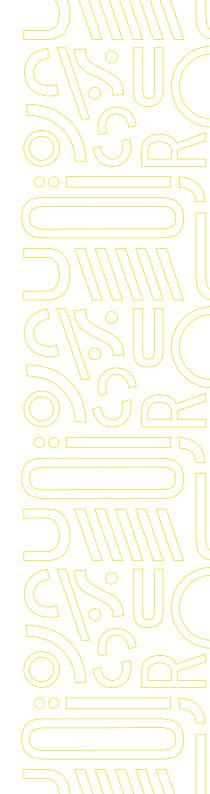




## NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The International Collaboration between University networks for sustainable development

January 2022 - December 2024 RUS Activity Report



## **INDEX**

1	Introduction	7
2	About us	19
	Aims and objectives of the network	20
	Governance	23
	Universities involved	25
	Technical tables	26
	Capacity building and Best practice	28
	Student Community	30
	Green Jobs Observatory	32
	Working Groups	34
	Climate Change	36
	Food	42
	Education	48
	<u>Energy</u>	54
	Inclusion and Social Justice	58
	Mobility	64
	Resources and Waste	68
	University for Industry	76
	RUS sub-networks, the collaboration at regional level	80



3	<b>2022-2024 Activities</b>	
	(January 2022 - December 2024)	87
4	2022 and 2023 Mapping	117
5	Collaborations	131







## INTRODUCTION

PATRIZIA LOMBARDI RUS PRESIDENT AND SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS AND I IVING I AB VICE-RECTOR. POI ITECNICO DI TORINO

Universities hold a unique position within society. With a large impact on the creation and dissemination of knowledge, universities have always been powerful drivers of innovation, economic development and social welfare: they drive technological progress through research, they attract and nurture talent and creativity and are central players in regional and national innovation systems and in the development and regeneration of territories.

The activities carried out by (and with) universities are crucial in helping local communities and the global community to understand and face global challenges. Through their staff, the students, campuses, neighbouring communities and supply chains, universities exert an important social, economic and environmental footprint. As neutral and trusted actors within society, they have a responsibility to lead and guide the local, national and international response to global challenges. The main challenge of our Millennium, aptly indicated in the 2030 Agenda, is undoubtedly to lead local communities and global society towards a new development goal that puts People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership at the centre. To date, the 2030 Agenda is poorly implemented. Only 15% of the 169 targets have been achieved,

and half of these are already deteriorating. Precisely at this moment in history, universities are called upon to make a fundamental contribution to the improvement of sustainability awareness, in the dual role of agents of change and subjects of change [1]. In the first case, as agents of change, it is the task of universities to support the transformation of society, by teaching how to manage the social and environmental criticalities in their reference contexts, by supporting social debate and by fostering the development of appropriate public policies. On the other hand, regarding university as a subject of change, it is essential to rethink the strategies to be implemented and the actions to be taken with a focus on the future [2]. A future that seems uncertain and with dystopia outcomes if the foundations are not laid for a true paradigm shift. This involves a process of sharing knowledge and sustainable development practices throughout the internal community (student population, teaching and research staff, and technical-administrativelibrary staff) and external community (private companies, public organisations, schools, institutions, NGOs, civil society). As the Treccani encyclopaedia reminds us, university in its proper sense means "totality, universality", and it is with this spirit that the Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS) – born ten years ago [3] spontaneously by the will of seven Italian universities - focused on the advancement of the entire Italian university system in the promotion

#### [1] <u>SDSN Guide,</u> 2021

[2] Just this year, the "Pact for the Future" was adopted by the United Nations following the Summit of the Future organised in New York, in September 2024, to reflect on the outcomes of the Agenda and to revive new perspectives.

[3] Although the official establishment with the Network Agreement is dated 2016, the first meeting of the original core proposing universities took place at Ecomondo in 2013.

and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to be implemented through the exchange and sharing of good practices on sustainable development issues. As is widely illustrated by this Report, which takes a longer time frame into account, from 2022 to 2024, the RUS Network experienced a truly remarkable growth and impact beyond all expectations, both nationally and internationally.

First of all, there is a strong growth of the Network not only in terms of membership, surpassing CRUI itself, but also in terms of awareness-raising actions and the sharing of good practices. The impact that the network action has had on the Italian university system and on its ability to respond to the challenges posed by sustainable development is verifiable through various indicators, properly documented by the graphs presented in this report. One of these is certainly the increase in individuals dedicated to the topic of sustainable development and the presence of "offices" or administrative areas dealing with campus sustainability, i.e. all those activities concerning both management related to teaching and research spaces and infrastructures, such as the implementation of activities aimed at reducing the consumption of energy, materials and resources, including the generation of emissions and waste production, as well as aspects of awareness-raising and learning, for the internal and external community, about new practices and more "appropriate" lifestyles from an environmental, climatic, social and intergenerational perspective. The most prominent figures in the Italian universities are managers in the field of organisational and

gender well-being, including diversity managers (83%), followed by energy managers (63%) and mobility managers (61%). In contrast, resources and waste managers (45%), which often also sum up the figures dedicated to food and water, are struggling to be acknowledged as key figures on university campuses, despite the fact that the RUS Network has already included them fully in the 2019 Sustainability Manifesto (or Rectors' Pact), especially in smaller universities (see the mapping section of this Report).

Another important indicator pointing to the positive progress of the Italian university system is the presence of an explicit reference to the concept of sustainable development in the two university main policy documents, namely in the Statutes, where there is still room for improvement, and above all in the Strategic Plans, most of which are translated into quantitative and measurable objectives. Also worth mentioning is the extensive response and submission of case studies related to the 2030 Agenda in the latest Research Quality Assessment (VQR) for the Third Mission, carried out by ANVUR for the 2015-2019 period.

By all means, much has still to be covered to allow the "lack of time" or "lack of resources" or "lack of expertise" – that up to this point prevent many universities from developing effective campus decarbonisation plans, based on measurable emission inventories – to be finally resolved, as documented by the response graphs on Climate Change. But it is also thanks to the wide-ranging empowerment action developed by the RUS Network over the past few years that we now have a real change of pace in the system that is finally also able to discuss participatory and cooperative practices on sustainable development issues, often anticipating the demands of legislators.

The RUS 2024 Report reports, in more detail, on the very wide range of activities that the Network has carried out at the national level, concerning:

- Construction of guidelines specifically designed for the university system
- Publication of studies and practices to capacitate the academic system, such as the Capacity Building Report
- Creation of new communities of practice, regarding
  - the launch of new Working Groups and Technical Working Tables (University for Industry and Student Community respectively),
  - the implementation of regional RUS networks (Puglia, Sicily, Tuscany and Veneto, .....)
- Finalisation of the Sustainability Reporting Manual and Standards developed together with the GBS Group on Reporting and Sustainability
- Review and implementation of the Manifesto for Sustainable development
- Definition and testing of new sustainability self-assessment metrics on a sample of Italian universities
- Launch of monitoring activities and
   Observatories, such as the one on Green Jobs
- Call for ideas dedicated to the student

- population and young people (cover and challenges...)
- Collection and organisation of dedicated events in unified calendars, such as the Festival of Sustainable Development, JTWIA, M'illumino di meno, etc.
- Compilation of official positions in RUS universities
- Organisation of training courses open to the entire RUS university community
- Participation in ministerial tables

Also at the international level, the Network has been an active player in several external leadership, multi-stakeholder actions, participating in:

- Conference of the Parties (COP). The COP annually brings together the countries of the United Nations that have signed the Convention on Climate Change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC). The Convention is an international treaty signed at the Conference on Environment and Development of the United Nations, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and has as its main objective the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2021, RUS has been organising side events and outreach initiatives that stimulate the exchange and sharing of the knowledge on issues related to the climate crisis.
  - COP26 was held in Glasgow, UK from 1-12 November 2021. The international climate negotiations summit hosted more than 30,000 delegates, including heads of state, climate

experts and activists, meeting to agree on a coordinated action plan to tackle climate change. In the months leading up to the COP, RUS engaged in preparatory events of national and international relevance that would not only promote 2021 as the year of "climate ambition", but also stimulate the exchange and sharing of knowledge on issues related to the climate crisis.

- COP27 was held from 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. At the COP, the various UN countries came together to discuss how to take action to achieve the collective climate goals agreed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The RUS was at COP27 with two "side events" on 16 and 17 November.
- COP28 was held from 30 November to 12
   December 2023 at the Expo City in Dubai,
   United Arab Emirates. The RUS was present with two "side events" on 8 and 9 December.
- COP29 was held from 11 to 22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The RUS was at COP with two "side events" on 12 and 19 November. In particular, during the 12 November event, whose title was "Universities and Youth in Education, Mitigation, and Adaptation for Climate Initiatives", many representatives of RUS universities, gathered in the Italian Pavilion, discussed the synergies between universities, public and private entities and young people, to promote effective collaborations and

concrete initiatives for a sustainable future; while, during the 19 November event, whose title was "Youth-Driven Sustainable Cities: Advancing Just Transformations of Urban Systems", a spotlight was put on innovations led by young people who are transforming urban and regional areas for a sustainable future.

- The 2020 World Expo took place in the United Arab Emirates in Dubai from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. The theme of the Expo 2020 Dubai was "opportunity, sustainability and mobility": opportunities to unleash the potential of individuals and communities to create a better future, sustainability in the sense of accessibility and resilience of environmental, energy and water resources and mobility for the creation of innovative logistics, transport and communication systems for people, goods and ideas. The RUS collaborated with the Commissariat of Italy for Expo 2020 Dubai to promote and enhance the activities that the Italian university system achieved in the run-up to Expo 2020 Dubai. In addition, it sponsored the Hackaton Hack for the planet, organised by Rotary to propose ideas and projects dedicated to environmental protection in harmony with economic growth. The prize for the winning team was in fact a trip to Dubai, for the "EXPO 2020 DUBAI".
- More recently, RUS collaborated with the Expo 2030 Rome Promoting Committee in the production of the publication "Expo 2030 Rome

- for Healthy Oceans. A priority for SIDS and the entire world".
- Dissemination of RUS activities and participation in the work of international networks such as:
   SDSN, Network of Network, Copernicus, EUA, CAESAR, Cluster, GreenMetrics, ...

To implement the various actions and achieve the impacts that this Report documents, the RUS has collaborated with various bodies, organisations, associations, foundations and networks that are active in sustainable development and propose partnership activities on areas of common interest with reference to the Sustainable Development Goals.

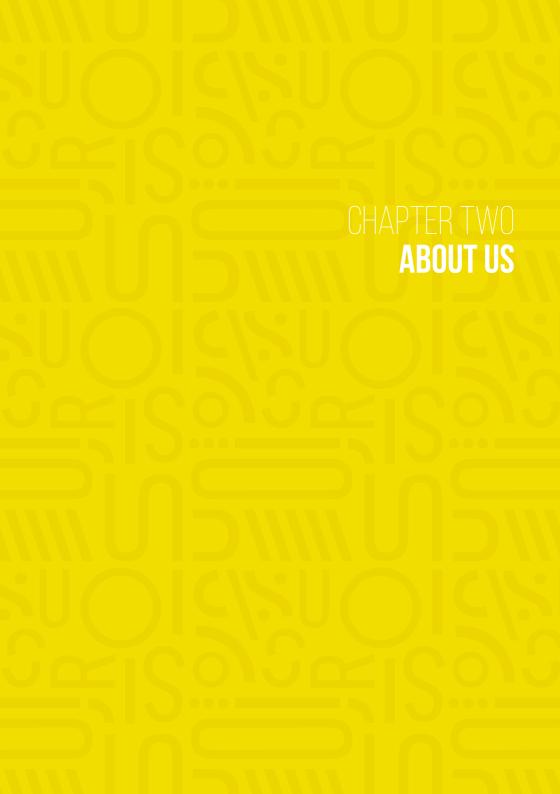
To them all, goes my most heartfelt gratitude. A thank you goes especially to all the more than 1,000 delegates from the 87 member universities of the Network, for their enthusiasm and work – most of which voluntary – thus making it possible to achieve these results.

As a closing note, please allow me to also thank my Alma mater, also considering that the year 2024 coincides with the end of my appointment as President of the RUS Coordination Committee, a role I have had the honour to hold since 2019, since it believed from the very beginning in this path, by investing appropriate financial and human resources, without ever interfering or looming over in promotional decisions or activities.

In my presentations, I have now adopted an old African proverb that goes "If you want to go fast, you run alone, but if you want to go far, you have to run together": the RUS has not only always applied the lesson but, I dare say, it has also appropriately imparted it to the Italian academic system.

