MDPI

Academic Open Access Publishing
since 1996

UN Global Compact Annual Report

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MDPI AG, Switzerland

Contents

Statement of continued support

I am pleased to confirm that MDPI reaffirms in 2022 its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

In this annual Communication on Progress, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Shu-Kun Lin

Basel, 19. Dec. 2022

1 DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS

At MDPI, we continuously support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, and we make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses. UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights state that all humans are equal and should have equal opportunities. Inequalities are part of every society, and reducing the gap between those who have a lot and those who have little opportunity and access to wealth is important to guarantee that societies are fair. Businesses take up an important role in reducing this gap by providing equal opportunities for their employees. To reduce inequality within employees we have established several offices in America, Europe and Asia. Figure 1 shows the distributions of offices around the world. With operations spread across 11 countries, we embrace the strength of an inclusive culture. At MDPI, approximately 80% of the workforce identifies as female and many of the leadership roles are filled by women. All employees have equal opportunities to advance in their careers as the promotions are evaluated based on a system of points that are automatically counted in most of the positions.
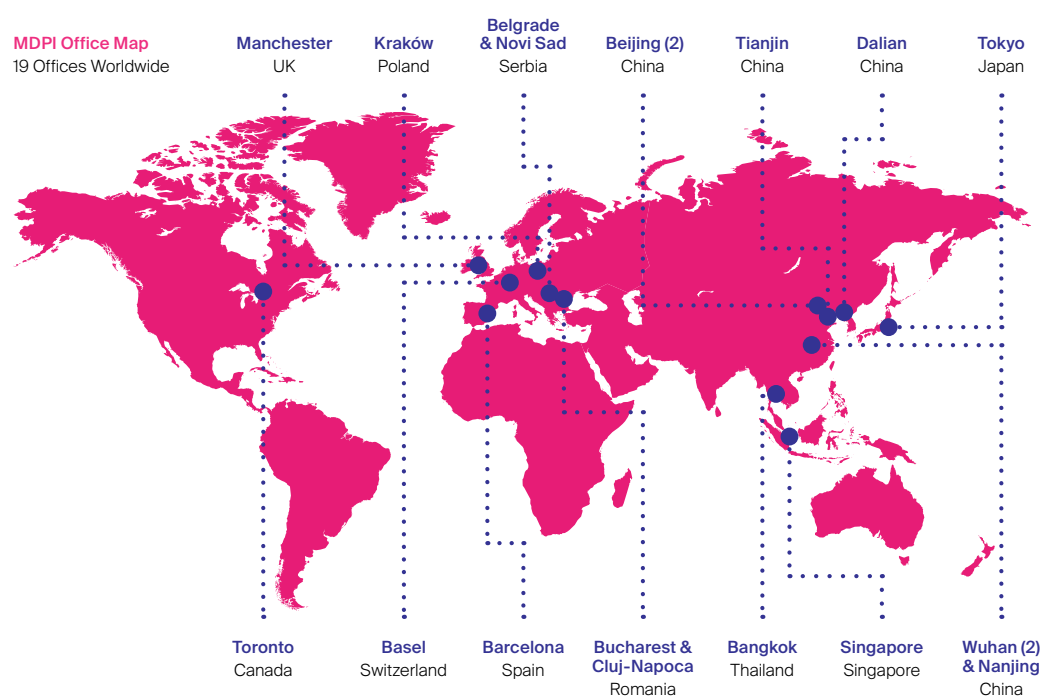
FIGURE 1: MDPI OFFICES

In addition, MDPI has joined the Royal Society of Chemistry's efforts to try and provide the industry with the tools to achieve a higher rate of inclusion across the field of academic research. The initiative now has a membership of over 50 Publishers across multiple disciplines. To date, the group have developed minimum standards for what information needs to be collected in order to begin achieving greater inclusion in Publishing. The group is now focusing on ways in which to implement the data by setting general baselines and targets, and finding ways to ensure these accurately represent the wants and needs of the academic community and of the fields which the journals represent. An MDPI representative is a member of the Setting Baselines and Targets sub-committee and is working to help create the framework on which to implement the policies developed by the Joint Commitment.

