

2018 Activity report





Preface

Italian universities are aware of the role they can play to promote and strengthen the knowledge and the involvement of the Italian society towards the sustainability goals. Students and local communities can be strongly influenced by the way the academic institutions operate and implement environmental and social sustainability policies, within their own communities. To deal with this important responsibility, the CRUI association has promoted the activities of the RUS network. Collecting best practices, promoting sustainability policies, favouring collaborative activities with other public bodies, are some of the objectives of the RUS network, aimed at disseminating across Italian society the awareness and the urgency of the sustainability issues. Culture is often referred to as the fourth pillar of sustainability and Italian universities are aware of the role of education and culture to pursue the sustainable development goals of the UN 2030 agenda. The results of the activities carried out by the RUS network in the last few years demonstrate our firm belief to proceed in this direction and to encourage the application of effective sustainability policies in our universities and other public institutions.

Prof. Gaetano Manfredi
President of the CRUI



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Foreword

Universities play a key role in preparing future generations and in raising awareness in the community, also with reference to the ability to promote “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” [Brundtland Report, 1987]. To achieve this, universities must adopt a holistic approach, to be assessed over the long term, in order to pursue systematically and “in an integrated manner” the goals of environmental protection, the well-being of society, social and inter-generational equity and economic development. Universities can gain mutual benefit by pursuing sustainability policies ‘together’, as a model of good practice that can also be extended to other areas of public administration, education and society in general. By joining forces they can more effectively: promote new national sustainable development policies, strategies for sustainable growth to foster projects and processes geared towards a circular economy, encourage cooperation between universities and cities, by spreading social innovation at local level and providing cultural stimuli for the national economy as a whole; share a common set of actions and good practices, simplifying the process for all universities, research and training institutions; foster opportunities for dialogue with economic actors through technology transfer offices, incubators and spin-offs.

At international level, there are several examples of networks that specifically address the issue of sustainable development of universities. In Italy, the RUS - Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (University Network for Sustainable Development) is the first experience of shared coordination between Italian universities committed to environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

This Report describes the Network’s main activities and the results achieved in 2018. It follows on from the first report, published last year, on the activities undertaken between 2013 and 2017.

This Report also includes a summary, updated as of March 2019, of

the necessarily diverse sustainability situation in Italian universities. It is satisfying to note that the number of members continues to grow. At the time of going to press, more than 80% of Italian universities that belong to the CRUI - Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane (Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities) are now members of this Network.

The Report addresses all members, the organisations with which the RUS Network cooperates and anyone who wants to know more about our activities aimed at fostering stakeholder engagement, dialogue, cooperation and the sharing of good practices put in place by member universities to guide them in working towards sustainability objectives. The guidelines, set out in the conclusion, have been drawn up by the Coordinating Committee whose new members were appointed in January 2019, together with the President. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them all for their excellent work over the last three years.

Patrizia Lombardi

President of the RUS Network

1.2 The role of universities for sustainable development

Tackling the huge challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signed in September 2015, and the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) requires major lifestyle and cultural changes, and new ways of thinking and behaving. This places Education (goal 4) at the centre of the 2030 Agenda, a goal that underpins all the rest and is regarded as the most suitable and effective means for implementing the Agenda itself.

Universities play a key role in preparing future generations and disseminating knowledge in the community. The aim of education for sustainable development is to promote the development of

all the cross-cutting competencies needed in order to live in a globalised and interconnected world, and to provide the fundamental knowledge required to understand the dynamics of the only planet inhabited by man. While embracing a holistic, inter- and transdisciplinary and transformative approach, education for sustainable development centres its attention on learners and focuses on action and participation. To do this, it uses methods and tools that foster and facilitate active learning, experience and a focus on the local and global context, promoting empowerment and a new awareness. This approach to education goes beyond simply explaining the concept of sustainable development and cannot be reduced to mere knowledge, but involves the acquisition of the competencies that

transform learners into citizens who are politically aware and involved.

Therefore, for universities, the UN's 2030 Agenda represents an action plan for transforming the world, to the benefit of people, peace, the planet, prosperity and partnerships. The more the value of the SDGs and their communicative and inspirational power have a real impact on the actions of students, teachers, technical-administrative staff, governing bodies and all stakeholders involved, the more realistically possible this will be.

Action areas for universities

Teaching

Promote courses on education for sustainable development for university students, teaching and technical-administrative staff; concentrate on training instructors and teaching staff at all schools; make courses accessible to students from developing countries; empower young people and offer them opportunities to gain experience abroad.

Research

Provide the necessary knowledge, evidence, solutions, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the global community, both using traditional disciplinary approaches and through new inter- and transdisciplinary and sustainability science pathways; support capacity building in the field of research and undertakings in developing countries; cooperate with and support innovative business enterprises implementing solutions to meet SDGs; promote research diversity and research in the field of student education.

Governance

Implementare i principi dello sviluppo Implement the principles of sustainable development through university governance and policies, including those related to funding, campus structures and services, human resources, employment and facilities.

