



Ca' Foscari  
University  
of Venice



sustainable  
Ca' Foscari

# Sharing Information on Progress report 2018

In these years Ca' Foscari renewed daily its efforts to be a sustainable University that serves the local community and safeguards the social and environmental fabric in which it operates. The commitment in the promotion of these values has been transformed in activities and initiatives implemented everyday.

Our University pursues to be an academic excellence, with an interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching that links the scientific and the humanistic dimensions, which is particularly useful in facing the global challenges of this millennium, which mainly concern issues of sustainability.

In all its actions Ca' Foscari promotes innovation in both processes and contents, paying particular attention to sustainability, that it has elected, among the first ones, as a basic element of its mission.

The multidisciplinary characterizes the Ca' Foscari commitment to strive for a model of sustainable university, becoming a reference point in the Italian scenario and contributing to the birth of the Network of University for the Sustainable Development (Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile).

Aware of the important role an academic institution has in educating future generations and in the spread of learning within society, Ca' Foscari decided to take a frontline position in promoting behaviours and realizing actions in favour of social and environmental sustainability.

Since 2012 Ca' Foscari University of Venice supported the PRME's 6 principles of PRME – Principles for Responsible Management Education and today Ca' Foscari renews its commitment to the implementation of these Principles educating younger generations towards a culture of sustainability. We hope that the teachings students have acquired during their university experience will be considered when taking decisions and actions in the future.

**Rector**  
**Michele Bugliesi**

# Ca' Foscari University of Venice

## History

Like its home city of Venice, Ca' Foscari University is a **crossroads of cultures**, and of fields of research, ideas and creativity. Founded in 1868 as a Business School, it is now a medium-sized state university based in the historic centre of Venice with two mainland campuses in Mestre and Treviso.

Ca' Foscari was the first Italian institution to deal with advanced education in Business and Economics. The original main office is still found in the grand gothic palace "volta de canal" (on the bend of the Grand Canal), in the heart of Venice.

Over the twentieth century the building underwent two important restoration phases at the hands of the Venetian architect Carlo Scarpa, and between 2004 and 2006 Ca' Foscari was subjected to more restoration work.

Ca' Foscari Palazzo is the oldest building in the world to have received **LEED EB: O&M certification**.

Ca' Foscari University of Venice teaches approximately **21,000 students** and covers four large scientific and cultural areas (corresponding to the four Faculties in force until 2010): Economics, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Humanities and Sciences.

Since the academic year 2011/2012 the university has been organized into 8 Departments and 6 Interdepartmental Schools, responsible for research and teaching activities of First and Second Cycle Degree Programmes.

Ca' Foscari University of Venice also offers English-taught programmes and double/joint degrees, which along with numerous cooperation agreements with European and extra-European institutions and universities, enrich the **international focus** that has always been a feature of the university, increasing the mobility of students, researchers and professors. Skills in the fields of teaching, research and innovation are integrated by a wide cultural programme, thanks to a busy calendar of conventions, exhibitions, film, theatre and radio dates, aimed both at Ca' Foscari community and the entire world.

**The city.** Venice is an extraordinary city: universally considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, it is also a **UNESCO World Heritage site**.

This prestigious context facilitates its contacts with other cultural and economic realities, both at home and abroad. At the same time, Venice is also a very difficult city, especially for the high living costs that students and their families are forced to meet. Moreover, the unique nature of this urban site means that Ca' Foscari is spread across a number of sites, some quite distant from each other, in **historic buildings** requiring costly maintenance and conservation work in compliance with listed building regulations.

**Other universities.** The Veneto region has four other state universities with extensive course offerings that are often not coordinated and even in competition with each other. However, Ca' Foscari stands out from other Italian universities thanks to its language study area.

## Vision

As a leading center for academic excellence, we strive to attract and nurture talented scholars across the world, offering a **distinguished curriculum** and delivering **cutting-edge research** emerging from the **active engagement** of the hard and digital sciences with the disciplines of our traditional establishment rooted in social sciences and humanities.

## Mission

Promote scientific advances by undertaking the **highest quality research**, addressing global questions and deliver acknowledged impact across various disciplines.

Encourage a **transformative learning experience** based on dedicated academic tutoring, a research-inspired, demand-led curriculum and an engaging student life.

Attract a diverse and **international community** of scholars and students at the very heart of one of the world's most stunning locations.

Act as an accountable and stable institution capitalizing on culture and academic excellence to promote **civic innovation** and **economic growth**.



