



**THIRD WORLD SYMPOSIUM  
ON SUSTAINABILITY  
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

Sustainability Futures: Challenges  
and Opportunities Towards a More  
Sustainable World

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# The commitment of Brazilian public universities to the sustainable development goals

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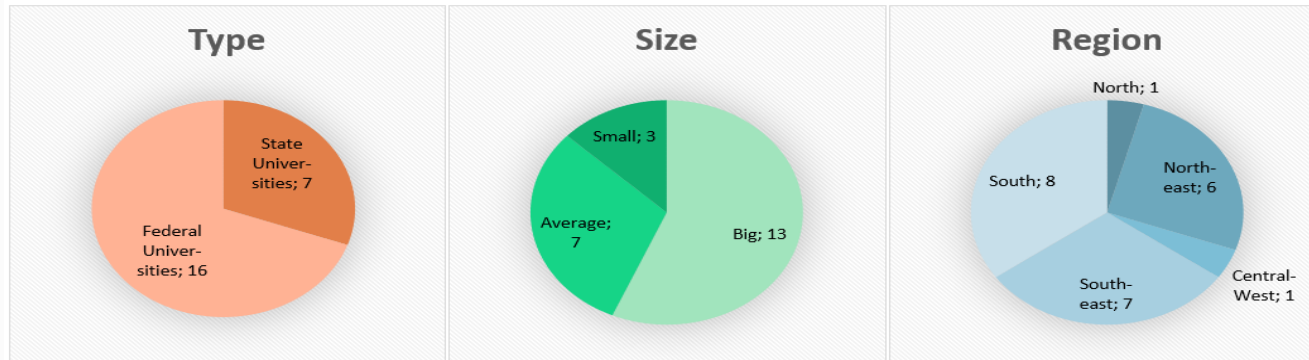
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## OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

To verify how committed Brazilian public universities are to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through the content analysis of 23 strategic plans using an adaptation of the 2020 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking indicators.

## APPROACH USED

- Use adapted metrics from the 2020 edition of the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking.
- 75 qualitative indicators distributed through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Content analysis of the Institutional Development Plans (IDPs).
- Brazilian Public Universities in the ranking in 2020.



## KEY RESULTS

- Social and environmental responsibility is part of the universities' goals;
- 4 of the 23 IDPs explicitly refer to the Agenda 2030 or the SDGs;
- All SDGs had actions and policies identified in the IDPs;
- SDG 13 was the least identified SDG in the analysis, it was found in 9 IDPs;
- 7 SDGs (1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 16) had actions and policies identified in all 23 IDPs;
- All IDPs had actions and policies identified in at least 10 SDGs;
- 2 IDPs had policies and actions linked to all 17 SDGs.

## MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Brazilian public universities are committed to the SDGs and local and national development;
- The universities go beyond the SDG 4;
- The method is adequate for this kind of research and can be applied to a larger sample and other kinds of documents;
- For further studies, the analysis could be applied to an even larger sample, to perform case studies with other documents besides the IDPs, or to map the universities' initiatives towards sustainability.

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