

# Mainstreaming SDGs into higher education programs

Z. Gareiou, E. Konstantinidis, C. Tsipa, S. Triantafillopoulos, N. Matsouki and E. Zervas\*

Hellenic Open University, 26335, Patra, Greece

\*zervas@eap.gr

## Introduction

Higher Education Institutions play a key role in fostering sustainable development and in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [1]. One of the main principles of Agenda 2030 is to equip individuals to deal with the complex challenges that are anticipated in the future [2]. Furthermore, one of the key areas of Education for sustainable development in higher education is the reorientation of the curriculum towards sustainability [3], as universities are engines of societal transformation and can nurture future citizens and navigate them towards sustainability through their educational programs [4]. Therefore, many universities around the world seek to include the SDGs in their teaching or research [1].

## Implementation of the SDGs in university programs

Given that there are 17 goals in the SDGs, where almost all aspects of life are included, it is not too difficult for universities to develop programs and activities related to these goals. For this, higher education institutions at various levels and sectors in each country have developed programs to support and accelerate the achievement of the 17 goals of the SDGs [5].

Universities can be engines of societal transformation [4]. They will produce graduates who in the future have a very important role in various sectors and at various levels [5]. They nurture the future leaders, professionals, and citizens and can navigate them towards sustainability through their educational programs. The role of Higher Education in the realisation of the SDGs is therefore its contribution to the transformational transition to sustainability [4].

Therefore, universities can help to shape new ways of educating global citizens and delivering knowledge and innovation into society [4].

The possible contributions of universities to the SDGs are manifold in key areas. These areas are: Research and Development, Learning and Teaching, Governance and Campus Operations, and Civic Engagement and Community Outreach [1].

## Conclusions

University has not only the responsibility of making students know, but also must construct new knowledge that could be of utility in order to face the current challenges human beings must deal with [6]. Environmental knowledge should be one of them [6]. However, universities need to formulate their own vision for the future and create the right curricula to align with that vision.

## References

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