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Entrepreneurial University Educators Package and Toolbox

www.**start-dsp**.eu

Tool: SDG Framework

SDG Framework in Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Universities

MMS, Ireland

Co-funded by the European Union

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Introduction

The SDG Framework Tool helps universities and organizations align with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by integrating sustainability into operations, research, teaching, and community engagement. It provides tools for assessing impacts, setting priorities, and tracking progress. Resources like the SDG Impact Assessment Tool and SDG Compass support implementation, with expected outcomes including enhanced sustainability practices and collaboration. Examples from University College Cork and University College Galway show successful SDG Framework integration in higher education.

01 SDG Framework Purpose & Description

02 Resources & Supports Needed & Expected Outcomes

03 Instructions to Use SDG Frameworks Tool

04 **Usage and Implementation Examples:** University College Cork and University College Galway Ireland

05 Resources, Toolkits and Supports

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SDG Framework in Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Universities

Purpose

Challenge: Proper Linkage, Frameworks, and Alignment with SDGs in Sustainable Entrepreneurship
Framework: SDG Framework: Sustainable Entrepreneurship Alignment Framework
Tool Name: SDG Alignment Toolkit for University Entrepreneurship

The SDG framework is designed to assist universities, departments, and faculties in aligning their orientation strategies for sustainable entrepreneurship with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides a structured approach to integrating SDG-linked objectives into entrepreneurial education, research, and practice, ensuring relevance to global sustainability challenges.

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TOOL: Getting Started With The SDGs In Universities
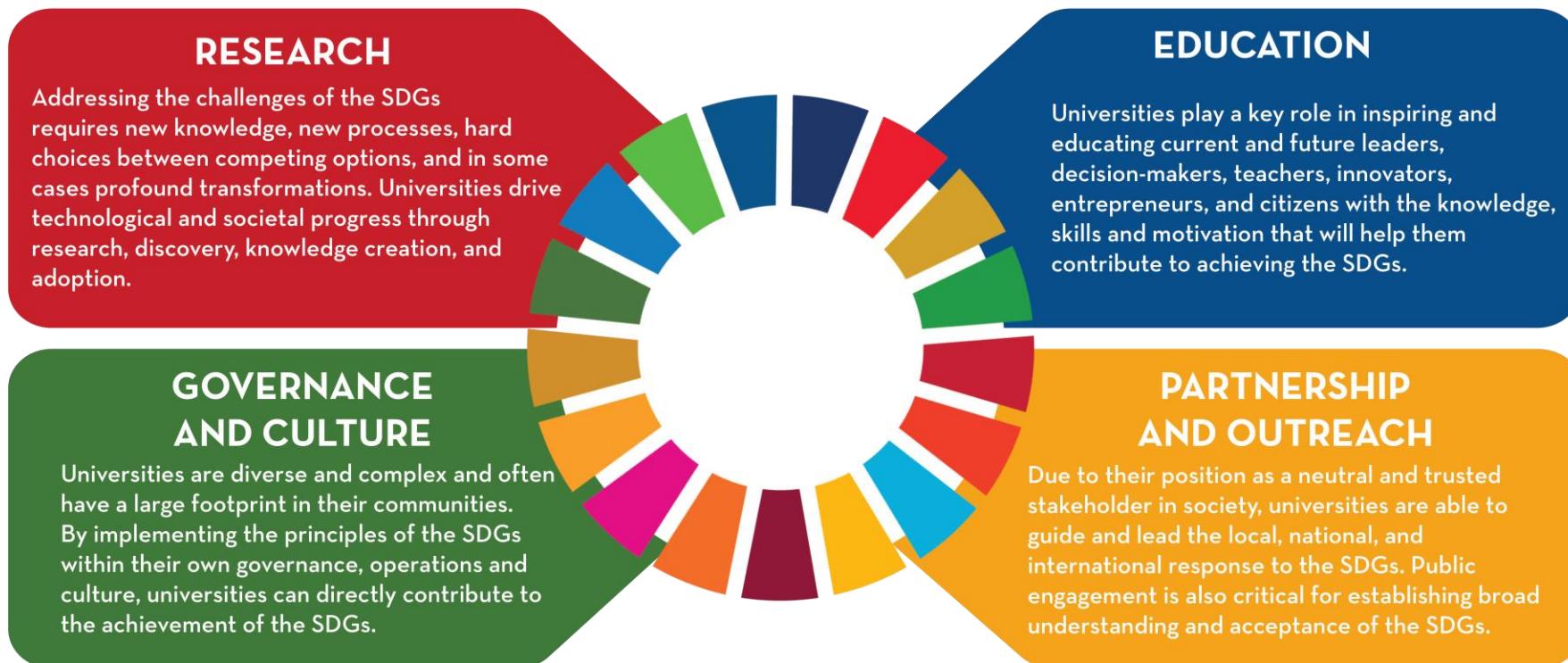
Developing a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework tailored to sustainable entrepreneurship is a commendable initiative for universities aiming to integrate sustainability into their core activities. This presentation helps provide guidance, examples of university applications, valuable frameworks and case studies to assist in your journey.

'Getting Started with the SDGs in Universities": This guide is a great tool to help you start providing practical approaches for universities to engage with the SDGs, including case studies and strategies for integration across teaching, research, operations, and partnerships.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & PACIFIC EDITION

GETTING STARTED WITH THE SDGS IN UNIVERSITIES

A GUIDE FOR UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, AND THE ACADEMIC SECTOR

IN COLLABORATION WITH

SDSN Australia/Pacific

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

ACTS INC
AUSTRALASIAN CAMPUSES TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

Universities Role in Supporting the SDGs

Due to their unique position in society as drivers of both innovation and knowledge dissemination, Universities have a critical role to play if we are to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Significantly, Universities can also greatly benefit by engaging in the SDGs.

RESEARCH

Addressing the challenges of the SDGs requires new knowledge, new processes, hard choices between competing options, and in some cases profound transformations. Universities drive technological and societal progress through research, discovery, knowledge creation, and adoption.

EDUCATION

Universities play a key role in inspiring and educating current and future leaders, decision-makers, teachers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and citizens with the knowledge, skills and motivation that will help them contribute to achieving the SDGs.

