



Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile

2013-2017
**ACTIVITY
REPORT**

Supported by



I am delighted to introduce this first Report of the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS). The Report represents the successful conclusion of a long series of efforts made and activities carried out, involving great satisfaction as well as the inevitable setbacks, mix-ups and misunderstandings. This outcome was made possible by the support of all those who believe in the importance of building a Network for a shared objective, investing resources, energy and know-how to bring this about.

What has brought together so many Italian Universities – 58 so far – is their daily commitment to the advancement of sustainability and social responsibility at the pace set by the UN 2030 Agenda, which summarizes the priority objectives of a strategy of sustainable development for our planet. Faced with these challenges and commitments, universities wish to prove that they can assume an active role in their areas of competence, helping to spread the culture of sustainability and good practices within university communities and in the local area. They will also develop coordinated activities and provide an active, empowering interface with other public and private actors.

Although this is just the first step in a long process, I am convinced of the importance of having done so together, proving yet again that the University can and must make a real contribution to the development of our Country.



Prof. Michele Bugliesi
Rector of Ca' Foscari University of Venice

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Report presentation

This Report aims to provide a comprehensive description of the activities carried out and the results obtained by the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS) from 2013 to December 2017.

It represents one of the Network's communication tools – both internally and externally – intended to promote stakeholder engagement. It addresses the Network members, the organizations collaborating with it, and anyone interested in finding out more about the organization, which aims to operate throughout the national system.

We believe, in fact, that RUS is an experiment that deserves to become known and acknowledged, which is why we have made the effort to activate nodes throughout the country, thanks also to the es-

sential support of the CRUI - Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities.

The objective laid down in the Network agreement is to involve all members with the aim of publishing an annual summary report describing the performance trends in the various areas. This Report will act as a first step in that direction. In fact, it will be a gradual process that will need to take account of the different ways in which universities are orienting their institutional activities towards integrated sustainability objectives and participating actively in the attainment of the institutional objectives of RUS.

Finally, we will present the guidelines drawn up by the Coordinating Committee to determine the Network's future activities.



Premises

Focus: the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals¹

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



On 25 September 2015 the United Nations formally adopted the Global Agenda for sustainable development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs, organized as 169 targets to be reached by 2030. It was a historic event from many points of view because:

- it took a **clear position on our current development model, defining it as unsustainable** in both economic and social terms as well as environmentally. The idea that sustainability exclusively concerns the environment was finally set aside in favour of a holistic vision of the various facets of development;

- **all countries are called upon to meet the challenge of guiding the world along the path of sustainability** regardless of the degree of development that they have attained – although problems will obviously differ in developing, emerging and developed countries;
- the goals of the Agenda can only be attained with the **strong involvement of all members of society**, from enterprises to the public sector, from civil society to philanthropic institutions, from Universities and research centres to the information and cultural industries.

"The new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere. It is an agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms – an agenda for the planet, our common home"

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General

¹ Source: www.asvis.it

The role of Universities for sustainable development^{2,3}

Tackling the huge challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda will involve major changes in our lifestyles and a profound transformation in the ways in which we think and behave. This places Education (Goal 4) at the centre of the Agenda –cutting across all the other sustainable development goals – as well as making it the most effective and appropriate tool for implementing the Agenda itself.

Education for Sustainable Development, an integral part of quality education for all at all ages, intends to promote the development of the transversal competencies necessary to live in world of global interconnectedness as well as providing the key knowledge needed to understand the dynamics characterising the only planet inhabited by humans.

While embracing a holistic, inter- and transdisciplinary, and transformative approach, Education for Sustainable Development focuses on learners and aims

to promote action and participation. It favours methods and tools fostering active learning, experience and a focus on both local and global contexts, promoting empowerment and new awareness creation. This approach to education involves more than merely explaining the concept of sustainable development and cannot be reduced to mere knowledge but is implemented through the acquisition of the competencies transforming learners into politically aware and engaged citizens.

For Universities, therefore, the UN's 2030 Agenda represents an action plan transforming the world and benefiting people, peace, planet, prosperity and partnership. This will only be possible if the values of the SDGs and their power to communicate and inspire have a real impact on the behaviour of students, teachers, technical-administrative staff, governing bodies and stakeholders involved.

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Action Areas for Universities

- > **Teaching:** promoting Education for Sustainable Development pathways involving university students, faculty and technical-administrative staff; focus on training trainers and teachers in schools of all types and levels; provide an accessible, inclusive and quality education for everyone; favour access to university programmes by students from emerging countries; empower youth and offer them opportunities for internationalization.
- > **Research:** provide the necessary knowledge, evidence, solutions, technologies and innovation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the global community, both by means of traditional disciplinary approaches and by means of new interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches and sustainability science; favour capacity building in the sector of research and enterprise in emerging countries; collaborate with and support innovative business enterprises implementing solutions for SDGs; promote diversity in research and research in the field of student education.
- > **Governance:** implement the principles of sustainable development through the university's governance and policies including those relative to funding, campus structures and services, human resources, employment and facilities.
- > **External leadership:** strengthen participation and public engagement in tackling sustainable development issues; launch 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.