December 2024





## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORK

Promoted by the CRUI – Conference of Italian University Rectors officially, since 2016 the RUS – Network of Universities for Sustainable Development was the first coordination and sharing experience amongst Italian universities committed to the issues of environmental sustainability and social responsibility. Born out of the spontaneous initiative of a small and determined group of universities, as of December 2021 the RUS counts 87 universities that have formally undertaken the commitment to direct their institutional activities towards integrated sustainability objectives and to actively take part in the achievement of the Network's institutional objectives.

All CRUI member universities take part in the RUS by right, but other universities whose institutional purposes are consistent with the network's objectives may also join. The RUS, a unique experience of its kind in terms of the number of members and scope of action, is proposed as a model of good practice to be extended to other sectors of the Public Administration, of education and of the territory in general, encouraging the development of collaborations between universities and cities, disseminating social innovation in the territory and providing cultural stimuli for the entire Country system.

#### INSTITUTIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The main purpose of the Network is the dissemination of sustainable development culture and good practices, both within and outside universities (at an urban, regional, national and international level), in order to increase the positive impacts in environmental, ethical, social and economic terms of the actions implemented by the members of the Network, so as to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Goals and to strengthen the recognition and value of the Italian experience at an international level. The participating universities are committed to supporting the following institutional objectives of the Network:

- Harmonise institutional activities and improve the management of environmental and social aspects.
- Create a community capable of developing best practices and representing the university nationally and internationally.
- Promote and develop projects in knowledge and skill transfer, in teaching and in university leadership and management.
- Develop the interdisciplinary educational aspects in university curricula in order to contribute to the growth of a culture of sustainable development and to influence the adoption of healthy lifestyles by students.
- Promote training and refresher courses on sustainable development issues for university staff and all teachers at all levels.
- Develop initiatives to raise awareness and

- to promote, with a view to stakeholder engagement.
- Increase collaborations with public institutions and the corporate world on projects related to the Network's aims.
- Formulate opinions and proposals, on matters within its competence, when requested by institutional players

## **GOVERNANCE**

#### **WORKING GROUPS**

Climate change

Food

Education

Energy

Inclusion and Social Justice

Mobility

Resources and Waste

University for Industry (from 2023)

#### ORGANISATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Politecnico di Torino

## TECHNICAL TABLES

Capacity Building and best practice since 2022

Student Community since 2023

Green Jobs Observatory since 2024

#### **COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Politecnico di Torino Presidency and Organisational secretariat

Politecnico di Bari

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Università degli Studi "G. D'Annunzio" Chieti Pescara

Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro"

Università degli Studi di Brescia

Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca

Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza" Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata

Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria Università di Pisa

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Delegates from 87 Universities 84 Universities in 2022, 86 Universities in 2023 The RUS Coordination Committee performs strategic and monitoring functions of the Network's activities and includes 10 elected universities and one appointed by the CRUI. The universities remain in office for three years: 2021 was the end of the 2019-2021 term of office, and in 2022 the new Committee took office of coordination for the 2022-2024 three-year period involving the following universities: Politecnico di Bari, Politecnico di Torino\* (Chairman), Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università degli Studi "G. D'Annunzio" Chieti Pescara, Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, Università degli Studi di Brescia, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza", Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata", Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, Università di Pisa

> \*the Politecnico di Torino was appointed by the President of the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI), under Article 5 of the Network Agreement.

### **UNIVERSITIES INVOLVED**

#### 2017

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna

Libera Università di Bolzano

Libera Università di Lingue E Comunicazione - lulm Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali

"Guido Carli" - Luiss

Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta - Lumsa

Politecnico di Bari

Politecnico di Milano

Politecnico di Torino

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Università Carlo Cattaneo - Liuo

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Università degli Studi del Sannio

Università degli Studi della Basilicata

Università degli Studi della Campania - Luigi Vanvitelli

Università degli Studi della Tuscia

Università degli Studi dell'Aquila

Università degli Studi dell'Insubria

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro

Università degli Studi di Bergamo

Università degli Studi di Brescia

Università degli Studi di Cagliari

Università degli Studi di Camerino

Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale

Università degli Studi di Catania

Università degli Studi di Firenze

Università degli Studi di Foggia Università degli Studi di Genova

Università degli Studi di Macerata

Università degli Studi di Milano

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia

Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

Università degli Studi di Padova

Università degli Studi di Palermo

Università degli Studi di Parma

Università degli Studi di Pavia

Università degli Studi di Perugia Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Università degli Studi di Salerno

Università degli Studi di Siena

Università degli Studi di Torino

Università degli Studi di Trento

Università degli Studi di Udine

Università degli Studi di Verona

Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma – Unint

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa

Università del Salento

Università luav Di Venezia Università per Stranieri Di Siena

#### 2019

Università degli Studi "G. D'annunzio" Chieti Pescara

Università degli Studi di Ferrara

Università degli Studi di Sassari

Università degli Studi di Trieste

Università della Valle D'aosta - Université de la Vallée

D'aoste

Università di Pisa

Università per Stranieri Di Perugia

#### 2010

Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di

Pelrfezionamento Sant'Anna

Università degli Studi del Molise

Università degli Studi di Messina

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope

Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo

Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche

Università del Piemonte Orientale

Università della Calabria

Università Lum Giuseppe Degennaro

#### 2020

Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - luss Pavia

Università Campus Bio-medico di Roma

Università degli Studi di Catanzaro "Magna Graecia"

Università degli Studi di Roma Unitelma Sapienza

Università degli Studi di Teramo

Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria

Università degli Studi Link Campus University

Università degli Studi Saint Camillus - International

University of Health And Medical Sciences - Unicamillus

Università Politecnica delle Marche

#### 2021

Gran Sasso Science Institute

Università Pontificia Salesiana

Università Vita-Salute S. Raffaele

Università Telematica "Leonardo Da Vinci"

#### 2022

Università degli Studi "Guglielmo Marconi"

Università degli Studi e-campus

Università degli Studi Magna Graecia di Catanzaro

#### 2023

Universitas Mercatorum - Università telematica delle Camere di Commercio italiane

Università Bocconi

#### 2024

Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati

## **TECHNICAL TABLES**

The RUS Coordination Committee, on the proposal and mandate of the President, initiates Technical Tables on topics that are both specific and transversal to the themes addressed by the RUS Working Groups in order to achieve the institutional objectives of the RUS, on the basis of defined needs and with the perspective of a defined time frame. The Technical Tables have their own internal organisational autonomy and periodically report the results of their activities to the Coordination Committee. Three Technical Tables have been set up: Capacity building and best practice, Student Community, Observatory on Green Jobs.



Student Community Technical Table, Turin 26 October 2024

# CAPACITY BUILDING AND BEST PRACTICE

Year and month of start 2022, April

#### Coordinator

Prof. Matteo Colleoni — Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca

#### Operations contact person

Dr. Marianna Venuti
— Università degli Studi
di Milano Bicocca

The Capacity Building and Best Practice technical table continues the work started in the previous three-year period by the Commission of the same name with the aim of fostering an analytical and operational exchange between the members of the various RUS working groups on the subject of capacity building and intervention on the sustainable development of Italian universities.

At the end of each year of its mandate, the Technical Table commits to the drafting of a white paper on the activities carried out by the three subgroups (presented at a national conference and published in the RUS page). The 2023 Report is available on the RUS website at <a href="https://reterus.it/en/capacity-building-and-best-practice/">https://reterus.it/en/capacity-building-and-best-practice/</a>, the 2024 Report will be available on the same page as soon as it is published.

#### **TABLE OBJECTIVES**

- Define shared criteria and methods for selecting academic best practices in sustainable development dissemination and communication
- Create a context in which to foster exchange between members of the working groups with a focus on knowledge and improvement of good academic practices on sustainable development
- Sharing knowledge and operational guidance on good practices in structuring and organising university Sustainable Development Offices/Sectors/Areas.

#### **SUBTABLES**

The three sub-tables of the Technical Table include representatives of the RUS HLG and are:

- Construction and application of indicators.
   Coordinators: Elena Maggi, Università dell'Insubria and Andrea Scagni, Università degli Studi di Torino
- Criteria, methods and communication of best practices.
   Coordinator: Mariella Nocenzi, Università La Sapienza di Roma and Laura Bettoni, Università degli Studi di Brescia
- Structuring and organisation of university offices/sectors/areas for sustainable development.
  - Coordinator: Paola Biglia, Politecnico di Torino and Laura Di Renzo, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata



## STUDENT COMMUNITY

Year and month of start

2023, September

#### Coordinator

Prof. Elena Semenzin
— Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

#### **Technical Tutor**

Chiara Genta

Politecnico di Torino

The Student Community
Technical Table
responds to the need
to involve university
students in a structured
and continuous manner
by offering them a
prominent space
and full involvement
in achieving the
institutional objectives
of the RUS.

The Table has a "Charter of the RUS Student Community Technical Table" and "Operational guidelines for the management of the RUS Technical Table Student Community". Both documents were approved by the Steering Committee in December 2024

#### **TABLE OBJECTIVES**

- Collect and share best practices, with a focus on peer-to-peer engagement and dissemination activities
- Propose new activities and actions to be carried out in the universities, also using envisioning and foresight tools
- Improve dissemination activities of RUS proposals to the student community
- Contribute to the work of the working groups, in coordination with these, also to understand the priorities perceived by the student community

#### **SUBTABLES**

Students participating in the Table are organised into four subtables:

- Mapping of student community involvement
- Dissemination, networking and social networking activities
- Sub-table for the organisation of joint initiatives for the Festival of Sustainable Development
- Awareness-raising campaigns



## GREEN JOBS OBSERVATORY

Year and month of start 2024, May

#### Coordinators

Enrico Giovannini

— Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata" Patrizia Lombardi

- Politecnico di Torino

#### Operational/external contacts

Stefano Armenia Marco Gisotti The Green Jobs Observatory Technical Table stems from the need to support the sustainable transition of the Country by mapping the university education offer currently present in the universities of the RUS, also outlining future scenarios related to the job world within the framework of a prosperous and sustainable perspective.

#### **TABLE OBJECTIVES**

- Gather the elements of knowledge and analysis of green skills
- Converge all studies on the subject
- Support an Observatory on the topic by analysing the syllabus of existing courses at national level



## **WORKING GROUPS**

The RUS is divided into eight Working Groups (WGs), each focusing on issues that are essential for the achievement of the Network's institutional objectives. Each member university of the RUS has the opportunity to participate, through representatives of its own community, in the work of the working groups, which, whilst maintaining their internal operational and organisational autonomy, report periodically to the Coordination Committee and develop their activities on the basis of priorities chosen by the group itself.

The WGs are first and foremost "places" for the universities to meet for a mutual and virtuous contamination of effective actions aimed at a transformation in terms of sustainable development of their communities and campuses. Thanks to the heterogeneity of the members, the WGs develop and promote practical tools (e.g. guidelines, white papers, collections of best practices, etc.) that are made available and disseminated throughout the academic community to facilitate the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda goals.

Throughout the year, the WGs activities are structured around plenary meetings, which provide opportunities to discuss new projects and share progress made by the various subgroups that comprise them. Below are the main information that characterise each WG: the coordinator, the

operational contacts (when present), a brief description of the objectives of the WG, significant activities developed between January 2022 and December 2023, and some good practices that are intended to be consolidated (these latter can be considered, depending on the WG, either as a positive action of the Group itself or as a replicable good practice by individual universities). The WGs started their activities at different times and are subject to constant transformation and updating. To date, the WGs are: Climate Change,

and are subject to constant transformation and updating. To date, the WGs are: Climate Change, Food, Education, Energy, Inclusion and social justice, Mobility, Resources and waste, Universities for Industry.

During 2023, the Universities for Industry WG was launched, with the aim of stimulating Italian Universities to rethink their way of putting their scientific knowledge at the service of productive activities.

# **CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### Year and month of start

2017, March

#### Universities involved

2022: 65 Universities 2023: 71 Universities 2024: 73 Universities

#### Coordinators

Prof. Stefano Caserini

— Politecnico di Milano
(until April 2023)
Prof. Michela Gallo

— Università degli Studi di Genova
(since April 2023)

#### Operational contact

Paola Baglione

— Politecnico di Milano
(until April 2023)

Valentina Marin

— Università degli Studi di Genova
(since April 2023)

#### Website

The objective of the Climate Change WG is to guide the commitment of universities towards actions to combat climate change through the sharing of information, materials, and methods aimed at defining common metrics, knowledge, skills, and good practices. The activities concern support for the creation of CO2 emissions inventories of universities, mitigation, adaptation, and climate neutrality plans, the organisation of informative and training events, as well as the formal commitment to contain emissions, in the short and long term.

