

Future of the UNU-Global Virtual University

**Creating a shared vision to fulfill the
innovative potential of online learning for
Sustainable Development**

April 2007

UNU-GVU

- UNU-GVU is a collaboration between UNU, UNEP, UNEP-GRID Arendal and AUC and is an inclusive program open for wide participation.


Unique characteristics

- Thematic focus on environment and development in line WSSD and the UNEP work plan; Major contribution to DESD.
- Balance between online learning and face to face contacts (blended design).
- Codesign of programs between experts in the North and the South, with an initial focus on Africa.

Present status:

UNU-GVU: Existing Global Network of partners



-  GVU Partner/Collaborating Universities
-  GVU Former and Present Students

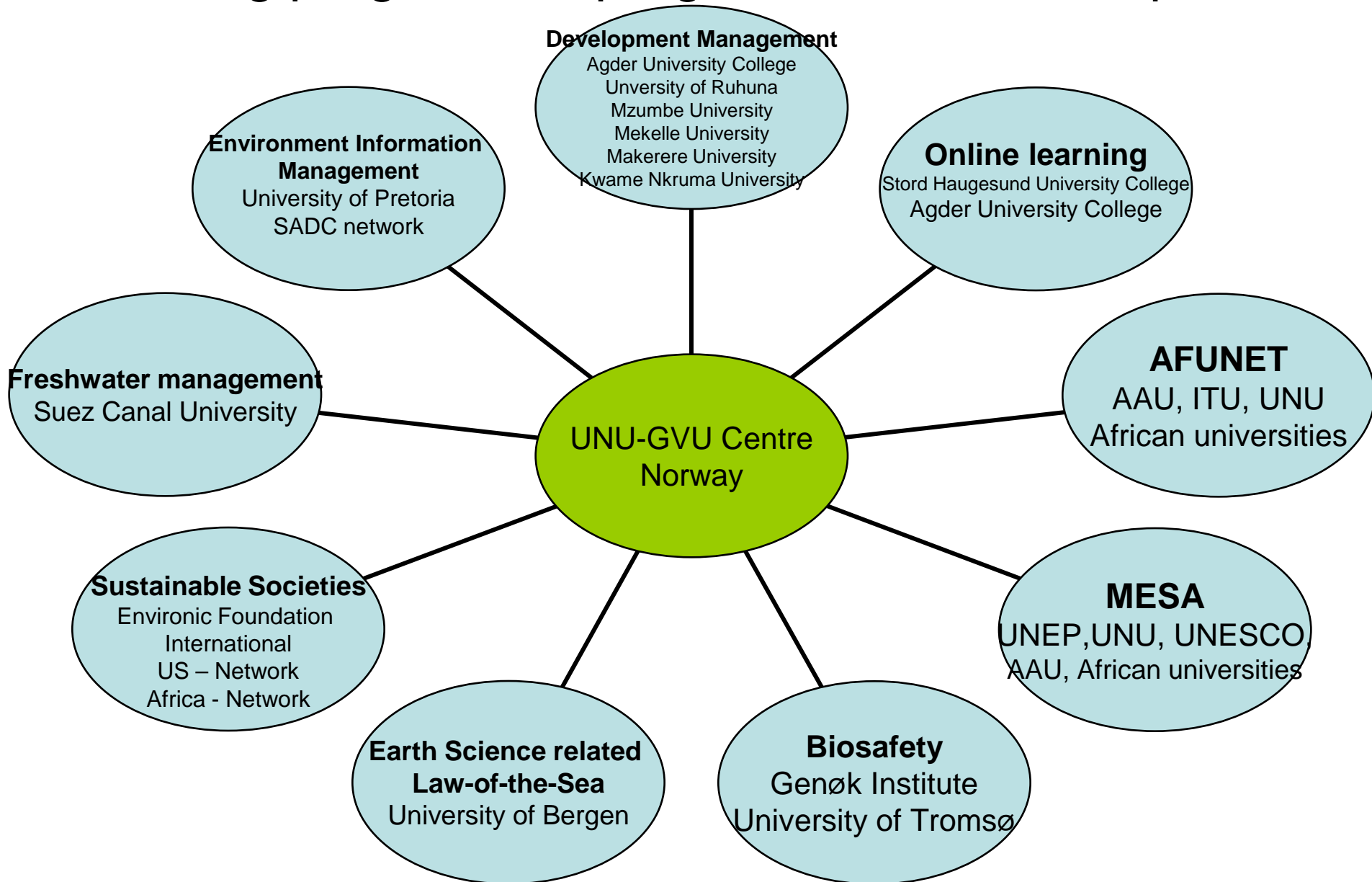
Agder university college (AUC)
Southern Norway
University of Tromsø (UiT)
Northern Norway
University of Bergen (UiB)
Western Norway
Stord Haugesund University College
Western Norway
Environics foundation (EFI)
Washington DC, USA
Kenyatta University (KU)
Nairobi, Kenya

