Report on Sustainability Network activities across SEA-EU Alliance Universities

This report was prepared as part of Task 4.4 of the SEA-EU 'Goes Greener' initiative, in which all participating universities contribute to advancing sustainability. The SEA-EU Alliance plays an important role in promoting sustainability in higher education, acknowledging how essential universities are in dealing with today's environmental, social, and economic challenges. Member universities show strong commitment to sustainable development through a variety of strategies, focused teams, and practical actions in research, education, and daily operations. This document provides an overview of the different approaches taken by each university, their shared goals, and the collective effort to build a more sustainable future.

University of Brest (UBO): a planned approach to complete sustainability

The University of Brest (UBO), a multifaceted institution with 15 institutes, schools, or faculties, 35 research laboratories, and 16 service departments, serves a vibrant community of 22,400 students and 2,400 employees, all actively engaged in a complete sustainability initiative. UBO's journey towards including sustainability began in 2020 with the appointment of a focused sustainability professional, swiftly followed by the designation of sustainability representatives across all academic units. In 2021, the "Innovative and Sustainable Campus" (CID) program was launched. This program, structured in three phases—Ideas, Experimentations, and Transformation—is designed to encourage active participation from both students and staff in the ecological and human transformation of the campus, thereby helping achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UBO plans to implement a new organizational structure for sustainability management in 2024, guided by a planned plan for 2024-2028. This plan encompasses five main pillars: Governance, Education, Research, Environment, and Social aspects. Within Governance, the focus is on developing strong sustainability policies, efficient resource management, and the university's contribution to a responsible society. Education goals aim to integrate sustainability into student curricula, enhance sustainability skills among both students and employees, and extend educational programs to external stakeholders. Research efforts are directed towards including sustainability within the university's research strategy, supporting knowledge sharing with society, and upholding ethical research practices. Environmental goals are centered on reducing the institution's carbon footprint, preventing and mitigating environmental impacts, formulating a biodiversity policy, and promoting responsible, healthy, and accessible food options. The social aspect prioritizes promoting equality and diversity among staff, developing sustainability competencies, improving quality of life within the institution, and ensuring equal opportunities for all learners.

A new Department of Sustainability is being established, which will incorporate "Ambassadors" representing faculties, research laboratories, services, and student associations. These ambassadors are important for calculating UBO's carbon footprint and for selecting optimal waste sorting points. Their responsibilities also include representing their units in the sustainability department's leadership, facilitating working groups, and reporting on projects and data. This structured approach ensures that sustainability activities are integrated at every level of the university.

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UBO is making strides in sustainable actions across various domains. In research, the goal is to inventory all sustainability-related research projects within UBO laboratories; 31 projects have been identified and listed in the SEA-EU Alliance Research Database. To support across different fields collaboration, UBO is organizing events such as "UBO in climate change" in 2024 to map research projects and a focused day during the "Week of Research" in 2025 focusing on sustainability. The university maintains a categorized list of projects and researcher contacts, covering climate projections, adaptation, mitigation, and awareness.

In education, a significant development is the compulsory 30-hour course on sustainable development, mandated for all undergraduate students in France starting from the 2025-2026 academic year. A focused expert group is working on developing course content and a teacher training strategy. UBO's educational approach integrates sustainability into disciplinary courses, adopts a project-based methodology, and includes discussion sessions with students.

Operationally, UBO is implementing diverse activities to enhance its overall sustainability. Energy efficiency measures include leveraging an urban heat network, undertaking energy renovations, installing additional electric meters with a data management system to raise user awareness, and conducting solar energy diagnostics. Waste management involves introducing a recycling system for plastic and metal, building upon existing sorting practices for cardboard, paper, and organic waste. A master plan for sustainable mobility, slated for a May 2025 vote, along with a sustainable mobility charter, are under development, complemented by current restrictions on plane travel for shorter distances to cities like Paris. Sustainable landscaping practices include the elimination of synthetic pesticides and a planned biodiversity diagnostic in 2025 to inform a biodiversity charter. UBO also prioritizes social aspects, evident in its disability inclusion policy through the "Tous EGO" project, a gender equality master plan due in May 2025 addressing discrimination and gender-based violence, and a student wellbeing master plan voted in March 2025 that includes activities for healthier food options, reduced sedentary lifestyles, and tutoring support.