# PRME'S SIX PRINCIPLES

## Principle 1 - Purpose

We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

## Principle 2 - Values

We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

## Principle 3 - Method

We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

## Principle 4 - Research

We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

## Principle 5 - Partnership

We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

## Principle 6 - Dialogue

We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

# PRINCIPLE 1

## PURPOSE

**We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.**

In 2010 Ca' Foscari embarked upon a challenging journey to become a university promoting **social cohesion** and improving the **wellbeing** of those working and studying at the university, while favouring the local **environment and natural resources**, and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the various processes. This commitment was included in the University Statute (Article 53) and led to the creation of the **Sustainable Ca' Foscari programme**.

Over the years, Ca' Foscari has emerged as a model of management and organisation capable of including sustainability in all university activities and of extending **sustainable development** well beyond the purview of the university to involve the entire city of Venice in its initiatives. Venice and its immediate surroundings, and the difficulties involved in balancing the different needs and expectations of those living, working and studying there played a vital role in defining a path of social and environmental responsibility.

The University includes sustainability in its agenda and most important missions: it strives for excellence in teaching and innovative research in order to encourage full awareness of global phenomena and new solutions that can be applied directly to society where at all possible. The goal is to become a driving force for innovation and the wellbeing of the city, the country and the planet.

Ca' Foscari is therefore committed to projects that engage all its **stakeholders** and the entire community.

These involve a wide variety of subjects – local, national and international – encouraged to take shared action and so foster a model of sustainable development, an exchange of best practices and the combination of diverse scientific and operational expertise. The University is also a member of numerous **international networks** directly concerned with social responsibility and sustainable development.





University pays a special attention to its **educational responsibilities** towards its students, and is aware that their future behaviour and decisions are likely to be significantly influenced by their university experiences.

Teaching must be capable of preparing young people for the world of work, while at the same time performing a social function, that of educating new generations in **sustainable behaviour** and so produce citizens who can account for their conduct no matter what their field.

Ca' Foscari aims to offer high quality teaching that stimulates critical thinking and develops useful skills in order for its students to face the challenges of the 21st century. It undertakes to provide all the necessary tools so that it not only excels around the world, but also to improve its performance, offering innovative, interdisciplinary courses with special attention to all aspects of sustainability.



## PRINCIPLE 2

# VALUES

**We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.**

Among the many courses offered by Ca' Foscari is a growing number of study paths that allow students to address matters related to sustainability – environmental, social and economical – at all levels and in various different areas of university research and study.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Bachelor's degree programmes                          | Sustainable Chemistry and Technology<br>Environmental Sciences<br>Sciences of Society and Social Service   |
| Master's degree programmes                            | Language Sciences<br>Science and Technology of Bio and Nanomaterials<br>Sustainable Chemistry and Technology<br>Environmental Sciences<br>Work, Social Citizenship, Interculturality<br>Crossing the Mediterranean: towards Investment and Integration   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> level Professional Master's programme | Administration and management of wildlife<br>Corporate and regional environmental and energy assessment and management<br>Strategic Social Innovation Management<br>Environmental and Land Law<br>Immigration: Migratory phenomena and social change<br>Science and Techniques of Prevention and Safety<br>Labour and Social Security Law<br>Global economics and social affairs<br>Corporate sustainable management<br>Sustainable real estate<br>Translation and interpreting theory and techniques, Italian - Italian Sign language (LIS) |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> level Professional Master's programme | Characterisation and Remediation of Contaminated Sites<br>Health Economics and Management  |
| PhD programmes  | Science and Management of Climate Change<br>Environmental Sciences<br>Science and Technology of Bio and Nanomaterials  |
| Joint degree  | Environment, sustainable chemistry and technologies<br>Creating sustainable innovative competitive advantages in international business for eu-australia<br>Sustainable development  |



## University of Voluntary Work

The third edition of University of Voluntary Work was held in September 2016. The project, which was the result of a collaboration between CSV Treviso, the **Coordinatin Body of the Voluntary Association** of the province, the **Ca' Foscari University of Venice**, and the network of Università del Volontariato, is a free training programme helping volunteers acquire new human, technical, sectoral and cross-disciplinary competencies.

In the 2016/17 academic year, **30 participants** made up of aspiring volunteers, students and local citizens took part in the scheme.

The fourth edition started in September 2017 with 28 enrolled students.

## Active Learning Lab on sustainability: ideas accelerator for businesses

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, with the support of Fondazione Ca' Foscari, and in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Venezia and Rovigo, launched in September the **Active Learning Lab (ALL)**. This first edition of ALL was dedicated to the sustainability.

