

Call for proposals

Linking the United Nations Global Goals to accelerate progress

Introduction

The Scottish Universities Insight Institute¹ (SUII) is a joint venture of seven Higher Education Institutions. SUII projects aim to stimulate in-depth knowledge exchange through workshops, seminars, and other activities over a period of around six months. SUII provides both financial and logistical support for events.

This is the second call related to accelerating progress towards the UN's Global Goals - this call focuses on making linkages between the goals to increase the effectiveness of policy and practice in contributing to achieving the goals.

The call

The United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals were supported by 193 signatories at the General Assembly of the UN in September 2015. They form part of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development². The goals are aimed at *"mobilizing efforts to end all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities and tackling climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind"*³ They are summarised as being all about *"people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership"*.



Scotland was one of the first countries to commit to the goals in 2015 and they are incorporated into the National Performance Framework⁴. *"The UN Global Goals offer a vision of the world that I believe people in Scotland share. The national and international dimensions to poverty and inequality are interlinked. Scotland cannot act with credibility overseas, if we are blind to inequality here at home."*

¹ <https://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/>

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

⁴ <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

And our ambitions for a fairer Scotland are undermined, without global action to tackle poverty, promote prosperity and to tackle climate change." - First Minister Nicola Sturgeon - November 2015

This call for proposals seeks applications for projects that will accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda in Scotland and the wider world by considering the linkages between the goals. The importance of the interactions between goals was emphasised in *'The Future is Now'* - the UN's Global Sustainable Report for 2019 published at the end of last year:

"Advancing the 2030 Agenda must involve an urgent and intentional transformation of socio-environmental-economic systems ...Achieving that transformation... means carefully taking into account the interactions between Goals"

The report assessed the current knowledge about the interactions between goals (see section 1.1.3) looking at both synergies and trade-offs (summarised in the chart below) and observed that "these systemic interactions offer already identified and sometimes unexpected solutions for seemingly insurmountable problems". The report acknowledges that in some areas understanding of possible interactions is limited.



The report also emphasised the importance of the type of collaboration that SUII is seeking to support:

“The success of the 2030 Agenda depends on the cooperation of governments, institutions, agencies, the private sector and civil society across different sectors, locations, borders and levels.”

Proposals are sought for projects involving a range of stakeholders that will consider how best to take advantage of potential synergies between the Global Goals while addressing possible trade-offs.

Applications

Applications are invited from teams whose composition reflects the multi-discipline and multi-sector remit of the Institute. Applicants must include members from at least two SUII partner universities. Programme teams should include academics and policy makers and practitioners, ideally some non-academic partners should be involved in the development phase of a proposal to help ensure it is demand led. SUII programmes also offer the opportunity to draw on international expertise.

Timetable

Expressions of interest are requested by 24 April, with full applications by 22 May. Applications will be considered by the Governing Board in June, with applicants being notified of the outcome by early July 2020.