Sulitest.org
Sustainability Literacy Tools & Community

CASE STUDY

UCLouvain
Louvain School of Management

TRACKING STUDENT'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS PROGRESSION

For the past 5 years, more than 500 students took the Sulitest per year at the Louvain School of Management (LSM), at the Université catholique de Louvain. LSM students say Sulitest impacted positively their knowledge on Sustainable Development and their ability to talk about sustainability issues with family and friends. Sulitest had a conversation with the LSM team to explore:

- **How Louvain School of Management uses Sulitest - entry & exit testing**

- **The impact - student's feedback**

- **The context - LSM's engagement with ESD**

- **Research - Analysis of the Sustainability Literacy Test (Sulitest) offered at, for first-year master students**

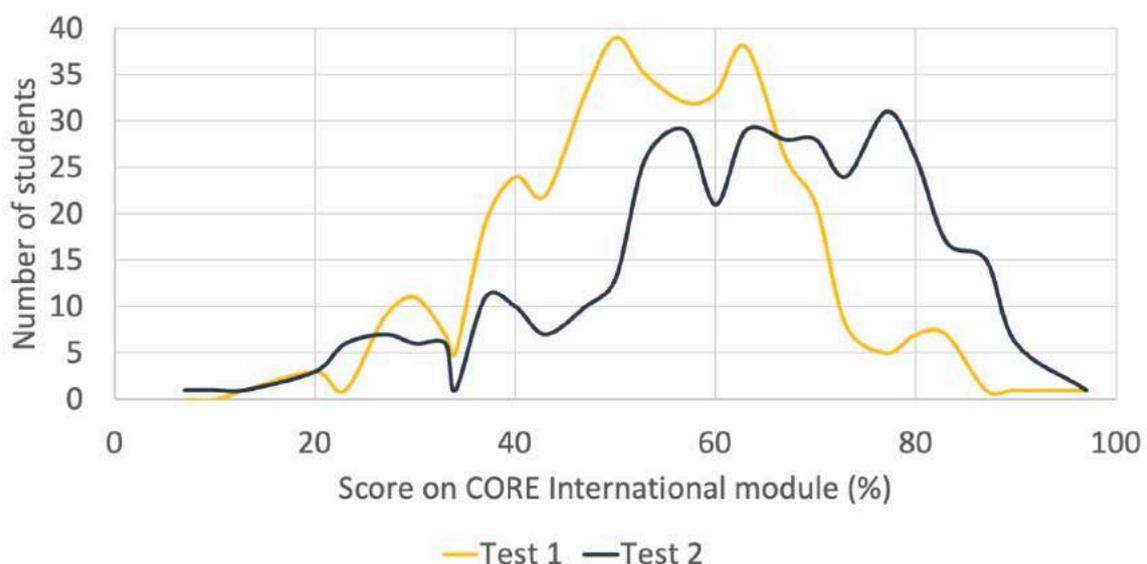# How do you use Sulitest at Louvain School of Management?

"We offer the Sulitest within the Louvain School of Management (LSM) as part of the mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) course in English. This course is also offered in Dutch, and in this case, students do not take the Sulitest but rather discuss some of its questions in small groups, which also creates an interesting dynamic and learning experience.

For the English speaking students, we offer Sulitest in the beginning of the course and once again at the end of the CSR course. We use it at the same time as **an entry door to sustainability and CSR discussions and to map progression**. Both sessions include the Core International module and the SDG framework module," described Professor Carlos Desmet.

Sabrina Courtois, Teaching Assistant, presented the Sulitest results of this intensive course of six weeks (between September and October 2021):

"In the **Core Module**, you can see that there has been a significant increase in the scores for students. It is good to see that there is no extreme – not like only a few students got 100 but rather an overall increase for all. Moreover, our average results are higher than the benchmark average from Belgium and the world." More data insights can be found in Appendix A.

What was the impact of introducing Sulitest into LSM?

Sabrina Courtois expressed "at its nature, the Sulitest helps to make sustainability more tangible, as it is facts-based. This is always helpful when we talk about CSR which is often a contested concept. I believe something factual and objective like the Sulitest really does provide a strongly-founded, reassuring evidence of what sustainable development entails.

