sharing information on progress report 2016
In these years Ca’ Foscari renewed daily its efforts to be a sustainable University that serves the local community and safeguards the social and environmental fabric in which it operates. The commitment in the promotion of these values has been transformed in activities and initiatives implemented everyday.

Our University pursues to be an academic excellence, with an interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching that links the scientific and the humanistic dimensions, which is particularly useful in facing the global challenges of this millennium, which mainly concern issues of sustainability.

In all its actions Ca’ Foscari promotes innovation in both processes and contents, paying particular attention to sustainability, that it has elected, among the first ones, as a basic element of its mission.

The multidisciplinarity characterizes the Ca’ Foscari commitment to strive for a model of sustainable university, becoming a reference point in the Italian scenario and contributing to the birth of the Network of University for the Sustainable Development (Rete delle Università per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile).

Aware of the important role an academic institution has in educating future generations and in the spread of learning within society, Ca’ Foscari decided to take a frontline position in promoting behaviours and realizing actions in favour of social and environmental sustainability.

The city, Venice is an extraordinary city: universally considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, it is also a UNESCO World Heritage site. This prestigious context facilitates its contacts with other cultural and economic realities, both at home and abroad. At the same time, Venice is also a very difficult city, especially for the high living costs that students and their families are forced to meet. Moreover, the unique nature of this urban site means that Ca’ Foscari is spread across a number of sites, some quite distant from each other, in historic buildings requiring costly maintenance and conservation work in compliance with listed building regulations.

Ca’ Foscari University of Venice teaches approximately 21,000 students and covers four large scientific and cultural areas (corresponding to the four Faculties in force until 2010): Economics, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Humanities and Sciences. Since the academic year 2011/2012 the university has been organized into 8 Departments and 6 Interdepartmental Schools, responsible for research and teaching activities of First and Second Cycle Degree Programmes.

Ca’ Foscari University of Venice also offers English-taught programmes and double/joint degrees, which along with numerous cooperation agreements with European and extra-European institutions and universities, enrich the international focus that has always been a feature of the university, increasing the mobility of students, researchers and professors.

Skills in the fields of teaching, research and innovation are integrated by a wide cultural programme, thanks to a busy calendar of conventions, exhibitions, film, theatre and radio dates, aimed both at Ca’ Foscari community and the entire world.

Rector
Michele Bugliesi
Vision
As a leading center for academic excellence, we strive to attract and nurture talented scholars across the world, offering a distinguished curriculum and delivering cutting-edge research emerging from the active engagement of the hard and digital sciences with the disciplines of our traditional establishment rooted in social sciences and humanities.

Mission
Promote scientific advances by undertaking the highest quality research, addressing global questions and deliver acknowledged impact across various disciplines.
Encourage a transformative learning experience based on dedicated academic tutoring, a research-inspired, demand-led curriculum and an engaging student life.
Attract a diverse and international community of scholars and students at the very heart of one of the world’s most stunning locations.
Act as an accountable and stable institution capitalizing on culture and academic excellence to promote civic innovation and economic growth.

PRME’S SIX PRINCIPLES

Principle 1 - Purpose
We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Principle 2 - Values
We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

Principle 3 - Method
We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

Principle 4 - Research
We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

Principle 5 - Partnership
We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

Principle 6 - Dialogue
We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.
PRINCIPLE 1
PURPOSE

We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

In 2010 Ca’ Foscari embarked upon a challenging journey to become a university promoting social cohesion and improving the wellbeing of those working and studying at the university, while favouring the local environment and natural resources, and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the various processes. This commitment was included in the University Statute (Article 53) and led to the creation of the Sustainable Ca’ Foscari programme. Over the years, Ca’ Foscari has emerged as a model of management and organisation capable of including sustainability in all university activities and of extending sustainable development well beyond the purview of the university to involve the entire city of Venice in its initiatives. Venice and its immediate surroundings, and the difficulties involved in balancing the different needs and expectations of those living, working and studying there played a vital role in defining a path of social and environmental responsibility.

