
Parallel sessions – DESIGNING THE FUTURE

19th September 2017 – 14h

#3 SDGs and the Humanities

The contribution of humanities and research in humanities to the solution of social issues cannot be denied. Nevertheless, after the global financial crisis, technology and science have taken a predominant role, leaving humanities in a second role, according to the perception of different stakeholders. The main actors involved in the research in humanities (universities, researchers, governments) have to make an effort to show the importance of the contribution of humanities to the progress of mankind and also to economy and other areas.

The contribution of humanities in the achievement of SDGs is key because the challenges have an important social component. The contribution of humanities to health, education or the fight against poverty cannot be debated, although the problem is often the lack of visibility of results and success. However, we need to make a critical reflection around the role of humanities in our society so that we can reorient areas of research and align them with the needs of society and the challenges posed by the SDGs. Also, it would be interesting to include transparency in the processes of evaluation of research.

Moreover, when we speak about humanities, we tend to commit the mistake of having an ethnocentric vision that makes us biased and limited in our analysis of the situation. This aspect is important enough if we think that in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda we need global solutions, nothing to do with ethnocentrism and other biased ideologies. We need to gather views from all around the world to enrich the path towards sustainable development. The governance of SDGs needs to be more global than ever so that we can build together, from the best of each culture, a fairer and more sustainable future. The differentiating point of the 2030 Agenda is that for the first time we are all involved in it, not only developed countries.