UBO's impact and achievements are noteworthy. A significant accomplishment is the appointment of sustainability ambassadors with specific missions and the formal recognition of their contributions. A key step is also the establishment of an independent financial budget specifically allocated for sustainability activities. The Sustainable Development master plan, approved in November 2024, comprehensively addresses governance, research, education, environment, and social policy. Three key diagnostic studies have been launched, focusing on solar energy potential, biodiversity assessment, and carbon footprint measurement. Furthermore, UBO has secured three new planned partnerships focusing on energy, local sustainability networks, and data management, and has implemented a management tool to track goals and collect key indicators. The sustainability team transitioned from being part of the Patrimony Department to an independent entity with its own budget under the new master plan. This planned shift empowers the team to expand its scope beyond purely environmental actions to encompass a broader range of governance, research, education, and social policy activities.

Looking ahead, UBO’s future plans are clearly defined. These include nominating representatives in research laboratories and service departments, comprehensively mapping both sustainability-related research projects and service projects, and mapping educational programs across all faculties, schools, and institutes. A focused sustainability course for teachers and all employees is planned to address the challenge of varying levels

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of engagement with sustainability issues. Collaborations with Human Resources will ensure that sustainability courses are integrated into the employee training catalog. The UBO Open Factory will develop new courses and animate hackathons to support innovation, while the University Estate Service will concentrate on enhancing energy efficiency, improving waste management, and protecting biodiversity. Research efforts will continue to focus on improving climate projections, supporting projects like "Cool food Pro" and "Food Rest," and addressing critical issues such as coastal area adaptation to rising sea levels, responsible management (STORM), geoarchitecture, and coastal risks. Finally, the SAS will assume responsibility for disabilities activities, ensuring an inclusive approach to sustainability.

University of Naples Parthenope: Sustainability Through Multidisciplinary Excellence

Founded in 1919, the University of Naples Parthenope has evolved from its maritime origins into a dynamic, multidisciplinary institution. Since 1999, it has expanded its academic portfolio to include Law, Engineering, and Sports Sciences. Today, Parthenope stands out for its excellence in research and education across fields such as the Blue Economy, Circular Economy, Law and Governance, Economics and Sustainability, and Engineering and Technology.

At the heart of Parthenope's mission lies a strong commitment to sustainability. Dedicated research units and teams work to promote sustainable development, climate action, and circular economy principles through integrated approaches in education, research, and community engagement. Their goal is to embed environmental, social, and economic sustainability within the university's policies and operational frameworks. Acting as interdisciplinary hubs, these units foster collaboration, innovation, and stakeholder engagement on sustainability challenges. Key focus areas include the circular and bioeconomy, climate lobbying and environmental governance, the energy transition and renewable energy cooperation, the application of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles, and the advancement of sustainability education and digitalization.

Parthenope's sustainability governance is faculty-driven and coordinated by senior researchers and professors, ensuring both academic rigor and strategic vision. Student engagement is a cornerstone of this framework, with active participation in workshops, thesis projects, and applied research initiatives. Activities are highly interdisciplinary, drawing from economics, environmental science, engineering, policy, and social sciences—reflecting the university's holistic approach and its participation in numerous national and international research projects. Strong internal collaboration across departments and administrative units ensures coherent planning of public events, seminars, and research dissemination. The university also promotes innovation and awareness through student-centered initiatives such as contests, hackathons, and co-creation labs.

Parthenope University is an active member of RUS, the Italian University Network for Sustainable Development—the leading national coordination network promoting environmental sustainability and social responsibility across Italian universities. Through RUS, Parthenope contributes to institutional initiatives aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), participating in seven thematic working groups: Energy, Climate Change, Food, Sustainable Mobility, Resources and Waste, Ecological Economics, and Inclusion and Social Justice. This engagement demonstrates Parthenope's cross-disciplinary and community-based approach, which is deeply integrated into its education and research strategies.

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A cornerstone of the university's sustainability commitment is the UNESCO Chair on Environment, Resources and Sustainable Development, which serves as a center of excellence in environmental sciences, ecology, and sustainable development. Its mission is to contribute to solving local and global environmental challenges that affect human societies, in line with the SDGs. The Chair collaborates with a global network of 20 partners across 4 continents, focusing on 11 key research areas. It has trained 91 doctoral students from 24 countries, resulting in 60 PhD graduates and over 300 Scopus-indexed publications.