² New version of an internal document drawn up within RUS Working Group on Education.

³ For the international pathway see the chapter on "Le Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile: un percorso storico tra Summit, Dichiarazioni, Partenariati e Reti" pp. 26-43 of *Educare per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile. L'impegno degli Atenei Italiani: esperienze in corso e buone pratiche* by Calvano, G. (Aracne, 2017), which contains an analysis of the RUS experience.

About us

RUS aims and goals

The University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS), established in July 2015 by the Conference of Rectors of Italian Universities (CRUI), is the first experience of coordination and sharing between all Italian universities committed to promoting issues of environmental sustainability and social responsibility, to orienting their institutional activities towards goals of integrated sustainability, and to actively participating in the attainment of the Network's institutional objectives.

While all CRUI member universities may participate in RUS by right, other universities and not-for-profit organisations may join provided their institutional objectives coincide with those of the Network.

RUS, which is unequalled in terms of the size of its membership and field of action, intends to be a model of good practice that can be extended to other sectors of the Public Administration, education, and throughout the wider community. It seeks to incentivise collaboration between University and City, spreading social innovation locally and providing cultural stimuli for the entire national economic and production system.

Goals

The main goal of the Network is to spread the culture of sustainability and good practices, both within Universities and in the broader community – at urban, regional, national and international level – increasing the positive impact in envi-

ronmental, ethical, social and economic terms of the actions developed by the members of the Network. This will allow it to contribute to the attainment of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen the recognizability and value of the Italian experience at international level.

Institutional objectives

- > **Harmonizing** institutional activities and improving the management of environmental and social aspects.
- > Creating a **community** capable of developing best practices and of representing the University at national and international level.
- > Promoting and developing **projects** in areas such as knowledge and skills transfer, education and university management.
- > Development of a **transdisciplinary approach** in university programmes with the aim of contributing to the growth of the culture of sustainable development and of guiding students towards a positive lifestyle.
- > **Organising training and refresher courses** on sustainable development for university staff and for faculty at all levels.
- > Developing awareness and promotion campaigns designed to increase **stakeholder engagement**.
- > Increasing **collaboration** with public bodies as well as businesses on projects linked to the Network's aims.

Role of the CRUI

In time the CRUI has acquired an increasingly important institutional and representational role and a real capacity to influence the development of the university system through intense research and experimentation. Its role is to support RUS and act as an institutional partner capable of guiding strategic choices. RUS can potentially act as an "operating arm" and provides a forum for the testing of models and methods that can be transferred to the university system and for the sharing and disseminating of best practices.



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"By contributing to RUS activities, the CRUI intends to promote a culture of responsibility for environmental sustainability and social responsibility within the community of students, faculty and staff at Italian universities, within public administrations, and local communities. This is a hugely important initiative that contributes to creating a culture of sustainable development, raising awareness about the best practices developed within Italian universities for the attainment of the environmental and social sustainability goals laid down by the UN 2030 Agenda. RUS represents a dense network of relations and collaboration that showcases numerous exemplary initiatives involving many Italian universities in different ways. It offers a concrete example of how the Italian universities have worked together as a coordinated system to carry out the tasks involved in their 'third mission', contributing in this case to the promotion within other public administrations and local communities of a culture of sustainability and of sustainable development in towns and cities and in their local areas."

Prof. Gaetano Manfredi
President of the CRUI

The development of the network

The idea of building a Network linking Italian universities working for sustainability has been a long time in the making.

- **Idea of an Italian Network of Sustainable Universities shared for the first time at the Ecomondo expo** (November 2013)
- **Promoting committee of 7 Universities set up at Bologna** (March 2014)
- **Formalisation of the project within the CRUI followed by first sign-ups** (July 2015)
- **Launch of the University Network for Sustainable Development at the Expo Milano** (September 2015)
- **Definition of University Network for Sustainable Development agreement within the CRUI** (July 2016)
- **Coordinating committee set up within the CRUI** (September 2016)
- **Launch of Working Groups on Mobility⁴, Waste⁵ and Energy** (November 2016)
- **Launch of Working Group on Climate changes** (March 2017)
- **Signing of agreement by 51 members** (June 2017)
- **First Conference and General Assembly** (July 2017)
- **Launch of Working Group on Education** (September 2017)
- **Publication of RUS website** (December 2017)



⁴ The existing National Coordinating Body of University Mobility Managers (founded in 2012) became part of the RUS Mobility Working Group.

⁵ Informal launch took place on 10 June 2016.

