FDCW Online Forum:
How UE programs can inspire living in a more sustainable way

Zoom Meeting – June 16, 2020

Part 01: Brief Introduction about the notion of sustainability

➢ Etymology of the term sustainability

➢ First usage in the 17th and 18th century

➢ The Club of Rome and «The limits to Growth» (1972)

➢ The «Brundtland Commission» and Our Common Future (1987)

➢ Intergenerational framework and the three pillars of sustainability

➢ From the Earth Summit in Rio (1992) to the 17 SDGs (2015)

The origins of the term «Sustainability»

➢ **Etymology:** The name sustainability is derived from the Latin *sustinere* (*tenere*, to hold; *sub*, under). It can mean "maintain", "support", "uphold", "endure", "nourish" and "protect".

➢ **First usage of the term in Forest Management:**

Sustainability has its roots in ideas about sustainable forest management, which were developed in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries.

In 1662, John Evelyn argued in that "sowing and planting of trees had to be regarded as a national duty of every landowner, in order to stop the destructive over-exploitation of natural resources".

In 1713, Hans Carl von Carlowitz, a senior mining administrator in the service of Elector Augustus I of Saxony, developed the concept of managing forests for sustained yield.

The Club of Rome and «The limits to Growth» (1972)

➢ ***The Limits to Growth*** (***LTG***) is a 1972 report on the computer simulation of exponential economic and population growth with a finite supply of resources, commissioned by the Club of Rome

➢ The study used the a computer model developed at the MIT to simulate the consequence of interactions between the earth and human systems.

➢ After reviewing their computer simulations, the research team came to the following conclusions:

   1. Given business as usual, i.e., no changes to historical growth trends, the limits to growth on earth would become evident by 2072, leading to "sudden and uncontrollable decline in both population and industrial capacity".
   This includes the following:

      a) Global <u>Industrial output</u> per capita reaches a peak around 2008, followed by a rapid decline
      b) Global <u>Food</u> per capita reaches a peak around 2020, followed by a rapid decline
      c) Global <u>Services</u> per capita reaches a peak around 2020, followed by a rapid decline
      d) <u>Global population</u> reaches a peak in 2030, followed by a rapid decline

   2. Growth trends existing in 1972 could be altered so that sustainable ecological and economic stability could be achieved.

   3. The sooner the world's people start striving for the second outcome above, the better the chance of achieving it.

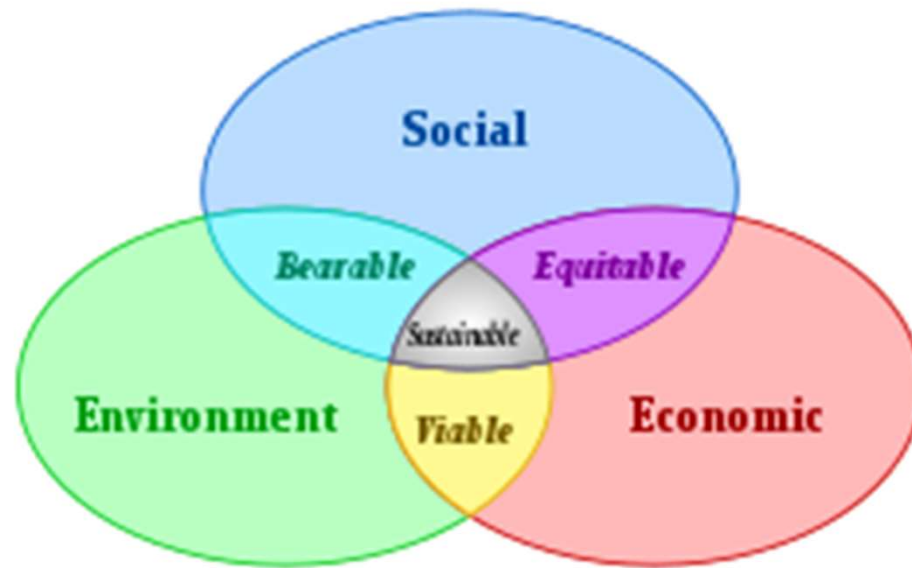# The «Brundtland Commission» and Our Common Future (1987)

➢ In 1983, the prime minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland was invited by then United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to establish and chair the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), widely referred to as the Brundtland Commission.

➢ She developed the broad political concept of sustainable development in the course of extensive public hearings, that were distinguished by their inclusiveness.

➢ The commission, which published its report, Our Common Future, in April 1987, provided the momentum for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio.

➢ The report included what is now one of the most widely recognised definitions of sustainable development:

Sustainable development is development that meets the <u>needs</u> of the present without compromising the ability of <u>future generations</u> to meet their own needs.

➢ Since the Brundtland Report, the concept of sustainable development has developed beyond the initial **intergenerational framework** to focus more on the goal of "**socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth**"

The three pillars of sustainability

From the Earth Summit in Rio (1992) to the 17 SDGs (2015)

➤ In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted **Agenda 21**, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.

➤ At the Millennium Summit in September 2000 in New York, UN Member States unanimously adopted the **Millennium Declaration** .
The Summit led to the elaboration of **eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

➤ The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

➤ At its heart are the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

➤ **The SDGs recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.**

The 17 Sustainable Goals

➢ Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGcrYkHwE80

➢ Resources: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs

Sustainable Development Goals

Part 02: What Sustainability means for individual, companies and society

- **Individual:**

  - **Balance outer and inner resources**: how much material things do we need to be happy? Where does true happiness and fulfilment come from?
  - Develop awareness of our global interconnectedness: **check your footprint**
  - Every time you buy something, you make a choice: **demand transparency**
  - BUT: there is no easy solution valid for all and some people need more time than others! -> easy to fall into judgement and point the finger at others!

- **Companies:** Companies can become aware of sustainability just as individuals
  BUT: beware of green-washing!

  - **Social responsibility**: fair employment policy, diversity and equality, fairness to all generations (and to suppliers and subcontractors!)
  - **Ecological balance**: buildings, waste management, travel-related emissions, company events
  - **Economic capability**: product design, sustainable procurement, compiance and integrity

- **Society**: Governments should be judged by their ability to develop and implement framework for energy transition, climate protection, social equality and economic fairness

Global Sustainability: Leave No One Behind

➢ At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals is a commitment to leave no one behind.

➢ That's because, although we have made huge progress towards a better world, too many people have been left behind because of who they are or where they live.

➢ **The Leave No One Behind Promise:**
  - **Every goal must be met for everyone**
  - **Every person has a fair opportunity in life, no matter who or where they are**
  - **Reach the furthest behind first**
  - **Every person counts and will be counted**
  - **We need everyone to deliver on this promise**

➢ Video**:** Leave no one behind

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBqe8JD62QE&feature=emb_rel_pause

Part 03: How to inspire people to live in a more sustainable way?

➢ **"Leave no one behind" can feel overwhelming** -> we need to strengthen our inner resources to be able to respond skillfully and courageously to this global challenge

➢ May 17th, 2017: **The First United Nations Emotional Intelligence Conference**

➢ **Daniel Goleman**: Emotional Intelligence is based on **four components**:

  • Self-Awareness / Social Awareness

  • Self-Management / Relationship Management

➢ The heart of Emotional intelligence is developing our personal and global agency:

  • **Personal Agency**: that within ourselves that we have the possibility of influencing

  • **Global Agency**: our capacity to positively impact the lives of others

➢ When we activate our personal and global agency:

  • We are able to choose how we respond to people, situations, our own thoughts and emotions

  • We are more intentional about how we react to the world around us

➢ **Achieving the 17 SDGs requires a global mindset that prioritizes the wellbeing of others as much as our own**: feeling the interconnectedness AND believing that it is important

➢ Video: Force for good: https://youtu.be/NugINWYhHRA