

## **UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS – OUR ROAD TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY** **draft 2.12/8-20, Eng transl**

### Agenda 2030 – Our shared responsibility

The 2030 Agenda was formulated within the United Nations and signed by the states of the world as an action plan for people, planet and prosperity that also aims to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. Central is also the elimination of all forms and dimensions of poverty, which are highlighted as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development. Through the 17 targets and 169 milestones, 196 countries have taken upon themselves to implement the agenda and report back annually on progress. The agenda expresses hope and states that if ambitions are fulfilled in all parts of the agenda, everyone's life will be fundamentally improved and the world will change for the better. It expresses a vision that seeks to achieve globally equal welfare for all, including good education, access to health care and social protection. It also foresees universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination at global, national and local level. For the agenda to be successful, a renewed global partnership is crucial. Sweden has the ambition to take a lead globally and thus the implementation of the action plan is very high on the political agenda, as can be seen in policies for all sectors of society.

For the University of Borås, this means that Agenda 2030 should be central to the responsibility for the future that is expressed in the university's vision. This means that the university's objectives for education and research should accommodate a relevant responsibility globally, nationally and locally as well as for scientific fields, professions and innovations. For the education, this includes that students shall learn and access knowledge and tools relevant to their subjects and professions to contribute to a sustainable future. For research, this means that, within the framework of scientific freedom, there should be a responsibility to contribute to a sustainable future. In the UB policy for sustainable development it is stated that research on sustainable development is a priority. The University, as an institution and campus, should also be signified with the ambition to be a sustainable university

### Together we take responsibility for the future

University of Borås vision "Together we take responsibility for the future. Through profiling of education and research, we make a difference" came into force in 2020. The vision together with the University of Borås' sustainable development policy that the Board decided on back in 2015 means that the University of Borås has a solid foundation for the journey towards Agenda 2030.

The sustainable development policy is based on Swedish legislation and national goals and the country's international commitments. These include the Higher Education Act, which emphasises the responsibility of higher education institutions to promote a "healthy and good environment, economic and social welfare and justice" (Section 1, Section 5), the national environmental objectives (mainly the generational and limited climate impact targets) and the 2030 Agenda. The policy is the foundation for the university's work for sustainable development and is the starting point for the environmental management system. The policy expresses the university's task of equipping students with abilities and knowledge that prepares them to contribute to a sustainable society. Furthermore,

the university gives priority to research on sustainable development, which is characterized by multidisciplinary approaches, innovation and interaction with society locally and globally. As an organization with a management system certified according to ISO 14001, the university systematically works to reduce the direct environmental impact from the operations and contribute to social responsibility.

From 2020, Swedish higher education institutions must report annually, in accordance with the regulatory letter, what we are doing to achieve the 17 SDGs of Agenda 2030. The higher education institutions shall explain how relevant parts of the operations and collaborations promote sustainable development have been linked to environmental management work, the follow-up of the results in the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's ranking and Agenda 2030. The report shall show how the university intends to work in the coming years to take further steps to strengthen the work to promote sustainable development.

For the University of Borås, therefore, all activity plans from 2021 describe how academies and all other will work with Agenda 2030 during the financial year and discuss the direct and indirect impact on each goal in the agenda and what activities are planned to achieve the goals.

The implementation will then be carried out by developing an updated 3-year activity list at faculties and operational support. The activities aim to bring the university closer to the goals set out in the activity plans with annual reporting to the UB management.

Each faculty and the operational support plan and report annually how to work with the 17 SDGs based on the University of Borås central target documents for Agenda 2030, other governing documents and the conditions of their own activities.

A modern work for sustainability has a strong integration of ecological, social and economic responsibility in the organization's day-to-day operation in the line organization, while students, employees and partners are given the opportunity to creatively and freely debate and question. The University of Borås is the sustainable university where we are looking for new innovative solutions even when they challenge and provoke.

