MaRBLe Project Template

Title: The Role of the University in reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in a European-Global context

Supervisor(s): Dr. Serdar Türkeli

Email address: turkeli@merit.unu.edu

Faculty: School of Business and Economics

Department: UNU-MERIT

Number of students that can enrol: 8

Prerequisites:

This is an interdisciplinary project. Students should have taken at least <u>two</u> of the following:
SCI1016 Sustainable development: An introduction; *or*
SSC1006 International relations: Themes and theories; *or*
SSC2043 Development economics; *or*
SSC2046 Globalization and inequality; *or*
SSC3011 Public policy evaluation; *or*
SSC3016 Sustainability assessment: Tools and methods; *or*
SSC3030 European institution; *or*
HUM2046 Living in a technological culture; *or*
HUM3049 Science, power and the construction of facts
There is no additional selection procedure for this interdisciplinary project.

Project description:

The academic context of this research project relies on the theories of innovation (socio-technical change) and the theories of policy-making and change, policy analysis and governance. Social context of the research project is Europe (European Grand Societal Challenges) with an outward orientation towards the globe (UN SDGs).

The main question is "How to assess and introduce reforms in university activities with respect to production, dissemination and use of technological and social innovations for reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in a European-Global context?"

*Sub-question #1: "To what extent have universities played an important role in sustainability of innovation systems according to the contemporary innovation literature?" (theories of innovation, triple helix, social innovation, quantitative or qualitative methods)

*Sub-question #2: "To what extent and how can we assess university activities with respect to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in a European Global context?" (theories of innovation, triple helix, open innovation;social innovation, styles of policy analysis; quantitative or qualitative methods)

*Sub-question #3: "Under what conditions can reforms in university activities and governance be realized to better contribute into the UN SDGs in a European Context?" (theories of governance; theories of policy change and policy analysis, transformative social innovation, qualitative methods (survey, Q-method))

<u>Indicative literature:</u>

> UN (2015). Transforming our world, Retrieved from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication

> European Commission (2014). Grand Societal Challenges, Retrieved from: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/societal-challenges

> European Commission (2016). Key European action supporting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, Retrieved from: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-key-european-actions-2030-agenda-sdgs-390-20161122_en.pdf

> European Commission (2014). The international dimension of research and innovation cooperation addressing the grand challenges in the global context Retrieved from: http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/expert-groups/eriab_final_policy_brief_international_R&I_cooperation.pdf

> NWO (2017). NWO-WOTRO aims at Sustainable Development Goals, Retrieved from: https://www.nwo.nl/en/about-nwo/organisation/wotro/wotro+and+the+sdgs

> Etzkowitz, Henry, and Loet Leydesdorff (2000) "The dynamics of innovation: from National Systems and "Mode 2" to a Triple Helix of university–industry–government relations." Research Policy 29(2): 109-123.

> Schmidt-Traub, Guido, Christian Kroll, Katerina Teksoz, David Durand-Delacre, and Jeffrey D. Sachs. (2017) "National baselines for the Sustainable Development Goals assessed in the SDG Index and Dashboards." Nature - Geoscience 10(8): 547-555.

> Checkel, Jeffrey T. (2005) "International institutions and socialization in Europe: Introduction and framework." International Organization 59(4): 801-826.

> Kemp, R., Strasser, T., Davidson, R., Avelino, F., Pel, B., Dumitru, A., Kunze, I., Backhaus, J., O'Riordan, T., Haxeltine, A. and Weaver, P. (2016). The humanization of the economy through social innovation. Paper presented at SPRU50, Brighton, United Kingdom.

> Serdar Türkeli, Pui-Hang Wong, Eleni Abraham Yitbarek (forthcoming.) Multiplex learning: An evidence-based approach to design policy learning networks in Sub-Saharan Africa for SDGs, World University Network Africa and SDGs, Springer, 2018

Tasks and expectations in the project:

This research project has several objectives:
- to explore the potential roles of universities in engaging into technological and social innovation to contribute into UN Sustainable Development Goals locally and/or globally.
- to design a framework to evaluate the societal impacts of university activities (research, education and outreach) in reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs);
- to perform the assessment (can be quantitative and/or qualitative); and
- to propose ways to encourage European universities to innovate in higher education structures and processes.

Students should expect to learn about United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which will be in effect until the year 2030, they can expect to learn the role of knowledge, technological and social innovation in tackling with societal challenges and how to create societal impact. They can expect to learn different types of policy analysis.

Supervisor's expectations is initially the awareness on interdisciplinary nature of this research project, and motivation, determination to bring about a high quality final report. Students are expected to be open-minded and output-oriented. They should also be good team players and willing to take initiative. The final form of the project output will depend on the number of students and their interests and expertise. Final report can be complemented with a video if students would prefer to do so.

About the department:

What is the departmental context for this project? Would you prefer/expect students to work on location?

UNU-MERIT and MGSoG work towards achievement of UN SDGs through research, education and societal interactions on innovation, governance, institutions, and development, as well as on science, technology and innovation policies. There will be no field work outside of Maastricht. Supervisor has an office in UNU-MERIT building, Boschstraat No: 24. No: 1.06 Meetings can be held in these offices, or at any other location that students offer.

Assessment:

How will students be assessed in this project? At UCM, students will have to present their research plan in the form of a poster (ungraded), and in a presentation at the end (20% of the final grade). The supervisor determines the remaining 80% of the grade based on an assessment that fits the students' responsibilities in the project. This can be a single paper, or a series of alternative assessments.

The groups (at most 2 people) of students will present their research plan (ungraded) and their results in a presentation at the end (20% of the final grade). There will be a single paper/report written by each group, and if eligible, they will be published in UNU-MERIT Sustainable Development Research Lab http://sdrlab.merit.unu.edu , Final report can be complemented with a video if students would prefer to do so.

Link to established and on-going research in the field of the supervisor(s):

The supervisor Dr. Serdar Türkeli is a researcher at UNU-MERIT. Serdar coordinates Innovation, Institutions & Development specialisation track of the Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development Programme. He works on the projects "European Global Transition Network on Eco-Innovation, Green Economy and Sustainable Development" and Sino-European Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy. His research interests include sustainable development, innovation and societal transitions. He teaches Master's level Science, Technology and Innovation Policy course. MaRBLe students are expected to come up with a new framework, analytical categorical assessment schemes, quantitative or qualitative indicators and policy recommendations relating to international knowledge co-creation, distribution, use; international cooperation, integration, and societal well-being: and the critical role of technological and social innovation in these critical processes.