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DA



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EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI  
UAE



ITALIA  
LA BELLEZZA UNISCE LE PERSONE  
BEAUTY CONNECTS PEOPLE  
الجمال يجمع الناس

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## **International contest**

### **“UniSustainathon: sustainability as an opportunity”**

*Universities for Expo 2020 Dubai*

#### **Context**

The commitment of Universities to sustainability becomes particularly effective when teaching and research, as well as the sustainable management of university structures, are accompanied by an effective educational and training choice that answers to the real needs of the territory.

This awareness is at the basis of the University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS), 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 the RUS is the dissemination of culture and good sustainability practices, both inside and outside the Universities, sharing skills and experiences, 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 - to help in their achievement.

In this context, within the 2020 Italian Sustainable Development Festival, the RUS and the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), in collaboration with the Commissioner General's Office for Italy's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai, organize from Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, an international hackathon entitled "UniSustainathon: sustainability as an opportunity. Universities for Expo Dubai 2020", with the aim of encouraging students from all over the world to reflect on sustainable and resilient solutions, paying particular attention to the topics of interest of the next Universal Exposition (which will be inaugurated in October 2021 in the United Arab Emirates), with a complex, inter and transdisciplinary perspective.

#### **Objectives**

In the spirit of a path that leads to EXPO 2020 Dubai, the hackathon wants to promote the creation of projects and good practices that can generate shared values, which can be made accessible and available regardless of age, gender, social status, religion and nationality, integrating the themes of sustainable development within each thematic area. Creativity as a multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral competence will be rewarded.



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## Thematic areas

For the competition, four thematic areas have been identified within the "University" environment, which will be declined according to the SDGs autonomously in the projects proposed by the participants:

- **#Awareness** - Raising awareness on the themes of the 2030 Agenda;
- **#Spaces** - Spaces for future Universities;
- **#Community** - Relationship with the territory;
- **#Inclusion** - University welfare for old and new needs

During the registration phase you will be asked to provide two preferences for thematic areas. In the days preceding the event, a single thematic area among those indicated in the preferences will be communicated to each team.

## Structure of UniSustainathon

### Length of the event

The event will have the following calendar:

- Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 from 9 AM (CET) to 7 PM (CET)
- Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 from 9 AM (CET) to 7 PM (CET)
- (Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2020, will be free. Participants will be able to choose whether to continue to work autonomously).

### How to create the project

The project will be drawn up by filling in a form that will be provided at the opening of the event. The papers will be presented orally at the end of the event with a pitch of maximum 3 minutes. The teams will be able to refer to a mentor throughout the duration of the event.

The project must be drawn up within the designated thematic area with the aim of contributing to the achievement of one or more SDGs relating to Universities.

The transversal and multi-sectoral competences involving the four pillars of sustainable development, environment, economics, society and institutions, will be particularly appreciated in the realization of the project.

The replicability of the project in different university contexts will be a necessary requirement.

### Prize

The participants whose project has received the highest score from the Evaluation Commission will be proclaimed winners of the hackathon.

The publication of the evaluation results will be communicated by October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.



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The winners will automatically be candidates for the contest “[RUS challenge on 2030 Agenda](#)”, organized by the Network of Universities for Sustainable Development which aims to give visibility to the best project during the EXPO 2020 Dubai universal exhibition according to the guidelines of the Commissioner General's Office for Italy's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai.

Thanks to the collaboration with [SDSN Mediterranean](#), all members of the winning team will be rewarded with voucher codes to pursue a Verified Certificate in an **SDG Academy** online course. The SDG Academy is the flagship education initiative of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative for the United Nations. Its courses are hosted on edX, one of the world's largest online learning platforms. Learners on the Verified Track receive an edX Verified Certificate upon successful passing the course. (See each course's grading policy for more details.). [Click here](#) to browse the courses offered by the SDG Academy.

### **Participation criteria**

Participation in UniSustainathon is aimed at all students enrolled in universities and international university networks. Enrollment will be open to already formed teams or to individual students who will subsequently be assigned to a team. Each team must consist of a minimum of 4 participants and a maximum of 8.

In order to ensure the homogeneity of the number of participants in the thematic areas, a maximum limit may be set on the number of teams per thematic area. In this circumstance, the criterion of precedence in the registration date will be followed.

Registrations are allowed up to a maximum of 100 total participants, following the order of registration. At the end of the registration process, participations will be confirmed.

### **Technical indications**

To participate in UniSustainathon, the Microsoft Teams application must be installed on your device. The organizers will take care of contacting the participants for a mandatory technical test.

### **How to sign up**

Registration must be made by individual participants, specifying, if necessary, membership of a team, by filling out the form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/to5KkUfMSyyT6Hcj7>.

Registration must be made no later than 11 PM (CET) on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

### **Commission and evaluation criteria**

The project evaluation commission is made up of representatives of ASviS, RUS and the Italian Commissariat for EXPO 2020 Dubai.

All projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of communication channels
- Clarity of the problem identified



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- Clarity of the project presentation form
- Effectiveness of the presentation pitch
- Evidence of the multidimensional nature of the proposal and of the interdisciplinary approach
- Identification of and impact on stakeholders
- Impact on the SDGs affected by the project
- Clear identification of objectives in response to the proposed problem / challenge
- Level of innovation and creativity of the project proposal
- Level of innovation and creativity of the techniques and / or tools used
- Quality of planning
- Replicability and / or adaptability in different universities

### **More information**

For more information and documentation please consult the [dedicated page on the 2020 Sustainable Development Festival website](#).