



**UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT**
in Rzeszow, POLAND



UITM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2020-2021

(Due to the specificity of higher education institutions, information is presented for the academic year 2020/2021 or for the calendar years 2020 and 2021).





Goal 1: ELIMINATE POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS AROUND THE WORLD

UN explains: Poverty is more than lack of income and the necessities of life. Poverty is hunger, malnutrition, limited access to education and essential services, social discrimination, exclusion and lack of participation in the decision-making process. Economic growth must be inclusive, provide work opportunities and promote equality.

Expanded scholarship system

UITM has been providing opportunities for young people to study from the very beginning, regardless of their financial situation. This case continues today, as financial resources from the university's budget, supplemented with funds from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, enable extensive student support. This includes free studies for talented students, financial support for living expenses during studies, and one-off assistance in case of sudden life problems.



2,399 students received scholarships in the 2020/2021 academic year, of which **1,773 students** received scholarships exceeding the tuition fee

School of Leaders Program

School of Leaders is a program supporting the most talented students in their scientific development and shaping their leadership attitudes and skills. Students covered by the program receive, among other things, individual care from a tutor who supports the development of interests and competencies, free consultations with specialists from the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship Center of UITM and support of the Career Office in the field of career path planning.



58 students covered by the *School of Leaders* program

Scholarship Program in the name of K. Kalinowski

Cooperation of the Polish Culture and Language Center at UITM with the University of Warsaw as part of the Scholarship Program in the name of K. Kalinowski, offering support for people repressed for participating in democratic protests against President Lukashenko, resulted in the support of 30 scholarship holders politically persecuted by the Belarusian authorities, who completed a Polish language course and can start studies at Polish universities.



30 people persecuted by the Belarusian regime completed a Polish language course

2 ZERO FAMINE



Goal 2: ELIMINATE FAMINE, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

UN explains: Currently the soil, drinking water, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. Climate changes are having an even greater impact on the environment on which our lives depend. They increase the risk of natural disasters such as droughts and floods. It is time to look at how food is produced, consumed and distributed.

Health Education in Civilizational Diseases

For years, the university has been trying to increase students' awareness of the role of prevention in good behavior health status and quality of life. Students of all first-cycle studies participate in the lecture *Health Education in Civilizational Diseases*, learning about the specificity of lifestyle diseases, and the basis of their occurrence and the role of a healthy style of life in the prevention of lifestyle diseases. They learn how the immune system works and how to strengthen it. They also acquire the ability to critically evaluate health data and take a broader look at the issue of diseases in the context of different regions of the world.

Debate *From the field to the table*

In December 2021, a debate titled *From the Field to the Table* was held, focusing on the transformation of European agriculture in alignment with the key activities outlined in the European Green Deal. The aim of the discussion was to contribute to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 while transitioning the current EU food system into a sustainable model. Participants also examined forthcoming changes within a regional context, a prospect of significance to the University due to its active involvement in regional activities. The debate was organized by EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów and conducted by UITM.

Offer for vegetarians and vegans at the University's catering facilities

The university not only aims to educate but also strives to influence the attitudes and habits of the younger generation. Recognizing the importance of reducing meat consumption in favor of plant-based products for the benefit of the climate, the university is gradually increasing the availability of vegetarian and vegan dishes in its catering outlets. This effort aligns with the growing awareness and identification of these trends within the younger generation.

 **851** lecture participants

 **over 120** participants in the debate
2,900 views of the film report

 Nearly **45% of catering offer** are vegetarian or vegan products

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

UN explains: We must continue to work intensively to overcome the incidence of many diseases and emerging health threats. By ensuring more efficient financing of health care systems, improving sanitation and access to doctors, and reducing pollution we can make significant progress in saving millions of lives.

Medical Scientific Club of Dietitians ESKULAP

The Medical Scientific Club of Dietitians ESKULAP brings together students who want to expand their knowledge in the field of medicine, particularly dietetics. He conducts scientific research and health education for various social groups. Last year, the group implemented numerous projects, including *Nutrition in times of a pandemic* and participated in the 12th International Conference of Student Scientific Clubs *Health challenges in the modern world* with papers on: *Diet and the interaction of bacterial microflora with the immune system*, *Nutrition in bacterial and viral infections* and *Vitamin D3 – a new hormone in the inflammatory process and pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases*.