1.2   LABOUR

MDPI does not employ any person under any form of forced or bonded labour. All MDPI employees receive at least a minimum salary in their respective countries, and all editorial staff have the possibility of receiving a monthly bonus based on performance. The performance is calculated equally for all editorial staff using the same formula and method. To continue improving the access to human resources, MDPI is implementing better methods to assess the performance of employees

1.3   ENVIRONMENT

The environmental and sustainability initiatives in MDPI are present in various forms. As a publisher, the initiatives are focused on scientific publishing and promotion of content related not only to environmental sustainability but to all 17 Goals defined by the UN through some initiatives, such as joining efforts with other publishers towards inclusion, the launch of sustainability-related journals, the World Sustainability Forum and the Early career and Senior researcher awards that take place together with the conference, the dissemination of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related content thought the new MDPI SDG Hub, among others.

1.3.1   JOURNALS TACKLING SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

MDPI has launched 14 journals specialised in sustainability-related topics. Figure 2 shows the launch of these journals chronologically. The eldest and largest one, Sustainability, has published over 29'000 articles on SDGs, and these articles have been cited over 240'000 times (InCites data, Accessed and downloaded 07 December 2022). More recently, MDPI launched journals focused on specific environmental issues, such as solar and wind, dedicated to renewable energy research, and more recently waste and microplastics. These journals provide a platform for researchers to publish new ways and solutions to solve environmental issues.
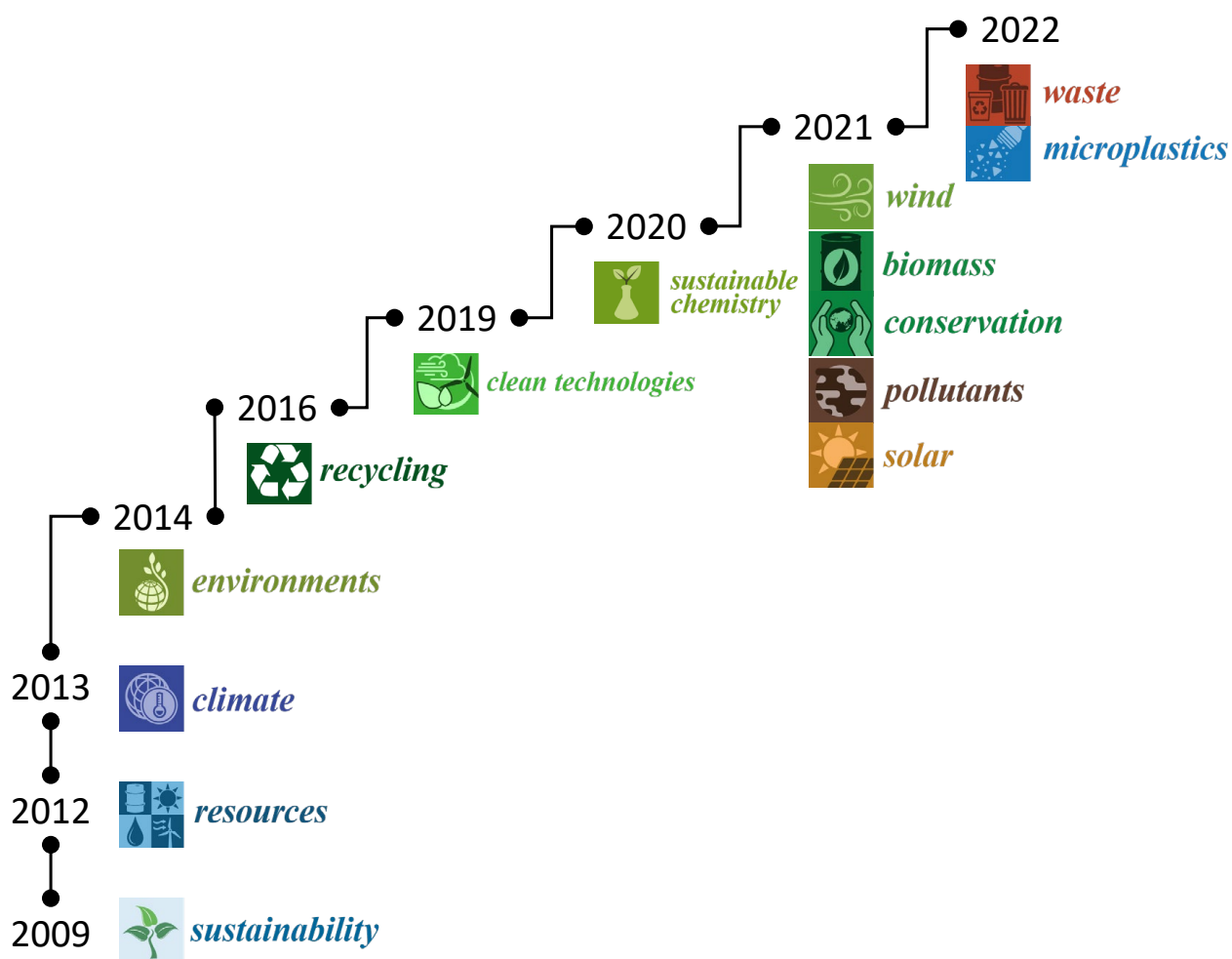
FIGURE 2: SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED JOURNALS

