

SUMMER COURSES ON THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

THE CASE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LA RIOJA

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1. CONTEXT

The University of La Rioja (UR) is located on a modern campus in Logroño, capital of La Rioja (Spain), where 7,500 students are registered on courses in 26 undergraduate programs, Doctorates, Masters and other postgraduate courses (<https://www.unirioja.es/>).

The UR is the only public University in this small, quiet region in Northern Spain. La Rioja is where the Monasteries of San Millán de la Cogolla, **cradle of the first words written in the Spanish language**, are situated, sites included in UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1996. The UR was founded in 1992 and, as a center devoted to Higher Education, research and cultural promotion, has continued the work of these monasteries in disseminating knowledge and the Spanish language.

The Summer Courses of the UR were born in 2006 with “the objective of spreading the culture and the university feeling through the celebration of conferences, seminars, conferences and work camps” (University of La Rioja, 2006). The UR wanted to become the cultural hub of reference in the summer period by opening its doors to all those topics whose content is demanded by the Society and bringing the University closer to all the regions of its region.

The Summer Courses are managed by the UR Foundation and, each year, the UR makes a call for courses and activities to be proposed. In said call, the rules governing the requirements in form and content of each proposal are established, as well as the scale and priorities of the University for the Approval of summer courses. In the 2019/20 academic year, the 2030 Agenda was incorporated as a priority line in the call for Summer Courses. This program is sponsored by Banco Santander through Santander Universidades, and with the collaboration of fifty companies and entities.

2. PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND

The summer courses on the 2030 Agenda are the result of collaboration between the coordinator of non-governmental organizations for development in La Rioja, CONGDCAR (<https://congdcar.org/es/>), and the Unesco Chair of Democratic Citizenship and Cultural Freedom of the UR (<https://catedraunesco.unirioja.es/>). The collaboration began at the II Conference on Social Economy and Development Cooperation that were held in February 2016. This first collaboration resulted in the EIDeS project (Project on International Experiences in Development Cooperation projects), aimed at students; and the proposal for the realization of a program of summer courses to disseminate the SDGs to Riojan society in general, and the university community in particular. Both the Unesco Chair and the CONGDCAR had among their objectives to promote Sustainable Development and Development Cooperation to different groups from both the university community and Riojan society in general. The table 1 specifies the contexts that favored this collaboration in order to generate synergies for a common purpose.

Table 1. Context

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| Purpose | To make Riojan society known and sensitized about sustainable development. | |
| Opportunity | Approval of the United Nations 2030 Agenda | |
| Threat | Decreased participation, especially youth, in associations and interest in sustainable development. | |
| | Strengths | Difficulties |
| Unesco Chair | <p>Research experience.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary team of professors teaching in different degrees: Law, Sociology, Social Work, and Economics and Management.</p> <p>Experience in the design of training proposals to promote the Human Rights approach.</p> <p>Agreement with NGO in Geneva to carry out training programs at the United Nations.</p> | <p>Lack of direct access with field projects on sustainable development.</p> <p>Lack of time to make proposals to approach society.</p> |
| CONGDCAR | Coordinator of the entities that carry out development cooperation in La Rioja. | Lack of access to connect with young people from La Rioja, especially university students. |

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| | <p>Network of collaborating entities in different countries.</p> <p>Trajectory in non-regulated training for different groups to promote Education for development.</p> <p>Experience in organizing awareness activities.</p> | <p>Lack of resources to make proposals on campus.</p> |
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3. DEFINITION OF THE ACTIVITY

In 2016, the first course related to the SDGs is presented. These courses arise to try to meet the need to raise awareness of the Riojan population with sustainable development through different proposals for the transmission of knowledge about the SDGs, choosing each year a program that revolves around a current international topic and linked to the Agenda 2030. Since then, 5 courses have been organized whose mission, vision and values are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Mission, vision and values of the summer courses on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development organized at the UR

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| Mission | Communicate and raise public awareness of the 2030 Agenda. |
| Vision | Participation to create proposals collaboratively and jointly within La Rioja, promoting more sustainable development. |
| Values | <p>Integrator: the program is defined from the three entities trying to collect each of the areas of sustainability (environment, social and economic).</p> <p>Integrative: to contact different groups to promote debate, reflection and joint work on the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Accessibility: encourage participation.</p> |

As previously mentioned, the courses began to be organized jointly by CONGDCAR and the Unesco Chair. Subsequently, after the creation of the UR Sustainability Office in 2017, they began to collaborate in some activities and in the 2018/19 academic year, the person responsible for UR Sustainability Office would join the coordination team of the summer courses on the UR 2030 Agenda.

To address each of the years, the proposal is defined taking into account the following aspects:

- 1) Perspective: that the three axes, social, environmental and economic are included.
- 2) Scope from the general to the particular: international, national and local focus.

Table 3 presents the keys related to the methodology and other resources necessary to organize each Summer course.