Sports dietetics laboratory

The university has invested in developing infrastructure to train staff for the health sector and to enhance the competencies of all students in the area of health prevention. To facilitate this, a specialized Exercise Test Laboratory was created for the Dietetics specialty. The laboratory is equipped with the following items: cycle ergometer, cardiological treadmill for exercise tests, system that works with a cycle ergometer and a cardiological treadmill, calorimeter, body composition analyzer, skinfold caliper, anthropometric tape, ECG monitor and apparatus, blood pressure measuring device, pulse oximeter, and spirometer. The laboratory is available for use by all faculties of the UITM Medical College.

Launch of education in Nursing

In March 2020, the University launched a major in Nursing. The program is available in both Polish and English. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there is a global shortage of approximately 6 million specialized nursing staff. The demand for nursing care is increasing due to the rise of civilization-related diseases, the COVID-19 pandemic, and issues related to caring for an aging society. According to OECD data, there are 5 nurses per 1,000 inhabitants in Poland, while the EU average is 9.3 nurses.



25 active members in the Medical Scientific Club of Dietitians ESKULAP



100,433.90 PLN is the value of the equipment in the testing laboratory



136 Nursing students, including
118 studying in Polish and
18 studying in English

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Goal 4: ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

UN explains: Quality education is the foundation for improving people's lives and sustainable development.

General access to education improves quality of life and enables innovative solutions to the greatest problems of the modern world.

Providing quality education involves creating educational scholarship programs, workshops for teachers, building schools, and improving access to water and electricity in schools.

Educational offer for generations

The educational offerings at UITM are designed for primary and secondary school students, as well as professionals and mature individuals. The university has introduced an innovative educational program called *the Rzeszów Academy of Inspiration*, which aims to help children and young people develop essential skills for today's world. In addition, UITM also runs an *Academic Secondary School*, and offers a program for individuals over 50 called the *50+ Academy*. This program is designed to promote activity and knowledge expansion for those over 50, and includes lectures, additional classes for smaller interest groups, and one-day workshops. The meetings for the *50+ Academy* take place twice a month, either at the university's premises or online via the Webex platform, depending on the pandemic situation.

Projects popularizing science

The university is involved in the dissemination of science through projects such as:

- *Big Questions in Science* – a series of popular science lectures organised since 2016 in cooperation with *Tygodnik Powszechny*;
- *In the Labyrinth of the World* – a series of panel discussions organised in cooperation with the Dominican Monastery in Rzeszów;
- *High five to science* – a project aimed at promoting the culture of knowledge sharing and disseminating the idea of open access to science, education and cultural goods.

Implementation of the *Classy Programmer* project

The *Classy Programmer* project aimed to enhance programming skills for children and adults. It targeted primary school students in grades I-III in the Tarnobrzeg district and was the largest project of its kind in the country. The project focused on teaching programming using the Scratch environment. It provided training to nearly 4,500 individuals including teachers, students, GOK employees, and library staff. Over 10,000 training hours were completed, and a remote learning platform with educational materials was developed. The training plan exceeded its target by 150%. The project was funded by the European Union.



582 participants of RAI workshops
260 students of the Academic High School of General Education
370 students of the 50+ Academy



30,500 participants live and
19 million views of film reports



4,500 trainees
over **10,000** hours of training

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Goal 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN explains: Gender equality is not only a universal human right, it is also the foundation of a sustainable world in which people will live in peace and prosperity. Ensuring that women and girls have equal access to education, health care and decent work, and participate in decision-making on political and economic issues will strengthen sustainable economies and benefit societies and all of humanity.

The grade A for the *Gender balance* criterion in U-Multirank 2021

Gender equality is a very important issue for UITM and the University undertakes a number of initiatives that aim to support women in developing their professional careers, particularly academic ones. The effectiveness of the initiatives undertaken is evidenced by the highest grade A in the U-Multirank ranking – an independent international university ranking developed as part of the Erasmus+ program of the European Commission.

Women in Science and *Born To Be Myself* projects

International Women's Day is not only a reason to celebrate, but increasingly also an opportunity to reflect on the subject of gender equality. That is why one of the issues of *Intro Magazine* is entirely devoted to the perception of the role of women and the place of women in science. *Women in Science* is a summary of a two-year series of interviews with female scientists – lecturers at UITM, while the social project *Born To Be Myself* is an attempt at self-diagnosis of femininity and also to draw attention to the fact that in the case of each person, their personality is the most important. The students organized a photo session to show the diversity and uniqueness of the concept of "beauty" using their own example.

