Universities in action for the UN 2030 Agenda

The UN Decade of Action by Higher Education Institutions

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

In the frame of partnership with the Italian Pavilion at EXPO 2020 DUBAI, the Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile (RUS) organizes an event during the Forum promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), within the Global Goals Week: 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.
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 fulfill 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.

With the patronage of
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PROGRAMME
January 18 2022, 16:00 - 17:30

Institutional greetings
Maria Cristina Messa, Italian Minister for University and research (video message)
Enrico Giovannini, Italian Minister for Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility, former Spokesperson of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable development (ASviS), tbc
Maurizio Tira, Delegate for International Affairs of the Conference of the Italian University Rectors (CRUI), Rector of Università degli Studi di Brescia (video message)
Patrizia Lombardi, President of the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS), Politecnico di Torino

PEOPLE Pillar
Gabriella Calvano, vice-coordinator of the RUS Education working group, Università degli Studi di Bari
- Video showing students’ ideas
- Video on good practices by Alma Mater Studiorum Università degli Studi di Bologna and University College Dublin
- Presentation of the project io che* by the student group of Università Pontificia Salesiana - IUSVE

PLANET Pillar
Stefano Caserini, coordinator of the RUS Climate Change working group, Politecnico di Milano
- Video showing students’ ideas
- Video on good practices by Politecnico di Torino and Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
- Presentation of the project Hack Core by the student group winner of HackForThePlanet organised by Rotary Italia, Malta e San Marino

PROSPERITY Pillar
Matteo Colleoni, coordinator of the RUS Mobility working group, Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
- Video showing students’ ideas
- Video on good practices by Università degli Studi “G. D’annunzio” Chieti Pescara and Università per Stranieri di Perugia
- Presentation of the project SIEPE by the student group winner of the RUS challenge for 2030 Agenda, Alma Mater Studiorum Università degli Studi di Bologna

Conference closing
Patrizia Lombardi, President of the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS), Politecnico di Torino

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