External leadership

Strengthen involvement and public engagement in sustainable development issues; establish and facilitate intersectoral dialogue and action; ensure the presence of the university sector in policies implementing sustainable development at national level; help to develop policies linked to the 2030 Agenda; demonstrate the commitment of universities in pursuing sustainable development goals.



About us

2.1 Aims and objectives of the Network

The University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS) was established by the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI) in July 2015. It is the first experience of shared coordination between Italian universities committed to environmental sustainability and social responsibility which have undertaken to direct their institutional activities towards achieving integrated sustainability and to actively contribute to attaining the Network's institutional objectives.

All CRUI member universities are automatically entitled to join the RUS Network, although membership is also open to other universities and no-profit organisations whose institutional aims are consistent with the objectives of the Network.

The RUS Network, which is a unique project in terms of the number of members and scope of action, sets out to be a model of good practice that can also be extended to other areas of public administration, education and society in general. It seeks to encourage cooperation

between universities and cities, by spreading social innovation at local level and providing cultural stimuli for the national economy as a whole.

Aims

The Network's main aim is to promote the culture of sustainability and good practices in the field, both within universities and in the broader community (at local, regional, national and international level), in order to increase the positive environmental, ethical, social and economic impact of the actions put in place by its members. In doing so, it will contribute to meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda and enhance the international visibility and standing of the Italian experience.

Institutional goals

Harmonisation of institutional activities and improved management of environmental and social aspects.

Creation of a community capable of developing best practices and of representing universities at national and international level.

Promotion and development of projects in areas such as the transfer of

knowledge and skills, education and university management and business.

Development of a transdisciplinary approach in university programmes, to contribute to the growth of a culture of sustainable development and guide students towards positive lifestyle choices.

Training and refresher courses on sustainable development for university staff and teachers at all levels.

Creation of awareness-raising and promotional campaigns to foster stakeholder engagement.

Increasing the number of collaborations with public bodies and businesses on projects linked to the aims of the Network.

2.2 Governance

Organisationally, the RUS is a network of public and private entities. It is without legal personality and comprises the following institutional bodies:

The Coordinating Committee, responsible for guidance and monitoring; it may set up Working Groups on cross-cutting and priority issues to attain the Network's institutional objectives with the greatest possible involvement;

The General Meeting, which elects the members of the Coordinating Committee, verifies the progress of activities undertaken by the Network and shares the action plan drawn up by the Coordinating Committee, also with a view to drafting new work proposals.

The Network's operating activities are coordinated by the:

Organisational Secretary
Working groups.

Member universities as at 31/12/2018: 60

Working Groups: 6

Total number of Working Groups: 363

Coordinating Committee members

2016-2018

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (president and organisational secretary)

Università degli Studi di Milano

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Università degli Studi di Parma

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Università degli Studi di Siena

Università degli Studi di Verona

Politecnico di Bari

Politecnico di Milano

Politecnico di Torino

2019-2021

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna

Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Università degli Studi di Parma

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Università degli Studi di Siena

Università degli Studi di Udine

Politecnico di Bari

Politecnico di Milano

Politecnico di Torino (president and organisational secretary)



2.3 Members as at 31/12/2018



The Network's 60 member universities as at 31/12/2018

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
Libera Università di Bolzano
Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione – IULM
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 Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant’Anna
Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia
Università Carlo Cattaneo - LIUC
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 Toscana
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 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 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 Sassari
Università degli Studi di Siena
Università degli Studi di Torino
Università degli Studi di Trento
Università degli Studi di Trieste
Università degli Studi di Udine
Università degli Studi di Verona
Università degli Studi "G. D'Annunzio" Chieti Pescara
Università degli Studi Internazionali di Roma – UNINT
Università degli Studi Roma Tre
Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa
Università del Salento
Università della Valle d'Aosta / Université de la Vallée d'Aoste
Università di Pisa
Università IUAV di Venezia
Università per Stranieri di Perugia
Università per Stranieri di Siena



2.4 The development of the Network



In 2018 the agreement establishing the RUS Network was extended with the signing of an addendum by 7 new universities: Università degli Studi della Valle d'Aosta, Università degli Studi "Gabriele d'Annunzio", Università degli Studi di Ferrara, Università per stranieri di Perugia, Università degli Studi di Pisa, Università degli Studi di Sassari, Università degli Studi di Trieste.

2.5 Collaborations



In November 2017, the RUS Network signed a one-year partnership agreement with AIESEC Italia. The aim of the agreement was to encourage and support cooperation between university staff and students and, in particular, to foster their respective projects for promoting SDGs. One year later, the partnership agreement was renewed at national level, in the wake of the encouraging results achieved in 2018. However, most collaborations are established and developed at local level. Last year, in fact, the universities of Brescia, Roma Tor Vergata, Trento and Trieste held joint events to raise awareness among university students and young people in general about the issue of sustainable development. The Cà Foscari University of Venice, University of Trento and the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna offered courses to identify voluntary projects abroad. These courses counted as university credits and were promoted by AIESEC Italia within the framework of the partnership with the RUS Network.