Women make up 48% of senior management staff at UITM

According to the *Win-win* report on women in the labor market in Poland and Central Europe, in Poland women make up only 15% of senior management staff. What's more, in almost half of the companies in Central Europe, there is not a single woman among the senior management staff. As a result of the HR policy of UITM, which has been pursued for many years, women make up 48% of the university's senior management staff.



Grade A in U-Multirank 2021 in the criteria *Gender balance*



Articles in the magazine have been viewed **9,747 times**



25 out of **52** senior management staff at UITM are women

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6: PROVIDE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL THROUGH SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

UN explains: Every person in the world should have access to clean water. On our planet, we have enough water to make this happen. However, due to a weak economy or poor infrastructure, millions of people, mostly children, die every year from diseases related to inadequate water supplies, poor sanitation and bad hygiene. Water scarcity, its low quality and improper sanitation have a negative impact on food security and livelihoods.

Green areas

The university aims to maximize green spaces and minimize concrete on its campuses. More than half of the entire UITM area is dedicated to water-absorbing features such as lawns, flower beds, and forests. This emphasis on green spaces adds value to our campuses, making them ideal for recreational activities and beneficial for the local community.

Devices that reduce water consumption

The university systematically monitors water consumption and modernizes sanitary facilities to reduce it. For this purpose, water aerators are installed on taps, and flushers are installed in toilets to regulate the amount of required drain water.

Landscape – city or nature

The exhibition *Landscape – City or Nature* is the result of a project organized by P. Longawa, Ph.D. and M. Birek. Students from the clubs worked on the project as well as invited participants from 5 foreign universities: Temple University (USA), Pradita University (Indonesia), Namseoul University (South Korea), Shantou University (China), and Onsekiz Mart University (Türkiye). Posters could depict both gigantic skyscrapers or modern futuristic buildings, as well as classic tenement houses or apartment blocks. In turn, nature could be depicted by mountains, lakes, forests, meadows, and fields, but also fanciful landscapes with surprising flora and fauna.



Over **50.6%** of the area of UITM campuses is green areas



Aerators installed in taps limit water consumption by **25%**



The projects were presented by **10** lecturers and **72** students from **6** countries

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Goal 7: PROVIDE EVERYONE WITH ACCESS TO SOURCES OF STABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

UN explains: Overcoming challenges and taking advantage of numerous opportunities in today's world involves access to energy. Energy is necessary to perform work, ensure safety, fight climate change, produce food, or in efforts to increase national incomes. Access to clean fuels and technology must be increased, and the use of renewable sources of energy in buildings, transportation and industry needs to be enhanced.

Solar panels in Kielnarowa

Photovoltaic panels have been installed on the Kielnarowa campus, and their energy is utilized for water heating. The energy obtained from these green sources in 2021 was 8,270 kWh.

Green buildings – natural energy from the sun and light

As part of the construction and renovation policy, UITM implements green construction elements in buildings campus in Rzeszów and Kielnarowa. Examples of activities in this area, there are:

- recuperative system for cooling the server room,
- photovoltaic panels,
- glass roof in the building of the International Education Center on the Kielnarowa Campus.

According to the classification adopted by the UI Green Metrics ranking, both campuses are smart buildings.

Scientific research

The university conducts research on green energy sources, leading to international publications. For instance, M. Rataj, Ph.D., J. Berniak-Woźny, Ph.D. and M. Plebańska, Ph.D. authored an article entitled *Poland as the EU Leader in Terms of Photovoltaic Market Growth Dynamics – Behind the Scenes*. This article attempts to answer the question of why there is substantial interest in micro photovoltaic installations in Poland.



8,270 kWh of green energy per year



UITM campuses meet the smart buildings criteria according to UI GreenMetrics



Over **1,000** views of the article

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: PROMOTE PERMANENT, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL PEOPLE

UN explains: economic growth requires societies to form conditions that enable people to engage in quality work that drives the economy without harming the environment. New work opportunities must be created and decent work conditions must be provided for the entire working-age population. Access to financial services should also be increased, enabling proper income management, wealth accumulation and effective investment. Increasing resources for the development of trade, banking and agricultural infrastructure will also help to increase economic productivity and reduce unemployment level in the world's poorest regions.

