the trade effects of food standards Miet Maertens, Janne Bemelmans, KU Leuven • VSS & FTAs, Junji Nakagawa, University of Tokyo • Child Labour & GVCs, Marcelo Olarreaga, University of Geneva • No Logo? The Failure of Salmon Labelling by the Aquaculture Stewardship Council in Norway and the UK, Lars H. Gulbrandsen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute Commentator: Vera Thorstensen, Fundação Getulio Vargas
11:45-12:00	Coffee Break
12:00-13:00	Policy panel 1: From Research to Policy Actions Chair: Bernard Hoekman, EUI Impulse givers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T4SD & Standards Map: 10 Years Anniversary, Joseph Wozniak, ITC • Better Trade for Sustainable Development: The role of VSS, Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba, and Niematallah Elamin, UNCTAD • Informing Action for a Sustainable Future, Vidya Rangan, EVIDENSIA Commentators: Mercedes Aràoz Fernández, Universidad del Pacifico

13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00 -15:30	<p>Academic Panel 2: VSS and Sustainability Concerns Chair: Steve Stone, UNEP (TBC) Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSS & the SDGs: Mapping transnational linkages for Sustainable Development, Clara Brandi, DIE • Status of living wages in VSS, Elisabeth Bennett, Lewis & Clark College • The contribution of corporate protected areas to biodiversity conservation in tropical commodity crop landscapes, Robert Heilmayr, University of California • Accounting for Nature: Agriculture and Mitigation in the Era of Global Climate Change, Shaila Seshia Galvin, Graduate Institute of Geneva <p>Commentator: Eve Fouilleux, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development</p>
15:30-15:45	<p>Conclusion of day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruby Lambert, UNCTAD; Charline Depoorter, KU Leuven

5 November 2021 (Time CET)

10:00-11:30	<p>Academic panel 3: VSS What next? Chair: Emilie Vandercandelaere, FAO Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of VSS to vulnerable groups and the possible way forward, Li Li, University of International Business and Economics • Thomas Dietz, University of Münster • Benjamin Cashore, National University of Singapore (TBC) <p>Commentator: Philip Schleifer, University of Amsterdam</p>
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	<p>Policy Panel 2: VSS and Due Diligence Chair: Ariel Macaspac Hernández, DIE; Clara Brandi, DIE Impulse givers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolas Hachez, OECD (TBC) • Archana Negi, Jawaharlal Nehru University <p>Commentators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axel Marx, KU Leuven • Engela Schlemmer, University of the Witwatersrand • Jorge Pérez, Universidad Anáhuac
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	<p>Academic Panel 4: VSS in public policy Chair: Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, UNIDO (TBC) Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has Forest Certification Reached its Limits? A Case Study of the Forest Stewardship Council, Charline Depoorter, and Axel Marx, KU Leuven • The Myth of Democratic Legitimacy, Hamish van der Ven, University of British Columbia • A policy mix approach to biodiversity governance: the case of Colombia, Eric F. Lambin, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment • Pan-tropical insights on the contextual effectiveness and equity of forest-focused supply chain policies, Rachael Garrett, ETH Zürich <p>Commentator: Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, UNCTAD</p>

15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	<p>Policy Panel 3: The role of National VSS Platforms in Policy Action (TBC)</p> <p>Chair: Ruby Lambert, UNCTAD</p> <p>Impulse givers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deryck Omar, CROSO • Manish Pande, Quality Council of India • Hussalmizzar Hussain, Standards Malaysia • Rogerio O Correa, INMETRO • Liu Xin, Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC)
16:45-17:00	<p>Concluding session by AAC Co-Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercedes Aràoz Fernández, Universidad del Pacifico • Axel Marx, KU Leuven