

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) Venice International University

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: December 2015 To: December 2017



Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

December 05, 2017

To our stakeholders:

*I am pleased to confirm that **Venice International University (VIU)** reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.*

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours.

We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

*Umberto Vattani
President*

Part II. Description of Actions

Venice International University (VIU) is an association of 17 universities from all over the world, with a common campus on the island of San Servolo in the Venice lagoon, Italy.

VIU offers higher education activities at academic level as well as advanced training for the governmental and business sectors. VIU promotes the networking among the different authorities mainly in the field of Cultural heritage and Sustainable Development.

In line with its mission, VIU incorporates the Global Compact principles into its internal operations and has undertaken a number of actions to promote them.



- **Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact**

VIU offers courses to international students as well as advanced training to participants from the business and non-business sectors:

1. VIU Globalization Program welcomes students from all over the world, including developing countries, to take part in its courses, to share its co-curriculum activities, to live together in a common campus as to offer its students a proper international and multicultural experience (Principle 1).
2. Within the VIU Globalization Program, each Semester VIU promotes “core courses” fostering the knowledge and promotion of Human Rights (Principles 1, 2), such as:
 - *Gender Studies*
 - *Comparing East and West*
 - *Identity, Heritage and Globalization*
 - *Global Governance for Peace and Security, Cooperation and Development*
 - *Globalization, Ethics Welfare and Human Rights*
 - *Intercultural Communication*
3. Within the VIU Globalization Program, each Semester VIU offers a “specialization track” on Sustainable Development (ref. Principles 7, 8, 9).
4. Within its Graduate Activities, VIU has developed a series of short courses, such as PhD Academies, Graduate Seminars, Summer/Winter Schools, open also to non-VIU students and young professionals. Those activities focus on “Global Challenges” and they include Environment, Human Rights and Labour as core topics (Principles 1 to 9):
 - *Global Challenges Series: Water*
 - *The Importance of Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Tackle Societal Challenges*
 - *Understanding and Managing Climate Change: Coping with Sea Level Rise*
 - *Global Ageing, Vulnerability and Disability*
 - *Critical Infrastructure Resilience*
 - *Responsible Capitalism: Micro- and Macro-institutional Conditions of Transformation*
 - *Macroeconomics, Growth and the Environment*



5. Capacity Building for policy makers and professionals from public institutions and private companies is a core activity of VIU in the framework of its Sustainability program. Environment is the main topic of the different training courses offered (Principles 7, 8, 9).

- **Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact**

VIU carries out applied research mainly in the topic of sustainable development and environmental management. In particular, the following projects are in line with GC Principles, as follow:

1. EU-China Level for IPM Demonstration (EUCLID): to secure food production for the increasing worldwide population while developing sustainable production methodologies to fight pests with an Integrated Pest Management approach (IPM), to be used in the European and Chinese agriculture. The project largely promotes awareness raising on food security and encourages the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies (Principles 8, 9)
2. Sustainable Ports in the Adriatic-Ionian Region (SUPAIR): Ports are core nodes for multimodal transport in the Adriatic-Ionian basin and strategic key drivers for economic growth: reducing negative environmental impacts is essential for a sustainable development of the area. The project goal is the reduction of emissions from shipping and on-shore port operations, enhancing port authorities' capacity to plan and implement low-carbon and multimodal transport and mobility solutions. (Principle 9)
3. New Cooperative Business Model and Guidance for Sustainable City Logistics (NOVELOG): to enable the knowledge of freight distribution and service trips by providing guidance for implementing effective and sustainable policies and measures. This guidance will support the choice of applicable solutions for urban freight and transport services, and will facilitate stakeholders' collaboration and the development, field testing and transfer of best governance and business models (Principles 7, 8, 9).

- **Disseminate the Global Compact principles**

1. VIU took part in the UN Private Sector Forum in New York (Sept. 19, 2016), which focused on the role of business in advancing sustainable development to prevent global instability.
2. VIU took part in the Fourth Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development in New York (Sept. 21-22, 2016), *Moving Forward: The SDGs in Practice*. Aim of the annual conference is to identify and share practical, evidence-based solutions that can support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. VeUMUN - Venice Universities' Model United Nations (2 editions: 2016, 2017). Joint initiative of Venice International University, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Venice Diplomatic Society (VDS), European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights - EIUC.



