

## Annual Report of SDGs for 2024

### Introduction

The University of West Attica (UNIWA) has strategically aligned its institutional mission and operational framework with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and periodically reviews its strategic plan to ensure alignment, integrating measurable key performance indicators and evidence-based targets. As a leading public institution in Greece, UNIWA has comprehensively embedded the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its core functions—from its academic curricula and pioneering research to community engagement, governance and campus operations. This report provides a detailed goal-by-goal analysis of UNIWA's contributions in 2024 and outlines future initiatives, presenting verifiable indicators, data sources and boundaries to demonstrate its holistic and profound commitment to creating a sustainable, equitable and prosperous future. It distinguishes between achievements realized in the reporting year and planned initiatives for subsequent years.

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### SDG 1: No Poverty

**Strategic Initiatives and Programs:** UNIWA offers free undergraduate programs and selected MSc and lifelong learning courses to ensure that financial constraints do not impede access to quality education ([link](#), [link](#)). Furthermore, UNIWA's research and academic focus on work-relevant skills in high-demand sectors (e.g., digital technologies, engineering, data & geospatial analytics) equips graduates with the competencies needed to secure decent, well-paid employment, supporting local and national economic growth. Illustratively, the ERODITE initiative (2024–2025) promotes Earth Observation (EO) and geospatial education across Arab States; it aligns curricula with labour-market needs to improve graduate employability. For transparency, eligibility criteria and data sources for fee waivers and financial support will be cited via official UNIWA policies ([link](#)).

#### Community Engagement:

- Conducted targeted workshops and conferences with local authorities to foster entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise creation and economic self-sufficiency in disadvantaged areas ([link](#)).
- Provided needs-based housing allowances, meal plans, and public-transport subsidies to students in financial hardship, reducing barriers to education.

#### Impact Metrics:

- **Beneficiaries:** Supported over 5,000 students through financial aid and benefits ([link](#), [link](#), [link](#), [link](#)).
  - **Outreach Impact:** More than 15 public events impacting over 10,000 community members.
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### SDG 2: Zero Hunger

**Nutrition and Food Security Programs:** UNIWA offers comprehensive meal plans for students based on financial criteria, ensuring accessibility to nutritious food ([link](#)). The university emphasizes diverse dietary needs, including vegetarian and allergen-free meals ([link](#)). UNIWA contributes to the pursuit of zero hunger through its academic excellence and cutting-edge research in food science and technology. The [Department of Food Science and Technology](#) is at the forefront of this effort, conducting research that addresses critical challenges in food security, quality, and sustainable production. The **reLees** project ([R&D eHub School of Food Sciences page](#)), a research initiative for 2025, investigates the circular economy within the wine industry by exploring new uses for wine byproducts. Another ongoing project from 2024, **ROSEHAM** ([R&D eHub School of Food Sciences page](#)), focuses on the sustainable utilization of aromatic herb residues to produce high-value extracts for the food industry.

#### Sustainability in Food Distribution:

- Surplus food from university dining facilities is collected, safety-checked, and distributed daily to local social-support structures, reducing waste and enhancing community food security ([link](#)).

#### Results and Impact:

- **Annual Meal Distribution:** Over 2 million meals provided to students.

- **Community Assistance:** Daily food donations benefiting over 1,000 individuals in need. Projects directly contribute to reducing food waste and improving the efficiency of the food value chain, aligning with the principles of zero hunger.
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### SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

**Health-focused Academic and Community Programs:** UNIWA's seven health-related academic departments promote comprehensive education and community outreach, including postgraduate and doctoral research programs ([link](#)). The university hosts a distinguished **MSc in "Public Health"**, which trains future professionals in disease prevention and health promotion. The program's legacy as the former National School of Public Health underscores its long-standing commitment to improving community health. The **MELODIC** project, a 2025 initiative, promotes the mental health and well-being of young adults with cancer and their loved ones, demonstrating the university's direct involvement in addressing public health challenges. More information on this and other public health initiatives can be found on the [R&D eHub School of Public Health page](#). Collaborative partnerships extend these health initiatives to wider public health efforts ([link](#)).

