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AMEND

CONTINUE

Submission ID

238

Title (required)

Connecting people and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation: The case of the Portuguese Sustainable Campus Network (RCS)

Abstract (required)

Networks are an important mechanism for systemic change towards sustainability in higher education institutions (HEIs). In Portugal, there is no formal law or regulation at the governmental level pressuring for this change. Also, due to the lack of collaboration among the Portuguese higher education community, there was a need for action that would allow and strengthen an advanced sustainability implementation in higher education institutions. This work presents the activities that the Portuguese Network Sustainable Campus - Rede Campus Sustentável (RCS) has been undertaking, following a descriptive-reflective approach over the past 4 years of the network's existence. The history and organisation of the network are presented as well as a summary of its main initiatives, namely the results of the first national-wide survey report on the Implementation of Sustainability in Higher Education in Portugal, which was initiated and carried out by RCS and where the current practices in the



By sharing the experience of the Portuguese Sustainable Campus Network (RCS), this contribution aims to inspire and be useful for possible replications in other regions and contexts. RCS has started to fill in the gap for the lack of a platform that connects Portuguese HEIs in pursuit of advancing sustainability. Started as a network of people and currently with over 280 members, RCS is preparing its future lines of action by fostering and enhancing institutional cooperation. At the same time, the network continues to share and create knowledge in the ten working groups and annual conferences, with increasing visibility and impact. Having carried out manyfold initiatives, being the survey report on the implementation of sustainability in Portuguese HEIs one of the most significant joint efforts of the network so far, RCS is committed to continuing to strengthen HEI's role in sustainability transformation and striving for a liveable future for all.

While RCS addresses all SDGs in its diverse activities, this work relates in particular to SDG 4 - Target 4.7, SDG 13 - Target 13.3, and SDG 16 - Target 16.6, and highlights the importance of the 5P's (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) for strong inter-institutional collaboration and cooperation in the higher education sector. By fostering the 5P's through the network, they are becoming inherent to the different levels of actions, from teaching to operations and policy-making.

Track (required)

Track 9b Collaboration and co-creation for sustainability, SDGs initiatives and scale of governance

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