

2024 Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) Report

University of Vaasa

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About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Letter of Commitment

University of Vaasa demonstrates its commitment to PRME's Principles through the following letter from senior leadership.



From: University of Vaasa
PO Box 700
FI-65101 Vaasa
Finland

25 June 2024

To: PRME Board
c/o PRME Secretariat at United Nations Global Compact Office
685 3rd Avenue, 12th Floor
New York 10017

Adoption of the Principles for Responsible Management Education

The University of Vaasa, as an institution of higher education involved in the development of current and future managers, is committed to implementing the Principles for Responsible Management Education—starting with those that are more relevant to our capacities and mission, reporting on progress to all our stakeholders, and exchanging effective practices related to these Principles with other academic institutions.

By joining PRME, our university has made a powerful commitment to advancing values such as sustainability, responsibility, and ethics in teaching, research, and leadership. We understand that our own organisational practices should serve as an example of the values and attitudes we convey to our students.

We encourage other academic institutions and associations to adopt and support these principles.

Minna Martikainen
Rector

Institutional Mission, Vision, and Strategy

The following outlines University of Vaasa's institutional mission, vision, and strategic approach to responsible management education.

Mission, Vision, Strategy or Purpose

University of Vaasa Strategy 2030

Relevant Stakeholders

University staff and management, students, partners, the public

Purpose

Creating and sharing knowledge to make business, energy, and society more sustainable

VaasaYO_Strategy_2024_EN

View document  Download document 



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

RME Leadership Accountability

At University of Vaasa, accountability for responsible management education is structured as follows:

Informal Faculty/Staff Stewardship

Organizational Structure for RME

The following organizational entities at University of Vaasa are responsible for RME:

- ❖ No Entity Yet



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



RME Elements in Degree Programs

University of Vaasa integrates responsible management education into its degree programs through 3 different approaches:

Course-Level RME Learning Goals

Examples of course syllabi with course-level RME learning goals

Syllabus of the capstone course, LIIK2002 Sustainability and Ethics in Business, required for all students in business studies

Department

Business studies

Learning Object Subject

Syllabus

Educational Level

Master's degree studies

Learning Outcome

The course will teach students to recognise the fundamental principles of sustainable development and ethical business, recognise the themes and challenges of responsible business from various fields of study, and apply these concepts and perspectives to solve cross-cutting business problems. As a responsible group member, the student will consider others' ideas.

Interactivity Type

The course requires active teamwork.

Learning Object Description

Syllabus of the capstone course, LIIK2002 Sustainability and Ethics in Business, required for all students in business studies

LIIK2002_Sustainability_and_Ethics_in_Business [View document](#)  [Download document](#) 

Professor-Discretionary Course Topics

Examples of topics in courses

Here's an example of a course where lectures address corporate responsibility issues.

Department

Accounting and finance

Learning Object Subject

Corporate Social Responsibility

Educational Level

Specialization studies

Learning Outcome

By the course's end, students will have achieved the following intended learning outcomes: they will define dimensions of corporate social responsibility in a variety of accounting and business areas; critically assess CSR dimensions and address them in decision-making and assurance; demonstrate written skills by completing a group assignment during the course; and demonstrate oral skills by preparing and presenting a group assignment.

Interactivity Type

Classroom workshops

Learning Object Description

Here are some examples of courses in which lecturers cover corporate responsibility concerns.

[Supporting Links](#)

Guest Speakers and Showcase Events

Examples of guest speakers and showcase events

In May 2024, Hellen López, a professor at PUCP's School of Management in Lima, paid a visit to the University of Vaasa. During her visit, she talked about corporate ethical practices and instruments. In her lecture, she provided various cases that demonstrate the elements that influence organisations' ethical behaviour, broadening students' comprehension of reality and sustainability-related challenges outside of Europe.

Date

May, 2024 - May, 2024

Location

University of Vaasa

Speakers

Hellen López

[Supporting Links](#)

A guest lecture on the practices and instruments of corporate ethics



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

RME Elements in Research

University of Vaasa incorporates responsible management education into its research endeavors through 4 different methods:

Regular Research Seminars

Examples of responsibility-related regular research seminars

This is an example of our regular research seminar activities on responsibility and sustainability.

Date

January, 2023 - December, 2024

Location

University of Vaasa

Speakers

Professor Robert C. Bird

[Supporting Links](#)

Tomorrow's Legal Landscape: Proactive Law, Sustainability, and the Power of AI

PhD-Level RME Courses

Examples of PhD-level course syllabi with course-level RME learning goals

This is a PhD-level course with RME learning goals.