#### Campus Health Services:

- On-campus medical and psychological support accessible daily to students and staff ([link](#)).
- University-wide smoke-free policy rigorously enforced, reinforced by cessation support services (counseling and pharmacotherapy guidance) and targeted educational campaigns([link](#)).

#### Key Achievements:

- **Counseling and Support:** Services used by over 3,500 students.
  - **Collaborative Health Campaigns:** Co-designed and delivered with regional health authorities, reaching thousands of participants through evidence-based education and screening activities ([link](#), [link](#), [link](#)).
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### SDG 4: Quality Education

**Commitment to Access and Excellence:** UNIWA provides free, inclusive, and publicly accessible educational resources to both students and the wider community, including library services, open online courses, and on-campus computing facilities ([link](#)). Lifelong learning initiatives cover various fields (e.g., digital skills, sustainability, health, and entrepreneurship) to enhance knowledge and skills in critical areas like technology and sustainability ([link](#)). The **READCO.AI** project for 2024-2025 uses artificial intelligence and storytelling to enhance reading comprehension and promote awareness of the 17 SDGs among language learners, including immigrant students. This project, which combines state-of-the-art AI technology with a unique visual pedagogy, exemplifies UNIWA's innovative approach to education. You can learn more about this initiative on the [READCO.AI project page](#)

#### Outreach and Engagement:

- Delivered targeted educational programs for local schools and community groups, fostering inclusive, cross-disciplinary learning experiences and teacher professional development. ([link](#), [link](#)).

#### Metrics and Growth:

- **Participation Increase:** Enrollment in lifelong learning programs grew by 20%, benefiting over 2,000 community members.
  - **Public Educational Events:** Engaged over 5,000 attendees in workshops and seminars.
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### SDG 5: Gender Equality

**Policies and Progress:** UNIWA upholds gender equality by monitoring and ensuring equitable participation in all university activities. The Gender Equality Committee actively submits annual plans and oversees the implementation of gender policies ([link](#)). The Gender Equality Committee actively submits annual plans and oversees the implementation of gender policies ([link](#)). UNIWA implements a formal Gender Equality Plan (GEP) aligned with European good-practice standards, including clear governance, time-bound actions, and

public reporting of progress. Core measures include bias-aware recruitment and promotion procedures (gender-balanced shortlists and panels where feasible, structured interviews, and audited criteria), annual equal-pay reviews with remediation plans, and minimum representation thresholds for decision-making bodies. Training on gender mainstreaming, unconscious bias, and harassment prevention is mandatory for managers, selection committees, and student representatives.

The ERODITE project, an initiative active in 2024, also addresses gender equality by encouraging gender equity in the field of Earth Observation (EO) and geospatial information, a sector where there is a notable gender gap. UNIWA embeds gender-inclusive curricula and mentoring in EO/Geospatial programs (summer schools, role-model talks, targeted scholarships), and monitors female participation and progression to ensure impact beyond visibility. By raising awareness and updating curricula to be more inclusive, UNIWA works to ensure that opportunities are available to all, regardless of gender, with measurable participation and attainment indicators reported annually.

**Safe and Inclusive Campus:** UNIWA enforces a zero-tolerance policy on gender-based violence and harassment, supported by confidential reporting channels, survivor-centred protocols, trained investigation teams, and bystander-intervention campaigns. Codes of conduct apply to teaching, research, placements, and fieldwork; annual climate surveys inform targeted improvements.

#### **Family Support Services:**

Comprehensive childcare facilities for staff and students facilitate full participation in university life. Additional supports include lactation rooms, flexible/remote-work arrangements (where duties permit), equitable parental leave for all genders, and structured return-to-work pathways for caregivers.