The Active Learning Lab(s) are innovative and multidisciplinary teaching laboratories with a duration of 6 weeks. In these labs 40 young talented will be selected and will work in teams under the coordination of professors, mentors and specialists to develop **innovative solutions** to real challenges proposed by **business partners**. During the labs will be used innovative methodologies such as the Design Thinking, Lean Startup and Business Model Canvas.

The ALL are addressed to:

> **Graduate students of Ca' Foscari University**. The goal is to assist students in developing of innovative solutions to real challenges, thanks to different perspectives and collaboration among students with different backgrounds (technological, scientific, humanistic, economic and management). The composition of teams has been done by a scientific committee in order to guarantee the presence of heterogeneous competencies.

> **Businesses of all dimensions and sectors**, which are looking for new solutions to present and future challenges. Businesses must put themselves into play to reduce the gap between young people and them, to transform their work approach and to decrease the resistance to the change and take the role of innovator.

In 2016 there were two ALLs involving **80 students** and **6 companies**. The first ALL, which started in September 2016, was entirely dedicated to **sustainability** and involved leading local companies (Stevanato Group, Favini, Argenta) whose real challenges were immediately tackled by the students participating. The topics proposed were social innovation projects and creative re-use of materials.

## PRINCIPLE 3

# METHOD

**We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.**

For years now Ca' Foscari has been interested in the innovative delivery of its courses in order to boost the use of new technology and so improve learning.

### The Urban Innovation BootCamp

One of the most important sustainability initiatives in 2016 was **The Urban Innovation BootCamp**, focussing on **social and environmental innovation**. Developed by the Treviso Campus, it aims to propose a new method of education and to link up the skills offered by Ca' Foscari students directly with the needs of the local area.

The second edition of this boot camp attracted more than 40 students aged under 30 and several lecturers, international experts, businesses and representatives of civil society, who then worked together for 8 weeks.

These developed no fewer than **5 innovative solutions** for dealing with the problem of **integration and sustainable tourism**. Thanks to innovative, engaging teaching, the boot camp allowed participants to develop cross disciplinary skills and speed up the formation of new ideas and solutions destined to have a major impact for the local community.

The project also strengthened the local ecosystem for urban innovation through the creation of a network between the University and local businesses and institutions.

The third edition was held in July of 2017 focus on the **inclusion and community engagement**.

### “Sustainable competencies” project

Sustainability Competencies is a project launched by Sustainable Ca' Foscari that aims to include sustainability as a subject in its own right in the various study paths undertaken by Ca' Foscari students. The project, developed in collaboration with the various Departments and Schools of the University, provides for **voluntary activities** to be included in students' study plans and assessed by the referent professor that will allow students to acquire **1 extracurricular ECT**.

The activities offered can be suggested by students or their professors and may vary in nature: from bibliographic or field research to participation in seminars and workshops or involvement in practical creative activities. The project has attracted many students keen to participate by carrying out research and projects with innovative interdisciplinary approaches.

In 2016-2017 **135 students** acquired sustainability competencies.

### Extra-curricular activities

Sustainable growth is also promoted among Ca' Foscari students by means of **extra-curricular training activities** away from the lecture hall, letting students face the many facets of sustainability outside their usual areas of interest, and in an interactive manner.

Those students who take part in these initiatives find themselves working actively towards

the success of each project. They become part of a group of people from all walks of life and studying in different fields to their own, thus giving them the opportunity to develop **interdisciplinary competencies** and learn about new applications for their studies. Researchers and academic staff are also involved in these projects, again coming from different disciplines; they benefit from being able to turn their research to account and explain it to students face to face. This type of project also has a public output, namely the chance for students to present their work and so become themselves **promoters of sustainability** among their peers and the local community.

## ART&SUSTAINABILITY

Ca' Foscari is particularly interested in the use of creative instruments and alternative communication channels to promote a proper understanding and involvement in sustainability issues. Over the past few years, one successful area of activity has been that concerning **Art&Sustainability**, resulting in projects that stress the link between sustainability and the world of Art, which has close ties to both the City of Venice and some of the University's main areas of research.

### Fifteenpercent, dialogue on disability in the world

In 2016, under the umbrella of Art&Sustainability, the University hosted **Fifteenpercent: Dialogue on Disability in the World** in collaboration with artist Christian Tasso and the cultural association Equality. The project took place from October 2016 to January 2017 and was designed to raise public awareness about the rights of people with disabilities, transmitting the importance of the concept of inclusion as a driver for sustainable development in society.

