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PARTNERSHIP NETWORK



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SURREY

UGPN Conference 2023

Hosted by University of São Paulo, Brazil
29-31 May 2023

Conference Theme: Universities as anchor institutions:
local solutions, global impact



Global security challenges

(SDGs: 11, 12, 16)

One of the main assumptions of sustainable development is the presence of a systemic perspective (WCED, 1987), embracing all phenomena or actors that are part of each system to be analysed. Another is that we live in a world with finite resources, and we must be cautious about these limitations (Meadows, Meadows, Randers & Behrens III, 1972). These assumptions are no different when we refer to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this scenario, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs arise based on a collaborative effort by people, businesses, governments, and civil society to achieve these goals towards sustainable development (UN, 2017).

Moreover, the SDGs are representatives of the phenomena also known as “grand challenges”, defined as “specific critical barrier(s) that, if removed, would help solve an important societal problem with a high likelihood of global impact through widespread implementation” (George, Howard-Grenville, Joshi and Tihanyi (2016, pg. 1881). The authors reinforce that considerable effort in research should be made to tackle grand challenges, such as the SDGs (George et al., 2016).

However, there is no doubt that we are facing difficulties in pursuing SD. At the macro level, when considering how sustainable development addresses a territorial and global perspective (Lindsay, 1993), planning policies (McDaniels, 1994), and social structures (Poole & Van de Ven, 1989). At a micro level, those problems can be related to the groups (stakeholders) involved with the organisational activities (Freeman, 2010), to the scope of these activities (Epstein, Buhovac & Yuthas, 2015), and to the vague understanding of the role organisations have regarding SDGs (Sachs & Sachs, 2021), among others.

Therefore, we must use theories and approaches considering such complexity when addressing these themes. For instance, to understand the tensions that happen across different levels (Hahn, Figge, Pinkse & Preuss, 2010; Hahn, Pinkse, Preuss & Figge, 2015), to recognise the underlying system's structure behind the phenomenon (Schad & Bansal, 2018), to appreciate the role of public policies in regulating this complexity (Tichenor, Merry, Grek & Bandola-Gill, 2022).

Hence, this workshop will discuss how global challenges, mainly represented by the SDGs, are related to global security and risks from a multilevel perspective, i.e., including the different levels of analysis and diverse actors involved and affected by these phenomena. During this panel, we will address questions such as: How to simultaneously identify progress and barriers to the SDG implementation at different levels and perspectives? How to eliminate or mitigate barriers and risks and leverage advancements in the SDGs? What are the roles of different actors, such as business organisations and the public sector, in addressing these issues? How to reach a harmonic agenda that involves different interests and priorities? How to identify and deal with the synergies and trade-offs found between different levels of analysis and between different actors?

Global security challenges (SDGs: 11, 12, 16)

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Concurrent scientific workshops

Global security challenges

(SDGs: 11, 12, 16)

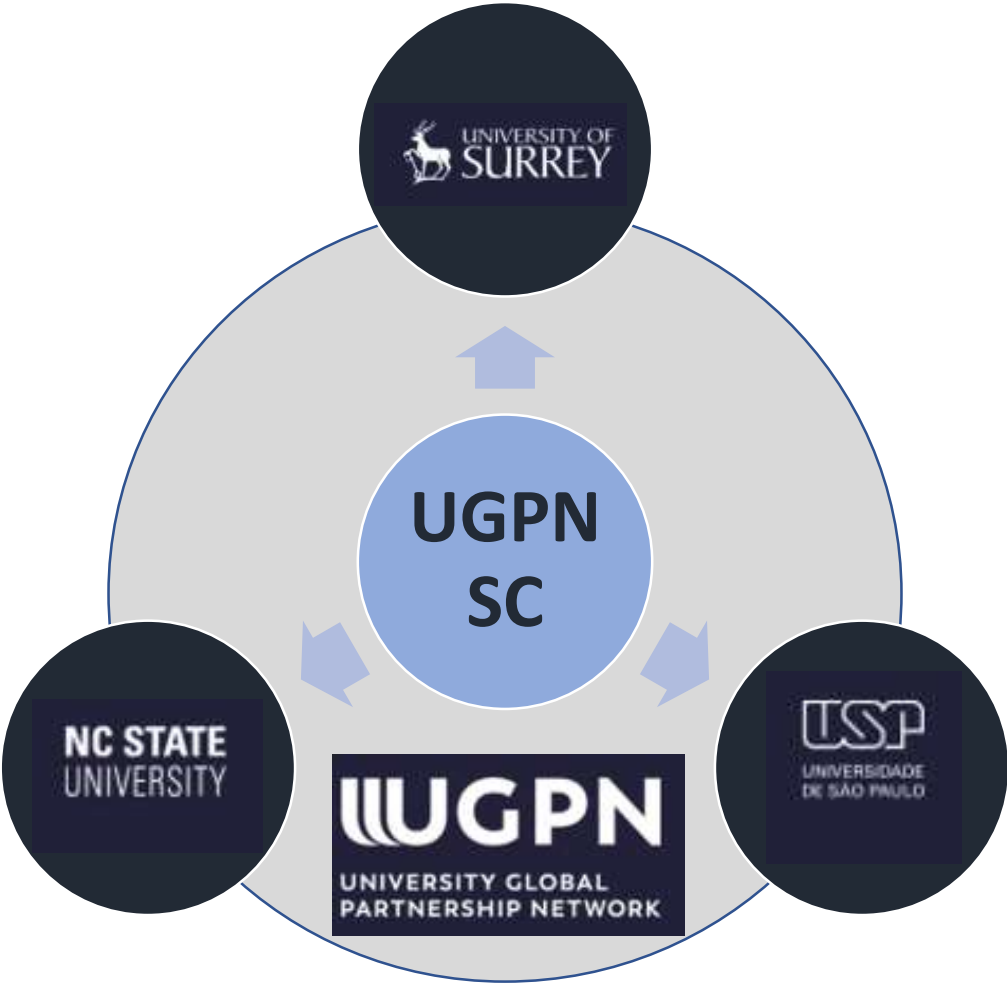
Global challenges and global security: Connecting the SDGs in a multilevel perspective