Governance

At organizational level, RUS is a network of public and private entities, without a legal personality, and comprises the following institutional organs:

- the **Coordinating Committee**, which has guiding and monitoring responsibilities; it can launch Working Groups on cross-cutting priority themes contributing to the attainment of the Network's institutional objectives with the greatest possible involvement;
- the **General Assembly**, which elects the members of the Coordinating Committee, monitors the state of advancement of work carried out by the Network, and shares the initiative plan drawn up by the Coordinating Committee, also in view of scheduling new work proposals.

The Network's operating activities are coordinated by the:

- **Organizing Secretary**
- **Working Groups**

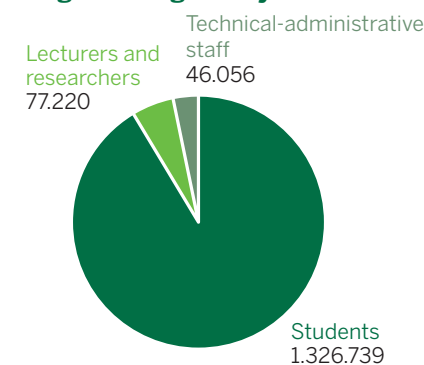
RUS membership⁷

Member Universities: **55**
 Working Groups: **5**
 Number of people involved in Working Groups: **354**

Coordinating Committee⁶ for the 2016-2018 three-year period

1. Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
2. Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (President and Organizing Secretary)
3. Università degli Studi di Milano
4. Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca
5. Università degli Studi di Parma
6. Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"
7. Università degli Studi di Siena
8. Università degli Studi di Verona
9. Politecnico di Bari
10. Politecnico di Milano
11. Politecnico di Torino

Categories targeted by RUS actions⁸



⁶ The RUS Coordinating Committee for 2016-2018 was appointed during the CRUI Assembly of 22/9/2016 with the CRUI designating the Rector of Ca' Foscari.

⁷ Data as at 31.12.2017

⁸ Source: MIUR data relative to 55 universities, as at December 2017



RUS members



Actions implemented

Initiatives at Network level

2013
“Atenei sostenibili. Università e sostenibilità: esperienze a confronto” (Sustainable universities. Universities and sustainability: comparing experiences): workshop held at Ecomondo, Rimini, 7/11/2013

2014
 Preparatory activities by the Promoting Committee

2015
The first international summer school on

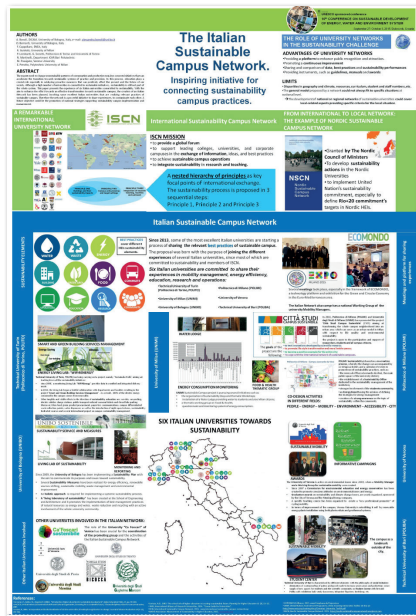
sustainable campuses, organized by the Politecnico di Torino, Turin, 14-18/9/2015
“Le Università per la Sostenibilità” (Sustainable Universities): event presenting the Network organized by the Università di Milano Bicocca and the Politecnico di Milano, Expo site - Cluster Isole - Rho Fiera, 22/9/2015
“The Italian Sustainable Campus Network: inspiring initiative for connecting sustainability campus practices”: poster presented by the Politecnico di Torino, 10th Conference On Sustainable Development Of Energy, Water And Environment Systems, Croatia, 27/9 - 3/10/2015

“La Rete delle Università per la Sostenibilità” (The University Network for Sustainable Development): conference organized by the Università di Bologna at Ecomondo, Rimini, 6/11/2015

2016
“A Contagious Ambition: the New-Born Italian Network of Sustainable Universities”: presentation of the Network during the “Leadership for a sustainable future” event organized by the ISCN - International Sustainable Campus Network, Siena, 13-15/6/2016

Promotion of RUS among other institutions at the **Forum CompraVerde**, Rome, 13-14/10/2016

The Network is mentioned in the document **“Disegnare e realizzare la strategia italiana per lo sviluppo sostenibile”** (Designing and implementing the Italian sustainable development strategy) drawn up on the occasion of the Hearing by the spokesperson of the Italian Sustainable Development Alliance (ASviS) at the Chamber of Deputies as part of the inquiry into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Rome, 13/7/2016



2017
 Participation in the **Sustainable Development Festival**, through the coordinating body of Universities in the Network, with the organization of 80 events, including the two events below held at RUS level, 22/5-7/6/2017

“Università sostenibili per città sostenibili” (Sustainable universities for sustainable cities): event organized by the Politecnico di Bari and the Università di Bari, Taranto, 26/5/2017

“G7 e la Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile: verso una Charta della sostenibilità” (G7 and the University Network for Sustainable Development: towards a Sustainability Charter): event organized by the Università di Bologna on the

occasion of the G7 Environment hosted in Bologna, in the presence of the Minister of the Environment, 6/6/2017

The various themes discussed during the course of the convention revealed the active commitment of Italian universities in institutional activities relative to training,

research, third mission and organization. The report drawn up at the end of the work was mentioned explicitly in point 10 of the final communiqué issued by the Environment Ministers, yet again confirming the Network's leading role and highlighting its important institutional commitment.



