



GLOBAL STUDENTS SDG CHALLENGE

Short Description - January 24-29, 2022

Background

The SDG Challenge was started in 2018 by professors of the University of Brasilia (UnB), Brazil, and from Aalborg University (AAU), Denmark, and it is supported by the [Junior Enterprise](#) of Production Engineering at UnB which is a partner in the [Brasil Junior network](#). The Junior enterprise, associated with UnB, is one of the most successful Junior Enterprises in Brazil and has over time created a surplus on consultancy tasks for companies, based on volunteer work from students. Supporting this project is part of the strategy of the Junior Enterprise to make a difference for the “common good”.

Since 2018, the SDG Challenge has fostered several student projects that focus on solving SDG-focused challenges, based on the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. The overall aim was and is to promote sustainable entrepreneurship, i.e. entrepreneurship that takes into consideration the three pillars of the holistic sustainability concept: ecological, social and economic sustainability.

Objectives

The SDG Challenge seeks, through an international event for students from different parts of the globe, to obtain rich perspectives that lead to the creation of concrete and focused solutions to some of the challenges in achieving the SDG goals for 2030. More concretely, the objectives are:

- Provide sustainable solutions to issues related to Agenda 2030 through international student collaboration.
- Establish and enhance international learning and research networks among students as well as among professors/researchers.
- Enhance students’ interest in entrepreneurship as well as intercultural communication skills, problem solving skills and ICT skills.
- Explore the opportunities in sustainable entrepreneurship.

Partners

- University of Brasilia (UnB), Grupo Gestão, Brazil
- Aalborg University (AAU), Denmark
- Other international universities joining each semester

Activities

The activity is based on a biannual cycle, with a biannual face-to-face event that lasts for one week and is organized by Grupo Gestão and hosted by UnB.

The event is led by students who will settle the themes and general dynamics of the event and whose free initiative will help provide solutions to the selected problems. The model applied for the learning event will be the Problem Based Learning applied in AAU.

Participants are: students from each of the partner universities, plus a facilitator for each of them.

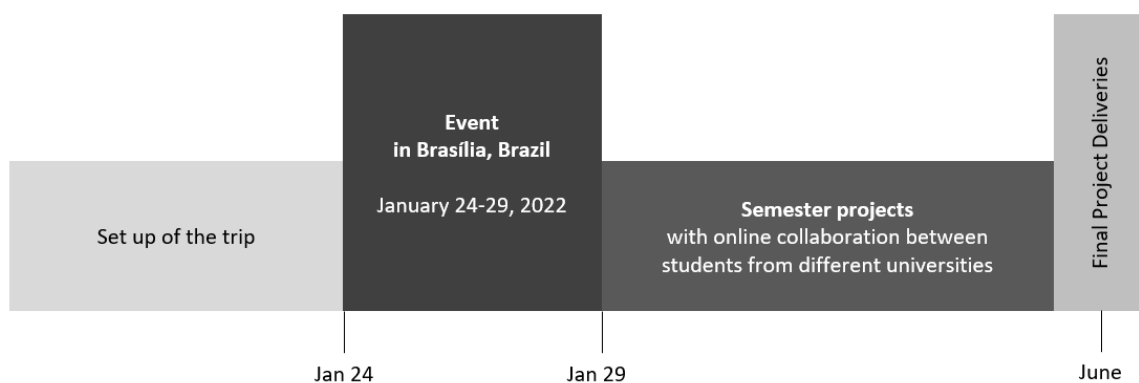
Activities in the face-to-face event are a mix of lectures by invited guest lecturers, fieldwork and facilitated group work where students identify contextualized problems relevant to Agenda 2030 as well as to the own semester curriculum. Output from the face-to-face event will be a number of realistic student project proposals.

The event is followed by periods of 3 – 4 months of virtual online student collaboration on the formulated project proposals, with each team of students taking responsibility for a well-defined part of the project theme, and with the professors facilitating the process. The project contents should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda, as well as with the learning outcomes of the semester curriculum. The participating students must always obtain some form of credit for their participation in the face-to-face event and the project work.

Problem

As in the years of 2019, 2020 and 2021, the focus of the SDG Challenge 2022 will be the mega-theme P3RSW (Preventing, Reducing, Reusing, Recycling of solid waste via cooperatives of waste pickers), which targets the context of the improvement of the solid waste chain in Brasília, including the closure of the dumpsite (at the time the second biggest in the world) and the situation of the waste pickers. You can see more about the problem [here](#). The goal is to have all sorts of students (from humanities, IT/engineering, and others) developing research and solutions to the different problems within the mega-theme. Although it will be recommended that the students develop projects related to the P3RSW mega-theme, other SDG-focused projects are also very welcome.

Time schedule



Practical information:

- Junior Enterprise members accommodate students from abroad.
- Junior Enterprise provides food during the event hours.
- International students and teachers raise own funding for flight tickets
- International teachers raise own funding for accommodation.

Read more:

www.sdgchallenge.com.br

www.sdgchallenge.com.br/sdg2022