Research Impact*:
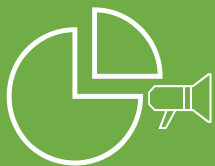## How universities implement it

Impact is defined by SDG: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

- University research is one of the few sectors that can support, promote, and contribute to achieving all of the 17 SDGs. To accomplish that, researchers need to collaborate with other researchers of different disciplines on SDG perspective discoveries.

- Despite the inclusion of impact goals in funding criteria and the advent of THE Impact Rankings for universities, both researchers and research planners struggle to create an executable research strategy at the institutional level in alignment with SDGs.

- COVID-19 has exposed the urgency of a concerted research effort to combat social issues, and embedding SDGs within research will promote interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers within the university and around the world.

Challenges & Approaches

SDG Strengths & Awareness

- Digital Science reports that just 10% of global research output in the past 20 years relates to the SDGs.
- Some universities have taken the first step by creating a SDG center to undertake projects focused on research, teaching, and governance. Some universities are making SDG as a required element of every postgraduate program.
- The most challenging part is researchers need to learn how to align their work with SDG shifting from the conventional subject categories for publishing.

Collaboration Opportunities

- "Impact" is an admittedly vague term for most funders in Asia. Some funders will have their metrics; others will utilize the stated goals or mission statements on their websites.
- Though not easy to achieve, the university needs to take leadership in developing a SDG research strategy to foster interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities right from within the university.

Measuring & Reporting

- SDG profile of each university will help to identify the relationship between citation and visibility of the past research publication. Such insight will facilitate strategic research planning through the lens of SDGs.
- Unlike research publications, impact reporting based on SDG will also strengthen the branding of the university concerning social responsibility.
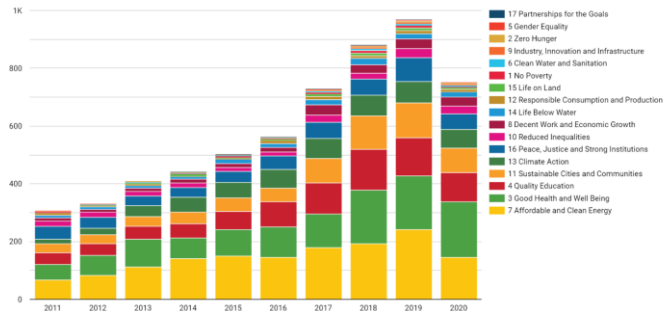
Case study about
ResearchVisibility
and it is brought to you by iCS Research

A guide of SDG Impact Planning for the university

Examples are based on the analysis of University of Hong Kong
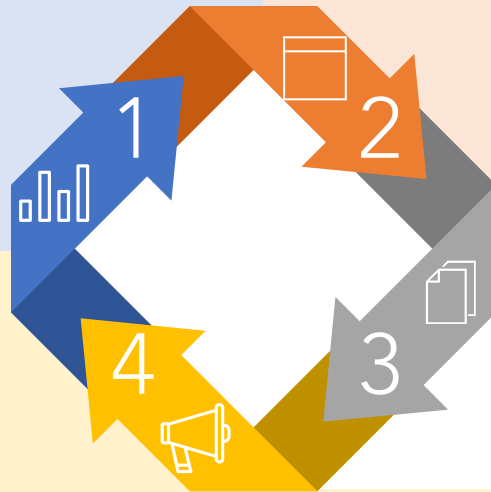
Number of publications per year and SDG

Legend (top to bottom):
- 17 Partnerships for the Goals
- 5 Gender Equality
- 2 Zero Hunger
- 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- 1 No Poverty
- 15 Life on Land
- 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- 14 Life Below Water
- 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 10 Reduced Inequalities
- 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 13 Climate Action
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 4 Quality Education
- 3 Good Health and Well Being
- 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Source: Digital Science's Dimensions, 2009-2020

SDG	Publications	Citations	Citations (mean)	Publications with attention (%)
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	920	12,700	13.8	18.26
3 Good Health and Well Being	809	11,097	13.72	62.3
4 Quality Education	581	3,252	5.6	35.63
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	465	4,517	9.71	30.32
13 Climate Action	352	4,528	12.86	44.03
16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	297	938	3.16	46.13
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	143	801	5.6	41.96
10 Reduced Inequalities	125	561	4.49	32.8
14 Life Below Water	93	1,257	13.52	79.57
12 Responsible Consumption and Production	53	555	10.47	9.43
15 Life on Land	37	627	16.95	75.68
1 No Poverty	30	122	4.07	40
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	23	325	14.13	60.87
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	18	132	7.33	5.56
2 Zero Hunger	16	92	5.75	68.75
5 Gender Equality	11	51	4.64	63.64
17 Partnerships for the Goals	6	15	2.5	50

Source: Digital Science's Dimensions, 2016-2020

1 Review the past research publication by SDG

2 Compare the citation-and-visibility by SDG to identify SDG perspective opportunities

3 Closing the gap of planning

To leverage 1, 2 & 4 effectively, our suggestion is to develop an in-house Research Collaboration Policy toward SDGs

4 Publish an Impact Report sharing the in-house SDG perspective research

Samples of Impact Reports