Certificates

The University has extensive experience in implementing proven certified educational solutions.

UITM studies enable students to earn prestigious language, business and IT certificates valued by employers.

HR Excellence in Research Certificate

Since 2017, UITM has had the right to use the logo of HR Excellence. The HR Excellence in Research certificate awarded by the European Commission confirms that a given unit is characterized by a friendly research work environment and implements transparent principles of recruitment of research workers.

Podkarpackie Job Fair

UITM has been organizing the Podkarpackie Job Fair for almost 20 years. It presents itself at the fair every year with dozens of employers offering employment in various sectors of the economy. It is visited by several thousand job seekers (students, graduates, and older people who want to change their jobs). In addition, acting as an employment agency, the UITM Career Office cooperates with over 1,000 companies through BK, they provide students, graduates of the University, and job seekers with offers work, apprenticeships, and internships.



9,600 international certificates issued



HR Excellence Certificate since 2017



31 employers participated and
5,200 people participated in the 19th
Podkarpackie Job Fair




Goal 9: BUILD DISASTER-RESISTANT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SUPPORT INNOVATION

UN explains: At the core of efforts to achieve environmental goals is technical progress, including increasing material and energy efficiency. Without technology and innovation there will be no industry, and without industry there will be no development. More investment in highly advanced technologies is needed to increase efficiency of manufactory production. Attention should be paid to the development of mobile phone services that improve people-to-people contact.

Research laboratories

The University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów has research laboratories equipped with modern equipment, enabling high-level research. These innovative facilities enable combining theory with practice, which is becoming increasingly important in the contemporary labor market and in the contacts between science and business. Both employees and students use the laboratories. Thanks to them, the University practically prepares students for their profession, and enables employees to conduct research. The laboratories serve both the academic community and – indirectly – all residents of the region.

 **49** research and teaching laboratories

Cooperation with representatives of the business world in the area of implementation of modern technological solutions

The IT Services Center operating within the structures of UITM implements a number of IT projects in the field of using modern technologies. The projects are implemented for external business clients. Within the framework of the scientific and research laboratories of the completed orders, UITM employees have developed, among others, a vehicle monitoring system, an Intelligent Safe Driving Trainer, a prototype of a new line of bio-fireplaces, a prototype of mobile and acoustic modular furniture, a service for placing and handling orders in restaurants using a mobile application, an innovative technology for pre-fabrication of steel structures, pipelines and pressure equipment elements based on the results of numerical analysis.

 **8 implementations** in the field of IT projects using modern technologies

Organization of scientific conferences connecting the world of science with the world of business practitioners:

13 editions of the InternetBeta conference

13 editions of the National Scientific Conference *Science and passion are the key to success*

InternetBeta is a conference that has already gained a cult status during its first edition. Its distinguishing feature is its interdisciplinarity: the conference brings together representatives of the most important advertising and digital agencies, investors, startups, managers and owners of the largest websites and online stores, people responsible for marketing and innovation working for the largest and niche brands, as well as sociologists, psychologists and representatives of local governments and non-governmental organizations.

The National Scientific Conference *Science and passion are the key to success* is an annual event aimed at promoting the activities of young scientists, presenting research and views, and integrating academic communities. Previous editions have allowed *Science and passion* to become a permanent fixture in the conference calendar throughout Poland.

 **86** speakers and over **200** participants at the 13th edition of the InternetBeta conference
115 speakers from **40** universities from Poland and abroad and nearly **200** participants of the conference *Science and Passion are the Key to Success*

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES

UN explains: The international community has made significant progress in saving people from poverty. However, inequality still persists around the world and not everyone has equal access to health care, education and other goods. It is crucial that everyone can benefit from inclusive economic progress, based on the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Taking into account the needs of disadvantaged people and marginalized groups should become a common principle in policies seeking to reduce inequality.

Facilities for the disabled

At our University, we currently educate many people with health problems. These are people with disability certificates, as well as chronically ill people. In the main building on Sucharskiego Street, in the zone accessible to people with disabilities, the Office of the Rector's Representative for the Disabled is located. Students with health problems can find help there in many aspects. We try to increase the independence of students with disabilities or chronically ill, we offer them the help of assistants, and we also conduct specialist classes in the swimming pool, and we have a movement improvement room in Kieln-arowa and a quiet room in Rzeszów. The University also undertakes activities consisting in continuous modernization of infrastructure, transforming it to be even more friendly to people with disabilities. In 2020, UITM also began activities aimed at adapting the content published on the UITM portal to the WCAG 2.0 standard.

