SUPSI

Sustainability Charter

Approved by the SUPSI Board on 23 April 2020
Version 0, 23 April 2020
Introduction

Article 73, of the Swiss Constitution recalls the obligation of the Confederation and the cantons to work towards a lasting balance between nature, its capacity for renewal and its use by man. This is a reference to the principles of sustainable development, understood as the need to ensure a long-term balance between the ecological, social and economic dimensions. A balance that cannot be separated from a critical examination and rethinking of the multiple aspects related to human activities on a local and global scale, such as production, consumption, energy, transport, food, construction, trade and equity, the labour market, social relations, etc.

Today, humanity is called upon to face major global challenges, summarised in the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All the parties involved in the educational systems and, in particular, the university institutions, have a key role in promoting the achievement of Objective 4 «Quality education» and, through their action, can also contribute to the achievement of the other Objectives. This is an opportunity, in relation to their role as educators of the future generations and their commitment to applied research, but also an act of responsibility towards the community and their regional stakeholders.

Committments

We are committed to promoting the principles of sustainability (environmental, social, economic and cultural) in our mandates for degree courses, continuing education, applied research and knowledge transfer to regional institutions and operators in the area, actively collaborating with them. In addition, in our strategic and operational choices we strive to ensure that SUPSI’s management is oriented towards the principles of social responsibility, with particular attention to aspects of transparent governance, equal opportunities, human resources, community relations, the environment and economic-financial resources. We want to assume a role of example, stimulus and guidance for regional public and private institutions and promote a shared culture of sustainability.

Approach

In the implementation of our guiding principles of collaboration, accountability and integrity, we actively involve the members of the university community: lecturers, students, researchers, and collaborators. We also interact with parties within the area promoting opportunities for meetings and experimentation to co-design and test innovative means, processes, methodologies and practices in favour of sustainability.

We integrate the principles of sustainable development within the Quality Assurance System, ensuring a correlation with the key processes related to the management of SUPSI, and setting specific objectives and tangible measures to be monitored over time. We profile ourselves as an inclusive institution, which encourages freedom in research and education and stimulates critical, creative, holistic, systemic, ethical and pragmatic thinking as an indispensable basis for confronting sustainability objectives. To support the socio-political debate on sustainability, we pursue collaboration with institutions and organisations at local, national and international level (public administrations, businesses, civil society organisations, university networks).

Implementation

To guide our work, we anchor the principles, objectives and actions in all dimensions of sustainability to our four-year Strategy and all key processes in our Quality Assurance System (QAS), in the five areas of institutional accreditation: Quality Assurance Strategy, Governance, Teaching research and services, Resources, Internal and External Communication.

Every two years (for the first time in 2021) we develop a systematic and transparent analysis of the state of affairs, summarised in a "Sustainability Report" with a structured system of indicators to monitor our sustainable development over time. We use the Sustainability Report as a strategic tool to improve our actions in the area of sustainability and to engage with interested parties.

The SUPSI Directorship assigns the task of drawing up the Sustainability Report to an internal interdepartmental working group made up of the General Director and employees who are experts in the various areas of sustainability.

Validity of this agreement

The Sustainability Charter was approved by the SUPSI Board on 23 April 2020, and will be valid as from 23 April 2020.

Manno, 23 April 2020

The President of the Board, Alberto Petruzzella

The Director General, Franco Gervasoni

1 In the case of conflicting meanings between language versions, the Italian version prevails.