# IHES
Internationalisation in Higher Education for Society

# >>> Sustainable Development Goals

## #IHES guidelines

## 1 WHAT CAN BE YOUR GOAL OR REASON?

Projects focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the may will pursue public goods, economic or social justice goals depending on the chosen SDGs. Typically, most universities address the SDG 4 on education but the most relevant goal is actually SDG17 (Partnering for the Goals). SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) is next, while also SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) are popular. In addition, many universities put an emphasis on sustainability (SDG 11) and Climate Action (SDG 13).

## 2 WHO CAN BE YOUR BENEFICIARIES?

The clear focus of such projects is on the society at large (globally and locally) as the main beneficiary. Depending on the SDG in the focus, this can relate to disadvantaged groups in society (e.g. gender-related, education-related, economically challenged, etc.) or even the general public (especially regarding climate and sustainability SDGs. The latter SDGs will also then target regional and local authorities, SMEs, NGOs and other institutional societal actors. SDG4 projects may address schools or VET institutions

## 3 WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERS IN YOUR UNIVERSITY?

SDG-related projects are by nature long-term activities which usually also involve the whole or most of the institution. They, ,therefore usually rely on the domestic academics, administrators, students and also especially the leadership. The latter are crucial to generate an institutional commitment liaison to local/regional authorities, while the academics and students transport the SDGs into the research and learning of the institution and provide usually the practical activities "on the ground", with administrators facilitating the processes.

## 4 HOW CAN YOU REALISE SUCH ACTIVITIES?

SDG-related projects can use the entire scope of dimensions of internationalisation. Work with the local public sund authorities would fall under Internationalisation at Home. Mobilities can be used to bring e.g. experts on Climate Action into the citiy or to bring local students to partner cities abroad. Digital formats can allow citizens in different parts of the world to come together and learn with the help of your academics, students, and administrators on e.g. SDG 5. Mobility can support SDG13 e.g. through network meetings.

When #internationalisation matters...

## 5 WHO CAN BE ENABLERS TO SUPPORT YOU?

Universities emphasised the substantial role of regional and local governments and authorities when addressing especially SDGs 3, 4, 5, 11 and 13. For SDG17, associations of societal actors such as the Lifelong Learning Plattform LLLP or Euroclio in Brussels can be essential to assure a wider reach. Schools and VET organisations will be elemental to reach out to families, pupils and peers when you want to improve education (SDG4) or want to raise awareness for climate (SDG13) or sustainability issues (SDG11).

## 6 RISKS, SOLUTIONS, WHAT TO DO & WHAT NOT

The biggest risk is that universities will choose too many SDGs and then not achieve any tangible results, thus prioritisation is key. Jkey actors are academics but they live under the "publish or perish" paradigm and time restraints, so the leadership needs to offer relief and incentives. Such projects are always complex and need a proper central management. Also, in times of accountability, often impacts are unclear and not measured. For this, the implementation of a proper impact monitoring with an external partner is key.

## 7 INTERESTING EXAMPLES

**Multistakeholder Grants for Young Researchers** (KU Leuven, BE)
→ https://www.kuleuven.be/english/international/development-cooperation/fundingpossibilities/globalminds/multi-stakeholders/docs/4-form-motivation-letter-multistakeholders.docx

**Global Engagement** (VIVES University, BE)
→ https://www.vives.be/en/global-engagement

**NEwly ARrived in a common home** (IT)
→ https://www.ismu.org/en/project-near-newly-arrived-in-a-common-home/

**SDGs through the Aurora Network** (URV, ES)
→ https://www.aurora.urv.cat/en/about/how-we-do-it/

Follow the whole IHES 2021 session on YouTube
→ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vXUjPd4-h8

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*Integrating SDGs needs bottom-up & top-down approaches in the university.*
(Laurens Rademakers, KU Leuven, BE)

*In order to pursue the SDGs for the society, we need responsible research & education.*
(Anubha Singh, Alliance University, IN)

*It is our responsibility to teach the public how to cope with the complexity expressed by the SDGs.*
(Lies Verstraete, Vives University, BE)

*The university needs to become a permeable institution for the world around it via the SDGs.*
(John Style, Universitat Rovira I Virigili, ES)

IHES

We aim to use
benefits of internationalisation
for social engagement.

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