The Rector's Representative for Combating Mobbing, Discrimination and Violence

At the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów, a policy of combating mobbing, discrimination and violence against students and employees has been in force since the academic year 2019/2020. The university also has a Rector's Plenipotentiary for Combating Mobbing, Discrimination and Violence, who considers applications from people (employees or students) who may have experienced discrimination, mobbing or violence on the part of a student or employee of UITM.

Participation in charity events and social projects

The academic community of UITM is involved in charity events and social events supporting people at risk of economic and social exclusion. As part of its cyclical activities, the Student Government participates in the *Szlachetna Paczka* campaign, DKMS activities, and organizes collections, among others, for the *Kundelek* shelter. The university participates in WOŚP auctions. The Academic Caritas also operates within the structures of UITM. In addition, the university also participates in preventive social events – e.g. in cooperation with the *SOS Życie* Foundation and the Medyk Medical Center, women aged 25-59 could have a free cytology test in the cytomammobus on the premises of UITM (winter 2020). A vaccination point against COVID-19 was also organized several times on the premises of UITM (2021). UITM also got involved, among others, in the campaign promoting the *Yellow Ribbon March* – a nationwide campaign that took place in Poland online under the slogan *Let's Go #PoGodność*, which aimed to emphasize the role of solidarity with people experiencing a mental crisis.



3,055,233.50 PLN – amount of the budget for the implementation of the project *University without barriers*

40% – scale of implementation of the assumptions regarding the WCAG standard on the UITM portal



February 3, 2020 – appointment of the Rector's Representative in the UITM structure for counteracting mobbing, discrimination and violence



2,500 people implementing or participating in charity events and social projects

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Goal 11: DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE CITIES AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESISTANT TO THE EFFECTS OF DISASTER AND SUSTAINABLE

UN explains: Cities are centers of culture and science, industry and productivity, as well as social development, and this is also where new ideas are born. When a city flourishes, people benefit from social and economic development. With the number of people living in urban areas expected to rise to 5 billion by 2030, effective urban planning and management practices must be implemented to meet the challenges of urbanization. Cities should grow, at the same time we need to improve the efficiency of resource use, strive to reduce pollution and combat poverty.

Kielnarowa Campus – exhibitions / green infrastructure / outdoor gyms

The Kielnarowa Campus is, on the one hand, a student campus and, on the other hand, a modern conference and recreation complex, where we have created ideal conditions for organizing congresses, conferences, workshops and trainings, integration meetings, social gatherings and relaxation. The facility is located in the beautiful surroundings of the Dynowskie Foothills, just 10 km from Rzeszów. The specialist infrastructure also allows for organizing sports camps, which is why the campus is often used by sports teams.

National Reading

The university actively participates in events organized by the City of Rzeszów. During the 10th anniversary edition of the *National Reading* – a social campaign promoting knowledge of national literature, organized under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Rector of UITM, Wergiliusz Gołąbek, Ph.D., among others, shared his interpretation of the drama *Moralność pani Dulskiej* by Gabriela Zapolska. The *National Reading* campaign has been organized by the President of the Republic of Poland since 2012. It was initiated by President Bronisław Komorowski with a joint reading of *Pan Tadeusz* by Adam Mickiewicz.

Sustainable transport

The university has 3 buses that handle student and lecturer traffic between the Rzeszów and Kielnarowa campuses and the city centre. The number of daily trips is adjusted to the number of student classes, so as not to generate empty rides. In addition, UITM has bicycles that can be used free of charge by students and UITM employees.

The Kielnarowa campus is located on the eastern Green Velo Bicycle Trail and has been awarded the status of a bicycle-friendly place. The trail leads through five voivodeships of eastern Poland (Warmia-Masuria, Podlaskie, Lublin, Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie).



116 – total number of events organized at the Kielnarowa Campus



5th year of active participation of the Rector of UITM, W. Gołąbek, Ph.D. in the *National Reading* campaign



3 buses available to students and employees, enabling public transport between campuses



Goal 12: ENSURE MODELS OF RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

UN explains: Sustainable consumption and productions are related to promoting effective use of energy and other resources, lasting infrastructure, access to basic services, decent workplaces, including in the environmental sector, and better life quality. The use of such patterns helps in the implementation of development plans, reduces economic, environmental and social costs, strengthens economic competitiveness and reduces poverty.