Numerous new collaboration agreements and university exchange programmes were launched in 2018 to promote education for sustainable development, an issue that will be increasingly important for the future.

The RUS Network was also presented at the "Youth Speak Forum", a national event organised by AIESEC in Perugia on 23 March 2018.



The RUS Network has been a member of ASviS - Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development) since October 2017. The Alliance's mission is to raise awareness of Italian society, economic stakeholders and institutions about the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by bringing together organisations that already work on specific aspects of the SDGs, in order to:

- foster the creation of a culture of sustainability at all levels, guiding production and consumption models in that direction;

- examine the implications and opportunities of the 2030 Agenda for Italy;

- contribute to the definition of an Italian strategy for attaining the SDGs and to the development of a system for tracking progress in Italy towards meeting the SDGs.

Through this collaboration, which started in 2017, ASviS has added value to the work of the RUS Network which has, vice versa, played an active role in the

projects launched by ASviS, in particular during the Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile (Sustainable Development Festival).

Starting in 2018, representatives from the Network will take part in the Working Groups set up by ASviS to address the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. RUS member universities that applied were also able to use the content of the “2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals” e-learning course, created by ASviS, which explains the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) using clear, accessible language.

The two main events in 2018 within the framework of the collaboration between ASviS and the RUS Network were:

22 May – 7 June: “Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile” (Sustainable Development Festival): an awareness-raising event addressing cultural and policy-related issues, held throughout Italy to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. RUS member universities were actively involved in 20 national events and in 300 events organised by individual universities.

10-21 September: Siena Summer School on Sustainable Development, organised by ASviS, in collaboration with Enel Foundation, Leonardo, the RUS Network, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Italy, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterranean and the Santa Chiara Lab at the University of Siena: the aim of the Summer School was to promote the contents of the 2030 Agenda and raise awareness about the SDGs through a transdisciplinary approach.



The CSR Exhibition, promoted by Bocconi University, CSR Manager Network, Unioncamere, Global Compact Network Italy Foundation, Sodalitas Foundation and Koinètica, is the most important event in Italy dedicated to sustainability, social innovation and CSR. With an extremely broad cultural programme, and by adopting an interdisciplinary and international approach, the CSR Exhibition gives businesses and other social actors a chance to find out more about sustainable development strategies and tools.

Within the framework of the partnership between the RUS Network and the CSR and Social Innovation Exhibition, the organisations were able to promote each other's work in 2018: the RUS Network featured in the “Protagonists” section of the CSR Exhibition's website and teaching staff from Network universities took part in cultural events held during the Exhibition. The RUS Network promoted the Exhibition, its various stages and activities among all of its members through its own channels and instruments.

In particular, on 3 October the RUS Network was presented at the CSR and Social Innovation Exhibition in Milan during the meeting “Oltre il mecenatismo: imprese, cultura, formazione” (Beyond patronage: businesses, culture, training).

In December 2018 the RUS Network signed a partnership agreement with “NeXt – Nuova economia per tutti” (NeXt - New economy for all), an association that promotes social responsibility and supports the development of a new, more sustainable, civil and inclusive economy.

The partnership with NeXt envisages reciprocal support in the following fields:

Development, management and communication of projects developed by the parties to promote the SDGs of the UN’s 2030 Agenda.

Co-partnership and/or promotion of projects and events on the topic of sustainable development organised by either one of the parties.

In 2018 the existing collaboration with NeXt led to the organisation of Hackathons at several RUS Network universities in view of the upcoming “Festival dell’Economia Civile (Civil Economy Festival) in Florence (March 2019).



Actions implemented

In 2018 RUS worked with external organisations and networks, coordinating and taking part in a number of projects to promote the role of member universities.

Events and meetings

9 May - Telematic general meeting.

29 June – Politecnico di Bari

The annual meeting on “The role of Italian universities in developing sustainable cities” was a second defining moment and another opportunity to reflect on the commitment of Italian universities to sustainable development.

Participation at conferences

8-10 April – Indonesia

The national coordinator and three universities presented the RUS Network and the contribution of studies by Italian universities at the Green Metric conference.

12-19 April – Milan and Rome

Organisation, in partnership with Punto3 S.r.l., of two free dedicated workshops on the subject of developments in the area of GPP.

18 April – Perugia

Presentation of the Network during the workshop on “Report on the sustain-

ability situation and initiatives at the University of Perugia”.

23 May – Rome

Presentation of the aims of the Network at the Forum PA 2018 event. Presentation of initiatives and best practices at the conference “Italy 2030: how to bring Italy on a path of sustainable development”, and at the workshop organised by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, with specific reference to promoting and raising awareness of SDGs.

18 June – Varese

Presentation of the Network at the conference “Paths of sustainability: waste, energy, mobility - shared experiences”.