Table 3. Coordination, methodology and sources of financing of the summer courses

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| Coordination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unesco Chair in Democratic Citizenship and Cultural Freedom - CONGDCAR. - Sustainability Office, UR (URioja) (since 2018/19). |
| Methodology | <p>Each year a question/proposal is launched on an SDP/sustainable development issue and is about responding to that proposal.</p> <p>The methodology used in all editions are conferences and round tables with relevant professionals from academia, business sector or civil society; and social activities.</p> <p>This proposal for conferences and round tables is always complemented by other activities depending on the objective chosen (e.g., workshops, training courses, group dynamics, video forums, magazine, etc. have been organized).</p> |
| Financing | <p>It is specific to each year and the search for collaborating agencies depends on the theme selected.</p> <p>Every year there is funding from the Government of La Rioja</p> |

Table 4 presents the program of courses organized from the beginning, indicating the SDG faced in each edition and its objectives.

Table 4. Summary of the objectives SDG of the developed editions [2016-2020]

| Summer course | Content |
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| <p>V Summer course</p> <p>Agenda 2030 'SDS 13 Are our cities sustainable?'</p> <p>June 22-26, 2020</p> | <p><i>SDG 11. Cities.</i></p> <p>Main objective: To raise awareness and awareness of the importance of cities in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify the main challenges and opportunities for action from the different areas of sustainability in urban and rural settlements. <input type="checkbox"/> Present interesting proposals made in different contexts. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a space for discussion in which the participation of different groups facilitates the rapprochement and creation of collaborative work networks. |
| <p>IV Summer course 2030 Agenda. Climate change: present evidence and tomorrow's challenges</p> <p>Are we still on time?</p> <p>September 30-October 4, 2019.</p> | <p><i>ODS 13. Climate action.</i></p> <p>Main objective: To raise awareness of Riojan society in general, and the university community in particular, and to promote a commitment to this global agenda against climate change.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explain the meaning of climate change in the medium and long term and give reasons for the involvement in curbing climate change. <input type="checkbox"/> Analyze the main challenges and opportunities for action from different areas of sustainability, presented initiatives in key sectors. <input type="checkbox"/> Present the international political and legal framework on climate change and explain the key issues under negotiation. |
| <p>III Summer Course 2030 Agenda. 'Feed people or feed money? Food Challenges: Agroecology, Urban</p> | <p><i>ODS12. Responsible production and consumption.</i></p> <p>Transversal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>ODS2. Zero hunger</i> - <i>ODS8. Decent work and economic growth</i> - <i>ODS15. Life of terrestrial ecosystems</i> |

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| <p>Agriculture and Food Sovereignty'</p> <p>October 4-5, 2018</p> | <p>Main objective: to promote, coordinate and facilitate research, teaching, advice and dissemination of all aspects related to Ecological Agriculture, Agroecology and sustainable rural development.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <p>Present different proposals and currents of thought on agroecology in different contexts.</p> <p>Raising awareness of the importance of responsible consumption.</p> <p>Promote a space for discussion on aspects related to Organic Agriculture and Food Sovereignty</p> <p>Stimulate the development of proposals to contribute from the local to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> |
| <p>II Summer Course 2030 Agenda. Year 2017 international year of Sustainable Tourism: an opportunity for local development.</p> <p>Course: June 29 and 30, 2017</p> <p>Online workshop: September 4-29, 2017</p> | <p><i>SDG8: decent work and economic growth</i></p> <p>Transversal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>S/ODS 11. Sustainable cities and communities.</i> - <i>S/ODS 14. Underwater life.</i> - <i>S/ODS 15. Life of terrestrial ecosystems.</i> - <i>S/ODS 17. Alliances to achieve the objectives.</i> <p>Main objective: to know, reflect and highlight the importance of sustainable tourism development through the projects, guidelines and programs they are carrying out in different organizations involved.</p> |
| <p>I Summer Course 2030 Agenda' Yes, you can! 2030 Development Agenda: Joint Actions for Complex Challenges'</p> <p>September 5 and 6, 2016</p> | <p>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Main objective: to present the new international context defined by the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the fundamental framework for action to combat poverty, inequality and for the sustainability of the planet over the next 15 years.</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of the 2030 Agenda in the university context. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote workspaces for the elaboration of proposals in teaching, between professionals and students. |

4. RESULTS

The results of the summer courses program can be evaluated according to four axes: culture, curriculum, community and campus.

Culture: these summer courses began before the UR Sustainability Policy was jointly defined by different academic representatives. UR SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE is the body responsible for promoting the definition of the UR's sustainability policy and favoring the transition on campus. The table 5 collects the UR`s policy:

Table 5. UR Sustainability Policy

UR joins the commitment to contribute to Sustainable Development and assumes the commitment to apply sustainability criteria through training, research, knowledge transfer and management.

In this sense, our intentions are the following:

1. Promote and develop lines of research that generate scientific knowledge and technological applications that facilitate social change in aspects of sustainability.
2. Adopt measures that guarantee a responsible use of resources, energy and water. Establish responsible purchasing and consumption criteria, as well as reuse, repair and recycling criteria in university management.
3. Promote an energy transition on campus towards a sustainable model through a progressive adaptation of infrastructures implementing environmental criteria in management, rehabilitation, construction and mobility.
4. Carry out an environmental impact assessment of the University and promote initiatives to reduce it.

