

A Greeting

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Part of an institution's strength resides in what its members' know and do. The UNESCO Chair at UPC of Technology, Sustainable Development, Imbalance and Global Change has a long-standing tradition of teaching and multidisciplinary research in areas relating to sustainability and in all of those areas expressed in its name. The SOSTENIBLE? Journal is a good example of this.

The SOSTENIBLE? journal's trajectory began four years ago with a report on globalisation, and it has since covered areas of contemporary interest such as biotechnology, Africa and Agenda 21. The Editorial Board recently decided to face one of the major issues of our time: the perpetuation and progress of democracy, which may create new avenues for citizen participation in global government, although this participation should begin at the local level, in keeping with the catchphrase, "Think globally, act locally".

The issue is inevitably linked to the political sphere, where phenomena such as the anti-globalisation movements and the meetings at Porto Alegre and Davos have given rise to a possible counterforce or at least alternative forms of power that, in some cases, suggest the need for more inclusive systems, in which citizens can contribute to the complex decisions inherent in a globalised world.

The documentation needed for an interdisciplinary analysis of democracy is now available to the readers. As Rector, it only remains for me to express my gratitude and encouragement for initiatives such as these that demonstrate the strength of the University as an institution and whose continuity must, as always, be desired.