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MAIN OBJECTIVES:

1. Knowledge sharing and discussion of main research areas, methodological approaches, and knowledge gaps;
2. Finding research opportunities in the UK, US and Brazil;
3. Enhancing research impact on current and future UGPN activities.

Creation of the UGPN Sustainability Center

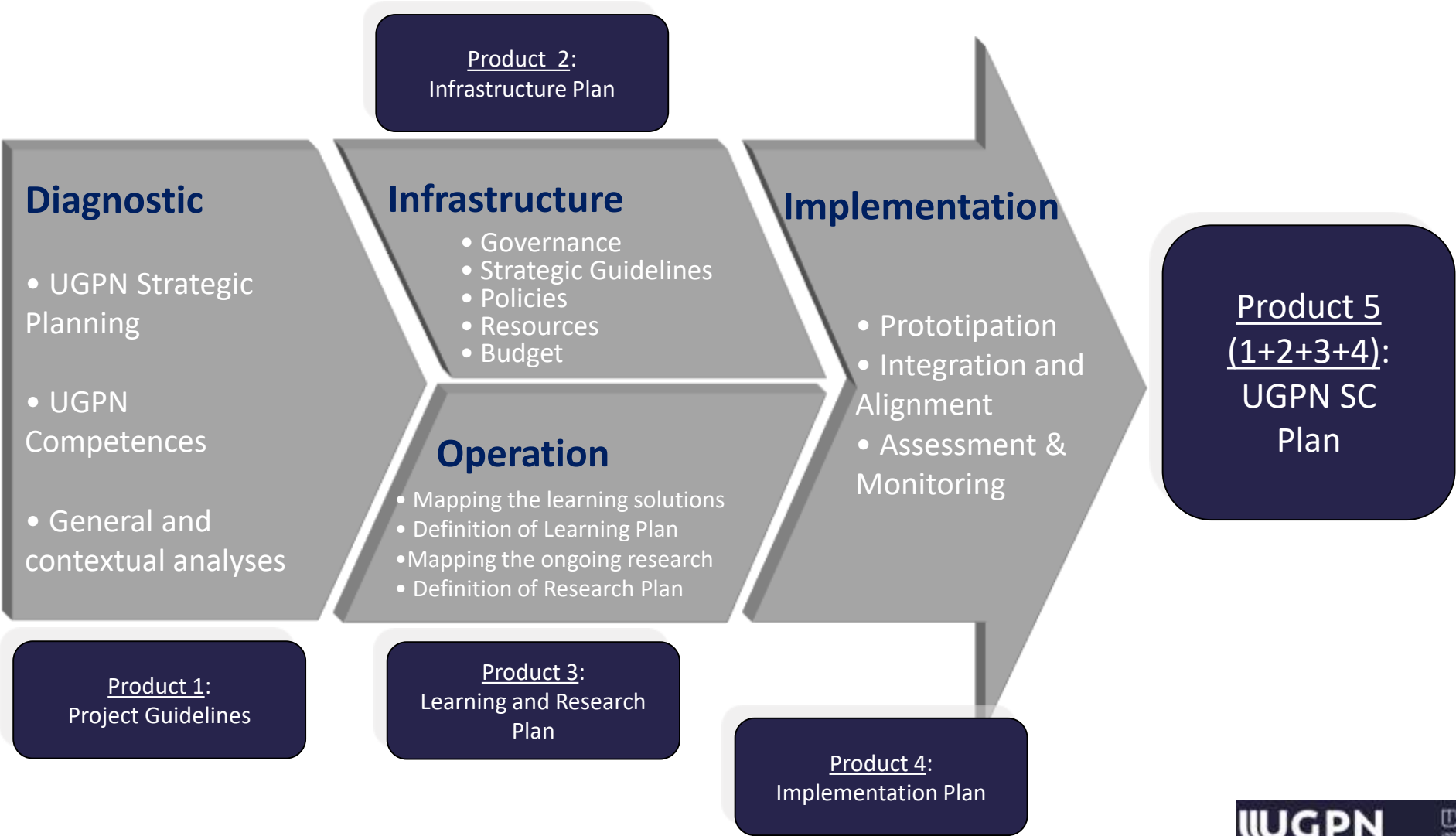


Creation of the UGPN Sustainability Center

UGPN SC's Fundamentals

- General perspective → SDGs (worldwide)
- Contextual perspective → local needs (country/university focus)
- Multilevel perspective → Stakeholders' approach (internal & external)
- Focus on both Learning & Research
- Development of technical and behavioural competences

Creation of the UGPN Sustainability Center



Other information

<https://nbs.net/sustainability-centres-community-workshop-june-14-15-2023/>

<https://www.unprme.org/2023-prme-global-forum>

<https://www.rrbm.network/>

<https://www.impactscholarcommunity.com/>

<https://www.positiveimpactrating.org/report2022>

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/RAUSP-04-2021-252/full/html>

<https://sga.usp.br/>