

The responsibility of universities for sustainable development

Opening Academic Year 2018/2019

Monday 03 September 2018

Call for proposals: SDG Action Competition

This year, UM's opening of the academic year will focus on the responsibility of universities for sustainable development. Leading up to the event, the university will be organising a competition on [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). This means you will have the opportunity to play an active role in shaping our community and to win an award worth € 3,000 for your SDG action project.

The theme 'The responsibility of universities for sustainable development' builds on UM's strategic programme, [Community at the CORE](#), and UM's [Sustainability Vision 2030](#). Both recognise UM's responsibility to be a driver for sustainable development through education and research. UM's focus on SDGs also forms part of the university's longstanding commitment to address pressing problems in society, to be an innovator, and to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals, are a universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals build on the successes of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) and include new areas such as climate change, innovation, sustainable consumption, economic inequality, or peace and justice. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success in one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. In contrast to the MDGs, the SDGs apply equally to countries of the Global North *and* the Global South: it recognises that *both* have areas of improvement, thus creating the possibility for new power dynamics and dialogue.

The SDG Action Competition

The university would like to invite UM's community to take action and help UM meet the SDGs. We would like to ask UM students and staff to reflect on what we have achieved in the past, and how we can further improve. This competition recognises that many important contributions to the SDGs are bottom-up initiatives, such as the [UM Green Office](#).

Your submission

Your submission should consist of a clearly defined proposal for action that works towards the achievement of one, or ideally several, of the SDGs. The proposal can describe an entirely new activity, but it can also be an improvement on an ongoing project. There are no formal requirements regarding the format of your submissions; creative application formats (i.e. video, PechaKucha recording) are welcome, as long as they can be digitally submitted. Make sure your proposal is clear and concise (respect a page limit of

10 pages or, where applicable, a video/audio limit of 10 minutes). Your submission must include at least the following elements:

- The overall objectives of the action
- The action's link to the SDGs
- The action's link to the UM community (i.e. impact within UM, mobilisation of UM community members)
- The action's financial and logistical feasibility

Please submit your proposal to green-office@maastrichtuniversity.nl before 24 July 2018

Eligibility criteria

The competition is open to bachelor's, master's and PhD students at UM. You may participate individually, as a group, or on behalf of an organisation. In order to participate in the competition, each of the submitting applicants must be enrolled at UM on 4 September 2018. If you win the competition, you are obliged to use the award money for the implementation of the project, as outlined in your submission.

Selection

The four best submissions will be selected to participate in the finals on the morning of Monday 3 September 2018. Finalists will pitch their proposal to a jury during the morning symposium of the opening of the academic year. The winners will receive the award of € 3,000 for the implementation of their project and can consult the UM Green Office for additional contact points within the Maastricht community. The four finalists will be notified by 21 August 2018.