Zero Waste Initiatives

Every day, thousands of disposable coffee and tea cups end up in waste bins. Only 0.25% of these difficult-to-recycle packages are recycled. The Lunch Bar and self-service room in the main university building on Sucharskiego Street, as well as the university shop and Taberna pod Sosnami in the Kielnarowa Campus, took part in a campaign announced by the Polish Zero Waste Association. As part of the campaign, anyone who came to the above-mentioned points with their own cup could buy coffee and tea for PLN 1 cheaper.

In addition, a composter was created in the Kielnarowa Campus, where organic waste is collected and naturally processed.



3 catering points operating on the UITM campus
1 composter for organic waste

Promotion of eco-trends

UITM employees are actively involved in promoting responsible consumption and production, e.g. J. Krupa, Prof. from the Department of Management took part in one of the editions of the *Economy First* program and talked about eco-trends and management methods in catering services during the pandemic.

Students associated with the Science Club operating in the field of Dietetics are also working to promote eco-trends. As part of their activities, they took part in various open events organized by UITM, during which they encouraged participants to analyze the composition of their body mass. On the other hand, the Cosmetic Plants Science Club organized demonstrations of creating natural cosmetics using natural plant extracts.



11 events, during which
127 people were examined in the field of eco-trends

Scientific research on packaging

Packaging is one of the most important attributes of a product, influencing consumer purchasing preferences. For the packaging industry, the most demanding of all other products are food products. The scientific journal *Economics and Sociology* published an article by I. Cichocka, Ph.D., J. Krupa, Prof. and A. Mantaj, Ph.D. in which the authors draw attention to the growing amount of waste from food packaging, which is one of the greatest threats to the environment, making sustainable consumption an important subject of research.



18 articles on scientific research published on the UITM portal and the science blog

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Goal 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS

UN explains: Current climate changes are felt in every country on all continents. They disrupt the development of national economies and threaten human lives and entire societies. People experience severe impacts from climate change, including those related to changing weather patterns, sea level rise and extreme weather events. The emissions of greenhouse gases created by human activities continue to increase and push climate change forward. If we do not take action, the average global temperature in this century is expected to rise by over 3° Celsius, or even more in some regions of the world.

Lecture *The climate is changing, do we not have to change too?*

The university organizes many events during which students and university employees discuss climate change and its effects. One such event was a lecture by Tomasz Rożek, Ph.D., entitled *The climate is changing, do we not have to change too?*. The meeting was divided into two parts: an introductory lecture and a discussion, during which T. Rożek, Ph.D. answered questions from the audience. The issues raised in the lecture part focused on presenting the consequences of climate change resulting from human activity. During his speech, T. Rożek, explained, among other things, the differences between weather and climate, and also discussed the problem of drought and torrential storms and rains occurring more and more often in Poland.

The university checks air quality together with BorgWarner Poland sp. z o. o.

One of the goals of academic education is to promote attitudes related to conscious use of the environment. At the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów, we try to make our students aware of contemporary civilization challenges. Undoubtedly, environmental protection is one of them. Hence the initiative to install modern air quality monitoring systems on the premises of our University. Precise knowledge about what we breathe is an essential element of a broader educational campaign both among our academic community and among the residents of Rzeszów.

We reduce CO₂ emissions

The university is taking action to reduce CO₂ emissions, including installing motion sensors in toilets to reduce unnecessary lighting of lamps, periodically replacing light bulbs and lamps with modern and energy-saving ones. During the heating season, administration employees monitor the heating infrastructure, ensuring that the heat supplied is properly adjusted to current needs and its reduction. The IT department has implemented a system that automatically deactivates unused computers and monitors in teaching rooms in the afternoon, preventing them from working unnecessarily. An important action aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions is also encouraging students to use organized transport to the Kielnarowa Campus. In addition, the schedule of classes is planned so that students do not have to travel between campuses on a given day.



4,256 people listened to the lecture in the traditional and online version



2nd anniversary of the installation of the air quality sensor, which has been integrated with the Airly system



16,500 people using organized transport on average per semester



Goal 14: PROTECT THE OCEANS AND SEAS AND USE THEIR RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

UN explains: Oceans – their temperature, chemical structure, currents and life within them drive the world’s ecosystems, without which human life on Earth would be impossible. Rainwater, drinking water, weather and climate, coastlines, much of our food and even the oxygen we breathe are all dependent on seas which act as a regulator. For centuries, important trade and transportation routes have been running through the seas and oceans. Careful management of these irreplaceable resources is the key to a sustainable future. However, the condition of coastal waters is deteriorating due to pollution, and ocean acidification is threatening the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. These phenomena also have a negative impact on local fisheries.

