Global University Network for innovation

More than two decades generating and sharing open knowledge on higher education around the world
About

- One of the world leading think tanks on higher education policy and management
- An international network that currently gathers 250 members from 80 countries, including higher education institutions, UNESCO Chairs and research centres
- A reference institution in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in higher education

GUNi was created in 1999 after the first UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education to follow up and facilitate the implementation of its main decisions. It is supported by UNESCO and the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP), which hosts its secretariat and presidency since 2014.
Development is improved by becoming transformative.
Mission and Values

GUNi’s mission is to foster the role of higher education in society by supporting the renewal of its visions and policies around the world in terms of public service, relevance, social responsibility and innovation.

GUNi promotes the exchange of resources, innovative ideas and experiences. GUNi allows for collective reflection and co-production of knowledge on higher education emerging issues.

Values

- Defense and promotion of education, culture and science as decisive tools for human and social progress
- Sustainable development
- International cooperation, multilateralism and democratization of education and science
- University autonomy and academic freedom
- Responsibility and social commitment of higher education institutions
- Promotion of the diversity of higher education institutions
- Equity, equal opportunities and the defense of human rights
- Multidisciplinarity
Objectives

Generate and share knowledge on higher education policy and management around the world

Promote the knowledge society by strengthening higher education systems and institutions for the sake of progress, culture and well-being

Support institutions and governments around the world for the advancement of higher education, scientific research and innovation

Promote the development of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals within higher education systems and institutions around the world

Encourage academic and scientific diplomacy to promote multilateralism and international cooperation
Activities

Higher Education in the World Reports

GUNi Seminars, Workshops and International Conferences
GUNi and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

International collaborations and projects

Keeping knowledge and resources up to date
Higher Education in the World Reports

GUNi's flagship project is the edition and publication of the Higher Education in the World Report (HEIW). This group effort is the result of global and regional analyses of higher education. Published every 2-3 years, with a specific subject chosen for each edition, the HEIW Report reflects on the key issues and challenges facing higher education and its institutions in the 21st century. More than 600 internationally renowned authors from 100 countries have contributed to the GUNi Reports so far and 19,000 copies have been distributed in 130 countries. The Report is essential reading for university leaders, academics, administrators and policy-makers with a concern for all matters relating to the role of higher education, with a special focus on social responsibility. Until now, GUNi has published seven issues plus a synthesis (2009) commissioned by UNESCO for the World Conference on Higher Education (Paris, 2009). The series includes the following titles:
1. The Financing of Universities

2. Accreditation for Quality Assurance: What’s at Stake?


4. Higher Education’s Commitment to Sustainability: From Understanding to Action

5. Knowledge, Engagement and Higher Education: Contributing to Social Change

6. Towards a Socially Responsible University: Balancing the Global with the Local

7. Humanities and Higher Education: Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities

For further information, please go to www.guninetwork.org/guni-reports
GUNi Seminars, Workshops and International Conferences

GUNi promotes international events linked to higher education that address innovative proposals and ideas. Along with seminars and workshops, the GUNi International Conference is an international forum for debate on the challenges facing higher education. Attended by renowned experts, university leaders, academics, policymakers and practitioners from all over the world, the Conference addresses innovative proposals and ideas, as well as the results of the latest research on each subject.

Chronology of GUNi international Conferences

- **2004**: The Social Commitment of Universities
- **2005**: Accreditation for Quality Assurance: What is at stake?
- **2006**: The Financing of Universities
- **2008**: Higher Education: New Challenges and Emerging Roles for Human and Social Development
- **2010**: Education’s Commitment to Sustainability: from Understanding to Action
2nd GUNi International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Higher Education Take Action

Let's Build Transformative Knowledge to Drive Social Change

2013

1st GUNi International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Actors and Implementation

International Conference on Humanities and Higher Education: Generating Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities

2017

2018

2020

3rd UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education (in partnership with GUNi)

2022
GUNi and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, GUNi adopted a strategic line of action around the SDGs with a focus on partnerships, knowledge and research. Since 2015, GUNi’s project on SDGs is based on:

  
- The coordination of the Group of Experts on SDGs and Higher Education

- The following publications and reports: “Approaches to SDG 17 Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, “Sustainable Development Goals: Actors and implementation, a Report from the International Conference”, “Implementing the 2030 Agenda at Higher Education Institutions: Challenges and Responses” and “2nd GUNi International Conference on SDGs: Higher Education & Science Take Action. Summary Report”.
GUNi also carries out projects and actively collaborates with third parties on emerging issues of higher education at an international and European level. GUNi encourages practices and projects that involve collaboration with other institutions and organisations.

GUNi participates with H2020 and Erasmus+ projects, such as TeRRIFICA (Territorial RRI fostering innovative climate action), TEFCE (Towards a European Framework for Community Engagement in Europe), SHEFCE (Steering Higher Education for Community Engagement), DECODE (European Deans Council for Designing Sustainability Impact Roadmaps), HEIRRI (Higher Education Institutions and Responsible Research and Innovation), EnRRICH (Enhancing Responsible Research and Innovation through Curricula in Higher Education), FoTRRIs (Fostering a Transition towards Responsible Research and Innovation systems) and Sparks.

At an international level, GUNi remains committed to UNESCO and UNESCO’s principles, collaborating with its initiatives and major activities, such as the UNESCO Futures of Education: Learning to Become and the 3rd UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education.
The GUNi International Call for Action (2022–2025) project: “Rethinking HEIs for Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”

The “GUNi International Call for Action (2022–2025): Rethinking HEIs for Sustainable and Inclusive Societies” project seeks to open the debate on the future of higher education institutions in the current decade, provide new and inspiring visions for HEIs, and guide and support them in their transformation to become more relevant, inclusive, sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible.

The project has a mid-term vision and will run initially, from 2022 to 2025. Its steppingstone is the coordination, preparation and edition of a special issue of the GUNi Higher Education in the World Report series, GUNi’s flagship project, under the title “GUNi World Report – Special Issue – New Visions for Higher Education Institutions towards 2030”. The report, presented in the framework of the 3rd World Conference on Higher Education in 2022, is the basis for the following GUNi activities and initiatives to foster debate around the globe, support HEIs and promote capacity building.
New Visions for Higher Education towards 2030

A stepping stone for the GUNi International Call for Action (2022-2025): “Rethinking HEIs for Sustainable and Inclusive Societies”
Keeping knowledge and resources up to date

GUNi’s website is an open door to the higher education community and it is also home to resources for policymakers, teachers and researchers, such as videos, reports, articles and materials on topics related to emerging issues.

The quarterly newsletter is published and disseminated in order to keep the higher education community and the GUNi members updated on the network’s news and activities.
A global network

GUNi’s network involves 250 institutions worldwide, including higher education institutions, UNESCO Chairs in Higher Education, research centres and networks related to higher education. Through GUNi’s network, the following GUNi regions have been set:

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

250 members from 80 countries

9 successful international conferences

More than 100 collaborative articles

8 GUNi World Reports, with the participation of +600 internationally renowned authors from 100 countries and 19,000 copies distributed

80 interviews with different experts

10,000 monthly visitors to GUNi’s website

6,000 Newsletter’s subscribers
GUNi has been working for more than 20 years to strengthen the role of higher education in society.

We believe that GUNi can make a key contribution to the next decade, leading up to 2030 and beyond.
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