GOVERNANCE AND CULTURE

Universities are diverse and complex and often have a large footprint in their communities. By implementing the principles of the SDGs within their own governance, operations and culture, universities can directly contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

PARTNERSHIP AND OUTREACH

Due to their position as a neutral and trusted stakeholder in society, universities are able to guide and lead the local, national, and international response to the SDGs. Public engagement is also critical for establishing broad understanding and acceptance of the SDGs.

The Case for University Engagement in the SDGs

How do the SDGs help universities?

Create increased demand for SDG related education

Provide a comprehensive and globally accepted definition of a responsible university

Offer a framework for demonstrating impact

Create new funding streams

Support collaboration with new external and internal partners

Knowledge

Learning

Demonstration

Impact

Collaboration

How do universities help the SDGs?

Provide knowledge, innovations and solutions to the SDGs

Create current and future SDG implementers

Demonstrate how to support, adopt and implement SDGs in governance, operations and culture

Develop cross-sectoral leadership to guide the SDG response

https://ap-unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/University-SDG-Guide_web.pdf

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SDG Framework Description

The SDG Framework enables third level institutions to:

❑ Map their entrepreneurial activities and strategies to specific SDGs.

❑ Design programs, curricula, and research initiatives that enable sustainable innovation.

❑ Establish clear metrics for evaluating the social, economic, and environmental impacts of entrepreneurship activities.

❑ Facilitate collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and communities to address sustainability challenges effectively.

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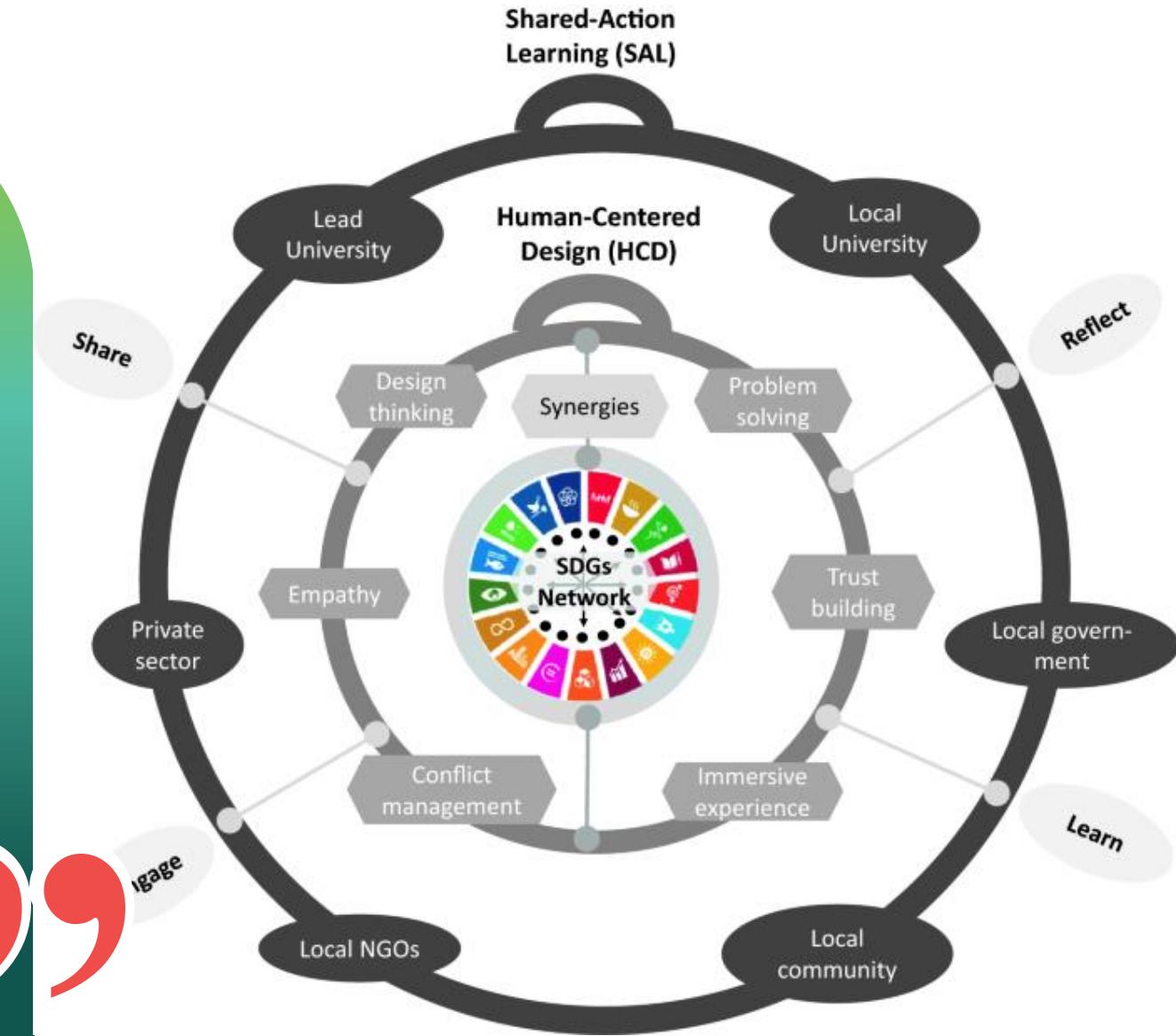
Classification Criteria
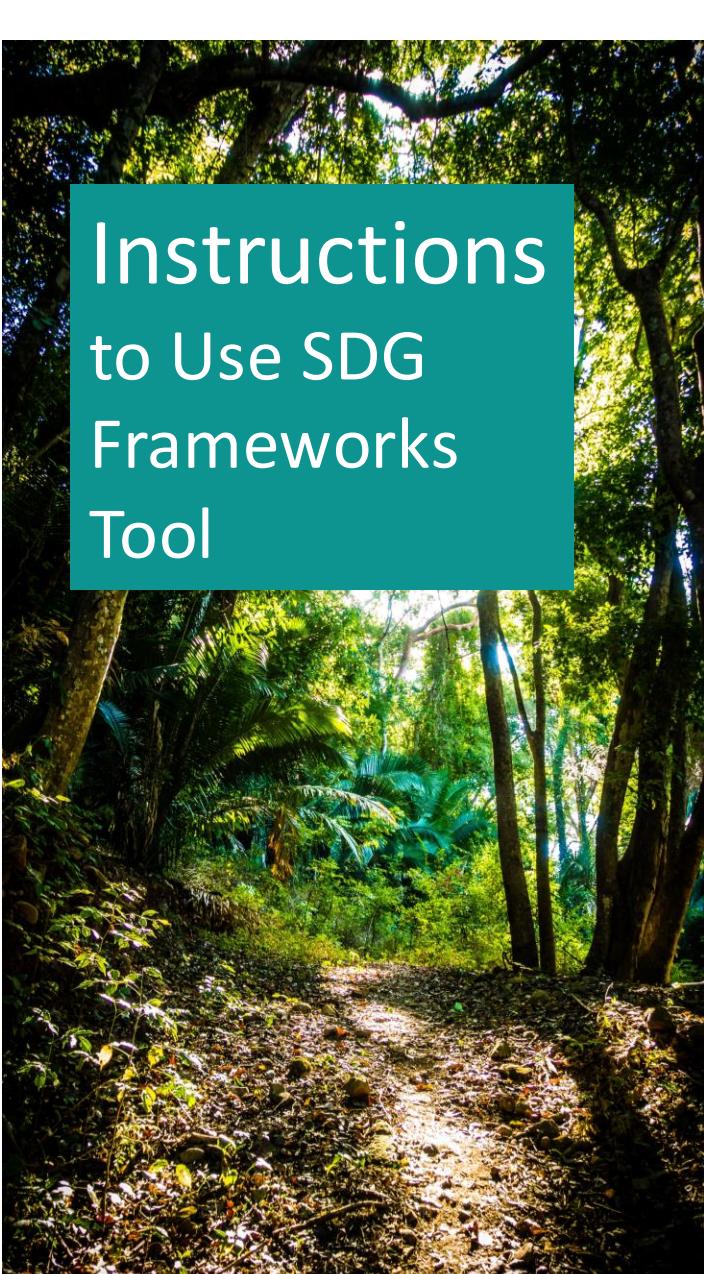
✓ **SDG Relevance:** Align activities with one or more SDGs (e.g., SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production).

