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Sustainability Assessment in Higher Education Institutions: Perspectives and Global Experiences

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Abstract

Sustainability assessment has been showed as a challenge for Higher Education Institutions (HEI). Assessing goes beyond simple choosing, developing and tracking indicators and includes strategic planning in HEI. The assessment framework choice is strategic during the assessment process, and its choice generally differs from one institution to another. While some HEI prefer develop their own sustainability assessment framework, others feel more comfortable in using well-known frameworks as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Even though GRI was originally develop to assist private corporations, several HEI have been using GRI to assess sustainability. This fact arouses interest about reasons for adopting and framework adaptations of GRI to educational institutions. The results showed that although those adaptations in GRI indicators to HEI scenarios are possible, they are limited to environmental management area in general. Besides, the results indicate a group of environment management themes and topics that were recurrent in HEI's GRI reports.

Keywords: *Sustainability, assessment, Higher Education Institutions, Global Reporting Initiative, strategy*