The University includes sustainability in its agenda and most important missions: it strives for excellence in teaching and innovative research in order to encourage full awareness of global phenomena and new solutions that can be applied directly to society where at all possible. The goal is to become a driving force for innovation and the wellbeing of the city, the country and the planet. Ca’ Foscari is therefore committed to projects that engage all its stakeholders and the entire community. These involve a wide variety of subjects – local, national and international – encouraged to take shared action and so foster a model of sustainable development, an exchange of best practices and the combination of diverse scientific and operational expertise. The University is also a member of numerous international networks directly concerned with social responsibility and sustainable development.

University pays a special attention to its educational responsibilities towards its students, and is aware that their future behaviour and decisions are likely to be significantly influenced by their university experiences. Teaching must be capable of preparing young people for the world of work, while at the same time performing a social function, that of educating new generations in sustainable behaviour and so produce citizens who can account for their conduct no matter what their field. Ca’ Foscari aims to offer high quality teaching that stimulates critical thinking and develops useful skills in order for its students to face the challenges of the 21st century. It undertakes to provide all the necessary tools so that it not only excels around the world, but also to improve its performance, offering innovative, interdisciplinary courses with special attention to all aspects of sustainability.
PRINCIPLE 2
VALUES

We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

Among the many courses offered by Ca’ Foscari is a growing number of study paths that allow students to address matters related to sustainability – environmental, social and economical – at all levels and in various different areas of university research and study.

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<th>Bachelor’s degree programmes</th>
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<td>Environmental and Land Law</td>
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<td>Immigration: Migratory phenomena and social change</td>
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<td>Management of social and strategic innovation</td>
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<td>Science and Techniques of Prevention and Safety</td>
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<td>Translation and interpreting theory and techniques, Italian - Italian Sign language (LIS)</td>
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<td>Sustainable development</td>
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Spring school “Land use and the vulnerability of socio-ecosystems to climate change”

The Spring School entitled “Land use and the vulnerability of socio-ecosystems to climate change: remote sensing and modelling techniques” was held in May 2015, organised by the VICCS interdisciplinary centre (Venice Centre of Climate Studies) as part of the Research PhD course in Science and Climate Change Management. This school explored a study path focussing on the impact of climate change in the local area, drawing on remote satellite monitoring technology and assessing the vulnerability of socio-ecosystems. The economic factors capable of supporting management and planning decisions were also taken into consideration.

University of Voluntary Work

In 2014, the Ca’ Foscari Sociale project, which was set up to promote voluntary activities within the Ca’ Foscari community, gave rise to the University of Voluntary Work, a training path taking place over an academic year and designed for aspiring volunteers, those already working as volunteers, students and local citizens. The initiative enjoyed an overwhelming success, receiving 120 applications for the 32 places available. The joint training programme was organised thanks to the collaboration of Ca’ Foscari and the Coordinating Body of the Voluntary Associations of the Province of Treviso.

Active Learning Lab on sustainability: ideas accelerator for businesses

Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, with the support of Fondazione Ca’ Foscari, and in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Venezia and Rovigo, launched in September the Active Learning Lab (ALL). This first edition of ALL was dedicated to the sustainability. The Active Learning Lab(s) are innovative and multidisciplinary teaching laboratories with a duration of 6 weeks. In these labs 40 young talented will be selected and will work in teams under the coordination of professors, mentors and specialists to develop innovative solutions to real challenges proposed by business partners. During the labs will be used innovative methodologies such as the Design Thinking, Lean Startup and Business Model Canvas. The ALL are addressed to:

- Graduate students of Ca’ Foscari University. The goal is to assist students in developing of innovative solutions to real challenges, thanks to different perspectives and collaboration among students with different backgrounds (technological, scientific, humanistic, economic and management). The composition of teams has been done by a scientific committee in order to guarantee the presence of heterogeneous competencies.

- Businesses of all dimensions and sectors, which are looking for new solutions to present and future challenges. Businesses must put themselves into play to reduce the gap between young people and them, to transform their work approach and to decrease the resistance to the change and take the role of innovator.
Those students who take part in these initiatives find themselves working actively towards sustainability outside their usual areas of interest, and in an interactive manner. Training activities away from the lecture hall, letting students face the many facets of sustainable growth is also promoted among Ca’ Foscari students by means of extracurricular activities.