✓ **Scale of Impact:** Focus on local, regional, or global impact.

✓ **Stakeholder Involvement:** Engage lecturers, students, faculty managers and administrators, industry partners, and community members.

✓ **Type of Initiative:** Categorise activities as educational, research-driven, or community-based.

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"University of Galway was awarded SDG Champion status for the year 2023/24. The SDG Champions Programme aims to raise public awareness of the SDGs and highlight institutions making significant progress towards achieving them. The role of an SDG Champion is to act as an advocate and promoter of the SDGs and as a good practice example of how an organisation can contribute to the SDGs and integrate the SDGs into their work and activities. As part of its Champion tenure University of Galway hosted the Government of Ireland national SDG Champions on campus for a day of discussion and dialogue on the themes of Climate Action (SDG 13) and Partnerships (SDG17)."

University College Galway, Ireland

A framework for developing university-led initiatives for the co-creation and implementation of SDG solutions

Instructions
to Use SDG Frameworks Tool

1

Orientation and Awareness

Conduct workshops to familiarise faculty and students with SDGs and their relevance to entrepreneurship.

2

Mapping Current Activities

Use a mapping exercise to identify existing entrepreneurial initiatives and their potential links to SDGs.
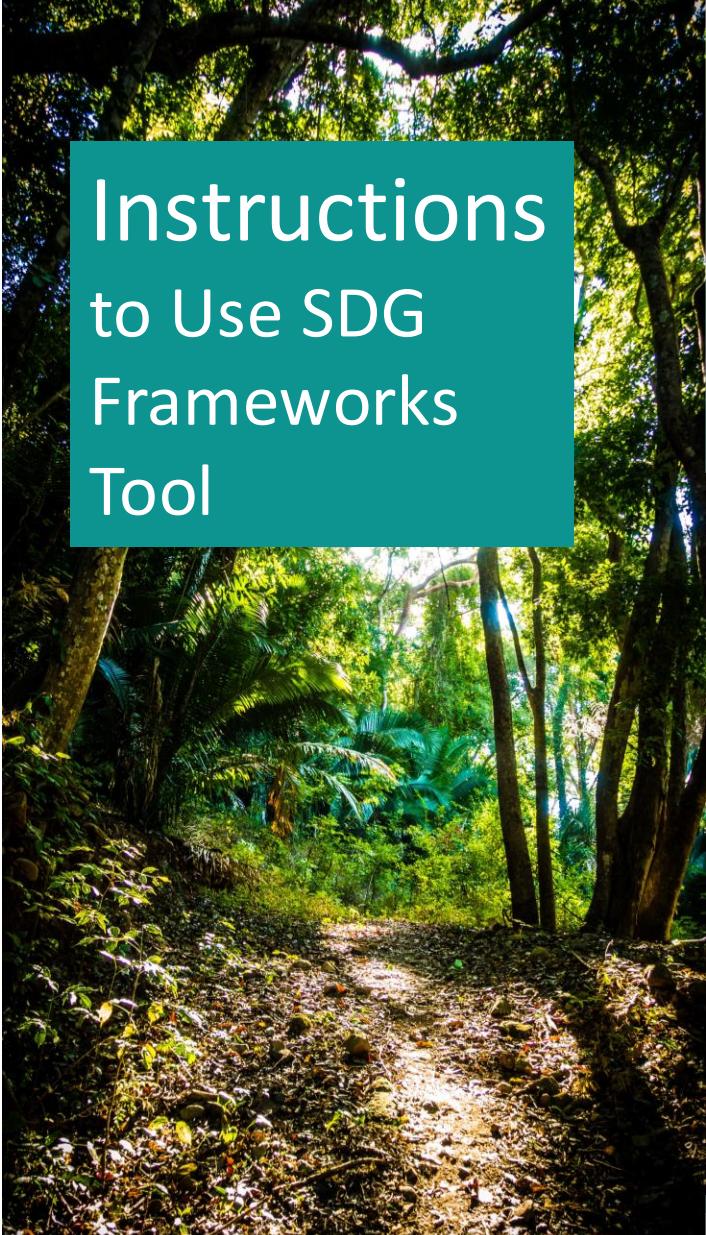
3

Framework Application

Apply the framework to evaluate and adjust current strategies to align with specific SDGs.

