

**Embedding the Sustainable  
Development Goals within Teaching and Engagement in FHE Institutions  
Dr Alec Wersun (GCU) - EAUC Scotland Workshop  
University of Edinburgh May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Title: United Nations Global Compact-PRME Student Engagement Projects**

University faculty have the potential to make a substantial contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their influence on current and future business leaders, principally through research, education, extra-curricula and campus management activities (UNGC, 2014). To realise this potential, PRME and its umbrella organisation, the United Nations Global Compact, have established a number of engagement projects that give students the opportunity to critically examine the contribution that business is (or is not) making, and could make, to the ambitious SDG agenda.

**The aims of this presentation** are a) to discuss with colleagues three projects that engage students with the SDGs; b) share experience of Glasgow Caledonian University's participation, and c) use the presentation to explore the potential advantages that engagement can make to the student experience.

The three projects are:

1. **Aim2Flourish**: the world's first higher-education curriculum for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and 'business for good' innovation. Using the UN SDGs as their lens, students research and identify an innovation and interview a business leader about it. Their case stories go live on the AIM2Flourish.com platform as sources of inspiration for others.
2. **Wikirate**: WikiRate's mission is to spur corporations to be transparent and responsive by making data about their social and environmental impacts useful and available to all. Lots of information exists on the social and environmental practices of businesses. What is missing is context. That's where WikiRate comes in. WikiRate is a place for practitioners, analysts and students to bring together information on corporate sustainability practices, evaluate it, and determine what gaps need to be filled.
3. **Breakthrough Innovation (BI)**: The BI project was developed in a partnership between the UN Global Compact and Volans, and aims to drive radical new business models to advance the SDGs by connecting mainstream companies with next generation innovators, entrepreneurs and students. By engaging companies, exponential thinkers and practitioners, this project explores and showcases new ideas and emerging practice around the 'Exponential Looking Glass', 'Disruptive Technologies for Sustainable Business' and 'Business Model Innovation'.
4. **Sustainability Literacy Test (Sulitest)**: This initiative sponsored by the UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) is designed to give university students of all disciplines a basic knowledge of economic, social and environmental sustainability. The Sulitest team has recently added a module to test knowledge about the SDGs, as well as a Sulitest Quiz to introduce students to the test in a fun way.

**References:**

UN Global Compact (2014). *Architects for a Better World: Building the Post 2015 Business Engagement Architecture*. UN Global Compact: New York.

Aim2Flourish Website: <http://aim2flourish.com>

Breakthrough Innovation Website: <http://breakthrough.unglobalcompact.org>

Wikirate: <http://wikirate.org>

Sulitest: <http://sulitest.org/en/index.html>