



UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT
in Rzeszow, POLAND

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UITM

UITM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2025

(Due to the specificity of higher education institutions,
information is presented for the 2025 calendar year
or the 2024/2025 academic year)



1 NO POVERTY



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.

Extensive scholarship system

From its inception, the University of Information Technology and Management (UITM) has provided young people with the opportunity to pursue higher education regardless of their financial circumstances. This commitment continues today. Financial resources from the University's own budget, supplemented by funding from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, enable comprehensive support for students, including free education for high-achieving students, financial assistance for living expenses during their studies, and one-time aid in cases of unexpected personal hardship. In addition, during the 2024/2025 academic year, five UITM students received Minister's Scholarships for outstanding scientific and artistic achievements. The maximum scholarship amount is PLN 17,000 and is awarded as a one-time payment by the University using funds allocated for this purpose by the Minister.

Social Work – First- Cycle Studies Student Awarded For Her Volunteer Work

UITM is the only university in Poland offering a Bachelor's degree program in Social Work conducted in English. The program stands out for its attractive curriculum, which prepares graduates for careers in social welfare institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private support and assistance centers, both in Poland and abroad.

In the 2024/2025 academic year, 128 students enrolled in the program. They were international students from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Indonesia, India, Armenia, and Nigeria.

The program's partners include PSAR and MOPS. In cooperation with, among others, the UNHCR Field Office in Rzeszow, meetings for students are organized as part of the Business Forum initiative (see Goal 8).

In 2025, M. B. Chiweshe, a Social Work student, was among the volunteers recognized by the Rzeszow Cultural Incubator for her participation in the Volunteer Academy program.

Counteracting menstrual poverty and exclusion

Recognizing that menstrual poverty and menstrual exclusion remain significant issues in Poland, and that many women and girls cannot afford essential menstrual hygiene products, which negatively affects their well-being and participation in public life, UITM has participated in the Pink Box Campaign since 2022, inspired by the Student Government. The campaign aims to combat menstrual poverty and exclusion, ensure universal access to free menstrual hygiene products in public spaces, and promote education on menstruation. It also seeks to break down the taboos surrounding menstruation in Poland by encouraging open discussion and engaging both women and men in the conversation.

➤ **2 278 students** received scholarships in the academic year 2024/2025, including:
1 749 students received scholarships exceeding the tuition fee
5 Ministerial scholarships for UITM students

➤ **128 students** in the field of Social work in the academic year 2024/2025
4 meetings within the Business Lodge
1st prize for participation in the Volunteer Academy

➤ **2 "Pink Boxes"** on the UITM campuses

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.

Civilizational Challenges Food Security

For many years, the University has been working to raise students' awareness of the importance of prevention in maintaining good health and quality of life.

Students enrolled in all first-cycle (Bachelor's) degree programs learn about the nature of lifestyle diseases, their underlying causes, the role of a healthy lifestyle in disease prevention, and how to critically evaluate health-related information. This knowledge is provided through the course *Health Education and Lifestyle Diseases* or, since the 2023/2024 academic year, through the course *Civilizational Challenges*.

In addition, food security was the theme of the 5th edition of the National Graphic Competition – European Poster Gallery – held in 2025. The competition is organized by EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszow, which operates at the University. The winner of this edition was I. Miodunka, a student of Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production at UITM.

Actions for meaningful change within the food production system

UITM undertakes a wide range of initiatives aimed at driving meaningful change in the food production system. In 2025, these included:

- Speeches, interviews, and podcasts featuring Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., President of UITM, including participation in the Congress of Cities for Food Sovereignty and the panel discussion *Food and Public Health* (5 June); a series of interviews for the Safe Food portal entitled *The World Can Be Beautiful If It Is Ethical* (4, 11, and 18 July); and the podcast *Who Is Responsible for Ecology?* (July).
- The publication of the report *Organic Farming in Poland: Environmental, Legal and Economic Conditions*, prepared by the UITM Research Team for Food Security and the Transformation of Food Production and Consumption (August).
- *Taking Care of the Planet Means Taking Care of Your Future* – a book published by the UITM Publishing House in Rzeszow and Aspra Publishing House, officially launched in December (see Goal 13).
- Program for the *Restructuring of Agriculture Toward Structural Changes and the Principles of Sustainable Development*" (See Goal 13).

Food Production, Consumption and Distribution in the University's Catering Facilities

The University not only educates but also initiates activities aimed at shaping the attitudes and habits of younger generations. Recognizing the need to reduce meat consumption and promote plant-based alternatives for the benefit of the climate, the University has been steadily expanding the range of vegetarian and vegan meals available in its catering facilities. At the same time, it is developing its own network of agricultural producers in order to increase the availability of minimally processed food produced without the use of harmful chemical inputs. As part of its commitment to short supply chains, the University continued its year-round initiative in 2025, enabling employees to purchase organic products delivered directly from farmers to consumers at the UITM campus in Rzeszow.

➤ **809 students** participated in the Civilizational Challenges course

1st place in the 5th edition of the National Graphic Competition of the European Poster Gallery "Food Safety"

➤ Over **250 participants** in the debate *Our Planet, Our Shared Future*

➤ Nearly **50% of the gastronomic 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.

World Brain Week 2025 Development Fridays Initiative "Emotions" Exhibition and Poster Stellars 2025

As part of World Brain Week 2025, the Academic Centre for Personal Development and Psychological Support at UITM organized a series of workshops addressing topics such as dyslexia, ADHD, and stress (10–14 March).

In addition, during the first half of 2025, the Academic Centre for Personal Development and Psychological Support conducted a series of workshops for University employees aimed at supporting their well-being, personal development, and workplace relationships as part of the Development Fridays initiative.

Addressing the issue of young people's mental well-being, UITM students organized the exhibition *Emotions* (2–14 May). Furthermore, the poster *Depression*, created by I. Miodunka, a student of Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production at UITM, received the top award in the student category of the Poster Stellars 2025 competition.

