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An approach to universities social responsibility. The experience of the University of Granada

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The School for Postgraduate Studies is the chief organ through which the University of Granada embraces its commitment with Lifelong learning. In connection to this sphere of its mission, one of the main aims of the School is to contribute to the social, economic and environmental sustainable development of the area, for which it takes responsibility.

To achieve this goal, the School has assumed the commitment to continue to enhance its performance in the fields of environment, economy and society. Its policy of social responsibility is implemented in three big areas: management, learning programmes, and social project. At the same time, the School pays special attention to breaking down social barriers for those sectors of population with greater difficulties to gain access to the job market (women, unemployed, and disable people).

On the basis of these assumptions, this paper attempts to highlight the key values that determine the way in which the School for Postgraduate Studies at the University of Granada takes upon itself social responsibility. By way of illustration, these pursuits are part of the School's agenda:

- To prioritise quality and social responsibility in its activities of management and educational offering.
- To promote a feel for environment, in favour of sustainable development.
- To favour training for sustainable development, while educating in social and individual values, peaceful cohabitation, and human rights protection.
- To foster participation of all segments (students, workers, society, companies and public administration, among others), and to meet their expectations.
- To provide its staff with fair, safe and qualitative working conditions.
- To provide quality teaching, of high significance regarding social, environmental, working and security needs.
- To promote equal opportunity without making gender, origin and condition distinction.
- To meet the educational needs of excluded groups, and to promote interaction and cooperation with local, regional and international organizations representing different sectors.
- To fulfil all commitments regarding social responsibility that the University of Granada has subscribed or may subscribe to.

Based on an approach to the policy and actual work of the School for Postgraduate Studies at the University of Granada with regard to Social Responsibility, this paper aims to further the discussion, and to exchange experiences, in reference to the social commitments that should be assumed by the universities in the frame of the European Space for Higher Education.