

Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals and Entrepreneurship Education

Findings from the group work

Group one: SDG 14, Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The goals and targets presented here under the SDG No 14 are not to be used for the work with students since they could present an obstacle to the creativity and generation of ideas. Staying only with one goal is limiting, students should be offered in a group work all 17 goals and asked to choose which one they like the most – without referring them to targets and indicators. This is because targets and indicators should be discussed with an expert who can explain what these actually mean. Of course it is dependent on what kind of students we have, but tools such as SDG tracker can be useful in entrepreneurship education. SDGs should be part of entrepreneurship education at any level.

Group two: SDG 7, Affordable and clean energy

Goals are open to the creativity and inspiration while the targets should not be used as a starting point. The integration of SDGs into the entrepreneurship education will depend on the context or type of education. There are multiple ways of integrating them, in a technical way, in a business model generation way, in a social entrepreneurship way. A very good reason for studying goals is their value in promoting a reflective thinking. Being critical to what already exists is very important and the goals provide a good basis for doing that.

Group three: SDG 13, Climate action

One target of this goal proved to be particularly relevant- the one about education and awareness raising when it comes to the climate change. This is the opportunity to question a linear way of business models and talk more about circular economy. As educators we have the responsibility and possibility to discuss circularity and arrange collaboration between disciplines so as to understand climate from different perspectives. This is also important for promoting collaboration between students from different background.

Group four: SDG 11, Sustainable cities and communities

As educators it is not our role to pick the relevant goals or targets, rather it is the students who should pick the ones of their interest and then we can assist in working with them. What is the negative side to the SDGs? It is that you can use them as a motivators but some of the students may feel that they are actually saving the world although they are not.

Group five: SDG 9, Industrial innovation and infrastructure

This goal can be used as an eye opener at least here in the west, because this is something we thought very much we are moving away from, that is industrialization. But in the west we are moving towards the services based economy while the third world countries need industrialization. The goals should be part of university education, however since entrepreneurship has this action oriented side, which fits very well with the goals.