One of the most important sustainability initiatives in 2015 was The Urban Innovation BootCamp, focusing on social and environmental innovation. Developed by the Treviso Campus, it aims to propose a new method of education and to link up the skills offered by Ca’ Foscari students directly with the needs of the local area. The first edition of this boot camp was inspired by the methods adopted by the D. School at Stanford University and attracted 43 students aged under 30 and several lecturers, international experts, businesses and representatives of civil society, who then worked together for 8 weeks. These developed no fewer than 5 innovative solutions for dealing with the problems of mobility, community services and the regeneration of urban areas in the city of Treviso. Thanks to innovative, engaging teaching, the boot camp allowed participants to develop cross disciplinary skills and speed up the formation of new ideas and solutions destined to have a major impact for the local community in terms of the green city. The project also strengthened the local ecosystem for urban innovation through the creation of a network between the University and local businesses and institutions.

“Sustainable competencies” project
Sustainability Competencies is a project launched by Sustainable Ca’ Foscari that aims to include sustainability as a subject in its own right in the various study paths undertaken by Ca’ Foscari students. The project, developed in collaboration with the various Departments and Schools of the University, provides for voluntary activities to be included in students’ study plans and assessed by the referent professor that will allow students to acquire 1 extracurricular ECT. The activities offered can be suggested by students or their professors and may vary in nature: from bibliographic or field research to participation in seminars and workshops or involvement in practical creative activities. The project has attracted many students keen to participate by carrying out research and projects with innovative interdisciplinary approaches.

Extra-curricular activities
Sustainable growth is also promoted among Ca’ Foscari students by means of extra-curricular training activities away from the lecture hall, letting students face the many facets of sustainability outside their usual areas of interest, and in an interactive manner. Those students who take part in these initiatives find themselves working actively towards the success of each project. They become part of a group of people from all walks of life and studying in different fields to their own, thus giving them the opportunity to develop interdisciplinary competencies and learn about new applications for their studies. Researchers and academic staff are also involved in these projects, again coming from different disciplines; they benefit from being able to turn their research to account and explain it to students face to face.

This type of project also has a public output, namely the chance for students to present their work and so become themselves promoters of sustainability among their peers and the local community.

ART&SUSTAINABILITY: DANCING SOLAR FLOWERS
Ca’ Foscari is particularly interested in the use of creative instruments and alternative communication channels to promote a proper understanding and involvement in sustainability issues. Over the past few years, one successful area of activity has been that concerning Art&Sustainability, resulting in projects that stress the link between sustainability and the world of Art, which has close ties to both the City of Venice and some of the University’s main areas of research.

The University staged the Dancing Solar Flowers installation by Alexandre Dang, artist and engineer, in the Cortile Grande [main courtyard] of Palazzo Ca’ Foscari in 2015 during the 56th edition of the Art Biennale. Dang’s artistic works are dedicated to renewable energy – especially solar energy – and their potential to meet global energy needs. The installation comprised a lawn made from recycled pallets with about 200 flowers “planted” in and around this. These flowers moved thanks to the solar produced by a small photovoltaic cell. The aim of this installation was to give a familiar and easily understandable face to solar energy, as its full potential is often hard to grasp. 22 students from 14 different study courses were involved in this project, both in the practical construction of the installation and research into the artistic and scientific issues raised by this work.

The students could thus take part in one of the crucial moments in staging a site-specific installation, working in close contact with the artist and perceiving the limits and opportunities afforded by a historical site. The students were supervised by two professors in their research activities (one with expertise in contemporary art, the other in solar energy). The installation remained in the courtyard, open to visitors, for six months (May to November). A series of panels bearing the results of the research conducted by the students were exhibited during special occasions, such as Art Night and the European Researchers’ Night.

