2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Higher Education and Science Take Action

5th – 6th March 2020
Barcelona

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#GUNiSDGs
www.guninetwork.org
Dear Colleagues,

Universities are undergoing major changes, which involve the need to deal with big challenges when it comes to thinking about the present and future of our planet and societies. Higher education institutions are contributors to the public good. Our mission is to provide high quality lifelong education adapted to society’s needs, reducing inequalities, helping to generate decent work, fostering gender equality and promoting economic growth. Universities are the drivers of change through research, transfer, patents and the creation of spin-offs and start-ups. The latter may lead to a healthier population and greater well-being, reducing hunger and poverty and inspiring industrial innovations that will engender more sustainable cities and communities. All of this is totally in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda.

Today more than ever, collaboration in interdisciplinary education and cooperation among higher education institutions from all over the world is needed in order to achieve the UN’s goals.

At GUNi we believe that higher education institutions are hubs for youthful commitment, energy and hope for the future. For this second edition of the conference, we have not only attracted senior academics from different countries and from diverse knowledge and fields but also courageous students and student organizations that are taking action.

This conference is a unique opportunity for all the agents involved, who I would like to sincerely thank for coming. We hope that this forum will be the starting point for partnership and action within and beyond higher education institutions and international organizations.

Yours sincerely,

**María José Figueras**  
President, Global University Network for Innovation  
Rector, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
About GUNi
The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) is an international network created in 1999 by UNESCO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya- BarcelonaTech (UPC) after UNESCO’s World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE). Since 2014, the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) has hosted its secretariat and presidency.

GUNi is currently composed of more than 230 members from 80 countries, and includes the UNESCO Chairs on Higher Education, higher education institutions, research centres, and networks related to innovation and the social commitment of higher education. While GUNi’s headquarters are located in Barcelona- it also has regional offices in the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa.

GUNi’s main mission remains in full force (and is maybe now more necessary than ever), namely to strengthen the role of higher education in society, and help to renew its goals and policies worldwide from the perspective of public service, relevance and social responsibility.

In 2015, after the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals as a global call for action in defence of the environment, peace and justice, GUNi set up a parallel line of strategic action focused on sustainable development, knowledge, research and partnerships. Within this strategy, GUNi’s most important actions include:

— The organization and holding of the International Conferences on Sustainable Development Goals. The first edition, titled “Actors and Implementation”, was held in September 2017 at the Universitat Politècnica de BarcelonaTech (UPC). It gathered multidisciplinary experts, students and high-level practitioners from around the world to exchange knowledge, ideas, experiences and expectations around the challenges involved with the SDGs.

— The establishment of the GUNi Group of Experts on SDGs and Higher Education, made up of representatives of some of the leading networks working on sustainable development and higher education. It was created to offer a platform for debate, collaboration and sharing of expertise from different regions, cultures and perspectives from around the world, in order to advance the 2030 Agenda.

The members of the Group of Experts are:

Ghada Ahmadein
Arab Network for Environment and Development, RAED

Carme Gual
Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, ACCD

Thomas Jørgensen
European University Association, EUA

Akpezi Ogbuigwe
Earth Charter, United Nations University-Regional Centres of Expertise, UNU-RCEs

Arnau Queralt
European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils, EEAC

Charles W. Richardson
College of Business, Misericordia University

Orlando Sáenz
Alliance of Ibero-American University Networks for Sustainability and the Environment, ARIUSA

Rajesh Tandon
Participatory Research in Asia, PRIA & UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research

The Group is supported by the GUNi Secretariat and GUNi Regional Offices.

The members of the group play a key role in the Conference and have served as the programme’s advisory board.

— Edition and publication of reports. Thus far, GUNi has published three reports on the SDGs, all of which are available for download on the GUNi website:

• Sustainable Development Goals: Actors and Implementation. A Report from the International Conference

• Approaches to SDG17: Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

• Implementing the 2030 Agenda at Higher Education Institutions: Challenges and Responses
Conference Guide
The Conference Venue

The Conference is being held at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Ciutadella Campus. This is the site of the Humanities, Political Science, Law, Language, and Technology & Communication Departments.

Address: Carrer Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27, 08005 Barcelona

Official Conference Dinner & Cultural Evening

The Official Conference Dinner will be held on the 5th of March 2020 at 8:00 pm on the inner patio of the Roger de Llúria building (the same venue as the Conference) with a special catering service offered by Canpedró Foundation.