La didattica per lo sviluppo sostenibile negli Atenei italiani

Lunedì 10 luglio 2017
Auditorium Santa Margherita, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

“La didattica per lo sviluppo sostenibile negli Atenei italiani”, (Sustainable Development Education in Italian Universities), first annual RUS conference organized by Università Ca' Foscari Venezia in the presence of the Minister of Education, University and Research, Venice, 10/7/2017
Participants: 160
Presentation of the results of the first RUS survey, which received responses from 41

universities, and dissemination of a publication listing best practices. Material available on the RUS website: www.reteateneisvilupposostenibile.it

This was followed by the first RUS General Assembly, which was attended by 33 Rector's Delegates from the 51 member universities.

RUS is mentioned under **“Education for sustainable development”** in “The Italian civil society for the SDGs” document presented by ASviS on the occasion of the Italian government's submission of the Voluntary National Review describing the national sustainable development strategy to the High Level Political Forum, New York, 18/7/2017.

“Education for sustainable development” (Sustainable Development Plan) of the Ministry of Education, University and Research, Rome, 28/7/2018

Presentation of RUS at the “2030 Agenda: obiettivi irraggiungibili” (2030 Agenda: unattainable goals) encounter in the **CSR and Social Innovation Fair**, Milan, 4/10/2017

RUS is also mentioned, as a member of the working group responsible, in the presentation of the **“Piano per l'Educazione So-**

stenibile” RUS information stand at the **Forum CompraVerde**, Roma, 12-13/10/2017

⁹ Documento “G7 Bologna Environment Ministers' Meeting, Bologna, Italy, 11-12 June 2017”

Focus: RUS participation in Ministerial Working Groups

MIUR working group on “Schools, University and Research for the 2030 Agenda”

In May 2017, in view of Italy's commitment to setting a National Agenda to enable implementation of the 17 SDGs, the Ministry of Education, University and Research officially launched the working group on “Schools, University, and Research for the 2030 Agenda”. The RUS Coordinating Committee was represented by Prof.ssa Alessandra Bonoli from the University of Bologna.

The Working Group confirmed the crucial role of Schools, University and Research in disseminating a culture of sustainability through the promotion of knowledge, skills and lifestyles to empower citizens, identifying the need for a Plan for a **Sustainability Education Plan** based on 4 macro-areas: School, University, Research and MIUR Internal Activities.

The Plan was presented on 28 July 2017 and aims to bring about major actions of social inclusion, financial support for students in need, promotion of gender equality, and funding for initiatives promoting these objectives.

RUS will be involved in the following:

1. Creation of 65 PhD scholarships on sustainability themes.
2. Incentives for students to enrol in STEM studies.
3. International mobility scholarships and support for low-income students wishing to participate in Erasmus schemes.
4. University funding allocated to disability issues.

5. National Operational Program funds for research infrastructure.
6. Involvement of faculty members specialized in sustainability in providing training for school managers and primary and secondary school teachers.

MAECI Working Group on the National Strategy for Global Citizenship Education (GCE)

In June 2017, the CRUI appointed the President of the RUS Coordinating Committee, Prof. Fabio Pranovi from Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, to participate in the Working Group organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in order to develop the national strategy for Global Citizenship Education¹⁰.

The key words were “inclusion” and “integrated sustainability”. Aware that all forms of exclusion are a barrier to sustainability, the group defined the stages providing concrete support for the promotion of active participatory citizenship and identified the actors, roles, and actions needed to bring this about (i.e. national and local Action Plans flanked by a working committee).

The document drafted makes explicit reference to Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda relative to quality education, underlining the key role of education in the delivery of the 17 SDGs as well as providing for the active intervention of RUS in training primary and secondary school teachers.

¹⁰ Approved on 28 February 2018.

Working groups¹¹



The group was founded in 2012 as the National coordinating body of University Mobility Managers later becoming the Working Group on Mobility following the formalization of RUS.