Responsible wastewater management	Rainwater tanks have been installed	Microplastic Research
<p>Sewage from both campuses is discharged to the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Municipal Water and Sewage Company in Rzeszów. The wastewater treatment technology assumes full mechanical and biological treatment of wastewater using the removal of biogenic substances (nitrogen, phosphorus). The treated wastewater flows by gravity into the Wisłok River, 100 m from the wastewater treatment plant, while the sludge is directed through a pumping station to the Separate Fermentation Chamber (FSC). As a result of fermentation, stabilized fermented sludge and biogas are created, which are used to produce electricity and heat in cogenerators and boilers. De-watered and dried sludge is used in industrial agriculture and for reclamation.</p>	<p>Three rainwater tanks have been installed in the Campuses, which are collected and used to water plants.</p>	<p>Data indicates that the presence of microplastic is a significant problem in seawater, affecting aquatic organisms. People also consume microplastic every day, i.e. plastic particles with a diameter of less than 5 millimeters. Microplastic is used to produce some products, including glitter, toothpaste and creams with a filter. Research in this area is conducted by K. Szychowski, Assoc. Prof.</p>
<p>➤ 100% of wastewater is discharged into certified municipal and city networks, where it is processed in accordance with applicable regulations</p>	<p>➤ The installed tanks allow for the collection of 1,000 liters of rainwater</p>	<p>➤ 3 broadcasts on Radio Rzeszów a dozen or so articles on the Onet portal 2 open lectures dedicated to increasing public awareness of food chemistry and safe disinfection</p>



Goal 15: PROTECT, RESTOCK AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND ECOSYSTEMS, MANAGE FORESTS SUSTAINABLY, FIGHT DESERTIFICATION, STOP AND REVERSE SOIL DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

UN explains: Forests cover 30.7% of the Earth's surface. They not only provide food security and shelter for various forms of life, but also play a key role in combating climate change, protecting biodiversity, as well as are the place where indigenous people live.. Protecting forests will allow us to improve natural resource management processes and increase land productivity. Every year 13 million hectares of forest are lost, and ongoing degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares of land. Despite the fact that nearly 15% of areas are now protected, biodiversity is still under threat.

We promote sustainable tourism

In the fall of 2020, in Lugano, Switzerland, UITM research and teaching staff took part in the International ICT Academy for Sustainable Development, implemented as part of the Erasmus+ ICT4STD project. The host of the training was the Università della Svizzera Italiana, which specializes in the issues of sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage sites. The main goal of the workshops was to provide participants with knowledge on sustainable tourism in world heritage sites and to develop an innovative course program.

ICT as a tool for the development and promotion of sustainable tourism development. Also as part of the ICT4STD project *Summer School*, UITM hosted academic teachers and students from Switzerland, Germany and Serbia for week-long workshops. Previously, the host of the Summer School was the Serbian city of Novi Sad.



6 academic teachers participated in the International ICT Academy
25 teachers and **55** students from Europe participated in a week-long workshop organized as part of the *Summer School* promoting sustainable tourism

UITM Forest – we work for the renewal of forests in Poland

The Kielnarowa campus includes a mixed forest with an area of 28,000 m² (2,800 ha). Its aim is to preserve the biodiversity of the natural environment. Each year, as a result of a review of the tree stand and the university's green areas, decisions are made on new plantings.

In addition, UITM is also a participant in the *GeneLAS* campaign. In 2021, as a result of activities conducted by UITM, over 2,000 trees were planted.

The university also has 2 forested plots with a total area of 17 ha.



28,000 m² (2,800 ha) of the total area of the Campus covered with forest vegetation
17 ha of UITM plots covered with forest vegetation
2,000 new trees planted as part of the *GeneLAS* campaign

Research in the area of natural cosmetology

The aim of the project financed by the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) entitled Cosmetic Valley – International Scientific and Implementation Cooperation at the Cosmetology Department was to establish international cooperation and jointly implement a research project in the area of natural cosmetology. The subject of the research was, among others, the possibility of using plant species growing in Kazakhstan as raw materials in cosmetic preparations, the use of modern methods in the analysis of biological activity and safety of using these raw materials and the preparation of prototype cosmetic preparations.