**Institut Supérieur de Développement
Rural des Grands Lacs (ISDRGL)**
**Kwame Nkrumah University of
science & Technology (KNUST)**
Kumasi, Ghana
Makerere University (MU)
Kampala, Uganda
Mekelle University
Ethiopia
Mogadishu University
Somalia

Mzumbe University
Tanzania
Suez Canal university
Egypt
University of Pretoria
South Africa
University of Ruhuna
Sri Lanka
University of Zimbabwe

Present status:

Existing programs or programs under development



UNU-GVU Strategy

- Strengthen multilateral collaboration on education for sustainable development
 - Create groups of universities in the South and the North working together
- Establish regional centres and build capacities in the network; to start with in Africa.
- Develop and run joint study programmes according to UNU-GVU standard framework
 - Ensure mutual recognition of competence between equal partner universities.
 - Ensure possibility for international recognition

Goals for UNU-GVU 2008 - 2015

- Increasing **participation and ownership** by Southern institutions
- Create **UNU Research and Training Programme (RTP)**
 - Collaboration between staff, secondments, visiting academics from the UNU-GVU Network, including UNEP, GRID Arendal and the partner universities.
- Core funding of **2 million Euros per annum** until 2015, UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- Implement range of **education for sustainable development** projects and educational programmes
- Develop **global network** through synergies with other parts of the UNU, UNEP, GRID-Arendal, with other UN bodies and related international initiatives.

Deliverables 2008 - 2015

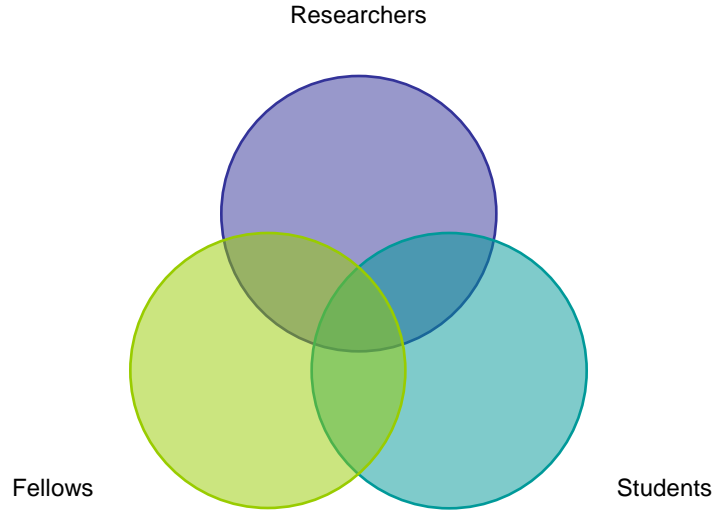
- **UNU RTP** in Norway
- **Network** (up to 100 universities by 2015).
- **UNU-GVU regional centres** at partner universities (5-10 by 2015).
- **“Training of trainers”** workshops (two to one workshops per annum).
- **E-learning projects** with partner universities
- **UNU-GVU Challenge**: partner universities encouraged to present project proposals for financial support from the UNU-GVU.
- **Joint projects** with i.a. GRID-Arendal, UNU Media Studio and the UNEP Education and Training Unit.
- **Annual UNU-GVU Conference.**
- **International online tutor and course developer** programmes.
- **Master’s degree programmes and short courses.**

Leveraging

- **Increasing ownership by Southern partners**
 - Rewarding and equal collaboration
 - Mutual recognition of competence
 - International recognition of grades
 - Sustainable development integrated in curricula
- **Synergies within the UNU System**
 - horizontal coordination with other UNU research and training centres, i.e. social and human development (UNU-WIDER, Helsinki), innovation systems and development (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht), natural resource management (UNU-INRA, Accra) water, environment and health (UNU-INWEH), Hamilton, Ontario) and global health (UNU-IIGH, Kuala Lumpur).
- **Synergies within the UN System**
 - support UN bodies such as FAO, UNDP, ITU, UNIDO, WHO, UNESCO in poverty eradication and sustainable development

UNU-GVU
Regional Centre

Governance:
Academic
Board



Funding:
UNU-GVU
Hosting
institution

Infrastructure:
Premises, Connectivity, Local area network,
Servers

UNU-GVU Regional Centre

- Build on existing capacities and capabilities.
- Select and train local staff in online learning issues (tutoring and course development).
- Establish support functions to the regional network.
- Select sustainable development issue for the regional focus.
- Develop and run educational programs and courses in the region.