Composition of the group

- **53 RUS Universities** (96% out of a total of 55), in addition to 5 non-RUS universities¹²
- **100 members**, 55% faculty staff and 45% technical-administrative staff
- Coordinated by Stefania Angelelli, Università degli Studi Roma Tre
Vice Prof. Matteo Colleoni, Università degli Studi Milano Bicocca

Categories targeted by the actions of the Working Group¹³

Universities	58
Students	1.441.222
Faculty	82.209
Technical-administrative staff	50.280
Total	1.573.711

Macro-objectives

- Promote collaboration between Mobility Managers in Italian Universities.
- Create an entity capable of taking part in a dialogue at institutional level.
- Set up a shared data bank.
- Identify solutions and obtain national and community funding to implement projects.

¹¹ Presentation of Working Groups in order of launch.

¹² Catanzaro Magna Graecia, Lucca IMT, Messina, Milano Bocconi and Napoli Federico II.

¹³ Source: MIUR data as at December 2017.

Activities implemented

- October 2016: National survey on travel and shared mobility in Italian Universities
- 27 > 28 October 2016: Presentation of Mobility Management best practices, Moby Dixit, Prato
- 23 November 2016: Presentation of the national survey report at the First National conference on Sharing Mobility, Rome
- 8 > 10 March 2017: Presentation of best practices and national survey at the First “European Conference on Sustainable Mobility at Universities” (U-MOB LIFE) at the Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona
- March 2017 Participation in the convention on “La Mobilità Sostenibile in Italia: Scenari di Sviluppo e Fattori Abilitanti” (Sustainable Mobility in Italy: Development Scenarios and Enabling Factors), Aspen Institute, Rome
- March 2017: Participation in the Mobility Manager Training Seminar, Roma Servizi per la Mobilità
- May 2017: Participation in the Urban Thinkers Lab “Roma città mobile – Mobilità Sostenibile” (Rome as a mobile city – Sustainable Mobility), Forum Urbanitas, Rome
- 10 May 2017: Organization of the “Mobilità, accessibilità e diritto allo studio” (Mobility, Accessibility and the Right to Education) conference by the Università di Milano Bicocca, Milan
- May 2017: Presentation of the “L’innovazione sociale e i comuni: istruzioni per l’uso” (Social innovation and municipalities: user’s guide) conference, Forum PA, Rome
- 26 > 30 June 2017: Presentation of the na-

Focus: National survey on travel and shared mobility

The national survey on travel and shared mobility among students and staff at Italian Universities was conducted in **October 2016 through the completion of an online questionnaire. It involved 37 universities and a sample of around 70,000 case studies** with the aim of gathering data on travel between people’s homes and Universities at national

level that would help guide mobility management policies. The survey is part of a series of measures supporting students’ access to affordable transportation and education within a new scenario where the University is no longer a passive entity but a new actor participating in the planning of urban and metropolitan mobility and accessibility policies.

- tional survey at the Swiss mobility Conference, Lausanne
- 20 > 21 June 2017: Poster on “The role of the Italian Universities in promoting environmental sustainability, accessibility and right to education”, International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) conference, Vancouver
- September 2017: Presentation of the Rome ePrix, Rome
- 26 > 29 September 2017: Presentation of the national survey at the Hamburg Sustainable Development Summit, Hamburg
- October 2017: Presentation at Alphabet BMW – Smart Mobility Forum – Focus Group – Z generation, Rome
- November 2017: Presentation at “Stati Generali della Green Economy” (States General of the Green Economy), Rimini Fiera
- November 2017: Presentation to Gruppo Italia Energia, award ceremony for the QE photographic competition, Rome
- November 2017: Presentation at “Le città come motore di sviluppo: il nodo del trasporto locale” (Cities as drivers of development: the local transport node), Aspen Institute, Milan
- November 2017: Presentation at Alphabet BMW, Smart Mobility Forum, Milan
- November 2017: Presentation at the “eMobility Pioneer” workshop, ABB Enerpoint, Santa Palomba (Rome)

As well as:

- Setting up of agreements between RUS Universities and Trenitalia, Flixbus, Moovit, CAR2GO, and Enjoy
- Participation in the following round tables:

- Osservatorio Sharing Mobility, Ministry of the Environment, Rome
- Progetto Social Car - Regione Lazio, Rome
- Unicredit Pavilion Meeting, Milan
- Transport Department - Lombardy Region, Milan
- Project “CRelamo PA”, Ministry of the Environment, Rome

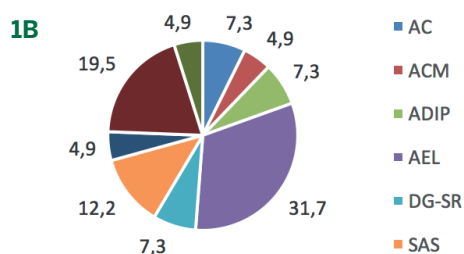
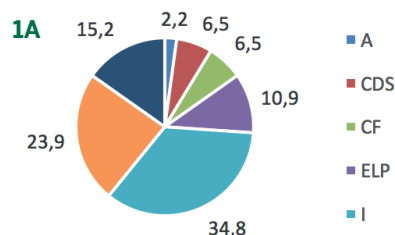
Upcoming activities