> " Knowing figures and facts makes you aware of how urgent the problem is – and with an increased motivation to learn more, that becomes the foundation of positive action. "

Méno Tamno, Teaching Assistant, presented the quantitative results of the survey answered by 44 students. Firstly, students described their experience of the Sulitest in one word – their most common responses were:

KNOWLEDGEABLE FUN NICE VALUABLE LEARNING INTERESTING NEW CAPTIVATING EYE-OPENING DISCOVERY

Secondly, regarding Sulitest's impact on their personal and academic life,

- 77,3% of respondents stated the Sulitest had at least a moderate (or significant or fundamental) impact on their assessment of their level of knowledge about sustainability issues.
- 72,7% of respondents stated the Sulitest allowed them to moderately, significantly, or fundamentally, broaden their view of sustainability issues.
- 61,4% of respondents stated the Sulitest has a moderate, significant, or fundamental impact on their ability to talk about sustainability issues with family and friends.
- 61,4% of respondents stated the Sulitest will have a moderate, significant, or fundamental impact on their future professional life.

When and why did you start using Sulitest?

"Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is part of the mission of the faculty. Ethics and Excellence are core values of the Louvain School of Management – i.e. **we have a deep belief that business cannot be separated from ethics and excellence.** We have a framework with transversal competencies that we want our students to develop. Corporate citizenship is part of that, as well as other ones that are important for sustainability, like collaboration, critical thinking, multiculturality," explains Sabrina Courtois.

There is a movement at the university level – the first transition plan has recently launched, where it was identified where UCLouvain, and consequently faculties such as LSM, could further contribute on teaching and research levels, but also on campus and as a member of society. Louvain School of Management aims to create impact long-term, and ESD is an important lever in this goal.

"Five years ago, I discovered Sulitest in a meeting. For the first time, I found **a system online, which provides students with a way to discover different aspects of CSR.** I appreciated it was not a pass or fail Test for the candidates, but rather it included feedback and resources to read – I found it an interesting learning tool complimentary to our way of providing ESD.

We piloted it with our students that year, and even a student focused her master's thesis on its deployment, getting feedback from the students and measuring the impact it had [see below]. The result was very positive, so we decided together as a teaching team to renew that experience the following years," stated Carlos Desmet.

RESEARCH

ANALYSIS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY TEST (SULITEST) OFFERED AT LOUVAIN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, FOR THE FIRST-YEAR MASTER STUDENTS

In 2017-18, the first use of Sulitest in UCLouvain was accompanied by the Masters candidate Juliette Mabardi, who wrote her final thesis on the application of the Sulitest, conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis (research available upon request to the Sulitest team).

This research confirmed the positive impact and since then, the UCLouvain team offers the Awareness Test as part of the CSR course.

STUDENT'S FEEDBACK

"We receive a well-researched comment for every question, which does not stop at giving the correct answer, but which actually provides further relevant information".

"I also liked the comparison of the results with the world average, so that I realized that I needed to learn more".

"The test is inclusive and covers a large number of different questions that correspond to the CSR course."

"The first try before the course was great to see what we could expect from this course and what were the main concerns in the area of CSR."

"With this Test, I believe that the future of the world is everyone's responsibility and it all starts with education. "

"From my point of view, this test should be implemented in all universities or high schools. In fact, it could allow young people to learn about sustainable development, strategic change and to be aware of the reality of CSR in our society. But it would also make them aware of the reality of the world, the challenges of tomorrow, etc."

"I am now more aware of how the global efforts of international organizations are organized and how they plan the means to achieve the goals. [...] The test and the conferences also sensitized me on the importance of the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable goals such as human rights (I used to think that the government should do most of the work but today it is the opposite)."

"It made me realize that in my future work I will have to deal with these topics. Before, I never thought that these questions would be important in my career."

