



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Activity Report submitted on the 28th of April 2023 for SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, within the IAU HESD Cluster

Lead: University of Gothenburg, [Sweden](#)

<https://www.gu.se/en/about-the-university/collaborate-with-us/networks-and-partner-universities/sdg-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth>

Satellites:

- Makerere University, Uganda
- Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- University of Nigeria, Nigeria
- University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- University of Concepción, Chile
- Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
- University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

The strategic goal of the SDG 8 Initiative

The SDG 8 Initiative involves the University of Gothenburg together with eight satellite universities in the Global South. The strategic goal of the initiative is to engage and support a global community, with the starting point in academia, to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all. This is done by applied action research and policy interaction that focus on solutions to growth and work-related challenges through collaboration among researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners in local and global contexts. The work is coordinated by a small secretariat at the University of Gothenburg. Two working groups are formed – one consisting of committed researchers at the University of Gothenburg and one consisting of the focal points at the satellite universities.

Achievements summer 2022 – spring 2023

A few activities have been carried out since our last report. These include a conference, the preparations of a book and an organizational shift regarding the SDG 8 Initiative at the University of Gothenburg.

- ⇒ *The 2022 Gothenburg International Research Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 8* took place on 25-26th of August. International and Swedish researchers gathered to discuss SDG 8; to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, employment and decent work for all. During the conference, many different sessions, including presentations, workshops and round table discussions were held involving approximately 30 speakers. The conference was organized as a hybrid event.
- ⇒ The process of compiling a book with one chapter for each of the SDG 8 targets has been under progress for a few years already. It is now cleared for publication by Routledge, and we are aiming to have it launched at a large international conference a year from now. International and Swedish researchers are involved in writing the chapters.
- ⇒ One big change since last summer is that the SDG 8 Initiative has shifted organizationally within the University of Gothenburg. Since the University of Gothenburg became lead for the SDG Cluster in 2019, the initiative has had its main coordination at the *Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development (GMV)*, but since January 2023 the coordination of the initiative is moved to the unit *Environment for Development (EfD)* at the School of Business, Economics and Law (which is a faculty at the university). The shift is partly motivated by the fact that there is a large overlap between the EfD partners and the SDG 8 satellite universities, and the potential synergies can hence be better utilized when the coordination is combined. As part of this transfer process, the university has also decided to fund the initiative with a yearly contribution of 700 000 SEK. Part of this new funding is currently covering a 50% position for a Project Coordinator for the initiative (starting from middle of April 2023).