



The 2030 Development Agenda and the SDGs: What role for Higher Education?

**El Rol de la Universitat envers els Objectius de Desenvolupament Sostenible
Construint una universitat crítica i compromesa**

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« (Higher) Education is no longer preparation for an assumed stable future but a nurturing of individual and collective potential to live well and skilfully in an already complex and volatile world, towards human and planetary betterment. »

*Steven Sterling, Professor of Sustainability Education,
Centre for Sustainable Futures, Plymouth University, UK
Special Advisor on ESD*

1992

- United Nations Conference On Environment And Development (Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

1993

- IAU adopts the Kyoto Declaration
- HESD becomes IAU Key thematic priority

2000

- The Earth Charter is adopted
- Millenium Summit and adoption MDGs, NY

2002

- World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa
- IAU takes part

2005

-2014

- United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- IAU key partner

2009

- UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Bonn, Germany)
- IAU sat on Bonn Declaration drafting committee

2012

- Rio+20: United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- IAU contributed to creating the People's Sustainability Treaty on higher education

2014

- IAU 2014 International Conference on Traditional Knowledge for SD, Iquitos, Peru
- UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Nagoya, Japan)
- IAU coordinated the HE and Research Workshop



Shaping the Future We Want

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
(2005-2014)

FINAL REPORT

DESD Monitoring and Evaluation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ9ETC8bk70>

4.4. Higher education

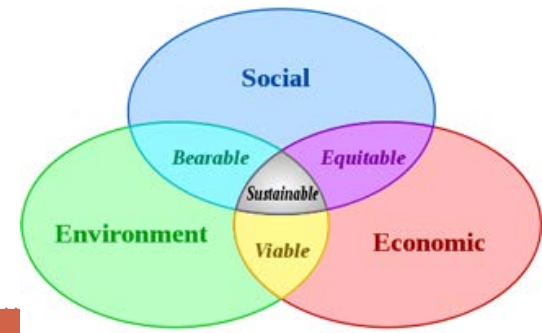
The DESD has enabled the creation of a unique broad based platform to think-out-of-the-box in conceptualizing, collaborating across the conventional boundaries, and more importantly implementing new and creative ideas to further promote sustainability to wider audiences across all sectors locally, regionally and globally.

– Prof. Dzulkifli Abdul Razak (2013), President of the International Association of Universities (IAU)

The reach and potential for influence of the higher education sector in moving the world to sustainable development is significant. Globally, as many as 20,000 higher education institutions work with an estimated 150 million students every year (Ranking web of universities, 2014; Altbach, 2010) – an increase in the student population of more than 50% over the past 10 years. More than 80% of the decision-makers in industry, community and politics are graduates of universities (Scott et al., 2012). Through research programmes, the faculty and students of HEIs work towards innovative policies, processes and technological solutions for sustainability. Demonstrating sustainability on campus sets examples for other institutions, which reinforces an HEI's contribution to sustainable development within its host community. The size and influence of the sector, together with the transformative potential and economic and social value it provides to society, make a compelling rationale for investment in higher education for sustainable development.

HEIs have long been early adopters of the challenge of sustainable development, voicing their commitment to a more sustainable world in the 1990 Talloires Declaration, one of the first efforts to define and promote sustainability in post-secondary education around the world (Huppé et al., 2013). HEI commitments have centered on several

ESD principles and definitions



ESD concerns educational content and methodology



ESD promotes skills like critical thinking and imagining future scenarios



ESD treats the three pillars of SD in an integrated manner



ESD encompasses formal, non-formal and informal education and learning



ESD also encompasses activities that are in line with the above but may not be called 'ESD'



2015

- UNESCO Global Action Programme on ESD
- IAU Key partner Network to Action Area 2
- IAU develops new strategic plan on 2030 Development Agenda

UNESCO Global Action Programme

GAP Priority Action Areas

IAU - Building a worldwide higher education community



To enable strategic focus and foster stakeholder commitment, the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has identified five priority action areas to advance the ESD agenda.

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 1: Advancing policy

Mainstream ESD into both education and sustainable development policies, to create an enabling environment for ESD and to bring about systemic change

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 2: Transforming learning and training environments

Integrate sustainability principles into education and training settings

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 3: Building capacities of educators and trainers

Increase the capacities of educators and trainers to more effectively deliver ESD

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 4: Empowering and mobilizing youth

Multiply ESD actions among youth

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 5: Accelerating sustainable solutions at local level

At community level, scale up ESD programmes and multi-stakeholder ESD networks

IAU in the GAP



PRIORITY ACTION AREA 1: **ADVANCING POLICY**

Mainstream ESD into both education and sustainable development policies, to create an enabling environment for ESD and to bring about systemic change

PRIORITY ACTION AREA 2: **TRANSFORMING LEARNING AND TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS**

integrate sustainability principles into education and training settings

IAU's involvement in SD

IAU - Building a worldwide higher education community



Added value of IAU as global network

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Global Coordination by IAU



BUILDING SYNERGIES

*through
conferences,
publications
, leadership
initiatives*

DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS

*MoUs with a
variety of
Networks and
organisations*

FOSTERING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

*Global reach
and
Online
global portal*

SHOWCASE GOOD PRACTICES

*at each
event; next
at the IAU
15th General
Conference*



*IAU global
portal*

*Higher
Education and
Research for
Development*

[www.iau-
hesd.net](http://www.iau-hesd.net)

Universities and their actions





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Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP)

Vila Universitària. Local F2.1. Campus UAB
08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès) Barcelona
Spain

Presentation

The Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) was created in 2002 on an initiative of the Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Universitat de Girona (UdG), Universitat de Lleida (UdL), Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). The ACUP's main purpose is to be the principal voice of the universities of Catalonia and combine efforts to promote initiatives, programmes and joint projects with the aim of improving the university system and ensuring that it spearheads social, cultural and economic development.