Entrepreneurship Education

Instructions
to Use SDG Frameworks Tool

4

Capacity Building

Provide training in sustainable entrepreneurship practices and SDG impact assessment.

5

Implementation and Monitoring

Develop action plans, implement initiatives, and regularly monitor progress using SDG-aligned indicators.

6

Reporting and Sharing

Share outcomes with stakeholders through reports, case studies, and academic publications.

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Examples of Usage & Implementation

By using the SDG Framework, universities, departments, and faculties effectively incorporate SDG alignment into their sustainable entrepreneurship strategies, enabling a culture of innovation and impact.

The next section covers examples of how this was done by two universities in Ireland.


PEOPLE End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality

PLANET Protect our planet's natural resources and climate for future generations

PROSPERITY Ensure prosperous and fulfiling lives in harmony with nature

PARTNERSHIP Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership

PEACE Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies
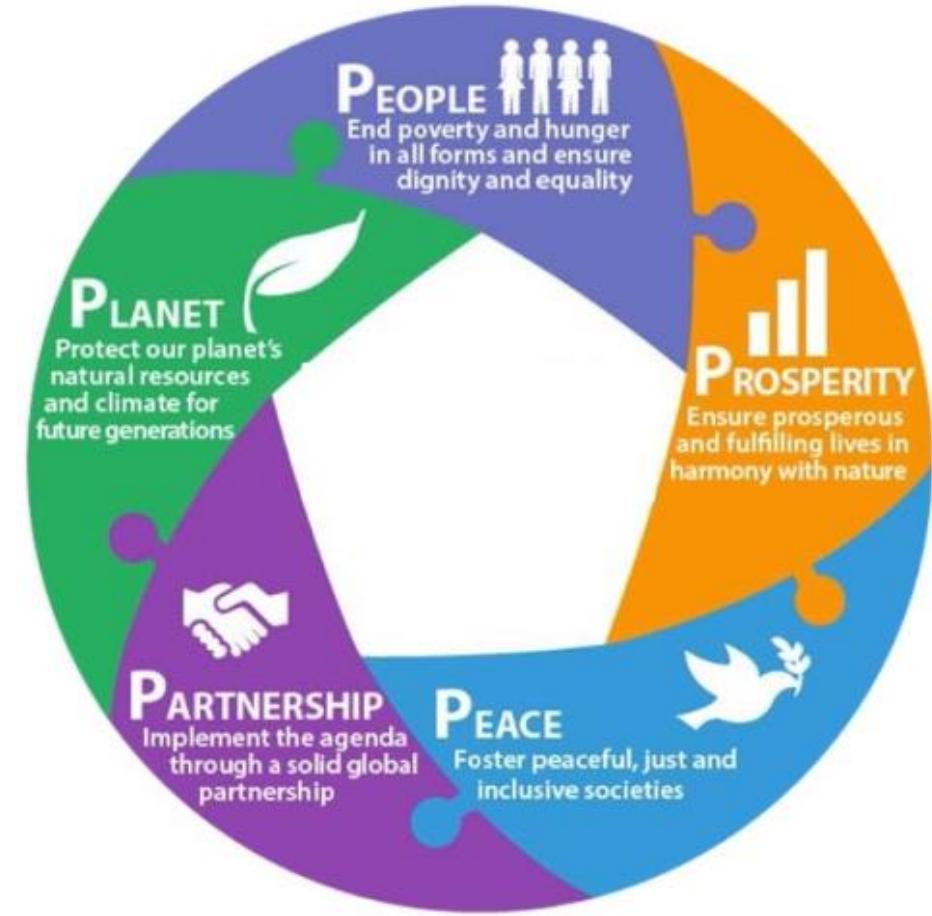
Image Credit: University College Cork, Ireland
SDG Toolkit and Resources

Examples of Usage & Implementation

University College Cork (UCC) and University of Galway Ireland have both integrated the SDGs into their business practices through a combination of sustainability-focused policies, strategic planning, and collaborations.

Examples of Usage & Implementation

❖ **Education:** Develop a course or module on sustainable entrepreneurship linked to SDGs, featuring real-world case studies.

❖ **Research:** Encourage faculty and students to pursue research that innovatively addresses sustainability challenges.

❖ **Community Projects:** Partner with local businesses or NGOs to co-create SDG-focused entrepreneurial initiatives.

❖ **Competitions and Incubators:** Host SDG-themed hackathons or establish an incubator program supporting startups that address sustainability goals.

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Example 1: University College Cork (UCC), Ireland

What UCC did:

- UCC became one of the first universities in the world to receive the **Green Flag for Sustainability**. They integrated the SDGs across all aspects of university life, from teaching and research to campus operations.

How they did it:

- **Curriculum Integration**: UCC has made sustainability a core part of its curriculum across multiple disciplines. They offer dedicated courses and modules related to sustainable development and environmental responsibility, ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge to engage with global challenges.

- **Sustainable Campus Operations**: UCC implemented energy-saving initiatives, waste reduction strategies, and sustainable procurement policies. They also created an on-campus biodiversity plan and aimed for carbon neutrality by 2030.

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- **Research**: UCC focuses on SDG-related research, particularly around environmental issues like climate change, and sustainability solutions. They created interdisciplinary research centers that directly align with the SDGs, including the **Environmental Research Institute**.