3 scientific articles on natural cosmetology
1. a pioneering educational path on a national scale for the Medical University in Almaty

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Goal 16: PROMOTE THE EXISTENCE OF PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL; BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

UN explains: Murder, violence against children, human trafficking and sexual violence pose serious threats to peace and inclusive societies. Access to justice must be provided for all people and effective, responsible and friendly institutions must be created at all levels.

Human Rights Talks

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually on 10 December, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although more than 70 years have passed since the adoption of this act, there are still countries where human dignity is not respected. To highlight the importance of human rights and the scale of their global violations, the Students Center for European Union Research *EU Club* and the Student Research Group of the Institute for Research on Civilizations organized *UITM Talks: Human Rights*, during which selected students presented six speeches that were intended to inspire their peers to raise awareness of human rights and fight for the weakest.

Lecture *Viral Democracy*

The definition of democracy is relatively simple: it is a system in which power belongs to citizens. Citizens exercise it through their representatives, elected directly or indirectly. In practice, the existence of a democratic system is associated with numerous threats, which can be seen very clearly today. What situations are the most dangerous for democracy and how to defend against them? This was discussed by A. Hall, Assoc. Prof., as part of the project *High Five Science*.

School of Leaders for Democracy

School of Leaders for Democracy (SoL-D) is a special module of the *UITM School of Leaders* (SoL) program. Due to the current situation in Belarus, the UITM authorities, as an expression of solidarity with the Belarusian society, decided to launch the *School of Leaders for Democracy* program. The project is intended for students who want to study in Poland and are also interested in developing their knowledge and competences related to the creation and functioning of a democratic society. The aim of the program is to support the most talented students of Belarusian nationality, stimulate their development and shape leadership and civic attitudes.



Over **1,600** participants Human Rights Talks



2,050 recipients of the lecture



13 students from Belarus are participants of the *School of Leaders for Democracy* program

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Goal 17: STRENGTHEN MECHANISMS FOR THE FORMATION OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND REVITALIZE EXISTING PARTNERSHIP

UN explains: Effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Such inclusive partnerships should be built on principles and values, a shared vision and shared goals that put people and the planet at the center of action. We need such partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels.

Declaration of University Social Responsibility

WSIZ is a signatory to the Declaration of University Social Responsibility, a voluntary commitment of higher education institutions to promoting the idea of sustainable development and social responsibility in educational programs, scientific research, and management and organizational solutions of universities. The purpose of the Declaration is to build broad social awareness of the role of universities in shaping the conditions for sustainable socio-economic development of the country. The Declaration contains 12 principles that universities should follow in order to meet the highest standards of management, more effective resource management, development of academic staff, and building the prestige of scientists as generators of knowledge and creators of new ideas. The principles included in the Declaration of University Social Responsibility were discussed during matriculation meetings organized at the beginning of the new academic year for all students starting their studies at UITM.



1,230 students trained in the principles of the Declaration of University Social Responsibility

PRME

The university has joined the UN-supported initiative *The Principles for Responsible Management Education*. Together with over 860 leading business and management schools from 99 countries around the world, we will be involved in building a more sustainable future based on the principles of PRME. PRME's mission is primarily to globally transform management education, research and leadership by providing a framework for responsible management education, developing a learning community and promoting awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



UITM is one of **17 Polish universities** that are signatories to the agreement

Erasmus+ Projects

UITM has many years of experience in implementing projects in international partnerships, including projects dedicated to sustainable development. In recent years, we have co-implemented projects such as: *Spread your wings*, within which an innovative course on sustainable aviation development was developed, tested and implemented; and *Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainable Tourism Development - ICT-4STD*, within which an innovative course *ICT as a tool for the development and promotion of sustainable tourism development* was developed, tested and implemented, shaping skills in using ICT in the promotion and development of sustainable tourism.



Development of the course *Sustainable development of aviation*, which was included in the study program of the **Aviation Management** major among partner universities
Preparation of the course program *ICT as a tool for the development and promotion of sustainable development of tourism*
Development of the **casebook** *Treasury of knowledge*, **8 e-learning courses**, an educational board game, a **textbook** for students and a toolkit for teachers