

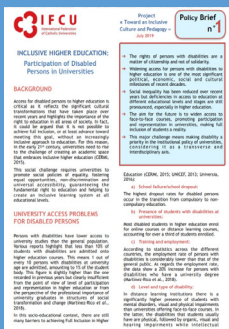


International Center for Research and Decision Support CIRAD-IFCU

The International Center for Research and Decision Support (CIRAD) is an IFCU Department that aims at promoting interuniversity and multidisciplinary research within the framework of international cooperation. It offers a platform for production and circulation of knowledge to permanently question today's main challenges with a view to transforming our societies. Since 1975 the Center has promoted numerous South-South and North-South international action-research projects all over the world in a wide range of fields, including human mobility (migrations, displacements), social issues (addictions, families at risk, street children, gender balance, schooling, social inclusion and disabilities), environmental challenges (soil fertilization, water management), dialogue between culture and religion, human rights and peace building, poverty reduction and development. Besides providing training and capacity building, it conducts international surveys and studies, while producing publications, collections and materials to inform higher education institutions, policy-makers and any other major stakeholder.

POLICY BRIEF COLLECTION

INTERNATIONALIZATION FORUM



The CIRAD Policy Brief Collection focuses on today's major issues examined from a policy perspective. Policy Briefs, which are prepared by IFCU network experts, present a selected topic's main challenges, the various policy options available and recommendations addressed to targeted stakeholders. The first issue was devoted to Inclusive Higher Education. IFCU scholars are invited to submit a proposal for upcoming issues at any time.



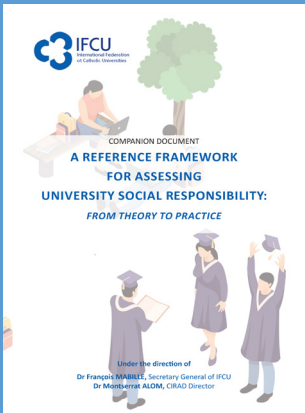
In collaboration with the Australian Catholic University, CIRAD organizes the First Internationalization Forum that will

bring together International Relations officers and staff from Catholic universities worldwide. This unique gathering will address Internationalization and Risks, with a focus on globalization and higher education (HE) in a post-COVID world, governance and risk management in HE, the post of Risk manager within a university... In a spirit of sharing and networking, it will feature, among others lectures by IR officers and major social actors, regional workshops on trends and best practices in each geographical area, as well as one-to-one meetings among participants.

UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Newman Benchmark

An Evaluation Framework for Catholic Universities



In recent years, various rankings (Shanghai, Times Higher Education) have emerged to rate universities in an increasingly competitive environment. However, these rankings are based on limited scientific criteria and overlook values that are essential to today's societies. Echoing a growing number of initiatives around the world to promote USR, the Newman Benchmarking Framework is a viable alternative to current rankings. By conveying principles and values that are in line with the humanist and Catholic tradition of the Church, this tool places the notion of responsibility at the heart of university life.

On the basis of the Framework, CIRAD has created, in close collaboration with the Think Tank GMAP Center, a dynamic University Social Responsibility (USR) Assessment System that respects the diversity of the contexts in which universities are located.

The assessment system allows Catholic universities to gain a better understanding of their achievements in the field of USR, as well as to have reliable data to redefine their institutional development strategies. After the annual evaluation campaign, universities will receive a «dashboard» with their results and future trends, and depending on their scores they can obtain up to 4 USR accreditation labels. The evaluated institutions will thus be able to differentiate themselves from the competition in the higher education market, giving visibility to policies and practices based on values that are increasingly appreciated by society and by the students themselves.

The Newman Benchmarking Framework The USR Assessment System for Catholic Universities

Evaluation campaign: 1 session per year, from April 1st to August 31st.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the assessment period this year will begin in September and run until December 2020.

The granting of a label is conditional on obtaining the threshold scores:

- Between 35% and 49%: one-star label
- Between 50% and 74%: two-star label
- Above 75%: three-star label

Granting of labels: The accreditation system consists of a total of 4 USR labels, one for each of the main areas covered by the evaluation:

- USR Governance label
- USR Environment label
- USR Social Practices label
- USR Identity label

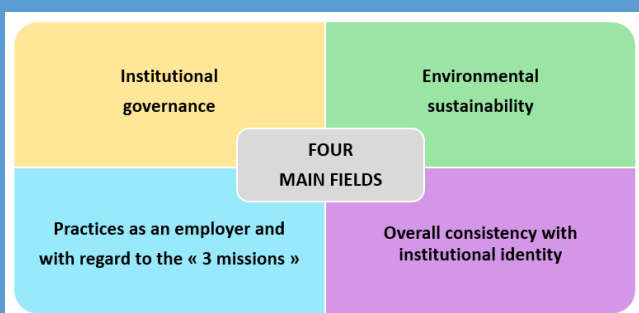
The labels will have a validity period of 3 years.



