



2nd International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Higher Education & Science Take Action

5-6th March 2020
Barcelona

 GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
NETWORK FOR INNOVATION

Call for Contributions

www.guninetwork.org

▪ Context

Societies need global transformation and clear commitment to sustainable development, the reduction of social inequalities and the improvement of living conditions at local and global levels. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a response to this need: a universal, ambitious, sustainable development agenda involving education, health, environment, industry, justice, governance and cities, among others.

Challenges such as health and demographic change, food safety, quality education for all, safe and clean water, green and energy-efficient sources, climate change, and inclusive and secure communities need the engagement of universities and the higher education community in general to respond on global and local levels. On the one hand, universities need to help to find solutions and transfer knowledge to tackle the global challenges faced by our world (and summarized by the SDGs) and on the other hand, they need to engage with their communities and foster the economic, social and cultural development of their nation, region or society.

It is in this framework that GUNi - as a network of higher education institutions, UNESCO Chairs and research centres seeking to inform policymaking- adopted a strategic line of action around the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with a focus on partnerships, knowledge and research. Its main activities include the GUNi International Conferences on Sustainable Development Goals, a leading international meeting for analysis and debate between all national and international stakeholders, and most especially universities, governments, cities and public agencies.

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▪ 2nd GUNi International Conference on SDGs

After a successful first edition of the International Conference on SDGs: Actors and Implementation, GUNi will be holding the second edition of the GUNi International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Higher Education and Science Take Action on the 5th and 6th of March 2020 at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) in Barcelona.

This second edition will put the spotlight on how higher education institutions are embedding sustainable development in their core missions, and will focus on showcasing, explaining and sharing scientific research, innovative practices, projects, programmes and initiatives that university communities are carrying out with the aim of implementing the 2030 Agenda. These will include different perspectives and approaches: from research to teaching, institutional leadership and student initiatives. Taking a pragmatic and multidisciplinary approach, this International Conference will bring together scholars, university professionals, students, experts and practitioners from all around the world.

▪ Call for Contributions

For this 2nd GUNi International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we welcome any contributions that present scientific research, innovative practices, projects, programmes and initiatives that demonstrate how higher education institutions are working towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specifically, we would like to invite applications that put the spotlight on activities designed to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and their achievement in teaching, research, institutional policies, third mission and student initiatives at higher education institutions. We encourage practices that involve collaboration with other institutions and organisations. We welcome applications from different countries, contexts and disciplines.

The different categories of this Call are as follows:

- Teaching
- Research (experiences and specific research on SDGs and sustainable development)
- Institutional policies
- Third mission
- Student initiatives

▪ Evaluation Committee

The evaluation committee will review all abstracts received for each category and session type. The evaluation committee is formed by the Group of Experts on SDGs and Higher Education with support from the GUNi Secretariat and GUNi Regional Offices.

Group of Experts on SDGs and Higher Education:

- Ghada Ahmadein, Coordinator of the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)
- Carme Gual Via, Director of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD)
- Thomas Jørgensen, Senior Policy Coordinator at the European University Association (EUA)
- Akpezi Ogbuigwe, Council Member of the Earth Charter and Advisor for Africa to the United Nations University-Regional Centres of Expertise (UNU-RCEs)
- Arnau Queralt, President of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) and Director of the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS)
- Charles W. Richardson, Board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) and Professor at Misericordia University
- Orlando Sáenz, Coordinator of the Alliance of Ibero-American University Networks for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA) and professor at the University of Applied and Environmental Sciences (UDCA)
- Rajesh Tandon, Founder of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research

GUNi Secretariat and GUNi Regional Offices:

- Josep M. Vilalta – Director of GUNi and Executive Secretary of the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP)
- Axel Didriksson, President of GUNi-Latin America & Caribbean and researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- Peter Okebukola, President of GUNi-Africa and Professor of Science Education at Lagos State University

▪ Method for participation

The 2nd GUNi International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has three different types of deliveries:

- Panel sessions (2-3 speakers on a similar topic)
- Poster applications for a poster session, which will be ongoing throughout the conferences
- Speed-dating session, which will introduce initiatives in the form of an elevator-ride pitch (3 min) to a small group of people

Based on the authors' preferences and the accepted proposals, contributions will be allocated to either the panel sessions, the speed-dating session or as poster presentations.

▪ Key dates

- Opening of period for submission: 29th April 2019
- Deadline for submission: 15th September 2019 (23:59 ECT)
- Notification of acceptance/rejection: November 2019

▪ Rules for submission

1. Participants are invited to submit contributions for either poster or verbal presentation.
2. Based on the authors' preferences and the accepted proposals, contributions will be allocated to the panel sessions, the speed-dating session or as poster presentations.
3. The verbal presentation can either be a simple spoken intervention or can be conducted with the help of visual aids, handouts and similar.
4. Abstracts should be written in English using a clear style. Max. 2,000 characters.
5. We recommend that abstracts should be carefully drafted and thoroughly checked before submission, in particular the list of authors, to avoid last minute changes.
6. Abstracts must be submitted
 - a. by e-mail to: info@guninetwork.org
 - b. with the title of the abstract as the subject of the e-mail
 - c. in the template provided below ([download template](#))
7. The submission of an abstract carries with it the obligation that it will actually presented at the conference by the author or, at least, by one of the co-authors, provided that the abstract is finally accepted.
8. Notification of acceptance or rejection by the Scientific Committee will be mailed to the submitting author to the given e-mail address by November 2019.
9. Accepted abstracts will be published electronically as a single volume on the [GUNi website](#).

Abstract template

Title	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> <i>The Higher Education Institutions and SDG project</i>
Author(s)	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> <i>Surname¹, A., Surname², B., Surname^{1,3}, C., and Surname¹, D.-J.</i>
Affiliation(s)	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> <i>¹ Association of Catalan Public Universities, Barcelona, Spain</i> <i>² Global University Network for Innovation, Barcelona, Spain</i>
Corresponding author's e-mail	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> guni@quninetwork.org
Keywords (maximum 5)	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> <i>SDG, university, sustainable development, teaching, institutional policy</i>
Preferred format	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> ** <i>Panel session / Poster / Speed-dating</i>
Category	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> <i>Teaching/Research/Institutional/Third mission/Students' initiatives</i>
Abstract (maximum 2,000 characters)	<i>(please replace the sample text below)</i> <i>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Duis non enim dignissim ipsum maximus tristique eget a justo. Mauris justo ligula, faucibus ac magna suscipit, lobortis fringilla neque. Donec bibendum orci at turpis pulvinar, vitae tristique nulla accumsan. Nam diam velit, tempus id nisl in, tempus porta ligula. Nam elementum feugiat ex ut commodo. Ut vehicula hendrerit tempor. Fusce venenatis, nulla id condimentum lobortis, nunc orci semper sapien, vitae dignissim justo mi non purus. Donec gravida rhoncus ullamcorper. In tincidunt libero in congue congue. Duis vitae eros sem. Pellentesque sit amet ipsum vitae ante ultrices efficitur. Sed ut tempor dui.</i>