TECHNOLOGY&SUSTAINABILITY: ECO-FEEDBACK DEVICES
During the second semester of the 2014/15 academic year Fabio Pittarello ran a course entitled Interazione Uomo-Macchina (man-machine interaction) as part of the three-year degree course in Information Technology. Students were involved in development of household eco-feedback interface, designing devices that promote virtuous behaviour in the home. 80 students were given the brief to design interface devices that would remind members of a family about their consumption and the production of energy, to make them more aware of
On the strength of this Family&Work audit certification, Ca’ Foscari will be able to bring about confirmed. and measures in the plan will be monitored for three years, after which certification will be the project and investments in the training of staff and management. If approved, the actions and the workplace, the preparation of an information and communication policy to bolster promote new practices, in line with the steps in the certification procedure. A three-year plan has been developed that foresees changes to working hours, organisation and crossdepartment figures concerned with safety and communication. This project also involves the CUG (Equal Opportunities Commission) and the Quality Committee. The working group, assisted by a certified auditor, has analysed the current practices that facilitate a good family/work balance (or have the potential to do so) and has suggested a few measures to promote new practices, in line with the steps in the certification procedure. The certification process has been entrusted to a Working Group with 10 members with expertise covering the various needs of the organisation, the different categories of workers and crossdepartment figures concerned with safety and communication. This project also involves the CUG (Equal Opportunities Commission) and the Quality Committee. The working group, assisted by a certified auditor, has analysed the current practices that facilitate a good family/work balance (or have the potential to do so) and has suggested a few measures to promote new practices, in line with the steps in the certification procedure. A three-year plan has been developed that foresees changes to working hours, organisation and the workplace, the preparation of an information and communication policy to bolster the project and investments in the training of staff and management. If approved, the actions and measures in the plan will be monitored for three years, after which certification will be confirmed. On the strength of this Family&Work audit certification, Ca’ Foscari will be able to bring about a cultural change that will have a positive effect on the wellbeing of staff and faculty and increase a sense of belonging, as well as further benefitting the image of the university. Moreover Ca’ Foscari undertakes to enter into special agreements with staff and faculty in order to improve their wellbeing outside of work. More specifically, its activity in this sense concerns supporting family life, parenting, travelling to and from work, ease of training and the promotion of wellbeing, health and physical fitness. The list below shows which agreements were in force in 2015:
> 3 preschool facilities and 4 summer activity centres in the local area, with discounts and reserved places;
> annual public transport travel passes for getting to and from work at a discounted rate, purchased in bulk by the University and paid for in instalments (deducted from monthly salaries);
> a reserved sector in Mestre Bicycle Park – in the immediate vicinity of the railway station;
> an agreement with a bicycle repair and maintenance cooperative for services at a discounted rate;
> 6 medical centres in the local area offering discounted services;
> free advice from a private health clinic (Associazione Italiana Educazione Demografica - Consultorio Familiare Privato) and the Iside Social Cooperative providing support for victims of violence and abuse;
> subsidised rates for the sports activities offered by CUS - Centro Universitario Sportivo;
> subsidies and the chance of free participation in study and languages courses provided by Ca’ Foscari.

**CONSUMPTION&SUSTAINABILITY: FOCUS GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION**

During the Expo 2015 trade fair, Ca’ Foscari presented a project on sustainable production and responsible consumption, run in collaboration with Fairtrade Italia, the aim of which was to enhance and share the University’s research into food and water sustainability, promoting active participation of students, staff and faculty. The project involved a preliminary event with in-house and guest speakers with a call for seven different focus groups, each coordinated by a faculty member and dealing with different themes linked to nutrition and the scarcity of resources from both the manufacturer’s and consumer’s viewpoint and with a multidisciplinary approach.

41 students from 19 study paths took part in these focus groups, one of which in the laboratory in collaboration with the Cantiere Ca’ Foscari theatrical company. The results were later presented during the European Researchers’ Night.

**CSR in University**

The University is also concerned with supporting employees with family and parenting commitments, promoting the adoption of flexible employment schemes to allow a good family/work balance.