### Active in 2022

- Update of the operational guidelines for the preparation of greenhouse gas emissions inventories of Italian universities (the
- subgroup is further divided according to the specificities of the chapters of the guidelines). Coordinated by Prof. Stefano Caserini
   Politecnico di Milano
- Mapping of Climate Change activities of universities and Questionnaire on green areas. Coordinated by Prof. Daniele Antichi - Università di Pisa

### Active in 2022 and 2023

 Sustainability of the Water Cycle and Climate Change.
 Coordinated by Prof. Francesco Cioffi - Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

### Active in 2023

- Information systems for data collection and emissions calculation in use at the universities of the Climate Change WG. Coordinated by Prof. Simona Castaldi - Università degli Studi della Campania -Luigi Vanvitelli
- Carbon offsetting methods of residual emissions in universities.
   Coordinated by Prof. Michela Gallo Università degli Studi di Genova

emissions
inventories
mitigation
adaptation
carbon offsetting



# Name of activity

The carbon market and the role of carbon offsetting in actions against climate change. Criticalities and potentialities regarding the issue of compensating emissions through carbon market credits.

Keynote speaker: Alex Michaelowa (University of Zurich)

Period: 10 March 2022

The objective of the seminar was to provide an overview of the state of the carbon market, the different types of credits available to compensate emissions, discussing their possible use by universities, their utility, local or global environmental benefits, and the criticalities identified in some projects, for example regarding the additionality of reductions or possible double counting with other interventions.

•••••••

# Name of activity

Mapping of greenhouse gas emissions inventories and reduction plans, green management, and water resources

Period: November 2022 - March 2023

Survey aimed at defining, in RUS universities, the state of the art in terms of preparing greenhouse gas emissions inventories, emissions mitigation plans, and adaptation plans, and the formalisation of short and long-term reduction commitments. The survey also included two specific focuses on university green areas and sustainable use of water resources.

••••••

### Name of activity

The role of universities in the decarbonisation of urban areas – 8/12/23 - Italian Pavilion.

Decarbonization Ecosystems: The Impact of University Partnerships – 9/12/23 - Side Event Room

Period: 8-9 December 2023

Presentation of the guidelines for decarbonisation in universities, developed by the CC WG, and participation in the discussion on collaboration between universities, local authorities, communities, and industry towards the goal of decarbonisation, in the first event at the national level among representatives of RUS Universities, in the second event at the international level.

# Update of the Operational Guidelines for the preparation of greenhouse gas emissions inventories of Italian universities

In 2022 the WG started updating the guidelines published in 2019, re-proposing the working method in thematic subgroups of study for each sector and/or chapter of the guidelines, with the appointment of the coordinator. The document presents some useful operational indications for the preparation of greenhouse gas emissions inventories in Italian universities, in order to favour the creation of congruent inventories in terms of methodologies and data used. The working subgroups operated keeping in mind the objective of drafting a document to support those who in universities face the task of creating the emissions inventory, providing some preliminary methodological assumptions, indications regarding data collection, and sources related to activity indicators. The draft of the guidelines was presented and discussed several times during plenary meetings and allowed the involvement and exchange of ideas with the reference people of the universities belonging to the WG. The results of the work were published and presented at the plenary meeting at the end of the Coordination's mandate, in March 2023, together with the results of the 2022 WG Mapping.

It is advisable that a periodic update of the guidelines be drafted by the WG, drawn up collectively with the creation of thematic working subgroups.

# Sharing the general procedure for accreditation as observers to the COPs organised by the UNFCCC

In the first plenary meeting of the new coordination of the WG, held in September 2023, a handbook was presented with the main instructions for addressing the general procedure for accreditation of Universities as observers to the Conferences of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Based on the verification carried out, only 7 universities and two Italian research centres were accredited in 2023.

The purpose of this sharing action was therefore to support RUS universities in the accreditation process and to facilitate their participation as admitted observers to the proceedings, as non-governmental organisations (RIBO). The participation in the COPs of an increasing number of RUS universities fosters the growth of awareness regarding decision-making processes and commitments undertaken by States regarding climate objectives and ensures greater effectiveness in transferring this knowledge to academic communities. A greater representation also allows the participation and organisation of specific side events.

This action can be consolidated over time by monitoring the number of accredited universities and extending support to RUS universities not taking part in the CC WG.

# **FOOD**

### Year and month of start

2018, December

### Universities involved

2022: 67 Universities 2023: 74 Universities 2024: 76 Universities

### Coordinators

Prof. Egidio Dansero

— Università degli Studi di Torino
Prof. Laura Di Renzo

— Università degli Studi di Roma
"Tor Vergata"

### Operational contact

Nadia Tecco

Università degli Studi di Torino
Maria Luigia Fiorentino
Università degli Studi di Roma

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

### Website

The Food WG investigates how food is consumed within universities by students and staff, with the aim of making universities a model of sustainable food consumption for the territory. The content of the WG concerns food procurement, distribution, spaces for food consumption and waste management, as well as food education and sustainability, and relationships with other subjects in the territory. The WG aims to produce knowledge about the university food phenomenon, collecting and disseminating data and promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices.

### Active in 2022 and 2023

- Production (University gardens). Coordinated by Prof. Lucia Piani
   Università degli Studi di Udine, by Roberto Braglia Università
  degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (in 2022) and by Prof. Antonella
  Canini Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (in 2023)
- Spaces and times dedicated to food consumption. Coordinated by Prof. Paola Palestini – Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
- Green public procurement: GPP-Food. Coordinated by Prof.
  Eleonora Sirsi Università di Pisa, by Prof. Andrea Appolloni –
  Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata (in 2022) and by Nadia
  Tecco Università di Torino (in 2023)
- Indicators and monitoring: Construction and application of indicators in collaboration with the WG Capacity Building and Best Practice (CBBP). Egidio Dansero, Laura Di Renzo, Mary Fiorentino, Nadia Tecco

food environment food procurement foodprint



11111

# Name of activity

Design and start of distribution of the Food Knowledge Survey

Period: from January 2022 to December 2022

Identification of food knowledge and choices by university students and both teaching and non-teaching university staff, of several Italian universities, for the implementation of subsequent interventions aimed at promoting healthy and sustainable nutrition for the university populations. The survey consists of 2 successive surveys through structured questionnaires with the collection of socio-demographic data and the use of validated scales concerning food knowledge, eating habits, and food sustainability. The first was designed during 2022 (structuring of the questionnaire, DMP elaboration, and stipulation of Privacy agreements). Distribution began in November 2022 and continued during 2023. The one on "Eating Habits" followed in 2024. Participating units: 17

About us

## Name of activity

Mapping of Projects and experiences of the Food WG, 2nd edition

Period: from July 2023 to November 2023

The objectives set by the RUS Food Working Group for the second mapping in 2023 followed the path of the previous experience, carried out in 2019, namely to obtain a snapshot of the relationship between Italian universities and issues related to the production, sale, and consumption of food within them. The mapping was therefore proposed as a longitudinal exploratory study with the aim of collecting a series of good practices that could be implemented in other contexts in order to strengthen the role of university as an actor within the Local Territorial Food System with a view to social and environmental sustainability.

Participating universities: 49

Activation of the <u>"Sustainable Diet" training course and activation of</u> the "Nutritional Office" for technical administrative and library staff, as proposed and activated by the RUS Food WG of the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

Objectives: Cycle of meetings (at least 15) and nutritional counselling through a dedicated office, to define a personalised nutritional path for each participant, to expand knowledge and maintain or improve the well-being of the university population.

Methods for consolidation:

- a) annual repetition in the universities taking part in the project,
- b) increase in the number of adhering universities based on the results achieved

**Experimentation** (started in 2023 and concluded in 2024), coordinated by RUS Food and RUS Climate Change and carried out by a group of UniGe researchers on the **quantification of the carbon footprint associated with the production of food ingredients present in the menu** proposed during the week by Aliseo in the Genoese canteens during participation in the Green Food Week 2024. From the analysis carried out, the green menu proposed allowed an average reduction of about 40% of CO2 equivalent compared to the traditional menu.

Conscious choices in the selection of recipes with low environmental impact allow an even greater reduction of emissions. Methods for consolidation:

a) possible continuation of the experimentation during the year
 b) extension of participation in the experimentation to other universities in the Network



# **EDUCATION**

### Year and month of start

2017, September

### Universities involved

2022: 59 Universities 2023: 69 Universities 2024: 71 Universities

### Coordinators

Enrico Giovannini

— Università degli Studi di Roma
"Tor Vergata"

Gabriella Calvano

— Università degli Studi di Bari
Aldo Moro (from July 2023)

### Website

Aware of the role that educational processes play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Education WG focuses on various methods of education on and for sustainable development, highlighting good practices and proposing effective educational approaches to ensure that all members of the university community (students, teachers, technical and administrative staff) and, from a Third Mission perspective, the world of businesses, public administrations, and citizens know the 2030 Agenda and the principles of sustainable development, thus becoming key players in its implementation.

### Active in 2022 and 2023

- Lesson Zero. Coordinated by Prof. Renato Casagrandi –
   Politecnico di Milano and Gabriella Calvano Università degli
   Studi di Bari Aldo Moro
- Ethics. Coordinated by Prof. Riccardo Guidetti Università degli Studi di Milano and by Prof. Alessandra Bonoli – Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
- Teacher training. Coordinated by Antonella Bachiorri Università degli Studi di Parma and by Gabriella Calvano – Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro
- Lifelong Learning. Coordinated by Prof. Roberta Piazza Università di Catania

education transversal skills interdisciplinarity transdisciplinarity lifelong learning



## Name of activity

Guidelines "DEFINITION OF SOME FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSITY ETHICAL CODES IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS: SUGGESTIONS"

Period: da ottobre 2022

Within the Education WG, the Ethics Subgroup elaborated the Guidelines "Definition of some founding principles of university ethical codes in environmental matters: suggestions". The document, developed through a process of shared discussion and analysis of existing ethical codes in Italian universities, acknowledges the fundamental importance of natural capital. It sets out key principles to enhance the value of the environment within universities' core documents, highlighting its crucial role in the well-being of individuals and both academic and local communities.

## Name of activity

Presentation of the Zero Lesson Format to the Conference of Rectors

Period: 21 giugno 2023

After presenting the Format to the teachers of the Education Group, it was deemed fundamental to promote the Zero Lesson at CRUI. For this reason, President Patrizia Lombardi, the WG Coordinators Enrico Giovannini and Gabriella Calvano, and the Co-Coordinator of the Zero Lesson Subgroup Renato Casagrandi presented the model constructed and collected the positive opinion of the Rectors to start the national experimentation of the Sustainability Literacy path, considered, now more than ever, necessary to train competent citizens and professionals.

The presentation of the Zero Lesson Format at the CRUI meeting on 21 June 2023 has given greater value to the path that the Education Group is carrying out to promote Sustainability Literacy paths at the university level. Also thanks to the positive opinion of CRUI, for the current year the Subgroup has started experimentation of the Zero Lesson, with 24 universities that have formally responded to the RUS-CRUI request to take part in it. While standing true to the principles of University Autonomy and localisation of the 2030 Agenda, the universities that have joined the project have committed to implementing the Zero Lesson in all its phases.

The proposal of the Zero Lesson is a general scheme, that is flexible and adaptable to the local needs of the individual sites. In particular, universities can modify the format according to their specificities and their research, their third mission, and context perspectives and policies, enhancing what each university already does to contribute to the sustainable development of its territory. The purpose of this experimentation is connected to the need, felt by various universities, to make the Zero Lesson the first concrete commitment towards implementing an educational and training policy shared by all Italian universities engaged in sustainability.

To identify the most effective practices and methods, and to enhance the pathways developed during the trial, the Zero Lesson Subgroup is preparing a series of tools to evaluate the competencies, the process and the impacts of the Zero Lesson. The results collected will be discussed and brought to the appropriate forums with the aim of making sustainability literacy pathways an integral part of the curricula for all students attending universities across the Country.

The Zero Lesson Subgroup and its coordinators remain available to support the universities that have already joined the experimentation and those that wish to do so in the coming months.



# **ENERGY**

### Year and month of start

2016, November

### Universities involved

2022: 60 Universities 2023: 66 Universities 2024: 68 Universities

### Coordinators

Prof. Alberto Poggio

— Politecnico di Torino

Prof. Marco Raugi

— Università di Pisa
(since January 2023)

Prof. Laura Bettoni

— Università egli Studi di Brescia
(since January 2023)

### Operational contact

Claudio Turcotti

— Politecnico di Torino
(until January 2023)
Prof. Lucia Lucherini

— Università di Pisa
(since January 2023)

#### Website

The Energy WG studies the energy requirements of university facilities, the actions for their reduction, and how to meet them with renewable energy, while maintaining comfort standards and service quality. For this purpose, it collects data and builds information and methodological bases, defines metrics. It supports the actions of Energy Managers in universities. It collects and disseminates good practices for energy management in Public Administration. It promotes awareness of energy sustainability within university communities and the territory.