#### **Achievements and Ongoing Actions:**

- **Governance & Compliance:** Annual Gender Equality Plan delivered with KPIs, responsibilities, and timelines; progress reviewed by the Senate/Leadership and publicly summarized.
- **Representation:** Improved gender balance on committees and selection panels; systematic tracking of participation in leadership programs and promotions.
- **Culture & Safety:** Harassment-prevention training completed by priority staff groups; confidential reporting usage tracked and response times audited.
- **STEM Pipeline:** ERODITE-linked mentoring and outreach increased women's participation in EO/Geospatial learning activities; follow-up tracking established to monitor retention and advancement.

#### **Data and Transparency:**

- **Data Monitoring:** Gender distribution data submitted to the Hellenic Statistical Authority for continuous oversight (corresponding data have been collected and sent to the Hellenic Statistical Authority for the previous year but have not yet been posted as they are still being processed).
- **Actionable Equity:** Ongoing programs promoting balanced gender representation and participation.

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### **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**

**Water Conservation Measures:** UNIWA has implemented measures to conserve water, such as replacing conventional water taps with photocell-operated systems and installing advanced flushing systems to minimize water usage. In addition, UNIWA is rolling out low-flow fixtures in high-use areas, optimising irrigation schedules for green spaces, and deploying smart metering and leak-detection checks on priority buildings to reduce non-revenue water. Operational targets for 2024 include documenting campus-wide installation coverage, establishing a 2023 baseline, and reporting percentage reductions in potable-water consumption and sanitary-flush volumes by building cluster. The **DarWEN** project, an ongoing initiative, specifically addresses the challenges of water and energy supply in isolated communities, developing an integrated, data-driven management platform (sensors, demand forecasting, and energy-aware pumping) to support reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services; project outputs (technical pilots, toolkits) will be referenced to evidence external impact ([project website](#)). Academically, the [Laboratory of Geoenvironmental Science and Environmental Quality Assurance](#) within the [Department of Civil Engineering](#) conducts vital research in water quality assessment, soil contamination, and remediation (e.g., monitoring of physico-chemical and microbiological parameters, hydrogeochemical modelling, risk assessment, and nature-based remediation trials). Curricular links

(capstone projects, MSc/PhD theses) and community-facing workshops translate this research into practice for municipalities and utilities.

#### **Awareness and Community Engagement:**

- Plans for water treatment and recycling projects have been initiated, with community workshops to promote responsible water use.

#### **Results:**

- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Photocell taps and modern flush systems installed across all campuses.
- **Future Goals:** Expand water-saving initiatives and initiate water recycling studies in collaboration with local bodies.

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### **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**

**Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Initiatives:** UNIWA has implemented energy-saving projects, including the integration of solar panels and wind turbines, significantly reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources ([link](#)). The **GENERA** project, a LIFE Clean Energy Transition program active until April 2025, aims to accelerate the energy transition in European touristic island municipalities. This initiative uses a serious game based on **blockchain technology** to educate citizens on renewable energy sources. The university's research also includes projects on **Intelligent Comfort Control & Occupancy Prediction in Buildings**, which use AI to optimize HVAC systems and minimize energy consumption. This focus on technological advancement is integral to the university's commitment to clean energy, as evidenced by the [GENERA project page](#)

#### **Achievements:**

- **Carbon Footprint:** Reduced from 6,400 tons in 2018 to 4,925 tons in 2024.
- **Energy Use:** Over 40% of campus energy sourced from renewables ([link](#)).

**Community Impact:** Collaborated with governmental entities on sustainable energy projects that benefit the local community ([link](#)).

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### **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

**Workplace Policies and Support:** UNIWA guarantees fair, safe, and non-discriminatory work conditions through a codified framework that includes equal-opportunity recruitment, audited equal-pay reviews ("equal work–equal value"), clear anti-harassment provisions with confidential reporting, and systematic health-and-safety (H&S) monitoring across campuses. Transparent, merit-based recruitment is reinforced by structured interviews, calibrated rubrics, and gender-balanced panels where feasible, while accessibility accommodations are available throughout the employee and student-intern lifecycle.

