

Join a pioneering project and lead the transformation
of higher education institutions around the world

International Call to *Action*

2023-2026

What is the International Call to *Action*?

The International Call to Action (hereinafter the GUNi-ICA) is an initiative of the **Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi)** aimed at higher education institutions interested in embarking on a **transformation and innovation process** to respond to the **future challenges** of a globalised and changing world.

The main purpose of the GUNi-ICA is to drive the transformation of higher education institutions (HEIs) to make them more sustainable, innovative and socially responsible.

The Call to Action offers the participating HEIs new approaches, as well as spaces for training, reflection, exchange and guidance, in the form of a series of specific initiatives and services of a collaborative nature.

It will foster the uniqueness of each of the participating institutions and the added value of the diversity of HEIs around the world.

The International Call to Action will be happening between December 2023 and December 2026.



Why the GUNi-ICA?

HEIs are being called upon to reappraise their social functions and institutional strategies in the coming years in the context of major technological, economic, social and cultural change.

The following actions have become urgent in order to respond to present and future challenges:

- Rethink the role played by higher education systems and HEIs today,
- consider what university policies are needed in order to advance towards a more sustainable and inclusive future, and
- in short, initiate processes to transform HEIs by providing training and guidance to their managerial and professional teams.

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To be reinvented, higher education systems and institutions need to renew their thinking, dialogue, decisions and actions. Through their three main missions, HEIs must fulfil their public duties by contributing to the construction of societies that can deal with the challenges arising from the current, changing landscape.”

UNESCO, 2022. “Beyond limits – New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education”

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To achieve this, strong institutional leadership is needed. This leadership must be based on management for organisational change that is flexible and innovative, with long-term institutional strategies that promote and enhance the full expertise and creativity of higher education professionals.”

Vision of the Global University Network for Innovation in the 8th GUNi Report

The springboard for the GUNi-ICA was the 8th GUNi World Report called “New Visions for Higher Education towards 2030” and the conclusions of the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022), collected in the roadmap titled “Beyond Limits. New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education”.

As the conceptual basis for the GUNi-ICA, the GUNi World Report identifies the future challenges for higher education and HEIs, and proposes new visions for the 2030 horizon and beyond.

Created in 1999, the GUNi network now has more than 290 members in 89 countries and has been consolidated as one of the most important think tanks in the field of university policy and management. As a UNESCO network, GUNi was a local partner of UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022) and a promoter of World Higher Education Week, both held in Barcelona in May 2022.

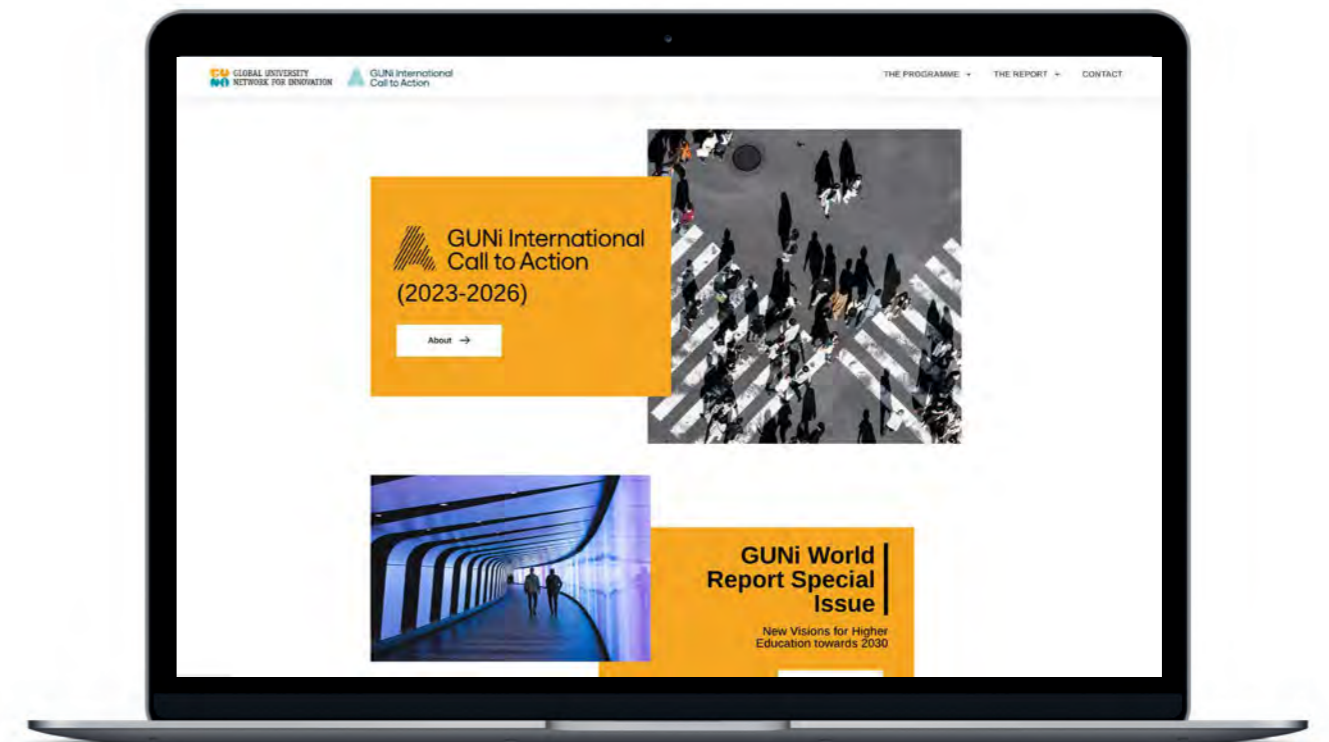
Thus, GUNi is offering its expertise and experience by inviting HEIs to embark upon a process of institutional transformation that, at the same time, will drive global changes to higher education around the world.