Canpedró Foundation is an organization devoted to social programmes that fosters social inclusion for at-risk families, young people, and the elderly. It also offers individual assistance to people living in critical conditions related to poverty, social marginalisation and social exclusion in order to help them to soundly reintegrate into society. The ideas and goals of Canpedró Foundation are materialised as actions and projects that include a charity cafeteria, laundry, personal support, nursing care, workshops for reintegration into the labour market, and academic support for children.

The Official Conference Dinner will also feature a cultural performance by the Colla Castellera "Arreplegats de la Zona Universitària" a group of human tower builders "Castellers" from the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (UPC). Castells are icons of Catalan culture.

Security

Barcelona is no more dangerous in terms of theft than any other large European city. However, please keep an eye on your belongings and never leave bags on the back of chairs in a bar or similar venue. If you have any security issues, the conference team will be on hand to help you. Please do not leave personal belongings in the hall when the sessions are on. Keep them with you at all times or leave them in the lockers that will be available throughout the Conference. They work with a 50 cent coin (€).

Photography/Recording Waiver

Photographic, audio and video recordings will be made of the Conference. By entering the event premises, you give consent to the use of your photograph, likeness and video or audio recordings in which you appear, whole or in part, without restriction or limitation, for any educational, promotional or distribution purpose.
Thursday, 5th March 2020

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome Auditorium

Stefania Giannini
Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO

María José Figueras
President, GUNi & Rector, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Jaume Casals
Rector, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Alfred Bosch
Minister of Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency, Generalitat de Catalunya

09:35 GUNi Taking Action for the 2030 Agenda Auditorium

Josep M. Vilalta
Director, GUNi & Executive Secretary, Catalan Association of Public Universities

09:50 Keynote Auditorium

Higher Education 2030: A Decade of Disruption for Sustainable Development

Daniella Tilbury
Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations, Her Majesty’s Government of Gibraltar

Chair: Ester Oliveras
Rector’s Delegate for Sustainability, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

10:30 Poster Session & Networking Coffee Break Exhibition Hall

• Implementation of the SDGs in the Strategic Planning of the Universidad Simon Bolivar in Colombia as a good practice for sustainable development
  Fernando Moron
  Universidad Simon Bolivar (Colombia)

• A Low-tech Plastic Recycle Experience for Social Transformation
  Rosario Pastor
  Universidad Federal de Bahia & Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona

• Enhancing Collaboration between Higher Education and Learning Cities through Service-Learning Partnerships in order to promote Sustainable Development
  Bisini Naidoo
  University of South Africa (South Africa)

• Emotionally Durable SDG Designers
  Thomas Østergaard
  VIA University College & Barcelona School of Design and Engineering (Denmark & Spain)

• Commitment to SDGs from university, students and teachers, from the service learning methodology
  Begoña Cabanes
  University of Zaragoza (Spain)

• University of Barcelona support program for refugees and people from conflict zones
  Catalina Jerez
  Solidarity Foundation of the Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

• Service-Learning at the University of Barcelona (UB); how SL can help us meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  Marta Pérez
  Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

• Sustainability and the SDGs in African Higher Education Institutions
  Nico Ulmer
  Leuphana University (Germany)

• Ocean Literacy Implementation of SDGs in Teacher Education
  Agnet Rehn & Kerstin Sonesson
  Malmö University & University of South East Norway (Sweden & Norway)

• Implementation of a Sustainable Campus; Positive Environmental Practices at the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente (UAO)
  Luis Francisco Amar
  Universidad Autónoma de Occidente (Colombia)

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• Sustainable Development Goals and Social Work Education. How students placements in the Global South can contribute to achieving the SDGs
Karen Meixner & Silvia Udwary
University of Applied Science St. Pölten & University of Applied Sciences Joanneum (Austria)

• SDG and Circular Competencies Changes for HE Lecturers
Torsten Sack-Nielsen
VIA University College (Denmark)

• Co-creation alliance for supporting refugee families
Lucia Jiménez
University of Sevilla & Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Affairs (Spain)

• The Impact Ranking: a new set of university indicators
Flavia Colus
University of Campinas (Brazil)

• Can teachers be SDG activists?
Dolors Setó-Pamies
Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Spain)

