

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary

Sustainable development and integration of SDGs to business strategies and operations require managers and personnel with green skills; for example knowledge of resource-efficiency, circular economy, reporting, communication, low carbon or sustainable working methods and purchasing. Companies, third sector and public organisations in Finland are aware of the need and willing to develop their operations towards sustainability. In many cases these skills are still lacking. At the same time, there are hundreds of highly educated job seekers (environmental experts and other) in labour market. This mismatch problem is well known (in many business areas/ working life as a whole).

SYKLI has produced labour market trainings in sustainable development themes for over a decade. We offer continuing training to job seekers and match them with companies and other working life operators. This training model including an internship leads to a successful employment in most of the cases. Both the students and companies value the possibility this activity offers.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

1. Job seekers study sustainable development contents when unemployed
2. Job seekers get employed (SYKLI has influenced over 500 successful recruitments)
3. Working life organisations get more needed resources and can recruit experts who contribute to their actions towards sustainable development

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

1. There are always more job seekers than study places. Less than half of the applicants can be approved to a course. We inform regularly the financiers about this barrier and try to get bigger volumes (this is mostly a financial barrier).
2. In some cases job seekers lack meta skills needed in the modern working life. SYKLI includes meta skills in the courses such as communication, digitalisation and project work.
3. The recruitment rate in this activity is high, ca. 75%. Thus, not all of the job-seeker-students are recruited after the internship. SYKLI supports them also after the course offering some personal coaching.

