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## Sustainable Development Principles in the University and Community Interaction

▪ sustainable development ▪ interaction ▪ university ▪ community

In 2022, due to the full-scale war of the Russian Federation against the people of Ukraine, Mariupol State University was faced with the need to move to the city of Kyiv. Restoring the university to a new environment requires learning from the experience of sustainable development.

The genesis of the transition from sustainable development to sustainable functioning should be based on the following principles (Liashenko, [2020](#)):

- the principle of responsibility to the future: training specialists, conducting scientific research and developing projects should be focused on the needs of future generations, at least the list of specialties and research topics should be relevant in the medium term;
- the principle of unity of goals;
- the principle of complexity: all decisions made should be systematic and comprehensive, that is, when planning activities, short-term and long-term consequences of certain decisions must be taken into account;
- the principle of environmental awareness and greening of all spheres of activity;
- the principle of equality: all areas of training and research are equally significant;
- the principle of partnership: all interested parties can equally realize their interests;

- the principle of openness and awareness: the free exchange of various types of data, including reporting on activities in various industries.

Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future, meeting the diverse needs of existing and future residents within the broader economic and environmental security context. They are safe, inclusive and cohesive, strong in social capital and offering opportunities for participation in decisions and governance; they enable human flourishing and wellbeing, are well served, well connected and fair for everyone; they have strong community and voluntary associations and are knowledgeable about and sensitive to protection of the environment (Coote, 2015).

Universities have every opportunity to explore the impact of policies on communities and spread the lessons learned from them. They also work for a long time: they are able to learn from research results and apply them to new situations in different communities.

The concept of sustainable communities is a useful imaginary and organizing framework for university research into the understanding and enhancement of social aspects of sustainability.

Action research, with high degrees of participation, is an approach that is able to handle complexity and enables meaningful community-based research needs to be met. This requires an explicit value position, time, commitment and an interdisciplinary stance from researchers. One limitation of this approach is that it is time-consuming for all concerned, and because research questions evolve and cannot always be identified at the outset, funding can be difficult to attract. This makes it even more important that resources of the university and community are combined and maximized (Kagan et al., 2017).

Sustainability will only be achieved through the actions of people in families, communities and workplaces and university research at the community level can help the transformation journey to more sustainable futures.

### References

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