

Sustainability indicators in the educational and research context, by Cortés-Cardona, Adriana Carolina and Ferrer-Balas, Didac

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ABSTRACT

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS IN THE EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH CONTEXT

As UNESCO indicates "The Decade of the United Nations for the education with a view to the sustainable development tries to promote the education as foundation of a more viable society for the humanity and to integrate the sustainable development in the system of school education to all the levels " (Vilches, Gil Perez, Toscano, Macías, 2008). In essence it proposes to stimulate a solidarity education that contributes to a correct perception of the world state, generate attitudes and responsible behaviors and prepare for the decision making (Aikenhead 1985) towards the achievement of a cultural plural and physically sustainable development ((Delors, (1996), Cortina, A. (1998), Vilches, Gil Pérez, Toscano, Macías, (2008)).

This way the UPC has developed in its new study plan of studies, a system of generic competitions solved by levels:

1. Entrepreneur and Innovation
2. Sustainability and Social Understanding
3. Third Language
4. Efficient oral and writing communication
5. Team work
6. Solvent use of the resources of information
7. Autonomous learning

With this, as a base of investigation, a group of indicators where developed under the EMAS Project umbrella; that would give the university a system to assess the educational processes that promote the competition in SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT.

Nevertheless, as sustainability is not based on a linear definition, but on the comprehension of the interconnections between the different aspects that it concerns, the indicators needed to give answer from different dimensions.

That is to say, it where developed a range of indicators that concerned the different degrees of conscience and knowledge that can be acquired during an educational process.

Conceptual knowledge

Personal values

Attitudes
Behaviors
Coherence

The same way; there were considered the different activities or educational processes developed in the school.

Subjects
Research Processes
Cooperation for development or transfer of technology processes.

Having the previous in account there were developed 5 different indicators which evaluates different scopes of the education for the sustainability from the school.

Types of Indicators

- 1.Sustainability Credits Implication
- 2.Sustainability Students Internalizing
- 3.Professional Activity
- 4.Sustainability Investigation Implication
- 5.Sustainability Promotion and Diffusion Activities

The development of this Project has been framed under the rules of the utility, practicality, extension possibilities and continuity at the university. Also it has taken into account the different methodologies for obtaining the data needed for the indicators.

Until now the results are being of satisfaction because of the easy-way of use in the different campus of the university and schools but also by the easy way of interpretation and understanding.