ITALIAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RUS): WHAT'S NEW?

AIM: the Universities participating to the RUS **share good/best practices** on sustainability issues **aiming to promote new ones** in different contexts from those in which they were generated and implemented, feeding a virtuous circle inspired by the principles of the 2030 Agenda.

HOW: through **8 thematic Working Groups**, namely climate change; food; education; energy; inclusion and social justice; mobility; resources and waste; universities for industry.

- Output (eg.): position paper about operational **guidelines** for the preparation of the *greenhouse gas emission inventories* of Italian Universities.

NOVELTY: National Working Group called ***Capacity Building Best Practices*** to enhance the collection and dissemination of good/best practices, with a focus on sharing experiences to overcome any challenges in their implementation.

MOTIVATION: sharing the **procedures** that have facilitated the achievement of **sustainable development goals** and **overcoming obstacles** can accelerate the attainment of objectives in various areas for all universities, irrespective of their starting conditions.

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ITALIAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RUS): REGIONAL EXPERIENCE

RUS Piemonte **: Regional network** established in February 2023, which includes all the four Universities located in the Piedmont region, namely *University of Piemonte Orientale*, *Scienze Gastronomiche of Pollenzo*, *Politecnico of Turin,* and *University of Turin.*

AIM: coordination of the regional university system to enhance effectiveness in sharing knowledge, skills, and best practices for a sustainable development model over the entire territory.

HOW:

- **Encourage collaboration** between universities and cities, spreading social innovation in the territory and providing cultural stimuli for the entire regional system.
- **Promote** new **sustainability policies** widely and specifically targeted towards the **new generations**.
- Advocate for sustainable growth policies to support **projects** and processes aimed at facilitating **ecological transition**.
- **Foster** initiatives for **dialogue** with institutional, research, and economic **stakeholders** through technology transfer offices, incubator services, and spin-offs to accelerate innovation oriented towards sustainable development.

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PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RUS PIEMONTE): BENEFITS

RUS Piemonte **BENEFITS:**

- **Complementarity** of knowledge and specializations among the universities → **More competencies** in favor of regional stakeholders.

- The universities are **familiar with the territories** in which they operate and have already established considerable **synergies** that can be systematized → **Strengthening the network** among universities and fostering collaboration with local stakeholders.

- Representing the interests of all regional entities → **Greater effectiveness** of policies.

- Providing **multidisciplinary** and **transdisciplinary approaches** to economic policy operators → Closing the knowledge gap in the **ecological transition** process and promoting a sustainable development model.

- Coordination in **public engagement** activities at regional level → Involvement of the entire student population (more than 150,000 students) and enhancing **citizen science.**

- Spreading a **culture of sustainability** → **Awareness** that everyone is called to act for the achievement of the **SDGs**.

- Promotion of **partnerships** → Overcome a competitive approach.

The role of universities in the process of decarbonization of urban areas / COP28 Dubai

PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RUS PIEMONTE): EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE:

- Conducted a jointly funded research program "***Piedmont and the Universities for Sustainable Development***, in collaboration with the Piedmont Region about:
    - Organizing the universities' contribution to the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development,
    - Mapping, promoting, and disseminating multisectoral and transdisciplinary knowledge and expertise on Sustainable Development at a regional scale,
    - Strengthening the capacity of public entities and the territory to implement the objectives of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development.

- **Co-organized** several **events** to promote public debate on **sustainability development goals** (eg. climbing for climate, time to act at territorial level at Technology Biennale, symposium on universities for cities and territories, sustainable regeneration event at "Terra Madre", etc.).

- **Joint training courses** on the themes of the 2030 Agenda.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF UPO IN A NUTSHELL

UPO

UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

A new degree course on *Environment management and Sustainable Development.*

Novelty:
Several topics that tackle the issues of sustainable development from various perspectives – scientific, economic, legal, and health; climate change, biodiversity, environmental impact assessment, law and economics, territorial planning and health-Holistic approach.
Strong ties with firms and institutions.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Establishment of a new transdisciplinary **department** of *Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition.*

Several **funded projects** related to the 17 SDGs.

- *SPEAK4NATURE* is a project funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Staff exchange on *ecological justice.*

- *ECOSTORE-H2* project about **hydrogen** storage and deliver.

THIRD MISSION

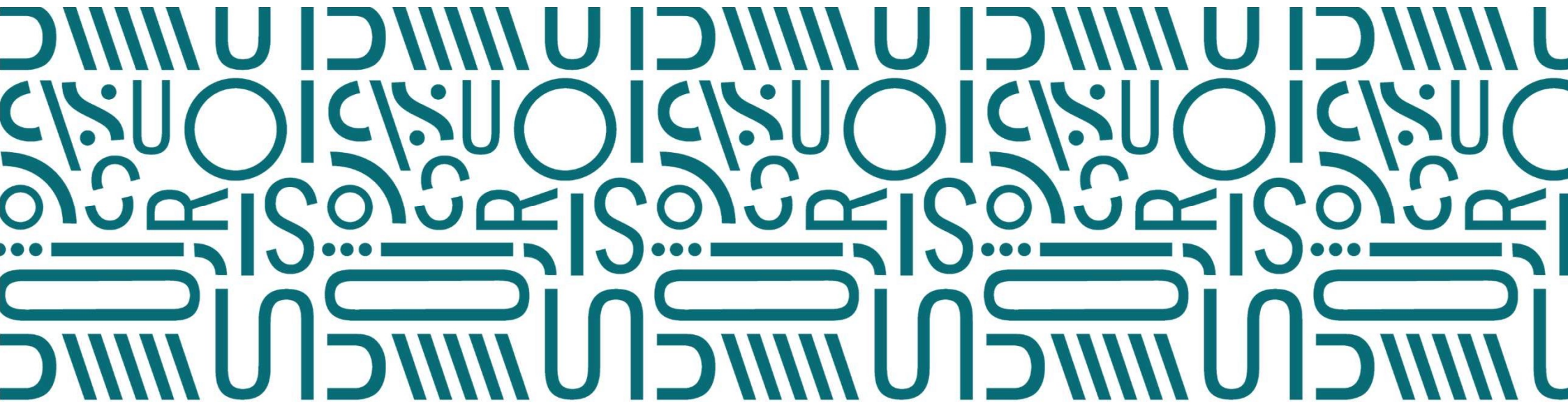Numerous **events** to promote **SDGs** within UPO and in favor of the community.

Working group on Circular Bio-economy and ecological transition with companies and local institutions to increase awareness and to identify new sustainable solutions and models.

The role of universities in the process of decarbonization of urban areas / COP28 Dubai

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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

*A **cohesive university system** can lead to the **sustainable development model** that the planet has been pleading for too long!*

Together, everything is possible!

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RUS