

## Social dimension (SD) of University Lifelong Learning (ULLL)

Following the widespread tendency of companies to focus on “Corporate Social Responsibility”, the European Commission is encouraging the adoption, by higher education institutions, of the same concept, meaning activities that support social, ecological and economical sustainability. Some Universities already adopted this concept, which is called “University Social Responsibility” and which is becoming increasingly important for European knowledge based societies.

For the COMMIT Project, the social dimension of University Lifelong Learning was defined as located on two dimensions: the individual and the collective. The goals on the individual level are to provide a **socially just access, retention and success** for students, lifelong learners and also for university staff. On the collective dimension the goal is to transfer relevant academic knowledge to society and enable groups of people inside and outside university **to build and develop** an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable society.

In the beginning of the project, a top-down approach was chosen to define SD for universities. The first matrix was used to explain the construct to the participating persons in the visited universities. This helped partners to design the tool and participants to work with the tools. After the transversal analysis of the tools plenty of examples from the 12 partner universities were available. So the SD concept was revised and simplified and took its current shape:

	Social dimension	Aspects of SD in ULLL	Clusters of Examples
SUSTAINABILITY	<b>Social Justice (individual dimension)</b>	1. Access	1a) traditional students and non-traditional students 1b) non-traditional students 1c) VPL/RPL policies and processes
		2. Retention	2a) Academic support for student and staff 2b) guidance and counselling 2c) innovative Teaching and Learning
		3. Success	
	<b>Social Development (collective dimension)</b>	4. Engagement active citizenship	4a) Outreach activities 4b) Internal (also research) activities 4c) cross institutional activities
		5. Cultural activities	
		6. Social and Regional collaborations	6a) NGO's 6b) Companies (Partnerships)