18 October – Milan

Presentation of the Network at “The 6th CMC International Conference of Management Consultants – Making a sustainable world”.

24 October – Milan

Dedicated workshop on GPP in the organisation of sustainable or low environmental impact events, in partnership with Punto3 S.r.l.

11 December – Florence

Introductory keynote speech at the “II international symposium on sustainability in university campuses”.



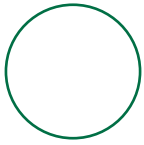
Working groups

The RUS Network delivers its work through Working Groups, some of which are thematic groups established within the Network, while others are external groups in which the Network takes part through its representatives.

4.1 RUS Working Groups

There are six RUS Working Groups, reserved for Network members. These focus on cross-cutting and priority issues to attain the Network's institutional objectives with the greatest possible involvement. The RUS Working Groups are dedicated to the following topics:

- Mobility
- Energy
- Waste
- Climate change
- Education
- Food.



Mobility

Date of establishment: November 2016

Universities involved: 58

Members: 104, of whom 58 teaching and research staff and 46 technical-administrative staff

Coordinators: Stefania Angelelli (Università Roma tre) and
Matteo Colleoni (Università Milano Bicocca)

Fields / Topics of interest

Field

University-related mobility management policies and actions and drafting of home-work mobility plans.

Topics of interest

Policies and interventions to promote sustainable mobility: active mobility through public transport and sharing (arrangements with service providers, activation of active mobility services and infrastructure development);

Policies and interventions to limit the use of conventionally-powered private vehicles and their access to university premises (replacement of the vehicle fle-

et, barring access to/parking on the campus);

Policies and interventions to change mobility behaviour and attitudes (customised communication and marketing campaigns);

Policies and interventions to promote technological and organisational innovation and change.

Macro-level objectives

Strengthen the active role of universities in the governance of urban and metropolitan mobility;

Further increase the use of public transport by defining new, more effective policies for arrangements with natio-

nal, regional and local public transport service providers;

Substantially increase active mobility, through a range of interventions regarding policies on special tariffs and infrastructure for active mobility and those concerning access to university;

Adopt organisational solutions, also in terms of schedules and timetables of services and teaching activities, to relieve congestion due to people coming to and leaving university.

Activities undertaken in 2018

Popularisation

In 2018 the Working Group continued its activities aimed at improving coordination between universities with regard to mobility management, paying particular attention to the issue of access and the right to education. It promoted the creation of new technical panels at municipal and regional level to address the issue of sustainable mobility governance. It increased contacts with transport service providers to define arrangements for fare discounts. It promoted the organisation of meetings to showcase university mobility management good practices and research.

Surveys and mapping: local surveys of university-related mobility continued (and new ones were launched in the wake of the national survey conducted in 2016).

The five main popularisation initiatives:

March 2018, Rome – participation at the “Osservatorio Nazionale sharing mobility – II Conferenza nazionale” (Italian Shared Mobility Platform - Second National Conference);

April 2018, Cagliari – promotion of the “Giornata di studio sulla mobilità sostenibile e il diritto allo studio” (One-day workshop on sustainable mobility and the right to education);

May 2018, Milan – promotion of “Bicocca Mobility Day. Politiche di convenzionamento” (Bicocca Mobility Day. Contract arrangement policies);

June 2018, Stockholm (Sweden) – participation at the “Accessibility Index for Italian Universities – ISCN 2018”;

June 2018, Bari, participation at the RUS Network Meeting “L’impegno delle Università italiane per la città sostenibile” (The commitment of Italian universities for sustainable cities).

Programme of activities for 2019

In 2019 the Working Group continues to pursue policies and activities in four areas of interest (see fields/topics of interest), with a particular focus on the definition of contract arrangements (with local public transport and shared mobility service providers), the promotion of communication campaigns and a customised marketing plan, and the promotion of innovative sustainable mobility services. It has drawn up a map of good practices put in place by Italian universities (this has been submitted to U-Mob and to the Italian Environment Ministry for the CreiAMO PA project, in which the Working Group is taking part). It continues to take part in the “Osservatorio sulla Sharing Mobility” (Italian Shared Mobility Platform). As part of this project it attended the round table on “Condividiamo nuove regole” (Sharing new rules) to discuss draft legislation aimed at encouraging shared mobility by making it possible to

offset spending against income tax. It also continues to promote events for the European Mobility Week campaign in Italian universities. This is an opportunity to raise awareness, provide information and promote cultural change to embrace sustainable mobility.

The main popularisation initiatives so far this year include:

March 2019, Cracow, participation at the meeting on “The accessibility index for Italian Universities”;

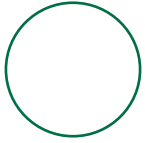
March 2019, Basilicata, promotion of the one-day workshop on “Accessibilità e diritto allo studio. Mobilità sostenibile e buone pratiche universitarie” (Accessibility and the right to education. Sustainable mobility and good practices of universities);

April 2019, Catania, participation at the event entitled “L’Università che vorrei: bella, efficiente e sostenibile. Un confronto con la rete delle Università per lo sviluppo sostenibile” (My sort of university: beautiful, efficient and sustainable. Exchanging ideas with the RUS Network);

May 2019, Udine, participation at the RUS national conference.

