

Contribution of SDGs to higher education

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Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal set of goals targets and indicators that were adopted in 2015 to “end poverty in all its forms” by 2030 [1]. The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets and 232 monitoring indicators focused on economic, social and environmental issues [2]. Education is one of the bases of SDGs, since quality education contributes to noteworthy sustainable development benefits for all individuals and societies in general, contributing to accelerating capacity to implement SDGs [3].

Universities and SDGs

Universities can contribute to the SDGs and, at the same time, universities can draw a range of benefits from the 2030 Agenda and by engaging with the SDGs [4]. Not all the SDGs affect university activity in the same manner, nor can the University make the same contribution to them all [2]. However, with regard to universities, we selected 12 of the 17 goals, which we believe, according to the literature, that universities can make a positive contribution to. Specifically, we selected the following **12 SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16** and **17**, to which universities can contribute, through 35 targets and 56 indicators. Table 1 shows the 12 SDGs and the 35 targets to which universities can contribute.

Table 1. SDGs and Targets

	SDG	Target
3	Good health and well-being	3.4, 3.5, 3.c
4	Quality education	4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.c
5	Gender equality	5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5, 5.c
7	Affordable and clean energy	7.2, 7.3
8	Decent work and economic growth	8.3, 8.5, 8.8
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	9.4, 9.5
10	Reduced inequalities	10.2, 10.3
11	Sustainable cities and communities	11.2, 11.7
12	Responsible production and consumption	12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.7
13	Climate action	13.3
16	Peace, justice and strong institutions	16.6, 16.7, 16.a
17	Partnerships for the goals	17.2, 17.6, 17.17

Conclusions

Universities must play a vital role in achieving the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, universities must decide whether and how they want to contribute to sustainable development, taking into account their situation and their real potential.

References

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