### Active in 2022

- Metrics and indicators. Coordinated by Prof. Giulio Cappelletti –
   Università degli Studi di Foggia
- Green Paper "Sustainable Energy Management". Coordinated by Laura Bertoni Università degli Studi di Brescia

### Active in 2022 and 2023

- HVAC systems: health and well-being. Coordinated by Prof.
   Francesca Romana d'Ambrosio Università degli Studi di Salerno
- Support for CRUI-RUS-GSE agreement. Coordinated by Prof.
   Gianluca Ruggieri Università degli Studi dell'Insubria

### Active in 2023

- REC Renewable Energy Communities. Coordinated by Prof.
   Alberto Fichera Università degli Studi di Catania and by Filippo Bovera – Politecnico di Milano
- Energy Manager Communication Training. Coordinated by Francesca Cioffi Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, by Luca Migliari Università degli Studi di Cagliari and by Prof. Domenico Panno Università degli Studi di Palermo

energy efficiency consumption reduction renewable sources measured management



## Name of activity

Presentation of the Green Paper "Sustainable Energy Management"

Period: 12 July 2022

Gianni Silvestrini, Scientific Director Kyoto Club Andrea Braschi, General Director Università di Camerino, Responsible for the Working Group Buildings, purchases and environmental sustainability, (CODAU)

Eleonora Egalini, Energy Services Manager (GSE) Giorgio Graditi, Director Department of Energy technologies and renewable sources, (ENEA)

Dario Di Santo, FIRE Director

Energy transition in public administration: opportunities and tools

Coordination by Giorgio Graditi, Director Department of Energy technologies and renewable sources, (ENEA) Role of energy managers in public administration, Dario Di Santo, Director FIRE

Technical table for the study of proposals on energy saving for Higher Education Institutions and Research Bodies, Livio De Santoli, Università Roma Sapienza

Incentives for energy efficiency and renewable sources, energy communities, support service to universities, Eleonora Egalini, GSE

Solutions for the use of intelligent energy technologies and digitisation in public administration, Giorgio Graditi, Director Department of Energy technologies and renewable sources, (ENEA)

The WG organised sharing moments in which each participating university had the opportunity to present its plan and its awareness-raising actions on energy efficiency for the university community. More specifically, handbooks, signage, and posters were shared to be disseminated in universities to raise awareness and draw attention to energy efficiency. The meetings reinforced the awareness, amongst the Energy Managers, of the need to train and inform the academic community about the actions undertaken by the university to reduce energy consumption; and at the same time allowed to identify the actions on which those who live in the academic environment can concretely focus their attention, to actively contribute to the reduction of energy needs. The WG will share a common guide and an informational campaign on energy efficiency and conservation to bring focus to energy efficiency with a unified voice.

This modality of presentation, exchange, collection of experiences, and achievement of a common good practice will be re-proposed for other themes, besides awareness-raising, to disseminate materials that can be useful to Italian universities.

# INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Year and month of start

2020, December

### Universities involved

2022: 59 Universities 2023: 72 Universities 2024: 77 Universities

## Coordinators

Prof. Laura Nota
— Università degli Studi di Padova

## Vice-coordinator

Prof. Pasquale Lelio Iapadre
— Università degli Studi dell'Aquila

## Operational contact

Gioia Grigolin

— Università degli Studi di Padova

### Website

The aim of the Inclusion and Social **Justice Working** Group is to implement shared policies and promote sustainable and inclusive social environments capable of evolving and initiating innovations centred on social justice. The commitment is to increase a critical awareness of inequalities, discriminations, forms of inequality, to promote services focused on the right to education, to implement inclusive policies attentive to linguistic and gender disparities, and to reduce barriers.

## Active in 2022 and 2023

- Indicators coordinated by Prof. Lelio lapadre Università degli Studi dell'Aquila
- Good practices coordinated by Prof. Mariella Nocenzi -Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

inclusion social justice fighting inequalities



# Name of activity

Actions carried out within Subgroup 1 Indicators

Period: during 2022/2023

In the first months of the year, the collection and analysis of data was carried out, necessary for the trial — agreed upon in 2022 — of a set of indicators useful for evaluating universities' contributions to achieving social justice objectives.

These are six variants of a single measure, aimed at evaluating the degree of regularity of the study paths of people starting from disadvantaged conditions, especially with specific learning disorders (SLD), disabilities or invalidity, foreign nationality, foreign diploma, low income (ISEE below €28,000), residence in regions different from that of the university. The choice was also guided by the availability of data in the universities' statistical systems. Furthermore, to emphasise the intention to avoid improperly competitive logics, the initial experimentation was carried out by aggregating the data of all participating universities. In other words, a single integrated academic system was artificially constructed, to evaluate over time its capacity to contribute to the reduction of inequalities for all people, regardless of their initial conditions.

The results of the experimentation were presented at the conference on 31 May 2023 at the Università per Stranieri di Siena and were incorporated in the contribution offered to the report of the RUS Capacity Building and Best Practice Working Table.

••••••

## Name of activity

Actions carried out within Subgroup 2 Good practices

**Period:** during 2022/2023

In September 2021, a specific Working Subgroup on Good Practices was established with the aim of identifying criteria for collecting experiences and good practices on central themes for the WG Inclusion and social justice. The collection and analysis of good practices is one of the relevant purposes for the RUS WGs.

The work programme of the Subgroup was developed in the following phases:

- analysis of the collection processes of good practices of other WGs
- definition of the field of investigation and criteria to be used for the collection
- application of the RUS operational Guidelines to verify the feasibility of the collection
- definition of the survey tool
- data collection in universities
- data processing and drafting of the final report In light of the experiences carried out by the other WGs, it was decided to collect and map the practices of Italian universities to promote shared policies and sustainable and inclusive contexts capable of evolving into innovations centred on social justice. More in detail, the practices to be identified were indicated as those capable of fostering a critical awareness of inequalities, discriminations, and forms of inequity in order to promote services focused on social justice.

In this sense, the WG shared the specifically deliberative meaning of social justice, referable to the philosopher John

Rawls, connected to the way in which political, economic, and social institutions distribute fundamental rights and duties and the benefits deriving from social cooperation, as well as from caring relationships with others; but also the capability approach, proposed by the 1998 Nobel Prize for Economics according to which institutions support every citizen to fully develop as a person and to participate in social life, ensuring them substantial freedom. For social inclusion, the proposed meaning is the provision of services that address diverse needs through strategies aimed at fully developing each individual's potential.

Organisation of the study day: INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE UNIVERSITY, on 31 May 2023, at the Università per Stranieri di Siena (open to the territory, public and free). The day aimed to stimulate debate among those who study and are interested in deepening these themes, members of the WG and of the territory. The threats that humanity is facing in terms of inequalities, inequities, exclusions, environmental issues, social impoverishment, and distrust in the future, are numerous, complex, interrelated, and capable of aggravating the vulnerability of increasingly larger parts of the population. With this initiative, the aim was to contribute to the public debate on the various dimensions of social and environmental justice, analysing them from different points of view, with the contribution of different knowledge, also in order to deepen knowledge and foster processes that lead to new ideas and transformative trajectories of societies. Particular attention was dedicated to the role that universities can play, with their missions of education, research, and social collaboration, to facilitate the reduction of inequalities and the achievement of social and environmental justice objectives. The day was also organised in collaboration with the Forum on Inequalities and Diversity and saw the participation, in addition to the members of the WG with their presentations, of the Magnificent Rector Tomaso Montanari, Prof. Luigi Ferrajoli, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, and Prof. Fulvio Esposito, Università di Camerino and Forum on Inequalities and Diversity. All the interventions can be viewed on the RUS Network website.

# **MOBILITY**

### Year and month of start

2016, November

### Universities involved

2022: 70 Universities 2023: 70 Universities 2024: 74 Universities

### Coordinators

Prof. Matteo Colleoni
— Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (until January 2023)
Prof. Bruno Dalla Chiara
— Politecnico di Torino
(from January 2023)

### Vice-coordinator

Prof. Giuseppe Inturri

— Università degli Studi di Catania

# **Operational contact**

Massimiliano Rossetti
— Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (until January 2023)
Valentina Colaleo
— Politecnico di Torino
(from January 2023)

### Website

The Mobility WG debates and conducts surveys, solutions, and interventions — also in terms of policy — on academic mobility management; it follows the drafting of home-university travel plans with a view to encouraging sustainable mobility, both local and extended. The intent is pursued by favouring the use of shared means, starting by definition — from public transport; at the same time, access to academic areas by private cars is discouraged, especially if for single use if equipped with motorisation and fuels that are more impactful on the environment, as well as by raising awareness among staff and students on values inherent to mobility, in order to favour both innovation and behavioural change. Attention is dedicated to the promotion of active mobility, on foot and by bicycle.

### Active in 2022 and 2023

- Mobility management interventions and relationship with companies and institutions. Coordinated by Prof. Maria Rosaria De Blasiis – Università degli Studi Roma Tre and by Prof. Umberto Crisalli – Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"
- Data, surveys, and indicators. Coordinated by Prof. Elena Maggi
   Università degli Studi dell'Insubria and by Prof. Andrea Scagni –
   Università degli Studi di Torino
- Internationalisation. Coordinated by Prof. Francesca Pirlone –
   Università degli Studi di Genova and by Daniele Crotti Università degli Studi dell'Insubria
- Innovation and technology. Coordinated by Prof. Ilaria del Ponte
   Università degli Studi di Genova and by Prof. Pierluigi Coppola –
   Politecnico di Milano

accessibility
sustainable mobility
policies
multi-modality
mobility management
home-university travel



## Name of activity

White Paper 2022 - "Guidelines for the programming of academic mobility management interventions at Italian universities"

Period: 2022-2023

The White Paper 2022 entitled "Guidelines for the programming of academic mobility management interventions at Italian universities" by RUS - Mobility Working Group was made public in February 2023.

•••••

### Name of activity

Seminar in blended mode (in person and remote)

**Period:** 12 September 2023 10:00 am – 02:00 pm

In person assembly of the "Mobility" Working Group at the Central Headquarters of the Politecnico di Torino; the purpose of the assembly was to: introduce the factors that affect sustainability in transport and mobility, take stock of the activities in progress and planned in the various subgroups, trying to enhance data collection, best practices to favour a multi-modal approach and the use of public transport, convergence towards a questionnaire that is as common as possible, with indicators for the drafting and updating of the PSCL (Home-School-Work Travel Plans), the first experiences in progress or in the making on MaaS. Following the meeting, a networking moment was organised for a better mutual acquaintance, informal debates, and exchange of opinions, also with a view to further strengthening the network.

The working subgroups will remain indicatively unchanged, except for the renewal of contents, possibly of titles or new proposals that may emerge in the kick-off meeting in March 2023: subgroup I (Mobility management interventions and relationship with institutions), subgroup II (Data, surveys, and indicators), subgroup III (Internationalisation) and subgroup IV (Innovation and technologies). Each of these will extend its objectives.

The innovative practices deemed useful that we are about to carry forward are:

- a uniform basic Questionnaire at the national level, as far as possible compatible with the questionnaires of metropolitan cities;
- the experimentation of the MaaS at the academic level and possibly in an integrated way, starting — but not exclusively from the cities and Regions selected in the MaaS4Italy program...

During 2024, the Declaration or Statement on the theme of Sustainable Mobility and related local and global emissions was prepared and approved by the Mobility WG. 2024 RUS Mobility Declaration or Statement, October 2024 Here are some numbers on the participatory process that led to the approval of the document:

- 58 university reference people in the RUS responding with 39 universities represented (out of 74 taking part in the RUS Mobility WG)
- 50 favourable opinions without comment, 5 favourable opinions with requests for formal changes, now incorporated, 55 overall; 3 abstained;
- no contrary opinion.

# RESOURCES AND WASTE

Year and month of start 2016, November

### Universities involved

2022: 65 Universities 2023: 69 Universities 2024: 73 Universities

### Coordinator

Eleonora Perotto

— Politecnico di Milano

### Website

The WG works on the methods of management (collection, temporary storage, transport, and treatment) of all types of waste produced by universities, in the implementation of legislative and technical norms. It also collects and disseminates, in the perspective of a circular economy, practices aimed at raising awareness on the theme of correct waste management and at directing towards behaviours aimed at preventing its production from the origin: from non-use or limited/ shared use of certain objects or substances to the virtuous management of goods and materials in order to extend their useful life as much as possible.

