



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

SDG 8 INITIATIVE

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

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Strategic goal and implementation of the SDG 8 Initiative

The strategic goal of the SDG 8 Initiative is to engage and support a global community of researchers and practitioners. This is done by applied action research and policy interaction that focus on solutions to growth and work related challenges in local and global contexts. The implementation of the SDG 8 Initiative relies on efficiency by utilizing existing structures and capacity at the University of Gothenburg and the satellite universities¹. 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 point persons at the satellite universities.

The implementation strategy is divided into three phases:

- (i) **Synthesising research in support of the implementation of the SDG 8 targets.** To identify how to apply scholarly work to the SDG 8 discourse, we are initiating systematic literature reviews on SDG 8 themes. SDG 8 spans a wide range of issues, related to economic growth, resource efficiency, working conditions, youth employment and even tourism. To facilitate analysis the twelve SDG 8 targets have been bundled and will be prioritised by the writing teams. Gothenburg University Library supports the systematic reviews.
- (ii) **Critically scrutinise the goal, targets and indicators of SDG 8 in order to reveal inherent biases, contradictions and links to other SDGs.** In line with the holistic approach of the IAU HESD cluster, it is important that the writing teams include a critical analysis of synergies and contradictions between SDG 8 and other SDGs. We expect the magic of academic interaction will come to play with discussions on drafts of the papers in seminars both within each university and between universities to ensure a rich dialogue with multiple perspectives reflected.
- (iii) **Engaging researchers and policy makers in dialogue and following-up on selected indicators for inclusion in Voluntary National Reviews to the UN High Level Political Forum.** The finalised discussion papers will be used for policy dialogues by the University of Gothenburg and each of the satellite universities to discuss the contribution that research can have on the implementation of SDG 8 in each country. Particular focus will be given to discussions regarding the proposed indicators. Are they relevant, credible and actually used? This will enable each participating university to contribute to their own government's Voluntary National Reviews at the UN High Level Political Forums (HLPF) in New York and possibly also a separate side event.

Achievements May 2019 – April 2020

A number of activities have already been carried out, including external meetings, mapping of research, and consultations in the political 2030 agenda at national and international levels. Some examples:

- SDG consultation at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs ahead of HLPF (May 2019)
- Mapping of research at the University of Gothenburg and the Satellites (Jun 2019)
- Launch of the report [A Global Goal: Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent work for all. Selection of Research, Education and Research to Policy Initiatives](#) (Jul 2019)
- Participation at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), NY (Jul 2019)
- Kick off of collaborations within the University of Gothenburg (Nov 2019)
- First SDG 8 workshop, including breakout sessions covering economic growth, innovation and resource efficiency, and work conditions, involving researchers from University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University of Technology and Karolinska Institutet (Dec 2019)
- First meeting of the Satellite working group in Gothenburg, resulting in a road map (Jan 2020)

¹ Makerere University, (Uganda), Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), University of Nigeria (Nigeria), University of Concepción (Chile), Universidad de los Andes (Colombia), University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), University of Nairobi (Kenya)