- **Community Engagement**: UCC actively engages with the local community to promote SDG-related initiatives, such as food security and health programs, in partnership with local organizations.
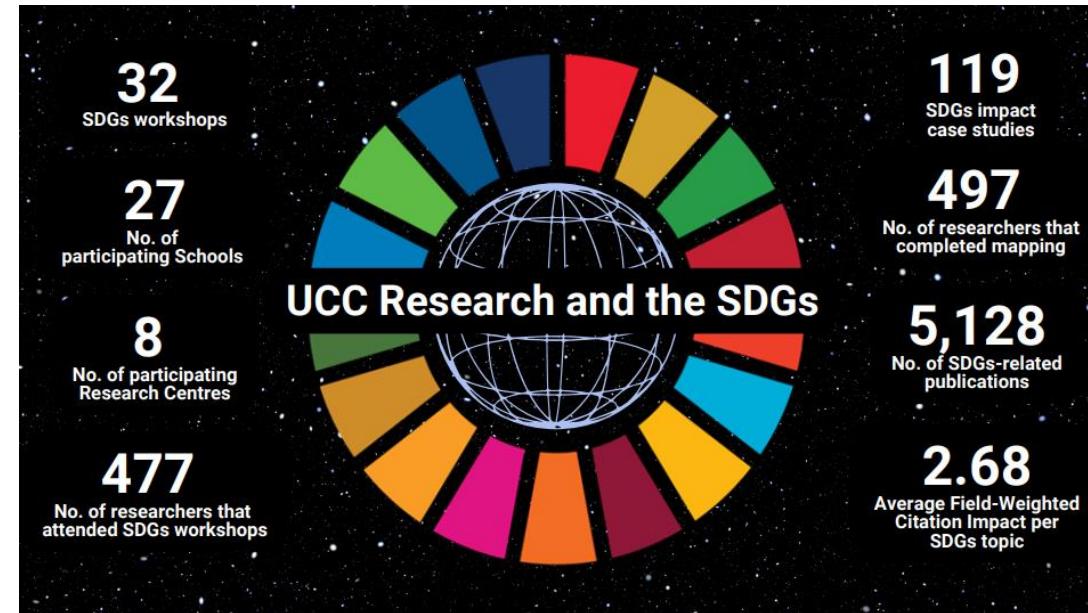
Why they did it:

- UCC integrated SDGs into their business practices to align with global sustainability efforts, improve their environmental and social impact, and promoted a culture of responsibility among students, staff, and the wider community.

University College Cork (UCC) SDG Framework & Report

UCC Framework Contribution of UCC to SDGs

Sustainability is a key focus at UCC, considered in all aspects of their operations. They published their first Sustainability Strategy in 2016 and have been tracking our sustainability initiatives on an annual basis since the publication of our first Sustainability Report in 2018. In 2021, they launched an SDG toolkit to help teaching staff to embed the SDGs into their teaching practices, efforts that are further aided by the recently launched Digital Badge on Learning and Teaching with the SDGs.

UCC Research and the SDGs

- 32 SDGs workshops
- 27 No. of participating Schools
- 8 No. of participating Research Centres
- 477 No. of researchers that attended SDGs workshops
- 119 SDGs impact case studies
- 497 No. of researchers that completed mapping
- 5,128 No. of SDGs-related publications
- 2.68 Average Field-Weighted Citation Impact per SDGs topic

Click to access UCC's SDG Report
https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/sdgs/SDGsinUCCResearchReport.pdf

UCC SDGs Framework and Roadmap

02 PUBLICATIONS MAPPING

UCC publications 2017 - 2021 mapped onto the SDGs using SciVal / Scopus. Analysis undertaken of key publications metrics

04 SDGs WORKSHOPS

90-minute workshop developed and delivered in all 27 Schools and 8 key Research Centres within the University. All researchers invited to map their own research

06 SHOWCASING OUR IMPACT

Website and report developed to showcase the impact UCC Research is having on the SDGs

01 LITERATURE REVIEW

Detailed literature review to establish best practice

03 SDGs CHAMPIONS

University-wide SDGs Champions Network established to help with rollout of SDGs workshops

05 IMPACT CASE STUDIES

All researchers invited to submit detailed case studies describing the impact of their research on the SDGs

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University College Cork (UCC) SDG Toolkit & Framework for Teaching and Learning

Future proof your curriculum by embedding sustainability into your teaching practice or further integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into your curriculum. The SDG digital toolkit project will give you concise actionable resources to achieve this result while providing insights into the underpinning theories. Enriching your teaching with SDGs advances the Irish national goals in Education for Sustainable Development and your institutional strategic objectives.

Click to watch the video above to see President of University College Cork John O'Halloran discuss the SDG Toolkit in an academic context.
https://youtu.be/iB7UnWarwrw
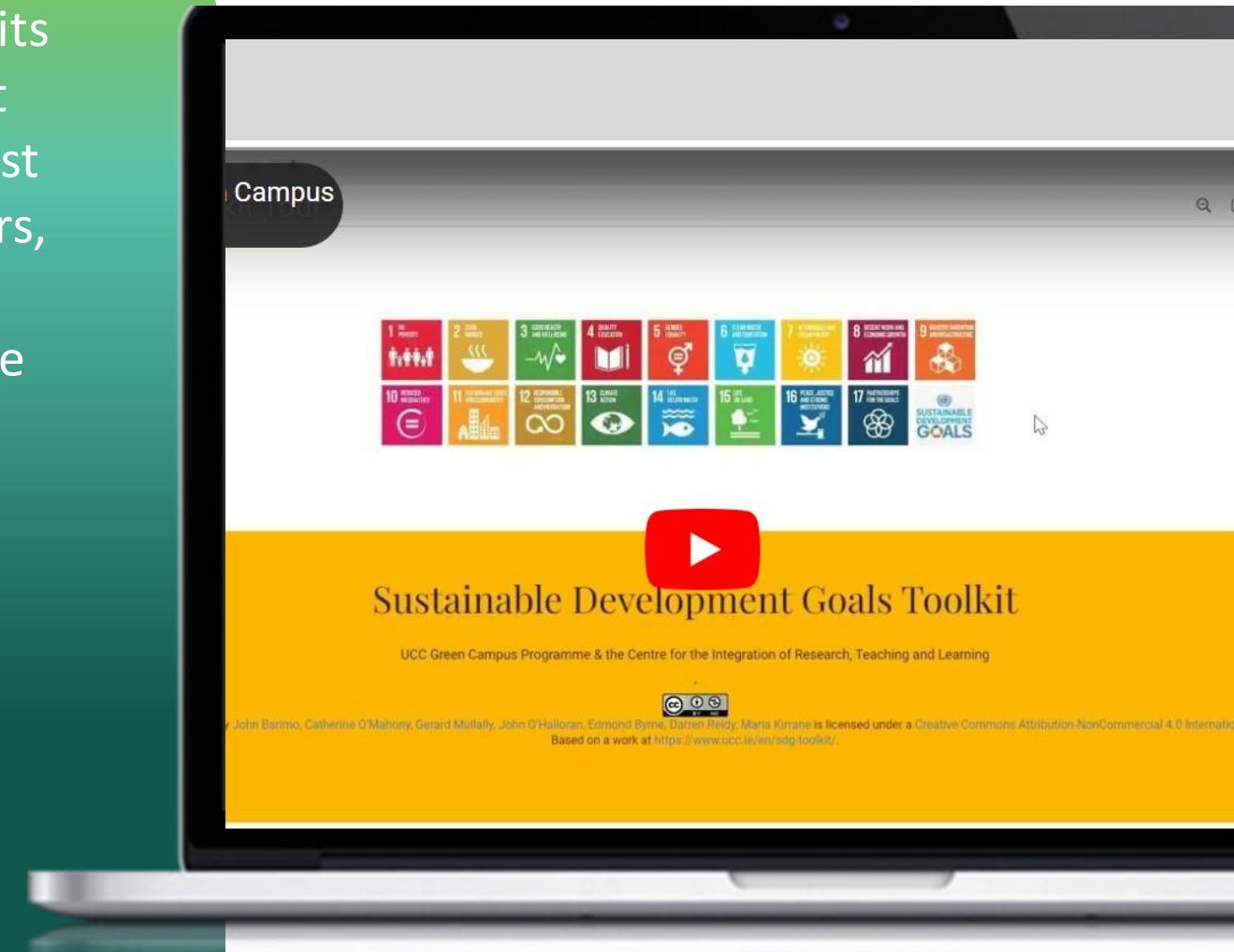
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UCC Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Toolkit