Department

The Graduate School of the University of Vaasa

Learning Object Subject

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Sustainability

Educational Level

PhD-level

Learning Outcome

The course will teach students how to identify and frame their research objectives from diverse perspectives on sustainability and social responsibility. Students learn how to use a sustainability viewpoint to tackle cross-cutting business problems.

Interactivity Type

Students, as responsible group members, will consider and constructively respond to other people's opinions.

Learning Object Description

This is a PhD-level course with RME learning goals.

TOFO4044_Two-

day_workshop_Interdisciplinary_perspectives_on_sustainability

View document 

Download document 

Research Conferences

Examples of responsibility-related conferences

This is an example of a responsibility-related conference hosted by the University of Vaasa.

Date

January, 2023 - December, 2024

Location

University of Vaasa

Speakers

Klaus Meyer, Jean-François Hennart, Stefan Schmid, Pervez Ghauri, Gary Knight

[Supporting Links](#)

The 17th Vaasa IB Conference at the University of Vaasa

Other types of research support for faculty or PhD students

The University of Vaasa provides substantial research services to faculty and PhD students.

The project management team provides assistance throughout the research project, beginning with identifying appropriate research funding opportunities and ending with research project cooperation agreements. Communication, library, and IT services will also be available at various stages of the project.

Research services

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Author

University of Vaasa

Published Date

August, 2023

Degree Of Recognition

International

Media Name

University of Vaasa website

Media Type

Webpage

Duration

Several pages

[Supporting Links](#)



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Partnership Approaches for RME

University of Vaasa partners with external stakeholders to advance responsible management education through 4 different approaches:

Knowledge Translation and Dissemination

Description of partnering activities that involve informing

On May 30, 2024, the University of Vaasa hosted a Science and Business for Sustainable Growth seminar to bring together decision-makers, businesses, and those working in science and research to discuss how to work together to support Ostrobothnia and Finland's success.

The seminar panellists explored strategies to promote collaboration between the university and businesses, increase the region's appeal, and take steps to keep international PhD students in the region after they finish their doctoral studies. The panel advised expanding university alumni activities to foster collaboration, forming networks, encouraging researchers and professors to establish research and innovation-based businesses, expanding collaborative development and research platforms, and improving researchers' working cultures.

Collaboration between research and business is critical for long-term growth and competitiveness.

On May 30, 2024, the University of Vaasa hosted a Science and Business for Sustainable Growth seminar to bring together decision-makers, businesses, and those working in science and research to discuss how to work together to support Ostrobothnia and Finland's success.

Author

University of Vaasa

Published Date

May, 2024

Degree Of Recognition

Regional

Media Name

University of Vaasa website

Media Type

Online news

Duration

1

[Supporting Links](#)

External Community Dialogue

Companies and organisations

The University of Vaasa cooperates with companies, communities and other universities as well as research institutions. The forms of research cooperation can be, for example, commonly funded research projects or research which has been commissioned. Research cooperation in the university is done in the academic schools, the research platforms, the research groups, the affiliated institutions as well as by individual researchers.

Relevant Stakeholders

University researchers, companies, municipalities, and NGOs

Purpose

Opportunities for collaboration among universities, businesses, the public sector, and non-governmental organisations

[Supporting Links](#)

Companies and organisations

The University of Vaasa cooperates with companies, communities and other universities as well as research institutions. The forms of research cooperation can be, for example, commonly funded research projects or research which has been commissioned. Research cooperation in the university is done in the academic schools, the research platforms, the research groups, the affiliated institutions as well as by individual researchers.

Students at the University of Vaasa possess the most recent research knowledge in the fields of business studies, technology, administration sciences, and communication sciences. Our students are encouraged to engage in collaborative efforts with employers. Students may be recruited for internships, theses, or projects. Our partners will be provided with innovative ideas and perspectives, as well as opportunities to connect with future talent.

Collaborative Problem Solving

New international master's programme combines studies in engineering and project management

This academic year, the University of Vaasa launched a new international masters' program that prepares students to plan, manage, and implement a variety of engineering projects, as well as project portfolios. The University of Vaasa holds classes in Seinäjoki, a neighboring city to Vaasa, primarily using a multi-location classroom (MLC) setup. This will facilitate teaching and participation in both Seinäjoki and Vaasa. The City of Seinäjoki has initiated the program based on feedback from industry stakeholders.

Author

Hanna Ahonpää

Published Date

February, 2023

Degree Of Recognition

International

Media Name

University of Vaasa website

Media Type

Online news

Duration

1

[Supporting Links](#)

New international master's programme combines studies in engineering and project management

This academic year, the University of Vaasa launched a new international masters' program that prepares students to plan, manage, and implement a variety of engineering projects, as well as project portfolios. The University of Vaasa holds classes in Seinäjoki, a neighboring city to Vaasa, primarily using a multi-location classroom (MLC) setup. This will facilitate teaching and participation in both Seinäjoki and Vaasa. The City of Seinäjoki has initiated the program based on feedback from industry stakeholders.

