

Report on 'Sustainability at universities. A staff perspective'.

Baltic University Programme (BUP)

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Summary

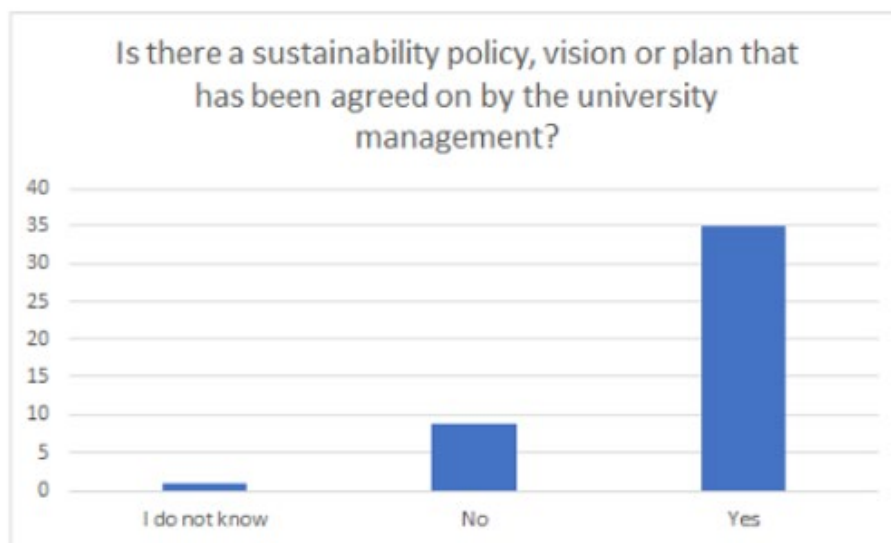
This report presents the results of a survey organised by the BUP Secretariat in Uppsala to BUP participating universities which looked at Sustainability. A total of 39 responses were received, representing a completion rate of 45% across the universities in the BUP. The survey was sent out to investigate how sustainability is dealt with, interpreted and incorporated by BUP universities. Overall, the results demonstrate that sustainability is an important aspect at BUP universities where it forms a key concept that drives the university, however, BUP universities are less consistent in implementing monitoring mechanisms.

Results

Sustainability's incorporation at the university

At the vast majority of BUP universities, sustainability is a key concept. It is a core component at three quarters of universities. Moreover, as detailed below, sustainability policies and plans are fairly widespread.

5. Is there a sustainability policy, vision or plan that has been agreed on by the university management?



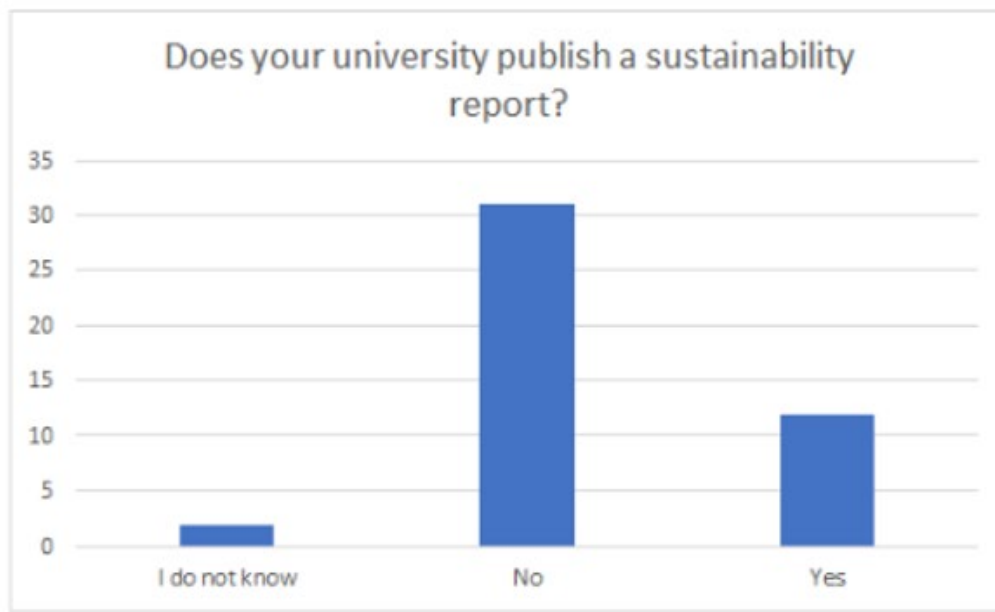
Sustainability is also actively promoted at the university. 60% of universities have a team of sustainability changemakers in place that promote sustainability on campus. Other events related to sustainability are also actively promoted. 95% of respondents indicated that their university promotes these alternative events, which includes projects, campaigns and related activities.

Numerous sustainability efforts are being made on university campuses. Most common were saving energy, reducing waste and recycling waste. Green procurement and sustainable landscaping were least common, with only a quarter implementing them.

Sustainability monitoring mechanisms

In terms of the management and monitoring of sustainability, BUP universities are less strong. 50% of universities did not have a sustainability department or unit ensuring that sustainability issues are being managed correctly. Moreover, one third of universities do not have mechanisms in place ensuring that they are making progress to be more sustainable. Many BUP universities do (around two-thirds) but this is still a fairly substantial proportion of those that do not. The publication of a sustainability report is also little, as shown below-

8. Does your university publish a sustainability report?



What areas of sustainability are BUP universities working with?

The top five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that universities are working with are- Quality education, Climate action, Sustainable cities and communities, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and Good health and well-being.

The five goals least focused on are- Zero hunger, No poverty, Life of land, Life below water and Reduced inequalities.

Whilst some degree of variety is expected, there are substantial differences between focuses. Of particular interest to note is that 18% of BUP universities are not working towards quality education and 38% of universities are not working with gender equality.

Education initiatives related to sustainability

BUP universities are strong in this aspect. 86% of responses indicated that their university is offering disciplinary courses on sustainable development. This figure was lower for offering interdisciplinary courses at 36%. Furthermore, a range of specific programmes are offered too at different levels (Bachelor, Master and PhD). 40% of universities are not offering a specific programme related to sustainability. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) were less offered- only one third were engaged in this.