**Talent Development & Internships:** UNIWA operates an institution-wide internship framework aligned with programme learning outcomes, ensuring paid placements where possible, formal supervision and assessment, and employer feedback loops. Career services provide mentoring, CV/portfolio clinics, mock interviews, and employer showcases; graduate tracking covers placement rates, median time-to-employment, and job-quality indicators (contract type, salary band, role relevance).

**Entrepreneurship & Innovation:** Through competitive seed funds, IP advisory, and streamlined licensing pathways, UNIWA supports spin-offs, start-ups, and staff–student ventures, prioritising solutions with societal and green impact. Industry partnerships are managed under clear collaboration and data-governance agreements, with KPIs such as joint publications, TRL progression, pilot deployments, and follow-on funding.

**AI Innovation Hub (Digital Productivity & Jobs):** UNIWA's AI Innovation Hub provides production-grade compute, secure data environments, and expert mentoring to accelerate AI-enabled solutions across sectors (health, manufacturing, culture/creative industries, public services). The Hub functions as a bridge from research to market—scouting use-cases with employers, supporting capstones and theses with real datasets, and facilitating placements for AI-literate graduates ([UNIWA AI Innovation Hub](#)).

**Reskilling/Upkilling (Workforce Readiness):** Continuous professional development (CPD) offers modular micro-credentials in digital skills (AI literacy, data analytics, cybersecurity), project management, and regulatory compliance. PRAXIS (2025) is a forward-looking, simulation-based training platform for worker empowerment, included here to demonstrate strategic direction; it is not counted in 2024 impact totals ([R&D eHub School of Engineering page](#)).

**Responsible Procurement & Local Economic Impact:** Where compatible with EU rules, procurement encourages SME participation and local supplier engagement, with compliance, integrity, and environmental criteria embedded in tender documentation.

**Key Initiatives:**

- Full compliance with labour standards and H&S regulations; periodic audits and remediation plans published at summary level.
- Entrepreneurship and innovation supported via seed funding, tech-transfer services, and structured industry research partnerships ([link](#)).
- Expanded paid internship pathways with regional employers and public agencies, aligned to study-programme outcomes and quality-assured.
- CPD and micro-credentials recorded on learner transcripts to document employability skills.

**Outcomes:**

- **Employment Programs:** >1,000 quality-assured student internships facilitated (learning objectives, supervision, evaluation documented).
- **Innovation Growth:** Co-developed prototypes and pilots with industry partners, evidenced by TRL advancement, joint outputs, and where applicable, venture formation.
- **Graduate Employability:** Career-service KPIs tracked (placement rate at 6–12 months, median time-to-employment, job-quality metrics); summary statistics will be reported with definitions and boundaries.

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**SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure**

**Research and Development:** UNIWA is equipped with a Special Account for Research Funds that supports innovation and applied research ([link](#)). Collaborations with private and public sectors aim to translate research into practical solutions. The university is in the process of transforming itself into a "**smart campus**," where ICT is integrated into every aspect of its operations. The **EMISSION** IoT network for environmental monitoring is a prime example of this approach. Another is the **ILSaS+** system ([link](#)), which provides a unified, efficient platform for library management. The [UNIWA AI Innovation Hub](#) serves as a cornerstone of this strategy, providing the necessary cloud computing and AI infrastructure to support advanced research and innovation. This focus on technological advancement not only improves the university's own infrastructure but also positions it as a key partner for industry and government in the development of sustainable, innovative solutions.

**Infrastructure Enhancements:**

- Invested in modernizing research labs and facilities to promote advanced studies and sustainable development ([link](#)).

**Achievements:**

- **Projects Funded:** Over 50 projects focusing on sustainability and innovation.
- **Community and Industrial Partnerships:** Engaged in partnerships to facilitate knowledge transfer and technological advancement.

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**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

**Inclusive Educational Access:** UNIWA guarantees equitable access for students from all backgrounds—including persons with disabilities, migrants, and low-income learners—through codified policies on non-discrimination, reasonable accommodations, and targeted financial support ([link](#), [link](#)). Admissions and student-

support schemes are designed to remove financial, linguistic, and accessibility barriers, with transparent eligibility criteria and annual public summaries. The READCO.AI project (2024–2025) leverages AI-assisted, narrative-driven learning to strengthen reading comprehension for diverse learners, including immigrant students; as a forward-looking initiative, it evidences strategic direction and is not counted in 2024 impact totals ([link](#), [link](#)). Beyond teaching, UNIWA addresses disparities via applied research and policy engagement that translate into inclusive campus design, services, and digital environments.

**Disability Inclusion & Accessibility:** Dedicated disability support services provide individual learning plans, assistive technologies, alternative assessment formats, note-taking and interpreting services, and accessible transport/room allocation, aligned to recognised standards. Campus and digital accessibility follow universal-design principles (e.g., step-free routes, tactile signage, induction loops, lift retrofits; WCAG-aligned e-learning and websites), with periodic audits and remediation timelines.

**Financial Inclusion & Socio-economic Support:** Targeted scholarships, meal plans, housing allowances, and transport subsidies reduce cost-of-attendance for low-income students; take-up rates and coverage are monitored to ensure proportional support for the most disadvantaged. Bridging and foundation modules (digital skills, academic writing, Greek/English for academic purposes) further close attainment gaps.

**Language, Integration, and Belonging:** Language-support clinics, peer mentoring, and intercultural advising address the needs of international and immigrant learners, with clear referral pathways to counseling and legal-aid partners where appropriate. Student associations and staff training foster an inclusive climate, focusing on anti-bias practice and respectful communication.

**Research & Policy Impact (Civil Engineering and beyond):** Research groups in Civil Engineering analyse transport accessibility and inclusive urban design (wayfinding, pedestrian safety, public-transport reachability, and multimodal interchanges) to inform municipal planning for persons with disabilities and older adults. Outputs include open datasets, accessibility scorecards, and decision-support tools that help cities align infrastructure with universal-design standards.

#### Key Initiatives:

- Systematic accessibility audits across priority buildings and digital platforms, with logged fixes and deadlines.
- Scaled delivery of reasonable accommodations (assistive tech loans, accessible formats, exam accommodations) with service-level tracking.
- Targeted financial-aid packages for low-income cohorts, with coverage and adequacy indicators.
- Language-support hours and participation in integration workshops for international/immigrant learners, with progression monitoring.

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### SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

**Integration and Access:** UNIWA ensures open, equitable access to campus green spaces, sports facilities, and libraries through codified policies, clearly published opening hours, and transparent access rules for local residents ([link](#), [link](#)). Campus planning follows universal-design and “15-minute campus” principles—walkability, safe cycling routes, wayfinding for persons with disabilities, and integrated public-transport connections—so that academic and community uses can co-exist without conflict. The MSc in “Sustainable Development” (specialisation in Local Development and Smart Cities) embeds real-world studio projects with municipalities and regional agencies, training graduates to design resilient, inclusive, low-carbon urban systems.

**Urban Mobility and Infrastructure:** UNIWA co-develops evidence-based mobility solutions with local authorities, including low-emission fleets, micro-mobility hubs, safe cycling corridors, and data-driven parking management. The PARSMO project (2025) advances sustainable parking policies for shared mobility; as a forward-looking initiative, it demonstrates strategic direction and is not counted in 2024 totals (see [R&D eHub website](#)). Where appropriate, campus pilots (e-buses, EV charging, curb-space optimisation) serve as living labs that generate transferable guidance for cities.

#### Collaborative Urban Projects:

- Partnered with municipal authorities to develop eco-friendly transportation solutions, such as electric buses, and support sustainable urban planning ([link](#), [link](#), [link](#))

#### Outreach and Cultural Engagement:

- Hosted art exhibitions, workshops, and community festivals to foster cultural appreciation and sustainable development ([link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#), [link](#), [link](#))
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## SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

**Sustainable Practices:** UNIWA promotes responsible consumption through a campus-wide waste-prevention hierarchy (avoid → reduce → reuse → repair → recycle → recover), codified in institutional guidelines and operational SOPs ([link](#) , [link](#)). Digital-first administration and teaching materially reduce print demand (secure e-signatures, e-transcripts, e-tendering), while Print-as-a-Service with user quotas and default duplex/greyscale curbs residual paper use. Vendor contracts embed circularity clauses (re-use, repair, take-back, recycled content, and packaging minimisation) and require end-of-life stewardship for equipment and consumables.

**Circular Curriculum & Research:** The [MSc in “Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies”](#) anchors a practice-based pathway (design for disassembly, LCA/Scope 3 basics, circular business models), with studio projects in real supply chains. The [reLees project](#) (2025) explores valorisation of wine-industry by-products as high-value ingredients—presented here as forward-looking and excluded from 2024 totals—while 2024 projects prioritise food-system circularity and industrial symbiosis within the region.

### Campus Operations (Materials & Waste):

- Waste audits identify major streams (paper/card, plastics, organics, glass, metals, e-waste, lab waste). Stream-specific SOPs and colour-coded stations standardise segregation at point of use.
- Organics management pilots (canteens/green waste) enable on- or near-site treatment; supplier agreements reduce single-use items and packaging.
- Facilities Management tracks collection weights and contamination rates with corrective actions and user feedback loops.

**Hazardous & Laboratory Stewardship:** Green Lab protocols (inventory control, micro-scale experiments, solvent substitution, fume-hood efficiency checks) reduce hazardous inputs at source. Chemical inventory systems enable “first-in/first-out,” sharing across labs, and compliant disposal; accredited contractors handle hazardous/clinical waste with full chain-of-custody documentation.

**ICT & E-waste:** Device life-extension (refurbish/repair, parts harvesting) precedes certified recycling; procurement specifies energy-efficient, modular, and repairable equipment with vendor take-back.

**Construction, Maintenance & Grounds:** Minor works specify recycled aggregates, low-VOC finishes, FSC/PEFC timber, and end-of-life plans; contractors report diversion rates for construction & demolition (C&D) waste. Landscape management prioritises native species and mulch cycles that reduce inputs and waste.

**Food & Catering:** Sustainable catering standards (menu engineering, portion-size calibration, surplus redistribution agreements, reusable service-ware) lower upstream impacts and plate waste; supplier specs favour seasonal and responsibly sourced produce.

**Community & Industry Engagement:** UNIWA co-runs repair cafés, swap events, and circular-skills workshops with municipalities and SMEs; guidance notes translate campus pilots into adoptable practices for local organizations

### Campus Initiatives:

- Targeted waste-reduction campaigns co-designed with students and staff; visual feedback on diversion and contamination at building level.
- MoUs with local authorities and accredited operators for plastics, paper/card, glass, metals, organics, e-waste, and hazardous-waste pathways.

### Achievements:

- **Paper Reduction:** 50% decrease in paper use through digitalization.
  - **Community Involvement:** Organized workshops on sustainability and responsible consumption.
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## SDG 13: Climate Action

**Climate Initiatives and Research:** UNIWA focuses on energy conservation and renewable energy adoption, reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability within and beyond the campus ([link](#)). Research projects like **EMISSION** use an **IoT network of sensors** to monitor air pollution, providing vital data for climate action and policy-making. This project, detailed on the [EDML lab page](#), demonstrates the university's role in applied climate science. Furthermore, UNIWA's involvement in the **GENERA** project, which focuses on the clean energy transition on European islands, highlights its commitment to fostering broader climate action

**Research Contributions:** University-led research on renewable energy has facilitated community projects, such as the solar charging station installation on Tilos island, benefiting local residents ([link](#)).

### Achievements:

- **Renewable Energy Use:** More than 40% of energy consumption powered by renewable sources.
  - **Educational Outreach:** Awareness campaigns on climate responsibility reached wide audiences.
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## SDG 14: Life Below Water

**Marine Conservation Efforts:** UNIWA raises awareness about reducing plastic use and protecting aquatic ecosystems through campaigns and voluntary beach clean-up activities. The [Laboratory of Geoenvironmental Science and Environmental Quality Assurance](#) within the [Department of Civil Engineering](#) conducts studies on water quality, soil contamination, and remediation, which are essential for protecting coastal waters from industrial runoff and other pollutants. The university's research activities provide valuable data and expertise to local authorities and environmental organizations, contributing to the sustainable management of marine resources. The research focus on water management and environmental protection is part of the curriculum of its [postgraduate studies](#)

### Sustainability Measures:

- Ensured waste disposal practices prevent contamination of water bodies.
- Monitored water quality and controlled raw materials used in campus dining.

### Results:

- **Community Involvement:** Over 500 students participated in clean-up events.
  - **Reduced Plastic Use:** Campus-wide initiatives led to a 30% reduction in single-use plastics.
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## SDG 15: Life on Land

**Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management:** UNIWA's departments focus on sustainable land practices through specialized programs and workshops ([link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#))

### Collaborative Actions:

- Partnerships with local institutions for reforestation and land restoration projects.
- Educational campaigns to promote awareness of biodiversity protection.

### Key Results:

- **Tree Planting Initiatives:** Planted over 1,000 trees in partnership with local environmental groups.
  - **Workshops:** Conducted 15+ workshops on sustainable land management ([link](#))
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## SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

**Governance and Transparency:** UNIWA operates under democratically elected governance with clearly defined mandates for leadership bodies, published statutes/regulations, and publicly accessible decisions/minutes ([link](#)). Integrity is safeguarded through the [Quality Assurance Unit \(MODIP\)](#) and the **Strategic Planning Unit** complemented by internal-control processes (risk register, compliance calendar), independent audit/oversight functions, and systematic performance reviews. Procurement follows transparent, competitive procedures via e-procurement systems with open award notices and conflict-of-interest (COI) declarations for all evaluation panels ([link](#), [link](#)). Whistleblowing channels are confidential, non-retaliatory, and time-bound for follow-up; annual summary reports (anonymised) document allegations, investigations, and remediation. Budget and spending summaries are published at a high level, and key administrative datasets (where lawful) are released via an open-data page to enable public scrutiny ([link](#)).

**Academic Freedom, Ethics, and Integrity:** UNIWA upholds academic freedom consistent with national law and institutional codes of conduct ([link](#), [link](#)). Research integrity is enforced through ethics approvals, data-management plans (GDPR-compliant), mandatory COI disclosures, authorship and contributorship standards, and similarity-checking for theses/publications ([link](#)). All supervisors, principal investigators, and committee members complete periodic training in research ethics, data protection, AI-use in research/teaching, and responsible publication practices. Student assessment integrity is supported by calibrated rubrics, second marking/moderation where appropriate, and transparent appeal procedures with due-process safeguards.

**Rule-of-Law & EU Values Education:** By integrating civic and ethical dimensions into curricula (e.g., public-health ethics, engineering ethics, AI governance), UNIWA builds democratic competences across disciplines. [READCO.AI](#) (2024–2025) promotes common EU values and media/information literacy through AI-enhanced, narrative learning; as a forward-looking initiative, it evidences strategic direction and is not counted in 2024 totals (see project site). Policy roundtables, public lectures, and staff training with public authorities and NGOs translate research into practice on justice, anti-corruption, and social inclusion.

**Safe, Fair, and Responsive Institutions:** A Student Advocate/Ombuds-style service provides independent, confidential advice and mediation; grievance and appeal pathways have published SLAs and outcome templates. Harassment and discrimination policies adopt a survivor-centred approach with protected-disclosure options, trained investigators, and restorative/disciplinary routes as appropriate. Cybersecurity and privacy are addressed through a designated DPO function, privacy notices, DPIAs for high-risk systems, incident-response plans, and staff/student awareness campaigns. Emergency-preparedness (civil protection) includes drills, continuity plans, and crisis communications protocols coordinated with local authorities.

### Community Engagement:

- Co-designed training with municipalities and public bodies on ethics, transparency, open-data literacy, and evidence-based policy ([link](#), [link](#)).
- Technical assistance to local governments on inclusive consultation methods and accessibility of official information ([link](#), [link](#)).
- Public dialogues and youth forums hosted on campus to strengthen civic participation and trust in institutions ([link](#), [link](#)).

### Achievements:

- **Ethical Guidelines:** Full compliance with Greek academic regulations ([link](#), [link](#))
- **Student Associations:** Support for recognized student groups in promoting dialogue and inclusivity ([link](#))
- **External Expert Committees:** Academic departments of the University have external expert committees, which perform an advisory role in the formulation of the curriculum ([link](#))

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## SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

**Strategic Approach to Partnerships:** UNIWA fosters an extensive network of local and international collaborations to amplify its impact on the SDGs. Partnerships are governed by a clear framework (Memoranda of Understanding, role matrices, data-sharing/ethics clauses, and outcome-based KPIs) to ensure purpose alignment, equity, and measurable impact. A central coordination node (R&D eHub with the Strategic Planning Unit) oversees pipeline management, due diligence, and monitoring & evaluation (M&E) of SDG-linked collaborations.

### Local and National Collaborations:

- **Policy Partnerships:** Worked closely with local and national governments to co-design evidence-based policies on energy, waste, water, and mobility, with time-bound implementation roadmaps and joint progress reviews ([link](#)).
- **Community Programs:** Collaborations with NGOs and local agencies to deliver co-created workshops and pilot projects in public health, education, and circular practices, embedding open educational resources (OER) for replication ([link](#)).

### International Partnerships:

- **Research Initiatives:** Participation in EU-funded programs (e.g., Horizon Europe consortia), mission-oriented alliances, and global academic networks to scale joint research and demonstrators in clean energy, food systems, AI for social good, and resilience ([link](#), [link](#)).
- **Global Recognition:** Active participation and transparent data submission to THE Impact Rankings and UI GreenMetric, using the feedback to adjust targets and strengthen cross-institutional learning loops ([link](#)).

### Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:

- **Workshops and Conferences:** Hosted >30 multi-stakeholder workshops, roundtables, and train-the-trainer sessions on sustainability governance, community health, and digital inclusion ([link](#)). Outputs (toolkits, policy briefs, open datasets) are published for external reuse ([link](#)).
- **Cultural Events:** Organized co-curated art and cultural programs with local artists and civic groups to connect heritage, inclusion, and sustainability, improving civic participation and place-based awareness ([link](#)).

### Partnership Quality & Safeguards

- **Equity & Inclusion:** Partnership charters include equity, accessibility, and benefit-sharing provisions, with gender and inclusion metrics tracked in projects.
- **Data & Ethics:** Standard data-sharing agreements, GDPR-compliant DMPs, and conflict-of-interest declarations are required for all strategic collaborations.
- **Open Science & Replicability:** Preprints, open code/data (where lawful), and replication packages are encouraged to accelerate diffusion and scale-up.

### Outcomes and Future Directions:

- **Expanding Partnerships:** Plans to initiate new collaborations with international universities and NGOs for expanded global impact ([link](#)).
- **Research and Impact:** Secured funding for 10+ major research projects focusing on sustainability, health, and renewable energy (<https://rdehub.uniwa.gr/en/homepage/>).