Universities in action for the UN 2030 Agenda

The UN Decade of Action by Higher Education Institution networks

Universities and young generations – Together for People, Planet and Prosperity

During the Forum promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS) on January 18th 2022, within the Global Goals Week at EXPO 2020 DUBAI – Italian pavilion – an event organized by the Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile (RUS) dedicated to sustainability: students will present their ideas for the university in 2030 and higher education institutions will share best practices to actively contribute to the UN Decade of Action.
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CONTEXT
The commitment of Universities to sustainability becomes particularly effective when teaching and research, as well as public engagement and the governance, aim to reach the same objectives and goals. This awareness is at the basis of the Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile – RUS (the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development), an unprecedented experience of coordination and sharing among all Italian universities engaged in the issues of environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Among the main purposes of RUS is the dissemination of culture and good sustainability practices, both inside and outside. Universities, sharing skills and experience, in order to amplify both the positive impacts of the actions implemented by the individual universities and the promotion of the SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals - in order to help in their achievement.

At the same time, RUS is conscious that only 10 years are left to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals; therefore, it is more important than ever for the global community to mobilise for accelerated action. What are universities effectively already doing in order to achieve the goals set for 2030? What kind of university do students envision for the future? One way to measure the progress is to focus on the "Ps" that shape the SDGs, in particular RUS is concentrating its efforts on 3 of them: People, Planet and Prosperity.

THE THREE Ps
The UN has identified as roadmap “5 Ps” that shape the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. They highlight how the SDGs form an intertwined framework instead of a group of siloed goals. RUS decided to focus the sessions of its Forum on 3 of them: People, Planet and Prosperity.

— people
The SDGs declare the world's determination “to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.” The university system can face and defeat poverty through actions focused on education accessibility, skill development, inclusion and social justice.

— planet
The SDGs set as their goal to protect the planet “so it can support the needs of the present and future generations.” The university system can play an important role as a trendsetter for actions suitable to tackle the global challenges of climate change and environmental crisis.

— prosperity
The SDGs aim to “ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.” Higher education institutions are labs for a new cultural and governance model that allows the possible growth of the economies in an environmentally sustainable way.
PARTICIPANTS
Students and representatives of universities, university networks and institutions will participate to the Forum. Some of them will join the event live, others will contribute with videos previously collected.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE UNIVERSITY FORUM
The Forum will be on hybrid mode, online and on the premises of the EXPO 2020 Dubai Italian Pavilion (depending on the pandemic situation) with the following draft agenda:

— Jan. 18th 2022, afternoon
Three thematic sessions on People - Planet - Prosperity are organized to share videos of the students’ ideas for the future and best practice implemented from universities all over the world. RUS representatives will chair the three sessions and they will present the videos collected.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE
In order to enrich the Universities Forum with the voices of various stakeholders’ voices, two calls are launched:

— Call for students
Students send short videos with their ideas on the future of Higher Education Institution. The best videos will be edited into three different collage-videos focusing on People - Planet - Prosperity. Let’s give voice to our students and their visions for universities in 2030!
Deadline to send videos: Sept. 15th, 2021

— Call for HEIs
Higher Education Institutions can send a video describing their best practice on one of the following topic: People, Planet, Prosperity. The best videos will be showcased in the worldwide arena. Let’s show what universities are already doing to pursue the UN 17 SDGs!
Deadline to send videos: Sept. 15th, 2021

Help us to spread the calls within your networks stakeholders!
Share the annexes A (students) and B (Higher Education Institutions), with them!

All the materials collected will be shown on RUS media, the selected ones will be showcased during the Global Goal Week on Jan. 18th, 2022.

For more information, please consult the dedicated page on the RUS website or write to rus.expo@polito.it