

The Bergen Conference for the Universities in Norway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8-9th of February 2018:

*“Knowledge for Our Common Future
- Norwegian Universities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”*

A call for Workshop Proposals:

The SDGs agreed on by UN member states (September 2015) represents a turning-point in global politics as well as for how nation-states interact.

Their universal character commits every country to the 17 goals, but also makes development in all countries a common responsibility. This is a beginning of a new global regime focusing social, environment and economic developments in interaction.

For the universities, the SDGs represents both a challenge and an opportunity

The challenge is threefold: Produce relevant research based knowledge, transform teaching and curriculum, and mediate to society knowledge relevant for the understanding and implementation of the SDGs.

We have an opportunity to make universities a relevant actor for the solutions to the global challenges. The SDGs can only be fully addressed through multi- and cross-disciplinary approaches.

The goals ask for a combination of disciplines and expert work across academic tribes and territories to better understand how human societies and nature must co-exist in the future.

And it is *both* an ethical opportunity and an ethical challenge to university academics to take responsibility for how research based knowledge is used and what consequences this use has for the social and environmental goals.

Altogether, and as argued by the UN, when the goals were agreed on; they can only be achieved if knowledge and politics work together in novel ways. And the conference has been planned as a cooperation between the university sector and central actors of public administration, together inviting us all into this new debate about how the SDGs challenge relations between knowledge and politics. This will also be an important topic for the plenary sessions.

The structure of the conference and your contribution

The conference committee invites the whole academic sector of Norway to propose workshops. This can be done by individual researcher, by different units, or by a university or university college wishing to profile its priorities.

The workshops should create *cross-disciplinary dialogue*, try to link “the local and the global”, preferably link academics at several universities and university colleges, focus on a combination and clusters of goals, or how one of the goals you focus on link with others, as is often exemplified by reference to energy or water or poverty.

The Conference is planned to have 4 plenary sessions with 2 speakers at each. Proposals for plenary speakers are welcomed. The number of workshop sessions will be decided on by the committee in interaction with its resource persons after having received proposals.

In your workshop proposal, please include the following information at the top of the page:

- Name
- Institutional Affiliation
- 3-4 keywords describing the workshop session

The plenary sessions will be held in English, however the workshop sessions might be held in Norwegian. Each workshop is allotted a time of 90 minutes.

We do hope you find this of interest and will send your proposal of topic by **October 6th**. Proposals of no more than 1 page, with abstract can be sent to our coordinating assistant Anja Myrtveit on anja.myrtveit@student.uib.no.

This conference is a joint effort among Norwegian universities, and we therefore expect that universities or units of universities that takes responsibility of a workshop, also carries the costs of invited speakers. The conference fee will be 1000,- NOK.

The committee will then in close cooperation with its resource person in public administration and other universities report back on choice of topics, combinations of suggestion and delegation of responsibilities for the different workshops.

An announcement of the proposals accepted will be made shortly after we have received the abstract, but no later than November 1st, 2017.

Regards

on behalf of the organising committee,

Tor Halvorsen
Chair of the Committee of the SDG conference



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