

## Greeting

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It is a source of satisfaction to see how consolidated the UNESCO Chair of Technology, Sustainable Development, Imbalance and Global Change at UPC has become, even in terms of research. Over the course of the last few years, it has carried out a range of teaching, awareness-raising and research activities related to sustainability.

One of these initiatives is the *SOSTENIBLE?* journal, which is an attempt to spark multidisciplinary debate. Up to the present, it has covered quite general themes, such as globalisation, biotechnology, the problems of Africa, Agendas 21, democracy and, more recently, the ethical implications of science and technology, a subject that is obviously appropriate to a technical university such as UPC.

As was to be expected, the topic of sustainability also needed covering, since it is one of the UNESCO Chair's *raison d'être*. A new development, however, is that the consolidation of the research carried out by the Chair has, this time, enabled it to entrust the writing of articles to lecturers and doctoral students of the Chair, along with the assistance of a renowned specialist, Dr. Ramon Folch, who is currently the President of the Board of Trustees at UPC.

The result is a set of thought-provoking pieces on the origins and characteristics of the sustainability paradigm as seen by one of the groups that is most active in this field at UPC.