### Active in 2022

- Guidelines for temporary waste storage. Coordinated by Mirella Ponte –
   Università degli Studi di Trento
- Transfer of movable goods. Coordinated by Denis Bragagnolo Università
   Ca' Foscari Venezia and by Daria Prandstraller Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
- Waste and good practices for Covid emergency. Coordinated by Prof.
   Federico Vagliasindi Università di Catania, with the support of Prof. Alessio Siciliano Università della Calabria

#### Active in 2022 and 2023

- Good practices of circular economy. Coordinated by Veronica D'Arrico –
  Politecnico di Milano with the support of Prof. Laura Badalucco Università
  IUAV di Venezia
- Separate waste collection. Coordinated by Prof. Giovanni De Feo Università degli Studi di Salerno, with the support since 2023 of Prof. Elena Sezenna – Politecnico di Milano
- Indicators. Coordinated by Eleonora Perotto Politecnico di Milano, with the support of Valentina Marin Università degli Studi di Genova
- Intergroup Food WG Resources and Waste Reference persons: Prof. Elena
   Sezenna Politecnico di Milano and Nadia Tecco Università degli Studi di Torino

### Active in 2023

 WG Questionnaire Coordinated by Eleonora Perotto – Politecnico di Milano and by Prof. Elena Sezenna – Politecnico di Milano

prevenzione condivisione gestione valorizzazione circolarità



## Name of activity

Resources & Waste Mapping 2022

### Period:

Questionnaire distribution: from March to May 2022 (then extended until early July). Elaborations: preliminary starting from July 2022; final during 2023 given the amount of data underlying the questionnaire and the need to carry out some checks. First anticipations of mapping results during various initiatives in 2023. Report and presentation event: during 2024.

The survey, which was configured as an update of the previous 2018 survey, necessary also because of the expansion of the WG's field of action (inclusion of the "resources" area since 2019), was aimed at: i) defining the current state of the art in terms of resources and waste in universities members of the RUS; ii) raising awareness and educating universities with respect to the themes treated in the questionnaire itself, by virtue of the necessary involvement during the compilation by the RUS referent of all the competent people on the specific themes treated who operate within the universities. This was followed by data processing operations, with presentation of some specific results during 2023. The report is being drafted and the presentation event is expected to be organised in the first half of 2024.

# Name of activity

Activities of confrontation with external stakeholders aimed at establishing partnerships

Period: from January to December 2023

During 2023, discussions were initiated with certain entities operating in the waste management sector aimed at exploring possible collaborations with the R&W WG. This activity materialized with the signing of the following partnerships:

- CONAI National Packaging Consortium;
- COMIECO National Consortium for Recovery and Recycling of Cellulose-based Packaging.

The partnerships are mainly aimed at:

- implementing actions to promote correct separate collection practices for packaging wastein the university environment (with a particular focus on cellulose ones);
- carrying out possible communication, awareness, and training activities related to recycling and circular economy themes;
- developing guidelines for separate waste collection in the University environment.

With CONAI, the path for the drafting of Guidelines was initiated during 2023, and is expected to be closed by mid-2024.

### **Coordinated participation in EWWR**

For some time, the WG has been working to try to coordinate the initiatives organised by individual universities on the occasion of the EWWR - European Week for Waste Reduction.

In 2022, the universities that took part in the campaign, hence notifying the WG, were 11 (compared to 6 in 2021). The initiatives carried out were multiple and increasingly aimed at the direct involvement of users (Stakeholder Engagement - SE):

- POLIMI SE: Policiclo for the EWWR: not just repair and reuse, but also upcycling
- POLITO SE: WEEE collection
- UNIBO SE: CleanUp Action with Plastic Free
- UNICA Informative initiatives: Recovery of waste materials from mussel farming for ecodesign solutions; Bio-hydrogen and biopolymers from OFMSW and valuable metals from WEEE
- UNIFI Seminar "Waste reduction for green health waste management in operating rooms"
- UNIGE SE: SWAP UniGe Exchange of ideas and clothes
- UNIMOL Seminar "Management and value creation of waste in a circular economy perspective: the EMBRACED project"
- UNIPV SE: SERRiously Sustainable
- UNIROMA1 SE: Recycling is fashion!
- UNITO SE: Ri-portalo in circolo (Re-circulate it) 2nd edition
- UNIVE SE: Clean Up; Online seminar cycle "Waste, Resources and Recovery"

The initiatives carried out were multiple and increasingly aimed at the direct involvement of users (Stakeholder Engagement - SE). For more information on the individual initiatives, please refer to the relevant page on the RUS website: <a href="https://reterus.it/en/ewwr-2022-european-week-for-waste-reduction/">https://reterus.it/en/ewwr-2022-european-week-for-waste-reduction/</a>

The consolidation of this good practice involves continuing with a joint awareness-raising action on relevant themes by the WG, through the sharing of experiences (e.g., presentation during coordination meetings, publication on the WG page), and by individual universities with involvement in the organisation of initiatives of the entire university community (students, teachers, technical administrative staff, etc.) and, when possible, also suppliers, external organisations, entities, and associations operating in the territory.

The initiatives organised in 2023 are available here: <a href="https://reterus.it/">https://reterus.it/</a> en/ewwr-2022-european-week-for-waste-reduction/

# Design, organisation, and implementation of workshops and training courses open to all

During 2023, following the conclusion of the work of two subgroups of the WG (Transfer of movable goods and Temporary Waste Storage), as well as the "reorganisation" of a third subgroup (Separate waste collection), the following initiatives were carried out, co-organised by POLIMI, with participation also of stakeholders external to the academic world:

- 14/02/2023: workshop "Transfer of movable goods" (at UNIBO), aimed at presenting the Guidelines on the matter drawn up as a result of the work of the reference subgroup, as well as to allow a moment of exchange between professionals (about 130 participants).
- 29/03/2023: training course "The management of Temporary
  Waste Storage: guidelines, focus on ADR aspects and case studies
  in the university environment" (at UNITN), aimed at presenting the
  Guidelines on the matter drawn up as a result of the work of the
  reference subgroup, as well as to allow a moment of exchange with
  ADR consultants on specific thematic areas related to the TWS
  (about 330 participants).
- 5/07/2023: workshop "Separate waste collection in the university environment: state of the art and opportunities" (at UNISA), aimed at raising awareness on the theme of separate collection starting from the specific data of the 2022 WG mapping, as well as to allow a first comparison with CONAI National Packaging Consortium in view of the drafting of possible guidelines for separate waste collection in the university environment (about 100 participants).

For more information on the individual initiatives, please refer to the relevant page of the R&W WG.



# UNIVERSITY FOR INDUSTRY

### Year and month of start

2023, February

#### Universities involved

2023: 59 Universities2024: 67 Universities

#### Coordinator

Prof. Michele Dassisti
— Politecnico di Bari

# Operational contact

Francesca Santoro

— Politecnico di Bari

### Website

The objective of the "University for Industry (U4I)" WG is to stimulate Italian Universities to rethink their way of putting their scientific knowledge at the service of productive activities. The activities concern the design of industrial policies and paths of harmonic growth of productive realities — in terms of sustainability and fight against climate change — in support of sustainable and circular innovation of territories, with a long-term strategic vision.

sustainable production resilient industry public engagement vision territorial development



# SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OF THE WG CARRIED OUT IN THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 2022 TO DECEMBER 2023

# Name of activity

The flagships of sustainable development

Period: from February 2023 to date

Listening Action year 2023 on the University <-> Industry relations in Italy for Sustainable Development (AA23-U4I): The result that the AA23-U4I listening action aims to achieve is a report that collects and highlights at the national level the characteristics of uniqueness of the Italian University in its various interactions with the industrial world (companies and representative realities) read in relation to territorial specificities.

# GOOD PRACTICES DEVELOPED AND TO BE CONSOLIDATED

The action of the sustainable development flagships is a virtuous benchmarking action among the various universities. Interesting exchanges of initiatives and ideas are emerging among the participants in the initiative.

Method to consolidate it over time: the idea is to implement a systematic collection on the red platform following the publication of the guidelines relating to the relations of universities with industries, which will be the result of the present action.



# RUS SUB-NETWORKS, COLLABORATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

In order to increase the impact of the university system on the regional territory, RUS promotes partnerships between universities that insist on the same territories with the aim of declining at the territorial/regional level the role that the Network has at the national level.

As has already happened for the universities of Piedmont, Lombardy, and Campania, during the 2022-2024 period other regional networks have been launched, fostering an effective territorial coordination between the universities involved.

# RUS ABRUZZO REGIONAL SUB-NETWORK

The RUS Abruzzo Regional Sub-network has the objective of increasing university cooperation at the regional level for the promotion of sustainable development, developing joint initiatives and strengthening the impact on institutions and territory. The creation of the network is the result of a collaboration process, started some time ago, between the RUS reference persons of the Abruzzo universities, first with the organisation of the regional event of the 2nd Edition of Climbing for Climate in September 2020 ("The Abruzzo universities on Gran Sasso for sustainable development") and then with the joint organisation of the national Event of the 3rd Edition of Climbing for Climate in September 2021, with the climb to the Calderone Glacier on Corno Grande.

# Participating universities

Università degli Studi "G. D'annunzio" Chieti Pescara, Università degli Studi dell'Aquila, Università degli Studi di Teramo, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Università degli Studi Telematica "Leonardo da Vinci"

# Lead university

Università degli Studi "G. D'annunzio" Chieti Pescara Coordinator of the RUS Abruzzo network: Prof. Michelina Venditti

# **RUS TUSCANY SUB-NETWORK**

# JANUARY 2024

The RUS Tuscany was established with the aim of increasing university cooperation at the regional level and strengthening the impact of Tuscan universities in promoting sustainable development for the territory, increasing collaborations with public and private stakeholders, for the promotion of sustainable development.

### Participating universities

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna Pisa, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Università di Pisa, Università di Siena, Università per Stranieri di Siena

#### Lead university

Università di Pisa Coordinator of the RUS Tuscany network: Prof. Marco Raugi

# **RUS SICILY SUB-NETWORK**

# **APRII** 2024

The RUS Sicily (RUSS) has the explicit objective of promoting and fostering cooperation between Sicilian Universities aimed at spreading the culture and good practices of sustainability, both within their university communities and in the reference territories, at different scales, urban, regional, and in the Mediterranean context.

The actions promoted by RUSS and its members aim at enhancing knowledge and the growth of its

social impact, to increase the positive impacts in environmental, ethical, social, and economic terms of the actions implemented by its members also through the strengthening of the recognition and value of the Sicilian experience for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda.

# Participating universities

Università degli Studi di Catania, Università degli Studi di Messina, Università degli Studi di Palermo

#### Lead university

Università degli Studi di Palermo Coordinator of the RUS Sicily network: Prof. Maurizio Cellura

# RUS VENETO SUB-NETWORK JANUARY 2024

The Veneto universities members of the RUS launched the RUS Veneto Sub-network with the aim of promoting the culture and good practices of sustainability and the creation of common intervention spaces at the regional level.

For years at the Veneto Region level, joint initiatives have been launched on sustainable development themes, to favour the dissemination of the culture of sustainability inside and outside the Universities, also through collaborations with Entities of the Veneto territory. Examples include the Protocol of understanding on Green Public Procurement and the Sustainable Art Prize. In 2019, the Protocol

of understanding on Green Public Procurement was stipulated with the Veneto Region, which also involves Unioncamere del Veneto and ARPAV, with the aim of creating positive synergies between institutions that operate throughout the regional territory through the establishment of working tables. Since 2022, the Sustainable Art Prize, organised in collaboration with ArtVerona, promotes the dissemination of the culture of sustainability through the artistic medium, with the involvement of university communities and the territory.

# Participating universities

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università luav di Venezia, Università degli Studi di Padova, Università degli Studi di Verona

# Lead university

Università degli Studi di Verona Coordinator of the RUS Veneto network: prof. Matteo Nicolini

# **RUS EMILIA ROMAGNA SUB-NETWORK**

OCTOBER 2024

The four universities of the Emilia Romagna region established the RUS Emilia Romagna regional Subnetwork with the aim of:

- Promoting collaboration and a more direct exchange of information on the activities of the universities and RUS;
- Developing proposals for initiatives to be

- submitted to the RUS Coordination Committee;
- Fostering, with the support of RUS Delegates and Reference people of the various Working Groups and Technical Tables, the greatest possible involvement of the university community, teachers, PTA and students through events, information campaigns, and sustainability education initiatives on themes considered transversal and priority to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda objectives;
- Implementing joint initiatives on a regional territorial scale;
- Fostering coordination and exchange of knowledge and skills for the implementation of research and innovation projects directed towards sustainability;
- Creating synergies between universities, the business world, third sector entities, and public administration to address the environmental, social, and economic challenges of the territory;
- Sharing good practices, strategies, and innovative solutions in university management aimed at facilitating decarbonisation, circular economy, waste management, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility;
- Promoting study and work environments based on the values of inclusion, gender equality, promotion of differences, and the potential of individuals;
- Promoting education for sustainability in university teaching, in schools (also in the context of incoming orientation) and in citizenship.