• Seeing the world on a small island: undergraduate research for sustainable societies
Jocelyn Ballantyne
Utrecht University and University of Aruba (The Netherlands and Aruba)

• Construction of the Environmental University System. Sustainability Policy at an institution of higher education.
Esperanza Padilla
Politécnico Internacional (Colombia)

• Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Sustainable Transformation of a Governmental Educational Building
Fatma Fatmaelzahraa Ali, Mohra Madbouly and Mohsen Aboulnaga
Cairo University (Egypt)

11:15 Parallel Panel Sessions
Room 40.008

— Integrating Student Leadership in Sustainable Actions
Chair: Ghada Ahmadein
Technical Coordinator, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

— The Sustainable Water Initiative: A Case Study of how the Higher Education Community Can Foster SDGs, student leadership and Innovation
Hammam Alkezmazy
Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Spain)

— Promoting Partnership Work for Integrating Sustainability and the SDGs across Higher Education
Meg Baker & Alison Greg
National Union of Students NUS (UK)

— Student initiatives for Achieving Gender Equality in Haryana, India: A Case Study of Bhagat Phool Singh Women’s University
Manju Panwar
Bhagat Phool Singh Women’s University (India)

— Transformation of a City Black Hole into a Green Educational Hub, Attain SDGs and Adapt to Climate Change Italy
Haidy Mousa, Mai Elhadidi and Mohsen Aboulnaga
Cairo University (Egypt) & University of Bologna (Italy)

Room 40.152

— Revising Institutional Strategies in the Context of the 2030 Agenda
Chair: Thomas Jorgensen
Senior Policy Coordinator, European University Association (EUA)

— Powering Local SDG Projects Using a Campus Zero Energy Building
Christopher Steuer & Guilbert Lee Brown
Millersville University (USA)

— Living Learning Lab for the Javeriana’s Students
José Maria Castillo
Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia)

— Enhancing the Role of the Arab Gulf State Universities in Achieving SDGs: The Case of Sultan Qaboos University
Khalaf Marhoun
Sultan Qaboos University (Oman)

— Integrating SDGs into University Policy: The Experience at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV)
Josep Ribalta
Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Spain)

Room 40.201

— Key Competencies Approaches for Sustainability
Chair: Akpezi Ogbuigwe
Earth Charter, United Nations University-Regional Centres of Expertise (UNU-RCEs)
• Testing Sustainable Development Goals on Higher Education Students
  Marian Buil
  Universitat Oberta de Catalunya & Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)

• aroundersenseofpurpose.eu where ESD Competences and SDGs Meet
  André de Hamer and Gerben De Veries
  University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands)

• Transformative Evaluation for Sustainability Educators: the Experience of a Competence-Based Educational Research Project.
  Michaela Mayer & Francesca Farioli
  IASS Italian Association for Sustainability Science (Italy)

12:45 Parallel Panel Sessions

Room 40.152

— Global and Local Networks: Joint Sustainable Initiatives
  Chair: Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry
  President, Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI)

• E Pluribus Unum for SDGs: Galician Universities Working Together for Sustainable Development.
  Speaker: Vanessa Míguez Martin
  Universidade de A Coruña, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Universidade de Vigo (Spain)

• The Involvement of University Cooperation for Development in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
  Ángel González
  Observatorio de la Cooperación Universitaria al Desarrollo (OCUD) - CRUE

• The IAU Global Cluster on Higher Education and Research on Sustainable Development
  Hilligje Vantland
  International Association of Universities (IAU)

Room 40.201

— Developing Evaluation Tools for Change
  Chair: Charles W. Richardson
  Dean of the College of Business, Misericordia University

— Local SDG Indicators. A Collaborative Proposal to Monitor the SDGs and contribute to Local Appropriation of the 2030 Agenda
  Maria Cortada
  Lavola Anthesis Group, IBEI-UPF, Metropolis association, Pla Estratègic Metropolità de Barcelona (Spain)

• Making Connections Between Institutional Quality Assessment and the Sustainable Development Goals: Proposed Quality Indicators for Sustainable Development in Higher Education
  Marta Fonolleda & Resma Punjabi
  Government of Gibraltar, St Catharine’s College University of Cambridge & Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education of Andorra (AQUA)

Room 40.008

— Social Impact through SDGs: Transforming Communities
  Chair: Carme Gual
  Director, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)