- Publication of the national survey.
- Consolidation of the University’s role as an actor in the governance of urban and regional mobility.
- Promotion of subsidies at local and national level (agreements are currently being drawn up with NTV Italo Treno, GOGOBUS, and Booking).
- Promotion of Universities as Living Labs where new sustainable mobility solutions can be tested.
- Favouring active mobility and use of local public transport (LPT) through organizational rather than merely structural intervention.
- Promotion of shared mobility services as a new approach to transport and use of the city.
- Adoption of new organizational solutions designed to ease congestion in incoming and outgoing traffic flows to the University.
- Consolidation of relations with other organizations – such as Euromobility, U-Mob, Aspen, Osservatorio Sharing Mobility.
- Launch of a new national survey in October 2018.

Composition of the group

- **45 RUS Universities** (82% out of a total of 55)
- **87 members**, 53% faculty staff and 47% technical-administrative staff
- Coordinated by Daria Prandstraller, Università di Bologna

The Working group is characterized by marked heterogeneity, both in terms of the disciplinary fields of participants and their areas of expertise, with obvious implications for their approach to the theme of “waste”.



A	Architecture
CDS	Centres/Inter-University Departments/Schools
CF	Chemistry/Pharmacy
ELP	Economics/Languages/Political Science
I	Engineering
ScAmb	Environmental/biological/geological sciences/Technologies/Territory
Ssu	Social Sciences/Humanities

AC	Central Administration
ACM	Communication & Marketing Area
ADip	Departmental Administration
AEL	Building/Logistics Area
DG-SR	General Management/Rectors' Secretariat
SAS	Environment/Sustainability Service/Office
SA-SPP	Environment and Safety Service/Office
SPP	Safety and Protection Service
UPS	Strategic/Special Projects Office

Figure 1 – Participants in Working Group on Waste as percentages: lecturers and researchers (1A) technical and administrative staff (1B) by macro-area of activity

Macro-objectives

- Increase areas of collaboration between Italian Universities regarding waste management.
- Activate processes monitoring the performance of Universities with regard to waste management.

- Transform the working group into a subject capable of taking part in dialogues at institutional level promoting the principles of the circular economy.
- Launch campaigns to raise awareness of waste management considered from the perspective of the circular economy.

Activities implemented

The main activity of 2017 was defining the organization of the working group. For this reason, towards the end of the year, two operational sub-groups were established: the first intended to identify shared management processes for all types of waste produced by the universities – contact institutions are POLITO and UNIMORE – the second dedicated to giving guidance, raising awareness, and informing people about the correct, virtuous management of materials before they become waste (contact institution is IUAV).

The other important activity involved drawing up the first draft of the text of a questionnaire to be submitted to all RUS universities with the aim of assessing the current state of affairs with regard to waste management.

Lastly, a virtual space was set up at UNIBO in order to begin tackling technical and regulatory aspects. The arrangements for its use are currently being reviewed. The Working Group met in 2017, holding plenary sessions on 16/10/17 and 23/11/17 in Milan at the Polytechnic and on 6/6/17 in Bologna on the occasion of the “G7 e la Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo sostenibile: verso una Charta della sostenibilità” (G7 and the University Network for Sustainable Development: towards a Sustainability Charter).

The coordinator was also invited to present the Working Group at the two following events: on 29/3/17 at the Ispra

Joint Research Centre (Va) on the occasion of the “Settimana di formazione specialistica in materia nucleare” (Specialist nuclear training week) and on 12-13/10/17 in Rome at the “Forum Compravverde-BuyGreen: the Status of Green Procurement”.

Upcoming activities

- Administration of a questionnaire and drafting of a report containing the results for dissemination within the Working Group to help guide activities.
- Drafting of shared waste management procedures – both technical and operative – from the perspective of the circular economy to be used to start a dialogue with the Ministry of the Environment that will communicate the need for legislation distinguishing between Universities and businesses.
- Development of material (documents, videos, and so on) that will raise the awareness of users at Universities with regard to waste, promoting the principles of the circular economy.

Composition of the group

- **31 RUS Universities** (56% out of a total of 55)
- **62 members**, 65% faculty staff and 35% technical-administrative staff
- Coordinated by Prof. Alberto Poggio, Politecnico di Torino

Macro-objectives

The activities and objectives of the RUS Energy Working Group are implemented by two operational sub-groups.

The Technical Sub-Group is responsible for gathering data from RUS Universities that will provide a picture of the energy needs of the university sector in Italy, provide each university with evaluation data and build a knowledge base for the subsequent definition of metrics for the assessment of the energy performance of the Universities.

The Awareness-Raising and Good Practice Sub-Group was set up to help share experiences and best practices in the energy sector and to develop a comparison of organizational models present within Universities with regard to energy management.