The project included an exhibition showcasing a selection of photographs and videos from Christian Tasso's 'Fifteenpercent' series on the lives of people with disabilities in various parts of the world. **37 students** took part in the project, flanking the curator, Diego Mantoan, during every stage and working with him to select the works and develop the exhibition design and catalogue. The students also organized and carried out guided visits for local groups and schools as well as developing audio files for QR codes. Another group of students carried out thematic research, which was presented during the finissage. The project included three **public seminars** examining topics related to disability with contributions by 15 internal and external speakers and a public of 100 participants. All of the seminars were held in Italian and Italian Sign Language (LIS).

### Participatory art against sex trafficking

The project **Participatory art against sex trafficking** is an idea of Sara De Vido and Caludia Irti, professors in the Economic Department of Ca' Foscari University, to inform and **increase awareness** among the students and the community about **sex trafficking**, the human trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes.

The project involves students, who will realize a **performance-conference**, that will take place on 16 may 2017 in Aula Magna Trentin, in Ca' Dolfin. Students will work together to create the performance and will actively take part with actors and international speakers.

## **EARTH - two words on the future**

During the 2017, in partnership with the artists Ornella Ricca and Pietro Spagnoli, Ca' Foscari realized the cultural project **EARTH - two words on the future** to increase awareness and the attention on topics related to the earth planet, by encouraging, through an artistic installation, a dialogue and a reflection on the past, the present and the future of our Planet, with the involvement of the university community and the territory. The project included public events and workshops for students.

## **Sustainable Art Prize**

Ca' Foscari started in 2017 a new project about art, indeed the University **in collaboration with ArtVerona** created the first **Sustainable Art Prize** for artists and collectives of artists reflecting issues of social, economics and environmental sustainability through art to tackle major global challenges in line with the **17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** promoted by the UN. The prize entails the construction of an installation, an exhibition or a performance which relates to sustainability, to be hosted at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. This art project will involve students at Ca' Foscari, while the artists will work in a new environment collaborating with the university community in Venice - a unique opportunity of dialogue between art and research. The prize falls within the projects of Art&Sustainability of Ca' Foscari and shows the commitment of Ca' Foscari towards sustainable development issues by presenting them in a new innovative way, including emotional investment that characterizes art. The winners will obtain a budget of **€ 5,000.00** for the completion of their project in collaboration with the Special Projects Office - Sustainable Ca' Foscari.

The **winners** of the first edition were Sasha Vinci and Maria Grazia Galesi, presented at ArtVerona by gallery aA29 Project Room and named by the jury on the following criteria: the interpretation of the concept of sustainability, the aesthetic maturity of the project and the capacity to share the concept and involve the community.

## **Orto in Campus (Vegetable garden on campus)**

The **Orto in Campus project** was launched in 2016 in the garden of the Scientific Campus in Via Torino, Mestre. Ca' Foscari's first experiment involving a **synergistic vegetable garden** based on **biodiversity** was carried out with the practical collaboration of the administrative area responsible for managing the University's green spaces - Real Estate and Purchasing Area -, and the Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics (DAIS). The project comprised two areas: a garden for biodiversity planted with native plants that are either rare or at risk of extinction, and a synergistic vegetable garden using organic gardening methods. It is in part a **research tool contributing to the diffusion of scientific knowledge** – thanks to the involvement of researchers from the DAIS Plant Ecology group – and in part an activity involving students who were selected from 33 submissions to the call for applications. **Students are directly responsible for all of the activities** relating to the management of the garden as well as for the organization of meetings to raise awareness and diffuse knowledge about synergistical horticulture and sustainable agriculture, building relations with local associations and groups involved in urban horticulture and synergistical agriculture.

## CSR in University

The University is also concerned with supporting employees with family and parenting commitments, promoting the adoption of flexible employment schemes to allow a good family/work balance.

In December 2016 the University was granted **Family&Work certification by the Veneto Region**. The first stage involved an internal audit to find out to what extent Ca' Foscari's policies promote the **work-life balance** while the second stage involved the drafting of a three-year action plan to enhance the balance between family and work among technical administrative staff. The actions and measures contained in the three-year plan were considered to be consistent with the standards required by the certification process and on 29 December 2016 Ca' Foscari was granted this certification, which represents an **incentive and official commitment** to pursuing actions favouring the wellbeing of staff.

For the first three-year period, Ca' Foscari defined **13 objectives and 54 actions** in the following areas: working hours; work organization and processes; the workplace; information and communication policies; managerial competence; staff training, salaries and additional components; and family services. The more innovative measures will involve trials of flexible forms of work such as **smart working and co-working**, the extension of **agreements to temporary workers** and the introduction of **new approaches to balancing work, health and workloads** such as **Banca della Solidarietà (Bank of Solidarity)**.

