The 8th International conference on Energy and Sustainability took place in Coimbra, Portugal. The Conference was organised by the Wessex Institute, UK and Itecons-University of Coimbra and it was Chaired by Professor António Tadeu, Director of Itecons and member of the WIT Board of Directors.

The conference, which started in the New Forest, UK in 2007, is well-established and always attracts a wide international spread of delegates. The diverse topics covered at the Conference involved the collaboration between different disciplines in order to arrive at optimum solutions, including studies of materials, energy networks, new energy resources, storage solutions, waste to energy systems smart grids and many others.

The conference was opened by Professor A. Tadeu who welcomed the delegates to the conference, and introduced the Wessex Institute and Itecons.

There were a series of invited lectures on advanced topics of research and applications, as follows:

“Environmental and energetic evaluation of different solutions for coffee valorization”, Dr D. Panepinto, Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy.

“The energy and sustainable performance of a multifunctional façade” Ms I. Simoes, Itecons–University of Coimbra, Portugal.

“Evaluation of surface condensations in external thermal insulation composite systems” Mr N. Simoes, Itecons–University of Coimbra, Portugal.

“Regional goods delivery: How to reduce its CO₂-, NOₓ- and PM₁₀- emissions?” Dr J. Vleugel, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands.

“Local actions for reducing global greenhouse gas footprint: 10 years of covenant of mayors initiative” Professor M. Ragazzi, University of Trento, Italy.

“Unconventional small-scale biogas production with reduced local impact” Dr E. Rada, University of Varese, Italy.

“Biorefinery done right” Professor J. M. Lavoie, Sherbrooke University, Canada.

“Sustainable energy for smart city”, Dr M. Kozhevnikov, Ural Federal University, Russia.
The papers presented during the conference covered the following topics:

- Energy efficiency
- Energy storage and distribution
- Energy management
- Sustainable Buildings
- Biomass and biofuels
- Environmental risk management
- Climate change and energy policies
- Renewable energy resources

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**Dr Elena Rada**, University of Varese, Italy, organised a Special Session on “Reduction of local and global environmental impact of waste and biomass to energy options” which included the following presentations:

- Environmental balance of an innovative waste-to-energy plant: The role of secondary emissions, **Dr M. Schiavon**, University of Trento, Italy.
- Potentials of the waste-to-energy sector for an unconventional district heating system, **Dr M. Schiavon**, University of Trento, Italy.
- Local actions for reducing global greenhouse gas footprint: 10 years of covenant of mayors initiative, **Dr M. Ragazzi**, University of Trento, Italy.
- Unconventional small-scale biogas production with reduced local impact, **Dr E. Rada**, University of Varese, Italy.

There were numerous occasions for holding informal discussions during the coffee breaks and the complimentary lunches provided.

**CONFERENCE DINNER**

The conference dinner took place on Wednesday evening at the Restaurant Solar do Bacalhau, which is within walking distance of the conference venue. Delegates enjoyed a four course menu accompanied by Portuguese wines and with a wonderful atmosphere.

Several papers from this conference were selected for publication in this Journal which covers the different aspects of energy research, development and recovery from both primary and renewable sources; power generation, storage and distribution; planning and management.

The conference was closed by Professor A. Tadeu, who thanked the delegates for attending and hoped that they would consider attending the next conference in the series which is due to be reconvened in 2021.