# Participating universities

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia, Università degli Studi di Parma, Università degli Studi di Ferrara

# Lead university for the 2024/2025 year

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna Coordinator of the RUS Emilia Romagna network: prof. Giacomo Bergamini

# CALABRIA SUB-NETWORK

NOVEMBER 2024

The RUS Calabria aims to exercise a strong positive impact in the regional territory, strengthening cooperation between the adhering universities and supporting the dissemination of good sustainability practices. To this end, the Calabrian sub-network promotes the development of new projects and initiatives with high social and environmental impact, with the support of academic communities and entities in the territory.

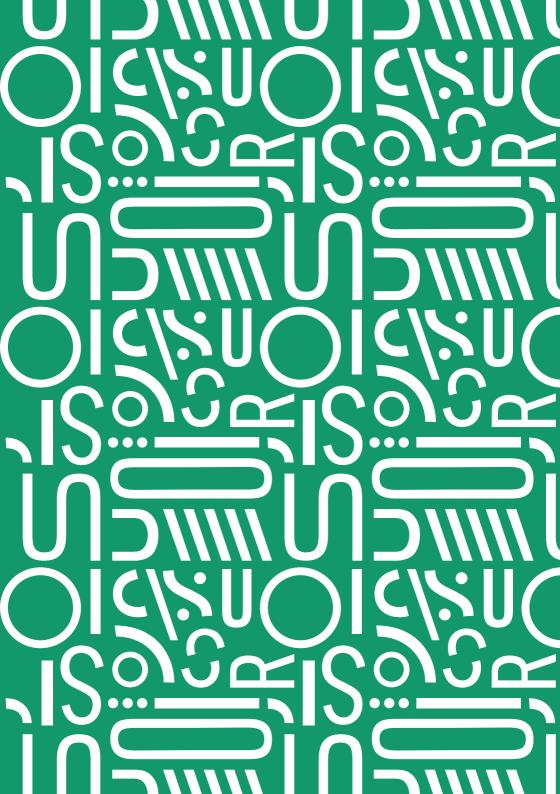
# Participating universities

Università Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria, Università della Calabria, Università Magna Graecia di Catanzaro

# Lead university for the 2024/2025 year

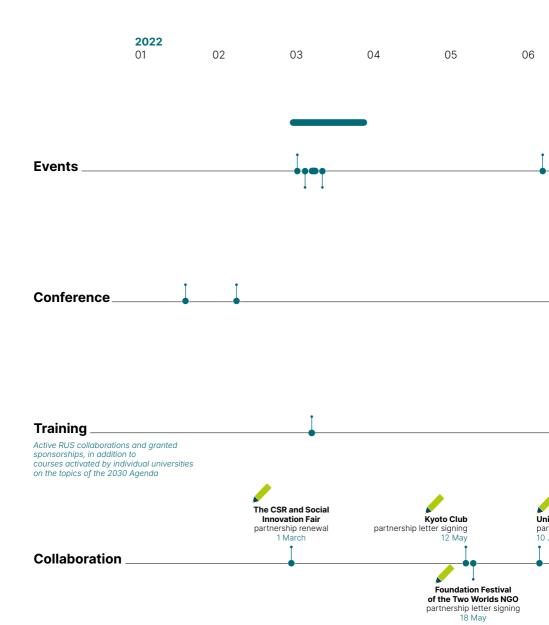
to be determined

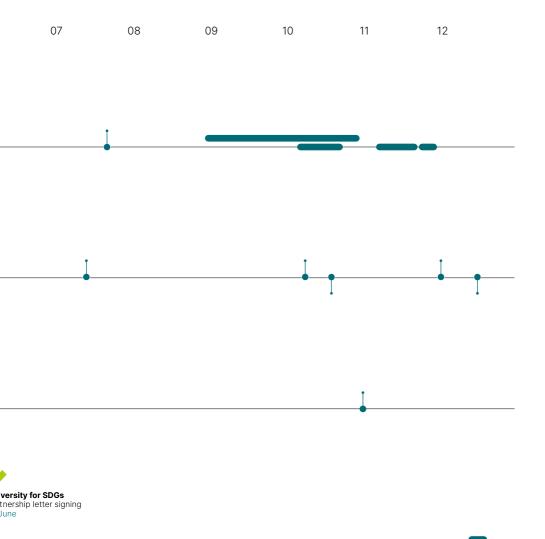
Coordinator of the network: to be determined

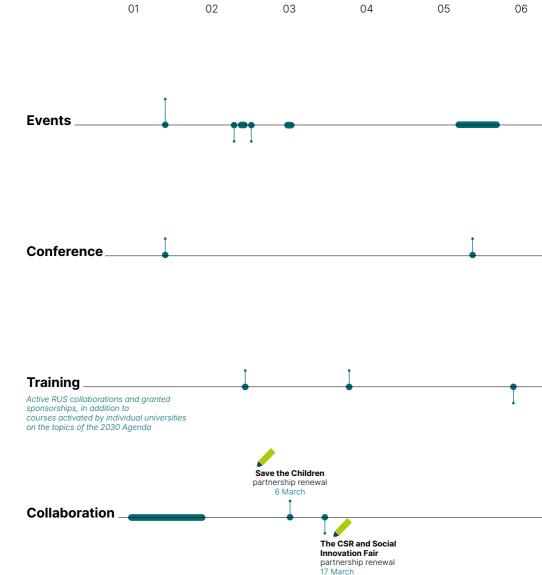




# CHAPTER THREE **2022-2024 ACTIVITIES**







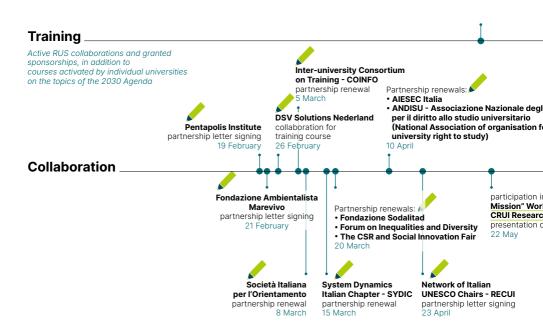
2023

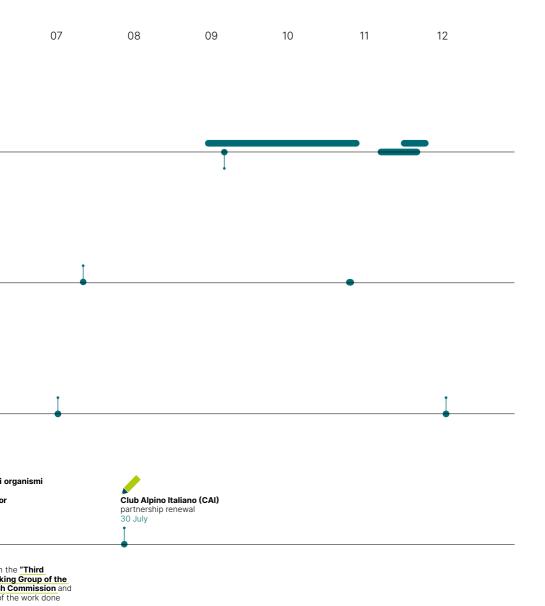






# Conference\_\_\_\_\_





# **EVENT FOCUS**

# CLIMBING FOR CLIMATE 4 CLIMBING FOR CLIMATE 5 CLIMBING FOR CLIMATE 6

July 2022 July 2023 September 2024

The RUS has been involved in Climbing for Climate (CFC) since 2019, when the Università degli Studi di Brescia launched the initiative, by proposing to climb the Monte Adamello glacier, to the Rectors of Italian universities. Starting from the 2020 edition, the RUS, in collaboration with the Italian Alpine Club - CAI, has extended the initiative nationwide to raise public awareness and promote the themes of the 2030 Agenda, through knowledge of the territories and active mobility, with a special focus on the issue of the climate crisis.

While CFC2 (2020) was conducted only through the widespread modality of the initiative, with the participation of 26 RUS universities and the collaboration with local CAI sections, since CFC3 (2021) the initiative has grown by also combining the local experience promoted by universities with the spirit of the first edition aimed at giving national media coverage of the commitment of universities in facing the climate emergency.

For CFC4, a two-day excursion (22 and 23 July 2022) was organised dedicated to observing the Miage and Giant glaciers of Mont Blanc. During the first excursion to Lake Miage, the glacier and the effects of global warming on it were observed from a safe distance. On the second day, the group of participants, divided into rope teams, reached the

Col des Flambeaux, from where they could observe the "Giant Glacier", one of the main glaciers of Mont Blanc located on its French side.

ORGANISERS: Università degli Studi di Brescia, Università degli Studi di Torino, Politecnico di Torino, Università del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro", Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche di Pollenzo, Università della Valle D'Aosta con Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) Sezione di Brescia

For CFC5, the event was held at Monte Adamello and the Mandrone Glacier (30 and 31 July 2023). Activities were carried out to detect and monitor the advancement of glacier melting, with a public presentation of the results in the seminar "Climate change, glacier melting, prospects for ecological transition for territories" at the Mandrone Refuge and in a press conference at the Sky Bar Panorama. ORGANISERS: Università degli Studi di Brescia con Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) Sezione di Brescia

CFC6 was held on the Marmolada Glacier (7 and 8 September 2024) and aimed to raise awareness of the dramatic speed of the melting of the Marmolada glacier, while at the same time disseminating the document for "another Marmolada": no longer just a "perfect mountain" for mountaineering and skiing (according to Dino Buzzati's definition), but a "master mountain" capable of directing the use of high altitudes by promoting mitigation, adaptation and awareness of global warming.

ORGANISERS: Università degli Studi di Brescia,



Climbing for Climate 4, July 2022



Climbing for Climate 5, July 2023



Climbing for Climate 6, September 2024



Climbing for Climate 4, July 2022



Climbing for Climate 5, July 2023



Climbing for Climate 6, September 2024

Università degli Studi di Padova with the collaboration of the Veneto RUS Universities (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Università degli Studi di Verona, Università IUAV di Venezia), of the Università degli Studi di Trento and of the Club Alpino Italiano (CAI) Brescia Section and Padova Section.

# **WIDESPREAD EVENTS OF CFC**

In addition to the national event, during Climbing for Climate, RUS Universities organise excursions open to their communities and any local players, preferring protected areas and places where the effects of climate change are tangible.

In 2024, the "widespread" aspect of CFC was named Action For Climate, with the usual aim of organising events throughout the country to raise awareness among local communities about the effects of climate change. The new name aims to emphasise the variety of places and events, without preferring initiatives to be carried out in the mountains.

- 2022 RUS participating universities taking part in CFC4 widespread events: 42 in 16 regions
- 2023 RUS participating universities taking part in CFC5 widespread events: 22 in 10 regions
- 2024 RUS participating universities taking part in Action for Climate 2024: 35 in 16 regions

# IN MEMORY OF MARCO BAGLIANI And Maurizio Fermeglia

During 2024, two colleagues, always passionate about mountains, left a great void in the academic world.

# **Maurizio Fermeglia**

Former rector of the University of Trieste, Maurizio Fermeglia combined academic rigour with a passion for mountains. A chemical engineer and internationally renowned researcher, he worked for the UN and UNEP on industrial sustainability projects, and held numerous academic leadership roles. An expert mountaineer and CAI instructor, he dedicated his life to research and dissemination, with a deep commitment to the climate crisis, transmitting passion and awareness for the future of mountains and the environment. We remember his participation in the first edition of CFC on Monte Adamello in 2019.

# **Marco Bagliani**

A passionate scholar, beloved teacher and skilled mountaineer, Marco Bagliani dedicated his life to teaching and research on climate change and sustainability. PhD in Atmospheric Physics, then researcher in Territorial Studies at Ires Piedmont and finally Full Professor of Economic-Political Geography at the Università di Torino, he contributed to the launch of UniToGO, the Green Office of the Università di Torino, first coordinating the "Waste" working group and then the "Climate Change" one, and collaborated with the related groups in the RUS, promoting innovative courses on climate change and environmental accounting.



# M'ILLUMINO DI MENO CYCLE, REGREEN, IMPROVE ALL AN ENERGY COMMUNITY! NO BORDERS

March 2022 February 2023 February 2024

Since 2021, the RUS has participated in "M'illumino di meno", the Day of Energy Saving and Sustainable Lifestyles launched by the Rai Radio2 programme Caterpillar. M'illumino di meno was born in February 2005 when Caterpillar organised the first edition inviting people to symbolically turn off the lights on the afternoon of 16 February, the anniversary of the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. From this first experience, a repertoire of environmental good practices has developed around the M'illumino di meno Day that has changed over the years. The message of the 2022 edition of "M'illumino di meno", in addition to the symbolic blackouts promoted every year by the initiative, focused on the proactive and transformative role of bicycles and plants, because both have shown that they can concretely improve the status quo.