4. *Sustainability and Corporate Value - 3rd International Symposium on Sustainability*, Tokyo, Nikkei Hall, Oct. 17, 2016. The symposium investigates the issue of the value of sustainability for corporations. The workshop is part of a series of symposia jointly promoted by VIU and the Italian company Alcantara. The initiative started in 2014 at VIU with a first symposium titled *Sustainability and the New Automotive Value Chain*, which followed in October 2015 *The Automotive Ecosystem on the Global Road to Sustainability – the Asian perspective*. VIU and Alcantara are working on the 4th edition of the Symposium, which is scheduled for March 2018 focusing on *Coping with Change: Global Warming and Decarbonization*.
 5. *Follow-up to the recommendations of international Election Observation Missions in the countries of the Eastern Partnership*, Regional Conference, Oct. 24-25, 2016. Supported by the EU Commission and implemented by the Council of Europe within the Programmatic Cooperation Framework (PCF) to pursue PCF's objectives that aim at strengthening the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries (as member states of the Council of Europe) to implement domestic reforms in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
 6. *Human Rights in Practice*, PATHS Programme – Module 3, Dec. 6-9, 2016. Supported by the EU Commission and implemented by the Council of Europe within the PATHS Programme, the training aims at evaluating how Human Rights are protected in practice.
 7. *UN Water Day* on the occasion of the World Water Day, March 22, 2017, VIU answered to the invitation by UNESCO to launch the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2017 titled *Wastewater: The Untapped Resource*. A discussion with key stakeholders from the private and public sector dealing with Water Management followed, addressing international students of VIU and Ca' Foscari University International College.
 8. *14th EMN Annual Conference*, European Microfinance Network (EMN), 21-23 June 2017. Partnering with VIU that hosted the event, the EMN conference offered the opportunity to disseminate microfinance values and to reflect upon the power of financial education for vulnerable populations.
 9. *21st International Society for Business Innovation and Technology Management Conference*, 4-5 May 2017. Focus of the conference is *Responsible & Sustainable Consumption and Production*.
- **Lend capacity to Global Compact Local Networks and/or the Global Compact Office**
 1. On Feb. 26, 2016, VIU entered the Global Compact local network, i.e. Fondazione Global Compact Network Italy.
 2. VIU's Dean, prof. Carlo Giupponi, has entered and is currently part of the Board of the Global Compact Network Italy Foundation.



3. VIU has co-organized and hosted in its premises the *1st Business & SDGs Annual Forum*, promoted by the Global Compact Network Foundation Italy (Sept. 25-26, 2017). The event offered the occasion to disseminate Global Compact and its principles to a number of local and national, private and public institutions, and to get involved new members in the Local network.

4. VIU has invited representatives of the Global Compact national network to take part in a number of events and to present the Global Compact principles and initiatives, both at international and local level (i.e. EU project, International Conference on Circular Economy).

- **Incorporate the GC principles into internal operations**

1. Contribute to the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, by hosting stage opportunities in the framework of social inclusive initiatives for the re-employment and social integration of persons with disabilities (Principle 6)

2. Since 2014, VIU is adopting the "Organizational, Management and Control Model, pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 231 of June 8, 2001", which sets out "the rules for the administrative liability of Bodies, Companies and Associations". The VIU Code of Ethics is an integral and complementary part of the 231/01 Model, and includes principles of business ethics and rules of conduct that VIU recognizes as its own and that its corporate bodies and employees must observe. (Principle 10)

3. In 2016, VIU was awarded the UNI EN ISO 9001:2015 certification, i.e. the "Quality Management System Certification".

4. VIU is adopting principles and initiatives to promote the campus of San Servolo island, where VIU is located, as a sustainable one.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Based on the activities and institutional efforts described in Part II above, the following indicators measure the outcomes in the promotion of the GC principles. Indicators include:

1. Number of courses /per year offered on Global Compact principles to international students:

2016 > **28** courses

2017 > **41** courses

2. Number of international students/per year attending courses on Global Compact principles, i.e. number of beneficiaries of Global Compact principles

2016 > **254** beneficiaries (int. students)

2017 > **464** beneficiaries (int. students)

3. Number of events organized/attended to disseminate Global Compact principles

2016 > **5** events

2017 > **4** events

4. Number of new UN Global Compact business participants resulting from your organization's promotional efforts

1 new member involved in the Local network

5. Expertise provided by your organization to further the aims of Global Compact Local Network in your country

1 expert > VIU Dean Member of the Local Global Compact

6. Partnerships formalized with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles

2 partnership agreements:

> **1** MoU with the "European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization" (EIUC)

> **1** MoU with "Red Carpet for All", association for social advancement.

