Inspiring the outstanding
The role of universities in realising the SDGs

- Educate the next generation of leaders
- Lead by example
- Develop the technological and social innovations of the future

Strategic plan:
- Organisation and operational management
- Education
- Research
- Social engagement

Operations: building a GHG monitor

- Evolution 2010 – 2019
- Science-based approach towards zero emission
- Scope 3 is difficult to control as company/institution/university

https://www.kuleuven.be/duurzaamheid/sustainability/sustainable-operations
• Bottom-up initiatives: energy, hydrogen economy, sustainable materials and chemistry, policy, social impact…

• Interdisciplinary KU Leuven Centers and Institutes:
  • Leuven Sustainable Earth expertise center
  • KU Leuven Institute for Mobility
  • KU Leuven Energy Institute
  • KU Leuven Institute for Sustainable Metals and Minerals
  • KU Leuven Urban Studies Institute

• YouRSS: network for young researchers, promoting sustainable research and systems thinking by stimulating interaction between different disciplines.
Global Development

- Dedicated research funding for collaboration with the Global South (Belgian Federal Government, Flanders, KU Leuven)
- Belgian Federal government prepares a new 5 years programme with focus on ‘Leave no One behind’, ‘Interconnectedness’ and ‘Multi-Stakeholders Partnerships’
- Focus also on SDG 17, with calls aiming at partnerships and capacity building
- PhD scholarships for students from the Global South on SDG-topics

The KU Leuven KICK Challenge

• Student entrepreneurship @ KU Leuven Research and Development (LRD)

• The KICK Challenge is a business plan competition that challenges you to develop an innovative idea with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) in mind.

• Ideas have been transformed into a business plan. Impact has been created.

https://lrd.kuleuven.be/kuleuvenkick/english/skills/kickchallenge/sdg
MOOC – The UN Sustainable Development Goals

- Jan Wouters, Global Governance Studies, Chair International Policy Council
- edX platform – subscriptions: cutt.ly/edx-unsdgs
Education

Platform for (cross-disciplinary) educational initiatives and social commitment

Freshers’ week

Micro MOOCs SDGs

University-wide courses:
“Global sustainability challenges”
“Socio-ecological introduction to sustainability”

Micromaster “From facts to policy” in collaboration with UNA Europa

Module sustainability in education to support lecturers