At the end of the three-year period, the University will decide whether to undergo another audit as part of an ongoing improvement process and to consolidate the measures tried out so far. On the strength of this Family&Work audit certification, Ca' Foscari will be able to bring about a **cultural change** that will have a positive effect on the **wellbeing of staff and faculty** and increase a sense of belonging, as well as further benefitting the image of the university.

Moreover Ca' Foscari undertakes to enter into special agreements with staff and faculty in order to improve their wellbeing outside of work. More specifically, its activity in this sense concerns supporting family life, parenting, travelling to and from work, ease of training and the promotion of wellbeing and health. The list below shows which agreements were in force in the period 2016-2018:

- > **3 preschool facilities** and **4 summer activity centres** in the local area, with discounts and reserved places;
- > **annual public transport travel passes** for getting to and from work at a discounted rate, purchased in bulk by the University and paid for in instalments (deducted from monthly salaries);
- > a reserved sector in **Mestre Bicycle Park** – in the immediate vicinity of the railway station;
- > an agreement with a **bicycle repair and maintenance cooperative** for services at a discounted rate;
- > **6 medical centres** in the local area offering discounted services;
- > free advice from a **private health clinic** (Associazione Italiana Educazione Demografica - Consultorio Familiare Privato) and providing support for victims of violence and abuse;
- > **subsidised rates** for the sports activities offered by CUS - Centro Universitario Sportivo;
- > subsidies and the chance of free participation in study and **languages courses** provided by Ca' Foscari.

# PRINCIPLE 4

## RESEARCH

**We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.**

Ca' Foscari promotes research destined to have an **impact on social and environmental issues**. It supports this by attracting investment, enhancing existing skills and competencies, drawing on the results of previous University research and attracting the best talent on the international scene.

On 1 January 2016, the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** adopted by the world leaders of the United Nations officially came into force and Ca' Foscari has decided to take on these commitments through its actions. In 2017 Ca' Foscari mapped the research projects pursuing one or more goals of Agenda 2030 and discovered that about the **65%** of the ongoing projects were tackling themes related to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

To direct this research towards such crossdisciplinary themes is a commitment that Ca' Foscari fully intends to pursue by increasing the number of its dedicated research projects and setting up research groups that address matters of great interest for society and embody the **main challenges** of our generation and those of future generations in order to encourage growth that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

### Research for global challenges

Ca' Foscari aims to make the University the ideal place for planning and conducting innovative research, facing the complex challenges of our time with an interdisciplinary approach and through new collaborative projects with the world's top international research centres.

**Six areas of research** were identified concerning issues known as **Global Challenges**, i.e. strategic, cross-disciplinary matters. These will be studied by **interdisciplinary research groups** conducting cutting-edge research in order to face the global challenges of today and the future, and so ensure sustainable development of technology and knowhow.

The six areas are:

- > science of complex economic, human and natural systems
- > interdisciplinary socio-cultural studies
- > public management, wellbeing and social innovation
- > creative arts, cultural heritage and digital Humanities
- > environmental technology and the green economy
- > economics and management of innovation and enterprise

### SCIENCE OF COMPLEX ECONOMIC, HUMAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

The transdisciplinary study of complex systems offers innovative solutions to outstanding scientific questions and global societal challenges, stylizing models that can be applied in a variety of fields, ranging from **climate projections** to the implementation of risk management and **mitigation strategies** and the understanding of **behaviours in socio-economic and**

## **natural systems.**

This enterprise engages the work and contributions of mathematicians, computer and data scientists, physicists, linguists, historians, social scientists and researchers in the humanities, economists, ecologists and climatologists.

## **CROSS CULTURAL AND AREA STUDIES**

Comparative cultural and area studies provide the theoretical and conceptual basis to address some major challenges of the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as **radicalisation, migration, and integration** within increasingly multicultural and multilingual societies, both within and outside the boundaries of the European Union. The cross-fertilization of **language and cultural studies** with institutional and regional **economics** provides innovative solutions to all such societal and political challenges, based on deeper insights on Intercultural relations.

## **PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, WELFARE AND SOCIAL INNOVATION**

Addressing **social exclusion, discrimination** and various forms of **inequalities** is a crucial challenge for the future of Europe and its citizens. The understanding of rapidly changing multicultural and multilingual societies requires a cross-disciplinary approach, spanning across the **social sciences** and **humanities**, and including **law** and **ICT**, to address issues such as **gender equity** and **diversity, access to education**, accessibility and **disability rights, health** and **social welfare, labour** markets, **active ageing, demographic change, family and children protection, consumer protection**, and sustainable **company law**.