This video provides a comprehensive walkthrough of the UCC SDG Toolkit webpage, demonstrating how users can effectively use its features to advance sustainable development initiatives. The SDG Toolkit is designed to assist universities, faculties, organisations, educators, and individuals in aligning their projects and strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By exploring this video, viewers can gain insights into the toolkit's functionalities and learn how to leverage its resources to contribute meaningfully to global sustainability efforts.
https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/enhancing-sdgs-related-teaching-irish-university-offers-open-source-toolkit

https://youtu.be/aRP85_WWpVs

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Example 2: University of Galway, SDGs Ireland

UCG SDG Framework: Alignment with SDGs, Commitment, Impact, Policy Influence and Partnerships.

The University of Galway collaborates with government and non-governmental agencies to advance the SDGs. As Ireland's first university designated a National SDG Champion (2023-24), it hosted a national SDG Champions Dialogue focused on Climate Action (SDG 13) and Partnerships (SDG 17). The university also contributes to national SDG policy, featuring as a case study in Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the SDGs (2022-2024). Through its framework and efforts, it drives impactful SDG strategies.

Source
https://www.universityofgalway.ie/sustainability/the-sustainable-development-goals-(sdgs)/#

Entrepreneurship Education

What the University of Galway did:

- The University of Galway was designated as a **National SDG Champion for 2023-2024** by the Irish government, showcasing its commitment to SDGs. The university has been involved in national policy development and collaborates with government and non-governmental organizations.

How they did it:

- **Curriculum and Research Integration**: Like UCC, the University of Galway has incorporated SDGs into academic programs and research. It has established **SDG-focused research centers**, particularly around climate action (SDG 13) and sustainable development (SDG 17).

- **Government Collaboration**: As a National SDG Champion, the university has worked directly with the government to influence SDG-related policy development, such as contributing to Ireland's **Second National Implementation Plan for SDGs**. This collaboration ensures that their academic and research efforts are closely aligned with national SDG goals.

- **Sustainable Practices**: The University of Galway has adopted sustainable practices within its campus, focusing on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and community involvement in SDG projects. They also focus on promoting an **inclusive** and **equitable** learning environment, ensuring access to education for all (SDG 4).

Why they did it:

- The University of Galway implemented SDGs to drive tangible progress towards sustainability, strengthen their reputation as a leading institution for social responsibility, and engage their community in SDG initiatives. By being a National SDG Champion, they also aimed to influence broader national policy and act as a model for other institutions.

Entrepreneurship Education

Resources & Support

Resources and supports for universities integrating the SDGs into their framework provide essential tools to align teaching, research, and operations with global sustainability goals. Tools like the **SDG Compass**, **SDG Impact Assessment Tool**, and **SDG Action Plan Template** help universities measure contributions and track progress. The **Mapping the SDGs in the Curriculum** guide ensures sustainability is embedded in teaching, while the **Corporate Reporting Guide** and **SDG Partnership Guidebook** facilitate impactful collaborations. The **SDG Indicators** website offers data for evidence-based courses and research, enabling universities to align their activities with SDGs and promote sustainability across all areas.

01 Getting Started With The SDGs In Universities

02 **University of Edinburgh:** Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the University Curriculum

03 Integrating the SDGs Corporate Reporting Guide

04 The SDG Partnership Guidebook & Framework

05 The SDG Impact Assessment Tool

06 Students Action SDG Toolkit & SDG Indicators, Action Plans and More…

RESOURCE Tool 1: Get Started With The SDGs In Universities

A Guide For Universities, Higher Education Institutions, And The Academic Sector

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & PACIFIC EDITION

GETTING STARTED WITH THE SDGS IN UNIVERSITIES

A GUIDE FOR UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, AND THE ACADEMIC SECTOR

- ❑ Why SDGs Matter to Universities.

- ❑ How Universities Can Contribute to the SDGs

- ❑ 5 Steps to Engaging University-Level SDGs

- ❑ Tools and Guidance for SDG Integration

- ❑ Examples of Challenges Covered

- ❑ Case Studies

Source https://ap-unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/University-SDG-Guide_web.pdf

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RESOURCE 1: Getting Started With The SDGs In Universities

A Guide For Universities, Higher Education Institutions, And The Academic Sector

Education and research are explicitly recognised in a number of the SDGs and universities have a direct role in addressing these. However, the contribution of universities to the SDGs is much broader, as they can support the implementation of every one of the SDGs as well as the implementation of the SDG framework itself. Some of these main areas of contribution are:

❑ **Learning and teaching:** Providing the necessary knowledge, evidence-base, solutions, technologies, pathways and innovations to underpin and support the implementation of the SDGs by the global community – through both traditional disciplinary approaches and newer interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and sustainability science approaches; providing capacity building for developing countries in undertaking and using research; collaborating with and supporting innovative companies to implement SDG solutions; improving diversity in research; and student training for sustainable development research.