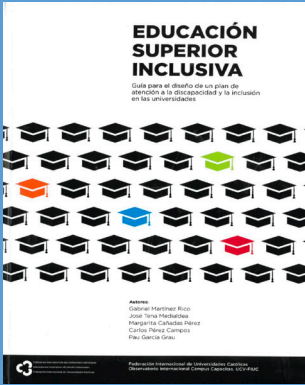
Link to the USR Newman System
http://www.fiuc.org/article10_fr.html

THE NEWMAN FRAMEWORK

A result of a three-year collaboration endeavor including some 160 indicators and twenty criteria sorted into 4 different areas



INCLUSION AND DISABILITIES STRAND



CIRAD co-ordinated a 3-year international project aiming at improving access to and accompaniment of disabled students at Catholic universities, by promoting an inclusive culture and pedagogy across all the university community members.

The project led to the creation of an International Observatory that brings together a growing number of experts and a Guide to design a plan on disability inclusion addressed to member universities. Soon, a booklet collecting best practices in Asia and Africa will be available, as well.

In addition, a follow-up nationwide French-centred project is taking place to coach disabled students to access the labor market and to raise awareness among university professors.



Kindly write to us if you wish to receive a printed copy of the guide (bilingual, English and Spanish).

To access the International Observatory click here below

<https://www.ucv.es/quienes-somos/observatorios-ucv/capacitas-fiuc>

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON THE SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

A SERIES OF ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SURVEYS



In partnership with Secours Catholique-Caritas France and French Development Agency (AFD), CIRAD is taking part, alongside CIE-DEL and GEMDEV, in an international project to promote integral ecology and a just ecological transition in South countries. This multi-actor project aims to empower local populations to design and implement alternative development models in response to the current socio-environmental crisis. Targeting more than 20 countries, activities will take place in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Based on the interest generated by the studies carried out to date, CIRAD is launching a series of annual international surveys that will address various topics of interest to Catholic higher education and the Church.

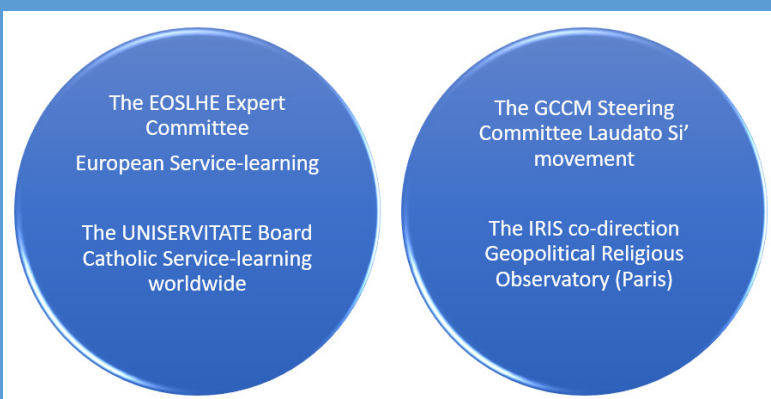
A first survey will examine the situation of women in Catholic universities, and a second survey will concentrate on Laudato Si' impact on Catholic higher education institutions.

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INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GROUPS

CIRAD hosts a series of International Research Groups (IRG) whose members work on today's major issues mainly on a disciplinary basis:

CIRAD is part of



- Social Sciences
- Education (*ACISE*)
- Peace Studies
- Philosophy (*COMIUCAP*)
- Theology (*COCTI*)
- Family (*REDIF*)
- Health sciences
- Psychology (*FIUCUP*)
- Interreligious Dialogue (*PLURIEL*)

Support us



Giving to IFCU means supporting the worldwide mission of Catholic universities, which place people at the center of society through their economic, social and cultural role. It is also a way of strengthening the social impact of knowledge in a world where knowledge can emancipate and free human beings from prejudice, poverty and conflict. IFCU's community of over 230 members includes universities located in regions of geopolitical risk (Cambodia, Lebanon, Iraq, Haiti and Mozambique), to which IFCU strives to provide support through the mobilization of its network and range of partners (e.g. patrons, companies). For over 30 years, IFCU has also initiated and conducted projects with a strong social dimension that rely on a deep sense of ethics, the sharing of experiences and the drive to innovate – all through a pragmatic approach guided by the following objectives:

- Improve social inclusion on campuses worldwide through programs aimed at supporting and fostering professional integration for students with disabilities.
- Promote gender equality through Women Leadership Programs.
- Promote solidarity between Catholic universities to train local elites through partnership policies and institutional strengthening for the support of universities that are the most vulnerable (Africa Program).
- Develop awareness of the importance of higher education as a means to foster responsible societies rather than as a market tool.
- Train students toward responsible citizenship and civic participation.

Do you wish to know more about IFCU?

Contact us! Join us! Support us!



IFCU / FIUC

21, Rue d'Assas, 75270 PARIS, France

Tel. +33-1-44.39.52.26 / Fax +33-1-44.39.52.28

[sgfiuc\[@\]bureau.fiuc.org](mailto:sgfiuc[@]bureau.fiuc.org)

www.fiuc.org