Regarding "M'illumino di meno" 2023, there were two main themes: the reduction of consumption to mitigate the environmental and economic impact and promoting energy communities and sharing renewable and clean energy.

In 2024, "M'illumino di meno" grew and addressed everyone, with the desire to stimulate a dialogue that is most of all international and pervasive. "No borders" is the title of the 2024 edition, because the environment we must defend - seas, oceans, forests, glaciers - has no boundaries and, in the

same way, humanity's action towards ecological transition must also be without boundaries.

- 2022 21 Universities for 21 initiatives promoted for "M'illumino di meno - Cycle, Regreen, Improve!"
- 2023 46 Universities for 46 initiatives promoted for "M'illumino di meno All an energy community!"
- 2024 41 RUS Universities and 11 foreign Universities for 45 initiatives promoted for "M'illumino di meno - No borders"

# **RUS 2022 REPORT COVER CONTEST**

March 2022

On March 1, 2023, a call was launched to create the cover for the RUS 2022 report, open to students from universities belonging to the RUS. In response to the theme of the RUS 2022 Report "International Collaboration between University Networks for Sustainable Development", 29 proposals were sent by as many students and, following the evaluation by members of the RUS Coordination Committee and coordinators of the RUS WGs the proposal created by Alexia Angeli from the University of Florence was declared the winner. The proposal was used to create the cover of this RUS 2022-2024 Report.

# **GREEN FOOD WEEK**

Green Food Week is an initiative promoted by FoodInsider, in which the RUS community takes part and which aims to promote the consumption of sustainable food that is friendly to the planet. The main objective of this dedicated week is to optimise

March 2022 February 2023 February 2024 the food supply in school and university canteens, thus reducing the overall environmental impact. This objective is pursued by replacing one or more meals during the week with sustainable food alternatives, thus helping to raise awareness and involve the educational community in promoting more environmentally friendly food choices.

2022 - RUS Universities taking part in the Green Food Week: 11

2023 - RUS Universities taking part in the Green Food Week 2023: 11

2023 - RUS Universities taking part in the Green Food Week 2023: 28

# JUST THE WOMAN I AM

Just the Woman I am is the 5-kilometre walk/ run open to everyone organised by Politecnico di Torino, Università degli Studi di Torino and CUS Torino. The event aims to raise funds for university cancer research and promote prevention, correct lifestyles, inclusion and gender equality. Since 2022, the RUS has promoted the initiative within the communities of the universities belonging to the Network, promoting the creation of distributed events throughout the country.

The 2022 edition also crossed national borders and flew to Dubai where the university student volunteers of the Italian Pavilion ran within the EXPO 2020 DUBAI site to raise awareness and involve those present at the universal exhibition on the importance of correct lifestyles and inclusion.

2022 - RUS Universities taking part in JTWIA: 22 2023 - RUS Universities taking part in JTWIA: 13 March 2022 March 2023 March 2024

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FESTIVAL

ASviS – Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, in which the RUS takes part, organises the Sustainable Development Festival annually. The event extends over a period of 17 days, corresponding to the Sustainable Development Goals provided for by the UN 2030 Agenda. This initiative represents a unique, widespread and inclusive event, composed of hundreds of events organised throughout the country. The Festival is designed to involve and raise awareness among an increasingly wide audience on the issues of economic, social and environmental sustainability, promoting a cultural change in individual and collective behaviours through dialogue, comparison and sharing of best practices related to the 2030 Agenda.

October 2022 May 2023

2022 - RUS Universities that organised events for the sustainable development festival: 20

2024 - RUS Universities that organised events for the sustainable development festival: 40

# EWWR — EUROPEAN WEEK OF WASTE REDUCTION

The European Week for Waste Reduction - EWWR, born within the LIFE+ Programme of the European Commission, is an annual initiative aimed at promoting awareness actions on sustainability and correct waste management. The EWWR, an initiative promoted within the RUS by the Resources and Waste Working Group, consists of an elaborate environmental communication campaign

November 2022 November 2023 November 2024 that promotes greater awareness of the excessive quantities of waste produced and the need to drastically reduce them. The emphasis is therefore on waste prevention and every EWWR action shows how each player in society can, in a creative way, contribute to reducing waste in person and communicating this message of action to others.

2022 - thematic focus "Circular and sustainable textiles" - 11 participating universities

2023 - thematic focus "Packaging" - 7 participating universities

2024 - thematic focus "Food waste" - 7 participating universities

# OPEN LETTER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

In promoting the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the RUS recognised in the open letter for Peace in Ukraine, published in March 2022, the centrality of SDG16 "Peace, justice and strong institutions", which promotes principles without which action for the other Sustainable Development Goals would be limited and difficult to implement. In light of this awareness, the RUS community has taken action to identify concrete actions related to the achievement of goal 16 of the Agenda.

To this end, the RUS joined both the appeal of the Conference of Italian University Rectors
(CRUI) and the Network of Universities for Peace
(RUniPace) in recognising that attention to building and consolidating peace by peaceful means is a constitutive vocation of the Academy, and the appeal of the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) to guarantee all necessary support to

March 2022

promote concrete actions that can lead to the reception of Ukrainian students, researchers and professors in universities, research bodies and institutions of artistic, musical and dance higher education in our country.

# COP

The COP is the Conference of the Parties that annually brings together the United Nations countries that have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention is an international treaty signed during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and its main objective is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2021, the RUS has been promoting the Conference of the Parties by organising collateral and preparatory initiatives that stimulate discussion and knowledge sharing on issues related to the climate crisis. In 2022 during COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt: the RUS took part in the event coordinated by the University of Toronto "Universities as key solutions providers: leveraging our local and global networks for innovation" and organised at the Italian Pavilion the event "The role of universities in supporting institutions in achieving net zero emissions" In 2023 during COP28 in Dubai: the RUS organised the event coordinated by the University of Toronto "Decarbonization Ecosystems: The Impact of University Partnerships" and organised the event "The role of universities in the

decarbonisation process of urban areas" in the Italian Pavilion.

In 2024 during COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan: the RUS co-organised the event coordinated by YES-Europe "Youth-Driven Sustainable Cities: Advancing Just Transformations of Urban Systems" and organised at the Italian Pavilion the event "Universities and young people in education, mitigation and adaptation for climate initiatives".



COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, 2022



**COP 28 in Dubai**, 2023



**COP 29 in Baku**, 2024

#### TRAINING FOCUS

# SEMINAR ON MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR "EVENTS"

October 2023

The event of 23 October 2023 was organised around "capacity building" activities and took place online via the MS Teams platform. The meeting explored the document relating to the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) for event organisation, with the educational support of Prof. Roberto Caranta from the University of Turin. For those who wish to view the webinar, the recording is available on the Sustainable University Network website at the following link: <a href="https://reterus.it/en/capacity-building-and-best-practice/">https://reterus.it/en/capacity-building-and-best-practice/</a>

#### **FOCUS CONVEGNI RUS**

# RUS 2022 CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL SESSION WITHIN THE XIII INU STUDY DAY ENTITLED "THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITION OF TERRITORIES"

Naples, December 2022

The Conference and the annual Assembly of the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development was held in the framework of the XIII INU Study Day on 16 December 2022 in Naples, at the Faculty of Architecture of Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II in a special session entitled "The commitment of the University Network for Sustainable Development for the ecological and social transition of territories".

The purpose of the meeting was to verify, three years after the signing of the Rectors' Manifesto, the commitments made by universities in supporting territories and local communities, precisely in the year in which the process of revising the National Sustainable Development Strategy was completed and halfway to 2030, the year in which the UN Agenda goals are expected to be achieved. 2022 is also the year in which the following anniversaries occur: 50 years since the 1972 UN Conference in Stockholm, 50 years since the publication of the famous "Limits to growth" report by the Club of Rome; 30 years since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. After a pandemic and in the midst of war in Ukraine, the RUS's objective is

to maintain high attention on medium and long-term goals, such as the fight against climate change, education for sustainable development, and the fight against social inequalities.

# RUS 2023 CONFERENCE "THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS"

Bologna, 11 May 2023

The RUS 2023 Conference and Annual Assembly were held on 11 May 2023 in Bologna. The 2023 Conference was included in the framework of the Sustainable Development Festival, the widespread national event promoted by ASviS - Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development. Four years after the signing of the Rectors' Manifesto "From 'Universities for Sustainability' to 'Sustainability in Universities'", the event was a debate opportunity with respect to the commitments made in Udine during the CRUI Magnificent meetings in 2019.

The 2023 annual Conference, focused on the theme of skills for the ecological transition, aimed to represent an opportunity for discussion to share the path undertaken by universities for the creation of the necessary skills to face the challenges of sustainable development and present the sustainability literacy model and other tools, such as the GreenComp, developed by the Joint Research Centre, and the Operational Manual for reporting on the sustainability of universities, developed in collaboration with the Gruppo Bilanci e Sostenibilità (GBS).

# RUS 2024 CONFERENCE "UNIVERSITIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY"

Udine, 11-12 June 2024

The RUS Conference "Universities for the sustainable development of the Country" was held in Udine on 11 and 12 June, in the presence of representatives of territorial bodies and 44 Universities belonging to the Network. Five years after the Magnificent Meetings of Udine, work was done on updating the Manifesto "Universities for sustainability, Sustainability is in the University", signed on 30 May 2019, hence achieving the sharing and publication of the Manifesto "Universities for the sustainable development of the Country - Let's accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, let's increase the commitment to sustainable development". Recognising the fundamental role of Universities in implementing the objectives for sustainable development of the UN 2030 Agenda and the commitment made by the Italian university system in recent years, the 2024 Manifesto invites universities to be increasingly proactive in implementing concrete interventions, according to specific lines of action: from adopting sustainable development as a reference paradigm to committing to include the 2030 Agenda in university statutes and strategic plans, from combating discrimination and economic, social and territorial inequalities to strengthening collaborations and partnerships with civil society, businesses and institutions for enhancing knowledge on sustainable development, also in defining industrial policies and in the

decarbonisation of university campuses and cities, up to the commitment to work, also with the involvement of students, for the regeneration of university neighbourhoods and districts, and to the development of specific sustainability protocols for campuses.

# RUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024 "YOUTH4CLIMATE & UNIVERSITIES FOR THE FUTURE: SPARKING SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE ACTION"

The RUS General Assembly was held in Turin on 25 and 26 October, for the event "Youth4Climate & Universities for the future: Sparking Solutions for Climate Action", dedicated to young people and organised in collaboration with MASE - Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and UNDP -United Nations Development Program. The event saw the participation of about 200 people, of which 100 representatives from 41 RUS universities. The event represented an important opportunity for meeting and discussion between the representatives of the RUS universities. This year, the General Assembly also saw the participation of the Student Community Technical Table, whose members had the opportunity to present the work carried out a year and a half after the creation of the Table.

Turin, 25-26 October 2024



RUS Conference in Udine, 11-12 June 2024



RUS Assembly in Turin, 25-26 October 2024





# 2022-2023 MAPPING

An annual survey is conducted with the dual purpose of having an always updated image of the Network and mapping the activities and initiatives of universities on the theme of sustainable development.

For the 2022 survey: The responses received were 84 out of 84, with a response rate of 100%.

For the 2023 survey: The responses received were 85 out of 86, with a response rate of 99%.

In addition to a classification by size and geographical position, the questionnaires are structured in sections that investigate various areas: the principles of sustainable development, 2030 Agenda and SDGs, delegations, organisational structure, sustainability activities, students, communication channels, reporting, networks and, finally, a section dedicated to specific questions from the Working Groups.

these results, please refer to the section "Structuring and organisation of offices/sectors/areas of the university for sustainable development" of the 2023 Report - Capacity building and best practice in Italian universities, published on the network's website.

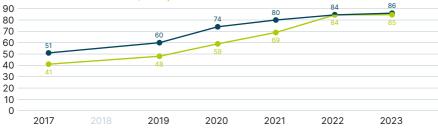
For more details and an in-depth analysis of some of

The most significant results are reported below with special attention to the trends that emerge from the comparison of the data collected in the surveys carried out from 2017 to 2023.



#### DATA COLLECTION 2017 / 2019 / 2020 / 2021 / 2022 / 2023





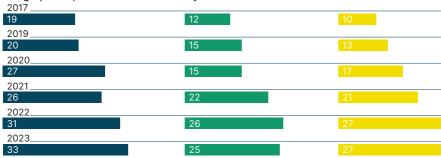
#### **UNIVERSITY CHARACTERISTICS**

#### University Size

OTHITOTORY OILO			
2017			
10	11	10	10
2019			
9	10	13	16
2020			
11	14	15	19
2021			
10	19	16	24
2022			
13	20	19	32
2023			
14	20	18	33

<sup>\*</sup> Mega Universities: over 40,000 enrolled Large Universities: from 20,000 to 40,000 enrolled Medium Universities: from 10,000 to 20,000 enrolled Small Universities: up to 10,000 enrolled

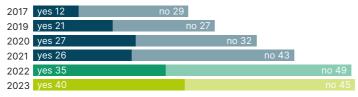
#### Geographical position of the University



<sup>\*</sup> North: Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont, Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto, Valle d'Aosta Centre: Lazio, Marche, Tuscany, Umbria South/Islands: Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardegna, Sicily

#### PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Is there a reference to Sustainability in the University Statute?



