

## **COP25: Crue Universidades Españolas Manifiesto for a more sustainable planet**

Madrid, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

As Spanish universities we are aware of their responsibility and their crucial role in meeting Goal 13 of Agenda 2030, Climate Action. Universities are, in their nature, involved in the generation, transfer and dissemination of knowledge. This grants them the necessary capabilities to undertake a critical and constructive contribution to Sustainable Development that should be addressed from all areas of knowledge.

As Spanish universities we are convinced that it is time to take determined climate action and we want to become key drivers of the needed transformations. We have the potential of becoming catalysts for a change that is urgent, and for which we will become a referent. Last September we signed the global initiative of Higher Education institutions on Climate Emergency and we are ready to be more ambitious in responding to social demands to push for the entirety of necessary decisions to stop Global Warming.

As Spanish universities we are accountable for educating our youth. We therefore manifest our commitment to lead this process in the following SDG 13 Climate Action targets:

**Facilitate Research that serves as basis for all areas of knowledge to ‘strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries’ (target 1)**

It is essential to carry out socially responsible research, of transdisciplinary nature and in a joint and sustained manner. We are already developing research lines within the three broad scientific areas related to climate change: physical bases; impact and vulnerability; and mitigation and adaptation to its consequences. Our studies on hydrological planning, plant resistance to water stress, systems of coastal protection, reduction of livestock emissions, sustainable architecture techniques, synthetic fuels, analyses of precipitations and climate risks, environmental education or the increasing resilience of vulnerable communities can serve as examples of what is being carried out within universities in order to achieve Sustainable Development. We will not rest until we achieve this, because the core mission of universities is to improve citizens’ lives.

**Adapt our institutional policies to ‘integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning’ (target 2)**

Universities are real-life sustainability labs where initiatives to avoid global warming are being developed. There are numerous examples of good practices that should be placed value on and replicated. In 2017 we took on the declaration in favour of fair trade and responsible consumption because the relation between climate change and models of production and consumption is unquestionable. The seal ‘*Calculo-Reduzco*’ of the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition that some of our universities have achieved is only another small step. As universities, we want to be at the forefront of the struggle against global warming and we aim for our energy consumption to be 100% renewable.



**Analyse and revise our study programs in order to ‘improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning’ (target 3).**

Climate Action requires us to address climate emergency in its context and from all areas of knowledge. Our programs will present new breakthroughs and identify behaviours needed to face the challenge of global warming. The aim is to provide skills for technological and social adaptation to highly uncertain and changing environments to future professionals in all disciplines. Our responsibility is to provide the knowledge needed to imagine and develop solutions that mitigate the problems of Climate Change. Together we must find alternative ways that will foster a decent and full life to all.

The challenge we face is possibly one of the greatest that Humanity has known. However, surely never before has there been such richness in the joint and aligned research activities that are being carried out. We have never had the knowledge potential that we currently have as universities.

It is our duty to put all this fabulous transformative capacity at the service of society and, moreover, instil these citizens to ask governments to provide us with the needed resources to face this challenge.