

## ISCN Working Group 2 Research Agenda

### ***Principle 2 of the ISCN-GULF Sustainable Campus Charter:***

***To ensure long-term sustainable campus development, campus-wide master planning and target-setting should include environmental and social goals.***

*Sustainable campus development needs to rely on forward-looking planning processes that consider the campus as a whole, and not just individual buildings. These processes can include comprehensive master planning with goals for impact management (for example, limiting use of land and other natural resources and protecting ecosystems), responsible operation (for example encouraging environmentally compatible transport modes and efficiently managing urban flows), and social integration (ensuring user diversity, creating indoor and outdoor spaces for social exchange and shared learning, and supporting ease of access to commerce and services). Such integrated planning can profit from including users and neighbors, and can be strengthened by organization-wide target setting (for example greenhouse gas emission goals). Existing low-carbon lifestyles and practices within individual campuses that foster sustainability, such as easy access for pedestrians, grey water recycling and low levels of resource use and waste generation, need to be identified, expanded and disseminated widely.*

Principle 2 covers topics related to planning which integrates sustainable development such as:

- Greenhouse gas emissions, targets, and mitigation strategies
- Campus master planning and transportation management
- Accessibility and livability (services, diversity, wages, health and well-being)
- Managing impacts of food operations, land-use, and other physical campus components

**The focus for the Working Group 2 (WG2) is strategy, physical campus planning and working method.**

The decisions concerning physical planning are often neglected or less prioritized in everyday practice at universities. Contemporary issues such as Sustainability, Learning environment or Collaboration with Business or Society all potentially have physical implications. The idea that physical planning is a useful approach to solve a wide range of problems at universities should be promoted. We should also identify way in which this could become an important conversation topic among university leaders, planners, and municipalities.

### **Preliminary Research Agenda**

#### *Campus greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring and management*

What are typical GHG emission types and amounts associated with campus operations? What goals are universities setting around carbon management (climate action plans)? What strategies are being employed to mitigate emissions and improve overall campus sustainability? How are GHG concerns being included in overall strategic planning and master planning?

*Campus as a living city neighborhood with identity and high quality architecture*

What makes a campus a university campus? How do the spaces enable and support collaboration, study and the character of research that takes place there? How is the perception of security and accessibility on campus influenced if part of the campus turns into a green reserve? How can the university include events, involvement, and activities in the planning process?

*Campus as a living and learning/research intensive developmental environment*

What are some alternative proposals to the way student housing takes place? How could housing/living be combined with learning spaces – and thereby have a closer link to what takes place at the university? How is the university population going to be involved in the development of the green campus? How can they become a resource? What is the relation to outdoor spaces? What kind of outdoor facilities could support learning? If a campus has a green heart is it then a recreational or a professional green environment?

*Campus outreach role and accessibility to society*

What is the interface between the university and the surrounding city? How do you perceive the campus when you pass by? What should the borders be like? A green wall of forest, parking lots or a line of research buildings, a shopping center? How can academic and knowledge-based activities on campus become visible and inviting? Does public transportation pass by – or pass through campus - and allow a glimpse of what is happening on campus? How does it show that the campus is focused on national issues?

*Campuses open for innovation, entrepreneurship and business*

How can we achieve a dynamic and productive interplay between university research and knowledge-based enterprises? Why would a business choose to come to the university campus? What facilities do they need? What kind of environment will they be part of? Should technical park facilities be separated or integrated (or both) in faculty buildings?

*Campus design - continuity and flexibility in construction phases*

How can we be able to handle changing requirements and assumptions of what a university is? How do we include time dimension in the plan? How can campus sustainability be phased?

The starting point will be a presentation provided by Bojan Baletic (University of Zagreb) and a research report by Mikala Holme Samsøe (Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation).



## **Long-Term Objectives**

The working group will promote the further development of a database on design considerations and case studies. A proposal for creating an overview of all the ISCN member campuses is useful in this effort. To combine physical plans (What does campus look like?) with keywords of strategy (Which strategic challenges did they work with?) and planning method (How did they do it?). The group should also define a template that would make sense for every university in the ISCN to fill out. Universities that are involved in this group should help each other to make this template by creating and reviewing a selection of campus cases.