2020-11-16--Mats Tinnsten, Vice-Chancellor

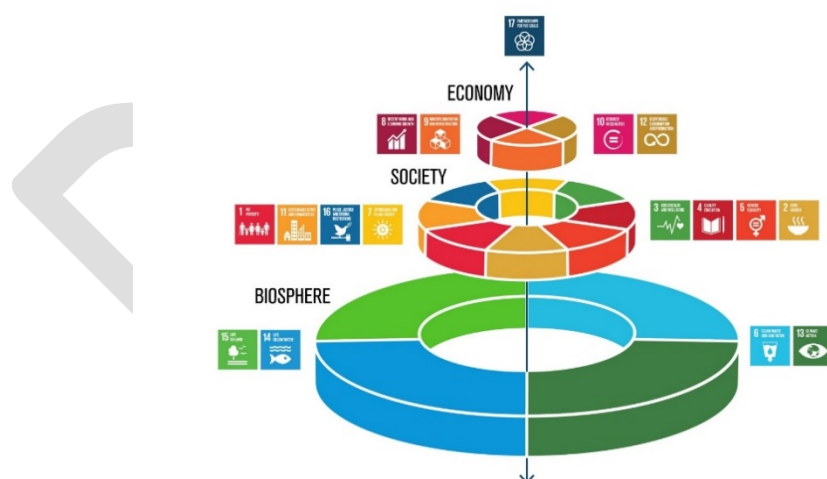
## Taking responsibility for the future together – University of Borås sustainability objectives 2021–2030

The purposes of Borås University's sustainability objectives are:

- Moving from vision to action and having an impact that contributes to achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda
- That the University of Borås should be a university with a strong sustainability profile
- That students, employees and partners become co-creators in achieving the goals
- Clarifying how sustainable development work is to be managed and followed up
- To facilitate implementation and reporting to environmental audits, , government entities and others

The university's greatest influence is indirectly through the education and research conducted and the collaborations that the university is part of. The direct impact that the university has through the university as a campus and the footprints made through procurement, laboratories, workshops, travel, events, restaurants and the like is also a very important part of the university's responsibility and important for the university's credibility as a sustainable university.







By making the 17 goals of the Agenda 2030 the university's goals, the work for sustainable development is kept together and with the social, economic and environmental dimensions, see illustration below from the Stockholm Resilience Centre.



The priority areas for the purpose of this document apply to the entire University of Borås, i.e. faculties, operational support, the vice-chancellors staff and the department for research and innovation. The central goal document provides direction for sustainability work. Complementary objectives and concrete activities are included in each organisation's planning.

The University of Borås' goal is both to the direct impact that the business has, for example, in the form of travel and purchasing and the indirect impact that comes from the core activities such as the students' civic involvement in a future professional life. At the University of Borås, priority is given to research on sustainable development.

6 priority common goals and a broad and deep work with the entire Agenda 2030 at the University of Borås:

Agenda 2030 goals in focus	Justification for prioritisation
 <p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>Partnership Objective 17: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires cooperation globally, nationally and locally. Therefore, we need to consciously work with collaborations with the agenda in focus.</p>
 <p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Climate Objective 13: We face the vital need to reduce CO2 emissions and adapt communities to the changes that are already taking place. The University of Borås is behind the call to allow decisions made to be based on scientific facts and committed to going ahead to act to save the planet.</p>
 <p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION Objective 12: Sustainable consumption and production together with resource recovery and textile know-how is a profiled area within the university and its Science Park that attracts collaborations.</p>
 <p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>Innovation Objective 9: The University of Borås' research and education strengthens Sweden's innovation capacity for sustainable development. The innovation power at the University of Borås is central to our important international cooperation.</p>
 <p><b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>Gender equality and empowerment Objective 5: Equality between men and women is a prerequisite for sustainable and peaceful development. Gender equality is about a fair distribution of power, influence and resources.</p>
 <p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING Objective 4: The university's education and research help to equip students with knowledge and abilities that contribute to sustainable societies. Personal development, free and critical thinking and conflicting perspectives are an important part of the University's educational ideals.</p>

## Together – implementation and global partnership

To be added to the document: An introduction and cohesive image that we asked communication to produce, which can then be used in presentations, etc. outwards



Objective 17 is the basis for our joint work in the world for the 2030 Agenda and emphasises implementation and partnership for sustainable development. Goal 17 is the basis of university collaboration and internationalization.

- All new strategies and policies at the University of Borås, such as education and research strategy and strategy for internationalization, integrate the Agenda 2030 goals based on direct and indirect impact. Follow-up: integrated yes/no
- The University of Borås asks students every year how they want to improve the direct and indirect sustainability work at the university

The survey via the student barometer is carried out. To be reflected in activity plans and business planning.

