



**UNIVERSITIES
SOUTH AFRICA**

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION
SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (HESCoP)**

LOCALISATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Universities and related HEIs are lagging behind in localising SDGs. There is a need for identification of champions within and across disciplines, to raise awareness and draw attention to the importance of localising SDGs.

Functions of the Subcommittee

- Re-orientating universities' strategy to speak to SDGs. This will mean disrupting the university's mode of operation by reviewing all strategic documents, starting with the vision and mission, and subsequent policies. The champions will inform the university structures, starting with the COUNCIL. Financial resources will be needed.
- Work with champions who will have to indicate the costs of not localising SDGs (refer to Objective 4.2.4 of TORs for HESCoP).
- See to it that the localisation extend beyond HEIs, to include varsity colleges, research institutions and others, in an effort to grow the community of practice.
- Find ways of reinforcing the implementation. An example is the UNISA Academy and UP SDGs hub.
- Assist in identifying priority areas in research, teaching and CE.
- See to it that university reporting is not generic and traditional annual, but to include how it is localising sustainability.
- Extend actioning the SDGs to industries through university key stakeholders.
- Go for low-hanging fruits to localise, e.g., identify pockets of initiatives that drive sustainability, and pull them together for a greater impact when the buy-in from top management is required.
- See to it that Setas and FETs and Government are engaged to account for impact.
- Monitor and evaluate to measure impact. This can be done by dedicating a day to the SDGs in the university calendar and having an INDABA every 3 years to take stock of the progress made. (UNISA held its first INDABA on 19 November 2019) At the INDABA, those institutions that have made progress were acknowledged.
- Branding can be adopted by all the institutions that are on board, to indicate commitment to localising the SDGs.

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