## **CREATIVE ARTS, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

Cross-disciplinary approaches to **human culture, languages** and **technology** create new research fields such as digital humanities and heritage science. These innovative approaches change the way **cultural heritage** and shared values are studied, preserved, restored, managed, disseminated or even created. **Creative industries** have in fact emerged as a **key driver of economic growth**, where user-driven innovation plays a leading role.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND GREEN ECONOMY**

Among the key challenges of our society there is the understanding of **climate information** and make available in real decision-making processes, in order to finding **resilient and efficient alternatives** to our fossil-based economy.

Only a holistic approach that blends **environmental sciences** with **geopolitical and economical studies** can develop effective mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change and other environmental challenges.

## **ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

In the context of the post-2007 global financial crisis, is born the need to analyse and develop



new economic frameworks and tools, such as **circular and resilient economy, systemic and interactive innovation, bio-based products**, and **multi - actor approaches**.

Similarly, a more competitive economy and a resilient society require digital innovation and the adoption of disruptive technologies, **new business models**, and strategies based on creative thinking and deeper understanding of the growing volumes of data and information available.

## CA' FOSCARI RESEARCH CENTRE WITH FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS

The **Venice Centre for Climate Studies (VICCS)** is an inter-disciplinary research centre based at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, focusing on the assessment, detection, quantification, communication and facilitation of sustainable solutions to global change problems.

A primary aim of the VICCS is to integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions (the triple bottom lines of sustainable development) with the institutional dimension to answer questions related to climate change. This long-standing goal is manifested in VICCS, where faculty with a spectrum of skills analyse a range of topics: environmental economics, resources management, adaptation and mitigation policy, risk analysis, paleoclimatology, renewable energies, and cultural heritage protection and valorisation.

Its mission is to investigate and model the feedbacks between society and the climate system, and provide reliable, rigorous, and timely scientific results to help develop climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. It is a hub of interdisciplinary research, with a focus on the science-policy interface and the relationships between research and business.

VICCS serves as a nexus for different university departments and associated institutions active in the field around the Venice area. Within the University Ca' Foscari, the Departments of Environmental Sciences Informatics and Statistics and Economics. Associated institutions are so far the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, the Institute for the Dynamics of Environmental Processes of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-IDPA), the FEEM Foundation (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei), the Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria (INEA).

The **Institute for the Dynamics of Environmental Processes (IDPA)** was created on the 18 April 2001 based on a proposal from the Centre for Studies on Environmental Chemistry and Technologies - Venice, the Centre for Studies on Alpine and Quaternary Geodynamics - Milan, and a part of the Institute for Research on Seismic Risk - Milan, which have supported an idea born in June 2000 to answer the necessity of re-organising research, to highlight and to promote the best synergies to confront and articulate the complexity of the problems facing the scientific community today. In this context we have proposed to study the Earth System not from a specified thematic point of view, but from a wider perspective to take advantage of the interdisciplinary knowledge available.

The research themes of the Institute are:

- > The environment and the evolution of environmental system;
- > Methodologies for studying and depicting the environment;
- > Teaching and dissemination of knowledge to the wider community.

IDPA is a young institute, but the activities of its researchers have already established it by the publication of numerous papers in qualified international scientific journals.

The **European Centre for Living Technology (ECLT)** is an international Research Centre dedicated to the study and creation of a new generation of technologies which embody the essential properties of life, such as self-organization, adaptability, capacity to evolve and react to environmental stimuli, etc. The research, focused mainly in the bio-nano-technology and synthetic biology sectors, is developed in collaboration with scientists belonging to the 15 European Universities and international Research Centres which are members of ECLT. The experimental research of the Centre is undertaken at the Laboratory hosted at the scientific campus in Via Torino - Mestre. The object of the research is the design and creation of biological components non existent in nature, proteins and new alternative biological structures. The Centre is also an international meeting point for the development both of basic research and the creation of new technologies for the productive sector and the transfer of these technologies to various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medicine and the environment. The Centre fosters a wide spectrum of activities to promote the study and development of living technology by:

- > Coordinating research activities and project work focused on living technology.
- > Supporting and organizing teaching activities, and high-level training for the development of living technology professionals.
- > Offering consulting and research services to agencies, institutions and firms in the area of living technology.
- > Sponsoring scientific meetings, workshops, publications and exhibitions for the development and diffusion of the work carried out by the Centre and its partners.
- > Welcoming long-term visitors to the Centre who collaborate as research fellows.
- > Organizing two types of public seminars: technical seminars aimed at the academic community, and informative seminars aimed at the general public.