Sustainability is deeply embedded in Parthenope's educational offerings at all levels. Doctoral programs include Economy, Statistics and Sustainability and Environment, Resources and Sustainable Development. Master's programs feature degrees such as Economic Sciences for Finance, Business, and Sustainability, Economics and Management of the Sea, Biology for Sustainability (a double degree with Nicolaus Copernicus University), Public Management with a focus on Sustainable Development and Public Administration, and Sustainability Manager for the Ecological Transition. At the undergraduate level, programs such as Biological Sciences and Economics and Commerce include a dedicated Environment and Sustainability curriculum.

Parthenope's commitment extends beyond academia through its third mission activities, aimed at transferring knowledge and fostering collaboration with society. The university hosted Innovation Village in both 2024 and 2025, a major national event connecting research institutions, businesses, public administration, start-ups, and associations. The 2025 edition featured 35 activities, 220 speakers, and over 70 partners and exhibitors. Parthenope also organized Bioeconomy Day 2025, hosting hybrid events and demonstrations to showcase opportunities within the bio-based economy and promote sustainable models of development.

Recent initiatives under the Circular Spring UNP program highlight Parthenope's hands-on approach to sustainability. In March 2025, the university hosted a Circular Economy Workshop by the ZeroCO2 Foundation, followed in April by an Introduction to Digital Prototyping workshop presented by Systems Consulting – UI/UX Design. Between March and May 2025, the event "Parthenope Empowering the Twin Transition" encouraged students and researchers to develop creative solutions linking digital and green transitions. These initiatives culminated in Bioeconomy Day 2025, themed "App for Change: Digital Innovation for a Sustainable Future."

Looking ahead, the university is preparing the next edition of its Circular Spring initiative—Circular Spring III UNP—which will explore the nexus between healthcare and sustainability through a dedicated innovation contest. Through these initiatives, the University of Naples Parthenope reaffirms its role as a leading institution in advancing sustainable development, integrating education, research, and community engagement to drive the twin transition toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

University of Split (UNIST): Systematically Monitoring and Advancing SDGs

The University of Split (UNIST) is committed to meticulously monitoring its sustainability efforts and those of its constituent units, ensuring alignment with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment was solidified in December 2022 with the establishment of focused SDG Monitoring Committees, designed to systematically track and record achievements. These committees oversee progress and promote new activities helping achieve specific SDGs. Their responsibilities include preparing reports on activities within each SDG framework, which are then synthesized to produce UNIST's annual SDG Report.

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The committees are diverse, comprising 65 members, with three to seven members per goal, adjusted based on activity volume and unit size. This broad membership draws representatives from all UNIST units, including academic staff, lecturers, administrative personnel, and students. The Vice-Rector for Science and Quality chairs these committees, while the Head of the University's Science Office serves as the overall Coordinator. To enhance visibility, all sustainability-related news and activities are tagged with SDG labels.

In research, UNIST conducts multidisciplinary investigations into areas such as clean energy, sustainable urban planning, digital technologies, natural resource management, and cultural heritage preservation. Research on sustainable urban drainage systems and rainwater harvesting contributes to water management. These research endeavors align with global sustainable development goals, addressing climate change adaptation, resource conservation, and energy efficiency. They also raise public awareness and deliver practical solutions benefiting local communities and the international scientific community. All research topics are linked to specific SDGs.

In education, UNIST integrates sustainable development into its curricula. An example is the Mediterranean Agriculture program, which promotes sustainable agriculture and food systems. Specialized courses, such as "Introduction to Green and Ecological Lifestyle," impart knowledge of eco-friendly behaviors and waste management. The university extends its educational reach through the Mini Academy for Sustainable Development, educating primary and secondary school students on green skills. Engaging student workshops are organized to inspire eco-conscious habits through recycling and resource conservation. UNIST engages students in campaigns, debates, and projects addressing climate change and promoting responsible consumption.

Operationally, UNIST's development of scientific research infrastructure facilitates innovative projects encompassing green building techniques, sustainable urban planning, and intelligent transport systems. The Geotechnical Laboratory supports research in sustainable construction. UNIST has participated in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings since 2019, classified across all 17 SDGs. The university demonstrates excellence in SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), ranking 62nd globally, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), securing 31st global position. complete annual sustainability reports document progress and encourage further action.

UNIST's contributions to the broader community are extensive, encompassing public events and activities supporting socio-economic development. These include activities aimed at reducing hunger through student education and direct assistance to citizens in sustainable agriculture projects. Practical implementations include energy efficiency projects across campus, waste management systems developed with local authorities, and water management strategies such as rainwater harvesting, green roofs, and wastewater recycling.