Who is it aimed at? Who can be part of it?

Any HEI that is a member of the [GUNi Network](#) and wants to be part of a **space of reflection and action**, leading a **process of change**, is welcome to join the International Call to Action.

We invite diverse HEIs that would like to participate in a ground-breaking project focused on creating added value with minimal bureaucracy.

If you are not yet a member of GUNi, please contact info@guninetwork.org



Why join the GUNi-ICA?

Joining the GUNi-ICA implies

- Forming part of a **joint programme** with HEIs from all around the world that have a shared vision, the **GUNi Vision**.
- Becoming a **member of the GUNi Strategic Council**, with a say in its governance from 2023 to 2026.
- Designing and launching a **unique strategic project** to transform the institution itself.

The GUNi-ICA is



Network



Knowledge



Visibility



Training



Institutional change



Incidence

What does the GUNi-ICA offer?

In the deployment of the International Call to Action, the **seven themes** of the **8th GUNi World Report** will be developed as a priority:



Lines of work

HEIs participating in the GUNi-ICA will benefit from different specific initiatives and services of a collaborative nature, which will be deployed throughout the programme around three main lines of work:

Knowledge shared with leading professionals with international expertise

Cooperation between the different member institutions of the GUNi-ICA

Transformation of knowledge in action, with the creation of one's own strategic project

Line of work 1. Shared knowledge and training

Knowledge

Cooperation

Transformation

- **Professional training and development programme** and active implication in the **GUNi Knowledge Community**.
 - Strategic HEI leadership seminars and workshops on change management for directorial and managerial teams.
 - Tools, resources and training to institutionally develop the seven thematic areas: sustainability, digital-human future, future of work, citizenship, knowledge, internationalisation, governance and professionals.
- Holding conferences and meetings with international experts.
- Permanently updated information and knowledge via an exclusive platform.
- Collaborative learning through dialogue and the exchange of experiences and good practices.

Line of work 2. Exchange, collaboration and networking

Knowledge

Cooperation

Transformation

- Development of **strategic collaborative projects** through consortia.
- Joint organisation of **international conferences and debates** on the themes of the GUNi World Report.
- Active participation in **forums, publications and positions of international impact** as members of the GUNi Strategic Council.
- Facilitation of **short stays and organisation of field visits** to participating institutions.

Line of work 3. Transformation and action

Knowledge

Cooperation

Transformation

- Design and implementation of a **unique project** to transform the organisation itself.
- **Personalised mentoring** by international experts with the design and development of the project.
- Organisation of spaces for the **exchange of knowledge and experiences** around the unique projects developed by the member higher education institutions.

What benefits will the participating institutions gain?

Higher education institutions participating in the International Call to Action will enjoy the following advantages:

- They will be **global benchmarks** for institutional change.
- They will have **updated their institutional policies** on the basis of the key themes of the 8th GUNi World Report and in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- They will draw on the expertise and tools required **to link knowledge with strategic and institutional management**.
- They will have set up a **unique, innovative project** in the area they have identified as a priority for their institution.
- They will have an **ecosystem of collaborators**, and close links with leading institutions and networks from around the world.

Procedure for joining the GUNi-ICA

Institutions interested in joining the Call to Action can submit their applications to be part of it between May and October 2023.

Call and receipt of applications

May – October 2023

Selection process

October – November 2023

Start of the GUNi-ICA

December 2023

The GUNi-ICA will run from December 2023 to December 2026

HEIs interested in being part of the **International Call to Action** project should fill in this **form** to **present their candidacies**.

From the applications received, an international committee appointed by the GUNi network will select the institutions that will finally participate in the project. This selection will take into account **territorial representativeness**, as well as the **will for transformation** of each candidate institution.

In order to join and participate in the GUNi-ICA, HEIs will need to pay an annual fee to the GUNi network, which will be used entirely to cover the expenses derived from the activities and projects related to the International Call to Action.

[Form](#)

Want to know more?



If you want to join the Call to Action or need further information, please contact the GUNi Secretariat at info@guninetwork.org and ask for the **Technical Dossier about the programme**.

What is GUNi?

The Global University Network for Innovation is a world leading think tank on higher education policies and management. It is a leading institution in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in higher education.

GUNi is a UNESCO network that currently has more than 290 members from 89 countries, including higher education institutions, UNESCO chairs and research centres.

It was created in 1999 within the framework of the UNITWIN Programme and UNESCO Chairs, following on from the first UNESCO World Higher Education Conference to promote the implementation of the main decisions adopted. It has the support of the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP), which has held its secretariat and presidency since 2014.

Objectives



Generate and share knowledge about higher education



Promote the knowledge society



Support institutions and governments around the world



Promote the 2030 Agenda



Drive academic and scientific diplomacy

Mission and values

GUNi's mission is to promote the role of higher education in society by supporting the renewal of visions and policies around the world in terms of public service, relevance, social responsibility and innovation.

GUNi promotes the exchange of resources, innovative ideas and experiences, and also enables collective reflection and the co-production of knowledge on emerging issues in higher education.

Main activities



Reports on higher education in the world



International projects and partnerships



International seminars and conferences



Refreshment of knowledge in higher education



Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

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