Mapping activities

Call4best practices in university-related mobility management.



Waste

Date of establishment: November 2016

Universities involved: 46

Members: 94, of whom 50 teaching and research staff and 44 technical-administrative staff

Coordinators: Eleonora Perotto (Politecnico di Milano) and
Daria Prandstraller (Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna)

Fields / Topics of interest

Technical and regulatory aspects of waste management (separation, storage, transportation and collection) in respect of all the different types of waste produced by universities (from special waste arising from teaching and research activities to sorted waste).

Promotion of practices aimed at raising awareness about correct waste management and at preventing waste production right from the start (from not using certain products, such as bottled water, to excellence in management of raw materials and assets before they are turned into waste).

Macro-level objectives

Extend the areas of collaboration between Italian universities for waste management.

Implement processes to monitor universities' performance in terms of waste management.

Transform the Working Group into an entity capable of taking part in dialogue at institutional level to voice the needs of universities in terms of adapting legislation concerning waste management and circular economy.

Raise awareness within universities and among the general public of waste management considered from the perspective of a circular economy.

Activities undertaken in 2018

Topics addressed

Drafting of guidelines for the management of waste produced by universities (e.g., temporary storage of waste) by the technical-regulatory sub-group;

Administration of a second “pilot” questionnaire to a small number of universities. The aim was to identify good practices for preventing waste in line with the principles of the circular economy, paving the way for the final version that will be administered during 2019;

Coordination of universities to prepare communication and awareness-raising events on the subject of “waste sorting” and, above all, “reducing the amount of waste produced”, also in collaboration with external stakeholders (e.g., associations such as Legambiente, urban waste collection service providers);

Networking with authorities, institutions, consortia and legal experts to address the issue of “regulatory limits and accountability” with regard to waste management by universities with a view to overhauling the current system.

Events organised

November 2018, Ecomondo (Rimini) – Conference “Waste management in university: towards a circular economy approach”

November 2018, Coordination and joint participation by several universities in the EWWR (European Week for Waste Reduction) with a number of initiatives: Flash-mobs, workshops, participative waste collection, etc.

Popularisation

May 2018, Bergamo – SUM2018 Third Symposium on Urban Mining and Circular Economy

May 2018, Varese – “Percorsi di Sostenibilità dell’Università dell’Insubria” (Pathways to sustainability at the University of Insubria)

October 2018, Venice – “7th International Symposium on energy from biomass and waste”

December 2018, Rome - “Parlamento cittadino” (People’s parliament) organised for the tenth edition of the EWWR by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and for the Protection of Land and Sea. Focus: presentation of proposals for revision of current rules on waste management and promotion of the circular economy at universities.

Programme of activities for 2019

Continuation of networking with authorities, institutions, consortia and legal experts;

Participation in the work of the Interdisciplinary Committee for Waste and Health;

Promotion of an agreement with Cobat for recycling WEEE produced by universities, with a view to improving waste management by universities;

Mapping of good practices in waste prevention (from the perspective of a circular economy);

Joint drafting of two position papers by a number of Working Group coordinators (Mobility, Energy and Climate Change) for the “Magnifici Incontri 2019” (2019 Rectors’ Meetings);

Possible drafting of a proposal to create the role of a Waste and Resource

Manager for universities and public authorities;

Continuation of awareness-raising and information activities, including in collaboration with external partners (e.g., authorities, institutions, Legambiente, waste treatment supply chain consortia).

Mapping activities

Preliminary survey (census) of waste management by RUS Network universities.



Ecomondo “Waste management in university: towards a circular economy approach”

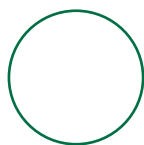
The networking activities to address the issue of “regulatory limits and accountability” with regard to waste management by universities included the conference on “Waste management by universities: moving towards a circular economy model”, organised in partnership with the Scientific and Technical Committee of Ecomondo.

The first part of the conference featured the presentation of the Working Group on Waste and its activities, after which some of the best practices adopted by universities were illustrated. These had been selected from among the proposals submitted, by a specifically appointed panel of non-university experts, based on the following criteria: (i) innovativeness (ii) replicability, (iii) impact, (iv) coherence with EU indications (principles and priorities in waste management), (v) relevance to the SDGs. The selected practices related to the following areas: (i) purchase of vending machines based on innovative eco-efficient specifications, (ii) recovery and reuse, with the focus on EEE, (iii) separate collection of assimilated waste and (iv) other special waste, (v) littering behaviour at universities, (vi) reduction of plastic waste.

The second part of the conference inclu-

ded an analysis by an expert in the field of the regulatory aspects of waste management by universities. This was followed by the round table on “Waste management in university: regulatory constraints and possible simplifications”.