Mission

The preamble of the ACUP Statute reads: "Autonomy, Catalan identity and modernity were the three recurring themes of the Catalan University Congresses held between 1903 and 1918. These intellectual ideals and aspirations cannot be considered exhausted, they are the driving force behind the public universities' desire to work together. This autonomy to work and be responsible is leading universities to come together to develop joint strategies, for the good of Catalonia. Supplied with a deep knowledge of university history in Catalonia, and recalling the words of *Tirant lo Blanc* [one of the best known medieval works of Catalan literature, XV century] "he who forgets the past, forgets himself", the universities are looking to work for the future. The fact that public universities created an association is an indication of their willingness to work together with one voice in all matters where unanimity is possible. Moreover, a partnership between the universities and the Administration will help to further the cultural progress of Catalonia.

Website :

[Catalan Association of Public Universities](#)

ACUP ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA
D'UNIVERSITATS PÚBLIQUES

Actions towards sustainability for this organisation



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Key Partner

UNESCO Global Action Programme on
Education for Sustainable Development



University of Gothenburg

Universitetsplatsen 1
Gothenburg
Sweden

www.mls.adm.gu.se/sustainability (english)

TO KNOW MORE



International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)

311 Summer Street, Suite 310
ISCN Secretariat - c/o Sustainerv, Inc.
Boston, MA 02210
United States

www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org (english)



Climate Strategy 2010 - 2015

Action categorie: [Leadership, management & institutional development](#)

Associated keywords: [higher education](#), [sustainable development](#), [Climate](#), [Strategy](#), [HESD](#), [award](#)

Latest update: 06/23/2014

Objectives

The University of Gothenburg's Climate Strategy objective is to:

- reduce total carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2015 by at least 20 percent compared with 2008 levels,
- reduce total energy usage by 10 per cent for the same period.

Results

This is being achieved mainly through energy efficiency measures, and by adapting business travel in line with climatic and environmental considerations.

By the end of 2013 the target was almost reached with a reduction of total carbon emissions by 19 per cent as compared to the baseline year 2008. Total energy use is reduced by 15 per cent, exceeding the 10 per cent goal. For 2013 as compared to 2012, energy usage was reduced by 7 per cent giving economic savings equivalent to 430 000 euros or almost 600 000 US dollars, and a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 3 per cent.

Achievements

ISCN 2014 Award for "Excellence in Campus"

COP21

Open Letter to Ministers and Governments



WHO

a global alliance of tertiary, higher education and student sustainability networks, associations and institutions developed the open letter shown below;

a "network of networks" inspired by the higher education sustainability initiative (hesi).

WHAT AND WHY

make sure the collective voice of the world's universities, colleges and students was heard at cop21 when the united nations climate change conference took place in paris, last december.

Climate change as part of the curriculum from kindergarten to university

Climate Generations Area, Paris Le-Bourget
4 December 2015



COP21-CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



Other Climate Change Actions in HEIs

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Gothenburg University's climate strategy for 2010-2015

- *Target:* reduce carbon emission
- *Initiative:* creation of a innovation fund: climate- and environmentally conscious business travels - Travel by Gothenburg University employees = fixed percentage of the flight cost to an internal climate offsetting and mitigation fund
- *Purpose :* enable researchers, teachers, students and other employees to actively participate in the university's climate action, and affect how carbon offsetting fees are used
- *Funding:* for projects to reduce the university's carbon footprint.
- *Examples :* measures to reduce energy use, the establishment of renewable energy, enabling climate-friendly travel or travel-free meetings

Two projects emanating from the fund are:

- A student Symposium, EuroEnviro 2015 Catalysts of Change,
- Autonomous satellite transmissions replacing diesel-powered vessels in Antarctica.



COP21-CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE



2030 Development Agenda and associated SDGs



Suggestions for Catalan Universities



- **Take the survey**
 - Translation in Spanish or Catalan required
 - Analyse data for Catalan universities
 - Compare at national and global level
 - Develop initiatives in line with conclusions, recommendations and requests receives
- **Look at Agenda 2030 reporting mechanisms for Catalonia and for Spain + for Europe**
- **Define mechanisms for universities to get involved**
- **IAU would be pleased to get involved**

Thank you



Dr. Hilligje van't Land

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Come and attend the **IAU 15th General Conference** on *[Higher Education a catalyst for innovative and sustainable societies](#)* –
Bangkok, November 13-16, 2016