Ca’ Foscari started its “Acquisition of Family&Work audit certification” project in September 2015. Approved by the Region of Veneto, this is a new investigation into innovative methods in the field of how work is organised at Ca’ Foscari. The aim is to create an innovative model that complements conventional pay systems, but allows for flexibility in terms of use, bearing in mind the needs of faculty and staff when it comes to work and the family. The ultimate goal is to improve their quality of life and work.

The certification process has been entrusted to a Working Group with 10 members with expertise covering the various needs of the organisation, the different categories of workers and crossdepartment figures concerned with safety and communication. This project also involves the CUG (Equal Opportunities Commission) and the Quality Committee. The working group, assisted by a certified auditor, has analysed the current practices that facilitate a good family/work balance (or have the potential to do so) and has suggested a few measures to promote new practices, in line with the steps in the certification procedure. A three-year plan has been developed that foresees changes to working hours, organisation and the workplace, the preparation of an information and communication policy to bolster the project and investments in the training of staff and management. If approved, the actions and measures in the plan will be monitored for three years, after which certification will be confirmed.

On the strength of this Family&Work audit certification, Ca’ Foscari will be able to bring about
PRINCIPLE 4
RESEARCH

We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

Ca’ Foscari promotes research destined to have an impact on social and environmental issues. It supports this by attracting investment, enhancing existing skills and competencies, drawing on the results of previous University research and attracting the best talent on the international scene.

To direct this research towards such crossdisciplinary themes is a commitment that Ca’ Foscari fully intends to pursue by increasing the number of its dedicated research projects and setting up research groups that address matters of great interest for society and embody the main challenges of our generation and those of future generations in order to encourage growth that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

Research for global challenges
Ca’ Foscari aims to make the University the ideal place for planning and conducting innovative research, facing the complex challenges of our time with an interdisciplinary approach and through new collaborative projects with the world’s top international research centres.

Six areas of research were identified in 2015 concerning issues known as Global Challenges, i.e. strategic, cross-disciplinary matters. These will be studied by interdisciplinary research groups conducting cutting-edge research in order to face the global challenges of today and the future, and so ensure sustainable development of technology and knowhow.

The six areas are:
- science of complex economic, human and natural systems
- interdisciplinary socio-cultural studies
- public management, wellbeing and social innovation
- creative arts, cultural heritage and digital Humanities
- environmental technology and the green economy
- economics and management of innovation and enterprise

SCIENCE OF COMPLEX ECONOMIC, HUMAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS
The transdisciplinary study of complex systems offers innovative solutions to outstanding scientific questions and global societal challenges, stylizing models that can be applied in a variety of fields, ranging from climate projections to the implementation of risk management and mitigation strategies and the understanding of behaviours in socio-economic and natural systems.

This enterprise engages the work and contributions of mathematicians, computer and data scientists, physicists, linguists, historians, social scientists and researchers in the humanities, economists, ecologists and climatologists.

CROSS CULTURAL AND AREA STUDIES
Comparative cultural and area studies provide the theoretical and conceptual basis to address some major challenges of the beginning of the 21st century, such as radicalisation, migration, and integration within increasingly multicultural and multilingual societies, both within and outside the boundaries of the European Union. The cross-fertilization of language and cultural studies with institutional and regional economics provides innovative solutions to all such societal and political challenges, based on deeper insights on Intercultural relations.

PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, WELFARE AND SOCIAL INNOVATION
Addressing social exclusion, discrimination and various forms of inequalities is a crucial challenge for the future of Europe and its citizens. The understanding of rapidly changing multicultural and multilingual societies requires a cross-disciplinary approach, spanning across the social sciences and humanities, and including law and ICT, to address issues such as gender equity and diversity, access to education, accessibility and disability rights, health and social welfare, labour markets, active ageing, demographic change, family and children protection, consumer protection, and sustainable company law.

CREATIVE ARTS, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES
Cross-disciplinary approaches to human culture, languages and technology create new research fields such as digital humanities and heritage science. These innovative approaches change the way cultural heritage and shared values are studied, preserved, restored, managed, disseminated or even created. Creative industries have in fact emerged as a key driver of economic growth, where user-driven innovation plays a leading role.