Looking to the future, UNIST has defined plans to further its sustainability agenda. These include building internal capacity and supporting greater ownership for SDGs across the institution. The university aims to integrate the SDGs within all its strategies, policies, and plans. Furthermore, UNIST is committed to continuously monitoring, evaluating, and transparently communicating its actions on the SDGs. The university plans to automate data collection processes to enhance efficiency in tracking SDG contributions. It also seeks to support stronger partnerships between SDG committees and academic faculties to integrate sustainability into curricula and research, such as joint projects on clean energy or cultural heritage preservation. Significant investments are planned for more energy-efficient infrastructure, including solar panels and smart grids, and the expansion

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of circular water management systems. Despite these plans, UNIST acknowledges challenges such as potential institutional resistance, funding gaps, data fragmentation, and the need for more extensive stakeholder engagement.

Nord University: Certifying Excellence in Environmental Performance

Nord University embeds sustainability within its operational framework, primarily through an environmental advisor who coordinates environmental tasks, supported by a network of resource persons across the institution. The university's commitment to sustainability is evident in its pursuit of Eco-Lighthouse certification and its annual climate reporting.

The Eco-Lighthouse program is Norway's leading certification scheme for organizations documenting environmental efforts and commitment to social responsibility. For Nord University, achieving this certification is a planned endeavor designed to yield multiple benefits: positive environmental impact, competitive advantage, strengthened brand identity, reduced operational costs, and solidified reputation in sustainability. The administration of Nord University achieved certification as an Eco-Lighthouse in July 2024.

Building upon this achievement, Nord University is now certifying each of its physical campuses individually. This involves a multidisciplinary group of resource persons from the university implementing specific certification criteria locally and establishing environmental goals tailored to each location. The university aims to complete the first individual campus certifications by the end of 2025.

Beyond formal certification, Nord University tracks environmental progress through an annual climate report. This document monitors the university's environmental footprint year by year. Data for this report is collected by a collaborative group of resource persons from various administrative departments, displaying a wide array of environmental indicators.

Nord University's sustainability practice is structured by its Eco-Lighthouse certification with internal accountability mechanisms, specifically its annual climate reporting. This dual focus strives towards sustainability becoming an integrated, measurable, and continuously evolving aspect of the university's operations and planned development.

University of Algarve (UAlg): Leading Sustainability Through Broad Engagement

The University of Algarve (UAlg) actively positions itself as a leader in promoting healthier and more sustainable lifestyles, supporting economic development, enhancing societal well-being, and safeguarding environmental integrity. This mission is realized through a continuous process of generating and disseminating knowledge, coupled with direct actions that underpin sustainable development, extending both within the university and throughout society. The foundational instrument for achieving these goals is the focused UAlg+ Sustainable and Healthy Council.

The UAlg+ Council integrates members from across the university community, including staff, faculty, and students. Its operations are guided by the Vice-Rector responsible for sustainability, ensuring high-level leadership. The Council's structure and goals are intertwined with the university's overarching development strategy, underscoring its planned importance.

Collaboration within UAlg+ is cultivated through cohesive actions by the Council. Its goals include ongoing assessment of UAlg's position relative to sustainability requirements, proactive formulation of a UAlg Sustainability Agenda, and diligent promotion and monitoring of this Agenda. A key responsibility is also the preparation of the university's annual sustainability report. Beyond these core functions, the Council champions diverse activities spanning physical activity, nutrition, leisure, environmental

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protection, and accessibility. It also supports organizational health, implements preventive measures against psychosocial risks, and cultivates healthier working environments. Concurrently, it encourages healthier lifestyles among students and the wider university community.

Scientific research is a component in the realization of UAlg's sustainable development goals. The university serves as an incubator for innovation and across different fields, problem-solving, generating knowledge that influences policy, technological advancements, and shifts in societal practices. Research concentrated on sustainable development traverses fields including climatology, renewable energy, green chemistry, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and environmental justice. These efforts contribute to reducing the carbon footprint, enhancing resource utilization, and constructing resilient systems. Academic research further bolsters sustainable development through working with the community and collaborations with governmental bodies and industrial partners. By involving students and young researchers, UAlg ensures that future leaders integrate sustainability perspectives into their professions. An inventory of ongoing research projects is accessible on the official UAlg website.