**Interdepartmental Human Rights Research Centre (Centro Studi sui Diritti Umani – CESTUDIR)** was created in March 2012 and is based in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage. This Centre has the following purposes:

- > Develop researches in the field of human rights;
- > Promote training activities and offer a scientific support for teaching in the field of human rights. In particular the centre promotes and supports research and training courses, courses of specialization, PhD degrees and masters;
- > Offer consultancy services and research to institutions;
- > Spread the centre activities and researches through publications, conferences, seminars and exhibitions.

## PRINCIPLE 5

# PARTNERSHIP

We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges

Ca' Foscari means to increase its involvement in the Venetian territory, by identifying local needs and involving the major players in the search of **synergies and partnerships** that create new value.

The University is particularly committed to promote sustainability through the establishment of beneficial relations with like-minded partners and suppliers. Our desire is for our work-related relations to confirm reciprocal commitments based on long term initiatives and promotional events, and not just the supply of goods and services.

### Ca' Foscari Sociale Project

Our dedication to the **local territory** is also seen in specific projects such as the **Ca' Foscari Sociale Project** launched to boost relations and competencies in favour of national and international **voluntary services**.

To increase awareness of the **University's civic role** and, at the same time, to be more visible and effective in the area, Ca' Foscari has launched specific projects to enter the sphere of territorial welfare. It is in this way that the Ca' Foscari Sociale Project was inaugurated



with a view to putting together and satisfying the different needs manifested by **non-profit associations** active in the area with people desiring to do volunteer work.

Our objectives are twofold. We endeavour to increase the **University's social role** by evidencing individual's professionalism and their sometimes hidden abilities and, then, we work to making these abilities fully available to the diverse volunteer community.

Also the relations with other institutions is a very important issue for Ca' Foscari. Italian institutions have only recently felt the need to address sustainability and, because of this, it is important to establish **good relations with all institutions** involved and adopt a view to sustainability so that all can share their ideas and open the road to a virtuous cycle of reciprocal motivating encouragement.

### University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS)

The **University Network for Sustainable Development (RUS)** was founded in July 2016 with the endorsement of the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI), and represents the country's first shared project for the promotion of environmental sustainability and social responsibility jointly coordinated by the Italian universities committed to these themes.

The main goal of RUS is to spread a culture of sustainability along with good practices, both within and outside Universities, creating a shared pool of competencies and experiences. Not only will this enhance the positive fall-out in environmental, ethical, social and economic terms of the actions undertaken by the single universities, it will also increase the visibility and value of the Italian experience at international level.

RUS also aspires to be a model of **good practice that can be applied in other sectors of the Public Administration**, education and local government in general, incentivizing the development of collaborative projects between universities and cities, diffusing social innovation at grass-roots level and cultural stimuli nationwide. The ultimate aim is to promote new national policies favouring sustainability and sustainable growth that will favour a dialogue with economic actors.

Ca' Foscari University, which is one of the promoters and founders of the network, was chosen to host the organizational office for the first three years of the Network. The **Organizational Office** is run by the Special Projects Office - Strategic Planning and Programming Area which has appointed a member of staff to carry out these responsibilities. Prof. **Fabio Pranovi**, the Rector's Delegate for Sustainability, has been appointed as chair of the coordination committee.

Three **working groups** – on Mobility, Energy and Waste – have been set up within the Network to help the universities to exchange best practices and develop new solutions for priority issues that will support RUS in attaining its institutional aims.

<http://www.reteateneisvilupposostenibile.it>

## PRINCIPLE 6

# DIALOGUE

**We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.**

The Sustainability Report is a transparent tool allowing the University to **dialogue** with its stakeholders and increase their **engagement**. In fact, since its first publication in 2011, a panel is organised each year with representatives from each of the main categories of external stakeholders. This encounter provides an occasion to discuss sustainability policies, the actions undertaken by the University and its future plans, as well as the way that the Sustainability Report might increase accountability. This panel encourages profitable exchanges between stakeholders and Ca' Foscari regarding expectations, approaches and commitments in each area.

The opinions expressed by the panellists reflect the importance of certain topics for each different category of stakeholders. As a result, this helps us to finalise the contents, and priorities, of the Sustainability Report according to the principle of **materiality**. In other words, the recommendations of the panel are treated as suggestions for the development of new initiatives and are borne in mind when writing the next Sustainability Report.

Right from the start of the Sustainable Ca' Foscari project the University has engaged in dedicated communication, initially through its official web portal and subsequently its **social network** accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and a monthly **newsletter**.

