

## EDITORIAL 1. THE GLOBALISATION

As always happens, a new journal is always full of good intentions. Unfortunately, not all of them can be fulfilled in time for the first number, and this is true in our case.

Our intention is for the authors to write in the language that seems most suitable to them, and, though we have not been able to do this in the first number of *SOSTENIBLE?*, we would like to include a trilingual abstract (in Catalan, Spanish and English). We also wish to offer the reader the possibility of free access to the English-language version of the published articles, which can be consulted at the website of the UNESCO Chair on Technology, Sustainable Development, Imbalances and Global Change at the UPC (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya), using the pass word to be found in each copy of the magazine.

We also wish to offer commentaries and bibliographic information, as well as further information on congresses or other activities related to the subjects discussed in the journal. We are also open to information supplied by those involved, but for the moment we are relying on the collaboration of experts from the Library of the Terrassa Campus of the UPC, and for bibliographic research, we start from the Collective Catalogue of the Catalan Universities, where you can find all the references cited on the main issue discussed, which in this, the first number, is globalisation.

This brings us to the single issue dealt with in this first number of *SOSTENIBLE?*. Starting from the broad range of subjects covered by the UNESCO Chair at the UPC where this journal was born, the editorial council thought that it had to be a multidisciplinary analysis of the phenomenon of globalisation.

What we have sought to do is to include different views of the phenomenon of globalisation, so that they can give us a deeper and more nuanced understanding than that of the usual experts. Thus you will find different perspectives here that seek to provide a more comprehensible viewpoint of a world that is of necessity unified in its complex globality.

Heinz Dieterich Steffan in «Crisis capitalista en la aldea global» (Capitalist Crisis in the Global Village), offers us an economic perspective that starts from the verification of the global nature of the crisis, focusing on bourgeois economy's limited ability to predict the future development of the system. The discussion initiated on the ability of economics to predict, and just how «scientific» economics is, leads the author to reflect on the market, the measurement of value and the possible future of global capitalism.

The environmental perspective on globalisation is represented by Luis M. Jiménez Herrero's work on «Cambio global, desarrollo sostenible y coevolución» (Global Change, Sustainable Development and Co-evolution). This perspective starts from Boulding's «Spaceship Earth» metaphor to verify the growing awareness of the unsustainability of the models of human development in relation to the environment. The list of damage presented in Jiménez's first table on the indicators of degradation and imbalances of the natural and social environment, acquires a deeper meaning when the phenomenon of globalisation is added, together with the need for new forms of seeing, thinking, knowing and acting in relation to the global system that also require new development paradigms and new economic paradigms based at the same time on globality and sustainability.

If economic and environmental perspectives can be mixed, it is not surprising that Sir Shridath Ramphal's reflection from a political perspective in «Globalisation» includes them all to some extent, again paying special attention to the economic aspects. Starting from an analysis of the Asian crisis and its effects, he shows that globalisation does not reach all aspects of the world economy, and that it acts in a highly selective way when distributing the possible benefits between different countries. Translating this selectiveness to the political dimension allows a comparison of the Economic and Social Organisation of the United Nations (ECOSOC) with more elitist institutions such as the G-7, and makes it possible to show how the centre of gravity of the world economy has gradually moved, distancing itself from its traditional position.

To finish, a university journal like SOSTENIBLE? does not wish to leave out the responsibility of the centres of higher education in facing up to the challenges of the 21st century and globalisation. Josep Xercavins has contributed his paper to the World Conference on Higher Education in the 21st century on «Los retos de la educación superior y la globalización, los nuevos objetivos-omisión formativos e

investigadores de las universidades» and a later reflection «Movilitzant el poder dels 'sabers'», and gives us the university perspective that completes the multi-pluri-transdisciplinary vision so essential in the complex globalisation of everything around us.

The four articles, representing the four perspectives, economic, environmental, political and that of the university are completed by the publication of as yet unpublished documents from the World Conference on Higher Education.

We hope that this, the first number of SOSTENIBLE?, will be useful as a multidisciplinary approach to the phenomenon of globalisation, and perhaps as an introduction to some of the more detailed texts included in the journal's bibliography, which, we would like to remind you, are available in the Collective Catalogue of the Catalan Universities. What is lacking when trying to analyze globalisation in depth is not written material.