Quality of Life Research 50+ Health Academy Health Week Medical Simulation Center

Research on quality of life conducted by M. Krawczyk-Suszek, PhD, and A. Gawel, PhD, was published in the journal *Scientific Reports* and featured on the *Research in Poland* website.

The *50+ Health Academy* project (2023–2025) aimed to promote science and demonstrate its practical relevance to everyday life, including the concept of active ageing.

The *2nd Health Week* (7–11 April 2025) focused on raising awareness of the risks associated with lifestyle diseases and promoting healthy and environmentally responsible attitudes and habits in both professional and private life.

In addition, in May 2025, the Ryszard Palczak Medical Simulation Centre, named in honour of Ryszard Palczak, MD, PhD, was officially inaugurated at the UITM campus in Kielnarowa.

Two patents for inventions

In 2025, the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland granted UITM two patents for inventions.

The first patent concerns a method for extracting active compounds from Chaga mushroom (*Inonotus obliquus*). The inventors are Prof. K. Szychowski, PhD, Habil., B. Skóra, PhD, U. Binduga, PhD, and Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., President of UITM.

The second patent concerns an oil-free cosmetic composition for cleansing and facial skin care, containing Jerusalem artichoke extract and ferment obtained through a fermentation process using a SCOBY culture. The inventors are Prof. Z. Nizioł-Łukaszewska, PhD, Habil., Eng., A. Ziemiańska, PhD, M. Zagórska-Dziok, PhD, A. Filipowicz-Rachwał, PhD, T. Bujak, MSc, Eng., Prof. M. Wójciak (MUL), and Prof. I. Sowa (MUL).

➤ **3 workshops** as part of World Brain Week
5 workshops as part of the *Development Fridays* initiative

➤ **8 lectures** and **8 workshops**
as part of the *50+ Health Academy*
17 workshops and lectures during *Health Week*
and **6** types of research

➤ **2 patents** of UITM resulting from cooperation
with the Podkarpackie Innovation Centre

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 Rector's Coffee with a Graduate

UITM offers a wide range of educational opportunities. Through the *Interesting Lesson* project, the University engages secondary school students in educational activities designed to broaden their knowledge and interests. In addition, the *Patronage Classes* initiative provides a series of lessons tailored to topics of interest to participating schools, which also receive support and guidance in curriculum development. The Public Academic High School with Bilingual Classes in Rzeszow, operating under the auspices of UITM, was awarded the title of *Golden School* in the *Perspektywy 2025 Ranking* and ranked 199th among the top 1,000 high schools in Poland. To promote lifelong learning and encourage the continued intellectual engagement of adults, including seniors, the University operates the *50+ Academy*. Another initiative, *Rector's Coffee with Alumni*, aims to maintain and strengthen relationships with the University's graduates. In addition, practical support for the academic community of Polish higher education institutions is provided through the publication *Excellent Lecturers: A Handbook for Academic Teachers*, edited by Prof. A. Rozmus, PhD, Habil. (May 2025).

Science Outreach Projects 2025

The University actively promotes science and scientific knowledge through a range of outreach initiatives, including:

- *Big Questions in Science*;
- *In the labyrinth of the world*;
- *Give Science a High Five*;
- UITM Podcasts;
- Science studies seminar;
- Scientific Seminar of the Medical College;
- Open lectures given by scientists from Canada, the USA and Great Britain;
- Online open lectures delivered by female researchers from Greece, Australia, and the United States;
- Lectures for those interested.

Providing high-quality international education

UITM actively works to ensure high-quality international education. In 2025, among other things:

- International cooperation, including: Students of the English Philology program participated in a semester-long exchange at Anshan University; Cooperation with universities and partners from various sectors in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and European Union countries as part of the *GreenTech Horizons* project; partnership with the Beelitz Clinic in Germany; Organization of *Afrofusion 2025*;
- Regional cooperation: Continued implementation of the *Cultural Adaptation and Bridge Between Cultures* projects; Organization of *Black History Month* and the *Holidays and Myths Festival* – Educational activities carried out by EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszow, a member of the European Commission's international network, reached nearly 11,000 participants.



232 hours of "Interesting Lessons" delivered in **28 schools** and **250 hours** of "Patronage Classes" delivered in **32 schools**
265 students of the Public Academic Secondary School with bilingual departments in Rzeszów
403 students of the 50+ Academy
"Rector's Coffee with an Alumni" – **8** meetings



36,500 live participants and over **28 million views** of video reports
150,000 podcast plays on Spotify and
450,000 podcast views on YouTube



Further strengthening international cooperation in the area of education and innovation
74 teaching hours in **21** schools as part of *Cultural Adaptation*
Nearly **11,000** 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 2022-2025

The Gender Equality Plan adopted by UITM aims to create an environment of safety, equality, and inclusion that supports the harmonious development of all members of the academic community, including research and teaching staff, lecturers, administrative staff, and students. The strategic objectives of the Gender Equality Plan for the 2024/2025 academic year included incorporating topics related to key issues in feminist ethics into the *Ethics* course (Polish-language study tracks) and addressing the economic significance of gender equality within the *Fundamentals of Economics* course (Polish-language study tracks and the English-language Computer Science program).

3rd International Poster Exhibition. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The 3rd International Poster Exhibition: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is an online exhibition of social posters addressing the issue of violence against women. Four UITM students – I. Miodunka, K. Panek, G. Wrzesień, and Z. Poplewska – had their works selected for the exhibition. The exhibition raises important questions about gender inequality and violence against women. Through compelling visual metaphors and the use of irony, the featured posters encourage viewers to reflect on these issues and engage in critical discussion.

Activities That Empower Women and Girls in the Academic Community and the Region

UITM is actively engaged in initiatives aimed at empowering women and girls within the academic community and the wider region. In 2025, these activities included:

- On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, an interview entitled *We Need to Believe in Ourselves More* was conducted with female researchers from UITM, offering perspectives on academic careers and scientific work from a women's point of view (11 February).
- The Power Is Within Us: In Search of Hope – an event featuring E. Woydyłło, PhD, and singer K. Nosowska, organized as part of the *In the Labyrinth of the World* series (26 March).



In the 4-person Rector's College
two members were women,
75% of College Dean positions were filled by women
85% of Vice-Deans were women



Works by 4 UITM students were selected for
*The 3rd International Poster Exhibition: International
Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women*



Continued initiatives aimed at strengthening
the position of women and girls within the UITM
academic community and throughout the region

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 Areas absorbing water

UITM systematically monitors water consumption and implements new solutions to reduce water use. These efforts include both the modernization of sanitary facilities and the collection of rainwater.

As part of its water-saving initiatives, the University has installed faucet aerators and dual-flush systems that help regulate water consumption in restrooms. In addition, the purchase of rainwater storage tanks has enabled the use of drip irrigation for crops cultivated by the University using collected rainwater. This solution reduces the consumption of municipal water by approximately 8,000 liters per growing season. UITM strives to maximize green spaces and minimize impermeable surfaces across its campuses. More than half of the University's total area consists of water-absorbing and biologically active surfaces, including lawns, flower beds, and forested areas. As a result, UITM campuses provide valuable recreational space and contribute positively to the local community.

Water, Scarcity, Excess , Quality

N. Guz, MSc, Eng., an employee of the Sustainable Development Office and an assistant in the Department of Law and Public Policy at UITM, participated in the *Polish Geography Congress 2025: Geography Without Borders* in Lublin.

As part of her ongoing research, N. Guz, MSc, Eng., presented a paper entitled *Anthropogenic Pressure in Agricultural Landscapes: Potential Environmental Consequences of Mono-culture Farming*. The presentation was delivered during the thematic session *Water: Scarcity, Excess, and Quality*, organized by the Hydrological Commission of the Polish Geographical Society within the *Climate and Water* panel (11–12 September 2025).

Among the representatives of UITM whose works were selected for the post-competition exhibition of the Haapsalu Graphic Design Festival 2025 in Estonia, Prof. P. Longawa, PhD, Habil., addressed the issue of the overexploitation of the planet's water resources (see Goal 14).

Soil and Water Laboratory

The Soil and Water Laboratory was established to support teaching activities in the Sustainable Development in the Economy program, as well as to facilitate scientific research conducted by UITM staff.

It is equipped with instruments and analytical apparatus that enable studies on changes in soil fertility and nutrient content, depending on soil type and the influence of anthropogenic factors and environmental stressors. The laboratory allows, among others, the determination of granulometric composition, phytotoxicity, total nitrogen, phosphorus, organic carbon, humic acids in soils.

It also supports the analysis of effective and balanced nutrient management, as well as the development of fertilization schemes and recommendations for organic farming and pro-health food production, based on soil testing. The laboratory's equipment additionally enables water testing for the presence of nitrates, orthophosphates, detergents, and supports the analysis of causes, sources, and processes of surface-water eutrophication.

➤ **25%** reduction in water consumption by installing aerators and aerators in taps and cisterns
8,000 liters of rainwater collected per season
 More than **50%** of the UITM campus area is water-absorbing

➤ Participation of a UITM representative in the *Water: Scarcity, Excess, and Quality* session at the *Polish Geography Congress 2025*

➤ **1** Soil and Water 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.

Clean renewable energy

Clean and affordable energy is a key focus of the scientific and science outreach activities undertaken by UITM representatives. In 2025, these activities included:

- As part of the *University's Green Blog*, Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., President of UITM, addressed the issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the development of renewable energy sources in his article *The Development of Renewable Energy and Care for Our Health Are Key Priorities* (27 March 2025);
- New technologies, ethics, and social justice were the main themes of *ETHICS-2025 – IEEE International Symposium on Ethics in Engineering, Science, and Technology*, attended by Prof. K. Szocik, PhD, Habil., Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation at UITM. Discussions focused on emerging technologies in areas such as artificial intelligence, ubiquitous connectivity, autonomous systems, robotics, autonomous transportation, clean renewable energy, genomics, digital twins, space technologies, and healthcare technologies (6–8 June 2025);
- In the publication *Taking Care of the Planet Means Taking Care of Your Future* (December 2025), W. Czajka, PhD, and O. Balanda, PhD discussed renewable energy sources and algae as alternative energy resources, presenting examples of beneficial energy initiatives (see Goal 13).

Postgraduate Studies Energy Management

The UITM Center for Postgraduate Studies signed a cooperation agreement with WISO GROUP Sp. z o.o. As a result of this partnership, a company representative will deliver classes in *Internal Auditing of Energy Management Systems in accordance with ISO 50001:2018* as part of the Energy Management postgraduate program. The program already benefits from the involvement of industry partners such as TUV Nord Poland and EnMS Polska, further strengthening its practical and professional dimension.

Stay Safe, Europe!

A visual interpretation of the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2025, including energy security, was the central theme of the exhibition *Stay Safe, Europe!* by graphic artist A. Sowiński. The exhibition was organized at the invitation of EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów at UITM and opened in June 2025. Held under the patronage of the Polish Presidency, the exhibition was presented both at the University, in the gallery adjacent to the Prof. J. Chłopecki Auditorium on the UITM campus in Rzeszow, and at branches of the Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Rzeszow.



Continuation of the scientific and popularization involvement of UITM representatives in the area of clean and affordable energy



WISO GROUP is another partner in the postgraduate studies *Energy Management*



Energy transformation – one of the 7 dimensions of security indicated by the Polish Presidency 2025 – **the topic of the exhibition signed by UITM**

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	Business Lodge Masterclass Industry fairs and festivals	Human 4.0, Carpathian Startup Fest 2025 Green path to success Employee protection in the application of competition law
<p>UITM has extensive experience in implementing proven and certified educational solutions.</p> <p>Studying at UITM enables students to obtain prestigious language, business, and IT certifications that are highly valued by employers.</p> <p>In the 2024/2025 academic year, UITM issued its first microcredentials accompanied by digital badges, recognizing skills acquired by students in courses such as <i>Motion and Animation</i>, <i>Infographics</i>, <i>Video Production Workshop</i>, and <i>Fundamentals of 3D Graphics</i>. Previously, digital badges issued by technology partners such as Cisco had been awarded to students enrolled in the Computer Science program.</p>	<p>UITM organizes the <i>Business Lodge</i> series for its students. These meetings bring together employers, industry experts, and business practitioners, providing participants with insights into specific sectors and career opportunities.</p> <p>In addition, the <i>Masterclass</i> series gives students the opportunity to meet experts from various industries and gain first-hand insight into their future professions and the practical aspects of their work.</p> <p>The second edition of <i>IT Career Day</i> at UITM (2025) attracted not only UITM students but also participants from outside the University, including secondary school students.</p>	<p>UITM became an honorary partner of the Podkarpackie Innovation Center in the implementation of the <i>Human 4.0</i> project. The initiative, aimed at young residents of the Podkarpackie region and members of the academic community, focused on developing future-oriented competencies (February–May 2025). UITM also once again served as an Academic Partner of Carpathian Startup Fest 2025, one of the largest entrepreneurship and startup events in the Podkarpackie region.</p> <p>The relationships between business and the natural environment, the benefits that companies can gain from the green transition, and practical guidance on initiating environmental transformation are presented in the book <i>The Green Path to Success: A Practical Guide for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Environmental Management</i>, authored by J. Berniak-Woźny, PhD, and M. Gosek, PhD, Vice-Rector for Innovation and Sustainable Development at UITM (April 2025).</p> <p>In addition, Prof. A. Jurkowska-Gomułka, PhD, Habil., delivered a paper at the international scientific conference <i>The Intersection of Antitrust, Labor and Human Rights Law: American and European Perspectives</i> held in Białystok (22–23 May 2025).</p>
<p>➤ Yet over 100,000 certificates awarded: 32,000 IT certificates, 84,000 language certificates and 1,000 business certificates</p> <p>First microcredentials published by UITM</p>	<p>➤ Several meetings held as part of the <i>Business Lodge</i></p> <p>Over 1,000 companies cooperating with the UITM Career Office on a daily basis</p>	<p>➤ 150 participants of the Human 4.0 project</p> <p>The university is an academic partner of Carpathian Startup Fest 2025</p> <p>Practical support for small and medium-sized enterprises in environmental management by representatives of UITM</p>

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



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.

Carpathian Startup Fest 2025 HackCarpathia 2025

Carpathian Startup Fest 2025 has become a flag-ship event among initiatives supporting innovation, startups, and the development of modern business in the Podkarpackie region. UITM was represented at the event by B. Przywara, PhD, Vice-Rector for Teaching, M. Ryś, PhD, a lecturer at UITM and the originator of *HackCarpathia*, and M. Mróz, MSc, Director of the Center for Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship. In addition, from 12 to 14 April 2025, UITM, in cooperation with the Podkarpackie Innovation Center, organized the second edition of *HackCarpathia*, the largest hackathon in Rzeszów. Participants developed projects within three challenge tracks: the *AI LOT Challenge*, the *Drone Challenge*, and the *Open Challenge*, which focused on solutions for older adults.

UITM Green Summer School 2025 European Conference on Artificial Intelligence 2025 International Report on Competencies in Sustainable Project Management with the Participation of Experts from UITM

From 6 to 10 October 2025, *UITM Green Summer School – Green Business & Education for a Sustainable Future* brought together young leaders, educators, and experts from across Europe. The international program focused on sustainable development, innovative education, and green entrepreneurship.

In addition, J. Wójcik, PhD, and J. Świętoniowska, PhD, together with D. Ćirić Lalić, PhD, from the University of Novi Sad, with the support of G. Karpiuk and J. Jakiela, PhD, prepared the report *SPM²: Mapping Competence Gaps and Standardizing Roles in Sustainable Project Management*.

The report presents the results of a study conducted among nearly 1,000 professionals from 15 countries, identifying key competency gaps in sustainable project management (SPM) and challenges related to the implementation of ESG principles across various sectors and professional roles.

Connecting the Worlds of Science and Business: 16th Edition of the National Scientific Conference *Science and Passion are the Key to Success* Start For Future 3rd edition of Science-Up

The National Scientific Conference *Science and Passion – The Key to Success* is an annual event dedicated to promoting the achievements of young researchers, presenting research findings and perspectives, and fostering cooperation within the academic community. Over the years, the conference has established itself as a recognized event in the Polish academic conference calendar.

Start for Future (SFF), in which UITM's Department of Entrepreneurship is actively involved, is one of Europe's most dynamic and fastest-growing innovation alliances. It brings together universities, startups, industry, and public-sector organizations. Students participating in SFF initiatives have the opportunity to develop their business ideas in an international environment.

The *Science-Up* program, of which UITM has been a partner since 2023, supports students and doctoral candidates in developing research competencies and advancing their academic careers.



More than 200 participants from over 10 countries took part in *HackCarpathia 2025*



Five days of interactive workshops, expert sessions and team projects



125 speakers from **26 universities** in Poland and abroad and **130** participants of the 16th edition of the Conference *Science and passion are the key to success*

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES

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

Career Paths from a Gender Perspective

In May 2025, students from the SEARCH Social Research Club, operating at UITM as part of the RISE research project (*Rzeszow Initiative for Student Activation – Career Paths from a Gender Perspective*), began surveying fellow students at the University.

The aim of the study is to collect information on students' experiences of combining academic studies with employment. The findings will help assess the impact of balancing work and study on students' academic and professional development, as well as identify barriers and challenges in this area, including those related to gender. The survey is anonymous and has been approved by the UITM Research Ethics Committee.

The project is planned to be extended to students at other universities in Rzeszow.

Counteracting Mobbing, Discrimination and Violence

UITM has a policy in place to combat mobbing, discrimination, and violence against students and staff. In 2020, the University appointed a Rector's Representative for Combating Mobbing and Discrimination. In October 2023, K. Kurzępa-Dedo, PhD, who holds this position, joined the *Academic Network for Safety and Equality*, an organization of individuals at Polish universities who serve in roles related to the protection of academic rights and values, as well as safety, equality, and diversity among both students and staff.

In addition, first-semester training is conducted for students of all Polish- and English-language study paths, during which the assumptions of the University's policy against discrimination and violence and the Gender Equality Plan are discussed, as well as the forms of assistance and support offered by the University as part of the Academic Centre for Personal Development and Psychological Support.

Feminist Bioethics in Space: Gender Inequality in Space Exploration

Prof. K. Szocik, PhD, Habil., received the T. Kotarbiński Scientific Award of the Polish Academy of Sciences in the field of philosophy on 27 November 2025. The award was granted for the publication *Feminist Bioethics in Space: Gender Inequality in Space Exploration*. It is the first book in the world devoted to a feminist perspective on space and space missions. The publication demonstrates the application of feminist approaches in philosophy, ethics, and bioethics to considerations of future human space exploration and space missions.



Rzeszów Initiative for Student Activation – Career Paths from a Gender Perspective – a research project of the SEARCH Social Research Club



Membership in **the Academic Network for Safety and Equality (ASBiR)**
10 training courses for students on counteracting discrimination and violence



The world's first book devoted to a feminist perspective in reflection on space and space missions

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.

SQUARE Exhibition Data & AI Inspiration Day: Future Technologies for Cities GreenCamp

Posters created by UITM students were featured in the international SQUARE poster exhibition, which show-cased the work of 63 artists from 10 countries. The poster *Living Space Is Shrinking* by K. Łogonowicz addressed the issue of housing conditions in Poland (6 March 2025).

In cooperation with Prof. R. Pater, PhD, Habil., A. Gaweł, PhD, and SAS, the City of Rzeszow organized the conference *Data & AI Inspiration Day: Future Technologies for Cities*, focusing on the use of data and artificial intelligence to support sustainable urban development (20 March 2025).

In addition, UITM joined the nationwide *GREEN_CAMP ON TOUR* initiative, which encourages local communities to develop and implement green innovations. As part of the initiative, GreenCamp workshops were held on the UITM campus, where participants collaborated on ideas for environmental protection and sustainable improvements in their cities (24 July 2025).

UITM Researcher Appointed to the Economic Council of the Mayor of Rzeszow C4TALENT Project XXXIV Economic Forum in Karpacz

Prof. A. Gemzik-Salwach, PhD, Habil., was appointed as UITM's representative to the Economic Council of the Mayor of Rzeszow, serving on the Thematic Team for Science, Education, and Health.

In addition, M. Mróz, MSc, Director of the Center for Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship at UITM, participated in an international meeting of the C4TALENT network held at Centar Sarajevo as part of the European URBACT program. The main objective of the event was to support young talent and create favorable conditions for its development in medium-sized European cities (17–18 June 2025).

Prof. S. Kauf, PhD, Habil., from the Department of Logistics and Process Engineering at UITM, participated in a panel discussion devoted to the transformation of cities in the era of sustainable development during the 34th Economic Forum in Karpacz.

Kielnarowa Campus – Exhibitions / Green Infrastructure / Outdoor Gym Bicycle Rental Air Quality Monitoring

The UITM Campus in Kielnarowa serves both as a student campus and as a modern conference and recreation complex, offering excellent conditions for hosting congresses, conferences, workshops, training sessions, team-building events, social gatherings, and leisure activities. The facility is located in the picturesque surroundings of the Dynów Foothills, just 10 kilometers from Rzeszow. Its specialized infrastructure also enables the organization of sports training camps, making the campus a popular destination for sports teams. The Campus Tourism and Recreation Center is home to the Green Bike bicycle rental service, providing convenient access to sustainable transportation and recreational activities.

At the Rzeszow Campus, an Airly CAQI (PM) monitoring device has been installed to continuously measure concentrations of PM10, PM2.5, and PM1 particulate matter, as well as air temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, and wind speed. Measurement data are made available online through the UITM website.



Conferences and workshops for sustainable cities and communities with the participation of representatives of UITM



Prestigious initiatives dedicated to cities with the participation of representatives from UITM



132 – total number of events organised at the Kielnarowa Campus in the academic year 2024/2025
The University has been monitoring air quality for **4 years**

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.

**Cities for Food Sovereignty Congress
4th Safe Food Forum**

Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., President of UITM, M. Gosek, PhD, Vice-Rector for Innovation and Sustainable Development, and K. Palimąka, PhD, Director of the UITM Sustainable Development Office, participated in the *Cities for Food Sovereignty Congress*. As one of the panelists, Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., discussed, among other topics, the role of green public procurement in ensuring access to high-quality food in kindergartens, schools, and hospitals. He also emphasized the importance of developing networks of eco-markets in urban areas (5 June 2025).

U. Binduga, MD, PhD, from the Department of Civilization Diseases and Regenerative Medicine at UITM, participated in the *4th Safe Food Forum*. The event provided a unique platform for discussions on food safety, public health, human rights, and climate responsibility. During the expert panel *Food Education in the Context of Climate and the Environment*, U. Binduga, MD, PhD, highlighted the importance of higher education institutions' engagement in climate and health education. She also emphasized the value of extending such education beyond academia, drawing on solutions developed at UITM as examples of good practice (27 October 2025).

**2nd National Debate *Our Planet, Our Shared Future*
Seminar *Be eco-friendly, Eat Healthy Food***

UITM once again organized the national debate *Our Planet, Our Shared Future*, which took place on 12 December 2025 at the Center for International Education in Kielnarowa near Rzeszow. The debate was held in conjunction with a scientific conference. The event focused on the need to transform rural areas and agriculture to achieve greater efficiency and sustainable development, as well as on food production systems, food quality, and their impact on human health. Experts representing various sectors discussed key challenges facing society and the environment. The debate was structured around three thematic sessions: 1. *How Can We Transform Food Production and Consumption Systems to Serve People and Respect Nature?* 2. *A Program for Transforming Rural Areas and Agriculture for Greater Efficiency and Sustainable Development*, 3. *Healthy Environment, Healthy Food, Healthy People*.

In addition, the UITM Green Economics Student Research Club organized the seminar *Be Eco-Friendly, Eat Healthy Food*, dedicated to promoting healthy nutrition among young people. The event aimed to encourage healthy eating habits and demonstrate that caring for one's own health can go hand in hand with caring for the natural environment (20 November 2025).

**Responsible production
with Enterprise Europe Network**

Specialized workshops on sustainable consumption and production organized by the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) at UITM, operating since 2010, are one example of the broad range of support services offered by the EEN center to entrepreneurs in the Podkarpackie region.

In 2025, EEN UITM organized the following training sessions: *From Idea to Success: European Funding for Development and Innovation* – webinar (17 February 2025); *Managing Environmental Requirements in Enterprises: BDO, KOBiZE, Circular Economy, ESG, and CBAM* – Krosno (9 April 2025); *Employing foreigners from EU/EEA countries and third countries in Poland and abroad - in the light of the new regulations 2025* – May 29, 2025, Rzeszow; *Expand Your Business with Confidence: Find Partners and Enter International Markets* – online (19 September 2025); *Managing Foreign Exchange Risk in Manufacturing and Trading Companies* – Rzeszow (16 October 2025); *Alternative Export Pathways: Expanding into Non-Traditional Markets* – Rzeszow (23 October 2025); *KSeF 2026 in SMEs – in domestic and international transactions – Time for action – get ready today!* – Rzeszow (10 December 2025).



Congress Cities for Food Sovereignty

with the participation of three representatives of UITM

4th Safe Food Forum with the participation of a representative of UITM



Over **250** participants in the debate



7 training sessions conducted



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 30 Celsius, or even more in some regions of the world.

UITM Education for Climate Action

In the second edition of the competition for the best thesis addressing sustainable development in the areas of environment, society, and the economy, the winning entry was the master's thesis by B. Balon, a graduate of the Cosmetology program, entitled *Green Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles (AgNPs) Using Neem (Azadirachta indica) Extracts*. The thesis was supervised by Prof. K. Gawel-Bęben, PhD, Habil. An honorable mention was awarded to O. Gawroński, a graduate of the Aviation Management bachelor's program, for the thesis *The Path to Green Aviation: Actions by Airlines Towards Sustainable Development*. The thesis supervisor was I. Cichocka, PhD, Eng. The University also launched the *MówiMy – What Do You Want to Tell the World?* initiative for secondary school students. Participants could take part in one of three competitions: *Youth for the Planet, Youth for Health, Youth for Society*. In addition, UITM, in cooperation with PRME, organized the student competition *Leader of Sustainable Development: Today and in the Future*.

Food System Transformation Program for Poland Taking Care of the Planet Means Taking Care of Your Future

The project *Program for the Restructuring of Agriculture Toward Structural Changes and the Principles of Sustainable Development* has been completed. The implementation of the program in Poland will launch a process of environmental restoration, soil rehabilitation, and greenhouse gas reduction. As a result of the program's implementation, there will be: healthy food, healthy people, and a better quality of life. The program can serve as a model for other countries. On 12 December 2025, the book *Taking Care of the Planet Means Taking Care of Your Future*, published by UITM Publishing House and Aspra Publishing House, was officially launched. The publication presents, in a comprehensive and accessible manner, the interrelationships between climate, the environment, and human well-being. Inspired by the national debate *Our Planet, Our Common Future*, the book explores how food production systems, food quality, and dietary choices affect human health. According to Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., President of UITM, the publication is aimed primarily at younger generations, helping them understand the complexity of the ecosystem in which we live and the far-reaching environmental impacts of human activity. The book brings together expert knowledge and practical insights to explain the connections between people, the environment, and climate change in a clear and engaging way.

Green blog Environmental Education Center

The University maintains the Green Blog, an initiative launched by Prof. T. Pomianek, PhD, Habil., Eng., President of UITM. The blog addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity, including climate change, environmental degradation, waste generation, and biodiversity loss. It also explores issues related to Polish agriculture and regional economic development. Through this initiative, the University seeks to contribute to public awareness and environmental education. In addition, at the initiative of the University authorities, the Environmental Education Center was established as an interdisciplinary hub promoting knowledge and awareness in the fields of ecology, sustainable development, food systems, energy, and biodiversity. The Center responds to the growing need to foster pro-environmental attitudes among both young people and adults through workshops, practical activities, and field-based learning experiences that have a tangible impact on environmental awareness and responsibility.



Competition for a diploma thesis on the topic of sustainable development
50 students from 21 schools competing in the *MówiMy* competition



The First Comprehensive Program for the Transformation of Poland's Food System



Academic year 2024/2025: **17** articles, **14** authors, nearly **3,000** page views
1 Environmental Education Center



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

Wastewater from both University Campuses is discharged to the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Municipal Water and Sewage Company in Rzeszów. The treatment technology ensures full mechanical and biological purification of wastewater, including the removal of biogenic substances (nitrogen and phosphorus).

The treated wastewater flows by gravity into the Wisłok River, approximately 100 meters from the treatment plant, while the sludge is directed via a pumping station to a Separate Fermentation Chamber (SFC). As a result of the fermentation process, stabilized, digested sludge and biogas are produced. The biogas is used for the generation of electricity and heat in cogeneration units and boilers. The dewatered and dried sludge is then used in industrial agriculture and for land reclamation.

Haapsalu Graphic Design Festival 2025 in Estonia


Five representatives of UITM were among the Five representatives of UITM were among the authors whose works were selected for the post-competition exhibition of the *Haapsalu Graphic Design Festival 2025* in Estonia. This year's edition, themed *Paradox*, featured 84 posters displayed at the Haapsalu City Gallery from 31 May to 29 June 2025. The exhibition included works by Prof. P. Longawa, PhD, Habil., as well as UITM students from the Graphic Design and Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production programs: D. Kamiński, G. Wrzesień, K. Łogonowicz, and I. Miodunka. The poster created by Prof. P. Longawa, PhD, Habil., addresses the issue of the overexploitation of the planet's water resources and the resulting environmental degradation. Meanwhile, the poster by K. Łogonowicz symbolically depicts the problem of excessive plastic consumption, water pollution, and its harmful consequences for marine life.


Stop Water Pollution Future Menu


The poster *Stop Water Pollution* by Prof. P. Longawa, PhD, Habil., was selected for exhibition as part of the *Alive Poster Festival 2025*. The work addresses the issue of water pollution and depicts a water droplet made of barbed wire. Through this visual metaphor, the author highlights the growing threat of water contamination and warns that continued pollution of rivers, lakes, and other water bodies may eventually render water unsuitable for human consumption.

The poster was presented under the competition theme *River for Life*, which invited participants to explore the practical, social, and symbolic significance of the San River.

In addition, the poster *Future Menu* by K. Łogonowicz, a student in the Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production program, was selected for the *12th Poster Triennial Trnava 2025*. The work depicts a plate filled with waste instead of food, symbolically portraying the “seafood of the future” as the pollution and waste that are increasingly finding their way into aquatic ecosystems.

 **100%** of wastewater is discharged into certified municipal and city networks, where it is processed in accordance with applicable regulations

 Works by students and lecturers from UITM at the *Haapsalu exhibition Graphic Design Festival 2025* in Estonia

 *Stop water pollution* was selected for exhibition at the *Alive Poster Festival 2025*, which attracted **565** poster submissions from **44** countries

Future Menu was selected for the *12th Poster Triennial Trnava 2025*



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.

Forest at the UITM Campus in Kielnarowa

High-Quality Research Publication with Significant Scientific Impact Eco-Innovations in Cosmetics

GreenCosmIn – Green Chemistry and Biotechnology Approaches for the Development of Nature-Based Cosmetics

The UITM Campus in Kielnarowa includes a 2.8-hectare mixed forest and two additional forested plots with a combined area of 17 hectares. Each year, forest management decisions, including any new tree plantings, are made on the basis of a forest stand assessment.

Students enrolled in the Sustainable Development in Economy program participated in field classes along an educational trail running through the University forest in Kielnarowa. Their task was to collect and analyze information about the forest ecosystem. During the fieldwork, students learned how to assess ecosystem health using indicator species, including plants, lichens, and selected animal species (20 March 2025).

In addition, as part of the International Earth Day celebrations, UITM students and students from the Public Academic High School (ALO) participated in a cleanup campaign in the areas surrounding the University campuses in Rzeszow and Kielnarowa. The initiative was organized by the UITM Sustainable Development Office (24 April 2025).


The publication *Cannabidiol and Minor Phyto-cannabinoids: A Preliminary Study to Assess Their Anti-Melanoma, Anti-Melanogenic, and Anti-Tyrosinase Properties*, authored by Prof. K. Gawel-Bęben, PhD, Habil., K. Czech, and S. Vlad Luci, was recognized as the best publication by the scientific journal *Pharmaceuticals*.

In addition, the Podkarpackie Innovation Center (PCI), in cooperation with UITM, organized the networking event *Eco-Innovations in Cosmetics* in June 2025. The meeting provided a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration in the field of sustainable and innovative cosmetic solutions.

Furthermore, a project submitted by UITM together with partners from Austria, Greece, Croatia, and Mongolia under the NAWA Strategic Partnerships program, entitled *Green Sunscreen – International Research Network Implementing Advanced Methods in the Search for UV-Protective Natural Ingredients*, was selected for funding.

The GreenCosmIn – Green Chemistry and Biotechnology Approaches for the Development of Nature-Based Cosmetics project is being implemented by an international consortium. Its objective is to develop environmentally friendly methods for obtaining natural cosmetic ingredients and to strengthen collaboration between the academic and industrial sectors. The UITM research team is responsible, among other tasks, for investigating the biological activity of natural raw materials and their application in cosmetic formulations. The project promotes researcher mobility, joint scientific research, and educational activities.

Activities carried out in 2025 included: Participation in the international scientific conference *PhytoValley – Austrian Summit on Natural Products: Science and Technology Behind Phytopharmacy, Phytocosmetics and Phytonutrition* (16–19 March 2025); A research fellowship at Le Studium in Orléans, France, undertaken by M. Biesiadecka, PhD, Eng. (2–31 May 2025); A research internship at the laboratories of the UITM Medical College completed by A. Filipek, MSc, from the Austrian Drug Screening Institute in Innsbruck (22 August–22 September 2025); A research internship at the laboratories of the UITM Medical College undertaken by D. Michailidis, PhD, and L. Antoniad, PhD, from PharmaGnose in Athens (16 September–2 November 2025).

 **2,8 ha** of the total area of the Campus covered with forest vegetation
17 ha covered with forest vegetation

 Publication by UITM researchers recognized by the scientific journal *Pharmaceuticals*

 Conference and internships carried out as part of *GreenCosmIn*



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.

Poster4Peace


UITM students, under the supervision of Prof. P. Longawa, PhD, Habil., address a wide range of contemporary challenges through their artistic work, including global issues related to peace and international understanding. In this context, it is worth highlighting the activities of the Peace Museum in Vienna, which promotes peace through public education and international graphic design competitions, including *Poster4Peace*. Works by two students from the Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production program, I. Miodunka and K. Panek, were selected for the *Poster4Peace* exhibition. I. Miodunka's poster, *Peace Herald*, depicts an origami dove – a universal symbol of peace. The surface of the dove is covered with the word “peace” written in various languages, emphasizing the idea of unity across cultures and national borders. The work conveys the message that maintaining peace requires the collective effort of people around the world. K. Panek's poster, *Peace*, was inspired by traditional paper-cut art. It portrays two figures holding birds that symbolize hope and harmony. The blue background represents the sky, while the white pattern evokes purity, simplicity, and peaceful coexistence.


Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon


Participants in the Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon, held at UITM on 4 December 2025, once again wrote letters that have the potential to change the lives of people whose rights have been violated. The event was organized by the Humanus Interdisciplinary Research Group, operating under the supervision of P. Wiczorek, PhD, at the Department of English Philology. *The Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon* has been organized worldwide since 2001 and has been hosted at UITM for nearly two decades. The marathon serves as a symbolic expression of solidarity and the academic community's commitment to defending human rights and promoting equality. This year's edition placed particular emphasis on climate justice and the close relationship between climate change and human rights violations. An important part of the event was a discussion and interactive quiz led by P. Wiczorek, PhD, and I. Mhaka, a student in the Social Work program. The aim of this session was to deepen participants' understanding of human rights and highlight their connection to climate-related challenges.

Carpathian Initiative for the Reconstruction of Ukraine

The Carpathian Initiative aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation, with a focus on experience exchange, knowledge transfer, and joint investment and infrastructure projects. The project integrates both business and academic sectors and is supported by European Union institutions. The first meeting of the Carpathian Initiative took place on 11 March 2025 at the headquarters of the Presov Region Self-Government in Slovakia. UITM has joined activities supporting the reconstruction of Ukraine, drawing on its extensive experience in cooperation with this country. The University has significant expertise both in educating students from Ukraine – with nearly 7,000 graduates – and in collaborating with Ukrainian universities. UITM also employs many researchers from Ukraine. Two areas of engagement have been especially important for the University: a) Providing assistance to refugees, including organizing a children's activity center for Ukrainian children and their guardians, operating for many months, and b) Implementing an educational initiative – the *Cisco4Ukraine. Start IT* project, in cooperation with the Cisco Networking Academy, which supports Ukrainian refugees in developing digital skills and increasing their employment opportunities in the IT sector. Furthermore, as part of cooperation with the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Sweden, UITM is implementing a project that provides training for Ukrainian government employees in network technologies and cybersecurity, using Cisco solutions and the NetLab platform.

 2 works by UITM students were selected by the Peace Museum in Vienna for the *Poster4Peace* initiative

 *Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon* with the participation of students, staff, and students from *Patronage Classes*

 UITM's involvement in the *Carpathian Initiative for the reconstruction of Ukraine*

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	European University Alliance
<p>For the third consecutive year, UITM ranked second among Polish universities in the international UI GreenMetric ranking.</p> <p>The ranking evaluates universities' performance in the areas of environmental sustainability and sustainable development and included 1,745 higher education institutions from around the world. In 2025, the UI GreenMetric ranking featured universities from 105 countries, including 13 institutions from Poland. UITM was ranked 246th worldwide, securing second place nationally. Since its establishment in 2010, the UI GreenMetric ranking has assessed universities' commitment to sustainable development and climate action. Its methodology draws upon best practices from internationally recognized rankings and assessment systems, including <i>Times Higher Education</i>, <i>Webometrics</i>, <i>HEEACT</i>, <i>QS World University Rankings</i>, and <i>The College Sustainability Report Card</i>.</p>	<p>In support of the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UITM collaborates with numerous partners at the global, regional, national, and local levels. At the international level, UITM is actively engaged in the United Nations-supported <i>Principles for Responsible Management Education</i> (PRME) initiative. Together with more than 860 leading business and management schools from 99 countries, the University contributes to building a more sustainable future through responsible education, research, and stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, UITM is one of more than 150 Polish higher education institutions that have signed the Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities, a voluntary commitment to promoting sustainable development and social responsibility through educational programs, scientific research, and university governance.</p> <p>The University is also actively involved in the development of Western Pacific University (WPU) in Papua New Guinea. Established five years ago, WPU has collaborated closely with UITM since 2019. This partnership encompasses student education, curriculum development, academic staff training, student and staff exchanges for academic, research, and internship purposes, as well as support in developing modern IT infrastructure. On 11 April 2025, a UITM delegation comprising Prof. A. Rozmus, PhD, Habil., Rector of UITM, Prof. K. Szocik, PhD, Habil., Vice-Rector for Research and International Cooperation, and L. Hajder, Director of the IT Division, participated in the first graduation ceremony of Western Pacific University graduates.</p> <p>At the regional level, Prof. A. Rozmus, PhD, Habil., Rector of UITM, together with the rectors of higher education institutions in the Podkarpackie region, signed the declaration establishing the Podkarpackie Council of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions. The Council was created at the initiative of the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship in January 2025 to strengthen cooperation among regional universities.</p>	<p>In June 2024, UITM joined the European Universities Initiative. Together with eight partner institutions, the University is implementing the project Smaller (Strategic) Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution (SUNRISE). UITM's partners are primarily technical universities with extensive experience in international research projects, including the Horizon Europe program.</p> <p>Through the SUNRISE alliance, UITM became part of the European Universities community, a network of higher education institutions committed to advancing European values through education, research, innovation, and international cooperation. Together with its partners, the University is developing a model of collaboration that supports the sustainable development of local and regional communities. The beneficiaries of the project include students, academic and administrative staff, as well as external stakeholders and the wider community surrounding the University.</p> <p>Currently, more than 60 European University Alliances operate across Europe, with Polish higher education institutions participating in more than 30 of them. Approximately 30 Polish universities are members of these alliances, including only four non-public universities, one of which is UITM. Furthermore, UITM is the only university from the Podkarpackie region participating in the European Universities Initiative.</p>
<p> 242nd position in the world ranking and 2nd in Poland</p>	<p> PRME initiative Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities Partnership with Western Pacific University Podkarpackie Council of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions</p>	<p> UITM is the only University from the Podkarpackie region and one of four non-public Universities among all University alliances</p>