Operationally, UAlg is implementing several activities to enhance its overall sustainability. UAlg has participated in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings since 2020, classified across all 17 SDGs. In the 2025 edition, UAlg once again obtained the highest score in the indicator that evaluates international projection, among the 17 participating Portuguese Higher Education Institutions. UAlg maintains the Platinum Seal in the FISU Healthy Campus Program and is certified as "Gold" Healthy Campus. Some activities already implemented include renewable energy across campi, and recently, energy efficiency measures have been introduced to raise users' awareness. Disposable plastic materials (for single use) wastes were significantly reduced through an internal campaign launched to sensitize the academic community about their use. The ECO bike project, implemented in 2020, is a success. It has the objective of promoting the practice of physical and sports activity, associated with the new ways of light mobility, more sustainable, through the adoption of alternative transportation. Initially started with 100 bikes and actually it has 180. Outdoor classrooms were installed as well as the "Operation Green Mountain", a citizenship movement for the protection of Algarve's important natural resources, where UAlg offered the campi to plant more than 3000 native trees and shrubs.

Looking forward, UAlg is planning the second edition of its SEA-EU Contest of Ideas "Greening Our Campus," slated for October. Additionally, the second edition of the "2nd Life Initiative" will be held twice a year, promoting reuse and circularity. Despite these activities, UAlg acknowledges challenges in implementing its sustainability efforts. One challenge is ensuring consistent involvement and engagement of the entire academic community—students, faculty, and staff. To overcome this, UAlg plans clear communication strategies, targeted educational campaigns, and active engagement programs. Another challenge is resistance to change, which UAlg intends to address by involving the community early in the planning process, providing training, and making transitions seamless. Finally, a crucial challenge lies in accurately measuring impact and tracking progress. To mitigate this, UAlg plans to invest in advanced data tracking systems and develop sustainability dashboards to monitor key metrics.

Kiel University: Structurally including Sustainability for Transformative Change

Kiel University is committed to the systematic and cultural integration of sustainability across all facets of its operations and academic pursuits. The central objective of its sustainability efforts, is to develop and implement environmental management processes,

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resource conservation projects, and to uphold social responsibility. This is achieved through collaboration across different fields , and step-by-step integrating sustainability principles into every dimension of university life: teaching, research, operations, and knowledge transfer. This vision aims to enable every member of the university community to contribute to sustainable transformation.

The university's sustainability activities are primarily structured within its administrative departments. The Strategy & Planning Department oversees the "Sustainable University" project, ensuring planned alignment. The climate protection team within the Buildings Department manages environmental responsibilities and audits related to energy, mobility, waste and biodiversity. A dynamic component is the Green Office, which operates with a student-led model, demonstrating the university's dedication to involving students in sustainability endeavors. Close collaboration is maintained among these teams and units, focusing on developing strategies, implementing measures, and organizing events. This integrated approach ensures a unified effort towards achieving sustainability goals.

The university offers a range of sustainability-related courses, workshops, and awareness events. These educational activities integrate sustainability into the academic experience and support understanding of environmental principles within the university community. Operationally, the university oversees various sustainability activities mentioned above and following the climate concept for the university that was first developed in 2012. Environmental goals for the university are regularly reviewed and updated as well as presented in a yearly report. Audits to become EMAS certified are part of the yearly agenda. These activities are designed to enhance the campus's overall sustainability performance, aiming for continuous improvement. Research related to sustainability is more difficult to measure, but there are various efforts across the faculties to intensive sustainable research and research related to sustainability.

The impact and achievements from Kiel University's sustainability efforts are becoming more discernible. A significant accomplishment is the ongoing operation of the student-led Green Office. This team actively advocates for student needs in sustainability, increasing the visibility of sustainability within teaching, research and campus life. A particularly successful initiative is the relaunch of the university-wide "Sustainability Days" event. After over a decade, this event was re-established in 2024 and continued in 2025, now planned as an annual recurring event to present ongoing efforts, facilitate knowledge exchange, and connect various sustainability actors and activities across Kiel University.

Looking ahead, Kiel University has articulated future plans while acknowledging anticipated challenges. Despite the 2030 goals to become carbon neutral in its operations, immediate next steps include the development of a broad sustainability strategy for the entire university. Furthermore, the university plans the implementation of regular and transparent sustainability reporting and monitoring mechanisms. More international collaborations for sustainability are aimed for, such as joint projects or events within the SEA-EU Network. An extension of the Green Office project duration is also a priority, aimed at bolstering its capacity. The primary challenges relate to securing adequate financial and personnel resources.