• The Way to Implement the SDGs at the UAS St. Pölten in Teaching, Research and Organization. Raising Awareness and Increasing Sustainable Action Chances and Challenges
  Silvia Udwary
  Fachhochschule St. Pölten (Austria)

• Weaving Communities, the Missing Link for the Social Impact of Universities. Using Network Analysis to Study the Articulation of Communities at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia-BarcelonaTech (UPC)
  Didac Ferrer & Ginevra Marina Lazzerini
  Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-BarcelonaTech (Spain)

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• Fontys and SDGs on Stage: a Content and Internship Platform for SDGs and Higher Education
  Elker Van der Valk
  Saxion University (The Netherlands)

• Social University Responsibility and SDGs: A Paraguayan Experience
  Eduardo Velázquez
  UN Global Compact. First Child Network. Paraguayan Association of Private Universities (Paraguay)

14:15 Lunch Exhibition Hall

15:15 Rankings and SDGs: Should HEIs Be Ranked on their SDG Performance?
  Auditorium

• The Times Higher Education Approach:
  Phil Baty
  Chief Knowledge Officer, Times Higher Education

• Open Debate:
  Phil Baty
  Chief Knowledge Officer, Times Higher Education
  Ellen Hazelkorn
  Joint Managing Partner, BH Associates education consultants and Professor Emeritus, Technological University Dublin
  Thomas Jorgensen
  Senior Policy Coordinator, European University Association
  Chair: Alicia Betts
  International Strategic Projects, Universitat de Girona

16:15 Speed Dating Session Exhibition Hall

• CBR for the Humanities: an antidote to indifference
  Jocelyn Ballantyne
  Utrecht University (The Netherlands)

• Education on Climate Change for Schools by Students and Alumni of the University of Graz
  Lena Valentina Mair & Laura Eva Marie Haberfellner
  Students Association for Sustainability, Scientists for Future, Climate Change Center Austria, University of Graz (Austria)

• Associacio d’Estudiants pel Medi Ambient - Association of Students for the Environment
  Lola Berna & Carina Casadesús
  Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)

• Increasing the impact of research: Learning from the CiRCLE Programme
  Verity Buckley
  The Association of Commonwealth Universities (UK)

• Life Sciences Universities engagement for SDGs: a practical case
  Astrid Ballesta
  Universitat de Lleida & Soil section-Catalan Agricultural Studies Institution-Institute of Catalan Studies (Spain)

• VRevolution. The potential for reducing social inequalities in education through immersive virtual reality content.
  Mireille Radoi
  Central University Library & Institute of Advanced Interdisciplinary Research (Romania)

• BC iTversity, an inclusive integrated concept for effective regional development; an example from South Africa
  Enrico Marcello Jacobs
  Belgium Campus iTversity, Pretoria, South Africa (Belgium & South Africa)

• Teaching SDGs with audiovisual tools
  Carmen Parra & Yolanda Cruz
  Almería University (Spain)

• Towards a more transversal university: exploring PBL-SDG innovative learning strategies to contribute to sustainable development
  Maria Llerena & Mar Carrió
  Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)

• NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020 Learn- Live- Lead
  Michelle Mary O’Dowd
  National University of Ireland Galway (Ireland)

• Open Knowledge as a Key driver for contributing to the SDGs: The example of the Open Knowledge Action Plan at the UOC
  Nadja Gmelch
  Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain)

• Teaching for Sustainability How to Implement the SDGs on an Interdisciplinary Course for International Teacher Students
  Kerstin Sonesson
  Malmö University (Sweden)

• Engaged Scholarship in Higher Education Institutes: Converging Theory and Practice
  Manju Singh
  Daystar University (Kenya)
17:00 Parallel Panel Sessions

Room 40.101

Innovative Social Engagement through Service Learning
Chair: Rajesh Tandon
Founder of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and UNESCO Co-Chair on Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

- Service-Learning in Environmental Sciences: teaching in social responsibility
  Mireia Esparza
  UB, UAB, Institut d’Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona (Spain)

- The Final Degree Project at the Faculty of Biology: from looking at the world through the window to starting to change it. A powerful tool to develop SDG
  Teresa Sauras-Yera
  Universitat de Barcelona (Spain)

- Sustainable development, community engagement and collaboration with local organizations: Service-learning as an innovative practice in higher education
  Rosario Cubero
  University of Seville (Spain)

