HESI SDG Publishers Compact Fellows: Top Action Tips

For Academic Authors

Guidance to encourage authors to think about SDGs when planning papers, books and chapters, and incorporate SDG-related content into their work.

1. Connect your ideas

Consider the relevance of SDGs to your research and signpost relevant SDGs in your research design and writing. Aim to specify alignment with SDG targets and indicators where applicable, for instance, when listing keywords and writing abstracts.

2. Consult your team

Discuss research plans with team members and peers to determine how your plans address the SDGs you identified.

3. Be specific

Include analysis of relevant SDGs to specific areas of research, practice or policy, including the likely impact of a proposed intervention.

4. Chart the transition

Identify and explain how your research output will navigate the transition and translate from theory to practice. See: Top Action Tips for connecting researchers to practitioners and our Author Guides for Communicating to Professionals or to Policymakers. Consider direct and indirect benefits as a result of your research in relation to relevant SDG goals and targets.

5. Check your perspective

Consider the composition and diversity of writing groups with reference to SDGs 5: Gender Equality and 10: Reduced Inequalities; check to see whether and how they are inclusive of multiple perspectives (e.g., from the global north and south, and where
possible, languages other than English. Make sure that your writing is globally inclusive and specific with regards to geolocation, ethnicity, etc. This also relates to the Top Tip on Equity.

6. Check your perspective again

Check to see whether and how your research topics address issues of gender and ethnicity and marginalized identities, such as indigenous populations.

7. Link to the publishers’ mission statement

Explicitly highlight the mention of SDGs in your article or book proposal to the mission statement of a journal or a publisher upon submission (in your letter to the editor), as appropriate.

8. Think in frameworks

Check the extent to which SDGs feature in frameworks and practice guidelines for your discipline or profession and propose ways in which SDGs could be included in future iterations.

9. Advocate in your research community

Advocate for the inclusion of relevant SDGs in course outlines, projects, and research programs for which you are responsible as well as in your wider research community and networks.

10. Acknowledge barriers

Acknowledge when the funding of publishing fees creates a barrier to publication (e.g., with authors in low- and middle-income countries); look for creative approaches to avoid unintended bias. (See Top Tips on Waivers)