University of Cadiz (UCA): Cultivating a Sustainable Campus Through broad Engagement

The University of Cadiz (UCA) is committed to minimizing its environmental impact and cultivating a culture of sustainability across its campuses, including Cadiz, Jerez, Puerto Real, and Algeciras. At the core of its mission, the Sustainability Office works to reduce

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the environmental footprint generated by university activities, with a focus on carbon footprint monitoring. Beyond changes to daily operations, UCA is committed to educating its university community on environmental sustainability and encourages student participation in volunteer programs.

The Sustainability Office is composed of a focused team, including the Director of the Environmental Commitment Secretariat, María Dolores Coello Oviedo, and the Sustainability Office Technician, Lorena Parodi Avila, alongside other personnel. This team is central to organizing and implementing the university's sustainability agenda across all its campuses.

UCA's sustainable actions are complete, beginning with measuring and reducing its environmental impact. The university tracks its carbon footprint, with available data indicating fluctuating CO2 equivalent tonnes between 2020 and 2023. To mitigate this impact, UCA has implemented reduction activities focusing on enhancing energy efficiency, integrating renewable energy sources, and promoting sustainable mobility solutions across its campuses.

The university's commitment to environmental stewardship is underscored by its participation in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings. This engagement signifies UCA's dedication to supporting a "Greener Tomorrow" by benchmarking its progress against global standards in areas such as waste management, water resource utilization, sustainable transportation, energy consumption and climate change mitigation, educational integration of sustainability, and campus setting and infrastructure.

In education, UCA integrates curricular sustainability into its teaching methodologies, aligning academic programs with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. This ensures that sustainability principles are embedded within academic instruction, preparing students to address global challenges.

Beyond the formal curriculum, UCA promotes sustainable campus activities through events and programs. These include training seminars on circular economy and waste management, hands-on activities like "Plogging and Bird Ringing" at La Laguna de Medina Nature Reserve, the "RECAPACILCA" program for waste reduction and recycling, and the "BIOCAMPUS" initiative organizing workshops to promote biodiversity awareness on the Puerto Real Campus.

Operationally, UCA is committed to supporting entrepreneurship and innovation through activities like ATREBT 2025. This program supports the creation of new businesses, increases socioeconomic impact from university research and knowledge transfer, and generates job opportunities aligned with academic training. The university maintains an Environmental Management System (EMS) to manage environmental aspects and minimize its impact. Sustainable campus activities also involve supporting habit changes to combat climate change through programs like "Sea and Mountain Salt Flats" and "Migratory Birds and Insects." Environmental awareness days, environmental volunteering, chameleon censuses, beach cleaning drives, and reforestation efforts collectively underscore UCA's commitment to environmental preservation.

Looking to the future, UCA's path involves overcoming challenges related to supporting sustainable consumption, optimizing energy efficiency, and refining waste management systems. The university's objective is to increase working with the community in sustainability activities and plans to approve and implement a complete Environmental Plan. A notable future initiative is the development of a regular "EcoMarket," designed to establish a connection between the university and local organic and agroecological

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producers. Additionally, UCA is preparing to launch a biodiversity awareness campaign to engage the community in preserving its natural spaces.

University of Malta: Planned Sustainability for a Greener Campus

The University of Malta is committed to cultivating a greener and more sustainable campus environment, with its planned vision articulated within planned Theme VII: Sustainability of its University planned Plan 2020-2025. This theme guides all environmental activities undertaken by the institution. The leading force behind these efforts emanates from a focused team within the Institute of Earth Systems.

The sustainability strategy adopted by the University of Malta encompasses seven key goals helping achieve a broad approach to environmental stewardship and campus well-being. Firstly, the university is committed to the development of sustainable land and buildings. This involves implementing environmentally conscious practices throughout the lifecycle of university infrastructure, including construction, renovation, and maintenance, aiming to minimize ecological impact and enhance resource efficiency.

Secondly, a focus is placed on reducing, reusing, and recycling waste materials. The university promotes activities designed to minimize waste generation, encourages reuse, and ensures effective recycling programs are implemented across campus facilities, reducing reliance on landfills and promoting a circular economy.