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND GREEN ECONOMY
Among the key challenges of our society there is the understanding of climate information and make available in real decision-making processes, in order to finding resilient and efficient alternatives to our fossil-based economy.

Only a holistic approach that blends environmental sciences with geopolitical and economical studies can develop effective mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change and other environmental challenges.

ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
In the context of the post-2007 global financial crisis, is born the need to analyse and develop new economic frameworks and tools, such as circular and resilient economy, systemic and interactive innovation, bio-based products, and multi-actor approaches.

Similarly, a more competitive economy and a resilient society require digital innovation and the adoption of disruptive technologies, new business models, and strategies based on creative thinking and deeper understanding of the growing volumes of data and information available.
CA' FOSCARI RESEARCH CENTRE WITH FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY TOPICS

The Venice Centre for Climate Studies (VICCS) is an inter-disciplinary research centre based at the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, focusing on the assessment, detection, quantification, communication and facilitation of sustainable solutions to global change problems.

A primary aim of the VICCS is to integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions (the triple bottom lines of sustainable development) with the institutional dimension to answer questions related to climate change. This long-standing goal is manifested in VICCS, where faculty with a spectrum of skills analyse a range of topics: environmental economics, resources management, adaptation and mitigation policy, risk analysis, paleoclimatology, renewable energies, and cultural heritage protection and valorisation.

Its mission is to investigate and model the feedbacks between society and the climate system, and provide reliable, rigorous, and timely scientific results to help develop climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. It is a hub of interdisciplinary research, with a focus on the science-policy interface and the relationships between research and business.

VICCS serves as a nexus for different university departments and associated institutions active in the field around the Venice area. Within the University Ca’ Foscari, the Department of Environmental Sciences Informatics and Statistics and Economics. Associated institutions are so far the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Change, the Institute for the Dynamics of Environmental Processes of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-IDPA), the FEEM Foundation (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei), the Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria (INEA).

The Institute for the Dynamics of Environmental Processes (IDPA) was created on the 18 April 2001 based on a proposal from the Centre for Studies on Environmental Chemistry and Technologies - Venice, the Centre for Studies on Alpine and Quaternary Geodynamics - Milan, and a part of the Institute for Research on Seismic Risk - Milan, which have supported an idea born in June 2000 to answer the necessity of re-organising research, to highlight and to promote the best synergies to confront and articulate the complexity of the problems facing the scientific community today. In this context we have proposed to study the Earth System not from a specified thematic point of view, but from a wider perspective to take advantage of the interdisciplinary knowledge available.

The research themes of the Institute are:
> The environment and the evolution of environmental system;
> Methodologies for studying and depicting the environment;
> Teaching and dissemination of knowledge to the wider community.

IDPA is a young institute, but the activities of its researchers have already established it by the publication of numerous papers in qualified international scientific journals.

The European Centre for Living Technology (ECLT) is an international Research Centre dedicated to the study and creation of a new generation of technologies which embody the essential properties of life, such as self-organization, adaptability, capacity to evolve and react to environmental stimuli, etc. The research, focused mainly in the bio-nano-technology and synthetic biology sectors, is developed in collaboration with scientists belonging to the 15 European Universities and international Research Centres which are members of ECLT. The experimental research of the Centre is undertaken at the Laboratory hosted at the scientific campus in Via Torino - Mestre. The object of the research is the design and creation of biological components non existent in nature, proteins and new alternative biological structures. The Centre is also an international meeting point for the development both of basic research and the creation of new technologies for the productive sector and the transfer of these technologies to various sectors such as pharmaceutics, medicine and the environment. The Centre fosters a wide spectrum of activities to promote the study and development of living technology by:
> Coordinating research activities and project work focused on living technology.
> Supporting and organizing teaching activities, and high-level training for the development of living technology professionals.
> Offering consulting and research services to agencies, institutions and firms in the area of living technology.
> Sponsoring scientific meetings, workshops, publications and exhibitions for the development and diffusion of the work carried out by the Centre and its partners.
> Welcoming long-term visitors to the Centre who collaborate as research fellows.
> Organizing two types of public seminars: technical seminars aimed at the academic community, and informative seminars aimed at the general public.

