Global University Network for Innovation
Connecting Higher Education, Social Impact and Innovation

www.guninetwork.org
GUNi is a network currently composed of over 210 members from 78 countries, which includes the UNESCO Chairs in Higher Education, higher education institutions, research centers and networks related to innovation and the social commitment of higher education. GUNi headquarters are located in Barcelona. GUNi has regional offices in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States, and Europe and North America (USA and Canada).

GUNi was created in 1999 by UNESCO, the United Nations University and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (UPC) within the framework of the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme.

Since 2014, the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) has hosted its secretariat and presidency.

“Higher education and research play a strategic role in the new knowledge society. In this context, GUNi promotes rigorous analysis and debate concerning the challenges for universities and research, in collaboration with UNESCO and the United Nations University and with institutions from around the world”

Jaume Casals,
GUNi President
Our mission

GUNi facilitates dialogue and ideas of emerging issues on higher education and its impact on society, contributing to the renewal of the visions and policies of higher education across the world from a perspective of public service, relevance and social responsibility.

“GUNi’s mission is crucial to develop the higher education sector that is able to contribute to new and emerging challenges”

David M Malone,
Rector of the United Nations University

GUNi works to promote innovation in higher education policies and systems worldwide sharing UNESCO’s principles and values.

We take an active role through the analysis and engagement of the global challenges under the context of Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

GUNi also stands for the implication of higher education institutions to achieve these targets.

“Higher education is a key sector for taking forward education for sustainable development and science for sustainability”

Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
Our goals

GUNi strives to gather knowledge and innovative experiences, from a holistic perspective, in order to help higher education institutions and systems to achieve involvement in and an impact on the development of societies by:

1. Encouraging Higher Education Institutions to **reorient their roles** for broadening their **social value and contribution** and strengthen their critical stance within society.

2. Helping bridge the gap between developed and developing countries in the field of higher education, fostering capacity-building and **cooperation from all over the world**.

3. Promoting the **exchange of resources**, innovative ideas and experiences, while allowing for collective reflection and the co-production of knowledge on **emerging higher education issues, innovation, and social responsibility on a global scale**.
GUNi Activities

1. GUNi reports
2. GUNi seminars, workshops and conferences
3. International projects
4. International Summer School on Higher Education and Research Leadership
5. GUNi global network and regional networks
6. Keeping knowledge up to date

1. GUNi Reports

Higher Education in the World is a collective work published as a result of global and regional analysis. Each edition reflects on the key issues and challenges facing higher education and its institutions in the 21st century to overcome societal issues.

GUNi is currently working on the edition of the Higher Education in the World Report 7 to be published in 2019. The HEIW7 will be devoted to the future of the humanities and the relation between science and humanities in the 21st Century.

HEIW 1 The Financing of Universities
HEIW 2 Accreditation for Quality Assurance: What is at stake?
HEIW 3 Higher Education: New Challenges and Emerging Goals for Human and Social Development
SYNTHESIS HEIW 1-3 Higher Education at a Time of Transformation: New Dynamics for Social Transformation.
HEIW 4 Higher Education’s Commitment to Sustainability: From Understanding to Action
HEIW 5 Knowledge, Engagement and Higher Education: Contributing to Social Change
HEIW6 Towards a Socially Responsible University: Balancing the Global with the Local
HEIW6 aims to analyse the dual responsibilities of universities at a local and global scale, exploring the potential conflict, or intrinsic difficulties, in addressing both the local demands of society based on the race for global competitiveness and the local and global demands to contribute to a more equitable and sustainable society. Universities have the special responsibility of providing adequate answers to both legitimate needs and interests and, thus, contribute towards:

» Overcoming the global challenges of the world, as summarized by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

» The development and competitiveness of their immediate societies.
2. GUNi Seminars, Workshops & Conferences

GUNi promotes international events linked to higher education that address innovative proposals and ideas.

Global projection through different issues:

» The social commitment of universities

» Transformative knowledge to drive social change

» Education’s commitment to sustainability: from understanding to action

» Higher education: new challenges and emerging roles for human and social development

» Accreditation for quality assurance: what is at stake?

» Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
3. International projects
GUNi also carries out projects and actively collaborates with third parties on emerging issues of higher education.

4. International Summer School on Higher Education and Research Leadership

The International Summer School on Higher Education and Research Leadership consists of different activities related to Higher Education and Research at an international level. It aims to be a leading international meeting for the analysis and debate between all national and international actors actively involved in higher education, especially universities, governments, cities and public agencies.

The Summer School holds a practical and multidisciplinary approach, gathers experts and high level practitioners from around the world and includes a variety of activities (seminars, courses and a conference) which take place in Barcelona.

The International Summer School, promoted by GUNi in partnership with different Catalan and international institutions, aims to become a meeting point for anyone with an interest in the world of higher education and research in its broadest sense: not just university institutions and their managerial boards, but also governments and public agencies, stakeholders and international institutions.

Held in Barcelona from 18th to 19th September 2017, the International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Actors and Implementation gathered over 200 multidisciplinary experts and high-level practitioners from around the world to exchange knowledge, ideas, experiences and expectations around the challenges involved with the SDGs.
The International Higher Education and Research Leadership Course provides a space for the professional development of mid- to senior level university staff (both academic and professional). The course includes sessions on trends and challenges in higher education world-wide, on universities as organisations and on innovation in higher education and research and workshops on leadership roles and organisational culture.

5. GUNi global network and regional networks

GUNi Network’s main function is to work as a facilitator among its members to enable a multidimensional information flow on higher education trending issues. Our network involves over 210 institutions worldwide, including UNESCO Chairs in Higher Education, higher education institutions, research centres and networks related to innovation and the social commitment of higher education.

Asia and the Pacific
Latin America and the Caribbean
Sub-Saharan Africa
Arab States
Europe
North America

6. Keeping knowledge up to date

A quarterly newsletter is published in order to keep the higher education community and our network updated on GUNi’s latest news and activities.
Facts & Figures

GUNi Reports

» 320 authors from 53 countries
» 20,000 reports distributed in 130 countries
» Launched in 30 countries worldwide
» Published in 4 languages

An international network comprising over 210 institutions in 78 countries

More than 100 collaborative articles

Around 80 interviews with different experts

Around 10,000 monthly visitors to GUNi’s website

More than 6,000 subscribers to our newsletter
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