This was an extremely important opportunity for discussion (with representatives from institutions such as ISPRA (Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities), and experts in ADR and environmental lawyers) on the obstacles to correct waste management and on overcoming these, with the ultimate aim of applying the principles of circular economy to universities. The stakeholders showed interest in working together to draw up a document to be submitted to the Italian Environment Ministry setting out proposals on how to change and interpret the legislation applicable to universities. For further details, reference should be made to the slides produced during the round table, published on the website of the RUS Working Group on Waste.



Energy

Date of establishment: November 2016

Universities involved: 37

Members: 68, of whom 44 teaching and research staff and 24 technical-administrative staff

Coordinator: Alberto Poggio (Politecnico di Torino)

Fields / Topics of interest

Actions to reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewable sources at all university facilities. Best practices and awareness-raising on the topic of sustainable energy, at the level of universities and society as a whole.

Macro-level objectives

Analysis of energy consumption by Italian universities.

Analysis of universities' existing energy management systems.

Promotion of the role of Energy Manager and of "energy offices" at universities.

Analysis and assessment of best practices in terms of energy saving actions.

Promotion of activities to raise awareness and foster the engagement of university staff and students in energy issues.

Activities undertaken in 2018

Topics addressed

Analysis of energy consumption by Italian universities, through the creation of a specific "technical sub-group".

Supported the CRUI Working Group in the ranking of universities, with reference to point EC.2.2 Total main campus smart building area (m²) in the Energy and Climate Change section of the UI GreenMetric 2018 ranking.

A specific sub-group was set up for this purpose and examined the issue in order to propose a uniform criterion for identifying smart buildings as referred to in the UI GreenMetric 2018 guidelines.

Comparison of energy management organisational models used at universities and sharing of experiences and good practices. These activities were carried out by a dedicated “awareness-raising sub-group”.

Popularisation

February 2018: “M’illumino di Meno”. An energy-saving and efficiency campaign launched by Rai Radio 2 - Caterpillar.

Programme of activities for 2019

Analysis of energy consumption data and energy metric systems

Contacts with energy operators/distributors to verify potential for collaborations to share information

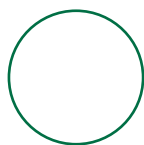
Awareness-raising:

Analysis of energy management organisational models

In-depth study of applications and integration of structure management software

Mapping activities

Analysis of universities’ energy needs.



Climate Change

Date of establishment: March 2017

Universities involved: 35

Members: 77, of whom 60 teaching and research staff and 17 technical-administrative staff

Coordinator: Stefano Caserini (Politecnico di Milano)

Fields / Topics of interest

The objective of the Working Group on Climate Change is to guide the efforts of universities in countering climate change. Its activities include supporting universities in developing CO₂ emission inventories, promoting mitigation and adaptation plans, supporting formal commitments by universities to reduce CO₂ emissions, communication and training on the subject of climate change. The working methodology is based on the sharing of information, materials and methods in order to define a common set of metrics, knowledge, skills and good practices.

Macro-level objectives

- Estimation of CO₂ emissions of universities;
- CO₂ emission reduction plans;
- Commitments to reduce emissions and reporting on these under the UN-FCCC;
- Climate change adaptation plan;
- Communication of climate change information.

Activities undertaken in 2018

Topics addressed

Having verified the need for an analysis of emission factors in order to develop the inventories of greenhouse gas emissions,

the Working Group created two sub-groups to examine specific issues: sub-group 1 - gas and electricity consumption emission factors, sub-group 2 - transport emission factors. Their work led to the drafting of two policy documents, which were subsequently revised and combined to produce the general article on “Energy consumption and transport CO2 emission factors for greenhouse gas inventories developed by Italian universities”.

Preparatory work was carried out to draw up the “Guidelines for developing university CO2 emission inventories” (sources of data, indicators, critical aspects, good practices, etc.).

The abstract entitled “The work on climate change within the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS): results and lessons learned” was written to take part in the call for papers on Proposals on Social Networks and Climate Change, by the Freie Universität Berlin, within the framework of the University Alliance for Sustainability.

Popularisation

April 2018 - Perugia - participation at the workshop on “Report sullo stato e sulle iniziative per la sostenibilità” (Report on the sustainability situation and initiatives).

Programme of activities for 2019

Completion of work on the “Guidelines for developing university CO2 emission inventories” and drafting of the White Paper;

Preparation of guidelines for developing Mitigation Plans;

In-depth study of criteria for standardisation and comparison of each univer-

sity’s estimated emissions;

Start of activities to adapt to climate change;

Organisation of a national conference on greenhouse gas emissions by Italian universities.

Mapping activities

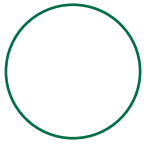
Census of greenhouse gas inventories (completed in December 2017).



