

Action Plan for Universities to maximize impact of higher education in the sustainability of urbanization

THURSDAY, 20TH OF OCTOBER 2016

1-2:30PM, ROOM B – ONE UN PAVILION

This event focuses on the role of higher education for sustainable urban development within the framework of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI). It seeks to define the role and capabilities that higher education, research institutions and think tanks should have in order to better respond to the urban needs so as to effectively support the implementation of the 2030 agenda and New Urban Agenda. For this purpose, the event will feature the presentation of an Action Plan for higher education.

The event will be organized around two sections, a Learning Section and an Action Response one:

Part 1. Learning section.

Universities and city officials will highlight the skills that are currently driving successful practice in the sustainability of cities. Three main questions will be discussed;

1. In what ways are universities contributing and supporting cities and municipalities in achieving sustainable urban development? How can these initiatives be sustained?
2. How are cities making the most of academic resources and practice to improve their own sustainability goals?
3. What and who are the drivers for sustainable urban development and how are universities learning from good practices that occur outside the academic world.

Part 2. Action response

Discussion on the action plan for universities: The objective is to identify paths for the academic work to contribute to better and sustainable cities, in a way that is measurable and leads to concrete impacts, in relation to the New Urban Agenda. The Action Plan draws on propositions by university members and draws on successful practices shared by UNI members. It aims to provide solutions to the topics discussed earlier.

This event draws on the conclusions of the Working Group of Higher Education for Urban Sustainability held at the Habitat III Europe Regional Meeting in Prague on March 18, 2016, the conclusions of the Roundtable of Universities in WUF 7, the work and university commitments for HESI on SDG 11. It is also based upon the recommendations from the Position Paper: DzCapacity Building and Knowledge Form the Foundation of the New Urban Agenda presented to the Habitat III Bureau for PrepCom III. <http://uni.unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2015/06/Capacity-Building-in-New-Urban-Agenda-HABITAT-III.pdf>

Finally, this event also complements a number of priority areas of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), particularly on "DzAccelerating Solutions at local level" for the implementation of SDGs #4 and #11.



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