

University of St. Gallen's Sustainability Strategy

From Insight to Impact

The foundations of our sustainability strategy were set in 2020 followed by an embedding in the overarching HSG Strategy 2025. We understand sustainability as the goal of balancing our social and economic systems within the limits of the planetary boundaries, particularly climate change and biodiversity loss. The complexity and interdependency of environmental, social, and economic sustainability challenges require an integrative approach, which is the core principle of our sustainability strategy.

(HSG, 2023, p. 7)

A Word from the Head of the Working Group on Social and Economic Sustainability

Our Working Group Social and Economic Sustainability was launched in the autumn of 2022 with a mandate from the President's Board. The objective of the working group is to bring the specificity and depth of social and economic dimensions of the University's sustainability strategy to the same level as the existing environmental as well as the equality, diversity and inclusion strategies. At the same time, the working group is developing the scaffolding for the implementation of those strategic goals.

The working group emphasises process and participation. Our approach is inspired by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and similar frameworks for systematic sustainability management and reporting, but is tailored to the University as a very special type of organisation. We are currently defining the University's material social and economic topics with key internal and external stakeholder groups and benchmarking our activities with those of our peers. Both activities are the bases for drafting the social and economic dimensions of an integrated sustainability strategy in more depth. We will be structuring the implementation of the strategy around a roadmap of concrete targets with corresponding measures and indicators to evaluate progress.

One of the most exciting things about our University is its decentralised nature. There is already broad range of activities, initiatives, and case examples when it comes to topics around social and economic sustainability. The working group aims to establish participatory infrastructures that promotes mutual learning and collaboration for swiftly creating (even more) positive impact.

Prof. Dirk Lehmkuhl

(HSG, 2023, p. 15)



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<https://publishing.unisg.ch/en/download/1184>