1.3.2 WHERE TO FIND THOUSANDS OF FREE SDG CONTENT

In 2020 the SDG Publishers Compact was launched, aimed to accelerate the goals by promoting published content that will help inform, develop, and inspire action within the SDGs scope. In 2021 MDPI became a signatory of the SDG publishers compact, and this year, MDPI launched the MDPI SDG Hub as part of our commitment to the compact. We are classifying recent research within the scope of each SDGs and adding them to our SDG Hub at mdpi.com/sdg. There, thousands of goal-related papers can be accessed. In addition, we are financially supporting the publication of selected papers of authors from underrepresented communities in science that publish on SDG subjects, by waiving publication charges. More information about the supported publications and detailed sustainability practices in MDPI is shown in the report under each Goal page.

1.4 ANTI-CORRUPTION

Unethical practices in the scholarly publishing industry may happen in several forms. They might occur by Systematic Manipulation of the Publication Process, as in, preventing or inappropriately influencing independent assessment, inappropriately attributing authorship, publishing fabricated or plagiarized research as well as other publication misconducts linked to corrupt practices. MDPI is continuously improving its internal workflows to prevent such practices, and invests in training its staff, as well as joining working groups of the publishing industry to find solutions together, that will benefit all publishers to combat corrupt practices. Members of MDPI ethics committee have attended trainings on industry wide publication ethics training and discussions, and we are currently collaborating on the STM-hub - https://www.stm-assoc.org/stm-integrity-hub/. In addition, MDPI is investing on the development and implementation of new tools that will improve the detection of unethical practices in scientific publications. MDPI is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). MDPI takes the responsibility to enforce a rigorous peer-review together with strict ethical policies and standards to ensure to add high quality scientific works to the field of scholarly publication. Unfortunately, cases of plagiarism, data falsification, inappropriate authorship credit, and the like, do arise. MDPI takes such publishing ethics issues very seriously and our editors are trained to proceed in such cases with a zero tolerance policy.

2 MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

MDPI's efforts to reduce the gender and knowledge access gap:

- Approximately 80% of the workforce identifies as female

- The average waiver rate across all MDPI journals was 35%, in relation to an average APC of CHF 1935

- Our staff created a comprehensive internal guideline, accessible to all employees, to detect unethical practices in scientific publishing

- In 2021, we increased page views to our website mdpi.com/books 33.4%, now totaling 1.7 million views from the following top five countries:

TABLE 1: OA BOOKS PAGE VIEWS

Country	Users
United States	65,000+
India	50,000+
Germany	26,000+
United Kingdom	25,000+
China	20,000+