Entrepreneurship Education

RESOURCE 1: Getting Started With The SDGs In Universities

❑ **Organisational governance, culture and operations of the university:** Implementing the principles of the SDGs through governance structures and operational policies and decisions, such as those relating to employment, finance, campus services, support services, facilities, procurement, human resources, and student administration.

❑ **External leadership:** Strengthening public engagement and participation in addressing the SDGs; initiating and facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue and action; ensuring higher education sector representation in national implementation; helping to design SDG based policies; and demonstrating sector commitment to the SDGs.

Through their current actions in these areas, universities already make important contributions to the achievement of the SDGs. However, for the SDGs to be truly successful at a global scale, universities need to become champions of sustainable development and play a leading role in the implementation of the SDGs.

Source https://ap-unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/University-SDG-Guide_web.pdf

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Resources & Supports 2

Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the University Curriculum

Prepared by Sarah Kate Reid. Published April 2020.
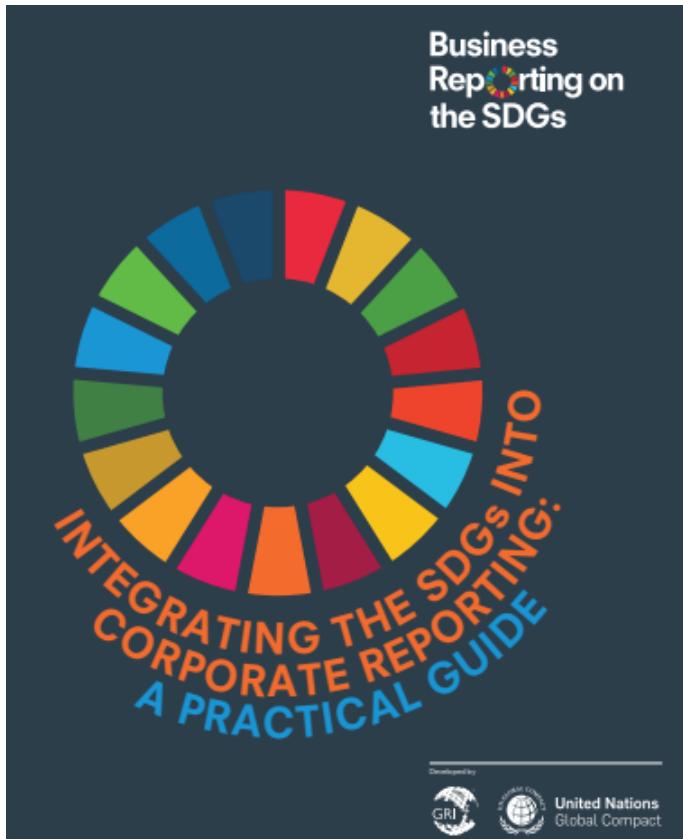
University of Edinburgh

Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the University Curriculum

The document explores how universities can integrate the SDGs into their curricula, helping faculties align their programs with sustainability goals. It provides a framework for mapping SDGs to courses, enhancing students' understanding and preparing them to contribute to global sustainability efforts. This approach positions universities as key players in achieving the SDGs through education.

https://edwebcontent.ed.ac.uk/sites/default/files/atoms/files/mapping_the_sustainable_development_goals_in_the_university_curriculum.pdf

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Resources & Supports 3
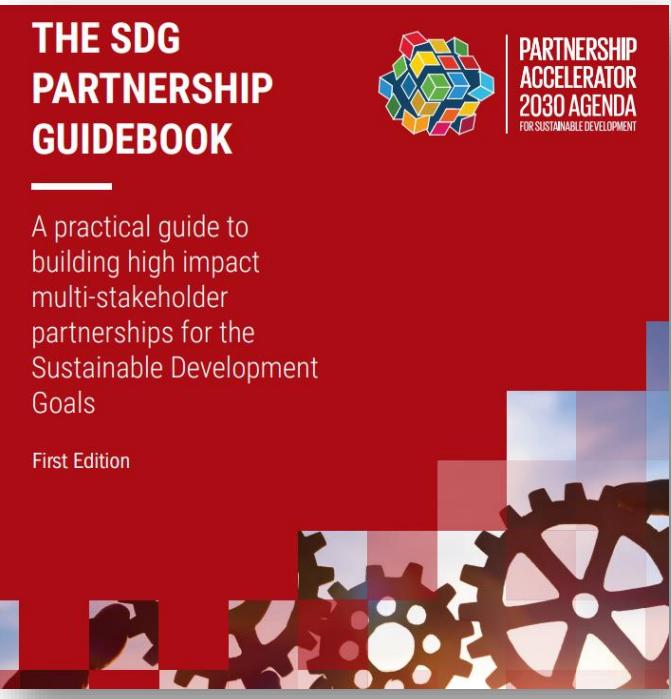
Integrating the SDGs Corporate Reporting Guide

The GRI and UN Global Compact Practical Guide on SDG Reporting offers a framework for organisations to measure and communicate their contributions to the SDGs with practical steps and tools. It can help universities embed sustainability in curricula, teach reporting practices, and track their contributions to the SDGs, promoting accountability and leadership in sustainability.

https://globalcompact.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/gri_ungc_reporting-on-sdgs_practical_guide.pdf

Resources & Supports 4

THE SDG PARTNERSHIP GUIDEBOOK

PARTNERSHIP ACCELERATOR 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A practical guide to building high impact multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