Thirdly, the University of Malta is focused to the continuous extension and refinement of energy efficiency measures across its estate. This involves identifying and implementing strategies to reduce energy consumption, such as upgrading to energy-efficient lighting, optimizing heating and cooling, and integrating smart technologies to manage and monitor energy usage.

Fourthly, the university prioritizes the conservation of water resources and is committed to reducing overall water consumption. activities in this area may encompass the implementation of water-saving fixtures, promoting responsible water use behaviors, and exploring methods for rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling.

Fifthly, an emphasis is placed on encouraging sustainable transport measures. The university seeks to reduce reliance on private vehicles by promoting alternative modes of transportation such as cycling, walking, and public transport. This may involve developing improved cycling infrastructure, creating pedestrian-friendly pathways, and implementing incentives for sustainable commuting.

Sixthly, a crucial aspect of the university's sustainability commitment is its dedication to delivering complete training and supporting research capabilities focused on sustainability issues. This ensures that sustainability principles are integrated into academic curricula and that research is conducted to address environmental and social challenges, preparing future generations for sustainable change.

Finally, the University of Malta champions and promotes healthy living practices on campus. This approach acknowledges the interconnectedness between environmental sustainability and human well-being. By supporting an environment that supports the physical and mental health of its community through accessible green spaces, healthy food options, and opportunities for physical activity, the university cultivates a thriving, resilient, and responsible campus ecosystem. Through these efforts, the University of Malta is progressing towards a greener and more sustainable campus, ensuring that its day-to-day operations, educational offerings, and research align with global sustainability goals.

University of Gdańsk: Integrating Sustainable Development into Core Strategy

The University of Gdańsk is committed to integrating sustainable development into its core planned framework, explicitly outlined within the complete University of Gdańsk

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Strategy 2025-2030. This blueprint is underpinned by goals designed to advance the sustainability agenda across all university functions and external engagements. These goals include supporting cooperation for green transformation activities, enhancing the competence of both the academic community and external stakeholders in sustainable development, and supporting regional economic and local government communities in implementing sustainable development activities. To achieve these goals, the university emphasizes establishing new institutional partnerships, implementing innovative green projects collaboratively, co-organizing events (such as the Green University Forum and Goes Greener network) covering green transformation, increasing employee participation in expert bodies, and strengthening international cooperation among teams working towards sustainable development goals.

The university's diverse sustainability efforts are structured across various units. The Centre for Sustainable Development serves as a central coordinating hub for all sustainability-related activities. Its mission encompasses coordination and management of activities across the university, disseminating information, and raising awareness among the academic community and external stakeholders. This includes preparing annual reports, participating in ranking systems like UI GreenMetric, establishing new partnerships, and organizing scientific and educational events. The Centre also collaborates on across different fields projects and research endeavors.

Another component of the university's sustainability infrastructure is the Center of Student and Doctoral Activity. This unit is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles among students, cultivating a supportive environment for students and doctoral candidates, and engaging them in diverse sustainable activities. It plays a role in shaping a culture of well-being and environmental responsibility throughout the student community.

Operationally, the Chancellor Departments are involved in promoting and implementing sustainable practices across campus. A notable initiative is the internal management of green areas on campus, where a focused team of university gardeners has assumed full responsibility for the care of the university's green spaces, replacing external contractors. Their work focuses on maintaining and enhancing the functional and aesthetic qualities of these green areas. This initiative is led by a Green Space Coordinator, operating under the Head of the Didactic Facilities Department and supported by the Real Estate Operations Center. A key aspect is supporting collaboration with other University of Gdańsk units focused on greenery, ecology, and broader sustainability goals, including the Centre for Sustainable Development. These efforts have culminated in a complete "Green Space Management Policy," guiding future actions for cultivating a sustainable campus environment.

The University of Gdańsk also engages in sustainability networks and platforms, such as the SEA-EU "Goes Greener" initiative. This participation fosters peer-to-sharing experiences and communication among institutions, enabling the exchange of best practices and collaborative problem-solving. These collaborations are designed to strengthen efforts towards achieving sustainable development across different universities.

Through this multifaceted approach, encompassing planned planning, establishment of focused organizational units, student engagement, operational changes in campus management, and participation in external networks, the University of Gdańsk is working towards a complete green transformation and including sustainability principles within its institutional culture and operational procedures. This commitment ensures that

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sustainability is a leading force for the university's future development and its contribution to a more sustainable society.

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