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What Do We Know? A Sociological Survey of Students' Information and Attitudes About the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda¹

As part of the global effort to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), higher education plays a pivotal role in fostering sustainable awareness and promoting informed action. Accordingly, a pilot study was conducted using an online questionnaire to assess the awareness and attitudes of students at the Faculty of Philosophy in Split toward the SDGs. The research adhered to the Faculty's Code of Ethics and received approval from its Ethics Committee. The questionnaire was distributed via e-mail and Facebook groups targeting Split-based students, resulting in 85 respondents (approximately 4% of the student population). The primary objective was to evaluate the level of awareness and attitudes concerning the SDGs, while specific objectives included: gauging familiarity with SDG concepts; exploring attitudes toward social, economic, and ecological aspects of sustainability; determining how frequently these topics appeared in their academic curriculum; and identifying any differences in awareness across study programs and levels. Additionally, students were asked to share their immediate associations with "sustainable development" and their views on its purpose. Research findings show that 63.5% of students were unfamiliar with Agenda 2030, yet 71.8% encountered sustainability-related content during their studies. All SDG-related topics appeared in the curriculum to some extent. Moreover, 96.5% of respondents deemed the implementation of SDGs at the local level important, at least to some degree. Students' associations with "sustainable development" fell into seven categories: ecology and environment; future generations and long-term perspective; society and community; economy and economics; politics and systems; energy systems and technology; and education and actors. Regarding its purpose, five themes emerged: ecological/environmental sustainability; intergenerational solidarity; social sustainability/stability; economic sustainability/responsible development; and innovation/technological progress.

Keywords: Agenda 2030, sustainable development, sustainable development goals (SDGs), survey, online questionnaire

¹ A survey of the attitudes and awareness of students of the Faculty of Philosophy in Split about the goals of sustainable development as part of Agenda 2030 was conducted in the summer semester of the academic year 2024-2025, course Quantitative Analysis in Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Split.