- Service Learning for Sustainability in HEIs in Hungary
  Judith Juhász & Gyory Málovics
  University of Szeged and Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary)

Room 40.154

Teacher Training: Seeds for Transformative Competencies
Chair: Axel Didriksson
President, GUNi-LAC

- UC Sustainability Chair Transforming Education Sustainable Futures?
  Fernando Urquiza
  Pontificia Universidad Catolica (Chile)

- Implementing Education for Sustainable Development (SDG4.7) in Higher Education
  Joanne Pagèze
  Université de Bordeaux (France)

- Professional development of the university teacher: mentoring as a strategy for training in competences for sustainability
  Maria de Fátima Poza-Vilches & Abigail López
  Universidad de Granada (Spain)

Room 40.152

Responsible Research for the SDGs
Chair: Gema Revuelta
Director of the Studies Center on Science Communication and Society, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

- The affordances of design thinking and collaborative digital tools (ICT) during the search for solutions to problems of the built environment
  Diane Pruneau
  Universite de Moncton, University Laval, Universite d’Ottawa (Canada)

- Engaging students in participatory and action-oriented research for sustainability
  Catherine Etmanski & Beth Page
  Royal Roads University, Victoria British Columbia (Canada)

- VALUART: a methodological approach to include direct social action on SDGs in Science Communication projects & activities. Discussion on potentials and barriers
  Oriol Marimom
  BigVan Ciencia

20:00 Official Conference Dinner & Cultural Evening Inner Patio
Friday, 6th March 2020

09:00 Keynote Auditorium
— Transforming Towards Sustainable Development: Integrating Effectiveness and Justice Considerations
  Eeva Furman
  Director, Environment Policy Centre of the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE
  Chair: Rajesh Tandon
  Founder of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and UNESCO Co-Chair on Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education

09:45 Regional Perspectives Auditorium
— The Catalan University System and the 2030 Agenda
  Pastora Martinez
  Vice President for Globalization and Cooperation at the Open Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

— 2030 Agenda: Transform Catalonia
  Arnau Queralt
  Director, Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS)
  Carme Gual
  Director, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)

10:30 Poster Session & Networking Coffee Break Exhibition Hall

11:15 Parallel Panel Session
Room 40.002
— Transdisciplinary Curricula for Sustainability
  Chair: Marcello Scalisi
  Director, Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)
  • University of Girona: transdisciplinary teaching innovation network on SDGs in the context of climate emergency
    Leslie Collazo
    Universitat de Girona (Spain)
  Room 40.004
  — Visions of European climate landscapes for 2030. Developing climate change adaptation scenarios in TeRRIFICA’s summer schools
    Chair: Arnau Queralt
    Speakers: Kate Sposob, Norbert Steinhaus, Laura Steinhaus, Joanna Morawska-Jancelewicz, Tanja Adnaevi and Minerva Campos
  Room 40.006
  — The Planetary Wellbeing project as a transversal strategy of the UPF to achieve the SDGs
    Chair: Ester Oliveras
    Speakers: Francesc Subirada, Lela Melon, Josep Lluis Martí, Josep Maria Antó, Ester Oliveras and Tània Verge

12:45 Closing Keynotes Auditorium
— Gender Equality in Education: The Key to Sustainable Development
  Alice Ochanda
  Programme Specialist, Office Gender Focal Point, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

— Accelerating coherent and concerted action for sustainable development, is higher education fit for purpose?
  Birgitte Feiring
  Department Director, Human Rights and Development and Business, The Danish Institute for Human Rights
  Chair: Carme Gual
  Director, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)

13:45 Closing Auditorium
Joan Gómez
DG Research, Government of Catalonia
Josep M. Vilalta
Director, GUNi & Executive Secretary, ACUP

14:00 Final Networking Lunch Exhibition Hall
The Second GUNi International Conference on SDGs puts the spotlight on how higher education institutions are embedding sustainable development in their core missions, and focuses on showcasing, explaining and sharing scientific research, innovative practices, projects, programs and initiatives that university communities are carrying out with the aim of implementing the 2030 Agenda. These include different perspectives and approaches: from research to teaching, institutional leadership and student initiatives. Taking a pragmatic and multidisciplinary approach, this International Conference is bringing together scholars, university professionals, students, experts and practitioners from all around the world.