Activities implemented

Technical Sub-Group

2016: Launch of the Working Group.

2017: January-June - Collection of energy data: definition of objectives and of a tool collecting University energy consumption data.

2017: July-December - Energy data collection: tool tested at a selection of Universities.

The activity carried out led to the definition of an energy data collection tool and to a preliminary energy data collection test phase at 13 Universities belonging to the Working Group.

Awareness-Raising and Good Practice Sub-Group

2017: July-December - Collection of good practices: definition of objectives and of the data collection tool.



Energy Working Group Meetings

Plenary

22/11/2016 | Torino, Politecnico di Torino

17/03/2017 | Milano, Università Milano Bicocca

11/07/2017 | Venezia, Università Ca' Foscari

06/12/2017 | Roma, Università Roma 3

Technical Sub-Group

27/01/2017 | Reggio Emilia, Università di Modena e Reggio

11/07/2017 | Venezia, Università Ca' Foscari

08/11/2017 | Milano, Politecnico di Milano

Awareness-Raising and Good Practice Sub-Group

11/07/2017 | Venezia, Università Ca' Foscari

08/11/2017 | Milano, Politecnico di Milano

Upcoming activities

Technical Sub-Group

2018, January-June - Data collection activity involving RUS Universities.

2018, July-December - Analysis of data collected, study of metrics and contacts with energy providers for the evaluation of data sharing collaborations.

Awareness-Raising and Good Practice Sub-Group

2018, January- June - Good practice collection activity using a dedicated questionnaire.

2018, July-December - Assessment and sharing of good practices collected, analysis of organizational models.

Eventi

Organization of the RUS event "Caccia al kWh" (kWh Hunt) on 22 February 2018 on the occasion of the "M'illumino di meno" (I Use Less Energy) energy saving campaign promoted by the Caterpillar programme on Rai Radio 2.

Composition of the group

- **31 RUS Universities** (56% out of a total of 55)
- **58 members**, 78% faculty staff and 22% technical-administrative staff
- Coordinated by Prof. Stefano Caserini, Politecnico di Milano

Macro-objectives

- Estimate of the CO2 emissions of the Universities (exchange of information on methods, comparisons, and definitions of shared methods).
- Emission reduction plans (sharing of methodological aspects, exchange of information on types of intervention implemented).
- Commitments to reducing emissions and communication of outcome in the context of UNFCCC.
- Adjustment to climate changes (dissemination of shared knowledge, skills and good practices).
- Communication on the theme of climate change.

Activities implemented

June 2017: meeting for the launch of the Working Group at the Politecnico di Milano and meeting at the Università di Bologna on the occasion of the "G7 e la Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile: verso una Charta della Sostenibilità" (G7 and the University Network for Sustainable Development: towards a Sustainability Charter) with the aim of discussing and agreeing upon the objectives of the Working Group.

7 September - 2 October 2017: administration of the "Censimento degli inventari sui Gas serra" (Greenhouse gas inventory) mapping activities underway at RUS Universities and involving the collection of basic information on the various types of activity launched by the Universities on the theme of climate change (realization of emission inventories, of mitigation and/or adjustment plans, carbon offsetting for unavoidable emissions, dissemination and awareness-raising activities) to help define future activities and shared or comparable methods.

19 December 2017: Submission of the summary report of the responses to the questionnaire completed by 24 Universities (46% of the 52 universities to which it was sent and 82% of the Universities belonging to the Working Group) and preparation of the January 2018 plenary session for the presentation of the analysis of questionnaire responses, discussion of the critical points that emerged from the drafting of the inventory, launch of an encounter on the emission factors used, assessment of the possibility of launching of sub-groups to examine the definition of a methodological proposal on emission factors to be used for emissions inventories in the context of RUS.

Upcoming activities

- Drafting of a document on average emission factors to be used in the University emissions inventories.
- Accreditation of universities or RUS in the context of UNFCCC for participation as observers to the Conference of Parties (COP).
- Drafting of guidelines for the drawing up of the inventories.
- Launch of activities on adjustment to climate changes.
- Organization of a national conference on greenhouse gas emissions in Italian Universities.

Composition of the group

- **28 RUS Universities** (51% out of a total of 55)
- **47 members**, 77% faculty staff and 23% technical-administrative staff
- Coordinated by Prof. Enrico Giovannini, Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Macro-objectives

Ensure that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) becomes an integral part of quality education for all at all ages, promoting the acquisition of cross-cutting skills through the use of tools and methods favouring active learning, experience and a focus on the local and global context, responsabilization, and the development of new knowledge.

Share a common strategy within the working group that can be used by Universities as a starting point for proposals of specific pertinent actions that will then be tailored to fit their particular situations.

