



What is SITE4Society?

It is a local homegrown social innovation to create shared value for the SDGs!

Governments worldwide have pledged to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. But given the scale and diversity of the task, no national government can do this alone. Hence, the UN and governments worldwide are calling for cooperation from all societal stakeholders to assume responsibility and contribute to national missions and SDGs attainment. This is leading to a new phenomenon whereby different kinds of non-governmental economic actors ranging from civil society, social enterprises, start-ups, firms and multinationals are aligning their strategies and reporting against the same objectives. Some of us at UNU-MERIT have decided to be a part of this change, through the creation of SITE4Society. We want to explore how to create a shared value for the local community and global communities towards SDGs attainment.

'SITE' stands for science, innovation, technology and engagement and '4Society' implies that it will focus on how these variables can be leveraged for societal welfare. SITE4Society was launched in September 2017, in UNU-MERIT, as an event series to contribute to bridging the gaps between the academic and the non-academic worlds. Through facilitating conversations between those changing the world and academics doing research about change, it aims to provide a live learning experience that can trigger further value creation. It is based on the premise that the mobilization of Science (or knowledge), Innovation, Technology, and Engagement are instrumental to address societal challenges, i.e. the SDGs. <http://sdrlab.merit.unu.edu/societal-interactions/site4society/>

Two workshops have been held so far, the first on November 1, 2017 and the second, on February 9, 2018. Their impact was significant and revealed a real demand for more such live learning experiences. Moreover the experience of the two workshops led to an expansion of the activities of SITE4Society as a connector between academics and other societal stakeholders.

In February 2018, SITE4Society started a Publication Briefs series. These are summaries of academic articles that deal with how the SITE variables i.e. science, innovation, infrastructure, technology, and engagement (via entrepreneurship or governance) can serve National Missions and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The aim is to contribute to **bridging the knowledge divide** between those who have access to the latest articles especially in international journals and those who don't and between academics and society. SITE4Society briefs are written according to a specific format so as to showcase the essence of research in a simple, readable and replicable manner. The last feature is to facilitate further research on the corresponding topic.

SITE4Society publication briefs can be found at <https://site4society.wordpress.com/> and by subscribing, readers can be notified each time there is a new brief.

For further outreach SITE4Society is also present on Facebook and Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/SITE4Society/> and <https://twitter.com/SITE4Society>