DD&RS Reference Framework

Reference framework for educational, research and innovation institutions.

Version 202



Socio-ecological transformations: when French higher education institutions collectively take their share of responsibility

Since 2010, French universities and Grandes écoles have been working together, through their representative associations, to implement actions that aim to respond to the urgent and necessary socio-ecological transformation of human societies at a time when the anthropogenic effects of climate change and the loss of biodiversity on a planetary scale are beginning to severely affect the quality of life of future generations.

The Conference of Grandes écoles (CGE) and the Conference of University Presidents (CPU) are working alongside students and ministries to equip and unite the higher education and research community around a new educational and scientific paradigm:

- To enable young people and the active population to acquire the skills needed to switch from an industrial society based on energy-intensive mineral transformation to a society based on low-energy biological transformation,
- To develop responsible research and innovation, companions of the living and at the service of its Humanity component.

The Conferences assume that higher education institutions are places of comprehensive teaching and demonstrators for science in action. They must therefore be equipped with tools for systemic measurement of their transformation at the service of a sustainable society - such is the goal of the "DD&RS" reference system.

The «DD&RS» framework: an open access tool, freely available for self-assessment and developed by its users for its users

Designed in its first collective version as part of the Grenelle de l'environnement process that led to the eponymous law, the «DD&RS» reference framework is an intellectual production of universities, Grandes écoles, students and ministries. It is in the public domain and can be freely adapted by other countries.

Its use as a self-assessment tool for an institution's sustainability approach is made easier by its free availability on a digital platform: PERSEES.org. Successive versions of the reference framework are developed by its users and stakeholders to take into account the state of the art in science, international agreements related to socio-ecological transformations (SDGs, ISO 26000...) and, at the local level, changes in institutional practices and regulations.

From the «DD&RS» framework to the «DD&RS» certification: to learn together, act together and create a community recognized by its stakeholders

The "DD&RS" framework is designed as an educational tool that draws on the knowledge of a community of users on a national scale and shares it with a university or a Grande école.

The "DD&RS" framework allows for an inventory of sustainability practices. It defines a starting point for the implementation of an action plan in line with an organization's strategy. It also defines a common semantic on what is a sustainability approach, a network of interrelated actions involving governance, operations - ecological management of the campus, social policy - and missions - teaching, training, research and innovation - of a higher education and research institution in a logic of continuous improvement.

The «DD&RS» framework opens the door to a voluntary sustainability certification process. The goal is to encourage the commitment of agents, employees, students, teachers, researchers and directors or presidents in their professional practices and to recognize the efforts made by belonging to a committed community of institutions. By 2030, under the impetus of the «DD&RS» certification, 100% of universities and grandes écoles will attest, in one way or another, to their commitment to the socio-ecological transformation of the territories in which they operate.

Article 55 of the Grenelle 1 Law of August 3, 2009, requires all higher education institutions to implement a Sustainable Development approach (in its economic, societal and environmental dimensions) under the name «Green Plan».

Initially a simple expression, the Green Plan took shape with the writing of the Green Plan framework, made official on June 17, 2010, which included the 9 challenges of the National Sustainable Development Strategy 2010-2013 and the development by the Conference of Grandes écoles, the Conference of University Presidents, the REFEDD, the Ministry in charge of Ecology and their stakeholders, of a reference framework intended for the implementation of this Plan in a logic of continuous improvement.

As of 2015, the name "Green Plan" was replaced by the acronym/logo "DD&RS" and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were gradually included into the reference framework.

The latest version presented here, called the ***DD&RS* 2021 reference framework**, was produced with the **help of national research institutions**, which contributed in particular to the reworking of the research and innovation section. The ecosystem of higher education, research and innovation institutions thus has a sector-specific tool that allows them to:

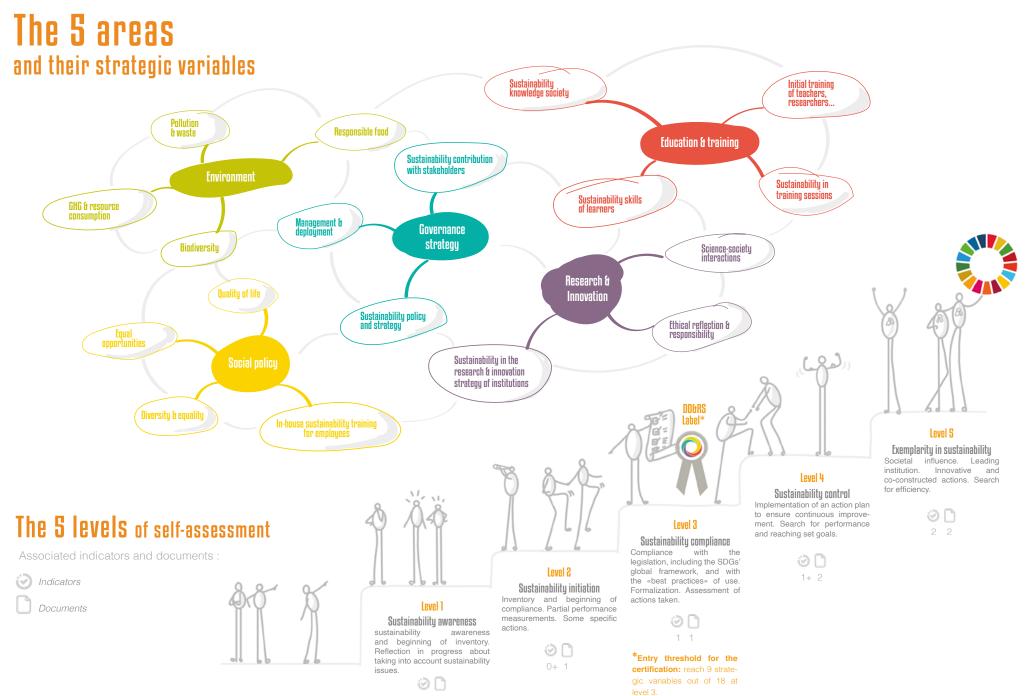
Provide educational support, through shared practices, for the representation of a sustainability approach in its dimensions of ethical questioning, complexity, and transversality to the functional organization and strategy of an institution.

Self-assess its actions according to a grid, with supporting documents and indicators, established by the tool's user community.

Guide the implementation of a continuous improvement process in line with the SDGs and the main principles of ISO 26000.

Dialogue and share within a community of internal **stakeholders** - to increase collective skills with administrative. teaching and/or research staff and students - and with external stakeholders - to build bridges with assessment organizations, ministerial supervisory bodies and companies - so that business practices and national/ quidelines can be mutually enriching. international

Voluntarily move towards a sustainability certification if the institution meets the eligibility criteria of the process.



The strategy & governance axis and its 3 strategic variables



- **1. Allocate resources** to the conduct of sustainability.
- 2. Assess and analyze the performance of the sustainability approach.



Sustainability contribution with stakeholders

- 1. Raise awareness and encourage all of the institution's internal stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices.
- 2. Act with national and international networks of players to help change behavior and share its sustainable performance in order to co-build a responsible society.
- **3. Commit to its territories** through its sustainability policy.

Management & deployment

Governance strategy



- 1. Define its strategy and develop an action plan covering all dimensions of sustainability.
- 2. Incorporate the approach into all of the organization's departments/ services and its functional and operational activities.

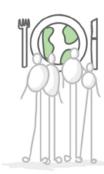
Sustainability policy and strategy

- 3. Implement a responsible purchasing policy.
- **4. Communicate about the goals, practices** and results of the sustainability approach with all stakeholders.

The environment axis and its 4 strategic variables



- 1. Improve the management of organic liquid effluents (reduction, control, treatment).
- 2. Reduce, re-use, recycle waste similar to household waste.
- 3. Reduce, re-use, recycle, treat hazardous and specific waste (except WEEE Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) and hazardous liquid effluents.
- 4. Reduce, re-use, recycle, treat WEEE.
- 5. Reduce and optimize the treatment of air pollution.



Responsible food

Pollution & waste





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- 2.Implement and incorporate environmental, social and energy performance criteria with regard to usage into building specifications.

1. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

and practices.

3. Implement travel management for internal stakeholders and an incentive policy for alternative travel.

CHG & resource consumption

- Implement an energy management system for facilities and actions to improve the behavior of internal stakeholders.
- 5. Reduce and optimize water consumption.





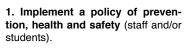
- 1. Implement sustainable management and act in favor of biodiversity (natural and cultivated environments, landscaped and developed areas) on the institution's sites.
- 2. Act in favor of biodiversity (natural and cultivated environments, landscaped and developed areas) on different territorial scales (local and/or national and/or international) on sites outside the organization.

- 1. Implement a responsible food approach within the institution with internal stakeholders and management delegates (under the institution's own control).
- 2. Work with external stakeholders to promote responsible food (institutional influence).

The social policy axis and its 4 strategic variables

- **1. Prepare the arrival of future learners** regardless of their profiles.
- 2. Develop study/training conditions favorable to the success of learners with disabilities.
- 3. Develop study/training conditions favorable to the success of international students.
- 4. Develop study/training conditions that are conducive to the social openness of institutions and to the success of learners.
- **5. Promote the professional integration** of students regardless of their profiles.





- **2. Implement a quality of life** policy on the institution's site(s).
- **3. Implement a quality of life** policy at work.



Equal opportunities

Social policy

Diversity & equality

In-house sustainability training for employees



- 1. Implement actions in favor of parity in staff recruitment and promotion, in managerial and governance functions, in personnel representative bodies.
- 2. Implement actions in favor of diversity in staff recruitment and promotion.

- 1. Deploy a forward-looking management of jobs and skills dedicated to administrative, library and technical staff (support functions).
- 2. Deploy a forward-looking management of jobs and sustainability skills for staff dedicated to teaching and/or research.





Research & Innovation

Ethical reflection & responsibility





- 1. Encourage the participation of society's stakeholders in the research production process (participatory science).
- 2. Integrate the results of research/innovation and field experiments into training programs (initial, continuous and ongoing) and enrich research with the contribution of learners.
- 3. Transfer research results to the socio-economic world and promote responsible entrepreneurship and innovation in response to societal issues.
- **4. Disseminate the results** of research and innovation to the general public.
- 5. Help in the decision making process in terms of public policies (State and local authorities) by providing support (expertise, advice, feedback on societal expectations).

- 1. Define and implement an operational steering system, in terms of organization and resources, for the research and innovation strategy.
- 2. Encourage and support research and innovation practices which are inter- or trans-disciplinary in nature, in order to meet the challenges of sustainability.
- **3. Identify the sustainability impacts** of research issues at the project design stage (ex-ante impacts) and/or analyze them after completion (ex-post impacts).
- 4. Identify and take into account SD&RS concerns (environmental, social and economic) in the conduct of R&I projects, from the set-up to the production of results: environmental, social and economic performance of labs and teams (behavior).

Sustainability in the research & innovation

strategy of institutions

5. Develop or contribute to research and innovation projects in response to societal issues in the relevant areas of action (territorial, national and international).

- 1. Identify and implement an environment and practices that enable respect for scientific integrity in R&I.
- 2. Promote open dissemination of scientific knowledge and data, taking into account the regulatory frameworks and the requirements of clients in terms of open science and open data.

The education & training axis and its 4 strategic variables



Sustainability knowledge society

- 1. Develop and support approaches, methods and teaching aids that promote the dissemination of and access to knowledge for stakeholders.
- 2. Open up internationally with the aim of co-development (particularly with developing countries) concerning internal stakeholders.

Initial training of teachers,

Education & training

Sustainability skills of learners

- 1. Learning how to apply sustainability knowledge and skills in all work and assignments, including in compa-
- 2. Support and recognition of student initiatives (outside of training) in the development of sustainability projects - students in the normal curriculum (initial training) or lifelong learners (continuing education).



researchers...

- Sustainability in training sessions
 - 1. Adapt the teaching of traditional curricula: incorporate sustainability issues into initial training programs, including apprenticeship and work-study programs.
 - 2. Integrate sustainability into continuing education programs.



- 1. Incentives and support for teachers to encourage the integration of sustainability on the one hand and the transversality of teaching on the other hand.
- 2. Training of future teachers and/ or doctoral students in sustainability issues and skills.



From self-assessment to certification

Do you want to know your level?





TAKE A SELF-ASSESSMENT free of charge using the «DD&RS» reference system on the PERSEES platform.

Would you like to to read the reference framework document?





DOWNLOAD THE «DD&RS» REFERENCE FRAMEWORK free of charge in Excel format (Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation website).

Do you want to promote and encourage your approach?



The "DD&RS" label

This label is administered by an operator - CIRSES - which gives volunteer institutions the opportunity to apply for the certification, based on specific eligibility criteria.

The entry threshold for the "DD&RS" certification is 9 out of 18 strategic variables at Level 3.



LEARN MORE on the «DD&RS» label via the PERSEES platform.

Contacts



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Self-assessment on PERSEES and certification

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The «DD&RS» reference framework is a public domain tool designed by its users for its users under the aegis of the following institutions:











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