Has Sustainability been included in the University Strategic Plan?



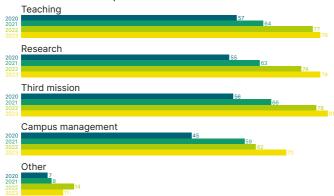
Does the University Strategic Plan include quantitative sustainability objectives?



#### **WORK AREAS**

\* multiple answers

In which areas of work is it possible to find references to the principles of sustainable development?



#### DELEGATIONS

Is there a Rector's Delegate on Sustainability themes?

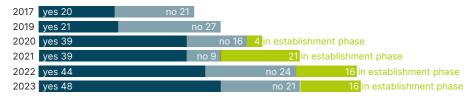


Is the Sustainability Delegate also a Delegate for the RUS?

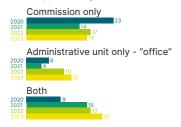


#### ORGANISATIONAL UNIT

Is there an organisational unit dedicated to sustainability at the University?



What type of organisational unit is present?

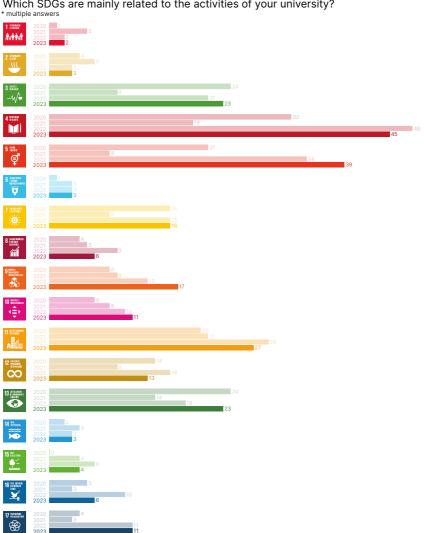


#### **2030 AGENDA AND SDGS**

Is your University raising awareness on the themes of the 2030 Agenda?

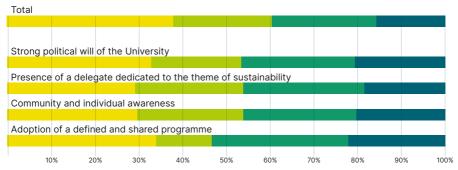


Which SDGs are mainly related to the activities of your university?



#### **IMPLEMENTATION FACTORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY** /MAPPING 2023

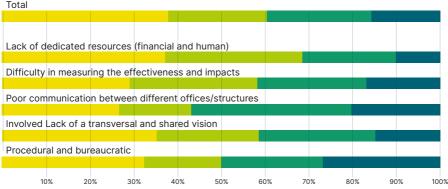




\* Small Universities: up to 10,000 enrolled Medium Universities: from 10,000 to 20,000 enrolled Large Universities: from 20,000 to 40,000 enrolled Meag Universities: over 40,000 enrolled

#### MAIN BARRIERS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT /MAPPING 2023





\* Small Universities: up to 10,000 enrolled Medium Universities: from 10,000 to 20,000 enrolled Large Universities: from 20,000 to 40,000 enrolled Mega Universities: over 40,000 enrolled

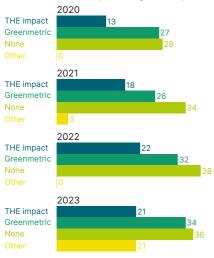
#### REPORTING

Is periodic reporting on activities carried out on sustainability issues planned?

2020	yes 28	no 30 <mark>1</mark> in preparation			
2021	yes 33	no 11	25 in preparation		
2022	yes 32	no 11	41 in preparation		
2023	yes 38	no 12	35 in preparation		

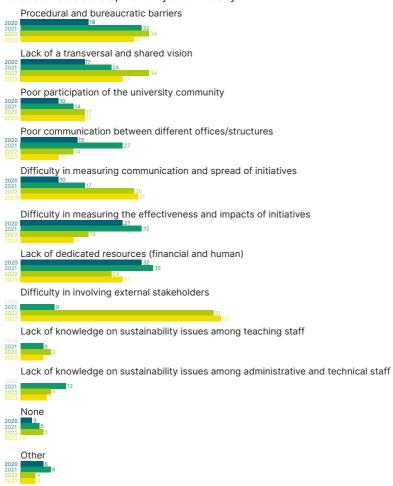
### RANKING \* multiple answers

Which sustainability rankings does your university comply with?



#### SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

What barriers/obstacles have you encountered in implementing actions for sustainable development in your university?



#### SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

What factors have instead triggered the implementation of actions for sustainable development?

```
Adoption of a defined and shared programme

Bottom-up requests for shared planning

Strong awareness of the university community on sustainable development issues / individual

Presence of a delegate (or other institutional figures) dedicated to the theme of sustainability

Strong political will of the University

Presence of dedicated resources (financial and human)

Presence of dedicated resources (financial and human)

Request from institutional stakeholders and/or civil society

None

Other

Other

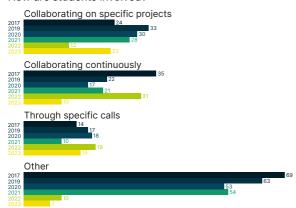
Other
```

#### **STUDENTS**

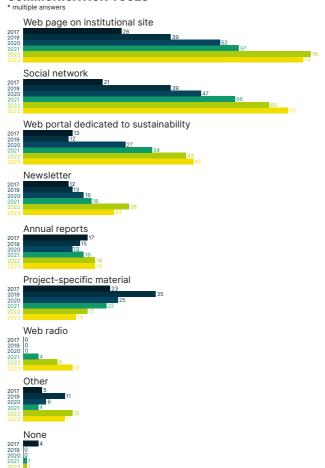
Are students involved in the university's sustainable development activities?



#### How are students involved?



# **COMMUNICATION TOOLS**\* multiple answers







## **COLLABORATIONS**

During 2022 and 2023, the RUS confirmed previous agreements and formally established its collaboration, through Partnership Letters, with other entities that share the same purposes and recognise the 2030 Agenda as an essential guide in directing their activities. Through the Partnership Letters, the RUS and the entities involved express their interest in establishing a collaborative relationship on themes related to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, consisting in the implementation of activities of common interest and participation in reciprocal initiatives, according to the forms defined each time.

In particular, the RUS has formally established and confirmed its collaboration with the entities and associations whose logos are shown here on the side.

The RUS also collaborates with: MASE, UNDP, Y4C, DSV, COINFO, SPORT4IMPACT, SYMBOLA, ANVUR, ITC-ILO, SNA, RUNIPACE, LEGAMBIENTE.































































#### **COLLABORATION FOCUS**

#### **ASVIS**

During 2024, the lists of RUS representatives in the ASviS Working Groups were updated, in agreement with the coordinators of the RUS WGs. The liaison role between the RUS WG and ASviS WG aims to report the experiences of the two networks in their respective WGs.

# EXPO 2030 ROME EXPO 2030 ROME PROMOTING COMMITTEE

July 2022

The RUS collaborated with the Expo 2030 Rome Promoting Committee in the creation of the publication "Expo 2030 Rome for Healthy Oceans. A priority for SIDS and the entire world". Linked to the theme of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the publication collects 71 projects - from various Italian universities and entities - dedicated to promoting the health, protection, resilience and improved management of oceans, respecting the crucial role they play for life on our planet. The objective is the implementation of these projects through a collaboration between Italy and other countries that, like Italy, hold seas and oceans as an economic and social resource of absolute centrality, and therefore assets to be protected and improved.

#### GBS — GRUPPO BILANCIO E SOSTENIBILITÀ (SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING GROUP) UPDATE OF THE RUS-GBS STANDARD PUBLICATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL

December 2022 January 2023

The drafting of the Standard on the Sustainability Report of Italian Universities is the result of collaboration between the RUS and the Study Group for Sustainability Reporting (GBS). Agreeing on the relevant role that universities can play as agents of change to promote and support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, RUS and GBS established a Working Group that worked on the creation of a standard for the drafting of the University Sustainability Report. The Implementation Manual, related to the RUS-GBS Standard, aims to deepen the reporting depth established in the Standard. This document intends to guide the measurement of the areas defined in the Standard, presenting both generic and specific indicators on sustainability themes.

The Manual promotes indicators linked to the achievement of SDGs, reflecting the role of universities as agents of change in the 2030 Agenda. For each dimension presented, the Manual suggests reference SDGs, allowing universities to define their contribution to these objectives. Maintaining the same paragraph numbers as the Standard, the Manual also provides graphical references and a "References and sources" section to facilitate the collection of information and indicate in-depth sources in the university reporting system.

#### **CONAL**

During 2024, the RUS Resources and Waste Working Group collaborated with the National Packaging Consortium (CONAI) for the drafting of Guidelines for separate waste collection in the university environment.

This document is the result of a participatory process that involved all Italian universities members of the Working Group. The main objective is to provide useful guidance for the correct separation of urban waste produced in universities, promoting good waste management practices both within the university community and among interested external parties.

The Guidelines do not intend to comprehensively address all aspects related to separate waste collection in universities, leaving room for future theme in-depth studies. Furthermore, the proposals contained in the document should be adapted to the specific context of each university, evaluating their applicability and effectiveness according to available resources.

#### PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori - Iuss Pavia

Gran Sasso Science Institute

Libera Università di Bolzano

Libera Università di Lingue E Comunicazione - lulm Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali

"Guido Carli" - Luiss

Libera Università Maria Ss. Assunta - Lumsa

Politecnico di Bari

Politecnico di Milano

Politecnico di Torino

Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di

Pelrfezionamento Sant'Anna

Università Bocconi

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Università Campus Bio-medico di Roma

Università Carlo Cattaneo - Liuc

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Università della Valle D'aosta - Université de la Vallée

D'aoste

Università degli Studi del Sannio Università degli Studi della Basilicata

Università degli Studi della Campania - Luigi Vanvitelli

Università degli Studi della Tuscia Università degli Studi dell'Aquila Università degli Studi dell'Insubria

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro

Università degli Studi di Bergamo

Università degli Studi di Brescia Università degli Studi di Cagliari

Università degli Studi di Camerino

Università degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale

Università degli Studi di Catania

Università degli Studi di Catanzaro "Magna Graecia"

Università degli Studi di Ferrara Università degli Studi di Firenze

Università degli Studi di Foggia

Università degli Studi di Genova

Università degli Studi di Macerata

Università degli Studi di Messina Università degli Studi di Milano

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia

Università degli Studi di Modella e Reg

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

Università degli Studi di Napoli Parthenope

Università degli Studi di Padova

Università degli Studi di Palermo

Università degli Studi di Parma

Università degli Studi di Pavia

Università degli Studi di Perugia Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Università degli Studi di Roma Unitelma Sapienza

Università degli Studi di Salerno

Università degli Studi di Sassari

Università degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche

Università degli Studi di Siena

Università degli Studi di Teramo

Università degli Studi di Torino

Università degli Studi di Trento

Università degli Studi di Trieste

Università degli Studi di Udine Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo

Università degli Studi di Verona

Università degli Studi e-campus

Università degli Studi "G. D'annunzio" Chieti Pescara

Università degli Studi "Guglielmo Marconi"

Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma - Unint

Università degli Studi Link Campus University

Università degli Studi Magna Graecia di Catanzaro

Università degli Studi Mediterranea di Reggio Calabria

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

Università degli Studi Saint Camillus - International

University of Health And Medical Sciences

- Unicamillus

Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa

Università del Piemonte Orientale

Università del Salento

Università della Calabria

Università di Pisa

Università luav Di Venezia

Università Lum Giuseppe Degennaro

Università per Stranieri Di Perugia

Università per Stranieri Di Siena

Università Politecnica delle Marche

Università Pontificia Salesiana

Università Telematica "Leonardo Da Vinci"

Università Vita-Salute S. Raffaele

Universitas Mercatorum - Università telematica delle

Camere di Commercio italiane



#### NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Presidency and organisational secretariat 2022-2024 c/o Politecnico di Torino Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, Turin, Italy

rus@polito.it https://reterus.it/en/

Graphic design by Mellano & Cuffia – Graphic & Packaging Design

Cover illustration by Alexia Angeli (student at the University of Florence)

December 2024





