



Social Sciences Universities Network

Declaration of the Social Sciences Universities Network – SSUN Declaration

Observing the dramatic challenges that our interdependent world poses in terms of (among others) environmental sustainability, economic growth, social justice, and security;

Taking into account the urgent need to provide effective and sustainable proposals to tackle the most urgent socio-economic global challenges;

Underscoring the essential contribution to public debate and policy formulations that social sciences deliver;

Acknowledging the special responsibility that every higher education institution has for contributing to the solutions of today's problems and training the global leaders of tomorrow;

Highlighting the need to maintain, develop, and sustain the public purpose and social responsibility of higher education.

Building on the rich historical track record of each university, based on cultural diversity and social relevance.

Reaffirming the collective commitment towards the pursuit of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular towards goal 4 on Quality Education.

Recognizing the need to assemble a large platform to engage with diverse stakeholders in order to achieve societal impact.

The SSUN brings together universities from all continents, who have a strong focus on social sciences, to multiply their strength and achieve a deeper societal impact.

The members believe that social sciences provide an essential contribution to scientific and public debate to address the most challenging global problems. Using quantitative and qualitative methodologies, combining and comparing different cultural and political contexts, social sciences tend to be aptly suitable to capture the complexity of a highly interdependent yet highly pluralist global society.

The members reckon that multidisciplinary, pluralism, and international engagement constitute three essential ingredients of our approach to global challenges. They acknowledge the relevance of opening up channels of communication in and between social sciences and with other sciences.

A move towards inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration is needed to be able to effectively tackle scientific and socio-economic challenges. They also hold that cultural diversity and different historical trajectories constitute a key asset for the network. Finally, they recognize the added value of international cooperation in teaching and research. Crossing boundaries not only in scientific disciplines, but also in national tradition may provide a key element for innovation and advancement.

Based on a shared responsibility on global challenges that every university has towards students and societal leaders, the members of SSUN decide to join forces to multiply their impact and to enhance the resilience of societies.

The members commit themselves to develop joint actions on learning, teaching, research and public outreach to multiply the collective action of the SSUN.

The members encourage the collaboration with relevant stakeholders (international, national and local authorities, business community, civil society organization, media, etc.) in an effort to implement an effective outreach able to generate societal impact via broad partnerships.

Adopted on this, the 5th day of November 2019 in Rome, Italy on the occasion of the 1st Network Summit held at Luiss.