Place the actions and measures developed within RUS at the disposal of Universities, Ministries, national and local Institutions and Bodies committed to sustainable development and recognizing education as the road to attaining this goal.

Activities implemented

During 2017, in accordance with the aims of RUS and the commitment to sustainability of MIUR – emerging from the National Plan on Education towards Su-

stainable Development developed with the active involvement of RUS – a series of work synergies were created between RUS, MIUR, and ASviS on the theme of Education.

The Working Group on Education was launched on the occasion of the first RUS conference on "La didattica per lo sviluppo sostenibile negli Atenei italiani" (Education for Sustainable Development in Italian Universities) of 10 July 2017 that involved the presentation of several good practices. It met for the first time in January 2018.

Upcoming activities

Developing the following strategies and priority actions for the launch of a national process of reflection and action on Education for Sustainable Development in Universities:

1. Activation of the so-called 'Lezione Zero', a cross-cutting interdisciplinary course on sustainable development intended for all university students (delivered online and/or in the classroom).
2. Exchange of materials and teaching practices between RUS Universities.
3. Activation of a Summer School in collaboration with ASviS and other partners on the themes of sustainable development for the training of PhD students.
4. Drafting of a framework document describing the ESD concepts, methods, tools, and practices used by the Network.

Collaborations

Membership of the ASviS

In October 2017 RUS joined the ASviS, whose mission is to increase awareness of the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Italian society, in economic entities, and in institutions, creating a network bringing together everyone already working on specific aspects also included in the SDGs, with the aim of:

- favouring the development of a culture of sustainability at all levels, orienting production and consumption models accordingly;
- analysing the implications and opportunities for Italy linked to the 2030 Agenda;
- contributing to the definition of an Italian strategy for the attainment of the SDGs and the development of a system to monitor Italy's progress towards these SDGs.

Thanks to this collaboration, which was set up during 2017, the ASviS was able to promote the activities carried out by RUS played an active role in the initiatives proposed by the ASviS, in particular on the occasion of the Sustainable Development Festival.

From 2018 onwards, representatives of the Network will participate in the ASviS Working Groups activated for various goals laid down by the 2030 Agenda.



Partnership with Aiesec Italia

AIIESEC is an international non-governmental not-for-profit organization present in 126 countries that has been an official UN partner since 2015. It is run entirely by university students and recent graduates under the motto "Peace and Fulfillment of Humankind's Potential".

In November 2017 RUS and AIIESEC Italia formalized a partnership agreement intended to incentivize and support collaboration between University staff and the student world and, in particular, to favour reciprocal projects designed to promote the SDGs.



2018 guidelines

Italian GreenMetric Network

In 2017 RUS embarked on a collaboration with the Università di Bologna, the Italian coordinator for the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking Network made up of Universities participating in a ranking managed by Universitas Indonesia, in order to launch a process that would lead to the drafting of a joint memo on critical areas and opportunities identified by Italian Universities with regard to this Ranking.

Altre iniziative supportate nel 2017

- The **Lavazza and Youth for SDGs** competition for university students who were asked to submit proposals for sustainability plans to be implemented in one of the countries where the Fondazione Lavazza operates.
- The **Youth in Action for SDGs** call for ideas for under-30s, which was intended to bring together and reward the best ideas on how to achieve SDGs. Promoters: Fondazione Italiana Accenture, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, in collaboration with ASviS.
- **CSR and Social Innovation Fair.** Promoters: Università Bocconi, CSR Manager Network, Unioncamere, Fondazione Global Compact Network Italia, Fondazione Sodalitas, Koinètica.

In accordance with the main aim of the Network – the dissemination of the culture and good sustainability practices both within and outside the Universities – the Coordinating Committee, together with the organizing secretary and coordinators of the Working Group, drew up the following guidelines, which will provide the road map for the upcoming activities.

- **REPRESENTATIVITY:** intensify the involvement of universities taking part, improving connections within the network and involving increasingly large numbers of people in Universities so as to develop a recognizable and credible community representing the Italian university world at national and international level.
- **INTERNAL PROCESSES:** favour, through the Working Groups, the dissemination of good practices and launch activities collecting data for self-assessment and for the subsequent definition of shared metrics. These processes will contribute to improving the management and reporting of environmental and social aspects in every University, in line with the ambitious commitments undertaken by each University at the time of signing the agreement.

- **EDUCATION:** propose initiatives for the development of a transdisciplinary perspective in University programmes with the aim of helping to promote a culture of sustainable development and contributing to the adoption of positive lifestyles by students.
- **UPDATING:** organize staff training initiatives on themes of common interest.
- **ENGAGEMENT:** develop initiatives linked to the themes of sustainable development in terms of stakeholder engagement at the level of single Universities, in collaboration between several universities or at Network level.
- **COLLABORATIONS:** develop existing collaborations and activate new ones with public and private institutions and with other networks with regard to projects promoting the Network's aims.



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