**Follow-up: Done / not done**

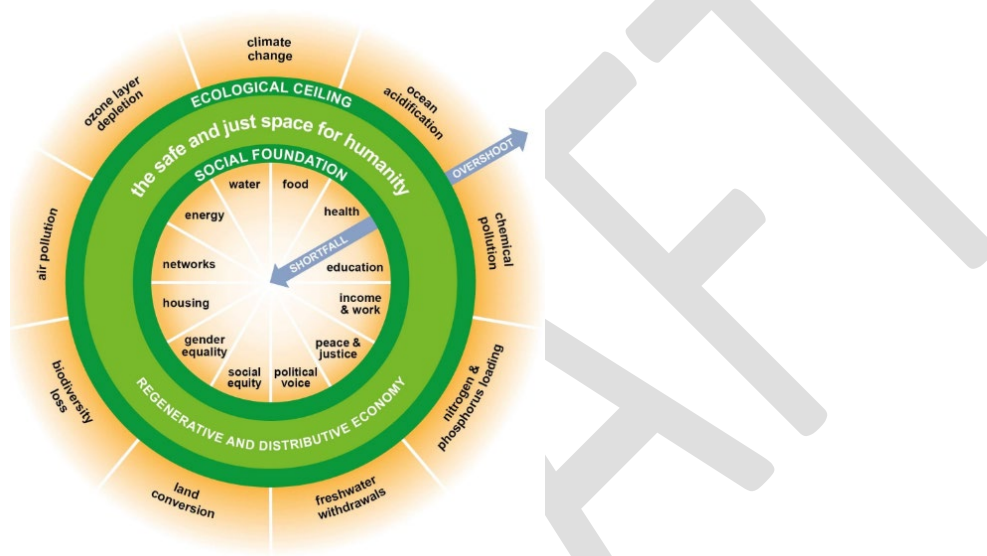


Peaceful, inclusive and just societies – Objective 16 – permeate much of the university's work. For example, in welfare research and police training.



Objectives 14 and 15 are the basis for all social and economic development.

The development we are striving for can also be illustrated by Kate Raworth's widely circulated donut model, which shows that the needs of humanity must be accommodated within planetary boundaries.



Each faculty other parts of the university is responsible for developing activities that directly or indirectly benefit a positive impact on Objectives 14 and 15.



- Education, research and collaboration to significantly reduce climate impact make a difference locally and globally.
- Each unit (academia, operational support and staff) shall in particular work on the climate issue. Follow-up: addressed in the activity plans yes / no
- Agreement on climate targets to be provided with every property owner

**Follow-up:** Agreement signed yes / no

- The climate impact of food consumption at campus and within operations should be reduced annually.

**Follow-up:**

The procurement function monitors annually what measures are placed. yes/no.

Operational support has annual dialogue with restaurants on Campus yes/no

- Our direct impact on the climate will be greatly reduced by carefully assessing all international air travel based on the agenda 2030 before implementation and carbon offsetting when air travel.
- Follow-up: annual decrease (statistics from procured travel agency)
- For journeys under 500 km, the goal is zero flights. (statistics from procured travel agency)
- Students travelling internationally should be offered scholarships for sustainable travel Follow-up: Yes (made) No (not done)
- Maintain positive effects and travel patterns of travel-free meetings established in 2020 by reducing the proportion of missions annually

**Follow-up:** qualitative follow-up management level.

The points under Objective 13 together constitute strategic steps for greatly reducing the climate impact of the University.



Borås University will be at the forefront of circular economy, recycling and recycling, and the work on sustainable production and consumption will characterize our collaboration internationally,

One example is Science Park Borås, which has Sustainable Consumption as a designated area of activity.



The University of Borås contributes with important knowledge in society's transition to social and ecological sustainability. For example, the department of resource recovery and building technology

is at the forefront of both work for Objectives 11 and 7 and the University participates in Innovation Platform Borås. The university's campus is characterized by work for sustainable built environment.



The University of Borås shall ensure equal rights for all students who study or work at the university. The University's work with reducing inequalities for students, applicants and employees is regulated in the Higher Education Act and in, the Discrimination Act and is collected under the concept of Equal Opportunities. The Board of Directors of the University of Borås has decided [the Policy of equal opportunities](#) and the following overall goals:

- The university has zero tolerance for discrimination, harassment and sexual harassment.
- Diversity among students and employees shall be understood, valued and safeguarded.
- At the university, a gender balance (40-60%) at all levels and in different positions, occupations and training, as well as in decision-making, preparatory and advisory bodies.
- There shall be gender equality in terms of employees' working conditions, wages, participation, career opportunities and opportunities to reconcile professional careers with responsibility for home and family.
- The University must have good accessibility to activities, communication and premises, i.e. work well for all individuals.
- The University shall provide equal opportunities for all students through widening participation and inclusive teaching and broaden recruitment to all courses.