Guidance documents for drawing up emission inventories

Two guidance documents have been prepared to help Italian universities prepare their emission inventories. The first contains operational guidelines, with practical advice for drawing up inventories, to make sure that these are appropriate in terms of the methodologies and data used (inventory boundaries, choice of the year of reference, greenhouse gases and emission sources to be considered, classifications, any auditing or certification procedures). It also provides information on how to obtain indicator data for energy consumption (electricity, gas, heating oil or energy from district heating or cooling systems) and transport (travelling to university, staff missions, student mobility and university-owned vehicles).

The second document, “Energy consumption and transport CO₂ emission factors for greenhouse gas inventories developed by Italian universities”, reports on the in-depth study of emission factors. It is the result of a detailed review of the data, available at national and international level, best suited for use by universities.



Education

Date of establishment: September 2017

Universities involved: 35

Members: 62, of whom 50 teaching and research staff and 12 technical-administrative staff

Coordinator: Enrico Giovannini (Università di Roma "Tor Vergata")

Fields / Topics of interest

The Group focuses on the different approaches to education for sustainable development, highlighting good practices and proposing new approaches to ensure that all university students get to know the 2030 Agenda and the principles of sustainable development, also in relation to their field of study.

Macro-level objectives

The Group concentrates on the development of the following tools:

“Lezione Zero” (Lesson Zero), a cross-cutting basic training course.

Degree courses (three-year courses

and higher level courses).

Advanced courses (PhDs, summer schools, business schools, master’s degree programmes).

Modules / curricular activities on the topic of sustainable development, as part of non-specific training courses.

Training for teaching, technical and administrative staff.

Non-curricular activities, non-formal and informal learning experiences for students.

Activities undertaken in 2018

Topics addressed

Partial mapping of initiatives undertaken by each university;

Comparison between universities in terms of emerging trends in education for sustainable development (with a particular focus on the experiential dimension);

Organisation of the Summer School on sustainable development, in collaboration with ASviS and other institutions, held in Siena in September 2018.

Programme of activities for 2019

As well as comparing the different practices put in place by Italian and foreign universities in respect of education for sustainable development, following on from the debate during the “Magnifici Incontri” (Rectors’ meetings) event in May, the Group plans to focus its attention on:

- examining the proposals set out in the position paper submitted;

- comprehensive mapping of the practices being adopted by Italian universities;

- developing recommendations based on good practices and analyses implemented at international level.



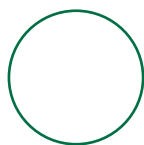
Summer School on sustainable development

The first Summer School on sustainable development was held in Siena from 10 to 21 September 2018. It was organised by ASviS in collaboration with the Santa Chiara Lab at the University of Siena, Enel Foundation, Leonardo, the RUS Network, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Italy and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Mediterranean.

Thirty participants were admitted to the School. They included PhD students, researchers, directors, managers and public sector executives. The course comprised theory lessons, workshops and group work, with the active involvement of academics and representatives from institutions, businesses and international organisations. The School addressed the issues of environmental, economic and social sustainability, adopting an interdisciplinary approach. It placed a particular focus on understanding the challenges and problems that arise when sustainability is not achieved and on promoting concrete solutions and essential monitoring mechanisms. The areas covered included sectoral policies (public sector, institutions, international networks), science and innovation (agriculture, new materials, architecture and engineering),

and private sector development (B-corp certification, sustainable finance, new business models).

An alumni network was created at the end of the Summer School.



Food

Date of establishment: December 2018

Universities involved: 41

Members: 61, of whom 49 teaching and research staff and 12 technical-administrative staff[1]

Coordinators: Egidio Dansero (Università degli Studi di Torino) and
Eleonora Sirsi (Università degli Studi di Pisa)

Fields / Topics of interest

Food at universities, the diet of students and staff, universities as a model for the community in terms of how food is sourced and consumed. The aspects to be addressed are listed in the form that will be distributed to delegates and representatives of the RUS Network in order to gather information about existing practices: canteens, vending machines; catering services; university bars and cafés; water; eating areas; nutritional education for university staff and students; survey of eating habits and footprint; external spaces; university farms; GAS (Gruppi di Acquisto Solidale - Ethical Purchasing Groups) and kitchen gardens; luncheon

vouchers; food waste; relations with regional agencies for the right to education.

Macro-level objectives

Make the diet of students and university staff sustainable and transfer sustainable food patterns to society at large, through:

Teaching, by addressing the subject of sustainable food;

Research (RRI), to encourage the study of issues that can help to establish sustainable eating practices;

The third mission, by strengthening relations with local businesses, food industry operators, civil society.

Activities undertaken in 2018

The Working Group was established in December 2018. During the year, it held an informal meeting in Pisa (May 2018) and an operational meeting in Turin (September 2018).

Programme of activities for 2019

Knowledge-gathering stage: in 2019 the Working Group will collect and process data about current practices at RUS member universities. This will be done by means of a questionnaire.

Operational stage: The Working Group will create sub-groups and define the first topics for which codes of good practice will be drawn up and submitted to the university management teams.