Interdepartmental Human Rights Research Centre (Centro Studi sui Diritti Umani – CESTUDIR) was created in March 2012 and is based in the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage. This Centre has the following purposes:
> Develop researches in the field of human rights;
> Promote training activities and offer a scientific support for teaching in the field of human rights. In particular the centre promotes and supports research and training courses, courses of specialization, PhD degrees and masters;
> Offer consultancy services and research to institutions;
> Spread the centre activities and researches through publications, conferences, seminars and exhibitions.

The International Centre of Studies on Tourism Economics (CISET) support and promote tourism as an engine of economic growth and social development, capable of producing material and cultural wealth for local, national and international businesses and destinations. The approach of the centre is a perfect blend of academic expertise and business know-how, based on a strong synergy between research studies and consultancy services – conducted exclusively by CISET or in collaboration with national and international partners – and on our experience in tertiary education and management training.

CISET provide the tourist industry, local administrations and future tourism operators with the tools to approach the market in innovative ways, paving the way for success.
PRINCIPLE 5
PARTNERSHIP

We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

Ca’ Foscari means to increase its involvement in the Venetian territory, by identifying local needs and involving the major players in the search of synergies and partnerships that create new value. The University is particularly committed to promote sustainability through the establishment of beneficial relations with like-minded partners and suppliers. Our desire is for our work-related relations to confirm reciprocal commitments based on long term initiatives and promotional events, and not just the supply of goods and services.

Ca’ Foscari Sociale Project
Our dedication to the local territory is also seen in specific projects such as the Ca’ Foscari Sociale Project launched to boost relations and competencies in favour of national and international voluntary services. To increase awareness of the University’s civic role and, at the same time, to be more visible and effective in the area, Ca’ Foscari has launched specific projects to enter the sphere of territorial welfare. It is in this way that the Ca’ Foscari Sociale Project was inaugurated with a view to putting together and satisfying the different needs manifested by non-profit associations active in the area with people desiring to do volunteer work. Our objectives are twofold. We endeavour to increase the University’s social role by evidencing individual’s professionalism and their sometimes hidden abilities and, then, we work to making these abilities fully available to the diverse volunteer community.

Also the relations with other institutions is a very important issue for Ca Foscari. Italian institutions have only recently felt the need to address sustainability and, because of this, it is important to establish good relations with all institutions involved and adopt a view to sustainability so that all can share their ideas and open the road to a virtuous cycle of reciprocal motivating encouragement.

Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS)
In 2015 was officially set up the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainable Development (RUS), promoted by the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI), which saw Ca’ Foscari playing a key role from the very start. The main aims of the network are to create and share new sustainability projects for campuses and diffuse Italian and international best practices.

Other activities include:
> the creation of an inter-University community;
> the promotion of consolidated sustainability projects;
> the implementation of a joint system for the monitoring of universities’ environmental and social performances;
> the development of university programmes on the adoption of correct lifestyles to improve the way students interface with the universities in environmental and social sectors.

The creation of the Italian Network of Universities for Sustainability represents an important outcome valorising the efforts and projects promoted by various universities throughout Italy. Another remarkable example of partnership is the ALL – Active Learning Lab, which is detailed on page 9.
**PRINCIPLE 6**

**DIALOGUE**

We will will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

The Sustainability Report is a transparent tool allowing the University to dialogue with its stakeholders and increase their engagement. In fact, since its first publication in 2011, a panel is organised each year with representatives from each of the main categories of external stakeholders. This encounter provides an occasion to discuss sustainability policies, the actions undertaken by the University and its future plans, as well as the way that the Sustainability Report might increase accountability. This panel encourages profitable exchanges between stakeholders and Ca’ Foscari regarding expectations, approaches and commitments in each area.