The policy and the overall objectives form the basis for the systematic level playing field of academies, which includes annual action plans with continuous follow-ups, i.e. each unit plans and reports annually on how to work with the targets.

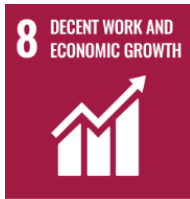
In addition to the work of the academies, the operations support coordinates and documents the university's work with equal treatment of students and employees in accordance with the requirements of the Discrimination Act.

Health and safety goals in accordance with human resource management.





Sustainable industrialization and innovation is a core area of research and innovation and is therefore identified as the central goal of Borås University.



Promote sustainable economic growth for all. Within the University of Borås' work for sustainable development, sustainable economic development, including system criticism of the economic models that led to today's development, is important. (note a link to the welfare area within the University)



Access to modern and reliable energy for all. Through research, education and collaboration, the University of Borås contributes to the goal of sustainable energy for all.



Research on sustainable production has indirect effects on the sustainable management of water in countries outside Sweden.



Equality between men and women is a prerequisite for sustainable and peaceful development. Gender equality is about a fair distribution of power, influence and resources. The University's work on gender equality is regulated in the Higher Education Act, the Discrimination Act and in the Equal Opportunities Policy. In addition, the university has a special mission to work with gender mainstreaming through the regulatory letter. Gender mainstreaming means that a gender

perspective is incorporated into all decisions and at all stages of processes throughout the operations, the aim is to contribute to the [national gender equality policy objectives](#), established by the parliament. In accordance with the regulatory letter, the University has an action plan for gender mainstreaming decided by the vice-chancellor. The University's work focuses on two areas: Gender-based study choices and career paths within which there are overarching goals. The objectives concern both education and research, as well as the working and study environment.

Overall goals for gender-based study choices:

- Students should be met by an environment where everyone is treated and judged equally based on interest and knowledge and not based on norms around gender.
- Students should gain knowledge of and opportunities to discuss and problematize gender issues in their education in order to work for a more sustainable society.

Targets 2020-2023:

- Gender-based study choices at the University of Borås will be reduced
- A higher proportion of men should apply for teacher training and nursing training.

Overall goals for Career Paths

- There should be equal opportunities for everyone regardless of gender to merit
- Different occupations should be equal

Target 2020-2023:

- The proportion of female professors should increase.
- Formal and informal assignments shall be meritorious to the individual regardless of career path.
- Internal research funds shall be distributed equally
- The overall gender wage gap should be reduced.

The objectives in the above areas shall form the basis for the local objectives and activities that each department and academy have to decide on and implement. These are described in activity plans. Local activities will take place in 2020-2022 and are followed up in regular planning. The action plan is a guide in the work. The entire work on gender mainstreaming is followed up in the annual report.



Education systems around the world must meet people's needs throughout their lives – from pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education, as well as the equal opportunities for lifelong

learning for all people to promote participation in work and society. Education is the key to prosperity and opens up a world of opportunities that enable each of us to contribute to a sustainable society. Education, education and lifelong learning are core activities at the University of Borås.

- In 2021, work will begin on each education plan to relate to the 2030 Agenda and identify the most important objectives of the training.
- In 2021, work will begin with each training plan describing how progression in sustainability work should take place from basic education to advanced level
- By 2025, 100% of the training plans will relate to the 2030 agenda objectives and clearly describe progression in sustainability work by 2025

Sustainable development is an important part of the University of Borås' quality work. In developing training plans, the faculties will do so in such a way that councils can assess whether the Agenda 2030 is well integrated as described above.

- All courses and research areas at the University of Borås undergo an external evaluation every six years. From 2021 onwards, sustainable development will become an essential part of these evaluations (note 1. Check with the boards regarding this)

In order to succeed in the work for sustainable development, the employees are knowledge and commitment crucial:

- Competence-enhancing measures within agenda 2030 are made annually for the University's employees



Borås University should set an example as an employer and an essential part of the core business is about welfare and health development, for example in the Academy of Health Care, Working Life and Welfare.

People's welfare permeates the work of our university

Follow-up: Social sustainability in the workplace is monitored quantitatively (HR statistics) and qualitatively (assessment at each unit) in the annual report.



The University of Borås is the only university in Sweden that has a pronounced profiling in resource recycling, an example being when food waste is used for mushroom production.



By 2030, eliminating extreme poverty is seen by many as the greatest challenge. The students at the University of Borås undergo an education where they are given tools to contribute in this fight.

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