And our commitments are the following:

1. Educate in responsibility, providing training and awareness in environmental, ethical and social development programs.
2. Promote the transfer of scientific and technical knowledge through actions that reverse the activity of the University in society.
3. Strengthen alliances with public research organizations, companies and public administrations in order to develop environmental projects.
4. Promote university cooperation for development.

Source: <https://www.unirioja.es/servicios/os/politica.shtml>

Campus: as indicated, the summer courses are open to the entire university community in a period between the months of June to October. The campus receives impacts through different means on the SDGs.

Community: The Summer Courses are open to the entire university community and also to all people from outside the University who want to participate in them. To achieve this result, each edition of the Summer Courses has an extensive communication plan that begins with a press conference, publicity in the media and direct communication via email to the entire university community (students, administration and service personnel and teachers). This important effort to publicize the Summer Courses makes it possible to reach the entire community and give a boost to the SDGs. In fact, at the press conferences, either the rector or people from his team may be present, achieving an effect on the university management. In addition to the general plan for the set of courses in each edition, a specific plan is organized for each course, focusing on its most specific target audience. Specifically, our course has (i) a profile on Facebook (desarrollososteniblelarioja) that currently has 351 followers, (ii) an opinion platform in the newspaper La Rioja (140,000 readers) that is used every year to spread the content to all the region and (iii) from the Congdcar and UR Sustainability Office web pages.

Curriculum: in the case of students, this summer course can be validated for ECT credits. This is an incentive to participate in the program.

Finally, and as indicated, one of the most important results is that in the 2019/20 academic year, the 2030 Agenda was incorporated as a priority line in the call for Summer Courses.

| SUBJET | FORMAT | TARGET | TIME | ATTEN-DEES | CORRECTIVE ACTIONS |
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| AGENDA 2030 | Conferences | UR students University teachers NGDO, NGO and their social bases Officials and technicians of the regional and local public administration Entrepreneurs and CSR managers | 10 h. | 19 | There was little registration so it was decided to record the sessions of the speakers to be able to use it as didactic material later. Built-in enhancement: develop materials for later use |
| Design project proposals that incorporate the SDGs. | TFG design workshop (final degree projects) | Students (15) | 15 h. | N.p. | The CV workshop could not be held due to a lack of attendees, but an awareness campaign was carried out in the UR classrooms with CONGD CAR (design phase). |
| | Teaching innovation project design workshop | University teachers (15) | 15 h. | N.p. | The CdV workshop could not be held due to lack of attendees, but it was presented to the UR training manager and was integrated into the teacher training plan. It was also developed as a proposal for online training for the G9 group of Universities. |
| | Indicators workshop for project monitoring | Administration technicians, NGDOs and CSR managers | 15 h. | N.p. | The CV workshop could not be held due to lack of attendees but a training session was held at the ERAP (10/21/2016) |
| Sustainable tourism | Conferences and visit to a winery with a sustainable tourism project | Technicians of the tourism sector and Students of the Degree in Tourism | 10 h. | 13 | There was very low participation from Students. Possible reason for the course scheduling dates (the June-July exam period). Weak point: bad timing settings. Need to study the calendar to favor the attendance of the participants The experience of the winery served to bring the participants closer together Built-in improvement: incorporating a social activity to promote relationships between participants |
| | On-line workshop Sustainable tourism, accessible tourism: customer service with special needs | | 4 weeks | | |
| Organic farming and food sovereignty | Conferences and tasting of organic products | People participating in environmental associations, foundations and collectives, of development cooperation, alternative consumer groups and cooperatives | 10 h. | 18 | It was done in an open format so that people could freely attend, only if you wanted a certificate of participation in the course was registration |

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| | | <p>rural.</p> <p>- University students of Social Work, Business Administration, Winemaking, Agriculture and the general public interested in organic farming.</p> | | | <p>necessary. There was much more participation during some sessions, the room filling up.</p> <p>Built-in enhancement: whenever possible to give access to the entire public</p> |
| Climate change | Conferences, round tables and video forum. | <p>Students, professionals and researchers linked to the issue of climate change in public administration, companies, civil society organizations, among others, and in general citizens interested in the study of climate change, its impacts and the public policies necessary to face it.</p> | 12,5 h | 49 | <p>Point to improve: There was a suggestion to improve the communication and dissemination of the course materials. Creation of activities with the media to promote the diffusion of the program for a week.</p> <p>Built-in improvement: seek partners among Riojan society to create a broader proposal.</p> |
| Sustainable cities | Conferences, round tables. Online format. | <p>Students, professionals and researchers linked to urban planning and urban management in public administration, companies, civil society organizations, among others, and in general to citizens interested in making cities more just, resilient and sustainable.</p> | 10 h | 172 | <p>Online format</p> <p>Improvement to be incorporated: maintain the online format to favor the dissemination of knowledge.</p> |