First Edition
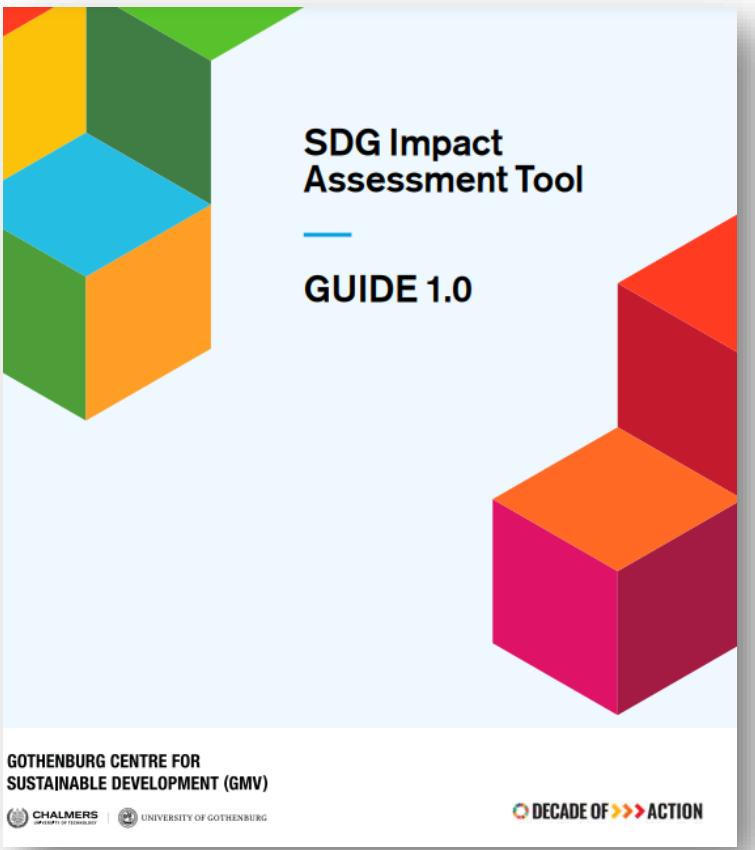
The SDG Partnership Guidebook & Framework

A practical guide to building high-impact multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals. It outlines the essential Building Blocks for successful partnerships, from stakeholder engagement to partnership review, and ensuring sustainability and impact. It includes SDG frameworks for identifying suitable collaboration and tools to support each step of partnership development and management. It offers guidance on navigating complex aspects like trust, power imbalances, and cultural differences.

https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/SDG%20Partnership%20Guidebook%201.11.pdf
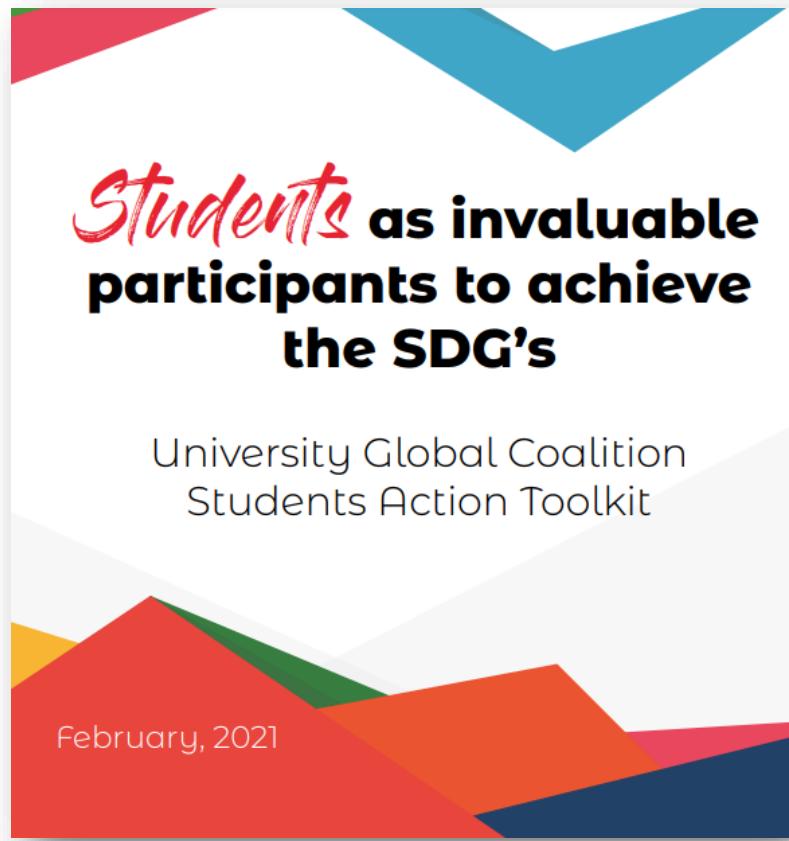
Resources & Supports 5

The SDG Impact Assessment Tool

The SDG Impact Assessment Tool provides a structured approach for research institutions, educational organizations, companies, entrepreneurs, civic groups, and public agencies to self-assess their impact on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Designed to evaluate innovations, research activities, projects, organisations, and initiatives, the tool identifies impacts as direct or indirect positive, no impact, or direct or indirect negative. Open to all, it promotes reflection, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of the SDGs and their interconnections. This guide outlines the tool, its assessment process, and offers practical examples to inspire and guide users**.**

https://www.unsdsn-ne.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/SDG%20Impact%20Assessment%20Tool%20-%20Guide%201-0_final_ver02_mini.pdf

SDG Impact
Assessment Tool
—
GUIDE 1.0

GOTHENBURG CENTRE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (GMV)

CHALMERS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY   UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

DECADE OF >>> ACTION

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Resources & Supports 6

Students Action SDG Toolkit

The Student Action Toolkit, published by the University Global Coalition, is a guide that empowers students to take action on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It offers resources and strategies for developing impactful projects, covering SDG understanding, action planning, collaboration, and engagement with peers and external organisations. The toolkit includes practical tools, funding opportunities, and case studies of successful initiatives to inspire students. It aims to build leadership skills and creativity, enabling students to become changemakers in their communities and contribute to sustainable development.

https://universityglobalcoalition.org/shared-files/875/Student-Action-Toolkit-1.pdf

Students as invaluable participants to achieve the SDG's

University Global Coalition
Students Action Toolkit

February, 2021

More Resources & Supports

University College Cork

Future proof your curriculum by embedding sustainability into your teaching practice or further integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into your curriculum.

Research Gate

Aligning Strategy with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Process Scoping Diagram for Entrepreneurial Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

UN Global Compact Library

The SDG Compass helps companies align strategies, measure, and manage contributions to the SDGs. It outlines five steps: understanding the SDGs, defining priorities, setting goals, integrating sustainability, and tracking progress.

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More Resources & Supports

SDG Action Plan Template

Future proof your curriculum by embedding sustainability into your teaching practice or further integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into your curriculum.

SDG Indicators

The SDG Metadata website provides detailed information on the indicators used to track progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including definitions, data sources, and methodologies. Universities and faculties can use this resource to align business operations, research, teaching, and curriculum with global sustainability indicators contributing to the SDGs. It also supports the design of courses and projects focused on evidence-based sustainability and global development.

Thank you

Any questions?

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