Resolution and dissemination stage: the good practices defined as a result of these actions will be shared with the other Working Groups and presented to the public.

[1] Data refer to April 2019. The Food Working group was formally established in December 2018.

4.2 Ministerial Working Groups

The RUS Network takes part in Ministerial Working Groups through a number of its representatives.

Working Group of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Prof. Fabio Pranovi, formerly President of the RUS Coordinating Committee, has been a member of the Working Group created by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to define the national strategy for Global Citizenship Education since June 2017.

The key words on which the Group has focused are “inclusion” and “integrated sustainability”. In acknowledging that all forms of exclusion constitute barriers to sustainability, the Group has defined the milestones for promoting concrete steps towards active participatory citizenship and identified the players, roles and actions needed.

The document drafted by the Working Group makes explicit reference to Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda concerning quality education and underlines the key role that education will have in meeting all 17 SDGs.

Working Group of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research on “Schools, Universities and Research for the 2030 Agenda”

Prof. Bonoli from the University of Bologna took part in this Working Group as

the representative of the RUS Coordinating Committee.

In 2018 the Working Group reaffirmed the central role of schools, universities and research in education and in building a culture of sustainability to promote the knowledge, skills and lifestyles needed for informed, active citizenship. Following on from the “Plan for Education for Sustainability” (2017), the Group continued to pursue several actions in the four macro-areas: Schools, Universities, Research and Activities within the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

Among the various actions to be taken, the Group confirmed the desire to set up grants for doctoral studies in the field of sustainability and to offer incentives for female students enrolling on STEM courses and international mobility scholarships.

Lastly, the Working Group pointed to the need to involve faculty members specialised in sustainability in providing training for heads of schools and primary and secondary school teachers.

4.3 ASviS Working Groups on SDGs

In March 2018 the RUS Coordinating Committee decided to appoint faculty members (Committee members or their delegates) to represent the RUS Network in the 14 ASviS Working Groups on SDGs (further information is available on www.asvis.it/i-gruppi-di-lavoro/). Some of the activities mentioned by the RUS Network representatives who took part in the ASviS Work Groups include:

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5). The Working Group drafted a commentary to the Stability Law (regarding the subject areas covered) and contributed to the organisation of the conference on SDG 5 within the framework of the “Festival dello Sviluppo Sostenibile 2019” (2019 Sustainable Development Festival).

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12). The Working Group produced a position paper that was presented at the National Event on Goal 12 at the 2018 Sustainable Development Festival. It also contributed to the organisation of the Hackathon event on reuse and recycling, by acting as the expert member of the panel appointed to evaluate the projects.

2019 Survey

5.1 Introduction to the survey

The survey is conducted each year so that an up-to-date picture of a continually expanding network is always available. The 2019 survey was conducted through an online questionnaire that was distributed to the RUS member universities, 48 of which responded.

The questionnaire consisted of six sections concerning: the university's organisation in relation to sustainability issues; relations with students and communication channels; reporting tools, networks and rankings; the CRUI campaign to limit the use of single-use plastic; sports facilities and the size of the university.

The main results of the survey are reported below.



5.2 Results of the survey

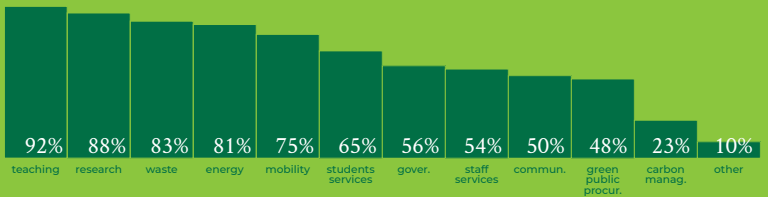
Is any reference made to sustainability in the university statute?



Is sustainability included in the strategic plan?



Which of the following areas of work include your sustainability actions?



Is there a rector's delegate for sustainability issues?



Is the rector's delegate for sustainability issues also the delegate for the RUS Network?



Is authority for sustainability issues and development cooperation delegated to the same person?



Is there a dedicated sustainability organisational unit at the university?





Guidelines

The guidelines drawn up by the Coordinating Committee of the RUS Network for the next three years can be summarised as follows:

Make the Network more representative, both internally and externally. Gradually increase the number of universities that are part of the Network to reach the target of 100% of CRUI member universities.

Create a greater impact on the community in order to support the transition towards sustainability. Work more closely with public and private stakeholders at local level, minimise the carbon footprint of Network member universities and set up regional RUS Network panels capable of enhancing the role of universities as drivers of development and innovation for local communities.

Increase the Network's visibility at international level. Internationalisation depends on the development of effective synergies, including with the people at universities responsible for development cooperation.

Support the ongoing reform to make educational approaches more transdisciplinary and foster points of contact between humanistic and technical areas.

Define shared and effective metrics capable of supporting the path taken by each RUS member university to meet sustainability goals.

RUS
Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile
2018 Activity report

President and Organisational Secretary 2019-2021

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