### DIFFUSION INITIATIVES

In 2016-2017 the University (administration, departments, schools and centres) organized **307 events** comprising seminars, conventions and workshops dealing with themes of sustainability.

These resulted in the **engagement** and **participation** of both **people from the University** and, increasingly, the **local community**.

Three events have, over the years, been fixed appointments for Ca' Foscari: involvement in the **M'illumino di meno** (I use less light) initiative, with radio programmes and a dedicated information campaign; the **Short&Sostenibilità** video competition during the University's own short film festival; the **European Week for Waste Reduction** (EWWR), with re-use and recycling activities.

The following events were also organised in 2016:

➤ **C-ARTE Kids Creative Lab:** in April Ca' Foscari hosted the final exhibition of the C-ARTE Kids Creative Lab, an educational project for primary schools born out of the collaboration between the Peggy Guggenheim collection and OVS (an Italian clothing company). The exhibition showcased pop-up books created by 1 million children. At the end of the exhibition, the books

were recycled and sent to the Punti Luce children's centres run by Save The Children to be used for educational and entertainment activities with the children attending the centres.

> **Sustainability paths – a journey to discover environments, cultures and peoples:** the Treviso Campus organized a film festival on themes of sustainability and respect for the earth, environment, culture and people, with 8 free screenings open to all;

> **Fairtrade coffee break:** during the “World Fairtrade Challenge” event in May, a fair trade coffee break was held in the Alfa building on the Scientific Campus, Via Torino, Mestre. Organized in collaboration with Fairtrade, the coffee break was intended to raise the awareness of the Ca' Foscari community about the the social movement known as fair trade;

> **AVIS blood donation association:** in 2016, further activities were organized to promote blood donation among Ca' Foscari students, staff and graduates who were given the opportunity to have a screening and give a small sample to check whether they would be able to become an AVIS blood donor;

> **Sustainability Tour:** To mark the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR), Ca' Foscari Tour worked together with Sustainable Ca' Foscari to create the Sustainability Tours. As well as exploring the history of the historic Ca' Foscari palace, the University's main site since 1868, the tours also take a look at the best practices for environmental, economic and social sustainability that allowed the building to obtain LEED certification.

The “**Ca' Foscari sociale**” project has had a major impact on the local community. Launched in 2012, the goal is to promote the world of volunteering and local welfare within the Ca' Foscari community.

The project started with an **online bulletin board** where both those looking for volunteers and students/staff willing to undertake voluntary work could post details. The **University of Voluntary Work** was set up in the 2014/15 academic year offering a free one-year training path for existing and aspiring volunteers. This project, made possible thanks to input from the **Coordinating Body of the Voluntary Associations of the Province of Treviso**, is open to all local residents and is run by **staff volunteers from Ca' Foscari**.

## Kids University Venice

For 5 days, from May 22nd to May 26th 2017, Ca' Foscari Scientific Campus in Via Torino, Mestre, hosts nearly **900 school children** and **young teenagers from primary and secondary school**, offering workshops and interactive lectures on the topics of sustainability held by Ca' Foscari scholars and experts.

**Kids University Venice**, organized by Ca' Foscari along with Pleiadi, has surpassed the expectations of school attendance, involving young people and making them feel part of the significance and importance of **UN Agenda 2030, listing the 17 Objectives of Sustainable Development**. The initiative is **part of the Sustainable Development Festival 2017**, promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS).

# COMMITMENT TO PRME

## KEY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Ca' Foscari University of Venice is dedicated to work towards PRME's Six Principles and set these key objectives for the next years.

### **Principles 1 - Purpose and 2 - Values**

- > Develop initiatives of third mission
- > Increase the teaching of sustainable topics
- > Support the University of Voluntary Work

### **Principle 3 - Method**

- > Develop the action of project "Family and Work audit certification"
- > Strengthen the services for students with a perspective of learning experience

### **Principle 4 - Research**

- > Foster the research on sustainability topics

### **Principle 5 - Partnership**

- > Support the activities of RUS – Italian Network of University for Sustainable Development

### **Principle 6 - Dialogue**

- > Improve the communication related to activities of Sustainable Ca' Foscari
- > Promote the scientific dissemination of sustainability researches on the territory





NOVEMBER 2018



**sustainable**  
**Ca'Foscari**

[sustainability@unive.it](mailto:sustainability@unive.it)

[www.unive.it/sustainability](http://www.unive.it/sustainability)

[www.twitter.com/CFSostenibile](https://www.twitter.com/CFSostenibile)

[www.facebook.com/CFSostenibile](https://www.facebook.com/CFSostenibile)