The opinions expressed by the panellists reflect the importance of certain topics for each different category of stakeholders. As a result, this helps us to finalise the contents, and priorities, of the Sustainability Report according to the principle of materiality. In other words, the recommendations of the panel are treated as suggestions for the development of new initiatives and are borne in mind when writing the next Sustainability Report.

Right from the start of the Sustainable Ca’ Foscari project the University has engaged in dedicated communication, initially through its official web portal and subsequently its social network accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and a monthly newsletter. Launched in March 2015, this newsletter details current initiatives, explains how to get involved and provides news on the University sustainability.

**DIFFUSION INITIATIVES**

Various initiatives dealing with the theme of sustainability were organised in 2015 involving the active collaboration of several structures, schools, Ca’ Foscari departments and external bodies and organisations. These resulted in the engagement and participation of both people from the University and, increasingly, the local community.

Three events have, over the years, been fixed appointments for Ca’ Foscari: involvement in the M’illumino di meno (I use less light) initiative, with radio programmes and a dedicated information campaign: the Short&Sostenibilità video competition during the University’s own short film festival; the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR), with re-use and recycling activities.

The following events were also organised in 2015:

> **L’impresa socialmente responsabile** (The socially accountable business) – Presentation of the 6th Report into social commitment, in collaboration with the AIIESEC student union;

> **Ca’Foscari@EXPO**: a series of information sessions at the EXPO Aqae pavilion during the international EXPO trade fair;

> **Basta un attimo! Diventa donatore AVIS**: two blood donation days at the Science Campus to promote the culture of donating blood among students, faculty and staff;

> **Il valore del consumatore responsabile - The value of a responsible consumer**: sustainability certification as a consumer tool, in collaboration with Fairtrade Italia;

> **DIRE FARE DARE - Scoprire il volontariato a Ca’ Foscari**: volunteer associations from the local area were invited to the University to promote their activities, in collaboration with the Coordinating Body of the Voluntary Associations of the Veneto Region (CSVV).

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, Ca’ Foscari organised another 118 events over the course of 2015: seminars, conventions, workshops and presentations organised by various departments, schools and structures within the University all linked to the various aspects of sustainability (47.5% more events than in 2014).

With regard to its relations with the local community, Ca’ Foscari has adopted the Veneto strategy for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth using digital technology for social, cultural and economic purposes. In fact it signed an agreement with the Veneto Region in 2015 to organise digital innovation initiatives involving the local community citizens, businesses and public administrations, in order to set up participatory co-design workshops for public services.

The “Ca’ Foscari sociale” project has had a major impact on the local community. Launched in 2012, the goal is to promote the world of volunteering and local welfare within the Ca’ Foscari community.

The project started with an online bulletin board where both those looking for volunteers and students/staff willing to undertake voluntary work could post details. The University of Voluntary Work was set up in the 2014/15 academic year offering a free one-year training path for existing and aspiring volunteers. This project, made possible thanks to input from the Coordinating Body of the Voluntary Associations of the Province of Treviso, is open to all local residents and is run by staff volunteers from Ca’ Foscari.

Last but not least, 2015 saw Ca’ Foscari and the head office of AVIS (the Italian blood donation association) for the Province of Venice start promoting the culture of blood donation among the Ca’ Foscari community. The initial awareness campaign (Basta un attimo. Diventa donatore AVIS) attracted 50 first-time blood donors from among students, staff and faculty.
COMMITMENT TO PRME

KEY OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Ca’ Foscari University of Venice is dedicated to work towards PRME’s Six Principles and setted these key objectives for the next years.

Principles 1 - Purpose and 2 - Values
> Develop initiatives of third mission
> Continue the project “Family and Work audit certification”
> Increase the teaching of sustainable topics
> Support the University of Voluntary Work

Principle 3 - Method
> Provide training on ethical code for staff and faculty
> Strengthen the services for students with a perspective of learning experience

Principle 4 - Research
> Foster the research on sustainability topics

Principle 5 - Partnership
> Support the activities of RUS – Italian Network of University for Sustainable Development

Principle 6 - Dialogue
> Improve the communication related to activities of Sustainable Ca’ Foscari
> Promote the scientific dissemination of sustainability researches on the territory

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