"There are still a lot of changes to be made in our world and I want to be part of those changes on my scale, no matter how small. "

You read how Louvain School of Management integrated Sulitest, **how would you leverage Sulitest in your sustainability strategy?**

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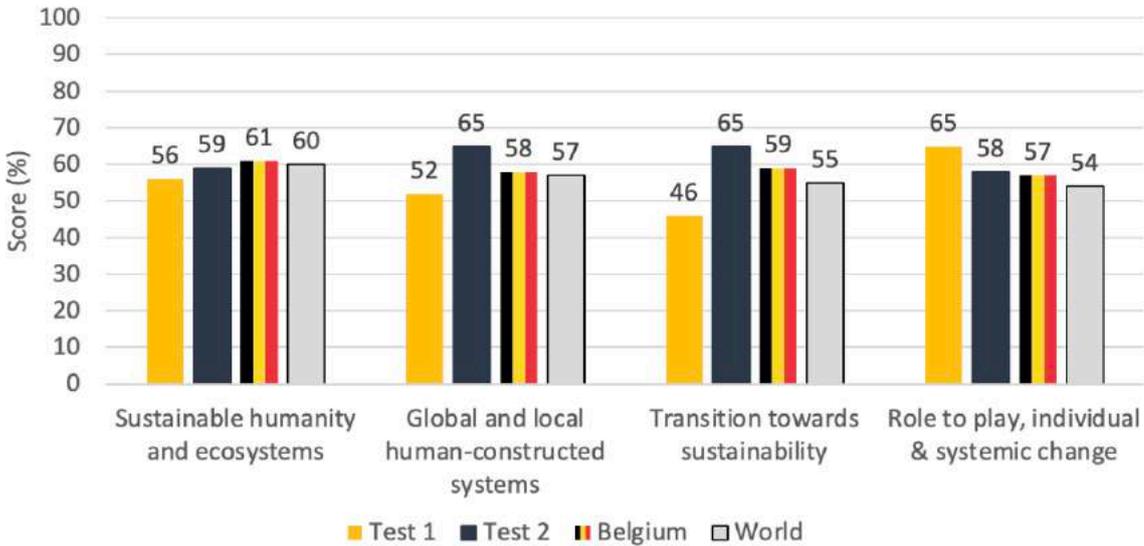
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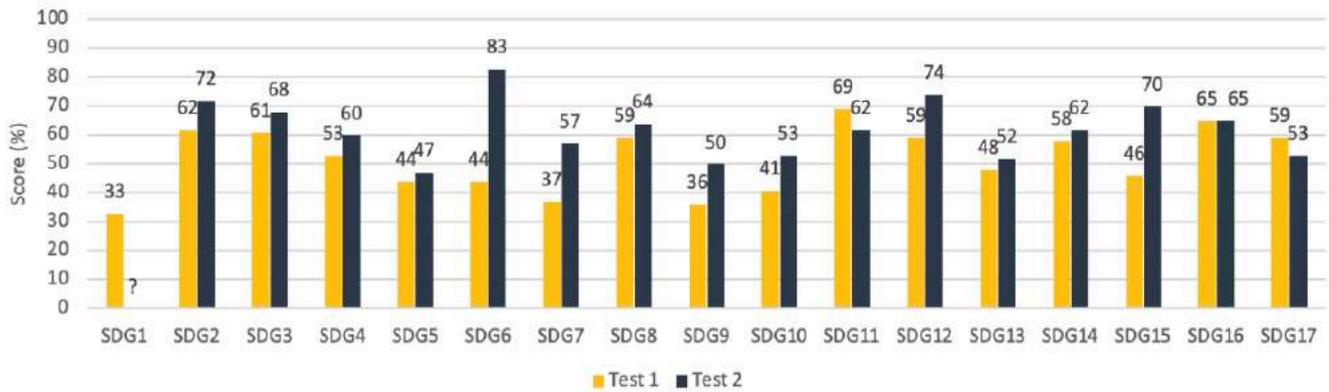
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APPENDIX A
DATA INSIGHTS FROM THE SULITEST AWARENESS TEST (ENTRY & EXIT)

Results of the Core Module, per Knowledge Area:

Results of the Core Module, per SDG:

Results of the SDG Framework module: