



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



# UITM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2022-2023

(Due to the specificity of higher education institutions, information is presented for the academic year 2022/2023 or for the calendar years 2022 and 2023).





## 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

From the very beginning of its activity, UITM has given young people the opportunity to study, regardless of their financial situation. This is still the case today. Funds from the University's own budget, supplemented by funds from Ministry of Education and Science, enable extensive support of students, e.g. free studies for talented students, financial support for living expenses during studies, and one-off assistance for emergency life problems.



**2,270 students** received scholarships in the 2022/2023 academic year, of which **2,050 students** received scholarships exceeding the tuition fee

### School of Leaders Program

School of Leaders is an original UITM program that, for many years, has been supporting the most talented students in their scientific development and shaping their leadership and civic skills. Students covered by the program gain, among other things, the individual tutoring to support the development of their interests and competencies, free tests to diagnose their talents and support from Careers Service in career planning.



**30 students** covered by the School of Leaders program in the 2022/2023 academic year

### The Shapiro Foundation Scholarship Fund

The Shapiro Foundation brings humanitarian aid around the world, taking action for emigrants, refugees and national minorities. One of the Foundation's activities carried out in Poland in cooperation with the Jewish Community Centre Foundation (JCC Kraków) is a project of financial support for students from Ukraine. For this purpose, the Shapiro Foundation donated PLN 50,000. Grants were given to students from the districts most affected by the war.



**12 students** from the districts most affected by the war received scholarships

## 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 civilization diseases

The University has been working for years to increase students' awareness of the role of prevention in maintaining good health and quality of life. Students of all first-cycle studies participate in the lecture *Health education in civilization diseases* learning the specificity of civilization diseases and the basis of their occurrence as well as the role of a healthy lifestyle in the prevention of civilization 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 view of the issue of diseases in the context of various regions of the world.

#### Action for real change in the food production system

UITM is working extensively for real change in the food production system. In the past year, among others, these included:

- National Scientific Conference "Development perspectives of Polish rural areas in the context of Sustainable development" – April 19, 2023;
- Lectures within the original series "High-five Science":
  1. "How to take care of the climate, eat healthy food and not starve?", which was delivered by President of UITM, Prof. Tadeusz Pomianek, Ph.D., eng., Assoc. Prof. – May 17, 2023;
  2. "What and why do we need to change in the food production system?", whose speaker was Zbigniew Karaczun, Ph.D., eng. Professor of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) – June 21, 2023;
  3. "There will be no food without biodiversity", delivered by Paulina Kramarz Ph.D., Professor of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków - September 20, 2023.

#### Production, consumption and distribution of food at University catering outlets

The University both educates and initiates processes that affect the change of attitudes and habits of the young generation. Aware of the need to reduce meat consumption in favor of plant-based products, the University successively increases the range of vegetarian and vegan dishes in the offer of its catering outlets. In turn, in the area of food distribution, it has launched, among other things, a campaign "Cheaper with your own cup" (the price of coffee is lower if the customer comes to the Lunch Bar with their own cup). This solution allows you to buy a beverage cheaper, and at the same time it is beneficial for the environment because it allows the reduction of the number of disposable vessels.

Such UITM activities also meet the needs of the young generation, the generation of people who are increasingly environmentally conscious and identify with these trends.



**747** lecture participants on the Polish language path and **211** students on the English language path



**120** conference participants  
**13,000** lectures views



Almost **55% 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.

### Tour de UITM – Cycling for health along the Green Velo Trail

Promoting prohealthy leisure attitudes, as well as promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable bicycle tourism were the goals set for the organization of the first Tour de UITM rally - Cycling for Health along the Green Velo Trail. On May 13, 2023, an international and intergenerational group of more than 100 people took part in it. Participants of the rally cycled an over 20-kilometer route from the UITM headquarters in Rzeszow at Sucharskiego Street to the University's campus in Kielnarowa, the route led along the existing bicycle paths in the city and the Green Velo bike trail, so as to promote the existing bicycle infrastructure in Rzeszow and the Green Velo bike trail. At the finish line, among other things, attractions awaited the participants as part of the EcoPicnic organized on the occasion.



Over **100** participants in the Tour de UITM bike rally– Cycling for health along the Green Velo Trail

### Therapeutic Cosmetology Laboratory

The University invests in the development of infrastructure that enables the training of personnel for the beauty sector and the improvement of the competence of Cosmetology students in the area of holistic cosmetology, including esthetic and therapeutic trichology. And so, the newly established Laboratory of Therapeutic Cosmetology was equipped with, among others, apparatus intended for the provision of professional services, including, for example, devices for microneedle radiofrequency, carboxytherapy, oxybrasion, oxygen infusion, hydrogen purification, devices equipped with ultrasound and radio waves, or apparatus for photorejuvenation and IPL epilation. The laboratory can be used by Cosmetology students and beauty industry training companies.



**approx. 200,000 zł** was allocated for the adaptation of the room for the new laboratory

### Education in fields that support quality of life

The demand for nursing care and physiotherapy is increasing due to the civilization diseases and the problems associated with caring for an aging population. According to the WHO, there is a worldwide shortage of some 6 million specialized nursing staff. In contrast, as the OECD indicates, Poland has 5 nurses per 1,000 residents (the European average is 9.3). Also, physiotherapists are one of the most in-demand professions in Poland. To meet this need, UITM educates students in both Nursing and Physiotherapy. In addition, the offer in this areas is also directed to a wide audience such as: online lecture given by Dr. Róża Hajkuś entitled "Antibiotic resistance. Where are we heading?" as part of UITM's original "High-five Science" series.



**267 students** of Nursing, including **176** on the Polish-language path and **91** on the English-language path **171 students** of Physiotherapy



## 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

UITM's educational offer is addressed to elementary and high school students, college students, as well as active professionals and mature adults. The University is implementing the "Interesting lesson" project, which is addressed to high school students, especially high school graduates. In addition, as part of the „Patronage Classes” project, a series of lessons in a thematic area of interest to the school is realized, and participating educational institutions can count on curriculum consulting. Under the auspices of UITM, there also operates Academic High School with bilingual departments. And in order to increase the activity and expand the knowledge of adults, including seniors, the 50+ Academy is being conducted.

#### Projects popularizing science

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

- Great Questions in Science/Wielkie Pytania w Nauce – a series of popular science lectures organized since 2016 in cooperation with „Tygodnik Powszechny”;
- In the labyrinth of the world/W labiryncie świata – a series of panel discussions organized in cooperation with the Dominican Monastery in Rzeszow;
- High-five to Science/Przybij piątkę nauce – a project aimed at promoting the culture of knowledge sharing and spreading the idea of open access to science, education and cultural goods.

#### Providing quality international education

In the 2022/2023 academic year, UITM students could attend a year-long, 45-hour course on “The European Union for Sustainable Development” under the Jean Monnet action of the Erasmus+ program.

In turn, EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów, which operates at the University and is a member of the international network of the European Commission, complements the University's offer in the field of disseminating knowledge about the European Union and providing high quality education in this area to the residents of Podkarpacie. In the 2022/2023 school year, EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów's workshops, conferences, and special actions alone attracted an audience of 8,000.

In addition, as part of UITM's „Cultural Adaptation” project, high school students have the opportunity to participate in classes conducted by foreign students from Zimbabwe, Iran, Nigeria, India, Vietnam and Uzbekistan.



**212** lesson hours in **53** schools as part of Interesting lesson and **435** hours as part of Patronage Classes in **40** schools  
**260** students of the Public Academic High School with bilingual departments in Rzeszow  
**388** students of the 50+ Academy



**32,500 participants** live and **21 million** views of film reports



**8,000** recipients of educational activities about the EU

## 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.

#### Gender Equality Plan for 2022-2025

The Gender Equality Plan adopted for implementation at UITM aims to create a space of safety and equality conducive to the harmonious development of all members of the academic society which consists of research and teaching staff, lecturers, administrative staff, and male and female students.

The strategic goals of the adopted Gender Equality Plan are:

- inclusion of gender equality in research and teaching;
- ensuring balanced gender representation in the University's management and other decision-making and working teams and groups;
- facilitating the reconciliation of professional duties and family life;
- preventing and combating gender discrimination.

#### Grade "A" in the subcategory "Gender balance" in the U-Multirank 2022

Gender equality is a very important issue for the University. UITM undertakes a number of initiatives aimed at supporting women in the development of their careers, especially academic ones. The effectiveness of the undertaken initiatives can be proven by the highest grade „A“ in the U-Multirank ranking - an independent international ranking of universities developed within the framework of the European Commission's Erasmus+ program. More than 2,200 universities from 96 countries participated in the current edition of the U-Multirank ranking.

#### Activities to empower women and girls for the academic community and the region

UITM engages in a number of activities to empower women and girls not only in the academic community but also in the region. In the 2022/2023 academic year, among others:

- the University, through the EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszow, co-created the 1st Regional Academy of Women Leaders at the Rzeszow Center in April 2023;
- students of Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production and Graphic Design, Yana Khodovytska and Daria Pyziak, successfully joined in promoting the idea of equal opportunities and non-discrimination - the logos designed by them were awarded 2nd and 3rd place in the „Union of Equal Opportunities“ competition of the Podkarpackie Province Marshal's Office;
- the University joined the "Pink Box" Foundation's campaign to fight exclusion and menstrual taboos. Toilets on both UITM campuses featured boxes with free personal hygiene products.



In the three-person Rector's Board there are two female Vice-Rectors, and the positions of Deans of Faculties are filled in **50%** % by women (among the Vice-Deans women constitute as much as **80%**, among heads of chairs women constitute **26%**).



**Grade "A"** in the U-Multirank 2022 in the subcategory "Gender balance"



1<sup>st</sup> Regional Academy of Women Leaders at the Rzeszow Center with the participation of the University II and III place in the competition „Union of equal opportunities“  
2 „pink boxes“ on UITM Campuses



## 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.

#### Water resources management

UITM systematically monitors water consumption and launches new solutions to reduce it. This includes both the modernization of sanitation facilities and rainwater harvesting. In the first area, activities included, among other things, the installation of air aerators on faucets and cisterns to regulate the amount of water needed in toilets. In turn, the purchase of rainwater containers made it possible to apply drip irrigation from collected rainwater to the University's crops. This solution is used as needed and saves about 8,000 liters per season of water from the municipal intake.



Tap inserts and aerators installed in faucets and cisterns reduced water consumption by **25%**, **8,000** liters of rainwater collected per season

#### Water-absorbing areas

UITM strives to have as many green areas on its campuses as possible, and as few as possible covered with concrete. More than half of the University's total area are water-absorbing areas – lawns, flower beds, woods, etc. This gives UITM campuses recreational value and serves the local community.



More than **50%** of UITM are water-absorbing areas

#### Water circulation laboratory

The UITM Chair of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development focuses its activities around the implementation of five of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. Laboratories have been established within the Chair to support the educational process in the fields of "Sustainable Development and the environment" and "Sustainable development in the economy". One of them is the Water Circulation Laboratory. The research includes, among other things, the problems of drought, preventing its occurrence and counteracting its effects. It is also important to maintain an aesthetically pleasing vegetation cover, which emphasizes value of the land and, above all, keeps the soil properly hydrated, protecting it from erosion.



**1** Water circulation laboratory

## 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.

#### Scientific research – employees

The University carries out research on green energy sources, resulting in international publications. An example of such a publication is an article by Anna Lewandowska, Ph.D., Justyna Berniak-Woźny, Ph.D., Grzegorz Mantel, Ph.D. and Prof. Waldemar Tarczyński "Green and Renewable Energy Innovations: A Comprehensive Bibliometric Analysis" analyzing the size, structure and dynamics of research on innovations in the field of green and renewable energy in the last decade in order to identify the main themes and research trends in this area.

#### Scientific research - students

In the 2022/2023 academic year, UITM students from the FLOW Financial Scientific Circle, Anna Gacek, Klaudia Bukowińska, Jakub Boratyn, carried out scientific research on „Changes in the energy market.” The main purpose of the research was to demonstrate the positive impact of RES on climate protection and the level of electricity prices in the economy, as well as to verify students' attitudes towards energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources. The research – conducted in cooperation with the staff of the Institute for Financial Research and Analysis, Jacek Rodzinka, Ph.D. and Karolina Palimąka, M.Sc. - resulted, among other things, in numerous presentations at national and international scientific conferences.

#### Solar panels in Kielnarowa

Photovoltaic panels are installed at the University campus in Kielnarowa, whose energy is used to heat water. The energy obtained from this green source in 2022 is over 8,000 kWh.

#### Smart building implementation

Each of the UTIM buildings has at least 5 Smart Building elements.



Over **1,100** views of the article



**Third place for students in the scientific poster competition** in the national qualifying rounds in the International Statistical Literacy Poster Competition 2022-2023 organized by the International Association for Statistical Education, IASE



Over **8,000 kWh** of green energy in 2022



## 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.

#### Aviation Career Day

UITM organizes Aviation Career Day – an event addressed to Aviation Management students and graduates, as well as more generally, to other people interested in a career in the aviation industry. The main goal of the event is to present companies where students can complete internships and apply for their first job. The adopted formula of the fair allows students to have direct contact with potential employers. Participants of the event also have the opportunity to attend lectures by 'Success Graduates' from the field of Aviation Management.

#### Podkarpackie Job Fair and more

The university has been the organizer of the Podkarpackie Job Fair for 20 years. Every year, several dozen employers offering employment in various sectors of the economy present themselves at the fair. Every year, the fair is visited by several thousand job seekers. In addition, acting as an employment agency, the UITM Careers Service cooperates with over 1,000 companies providing job, practice and internship offers. In turn, conferences such as the one organized in March 2023. „Entrepreneurial potential among young people and a sustainable economy" allow participants to expand their knowledge about the professions of the future, trends in the labor market or modern tools in working with young people.



**2,294** international certificates issued in the last year



The 3rd edition of Aviation Career Day was attended by **11** companies from the aviation industry and visited by over **500** people



In the 20th Podkarpackie Job Fair 40 employers took part and **400** people visited the fair  
Over **1,000** companies cooperate with the UITM Careers Service on a daily basis



## 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.

### Student innovations in science and research laboratories

UITM has research-science laboratories where employees and students can conduct scientific research. As a result, student innovations are created, e.g. the cosmetic packaging project "Susu Cosmetic" by Aleksandra Bieliń, the graduate of Computer graphics and multimedia production, nominated for ART OF PACKAGING in Poznań; the application "Komunikuję się" by Weronika Górka, which will provide people with verbal communication disabilities with the opportunity to communicate without the help of third parties; an application for an animal shelter „KUNDELEK - an electronic list of animals" by Bartłomiej Hajder. Both applications were created as part of engineering diploma theses in the field of Information Technology.

➤ **3** student innovations

### 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 involving the use of modern technologies. The projects are carried out for external business clients. Within completed orders, University employees developed, among others, vehicle monitoring system, Intelligent Safe Driving Trainer, prototype of a new line of bio-fireplaces, prototype of mobile and acoustic modular furniture, service for placing and handling orders in restaurants using a mobile application, innovative technology for prefabrication of steel structures, pipelines and pressure equipment components based on the results of numerical analysis.

➤ **8 implementations** of IT projects using modern technologies

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

**14 editions of InternetBeta conference**

**14 editions of the National Scientific Conference „Science and passion are the key to success”/„Nauka i pasja kluczem do sukcesu”**

The InternetBeta is a conference that gained cult status already during its first edition. Its distinguishing feature is inter-disciplinarity: the conference brings together representatives of major 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 NGOs.

The National Scientific Research „Science and passion as the key to success”/„Nauka i pasja kluczem do sukcesu” is an annual event aimed at promoting the activities of young scientists, presenting research and views, and integrating the academic community. Previous editions have allowed „Science and passion”/„Nauka i pasja” to become a permanent part of the conference calendar throughout Poland.

➤ **90 speakers** and over **350** participants at the 14th edition of the InternetBeta conference. Over **80** speakers from **22** universities from Poland and abroad and nearly **100** participants in the conference „Science and passion are the key to success”/„Nauka i pasja kluczem do sukcesu”



## 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 people with disabilities

UITM takes numerous actions to increase the independence of students with disabilities or chronic illnesses. The Office of the Rector's Representative for People with Disabilities is located in the main building of the University. The help of assistants is offered to students in need of support; specialized classes are conducted at the swimming pool; a mobility improvement room is available at the Kielnarowa campus and a quiet room at the Rzeszow Campus. The University is also constantly modernizing its infrastructure in an effort to be more friendly for disabled people. For the past three years, activities have been carried out to adapt the content published on the UITM portal to the WCAG 2.0 standard. In addition, University Employees and Students can learn the basics of sign language and the culture of the Deaf as part of a series of workshops entitled „You won't shirk from it”/”Nie wymigasz się”.

#### Counteracting mobbing, discrimination and violence

UITM has a policy of counteracting mobbing, discrimination and violence against students, as well as against employees. The University appointed the Rector's Plenipotentiary for counteracting mobbing and discrimination 2020. Moreover, training courses are being conducted on the subject.

In turn, on September 28, 2022, the University joined the group of Signatories of the Diversity Charter/Karta Różnorodności, an international initiative aimed at promoting diversity and equal employment opportunities regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, disability or religion.

#### Participation in charity events and social projects

UITM's assistance activities for people from Ukraine were intensified and developed after the Russian aggression in 2022. As part of the „Day Care Center for Refugees” project, the University opened up to visitors from Ukraine, creating safe places for children for kids and their guardians, and, in cooperation with many partners, offering help in settling into their new environment.

Within the Day Care Center there were organized, among others: 12 editions of Polish language courses; event on Children's Day; training on doing business in Poland, meetings with representatives of banks and offices.

In January 2023, the University purchased and donated power generators as part of the European Parliament's „Generators of Hope” campaign. 6 devices funded by UITM help Lviv Polytechnic National University and Ivan Franko National University of Lviv survive power cuts resulting from Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.



- **3,055,233.50** – the amount of the budget for the implementation of the project „University without barriers”/”Uczelnia bez barier”
- **40%** – the scale of implementation of the WCAG standard assumptions on the UITM portal



On September 28, 2022 **Karta Różnorodności/the Diversity Charter** was signed  
**9 training courses** for students on anti-discrimination and violence



Over **2,000** benefited from the Day Care Center for people from Ukraine, and **700** people took free Polish language courses  
**6** power generators donated by UITM

## 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.

#### Campus in Kielnarowa – exhibitions / green infrastructure / outdoor gym

The UITM campus in Kielnarowa is, on the one hand, a student campus and, on the other hand, a modern conference and recreation complex, where ideal conditions have been created for organization of congresses, conferences, workshops and training courses, integration and social meetings and relaxation. The facility is located in the beautiful surroundings of the Pogórze Dynowskie, just 10 km from Rzeszów. Specialized infrastructure also allows organization of sport camps, so the campus is willingly used by sports teams.

#### Air quality monitoring

The University actively participates in fighting smog. In order to reduce air pollution with dust and dangerous substances, only eco-friendly furnaces are used for space heating. Moreover, an Airly CAQI (PM) device was installed on the Rzeszow Campus, which continuously measures the concentration of PM10, PM2.5 and PM1 dust, and measures air temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure and wind speed. The measurements are shared online via the UITM website, also serving Rzeszow residents. Online readings complement the surveys that have been conducted for the past three years.

#### Bike rental

Since June 1, 2023 students, University staff and ALO (Academic High School) students have been able to use the Green Bike rental for free. The rental is located at the UITM Center of Tourism and Recreation in Kielnarowa. It offers six Ecobike Traffic electric bicycles.



**129** – the total number of events organized on the Kielnarowa Campus



Air quality monitoring has been carried out for **3 years**



**6** Ecobike Traffic electric bicycles at the disposal of the UITM academic community members



## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### 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.

#### "Young journalists for the planet"/"Młodzi dziennikarze dla planety"

The audio podcast "Less is more – how to defeat consumerism?"/"Mniej znaczy więcej – jak pokonać konsumpcjonizm?" by Szymon Maziarz, from the STAL Rzeszów Sports Championship School Complex, was awarded first place in the competition for high school students from the Podkarpackie Province, "Young journalists for the planet"/"Młodzi dziennikarze dla planety" initiated by the University in the 2022/2023 academic year. Honorable mentions were given to the video "Drugie życie produktów = długie/drugie życie planety"/"Second life of products = long/second life of the planet", prepared by Oliwia Wiśniowska from KEN High School in Dynów, and to the article and photo collage "Small creature - great significance. The impact of biodiversity on the future of our planet"/"Małe stworzenie – wielkie znaczenie. Wpływ bioróżnorodności na przyszłość naszej planety" by Izabela Miodunka from the Zespół Szkół Ekonomicznych im. bł. ks. Romana Sitki in Mielec. The awarded works are an important voice of young residents of Podkarpacie in the discussion on the creation and provision of patterns of responsible consumption and production.

#### Conference "The future of Polish agriculture – Necessary changes"/"Przyszłość polskiego rolnictwa – Konieczne zmiany"

UITM President, Prof. Tadeusz Pomianek, Ph.D., D. Sci., Assoc. Prof., presented a paper on „Food Production System for a Major Overhaul"/"System produkcji żywności do kapitalnego remontu" at the Parliament of the Republic of Poland at the conference „The Future of Polish Agriculture - Necessary Changes"/"Przyszłość polskiego rolnictwa – Konieczne zmiany". During the conference, the most important problems in Polish agriculture and the food chain were discussed which may lead to increased threats and challenges in Poland's agricultural production in the coming years.

#### Responsible production with Enterprise Europe Network

Entrepreneurs from the Podkarpacie region took part in workshops "The impact of sustainable development on the increase in the competitiveness of companies"/"Wpływ zrównoważonego rozwoju na wzrost konkurencyjności firm" organized by the Enterprise Europe Network center at UITM. During the meeting, the following issues were addressed, among others: What is sustainable development and why is it so important? What is responsible (sustainable) management? What are the drivers of sustainability and how are they implemented in the company? What are the dependencies of the SDGs? What is sustainable project management? Realized in May 2023, the workshops are the example of a broad offer of the UITM EEN center aimed at entrepreneurs.



**10** works submitted to „Young journalists for the planet"/"Młodzi dziennikarze dla planety" competition



**Over 80** people attended the conference both in person and online



**20** workshop participants

# 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.

### UITM for system changes

Based on the premise that we are facing the need for system change due to climate change, the University undertakes a number of activities which can serve as inspiration for various social groups.

In the 2022/2023 academic year, these included:

- initiation of the celebration of the Sustainable Development Day at UITM - October 2023;
- organization of the TEDxRzeszow COUNTDOWN conference „Climate is People”/”Klimat to ludzie” with the participation of 11 speakers and an audience of 100 people, in partnership with the Rzeszow City Hall, Deloitte, RARR and the W. Siemaszkowa Theater in Rzeszow - January 24, 2023;
- actions for real change in: a) the food production system (description - goal 2 and 12) and b) access to knowledge - „High five to science”/”Przybij piątkę nauce” lecture series (description - goal 4);
- establishment of an apiary at the UITM Campus in Kielnarowa in June 2023. In addition to scientific and educational purposes, the apiary is intended to draw the attention of the academic community to the role and importance of bees for the ecosystem and human life;
- dedicating an entire issue of the student magazine Intro. Magazine to the topic of sustainability: UITM's Green Revolution - March 2023.

### Sustainability Studies Majors offered by the UITM

UITM has created studies in the field of sustainable development (1st cycle studies - Sustainable Development and Environment; 2nd cycle studies - Sustainable Development in the Economy). Graduates will find employment as specialists, consultants, managers dealing with the implementation of sustainable development principles in companies, ESG reporting, and communication with partners. The study program will be implemented in traditional and field laboratories - places of tangible knowledge of nature, the role and value of plants in nature and human life, the principles of healthy nutrition and health prevention, the water circulation in nature or the idea of renewable energy. A modern, interdisciplinary study program, workshops and projects in the cooperation with business practitioners and activists of foundations and associations dealing with ecological issues, as well as many activities in scientific circles and volunteer work - this is how the new educational path offered by the University can be summarized.

### We reduce the CO2 emissions

The University undertakes activities aimed at reducing the CO2 emissions, including:

- infrastructure, e.g. implementation of a system that automatically deactivates unused computers preventing them from working unnecessarily; monitoring of heating infrastructure with care to properly adjust the heat supplied to current needs; reducing energy consumption through the use of motion detectors in toilets; periodic replacement of lamps and light bulbs with modern and energy-saving ones;
- education, e.g., members of the academic community are encouraged to use university transportation between campuses. In addition to buses, electric bicycles are available to students and employees (description - goal 11).



Research, inspiration, proposals – [wsiz.edu.pl/zielony-wsiiz/](https://wsiz.edu.pl/zielony-wsiiz/)



Development of an offer of first-cycle studies  
Launch of second-cycle studies



**13,100** people using organized transportation 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	Sustainable development and the choices I make	Student Council Design Section Competition
<p>Wastewater from both University Campuses is discharged to the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Municipal Water and Sewage Plant in Rzeszow. Wastewater treatment technology assumes full mechanical and biological treatment of wastewater using the removal of biogenic substances (nitrogen, phosphorus). The treated sewage flows by gravity to the Wislok River, 100 m from the sewage treatment plant, while the sludge is directed to the Separate Fermentation Chamber (SFC) via a pumping station. Fermentation results in stabilized digested sludge and biogas which are used to produce electricity and heat in cogenerators and boilers. Dewatered and dried sludge is used in industrial agriculture and for re-cultivation.</p>	<p>Estimated 22,000 liters of water, or the amount of water that one person would drink for about 24 years, is needed to produce a set of clothes consisting of a T-shirt, jeans and leather moccasins. This information was the starting point of a series of classes „Sustainable development and the choices I make”/”Zrównoważony rozwój, a wybory jakich dokonuję” aimed at high school students and UITM Students, and implemented by EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszow (description of goal - 4). The pilot phase of the meetings was conducted in June 2023, and based on feedback from the participants, it was introduced into the permanent offer from September.</p>	<p>A fish wrapped in a piece of disposable bag with a punctured eye socket, from which instead of an eye a plastic bottle ending in a cap peeks out, is one of the artistic visions awarded in the Eco Poster Contest organized by the University’s Student Council. The mentioned work entitled „Deadly plastic” by Patrycja Dziepak received an honorable mention. Meanwhile, the highest mark was given to the work by Monika Stopyra entitled „Snail.” The slogan accompanying the winning poster - Someone has to adapt – and, above all, the vision of a snail with a capped bottle instead of a shell is strongly remembered by the recipients. The winners are studying Graphic Design and are members of the Scientific Club of Poster Design-B1 supervised by, Patrycja Longawa, Ph.D.</p>
<p>➤ <b>100%</b> of wastewater is discharged into certified municipal and city networks, where it is processed in accordance with applicable regulations</p>	<p>➤ <b>250</b> participants in meetings on sustainable development</p>	<p>➤ <b>30</b> works submitted in the Eco Poster Contest</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.

The 3 billion trees by 2030 campaign	The award-winning artistic vision of a UITM Student	Research in the field of natural cosmetology
<p>The UITM Campus in Kielnarowa includes a mixed forest of 2.8 ha and 2 wooded plots with a total area of 17 ha. Each year, as a result of a review of the forest stand, a decision is made on new plantings. This year's additions included 35 fruit and honey trees and shrubs.</p> <p>In addition, the University joined the 3 billion trees campaign initiated by the European Commission as part of the European Green Deal and the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>On May 9, 2023, during the celebration of Europe Day, EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów and UITM Enterprise Europe Network staff, together with students from Elementary School No. 10 in Rzeszów, the John Paul II School Complex in Babica and the Academic High School planted 3 black pine seedlings in a specially designated place on the UITM Campus in Rzeszów.</p>	<p>- Human nature is symbolized by the „Tree of Life.“ If we look closely, the heart beats in the bark. However, it is already quite small and barely struggling - just like nature which is being killed more and more by humanity every day. But the tree itself is holding on tight to the rock and is not going to give up so easily,” emphasized Yevhenii Shulha, Student of the Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production, in an interview about his work, for which he was awarded the main prize in the Educational Film Production Company's competition for the best design of the poster of the nature documentary film entitled „Persistence.“ The film is described as a story about „a tree as a living being” - worthy of being treated as a person, and not just as a source of raw material or fuel.</p>	<p>Cosmetic Valley – International Scientific and Implementation Cooperation at the Cosmetology Department is an original project of the University whose aim was to establish international cooperation and joint implementation of a research project in the field of natural cosmetology. The subject of the research funded by NAWA included, among others, the possibility of using plant species growing in Kazakhstan as raw materials in cosmetic preparations, the application of modern methods in the analysis of the biological activity and safety of the use of these raw materials, and the preparation of prototype cosmetic preparations.</p> <p>In 2022, a formula for a lipstick with cornflower was invented and tested. The cosmetic contained an ethanol extract of dogwood fruit, which gives the lipstick a range of properties from regenerative to moisturizing. The formula was created to promote the University. It was manufactured under contract (2,000 units) using GMP principles.</p>
<p>➤ <b>2,8 ha</b> of the total area of the Campus covered with forest vegetation</p> <p><b>17 ha</b> covered with forest vegetation</p> <p>Joining the <b>3 mld</b> trees campaign</p>	<p>➤ The best poster design for a nature documentary film entitled „Persistence”/”Trwanie”</p>	<p>➤ <b>3</b> scientific articles on natural cosmetology</p> <p><b>1</b> pioneering educational path in the country for the Medical University of Almaty</p> <p><b>2,000</b> lipsticks made from dogwood</p>





**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.




School of Leaders for Democracy	Sustainable development and space exploration	The Phenomenon of Polish hospitality
<p>“School of Leaders for Democracy” (SoL-D) is a special module of the UITM School of Leaders program (SoL). In relation to the current situation in Belarus, 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 IT in Poland and are also interested in developing their knowledge and competencies regarding the creation and functioning of a democratic society.</p>	<p>Working for values such as peace, justice and strong institutions also means preparing solutions that go beyond the current reality. Being open to reflections such as the one prepared by Konrad Szocik, Ph.D. from UITM and Michael J. Reiss from University College London, who in an article entitled “Why space exploitation may provide sustainable development: Climate ethics and the human future as a multiplanetary species”, made a philosophical and ethical reflection on the problem of climate change and sustainable development, but considering the context of future space missions and space exploration. The article appeared in the journal Futures in 2023. The publication was produced as part of Ph.D. Shocik’s research stay at Yale University under a Bekker Fellowship from NAWA.</p>	<p>Promoting the existence of peaceful and inclusive societies also means pointing to encouraging examples and phenomena emerging in very difficult circumstances. Such a task was undertaken by an international research team composed of UITM, University of Łódź, Vasyl Karazin National University of Kharkiv and Université de Montréal, which since January 2023 has been implementing a scientific project entitled „The experience of hosting Ukrainian refugees in their own home. A sociological analysis of the phenomenon of Polish hospitality.”,- Doświadczenia przyjmowania ukraińskich uchodźców we własnym domu. Socjologiczna analiza fenomenu polskiej gościnności.”. The project, implemented with the support of NAWA, is an expansion of the initiative from the spring and summer of 2022, when the University’s staff and students carried out a project entitled „Hospitality. Determinants of Polish assistance to male and female refugees from Ukraine on the example of Podkarpackie Province”/ „Gościnność. Uwarunkowania polskiej pomocy dla uchodźców i uchodźczyń z Ukrainy na przykładzie województwa podkarpackiego”. The presentation of the current research results by Iwona Leonowicz-Bukała, Ph.D. of the UITM Faculty of Media and Social Communication and Kamil Łuczaj, Ph.D. (University of Łódź), during the 20th World Congress of Sociology in Australia, sparked a lively discussion among the numerous discussants.</p>
<p>➤ 9 students from Belarus participants in School of Leaders for Democracy program</p>	<p>➤ 1 article in Futures magazine</p>	<p>➤ “Phenomenon of Polish hospitality” at the 20th World Congress of Sociology in Australia</p>

## 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.

UI GreenMetric	Inclusive partnerships	Start IT - Cisco4Ukraine
<p>In the international UI GreenMetric ranking, UITM was ranked second among Polish universities – a year ago it was in third place. The ranking takes into account ecological and sustainable development solutions, and the list includes 1,050 universities from around the world. In 2022, the UI GreenMetric ranking involved universities from 85 countries around the world, including 11 from Poland. UITM is ranked second, which gave it the 291st position in the world ranking.</p> <p>The UI GreenMetric ranking has been assessing university activities related to sustainability and climate protection since 2010. The ranking's methodology draws from top benchmarks, including: Times Higher Education, Webometric, HEEACT, QS Ranking, The College Sustainability Report Card.</p>	<p>Working towards the effective implementation of Agenda 2030, the University collaborates with numerous entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- together with over 860 leading business and management schools from 99 countries around the world, takes action to build a more sustainable future as part of the Unsupported initiative „The Principles for Responsible Management Education.”</li> <li>- together with over 150 Polish universities, it is a signatory of the Deklaracja Społecznej Odpowiedzialności Uczelni/Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities, a voluntary commitment of universities to promote sustainability and social responsibility in educational programs, research, and management and organizational solutions of universities. The principles contained in the Declaration of University Social Responsibility are discussed during matriculation meetings held at the beginning of the new academic year for all students beginning their studies at UITM.</li> </ul>	<p>UITM was awarded the Golden Bridge Award as a partner of the Cisco Networking Academy. The award was given for implementing the Start IT program as part of the Cisco4Ukraine initiative and supporting Ukrainian refugees. The Golden Bridge Award is only given to four Cisco Networking Academy Partners in four regions of the world. The award was presented at the Cisco NetAcad Partner Summit EMEA conference in Paris.</p> <p>The Start IT - Cisco4Ukraine program was designed for Ukrainian refugees who want to build their digital skills. The aim of the program is to train 10,000 people over the next 2 years, The courses cover two areas: Cyber Security and Programming, with more to be added soon: Data Analysis and Computer Networking. The courses are conducted in Ukrainian. The program is available free of charge at all levels through the Skills For All platform.</p>
 <p><b>291<sup>st</sup> position</b> in the world ranking and 2nd in Poland</p>	 <p>PRME Deklaracja Społecznej Odpowiedzialności Uczelni/Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities</p>	 <p>from <b>700</b> listeners in the pilot phase to <b>5,000</b> new participants from pro-gram launch on February 1, 2023.</p>