The programme is intended to prepare students for professional roles in a variety of projects by emphasising technical needs, human-centered problem-solving abilities, and a strategic grasp of dynamic settings and systems.

Collaborative Change Action

Development opportunities for a regional energy system

The PEAK project, led by the University of Vaasa and Aktion Österbotten, aims to create a carbon-neutral regional energy system in Ostrobothnia by incorporating renewable energy sources. The project's findings contribute to the rapid and active development of the energy system.

Author

University of Vaasa

Published Date

June, 2024

Degree Of Recognition

International

Media Name

University of Vaaasa website

Media Type

Online news

Duration

1 page

[Supporting Links](#)

Creating a carbon-neutral regional energy system

The PEAK project, led by the University of Vaasa and Aktion Österbotten, aims to create a carbon-neutral regional energy system in Ostrobothnia by incorporating renewable energy sources. The project's findings contribute to the rapid and active development of the energy system.

The broad review of the project will foster increased interaction among actors and establish a robust foundation for promoting and implementing new developments, thereby significantly accelerating positive changes in the region's energy system. The project's expected long-term impacts include a reduction in CO2 emissions, a gradual decarbonisation of the energy system, a positive shift in attitudes, and a growing interest in participating in the development of the

regional energy system. Furthermore, we anticipate a smarter energy system and electricity grid, facilitating increased renewable energy capacity and fostering cooperation among various energy production stakeholders.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

RME Policy Implementation

University of Vaasa has implemented 5 policies to support its commitment to responsible management education:

Greenhouse gas emissions

University of Vaasa Strategy 2030 (Policies on greenhouse gas emissions)

According to the University of Vaasa Strategy 2030, the university's goal is to become carbon neutral.

Scope

University of Vaasa

Enforcement Date

March, 2024

Revision Date

June, 2024

Number Of Pages

15

Publisher

University of Vaasa

Media

Website

[Supporting Links](#)

Buildings/real estate

Policies on building/real estate

The goal of campus development is to transform our university campus into a vibrant and appealing gathering place in accordance with sustainable development principles.

Scope

University of Vaasa

Enforcement Date

August, 2019

Revision Date

August, 2024

Number Of Pages

1

Publisher

University of Vaasa

Media

Website

[Supporting Links](#)

Travel

Employee equity, diversity, inclusion

Equality Plan

The University of Vaasa's equality plan addresses the actions required to promote gender equality, as well as the statutory requirements outlined in the nondiscrimination act. The primary purpose of the university equality plan is to foster an egalitarian environment and effectively communicate equality issues to university students and faculty.

Scope

University of Vaasa

Enforcement Date

January, 2017

Revision Date

June, 2024

Number Of Pages

46

Publisher

University of Vaasa

Media

Pdf file

[Supporting Links](#)

Student equity, diversity, inclusion

Equality Plan

The University of Vaasa's equality plan addresses the actions required to promote gender equality, as well as the statutory requirements outlined in the nondiscrimination act. The primary purpose of the university equality plan is to foster an egalitarian environment and effectively communicate equality issues to university students and faculty.

Scope

University of Vaasa

Enforcement Date

January, 2017

Revision Date

June, 2024

Number Of Pages

46

Publisher

University of Vaasa

Media

Pdf file

[Supporting Links](#)

Institutional Aspiration Targets

University of Vaasa has set aspiration targets in 5 different areas:

- ❖ GHG Emission Targets
- ❖ Building and Real Estate Targets
- ❖ Travel Reduction Targets
- ❖ Employee EDI Targets
- ❖ Student EDI Targets



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

Performance Disclosure and Transparency

Regarding transparency in RME performance disclosure, University of Vaasa operates with the following approach:

Limited Transparency Disclosure

The university's carbon footprint and handprint

The director of responsibility and ethics maintains a blog where he discusses the achievements and shortcomings of the university's environmental and other responsibilities.

Author

Tommi Lehtonen

Published Date

May, 2024

Degree Of Recognition

National

Media Name

University of Vaasa website

Media Type

Blog

Duration

1

[Supporting Links](#)

Website of disclosure of performance

The director of responsibility and ethics maintains a blog where he discusses the achievements and shortcomings of the university's environmental and other responsibilities.

Ajatusyhtheys (Connection of thought): a blog that focuses on the issues in research and teaching, published biweekly since October 2009, 352 blog articles until June 2024.

SIGNATORY

University of Vaasa



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Finland



Website

<https://www.univaasa.fi/en>