



NEW YORK COLLEGE
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN EDUCATION

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: 2015 to 2017

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

26 May 2017

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that New York College reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

*Elias Foutsis
President*

Part II. Description of Actions

Communication on Engagement

New York College (NYC) has taken a number of actions in order to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. During these past two years NYC has focused on two strategic goals:

- (a) promote the Global Compact and its principles; and
- (b) incorporate the Ten Principles in its internal operations.

With respect to the first goal, NYC has taken the following actions:

Deliver Education on Topics Related to the UN Global Compact Principles

1. NYC has organized a number of educational events for staff, students, candidates and the wider public. The events were designed in response to the Ten Principles, were announced publicly, and participation was free of charge.
2. The program of the Annual Staff Development Symposium delivered on January 2015, included a Workshop on “**The UN Global Compact: The Ten Principles and their Application in Education**” with the aim to inform NYC instructors about ways to incorporate the UN’s principles in their classes. Practical examples were given on how instructors can reflect on the Ten Principles and design accordingly the course outlines, and in particular learning outcomes and assessment methods. The results of this effort will be re-assessed in August 2017.
3. In March 2015, NYC organized a public talk on “**Government and Management of Modern Sustainable Cities – the example of Melbourne**”. Speakers included a representative from the UN Global Compact Greece as well as representatives from local businesses. Attendees included students, staff, alumni, and guests. The event concluded with the delivery of the certificates of completion of the program «**The Fight against Corruption: E-Learning Tool**» of the United Nations Global Compact to NYC staff members and students who successfully completed the program.
4. In December 2016 NYC organized a Workshop for students and staff on “**Labour, Precarious, Low-Status Employment and Social Policy in Times of Crisis: Workers' Rights as Human Rights and Decent Work for Immigrants, Refugees and Members of Their Families**” by Mr. Fouskas, Professor, Panteion University and NYC Instructor.
5. In January 2017, Dr. D. Avgerinopoulou, NYC Instructor (and a specialized attorney in International, Environmental and Sustainable Development Law, and the recipient of

the Green Star Award awarded by UNEP, OCHA, and Green Cross International for her leadership in prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies) organized a talk delivered by representatives from the **UNHCR Greece** within the framework of her class in Law for the undergraduate students of NYC.

6. In January 2017, Dr. Maria Kamilaki, NYC Instructor delivered a Workshop on **“Verbal Bullying in the School Environment”** as part of her class in “Meaning in Language” for the NYC students. The aim of the workshop was to alert students on the ways that bullying affects students in emotional and psychological ways and infringes upon children’s human rights.
7. In May 2017 Dr. Antonis Vadolas, NYC Instructor and Psychologist delivered a seminar for the NYC students and staff **“Psychoanalytic Insights in the understanding of religious terrorism”**. The talk touched upon issues of democracy and human rights.
8. **Dr. Bernard Kuchner**, Co-Founder of the *Doctors without Borders* and Founder of the *Doctors of the World* was invited to Athens to deliver the Keynote Address to the NYC Graduation Ceremony of 2016. During his stay in Athens, Dr. Kuchner participated in a press conference organized by NYC, thus disseminating the values of volunteerism, solidarity and social support.
9. In addition, NYC has organized the **Ambassadors Lecture Series** an initiative whose aim is to familiarize NYC students and staff with the issues of the world. The Series of Lectures has featured so far the Ambassadors of Panama, Japan, Romania, Panama, Venezuela, Chile, Vietnam, Thailand, India and the General Consulate in Athens of the Republic of Ivory Coast. In this last one Ms. Mero Kesesioglou, President of the Foundation ‘*Greek Action in Africa*’ presented the several actions that NYC family of students and staff can do for providing the people in Africa with the means to live self-independent.

Incorporating the UN Global Compact Principles in the College’s Internal Operations

NYC has taken the following steps in order to incorporate the UN Global Compact Principles in the College’s internal operations:

1. NYC added the UN Global Compact logo with a link to its website on the College’s website. In this way, NYC made it public its commitment to and engagement with the UN Global Compact values.

2. An effort has been made by NYC key staff members to incorporate a reference to the UN Global Compact Principles and NYC's commitment to the UN Global Compact values to any internal documentation produced since NYC's membership to the UN Global Compact. These documents included the General Student Handbook, the College Quality Handbook, and the College's Strategic Plan. For example, the College Quality Handbook endorses the principles of Human Rights, Labour and Anti-Corruption. The documents mentioned above are posted in the College's moodle and are accessible by all NYC members, students, instructors and administrators.

3. Particular attention has been taken to include a reference to the UN Global Compact and NYC's commitment to its principles in the major public speeches of the President of the College. An example is provided in the following excerpt from President's Foutsis Keynote Speech at the Graduation Ceremony 2016, Athens: *"Let me emphasize that NEW YORK COLLEGE is a member of the large family of the Global Compact of the United Nations, which is, today, the largest voluntary corporate social responsibility and sustainability group in the world, with over 7,000 member companies in 145 countries worldwide"* (E. Foutsis, 2016).

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

New York College has been a signatory to the UN Global Compact for the past two years. During these two years, the College has taken a number of actions in order to promote the principles and values of the UN Global Compact and to disseminate them to the College's stakeholders.

The results of this effort are summarized as follows:

1. NYC administrative and academic staff were given the opportunity to reflect on the principles and values of the UN Global Compact and decide on the ways that these can be incorporated in their managing and teaching. Several of the instructors have taken this opportunity to review their course outlines and incorporate the values and principles in their assessment and content of their courses. In addition, some of them organized talks and seminars on topics relevant to the Principles of the UN Global Compact, as shown in Section II above.
2. NYC students have had several opportunities to get informed about their College's commitment to the UN Global Compact and participate in student-led actions related to the values of the Global Compact. These included support and solidarity initiatives for the immigrants and deprived youth in Greece, including bazars, donations and volunteerism.
3. The UN Global Compact was promoted to the NYC stakeholders and the wider public through the numerous NYC public events. In an era of profound changes in higher education, and in a social and economic context largely shaped by a prolonged recession, New York College, Greece has continued to invest in its social role in the community that goes beyond higher education teaching and learning. With a carefully designed program of activities and actions NYC has managed to engage the local communities in thinking, reflecting, learning and acting upon on major social issues such as immigration, peace, democracy, health and ethics. Most of the activities were delivered in attractive and prestigious public spaces in the city of Athens, brought together panelists from the academic, political and business worlds, and reached hundreds of citizens.

In summary:

Despite the short period of NYC's engagement with the UN Global Compact, this report shows that the College has taken a number of steps that support, respect and protect the values of the UN Global Compact. However, it is understood that a more concerted effort is required in order for the College to fully develop a comprehensive program of initiatives

built around the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. To this effect, the following goals for the next two years have been considered:

1. Better liaison with the Global Compact Network Hellas for knowledge development and guidance. The GC Network Hellas has been organizing an impressive number of outreach actions that NYC has to participate in order to benefit from the Network's opportunities for multi-stakeholder alliances and collective activities.
2. Assign to one of the NYC staff members the role of the UN Global Compact activities coordinator. NYC various academic and administrative departments organize numerous activities throughout the year. It is understood that a designated staff member can map these activities across the Ten Principles, wherever this is possible thus allowing for a better dissemination.
3. Institutionalize a number of actions in support of the Ten Principles with the guidance of the GC Network Hellas.
4. Design initiatives to promote the College's responsibility towards Environment, which is currently the least well attended principle.
5. Continue the effort to incorporate the UN Global Compact Principles in the College's internal operations. This will include reference to the Principles in all documentation provided for students, such as Program Handbooks.