Green is the new black

SDG CUP INITIATIVE

"It's not easy being green!"
Kermit the Frog

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GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK

Our team claims that these days being “green”, in other words, eco-friendly, sustainable and socially oriented, is a new trend which the new generation eagerly follows.

Today’s youngsters are ready to make decisions, are motivated to change the world and have plenty of energy to establish “green” initiatives. Thus, we must teach the future planet leaders how to solve problems we are facing and how to apply that knowledge acquired in University to tackle ecological problems and achieve SD goals.
Project relevance

CURRENT SITUATION
Nowadays most of the courses only address business or professional objectives and do not pay attention to sustainable development goals. If we want to see the changes in the economics, society, attitudes, we should improve the educational programs and motivate universities, professors and students to be involved in these changes and encourage them to design solutions.

THE PROBLEM
The content of the courses is not consistent with current reality of our world in terms of sustainable development. Students do not know how to apply their knowledge to achieve SDGs or any other social goals. Thus, students’ projects are not aimed to build a sustainable future. This has to change.

THE OBJECTIVE
The objective of our project is to provide the universities with a tool which will motivate professors to include SDGs into their teaching plan, involve students in solving world’s vital problems and help them to find like-minded people to implement SDGs-oriented projects.
We suggest to establish an annual competition within university (between Faculties, Courses, and Students) on the basis of contribution to SDGs achievement. The solution consists of 2 parts: the competition itself and supporting web platform.

The Platform

- University applies for participation and gets the access to the platform capabilities.

  Extra functionality:
  Idea bank for students’ projects where interested people/organizations/businesses can reach the students and join/fund/implement the proposed project.

  The platform includes:
  - The description of 17 SDGs
  - The competition breakdown (criteria, forms, supplementary material)
  - The dashboard of the competition results (rating of faculties and courses)
  - Contacts of experts
  - FAQ

The Competition

- The competition is supposed to motivate the participants to become more SDGs-oriented in their academic life.
- Courses get points according to predefined criteria (see App.1).
- Faculty’s score is the sum of its courses points.

  Student competition
  Students participate in project competition: by the end of the course students submit a project that should be linked to achieving 1+ SDG
  - the first level: the course (the professor chooses the best project among the students of the course)
  - the second level: the faculty
  - the third level: the university
Process of an annual SDG university competition with the help of SDG CUP platform

Once registered for participation, universities may follow these steps:

1. The universities are provided with the terms of competition + the platform
2. An event is organized in the university to provide information to the professors
3. Professors include one/several/all goals to their course material

4. Students and professors use SDGs as a guide while working on projects
5. Students submit their projects that are aimed to achieve one of the goals as their final task
6. Professors evaluate the projects; the projects are uploaded to the platform

7. The best project participates in university competition
8. The courses are evaluated by criteria and the faculty gets points
9. Authors of the best SDGs dedicated project get resources for implementing the project
10. Faculty that gets maximum points is rewarded by the university

Meetings, brainstorming, events can be organized (hints are provided at the platform)

Criteria for evaluating

The project bank

Other prizes
Example: participation is summer courses abroad

Best Faculty gets more budget

Grants
The winner of project competition gets funding for project realization.
Impact

RELEVANCE
The project can help the universities to become more SDGs-oriented and improve existing courses in the light of sustainable development solutions elaboration.

INNOVATION
There is no analogue that provides a tool to evaluate courses with respect to SDGs and a platform to share the ideas between students and organizations.

FEASIBILITY
The project is quite easy to implement and sustain.

REPLICABILITY
All universities that want to improve their courses in sustainability aspects can use the platform. Even further: companies can use the platform to organize a competition between their departments.

IMPACT
• more courses will be dedicated to the sustainable development goals
• more students will be aware of the goals and their importance
• students will learn how to make any topic relevant to the sustainability – real solutions will be found to any problem
• a lot of feasible projects will be created and implemented

Students are creating the future – The society in general will become more aware and conscious about sustainability.
Appendix 1. Competition additional information

Course competition:
Courses get points for the following criteria:
1) Consistency of a course content with sustainable development goals:
   - Percentage of SDG relevant to the course / general course objectives
   - Percentage of practice SDG / common practice
   - Number of objectives that are disclosed based on material
2) Correlation of the final projects to the objectives
   - Number of objectives that are disclosed based on material
3) Extra points for extra activities: invited speakers, forums, colloquia, etc
4) Additional points to the Faculty for teachers and students research projects in the topic of SDGs
   Faculty gets its points from all its courses.

The student competition process:
The student signs up for the course – As part of the course, his/her final project may/should be linked to achievement 1+ SDG – The instructor selects the best one for publication in the platform competition – The project is evaluated by the faculty – At the university level (10 – prizes, 1 – grant)

The fundraising process:
The student signs up for the course – As part of the course, his/her final project may/should be linked to the achievement of the 1+ SDG – Check by the moderators of the project platform for the achievement of the criteria for the SDG objectives – Publication in the project bank
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