OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES

Guide for including the SDGs in the studies and research

For Bachelor's and Master's Students at HAW

1. Importance of the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was adopted by all UN Members States in 2015 aims to establish a common language between countries, institutions, disciplines, and different communities (e.g. scientific, business, decision-makers, and larger public) regarding the world's critical sustainability issues. In this light, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) not only help identify and communicate the world's most emerging problems but also facilitate monitoring and comparison of the achievements towards their solution. universities have a critical role to play in the achievement of the SDGs.

2. How to include SDGs in your thesis

Seeing the importance of reaching the goals of the Agenda 2030, implementing sustainability topic(s) into your research is a good way to work with state-of-the-art issues. Here are a few suggestions, of how you can include the SDGs into your work:

- Choosing research Questions that relate to one or more SDGs;
- Aligning your research related to sustainability issues with the corresponding SDGs (17 Goals, 161 Targets 230+ Indicators);
- Using the SDGs as a theoretical framework for your research;
- Including – e.g. at the end of your thesis - a paragraph of self-evaluation describing how your thesis is related to the SDGs and how the research contributes to the advancement of the SDGs;
- Indicating the practical implications and contributions of your thesis to sustainability challenges / reaching the Agenda 2030;
- Providing ideas for policy-making related to the 2030 Agenda;
- Discussing the social/ecological/economic implications of your thesis (touching the different dimensions of the SDGs); and how it impacts society in visible or useful ways.

3. Scientific and career benefits of using SDGs in your studies

Apart from addressing pressing issues our world and society are facing with your thesis, including the SDGs can also have positive effects on your future career, e.g.:

- Contributing to the awareness-raising and promotion of the SDGs (every contribution is valid for reaching the global objectives for sustainability);
- Contributing to the world's scientific research on the SDGs. There is a crucial need for the scientific community to focus on the SDGs as, to date, only 10% of global research output relates directly to the SDGs;
- Connecting to the large network of scholars and practitioners worldwide that contribute to reaching the goals of the Agenda 2030 with its 17 SDGs;
- Presenting your results and participating in numerous activities, events, and conferences that promote SDGs, such as the "SDGs Global Festival of Action" that is organized every year in Germany, etc;
- More and more companies see the benefits of implementing sustainable measures and need graduates with expertise in the field. They also may offer interesting careers, such as corporate sustainability management.

4. Free courses, resources, and Useful links:

- Digital toolbox "The digital introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into Higher Education Teaching" hosted by HAW Hamburg, offers open educational resources (OERs) to implement 17 SDGs into their Bachelor and post-graduate courses: https://dl4sd.org/course/view.php?id=4
- SDG Academy: https://sdgacademy.org/
- The Sustainable Development Agenda: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/
- Turning Point Dialogues - ACT4SDGs: https://act4sdgs.org/sdg-action-talks/
- SDG Impact Assessment Tool: https://sdgimpactassessmenttool.org/en-gb
- SDG Global Festival of Action: https://globalfestivalofaction.org/
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda