



University : University of Pécs
Country : Hungary

SDG17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

17,2 Relationships to support the goals

17.2.1. Relationships with regional NGOs and government for SDG policy

Does your university have direct involvement in, or input into, national government or regional nongovernment organisations SDG policy development - including identifying problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures with and without interventions, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management? Yes.

The **National Energy and Climate Plan** and the **National Energy Strategy** give priority to decarbonization targets. In order for Hungary to become a winner in the "green economy", it is necessary to create a knowledge base and competence centre that will enable domestic economic actors to be competitive in the field of various decarbonisation technologies. A new national laboratory will bring together and stimulate domestic research and development in the field of renewable energies. The University of Pécs has launched a project with nine consortium partners. This is the **National Laboratory for Renewable Energy**, which, under the leadership of the University of Pécs, is the third priority national-level organization contributing to Hungary's development after the National Laboratory on Human Reproduction and National Laboratory of Virology. The "National Laboratory for Renewable Energy" project is being implemented under the Széchenyi Plan Plus program, with two main thematic areas: hydrogen technologies and carbon dioxide recovery. The National Laboratory for Renewable Energy will lay the scientific, technological, legal, economic and industrial foundations for low-carbon energy technologies, in particular H₂ production, transport, storage, use and CO₂ recovery. The two technology clusters can play a significant role in sector integration, strengthening domestic security of supply and achieving decarbonization targets, working in parallel and complementing each other.

The strategy for the Hydrogen Centre, a new, independent organisational unit created through the Laboratory tender, has been developed. The definition of the main development directions and specific objectives has made it possible to direct the work of the research groups towards common goals with new momentum and in an organised manner. When developing the strategy, the UP paid particular attention to defining R&D&I activities that are relevant to industrial needs, practical in nature and support service competence through research and development. Taking into account the specific characteristics of hydrogen technologies and domestic conditions, and exploiting the university's competencies, two main strategic directions emerged. The first strategic direction is the "infrastructure technology development" competence, which includes all projects aimed at the technical and economic modelling, design and integration of hydrogen technology infrastructure into the entire value chain, whether for system balancing or mobility purposes. The second strategic direction is "energy container" product development, which begins with prototype production and aims to develop a scalable, modular hydrogen energy storage system at the product level. The work of the Hydrogen Centre is carried out at three faculties (Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, Faculty of Sciences) and within several research groups.

Tettye Forrásház Ltd. and the **Hydrogen Centre of the University of Pécs** have signed a cooperation agreement on the innovative H₂ project, which investigates the cascading use of



hydrogen technologies. Under the partnership agreement, the utility provider and the University's Department of Hydrogen Economy will jointly evaluate the possibilities of integrating hydrogen solutions into water and energy systems.

In the field of energy, the university is actively involved in international cooperation and project development:

- The **H2SCALE** project aims to develop scalable, green hydrogen-based economic models in the Danube region.
- led by the University of Amsterdam **SUSGREEN Clean Energy Transition Partnership**, in which the UP will investigate the replacement of grey hydrogen with green hydrogen in next-generation biofuel production processes.

Sustainable energy sources and hydrogen technology were the focus of the Simonyi Hackathon, a student ideas competition organized by the **UP BEDC Business Development Centre**. The 21 participating teams had to develop an educational campaign and concept for the use of alternative energy sources. Corporate partners also took part in the event, supporting the teams as experts. Students from all faculties of the University of Pécs were represented in the competition.

The sustainability principles of the University of Pécs are in line with the guidelines of **the National Waste Management Plan (2021–2027)**, which aim to reduce consumption and waste production, as well as to repair, reuse and recycle worn-out products. The University organizes its waste management according to the 5R principle (refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle), while the quantity and quality of waste generated is playing an increasingly important role in its procurement. The UP Green University website shares tips, best practices, infographics and links on how to reduce waste production in everyday life.

All types of waste generated on campus are collected, transported and professionally treated in accordance with the current Hungarian waste management law and regulations, through a contractual partner (MOHU). The European Union has laid down strict guidelines stipulating that as much of the waste generated in Member States as possible should be recycled so that it can enter the circular economy.

The University of Pécs' sustainability and waste management measures for 2024-2025 focus on increasing the rate of selective waste collection and selling secondary raw materials recovered from waste, which is beneficial not only from an environmental but also from an economic point of view.

In 2019, the University of Pécs became the first Hungarian higher education institution to stop purchasing plastic bottled water and drinks, becoming a **PET-free PTE**. Instead, it installed free water filling stations and balloon water dispensers, **with more than 500 "water islands" now available**. In parallel with the development of infrastructure, the UP places great emphasis on raising awareness and changing attitudes. The "Bring your own water bottle, and refill it!" campaigns encourage students and staff to switch from single-use plastic bottles to reusable bottles, promoting sustainable water consumption practices and reducing plastic waste.

More than 40% of the University of Pécs's campuses are covered with vegetation. Not only is the expansion of green spaces a priority for the university, but so is the regular maintenance of its parks. **Although the possibilities for afforestation are limited due to the geographical conditions, the University of Pécs still considers the further increase of the proportion of areas covered with vegetation and trees to be a strategic goal.** In the area of green space



maintenance, the Green Group replaced the previously felled trees in 2024 as part of the afforestation program.

The UP has signed an agreement with Mecsekerdő Ltd. with the aim of establishing long-term cooperation in line with the UN's 17 sustainable development goals, primarily through **joint tree planting programmes** and measures to keep **forests clean** [18]. The stylish celebration of World Forest Day was a project carried out in cooperation between the UP Green University Program and Mecsekerdő Ltd. in which a total of 400 oak trees were planted by university citizens and Mecsekerdő Ltd. employees.

Nearly fifty people collected rubbish in the Mecsek as part of the UP Green University programme . The campaign involved pupils from the UP-Affiliated Elementary School and High School No.1 , as well as staff from the Chancellery, the Teacher Training Centre, the University Library and Knowledge Centre, the Green University Program and Mecsekerdő Ltd..

The **YouPick! Volunteer for a Clean Hungary** program, Hungary's largest volunteer litter collection campaign, was held for the 12th time. As in previous years, the UP practice schools also took part in this noble initiative, following the philosophy of the UP Green University Program. The main goal of the campaign is to raise awareness among children, parents and teachers about the importance of environmental protection. The school students enthusiastically cleaned the surrounding streets and, as a result of their work, removed several bags of household waste from the area. At the same time, the joint litter collection increased the children's awareness and made them realise that they must work together for the environment.

The UP College for Sustainable Development, in cooperation with Green University Program of the UP, launched the **UP Bird-Friendly University** program, which involved installing bird feeders and birdhouses with unique graphics created by students, and bat boxes promoting ecological diversity in the park of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology the University of Pécs, which was awarded the **Bird-Friendly Workplace** title for adapting the institution to a bird-friendly environment. The faculty's teachers, staff and students will monitor and maintain the birdhouses in the future, and will continuously feed the birds during the winter. The creation of a bird-friendly workplace does not end there; there are plans to install other types of birdhouses in the future so that even more species can become useful "property occupiers". Bird baths, insect and bee hotels, and snail hotels will also be installed in the institution's park to maintain ecological balance.

The water management measures and initiatives of the University of Pécs are in line with national and global sustainability policies and contribute directly to the achievement of sustainable development goals. Sustainable water use and water management are of paramount importance to the University of Pécs. It pays particular attention to reducing water consumption, water conservation, water recycling programs and habitat protection. Landscape architecture projects favour the planting of drought-tolerant and native plant species, further supporting long-term water conservation goals. One of the main goals of the University of Pécs' water management measures is to increase water conservation, which includes the ongoing replacement and maintenance of aerators.

Water is one of the planet's most valuable, if not the most important, resources. Due to global climate change and increasing human water use, more and more watercourses are drying up, which is having an increasing impact on everyday life and the economy. This phenomenon has received very little attention so far, and researchers do not have enough data on the tens of



thousands of small watercourses affected worldwide to understand the effects of this process. Therefore, researchers at the University of Pécs **have developed the DRYRivERS smartphone app** as part of a Horizon 2020 research project **to enlist the help of the public in collecting data to protect small watercourses**. More than 100 researchers from 25 research institutes in 16 countries are participating in the DRYvER project, with the Department of Hydrobiology at the Faculty of Science of the University of Pécs representing Hungary. All observations recorded with the DRYRivERS app are publicly available on the DRYvER project website, and registered users can edit their data, add new data, and participate in games and challenges through the website, as well as collect rewards and badges for their activities.

Pécs has been selected by the European Commission as one of 100 European cities that can achieve their climate neutrality goals within the framework of the Horizon Europe Urban Mission, with the professional support of the **NetZeroCities** platform. As a result, several committees have been formed, in which the University of Pécs is also represented. The city and the university are committed to working together to achieve climate neutrality and green transition, with a particular focus on research and development, joint applications, and the coordinated use of university and municipal competences. Among the activities of the University of Pécs supporting the achievement of the climate strategy goals of the city of Pécs is the SpongeCity project coordinated by the University, which aims to improve the ability of cities to adapt to climate change by testing and promoting the "sponge city" methodology. The extreme weather conditions of recent years, including intense rainfall and periods of drought, increasingly highlight the need for efficient water management. Flooding and rapid drainage are serious problems in urban areas, so new, innovative solutions are needed. The aim of the **Sponge City** project is **to increase green spaces, reduce asphalt-covered soil surfaces and create green roofs**. The goal is to successfully store large amounts of precipitation and use it for irrigation or, if necessary, firefighting. The project is led by the University of Pécs, with 13 partners from 12 countries working together on the project. Cities with different geographical characteristics have been included, so it is possible to test models in densely populated, sparsely populated, hilly and flat areas. Several factors have been taken into account: the city's current water management, hydrological conditions, previous practices and technical plans.

As part of the tender, UP experts will develop a **local action plan for the city** that takes into account sponge city principles and aims to reduce rainwater utilisation and flash flood risks. A **feasibility study** will also be developed to provide a detailed description of one of the investments/measures proposed in the action plan. The measure will be selected based on a proposal from the City of Pécs with county rights. Experts from Faculty of Sciences of the UP have established an experimental rain garden in the Botanical Garden, equipped with measuring instruments. The **water balance measurement results** will be provided to the city, which may help in the development of further urban rain gardens.

The University of Pécs is continuously developing and improving its own transport culture. Many factors are taken into account, but meeting demand and following sustainability guidelines are paramount. When planning, the distance between locations, the topography, the frequency of commuter traffic and the needs of UP citizens must be taken into account, which have been assessed through online surveys and data collection in recent years.

In 2024, the UP Green University Program Office organized an internal competition entitled **"Cycle to work at the university!"**, in which 23 UP employees were given the opportunity to use traditional bicycles free of charge for one year for commuting purposes, travelling between campuses, and parking. A prize draw was also held in connection with this. In parallel with the traditional bicycle project, the University received two requests in 2024, thanks to which, in the



second half of the year, employees were given the opportunity to **test electric bicycles free of charge**, courtesy of the Institute of Transport Sciences and Hellovelo Ltd. The tests ended with very positive results. The positive feedback received during and after the cycling periods confirms the value and success of introducing sustainable means of transport in the workplace.

Given the university's circumstances, the most suitable solution for the UP at present is to operate a fleet of electric cars and to make traditional and electric bicycles available for commuting purposes. By 2024, a total of **nearly 1,900 bicycle parking** spaces will have been created on the university campus. In addition to the cycling infrastructure, the university has also made significant improvements to its vehicle fleet and logistics system in order to reduce its environmental impact. **By 2024, the UP operated 17 electric and 14 hybrid vehicles.**

The University of Pécs came second in the **"Responsible Employer of the Year 2024"** competition. The National Employment Non-Profit Ltd. announced the competition in five categories, in which organisations engaged in a wide variety of economic activities could participate. Its objectives include: gathering and recognising companies that value human resources, presenting their best practices, connecting like-minded organisations, and creating a long-term employer community.

Every year, the University of Pécs publishes its **Equal Opportunities Plan** for the following year and evaluates the previous year in terms of compliance with equal opportunities criteria. The Equal Opportunities Plan covers all faculties, independent organizations and departments of the University of Pécs, as well as all civil servants and other employees. With the Equal Opportunities Plan, the University of Pécs expresses its commitment to the principles of equal opportunities in the workplace, its intention to fully respect the principles of equal treatment, and to take supportive measures to enforce these principles and promote equal opportunities.

The University of Pécs prevents and prohibits discrimination against public employees in the course of employment. The prohibition of discrimination applies:

- during recruitment,
- in terms of employment and working conditions,
- in terms of wages, income, benefits,
- in the determination of training, further training and other incentives,
- in relation to the membership and participation of public servants in public servant organisations,
- in the promotion system,
- as well as in cases of termination of employment, transfer and other employment-related matters.

The prohibition of discrimination and the requirement of equal treatment apply to all groups of public servants and prohibit, in particular, any discrimination based on their age, gender, skin colour, marital status, nationality, ethnic origin, descent, religion and worldview, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity. The University of Pécs pays particular attention to preventing and eliminating direct and indirect discrimination based on the age, gender, nationality, family or health status, or disability of public employees.

The **Gender Equality Plan** (GEP) of the University of Pécs, taking into account the recommendations of the Horizon 2020 research and innovation program supported by the European Union and based on the results of the analysis of initial data, focuses on the following areas and aims to achieve progress through systematic monitoring:

1. Work-life balance in organisational culture.



2. Gender balance in university management and decision-making.
3. Gender equality in recruitment and career development.
4. Integrating gender equality into research and teaching content.
5. Prevention of sexual abuse and harassment, and elimination of gender bias and stereotypes.

The "**Teach for Hungary**" program began the second semester of the 2024/25 academic year with the participation of seventeen universities and more than four thousand mentees. The new mentor students and their new mentees at the University of Pécs met for the first time during a fun, informative and team-building experience day.

At a joint press conference, **the University of Pécs, the Municipality of Pécs and the Diocese of Pécs** announced that they were taking revolutionary steps to improve the housing conditions of teachers in the city. **The city offered 17 apartments for teachers.** By creating this scholarship programme, which is unique in Hungary, they wanted to help teachers with their housing and at the same time promote the teaching profession. The housing scholarship programme, initiated by the Faculty of Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Pécs, helps teachers to enter the profession. The two main objectives of the program are to introduce teacher candidates and newly qualified teachers to the profession and to support teachers already in the profession with their housing costs.

Two new members joined the Sustainability Platform of Hungarian Universities

18/03/2024, UnivPécs

The University of Pécs (UP) initiated the foundation of the Sustainability Platform of Hungarian Universities (MEFP) on 22 September 2022, with the participation of fourteen Hungarian universities committed to sustainability, which on 18th March, 2024 welcomed two new members.

The members of the Hungarian Universities Sustainability Platform (MEFP) now (in bold the newly joining institutions): Corvinus University of Budapest, Budapest University of Economics and Business, Budapest Metropolitan University, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Eszterházy Károly Catholic University, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Miskolc, John von Neumann University, University of Nyíregyháza, Obuda University, University of Pannonia, University of Pécs, Semmelweis University, University of Sopron, University of Szeged, Széchenyi István University.

"The aim of the alliance is to share best practices in the field of sustainability, to organize regular collaborative actions and to establish closer cooperation for the sustainability related developments" - emphasized Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of the University of Pécs.

"The aim of the alliance is to share best practices in the field of sustainability, to organize regular collaborative actions and to establish closer cooperation in order to develop sustainability goals" - highlighted Prof. Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of the University of Pécs.

"Through the objectives of the MEFP, Hungarian universities committed to sustainability will engage in mutually beneficial, exemplary cooperative activities, thus creating and achieving results that are beneficial to society, higher education and the scientific community. Further and further steps must be taken to protect the environment and expand environmentally conscious thinking. In achieving this purpose, the Hungarian universities committed to green efforts represent a significant force, as they are responsible for shaping the attitudes of their region, and for making the sustainability goals and the tools associated with them accessible to a wider audience" - said István Decsi, Chancellor of the UP.

Municipal apartments for teachers

05/06/2024, UnivPécs



The University of Pécs, the Municipality of the City of Pécs with County Rights and the Diocese of Pécs announced at a joint press conference on May 6, 2024, that they are taking a revolutionary step in the city to improve the housing conditions of teachers. The city has offered 17 apartments for teachers. By creating this scholarship program, which is unique in Hungary, they want to help teachers find housing and at the same time popularize the teaching profession. The housing scholarship program, established at the initiative of the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Pécs, helps teachers enter the profession. The two main objectives of the program are to introduce prospective teachers and newly graduated teachers to the profession, and to support existing teachers with housing costs. “We want to motivate new teachers to stay in Pécs,” said Attila Péterffy, Mayor of Pécs, adding: “We believe that the future of the city is high-quality education.”

The introduction of the new scholarship program could give new impetus to the Pécs education sector and, in the long term, improve teachers’ job satisfaction.

University of Pécs and the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office Enter Strategic Cooperation

18/10/2024, UnivPécs

On Friday morning, the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) and the University of Pécs (UP) signed a strategic cooperation agreement. The primary goals of the partnership are to promote education on intellectual property (IP) protection and to facilitate the effective use of HIPO’s “patent fast track” service, which helps determine whether a particular innovation is worth pursuing patent protection. The agreement was signed in the university’s Senate Hall by Szabolcs Farkas, President of HIPO, and Professor Attila Miseta, Rector of UP.

The HIPO offers a tailored service for universities and research institutions, designed to help assess which technical solutions may warrant legal protection through patent attorneys. From now on, university researchers will no longer have to choose between publishing their work and protecting their inventions — thanks to the patent fast track, scientific publications can be submitted to the office as the basis for a preliminary patent review.

In addition, the office assists in identifying research directions with long-term potential.

UP and HIPO have been long-time partners, but this newly signed agreement takes their collaboration to a new level.

The partnership focuses on several key areas: expanding and teaching IP-related knowledge, developing professional methodologies, making IP services more accessible to the university community, and customizing them to the institution’s specific needs. It also enables HIPO to provide guest speakers, jury members, and mentors for acceleration programs and competitions at the university’s request, as well as consultation opportunities for faculty and researchers. One of the core aims is to expand domestic training in intellectual property protection.

Another important component is the integration of IP education into undergraduate curricula, either as mandatory or elective courses. For example, HIPO experts will give presentations introducing the office’s work. Furthermore, the partnership will include joint calls for thesis and research project proposals, offering scholarship opportunities for both students and faculty. The collaboration also allows UP to work with HIPO on joint publications and conferences to enhance Hungary’s innovation potential and improve the quality of research, development, and technology management. HIPO will also keep the university informed about international programs and partnerships related to IP and technology transfer.

At Friday’s ceremonial signing, remarks were given by Szabolcs Farkas, President of HIPO; Professor Attila Miseta, Rector of UP; and the deans of the two faculties most involved in the cooperation: Adrián Fábián, Dean of the Faculty of Law, and András Fittler, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

“While we’ve worked together for years, I believe no partnership is beyond improvement,” said Rector Miseta.



“And who could be a better ally in protecting inventions, research results, and intellectual assets than the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office?”

HIPO President Farkas emphasized:

“It’s not enough for our office to simply be present at universities and participate in education. Raising awareness about patents is essential, yes — but just as important is developing processes that support researchers and technology transfer professionals in their daily work. The patent fast track is a forerunner in this regard, helping us identify solutions and values that are truly applicable for universities.”

Adrián Fábián, Dean of the Faculty of Law, pointed out that the current legal framework governing the activity of artificial intelligence is in need of development, and revising it will likely be among the key tasks in the near future.

András Fittler, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, noted that his faculty has worked with HIPO staff and working groups for several years, and welcomed the fact that this cooperation can now continue in an official framework. “I believe other faculties will soon join this process as well, helping advance patent-related procedures across the university,” he added.

PTE MIK and Zsolnay Porcelain Manufactory Ltd. strategic cooperation framework agreement

04/01/2024, UnivPécs

PTE MIK and Zsolnay Porcelain Manufactory Ltd. have concluded a strategic cooperation framework agreement in order to utilize the results achieved in education, research and development, and to promote the long-term and continuous development of the factory and Hungarian industry with a knowledge-based and pragmatic approach.

Pécs-Osijek: The partnership with the University of Osijek deepens

11/01/2024, UnivPécs

The delegation of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek arrived in Pécs. The aim of their visit was to join the Pannon EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) a cooperation of which the University of Pécs is also a member, and to investigate how to best deepen the decades-long relationship between the two universities.

The Regional Mental Health Care has been given a deserved place

15/02/2024, UnivPécs

The Psychiatric and Addiction Care Provider and Clinic of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the Clinical Center of the UP was finished with a slightly more than half a billion HUF, and was officially opened on 14 February, the day of St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers, the mentally ill and people suffering from epilepsy.

The staff of the Clinical Centre occupied the Rehabilitation Centre in 2015, where a new 300 m² clinical unit was built on a raised floor to help people with serious chronic psychiatric illnesses such as schizophrenia, depression and dementia, among others, to recover and improve their living conditions.

The project, coordinated by the National Directorate General for Hospitals and implemented in a consortium partnership between the Universities of Pécs, Szeged and Debrecen, has resulted in the renovation of thirty-four psychiatric care units, three new care units and four new day therapy units linked to psychiatric outpatient care nationwide, with a total EU funding of HUF 4.724 billion. As a result of the development, patients requiring psychiatric or addiction care can now receive effective help, the infrastructure improvements will make the work of psychiatric care professionals more comfortable, and the free trainings provided during the project will further improve professional competence.

Thanks to the project, the The Psychiatric and Addiction Care Provider and Clinic of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the Clinical Center of the UP will move from



the Nyár Street site to the new building constructed at Rákóczi Street 2. The ceremonial opening was addressed by Dr. Péter Takács, Minister of State for Health, Dr. Péter Hoppál, Government Commissioner, Dr. József Bódis, chairman of the board of the Foundation that maintains the University of Pécs, Dr. Attila Miseta, Rector of the University of Pécs, Dr. Andor Sebestyén, President of the Clinical Centre of the University of Pécs and Dr. Tamás Tényi, Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the University of Pécs.

Dr. Péter Takács, State Secretary for Health, highlighted that mental health is so important that it is at the centre of the government's interest, and mental health is one of the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency in the field of health in preparation for the upcoming European Union Presidency.

"We would like to particularly focus on the mental and spiritual health of youth and the impact of environmental changes on mental health"- said State Secretary Péter Takács, who then gave a brief overview of the numerous regional developments and investments of the past 10 years. As he said, these developments are for the benefit of all patients in Baranya County. In his speech, the State Secretary for Health also directly addressed the health employees working in the new department: "I wish for the colleagues to use this beautiful building that provides a proper environment for the healing of the patients, for many years to come. The work you do requires a very strong mental stamina. I hope for you to keep this mental stamina."

Dr. Péter Hoppál, Government Commissioner, said that the new Psychiatric and Addiction Care Provider and Clinic of the Clinical Center is a very important element of healthcare, as thousands of people in Hungary are affected by serious, chronic psychiatric illnesses, such as schizophrenia, depression and dementia.

Statistics show that around a quarter of the population suffers from some form of minor, moderate or severe psychiatric illness, that is why it is important to continuously improve the inequalities in the care network in the country, and this project is a milestone in that.

"No amount of resource and allocations are too much to keep this very serious social task in control, so that we can give professionals all the help they need to provide the maximum safety and quality of care to the people living here" - underlined Dr. Péter Hoppál, Government Commissioner.

He also emphasized that the government has supported and is supporting the development of Debrecen, Szeged and Pécs as priority centres, as it is its primary obligation.

"And we, as citizens of Pécs and Baranya, can say that we have finally reached the point where the infrastructure we see is of truly European quality" – added the government commissioner.

Dr. József Bódis, chairman of the board of the Foundation that maintains the UP, said that the strategy and certain emphases of health care are different today than they were 10 years ago, when the focus was on diagnostics and treatment.

"What we call care has become more and more strengthened. This is of particular importance in relation to mental illnesses, since it is very likely that surgery is not necessary, that a drug or combination of drugs is not enough, but that a close contact between the caring professionals and the patients must be established. This requires an appropriate infrastructural environment, and I think it is hard to imagine anything better than that" - said Dr József Bódis.

Although there were critics of the project, there were many who trusted and believed in its realisation, said Dr Andor Sebestyén, President of the Clinical Centre of the UP. He said that it was a great improvement for patients, who "will be able to recover in a new environment, where they will have the necessary bed and staff conditions for their recovery, through staff who will now be able to carry out their daily tasks in a dignified place. I wish all of us lots of strength and health to be able to treat our patients in the right way."

The speakers, the department and the press were guided around the new building by Dr. Tamás Tényi, Director of the Psychiatric and Psychotherapeutic Clinic of the Clinical Centre of the UP.



The new care centre provides care for more than 2,500 patients receiving psychiatric care and approximately 5,500 patients receiving specialized psychiatric care annually, where patients can come from anywhere in Baranya County.

In the new department, 3-3 psychiatrists and clinical psychologists, as well as 1-1 psychiatric nurse, registered nurse and social worker help with the treatment and cure of patients.

The project was implemented within the Széchenyi 2020 program, with the support of the European Union, with the application code EFOP-2.2.0-16-2016-00008.

Talent, Community, and Seraphs

26/02/2024, UnivPécs

The Magyarok Nagyasszonya Franciscan Order (MNFR) and the University of Pécs are aligning educational and student services, which was made official by a cooperation agreement signed on February 26, 2024 in the Senate Council Room of the University of Pécs.

As part of the cooperation, MNFR staff can participate in teaching duties by giving courses and lecture series, leading seminars in the university's education programs in bachelor's, undivided, and master's programs, and university professors, employees may be invited to hold lectures in the dormitory as well.

As part of the cooperation, all students of the University of Pécs are entitled to join FerencEstek, an event organized by Collegium Seraphicum for unlimited number of participants, or any other programs, cultural events which are founded by grant sources. For large-scale events, the UP may provide a venue and lecture hall of appropriate size.

The order will offer training modules and courses from its own training program to the university, which the UP will then offer to students as part of the so-called Campus Credit system. In addition, the university will support and assist MNFR in becoming involved in the operation of the Ecumenical Chaplaincy of the Pécs University.

Regarding earlier cooperation: the University of Pécs has a long tradition of supporting the free practice of religious belief through various measures and collaborations.

The H2 Project Begins

01/03/2024, UnivPécs

Big steps towards a small footprint – the university and the water utility are examining one of the greenest energy production solutions in Pécs in shared research.

An exciting project brings together the TETTYE FORRÁSHÁZ Zrt. and the Hydrogen Center of the University of Pécs. In January, the company signed a partnership agreement with the university, through which they are examining the possibilities of cascade application of hydrogen technologies in collaboration with the UP department dealing with hydrogen economy. For example, experts are assessing the use of pure oxygen, generated during water electrolysis, in wastewater treatment. For example, the experts are assessing the use of the pure oxygen, that is generated during hydrolysis, in sewage treatment.

“There are currently two main directions in the focus of the activities of the Hydrogen Center of the UP, one is infrastructural development, which is closely connected to the use of oxygen produced during hydrolysis. Our goal is the production of green hydrogen, but to make this more economical, we have to figure out how the oxygen could be used. As part of the research by Ernő Dittrich, senior lecturer of the Department of Environmental Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP, they are examining the ways of using oxygen in sewage treatment and technologies that reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

For the Tettye Forrásház Zrt., this concerns the sewage farm, Ernő Dittrich and his team will first prove the effectiveness of the technology and collect data with a smaller, laboratory-scale device, and then, based on the results, thanks to Tettye Forrásház Zrt, the new procedure will also be tested under operational conditions. The aim is to create a demonstration project to show how the oxygen produced alongside hydrogen through electrolysis can be used immediately for



sewage treatment by combining the two processes” - said Teodóra Diána Bakk, staff member at the Hydrogen Center of the UP, in an interview with UnivPécs.

The research and its practical implementation are expected to serve as a major step forward to sustainability. The goal is to transform the sewage treatment farm of Pécs into a carbon-neutral, or maybe even carbon-negative facility based on an innovative solution and producing green hydrogen at the same time.

Since 2014, TETTYE FORRÁSHÁZ Zrt., at the organic gas plant in Pécs, has been producing 5 million kWh of green electricity annually from the sewage sludge generated during treatment and from the delivered waste. The H2 project, which can be integrated into the energy strategy of the utility provider, elevates the effort to implement low-footprint operations to a new level. If it succeeds, not only will the sewage treatment of Pécs become more economical, but the project could also support Pécs in achieving its climate-neutral goals; according to its commitment, the operation of the city will reach net zero carbon emission by 2030.

Construction of the laboratory-scale experimental equipment for modeling the processes will begin soon and it is planned to start working in the spring.

The University of the Third Age in Paks

04/03/2024, UnivPécs

From March, the University of the Third Age, the popular training programme for the elderly, will be restarted in Paks by the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs.

The cooperation agreement was signed at the Paks Town Hall by Prof. Dr. Gábor Szécsi, Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the UP, Zoltán Szántó, Deputy Mayor of Paks and Gabriella Tóth, President of the Southern Neighbours Public Interest Pensioners' Cooperative on 4 March.

The two-semester programme is supported by the Local Government of Paks and is divided into two semesters, each consisting of 5-5 lectures. The University of the Third Age programme will be professionally coordinated by Dr. Janka Teodóra Nagy, professor and head of department. At the press conference prior to the signing of the cooperation agreement, it was said that the Third Age University programme can significantly contribute to improving the quality of life of the elderly, as it offers not only an excellent learning opportunity for the participants, but also a community experience that can encourage them to take up other learning opportunities offered by the faculty. As Dr Gábor Szécsi said at the press conference:

"In the era of the new generations of universities, a higher education institution must be an active contributor to the social and cultural cohesion of the region or area it is located in. This is the aim of our successful third mission programme, the University of the Third Age."

The fourth meeting of Sports Offices

07/03/2024, UnivPécs

With the aim of creating a tradition, the Sports Office of the University of Pécs launched the "Meeting of Sports Offices", a national professional event, which was held for the fourth time on 7 March in Pécs, at Laterum.

Hungarian university sport is becoming more and more prominent at national and international level, they declared at 4th Meeting of Sports Offices, where representatives of university sport reflected together on the challenges of university sport, the experiences of university competitions and further strengthened their close relations.

Competitive knowledge and career opportunities

25/03/2024, UnivPécs

As part of the cooperation agreement concluded last autumn, the University of Pécs, Prohuman Zrt., and its strategic cooperation partner, Prodiák School Cooperative, a student career path



support program was presented to the press in the senate hall of the Rector's Office on March 25, 2024.

The University of Pécs and the Prodiák School Cooperative previously signed a cooperation agreement with the aim of supporting students together in acquiring practical and competitive knowledge, discovering the career opportunities offered by companies operating in the region, thereby ensuring their employment in the region after graduation and strengthening the economic ecosystem.

One of the goals of the student career path program is to enable students, through the Prodiák School Cooperative, to find student jobs related to their studies and aligned with their academic progress, so that they can gain useful experience and develop their competencies. Another goal of the program is to familiarize students with local companies and the job opportunities they offer, thereby reducing the number of those who leave the region after getting their degree.

The Prodiák School Cooperative is Hungary's second-largest student cooperative, with its extensive network it can support the University of Pécs and its students in many ways, as it also has an internship division in addition to classic student work.

The students' practical experience and supporting local employment are especially important for the university, as well as close cooperation with the business sector. Thanks to the collaboration, the school cooperative provides additional opportunities to successfully achieve these motivations.

Dr. Attila Miseta, rector of the University of Pécs, emphasized that student work has significantly changed over the past decades, but its effects can be seen as positive: "What started with Prohuman Zrt. and the Prodiák School Cooperative is definitely exemplary and very important for the university. Many of our students work in longer or shorter shifts, as unfortunately, the cost of living has significantly increased. This is not necessarily a bad thing, as it means a kind of preparation for the real labor market."

"In recent times, our university has paid increasing attention to the region's economic players and social processes. Not only because the government is also paying more attention to our region, but because it is necessary for our international competitiveness and aligns with the strategy of the university and its maintaining foundation. In order to achieve and support these goals, high-quality partnerships are needed" - said István Decsi, chancellor of the University of Pécs, who also emphasized the importance of students gaining experience and practical knowledge during their studies, then staying in the region after their university years.

Sándor Zakor, member of the board of the Prodiák School Cooperative, said that this project is a forward-looking initiative in which they cooperate with one of the most prestigious universities in the country to ensure that the students of the region can present "the best possible opportunities in the world of work and enterprise." He also added that "excellent things can come from learning and entrepreneurship alongside the university." He emphasized that nowadays, students who possess the right competencies as skills are needed.

Following the opening speeches, informative presentations were held on various topics. First, Rozália Tóth, operational director of Prohuman Zrt., presented the 100% Hungarian-owned school cooperative and the advantages of student employment from both the students' and companies' perspectives, then spoke about the employment situation in the South Transdanubia region, emphasizing local characteristics and advantages. She said that the company's internship program mainly aims at students in their last two to three semesters of BSc and MSc studies, who usually have opportunities in the fields of IT, engineering, and business administration.

She highlighted that the program is a good opportunity for higher education institutions to improve their education system, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), to develop vocational training.

"Besides their university studies, flexibility in work is very important for students, as their priority is to complete their education. Furthermore, the opportunity to gain experience is



important to them because it's their first work experience when they step into the labor market, and they can already start building relationships with companies, from which point they can begin to build their own career path" - summarized the benefits for students Rozália Tóth.

Szabolcs Rabb, secretary-general of the Pécs-Baranya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, talked about companies' possibilities to retain young people locally, touching on essential areas such as the labor market situation, key county enterprises, and current industry trends. He emphasized their focus on keeping students in the region and promoting repatriation through their "ajelenajövőd" campaign launched in 2018, which aligns with the shared goals of the University of Pécs and the school cooperative and involves the communication between nearly 100 companies. In his opinion, students can hold interesting positions at innovative companies in the region with good work culture, for example aircraft part design/manufacturing.

Buda Zalay, managing director representing Körber Hungária Gépgyártó Kft., the university's dual training partner, shared his positive experiences related to student employment and dual training. The company currently employs nearly 70 students and maintains an exemplary relationship with the University of Pécs. In his presentation, he highlighted the importance of students for the operation and future of the organization and discussed the key differences between student employment and the dual training system. Körber's employees currently teach 8 courses at 3 university faculties (Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Sciences).

Buda Zalay emphasized that in the near future, they will be able to offer expanding career opportunities to the region's youth: "Besides machine manufacturing, our owner has requested that the Pécs site should also move toward shared service functions as a strategic goal, meaning there is a demand for launching procurement, IT, finance, and payroll services from here, from Pécs, Hungary. In other words, new positions are opening, which is particularly interesting in terms of our university cooperation, as we will be able to provide new job roles and career paths."

He added that they are very satisfied with Pécs university students during the strict, quality-oriented selection process, and they also performed well after at the company.

The student career path support program was presented by Dávid Siptár, director of innovation management and business relations at the University of Pécs. As he said, "The South Transdanubia region faces the biggest challenges when it comes to the country's population retention." According to available data, 50–55% of students leave the region after training for a shorter or longer period, typically moving to Budapest, Western Hungary, or abroad, although 67% of them do not really want to leave the region. "After the model change, improving regional retention has become an even more crucial task of the university. We want to ensure that the number of those who stay reaches 60–70 or even 80%, depending on the type of training. ... It is important that students get in touch with the companies where they will eventually work at, as early as possible. Therefore, the visibility of our partners is also very important" - said the director.

During the project, the partners will also develop a mentoring and feedback system to support students throughout their studies and early careers with targeted competence development and advice. They also plan to launch a job portal. The program could pave the way for closer cooperation between the university and the companies operating in the region and therefore contribute to the further development of the region and its economy.

TOGETHER IN MOTION

17/05/2024, UnivPécs

On 16 May, 2024 the leadership of the University of Pécs and the City of Pécs held a meeting at City Hall to review the results achieved so far and to align on future goals. In 2021, the two key players of the region established eight working groups tasked with shaping the joint future of the city and the university, developing strategic areas, and encouraging investment.



Attila Péterffy, mayor of Pécs, thanked the university's leadership and the heads of the working groups for their collaboration and openness, and he stressed that it is crucial for the University of Pécs and the City of Pécs to continue along this path, as the results achieved so far are clearly visible.

TOGETHER AGAINST ONLINE DANGERS

30/05/2024, UinvPécs

A cooperation agreement aimed at implementing training and research programmes serving cybersecurity and crime prevention was signed on 29 May in Szekszárd by Dr Gábor Szécsi, dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, and Brigadier General Csaba Szabó, head of the Tolna County Police Headquarters.

Cybersecurity and crime prevention are the focus of the decree. The cooperation, which was described as exemplary by the signatories, aims to

- promote the cause of cyber defence and crime prevention,
- develop societal preventive education,
- cooperate in university research,
- broaden the theoretical and practical knowledge base of higher education,
- identify and analyse new social phenomena, and develop professional methods for their reactive management,
- as well as establish a sound and cooperative partnership between the parties.

Following the ceremonial signing of the cooperation agreement, Professor Szécsi opened the cybersecurity expo jointly organised by the Tolna County Police Headquarters and the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs at the Szekszárd campus, where attendees could learn about online threats and the technological solutions and training methods designed to counter them through lectures, panel discussions, and consultations with the exhibitors' representatives.

ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY – FOR EVERYONE

31/05/2024, UinvPécs

One of the locations of the “About Nuclear Energy – For Everyone” event series organised by the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) was the Szentágotthai Research Centre. Secondary school students had the opportunity to learn about the diverse applications of nuclear energy, the operation of the Paks Nuclear Power Plant, the management of radioactive waste, and fusion reactors. Exhibitors presented the use of nuclear energy through colourful infographics and interactive games. At the 30 May 2024 event, students were even able to carry out radiation measurements thanks to the Baranya County Disaster Management Directorate of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management.

In order to meet our energy consumption needs, we require power plants that generate electricity using various energy sources. Baseload power plants (those capable of operating at high and constant capacity throughout the year, such as nuclear power plants) play a key role in energy production.

The aim of the event series organised by the HAEA is to provide the public with accurate, reliable, open, and prompt information on issues related to the use of nuclear energy. As part of the events, the HAEA pays particular attention to ensuring that professionally sound information is provided to the public, especially since in recent times many inaccurate pieces of information have appeared in the media and on social media regarding nuclear energy.

Source: Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority

Dr József Betlehem, vice-rector for General Affairs, Connections and Strategic Affairs of the University of Pécs, stated in his speech that



“Nuclear energy is part of our everyday life, having come a long way from its initial discovery to its tamed everyday use. As a scientific focal point of Southern Transdanubia, the University of Pécs is linked to nuclear energy in many areas – nuclear science plays a prominent role not only in science education but also in research and healthcare.”

In his welcome speech, the Vice-Rector also pointed out that “it is important to understand the possibilities of using nuclear energy, so that we do not only see the intimidating examples associated with it but also understand its benefits in improving our everyday lives. This message needs to be emphasised in every forum – including this event, which the University of Pécs is hosting for the second time at the initiative of the HAEA. Nuclear energy also plays a role in the university’s partnerships, as its research and development relations with the Paks Nuclear Power Plant go back a long way, and we are currently cooperating in planning for the future.”

“When we talk about nuclear energy, people primarily think of energy production, but the industry is much broader than that. For example, in agriculture, nuclear energy is used in pest control, while in space exploration, nuclear medicine, medical science, and in various drilling operations such as oil drilling, isotope techniques are applied. In the industry – for instance, in metal production and the automotive industry –, nuclear energy is used for materials structure testing as well. So, this is an extremely diverse industry,” emphasised Béla András Balczó, head of cabinet at the HAEA. He stressed that

the application of nuclear energy goes far beyond the construction and operation of nuclear power plants.

For example, the construction of nuclear power plants requires the involvement of a wide range of disciplines, including civil engineers, geological and hydrogeological experts, as well as environmental engineers. “The University of Pécs offers many programmes linked to industries associated with nuclear energy. Through this event, we wish to encourage students who are interested in this field to apply to the University of Pécs, as it is an excellent place to pursue further studies and to find future employment in this sector,” noted Béla András Balczó.

Péter Henzel, teacher at the Southern Agricultural Vocational Centre’s Sellye Agricultural Technical School, Vocational School and Boarding School, travelled for about an hour with his students to attend the event: “I consider it important that this age group gets familiar with 21st-century technologies and their challenges. I also encourage them because, for the first time this year, the Educational Authority has allowed disadvantaged students to choose sustainability as a graduation subject,” added the teacher of mechanical engineering, general and vocational foundations, and mathematics.

During the various lectures, students were introduced to different materials that emit radiation in our environment, as well as the diverse applications of nuclear energy.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

04/06/2024, UnivPécs

The Ministry of Defence and the University of Pécs have expanded and redefined their previous cooperation agreement. The document was signed on the morning of 4 June, 2024 in the Senate Hall of the university by Dr Zsolt Kutnyánszky, state secretary for Defence Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Defence, and Dr Attila Miseta, rector of the University of Pécs.

Dr Attila Miseta, rector of the University, stated that the aim of the agreement is to increase the number of students and enhance the quality of practical student training, as well as to establish an even closer collaboration with the Ministry. In recent years, the joint efforts have already produced numerous tangible results, for example, the military swivel platform developed by students of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs on behalf of the armed forces. This special device can be mounted on military off-road vehicles and is suitable for operating and rotating collective weapons.



"I trust that, just like the progress we have seen in recent years, this cooperation will also open new doors for us," the Rector emphasised.

Dr Zsolt Kutnyánszky, state secretary for Defence Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Defence, spoke at the ceremony about the long-standing cooperation with the University of Pécs, despite the fact that the first formal agreement was signed only a few years ago, in 2018. That is the agreement being enriched with new elements on this occasion.

"Our aim is to fill our cooperation with real substance and real value,"

said the State Secretary, who also noted that, in the face of changing circumstances, a capable defence force equipped with modern tools is essential, along with an independent and strong defence industry that not only serves the Hungarian armed forces but also creates jobs and stimulates the Hungarian economy. Thanks to the new cooperation agreement, the UP can now be a partner in almost every area.

"We have drawn up the Framework Strategy for Defence Education and Training of the Ministry of Defence, which sets the direction for the development of education and, together with the Defence Industry Strategy, serves as a cornerstone for the development of defence industry training. In parallel, we are strengthening and redefining our cooperation with higher education institutions. Today's event is an important milestone in that process," said Dr Zsolt Kutnyánszky.

The agreement encompasses cooperation in the fields of recruitment, education, as well as scientific, defence innovation, and research and development activities. A key area is military healthcare and military science, in which the training of sports and recreation professionals plays a prominent role, with the aim of ensuring that the current and future generations of young people are physically and mentally healthy and physically fit.

HALF A BILLION HUNGARIAN FORINTS FOR ROBOT-ASSISTED LABORATORIES

07/06/2024, UnivPécs

The University of Pécs will receive 500 million Hungarian forints in funding to develop their rehabilitation equipment infrastructure – announced the State Secretary for Innovation and Higher Education of the Ministry of Culture and Innovation on 6 June 2024 in Budapest.

The establishment of robot-assisted rehabilitation laboratories currently represents the peak of innovation in healthcare and rehabilitation; therefore, the government is allocating 500 million Hungarian forints to develop this field. Balázs Hankó emphasised that the aim is for "the same technology and techniques to be available to patients and the doctors and healthcare professionals treating them" at all four Hungarian medical training centres.

The funding comes from the Self-Financing Fund (Önerő Alap), which provides background support for such research equipment development projects; to date, 56 projects at 14 universities have received funding; now, the University of Pécs will receive 500 million Hungarian forints for the procurement of robot-assisted rehabilitation equipment.

Dr Andor Sebestyén, director-general of the Clinical Centre of the University of Pécs, explained that these new, modern technological devices may shorten what are often lengthy rehabilitation periods and increase the effectiveness of therapies. In addition, they will play an important role in education and further training, as students will become familiar with the most modern technologies.

Successful conclusion of the Institutional Accreditation Procedure at PTE

29/01/2024, UnivPécs

An institutional accreditation procedure occurred at the University of Pécs during 2022–2023. The Hungarian Accreditation Committee for Higher Education (MAB), which is responsible for institutional accreditation procedures, inspected the operation of PTE based on the ESG criteria (Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education



Area). The ESG criteria and therefore the subject of the inspection covered, among others, the constant development of PTE's comprehensive quality assurance policy, the execution of the formation and regular surveillance of the academic programs, the demonstration of the student-centered learning, teaching, and evaluation, the overview of the student services, the teacher performance assessment system.

The MAB resolution declared that the institution's quality assurance and development processes are partially arranged, its inspection, measurement, and evaluation procedures require further improvement. The connection between management processes and quality assurance processes needs to be developed, the management of education is appropriate, the management of research is adequate, the doctoral schools need improvement in the areas of operation, the direction of the research aligns with the strategy of the institution. The supporting procedures - financial, economic, IT, facility management – and the infrastructure provide an excellent background for educational and research pursuits.

New dimensions in health sciences

19-20/09/2024, UnivPécs

A two-day scientific conference and symposium was organized by the Institute of Emergency Care, Health Education and Nursing Science at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs on 19–20 September 2024 titled “New dimensions in health sciences, with special regard to the development of healthcare” at the Granary Visitor Information Centre. The project was implemented with the co-funding by the governments of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and the International Visegrád Fund through the Visegrád Foundations.

The event consolidated three high-quality professional conferences: the 2024 XVI International Nursing Science Symposium, hosted in Pécs for the first time this year, the XVIII Pécs Emergency Days, and the II International Central European Simulation Workshop-Conference. The aim of the program series is to provide an intellectual workshop for healthcare professionals and those interested in science, and to offer a forum for the nursing and other healthcare professional communities from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland to share knowledge and experience through plenary and sectional sessions. The main financial supporter of the professional event is the International Visegrád Fund, alongside the Ministry of Interior's State Secretariat for Health and numerous other sponsors.

In his opening speech, Dr József Betlehem, Vice-Rector for General, Strategic and Relations Affairs at the University of Pécs, drew the participants' attention to the fact that the conference venue is located directly next to the Hungarian university founded first in 1367. “It is a great honour that this year the University of Pécs could host this event” - said Dr Betlehem, adding that he hopes the time spent here will prove useful to every colleague.

From the Ministry of Interior, Judit Bidló, Deputy State Secretary responsible for professional direction of healthcare, greeted the audience and highlighted that it was a special pleasure to be able to do this during Hungary's current Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Attila Péterffy, Mayor of Pécs city with county rights, expressed that it is an honour not only for the University of Pécs but for the entire city to host this international conference. He explained that the university's relationship with Pécs is very special, as the institution plays a leading role in the region not only in education but in research-development and innovation, the continuous improvement of the city.

“Our close cooperation with the university aims to make Pécs appealing to sustainable and forward-looking investments and developments” - underlined the mayor. He also spoke about Pécs's Climate-neutral and smart city mission, encouraging participants to use their time here not only for professional development and networking but also to get to know the city's historical and cultural heritage.



Higher education without borders

23/09/2024, UnivPécs

At the EDUC forum, organized regularly at the University of Pécs, experts discussed the development directions of European higher education, focusing particularly on increasing student mobility, modernising programmes, and the closer cooperation between universities.

The leaders of EDUC and the University of Pécs are working on creating common principles and regulations that will standardise student data management and university services across Europe. One of the main objectives of the EDUC alliance is to develop international courses and training programmes that offer flexible learning opportunities for students that are accepted by the labour-market.

EDUC is developing a new shared European cloud service and data management system, which simplifies digital collaboration between universities and ensures secure handling of data.

A key topic of the forum was the EDUC Staff Secondments Program, which offers 25 new positions for administrative employees, giving them the opportunity to spend 2-6 months at another EDUC university, thus developing their professional relationships and expanding their international experience.

The EDUC Alliance's Gap Year programme was also emphasized, which allows BA/BSc and MA/MSc students to spend 5 or 9 months at another EDUC university, where they can explore new fields of science and improve their language and intercultural skills.

The EDUC research project support programme provides alliance members with the opportunity to use advanced infrastructure and conduct research together. The forum discussed how such projects can promote international scientific cooperation.

EDUC also allows alliance members to use advanced infrastructures and conduct collaborative studies, thereby supporting international scientific cooperation. The EDUC Staff Mobility Program enables professors to teach at other universities for short periods of time, facilitating the exchange of teaching methods and building professional relationships between institutions. The forum also introduced the new educational directions of the EDUC alliance, focusing especially on micro-credentials and short-cycle courses, which offer flexible teaching opportunities for professors to design programmes that meet the needs of the labour-market.

Dienes Week in Canada

25/09/2024, UnivPécs

Organized by the General Consulate of Hungary Montreal and the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs (UP), a series of events was held for the first time in the province of Québec, Canada, commemorating the intellectual and cultural legacy of Zoltán Dienes, the world-famous Hungarian mathematician.

The aim of the Canadian Dienes Week was to use Dienes' mathematical games, that were reimagined by researchers at the UP, to support community building and create joyful mathematics learning experiences for Hungarian communities in Canada.

Throughout the week, playful workshops were organized at, among others, the Montreal Hungarian School, the local Hungarian seniors' residence, and the Scientists' Club established by the Consulate General. The Hungarian delegation visited the University of Sherbrooke, where they discussed the upcoming unveiling of a commemorative plaque dedicated to Zoltán Dienes, as well as the organization of a shared scientific conference. During the programs hosted by the university, employees of the University of Pécs presented in detail the steps taken and the achievements made in recent years to preserve scientific and intellectual legacy of Zoltán Dienes.

Participants of the program on behalf of the Consulate General of Hungary in Montreal included Consul General Helga Pritz, Consul Tímea Kovács-Szabó, and Hungarian Community Diplomat and Consul Villő Fülöp. Representing the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, Sándor Klein, Julianna Kiss, Iván Zádori,



and Zsolt Nemeskéri could participate in the one-week-long event series. The University of Pécs was also represented in the discussions by Ákos Jarjabka, associate professor, Director of the Institute and Head of the World Hungarians Network Platform Office of the UP. The program was patronized by Katalin Szili, Curator of the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation, and Gábor Szécsi, Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs.

The implementation of the event series was supported by the Consulate General of Hungary in Montreal, the UP Traveling Ambassadors Program, and the Universitas Quinqueecclesiensis Foundation. The Dienes games were published by Piatnik Budapest Ltd.

Five Hungarian companies signed a research-development cooperation agreement with the UP, UnivPécs

Spring/2024

The University of Pécs (UP) launched the Pécs Cooperative Research and Development Programme as a pilot in spring 2024. The programme supported the shared research and development projects of the company and the university that are based on the real market needs of economic actors and in which the economic actor and the UP participates together.

As the knowledge base of the region, the University is an inspiration and a driving force for more, deeper and more dynamic dialogue and cooperation, which is about shared needs, expectations, mutually beneficial business, practical use of the knowledge accumulated at the University and, above all, about the "how". Turning ideas and research into useful outcomes requires: funding, collaboration skills, intellectual property protection, licensing, know-how development, commercialization, creation of spin-off and startup companies, practice-oriented education and so on. However, it is also clear that one of the keys to economic revitalization is opening up university knowledge to market/industry players, which cooperation can also act as a magnet for investors looking for both research and development infrastructure and knowledge potential, as well as for innovative suppliers.

The mission of the University of Pécs in the 21st century is to support the economic growth of the area and the region with its capacities and network of contacts, based on its excellence in education and research, and to actively participate in the transformation of creative energies into an environment that encourages innovation. The fulfillment of this mission is supported by the recently concluded cooperation agreements, which are particularly significant because one of the most important goals of the UP is to strengthen its economic/entrepreneurial role and activities, for which the companies offer utilization partnerships, mentoring, industrial networking, production, financing opportunities, international market positioning.

Through the programme, the UP has signed collaborative agreements with five companies, in the framework of which the shared research and development projects were launched, the establishment of which could provide a basis for future participation in national and even in EU programmes, where at least TRL4-level technology and company-university relations are expected by the proposers. The University of Pécs is looking forward to a vibrant, value-based, functioning, result-oriented collaboration, which will enhance its entrepreneurial capacity whilst bringing a significant boost to the life of the regional economy.

The shared projects span a broad spectrum of disciplines, with research centered on specific topics such as the development of an optical-based prototype instrument for the detection of aflatoxin contamination in grain feed, technological validation of titanium endoprostheses using metal-based additive technologies, creation of a smart textile that offers the possibility of a modern and comprehensive development of non-invasive physiological parameter measurements for patients, development of a microfluidic chip for non-invasive method of identifying viable embryos.



Cooperation for University Education for Seniors

04/10/2024, UnivPécs

A new semester of the senior education program called University of the Third Age continues in Szekszárd. At the launch of the autumn semester, a cooperation agreement was signed regarding the implementation of the program by representatives of the City of Szekszárd with County Rights, the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, and the Southern Neighbours Public Interest Retirees' Cooperative. Following the ceremonial signing of the agreement, Prof. Dr. Gábor Szécsi held the first lecture of the autumn semester titled "The Mediatized Human."

The University of the Third Age program of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs started at the Szekszárd campus of the faculty with the ceremonial signing of the cooperation agreement. The agreement was signed by Attila Berlinger, Mayor of the City of Szekszárd with County Rights; Dr. Gábor Szécsi, Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs; and Gabriella Tóth, President of the Southern Neighbours Public Interest Retirees' Cooperative. The agreement ensures the conditions for the successful implementation of the program and the launch of further semesters.

From this October, the University of the Third Age welcomes senior learners once again with a variety of engaging topics. Renowned university lecturers and researchers will present lectures on subjects such as cultural theory, local history, and healthcare. The first lecture of the semester, titled "The Mediatized Human," was given by Dr. Gábor Szécsi following the signing of the cooperation agreement.

National TDK Forum to Be Held in Pécs

15/10/2024, UnivPécs

The National Council of Scientific Students' Associations (OTDT) and the University of Pécs (UP) will jointly host the 6th National TDK Forum on October 17–18, 2024. The main focus of the event will be the current state, role, and future opportunities of Scientific Students' Associations (TDK) in the early 21st century. In an era of rapidly changing societal conditions, the forum will explore how to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of research careers and the continued appeal of TDK for talented students in Hungary.

This year's event is a continuation of OTDT's previously well-received strategic forum series—paused during the COVID pandemic—which has already been held five times. More than 250 participants are expected, including leaders of higher education institutions from Hungary and abroad: rectors, vice-rectors, deans, as well as organizers and student representatives of the 37th OTDK, to be held in spring 2025.

The two-day forum will be officially opened by Zsófia Nagy-Vargha, Deputy State Secretary for Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Culture and Innovation. In her address, she will present the latest developments in the National Talent Program and discuss the increasing challenges of talent development in higher education.

Leaders and coordinators of the TDK movement will use the forum as a platform to seek answers to a key question: how can TDK remain attractive and support competitive research careers despite changing student circumstances and preferences?

The professional insights generated at the forum will have significant implications for the social impact of the upcoming 37th OTDK in 2025. Enhancing the national visibility of the OTDK is supported by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH). This partnership with OTDT—set to last through March 2026—aims to strengthen the national student research movement, improve communication services for OTDK, and promote media literacy in the digital age.



“TDK is a cornerstone of talent development in higher education and thus a fundamental pillar of the attractiveness of Hungarian higher education. It is therefore crucial that as many committed professionals as possible participate in collaborative thinking and dialogue,” said Prof. Dr. Tamás Weiszbürg, President of OTDT.

“Supporting talent has always been a central mission of the University of Pécs.

However, talent development extends beyond the university and higher education in general. Students equipped with up-to-date, ever-evolving knowledge and an innovative mindset will provide competitive expertise not only for the city and region, but for the entire country in the future. This is why we are proud to host the TDK Forum at UP, where experts from higher education can share their insights and exchange experiences,”

emphasized Prof. Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Vice-Rector for Education at UP.

The forum will include participants from universities across Hungary and beyond its borders. In addition to presentations and panel discussions, numerous opportunities will be available for deeper engagement with the topics.

PReducated

21/10/2024

With the professional support of the Hungarian Public Relations Association, the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs (UP) and Ferling Ltd. organized a large-scale international PR conference on UP's Szekszárd campus on October 17–18. The two-day event featured professional presentations, networking opportunities, and a student presentation competition.

The conference focused on key questions such as:

What competencies are needed for effective PR work?

What do agencies expect from entry-level communications professionals?

How can educational institutions prepare students for practical challenges?

Attending experts shared their best practices and discussed untapped potentials in the field.

The conference brought together not only PR agency professionals and respected industry leaders, but also instructors from higher education and talented final-year marketing and communications students.

József Ferling, Managing Director of FERLING Ltd., highlighted in his welcome speech that this type of event is rare in Hungary, especially outside of Budapest:

“It’s unprecedented to have created such a professional hub outside the capital — with eight members from the TOP 50 PR list and five of the Public Relations Association’s 14 lifetime members in attendance. That alone is incredibly valuable. Leading agencies and major Hungarian companies meeting outside Budapest shows that this country doesn’t have to be entirely capital-centric.”

He also emphasized the significance of the event, saying:

“There’s a general lack of events where professionals in the field can actually meet and talk. This conference offered that — an opportunity for active PR professionals to engage with young people preparing to enter the field. Students learned about expectations and opportunities, while professionals gained insights into the ambitions, knowledge, and perspectives of the upcoming generation.”

The first day of the conference began with a panel discussion on the necessary competencies in PR and the integration of the new generation into the profession. It was followed by a student presentation competition featuring five teams — including one group of international students studying in Hungary.

In their case study, the K&H Group sought to identify the most sustainable municipalities in Hungary, and students were tasked with developing a B2B PR concept to promote the associated award.

Soon, participants will be able to see how K&H implements the project in real life.



According to the jury, the student teams brought fresh ideas and excellent attitudes to the challenge. The students, in turn, appreciated being part of a real-world project and receiving professional feedback.

Dr. Gábor Szécsi, Dean of UP's Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development, and President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Interdepartmental Permanent Committee on Communication and Media Sciences, reflected in his opening address on where PR currently stands as a profession and as an academic subject.

"PR still hasn't received the recognition it deserves — given its complexity and its wide-ranging communicative demands. It's not truly integrated into the world of strategic communication, and many people still don't view it as a standalone field," he said.

He added that in today's multi-channel digital media era, there are many more areas of communication and strategy that should fall under the PR umbrella.

On the second day of the conference, Zoltán Györfy, Director of the UP's Communications Directorate, gave a presentation on the university's enrolment strategy. He also discussed how today's high school students choose among domestic higher education institutions. For the University of Pécs, the city itself is a key factor — something confirmed by the latest ranking from The Campus Advisor, in which Pécs jumped from 46th to 14th place, outperforming famous university cities such as London, Kraków, Barcelona, and Paris.

One of the most captivating presentations of the event came from Gábor Bruck, psychologist and communication expert at Sawyer Miller Group, titled NewSmart: Being Smart Is Different Now.

"NewSmart" means that modern leadership isn't about personal victory but about enabling team success and fostering collaboration. Leaders should work transparently, be open to better ideas than their own, and be willing to learn continuously and admit what they don't know.

He emphasized that high EQ is just as important as high IQ, and that Stone Age emotions — such as ego and pride — hinder higher-level thinking. "We must learn to be humble and modest," Bruck said.

The two-day event ended on a high note, with calls for a follow-up conference already emerging from participants. Responding to this, József Ferling expressed his hope that the event will return next year — with even more student participants in the presentation competition.

A Sustainable Dream Home Built by Community

25/10/2024, UnivPécs

Once again, the members of the "Lakni Kell" ("Everyone Needs Housing") initiative — active at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (PTE MIK) since 2016 — have dared to dream big. Their latest project aims to transform a currently vacant municipal rental unit into a sustainable, livable home for a young mother and her 4-year-old daughter.

The Lakni Kell program offers students a unique opportunity to engage directly with complex social challenges and develop tangible solutions. Housing insecurity and homelessness — issues deeply intertwined with architecture — present both a real-world problem and a professional calling for future architects. The group's latest initiative is supported by Pécs Municipality, the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, and Kapocs Nonprofit Public Benefit Ltd., which operates the transitional family shelter currently housing the mother and child.

Architecture That Builds Lives:

Three students from the Faculty of Engineering and IT at PTE are designing an affordable, low-income-sustainable home for the family, using a 33-square-meter municipal apartment in the Pécsbánya neighbourhood.

The redesigned space will include:



- a child's room, potentially adorned with a hand-painted theatre backdrop donated by the Pécs National Theatre,
- a sleeping nook,
- a multi-functional living/dining/kitchen area,
- and a renovated bathroom.

Since the apartment has a small garden, the plans also feature a terrace to extend the living space during the warmer months.

Donations and Collective Effort:

The project team recently launched a donation drive, welcoming both financial and in-kind contributions — such as leftover insulation materials, construction supplies, or windows and doors.

Dr. Tibor Dányi, university lecturer and leader of the Lakni Kell initiative, shared that they quietly hope for a solar panel donation as well, which would make the home even more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable.

Although the renovation is scheduled to begin in the spring, the team has already received generous support — including from a former student of the faculty, now an entrepreneur, who offered tools and labor for the project. The initiative also plans to involve students from PTE's dual education programs as well as trainees from the Pollack Mihály Technical School and Dormitory, part of the Baranya County Vocational Training Center.

Science in the Service of Society

04/11/2024

There are no borders in science, only new questions and solutions; in this spirit, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) started its "Hungarian Science Festival" series of events on November 4 at the University of Pécs. On this occasion, professionals with outstanding scientific careers were honored. The Hungarian Science Festival has been officially celebrated since 2003, but the event continues a tradition that has been alive for 200 years. Next year, the MTA will celebrate its 200th anniversary, recalling the memory of István Széchenyi's donation offer on November 3, 1825. This year's festival motto is "Scientific Advice in the Service of Society," highlighting the Academy's responsibility and obligation.

The National Assembly is expected to adopt a resolution tomorrow declaring the years 2025 and 2026 as the Years of Hungarian Science.

This decision not only recognizes the achievements of domestic researchers but also the 200 years of service of the MTA, founded in 1825, for the Hungarian nation and science.

Anna Erdei, Deputy Secretary General of the MTA and Chair of the MTÜ Program Council, emphasized that science is not only about better understanding the world but must also actively participate in solving the most urgent problems of our time.

"Our goal is to deliver researchers' messages to as many people as possible, demonstrating that science is exciting and serves society."

In his opening speech, Attila Miseta, Rector of the University of Pécs, explained that besides the Hungarian nation's critical nature, it is important to increase efforts aimed at solving problems.

He highlighted that funding for science and the emigration of talented young researchers represent serious challenges and added: "We can gratefully remember, both in Pécs and throughout the country, those researchers who have significantly contributed to the development of science nationally and internationally."

Tamás Freund, President of the MTA, stressed that the Academy is not only the nation's scientific representative but also responsibly manages intellectual property for the benefit of national scientific talent. Therefore, the Hungarian Science Festival serves not only to showcase results but also to emphasize work done for the common good. The President of the MTA pointed out:



“Our mission is to serve society based on credible scientific results. The Hungarian Science Festival is an important part of this service.”

Gábor Zag, municipal representative of the city of Pécs and former deputy mayor responsible for cultural affairs, also spoke. His speech was followed by a lecture by Associate Professor Gábor Kemenesi, director of the National Virology Laboratory, titled “100 Years of Virology in the Light of Epidemics.”

The Presidium of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences awarded the Eötvös József Wreath to recognize outstanding scientific careers.

Partnership Agreement with the Gedeon Richter PLC. Pharmaceutical Company

07/12/2024, UnivPécs

In a ceremonial event, held at the Richter Centre, the institutions joining the Richter Innovation Ecosystem signed the partnership agreement, which aims to strengthen innovation, explore new ideas, and harness them within three research networks (Neuroinflammation, Neuropsychiatric Translation, and Human Reproduction).

In line with its corporate strategy, Richter began in 2022 to develop a new collaborative innovation structure to address previously unmet medical and societal needs. It organised networks made up of working groups from universities, research institutes, and start-up companies, bringing together top researchers in their fields who align with the Richter’s innovation goals to jointly ensure the long-term sustainability of pharmaceutical manufacturing and R&D in Hungary.

“Targeted stimulation of research and development linked to the health economy not only strengthens the national sovereignty and economy of the country but can also result in the creation of internationally marketable products and services. In this spirit, the Government is committed to supporting the mission of Gedeon Richter, which provides space for pioneering pharmaceutical research and innovation processes that may ultimately lead to health industry developments based on domestic high technology, patents, and therapeutically and socially beneficial outcomes,” said Balázs Hankó, minister for therapeutically and socially beneficial outcomes,” said Balázs Hankó, minister for culture and innovation.

Minister Balázs Hankó and Chief Executive Officer Gábor Orbán

In recent years, a new demand has emerged in the field of university and academic cooperation. Recognising this, Richter established the Richter Innovation Ecosystem, currently consisting of three Networks, based on the practice of “open innovation” widely used in the world of RDI, which is rooted in research freedom.

“For the Richter, it is crucial to utilise knowledge and resources beyond its own walls in the course of research and development. The innovation ecosystem just created provides a framework in which the best university and academic researchers can collaborate with the industrial sector to address previously unrecognised medical, societal, and market needs, without compromising their innovative approaches or publication freedom. All this can be done in a top-tier laboratory environment, using the most advanced tools and technologies. We are convinced that the Richter Innovation Ecosystem established today will give rise to innovative solutions that can positively impact people’s quality of life and the functioning of society,” explained Gábor Orbán, CEO of Gedeon Richter Plc.

The signees, from the left:

Dr Gábor JUHÁSZ, managing director, InnoScience Hungary Ltd.;

Prof. Dr Ferenc BÁNHIDY, vice-rector general, Semmelweis University;

Prof. Dr László BORHY, rector, Eötvös Loránd University;

Dr Péter SÓTONYI, rector, University of Veterinary Medicine;

Prof. Dr László BUDAY, director-general, HUN-REN Research Centre for Natural Sciences;

Gábor ORBÁN, CEO, Gedeon Richter Plc.;

Balázs HANKÓ, minister for culture and innovation;



Prof. Dr Ildikó BÁCSKAY, dean, University of Debrecen;
Prof. Dr Attila MISETA, rector, University of Pécs;
Prof. Dr Márta SZÉLL, vice-rector for strategic planning, University of Szeged;
Dr István Ferenc NAGY, director-general, HUN-REN Biological Research Centre, Szeged;
Prof. Dr Beáta SPERLÁGH, director, HUN-REN Institute of Experimental Medicine;
Szilárd PÉRCSEI, head, Innovation and Grant Office, Gedeon Richter Plc.;
Dr Zsolt SZOMBATHELYI, research advisor, Gedeon Richter Plc.
The institutions represented at the ceremonial signing of the partnership agreement were:
University of Veterinary Medicine – Budapest
University of Debrecen – Debrecen
Dunamenti REK Reproductive Centre – Budapest, Győr, Kaposvár, Tapolca
Eötvös Loránd University – Budapest
HUN-REN Institute of Experimental Medicine (KOKI) – Budapest
HUN-REN Biological Research Centre (SZBK) – Szeged
HUN-REN Research Centre for Natural Sciences (TTK) – Budapest
InnoScience Ltd. – Budapest
University of Pécs – Pécs
Gedeon Richter Plc. – Budapest
Semmelweis University – Budapest
University of Szeged – Szeged

The title of Excellent Research Infrastructure

10/12/2024, UnivPécs

The National Laboratory of Human Reproduction (NLHR) of the University of Pécs has been awarded the title of Excellent Research Infrastructure, granted by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDI Office). This title recognises those research infrastructures that are outstanding not only on a national but also on an international level, and whose scientific achievements have a significant impact on the world. Gábor L. Kovács, head of the NLHR research group and director of research at the János Szentágothai Research Centre, spoke about the achievements of the laboratory, the reproductive challenges of the modern world, and future plans of the laboratory.

Reproduction today presents increasing challenges, as many factors influence fertility. Social changes, health issues, lifestyle factors, and the postponement of childbearing all contribute to the declining birth rates in the developed countries of the world, including Hungary.

“The average age for starting a family has now shifted by nearly ten years compared to previous generations. While social norms are changing, biological capacities cannot keep up with this trend. Female fertility declines drastically after the age of 40, and this is also a significant issue for men,” explained Gábor L. Kovács.

The goal of the National Laboratory of Human Reproduction is to find innovative solutions to these problems. Over the past four years, they have established an interdisciplinary research group bringing together gynaecologists, urologists, immunologists, geneticists, and biologists.

“This team is capable of both identifying clinical problems and solving them using the most advanced scientific technologies. By combining medical expertise and scientific innovation, we work to offer new hope to couples struggling with reproductive difficulties,” said the researcher. The laboratory has achieved several breakthroughs in the field of reproductive research over the past four years, some of which have already led to patents:

Embryo viability assessment: Using an innovative method, the chemical composition of tiny vesicles released by embryos is analysed. This information helps doctors select the most viable embryo, increasing the success rate of artificial fertilisation.



Red light technology: Their research has shown that light exposure significantly influences embryo development. The lab uses red light, which minimises harmful effects and thereby improves implantation chances.

Innovative tissue analysis techniques: New methods of protein and lipid analysis support the diagnosis of reproductive issues and help optimise artificial fertilisation procedures.

The international partners of the university include researchers from Israel, Italy, and Austria, who collaborate on joint projects to advance reproductive research. With the Austrian partners, for example, members of the laboratory are studying the relationship between immune disorders and reproduction, while with Italian researchers they are analysing the long-term outcomes of IVF programmes. Future plans include further integration of artificial intelligence, particularly in the fields of genetic analysis and imaging.

“AI offers the possibility to process vast amounts of data and to make more accurate decisions, for instance in embryo selection. This could open a new era in reproductive research,” emphasised the professor.

The laboratory maintains close collaboration with the Gedeon Richter Pharmaceutical Company, which has developed a comprehensive innovation strategy.

“Richter focuses on three key areas: inflammatory diseases of the nervous system, ageing research in primates, and human reproduction. In the field of human reproduction, the cooperation is particularly close, as gynaecological products play a prominent role in the portfolio of Richter. Our aim is to contribute to market innovation within ten years with our own gynaecological drug developments,” said Gábor L. Kovács.

The collaboration between the University of Pécs and Richter is of utmost importance not only from a research perspective but also in strengthening the relationship between industry and academia. At the same time, the laboratory faces major challenges due to limited international funding opportunities. “Our young researchers feel cut off from international opportunities, yet these connections are essential for scientific progress. This needs to change,” warned Gábor L. Kovács.

The Excellent Research Infrastructure title may open up new opportunities, but long-term sustainability of the lab will require additional resources:

“This recognition is not only a source of pride but also a responsibility. It motivates us to continue our research and remain at the forefront of global science,” concluded the director.

The Digital Well-being Program and the University of Pécs signed a cooperation agreement

In order to promote the digitization of the industry, the parties cooperate in several areas within the framework of the agreement: such as digital healthcare, data wealth and data analysis, digital sports, artificial intelligence, examination of the health and social effects of 5G, fintech and blockchain topics, digital awareness, digital consumer protection, data-driven agriculture, or drone projects. Joint projects are initiated in connection with regional economic analyses, impact assessments, corporate competitiveness investigations, and in the field of digitalization related to innovation and research. The projects include joint studies, support for theses and doctoral dissertations, the definition of doctoral research topics, a special college, the organization of a digital theme week, and support for research activities.

A Regional Innovation Platform has been established at the University of Pécs

With the policy support of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, a series of national programs presenting Territorial Innovation Platforms (TIPs) was launched, organized by the National Office for Research, Development and Innovation. The aim of the series of events is to create regional organizations across the country based on university knowledge bases, which at the same time provide an opportunity to get to know innovation policies directly, to establish



and strengthen collaborations between local innovation ecosystem actors and to create new professional foundations.

The construction of the innovation ecosystem at the University of Pécs has entered a new chapter – The University of Pécs signed a cooperation agreement with the Tolna County Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Somogyi Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (ITM) set a clear expectation for higher education institutions that knowledge bases should be more strongly integrated into the processes of the economy than before, thus supporting domestic SMEs in achieving their development goals. The ministry partially supports the strengthening of the processes by moving the tender support structure in this direction, which requires collaboration between universities and companies in the awarding of innovation resources, not only in the case of domestic development funds, but also in the case of grants from the European Union. In the EU development cycle between 2021-27, this process is expected to place even stronger expectations on domestic universities and research institutes, and these sources will play an increasingly prominent role in the financing of the institutions. For this reason, the strengthening of knowledge bases and cooperation between companies cannot be avoided. The construction of the innovation ecosystem at the University of Pécs is not new, in which PTE is also at the forefront of domestic higher education institutions. In addition to the regulation of innovation processes within the university, all of this also means the inclusion of external connection points.

Cooperation agreement on energy awareness and environmental education for young people

A cooperation agreement was signed between the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education, and Regional Development of the UP, the Baranya County Municipality, and the Hungarian Energy and Public Utility Regulatory Office for the implementation of training and professional programs to raise the environmental awareness of young people.

"Climate change affects us all, regardless of national borders, and we can experience the consequences of extreme weather on our own skin."

Energy management and the preservation of our environmental values is a common cause for which we all have a responsibility. The University and the Municipality are working together to implement their joint commitment to increase energy and environmental awareness.

The University of Pécs and its consortium partner, the University of Debrecen, won a HUF 1.85 billion non-reimbursable grant from the European Union in the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme published in the framework of the Széchenyi 2020 programme. This funding has enabled the opening of the UP 3D Printing and Visualisation Centre on the campus of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, creating an exciting, open and effective intellectual workshop, both in terms of instrumentation and expertise.

The European Union has unveiled its **Hydrogen Strategy for Climate Change 2020**, it would help achieve the 2050 climate neutrality goals. The strategy would be to produce hydrogen from water using green energy sources. In the same way as batteries in transport, hydrogen technologies do not emit any harmful emissions material, however, are much lighter and faster to load. This fact and the National Laboratory to be established by a consortium led by the University of Hungary, supported by the Government of Hungary, justify the training of specialists in hydrogen technologies, which is why the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs is the first in the country.



PTE cooperates with the UN Housing Program

The University of Pécs (PTE) is the first Hungarian higher education institution to cooperate with the coordinating organization of the United Nations (UN) responsible for housing. The cooperation recently signed in Abu Dhabi in the framework of the 10th World Urban Forum includes international sustainable urban development, related joint research, and the organization of joint seminars, workshops and conferences. In addition, UN-Habitat provides training for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs. UN-Habitat is the United Nations Human Settlements Program, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1997 and based in Kenya. Through its extensive organization, UN-Habitat works closely with national governments, which are responsible for supporting local partner organizations, including public authorities, private and non-governmental organizations, to achieve the UN Sustainability Goals. Within its programs, the inclusiveness, security, resilience and sustainability of cities and housing also receive special attention.

THE UP AND THE PÉCS-BARANYA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COOPERATE

The joint goal of the University of Pécs and the Pécs-Baranya Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to promote economic and social development in the region, in the settlements of Baranya County, in the city of Pécs, through the competitiveness of the economy, to increase capital and wage incomes, to improve the quality of life, and to create a prosperous local economy and society. To this end, the parties signed a cooperation agreement at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The economic and social development of Baranya County and the region in the 21st century is based on a knowledge-intensive economy. Local industry must be part of the technological wave of the fourth industrial revolution, and it is in the common interest of the institutions of the region to promote the development of competitive services and productive activities based on digital knowledge and new technologies in Pécs, Baranya County, and South Transdanubia.

JOINING FORCES TO CREATE AN SME INNOVATION CENTER

Hungary is one of the moderate innovators in Europe, but its R&D&I expenditure as a share of GDP is increasing year on year. According to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Baranya County has a below national level of expenditure. There are many innovative companies in the county, but many of them are hidden and isolated. Currently, there is no physical space equipped with virtual, modern tools to showcase the potential of local businesses to potential investors and partners, and the knowledge they possess. In order to solve these problems, it is necessary to create a niche innovation center, for which the Pécs-Baranya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Baranya County Municipality, the University of Pécs, and the Pécs-Baranya Economic Development and Service Nonprofit Ltd. establish a cooperation agreement.

The aim of the cooperation is to unify and present the products and services of local, innovative enterprises in Baranya County and the UP in a common physical space; to organize and coordinate regular development forums; to generate real cooperation between the local economy and knowledge centers; to coordinate and dynamize knowledge and technology transfer; to organize career guidance activities from primary school to university; to create regional and national visibility for local innovations; to support the cooperation of innovative companies, and to improve the county's ability to attract investors.

The Second National Laboratory at UP is Open!

The minister said, 18 laboratories are included the current structure, out of these 18, two are in Pécs. These laboratories concentrate on topics of industry and digitalization, social and environmental safety, culture and family and healthcare.



The University of Pécs is a model for the future of higher education

"The government somehow envisions the future of higher education as demonstrated by the excellent cooperation between Soft Flow Ltd. and the University of Pécs" -said Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó on Tuesday in Pécs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the inauguration of the research and development center of the biotechnology company Soft Flow Ltd. in Pécs. The two billion HUF investment was supported by the state with a grant of around 770 million HUF, and as a result, the company will create 90 new jobs in addition to the existing 31. In his speech, he said that the government had mobilized and was mobilizing considerable resources to ensure that the production-oriented economy could take at least one step forward as soon as possible and become research and development-driven economy. He said that even during the pandemic, despite all the global headwinds, this process had been accelerated.

The Launch of the Hungarian National Genome Programme has been Initiated at UP

In the past few years, the University of Pécs Szentágothai Research Centre launched the creation of a genomics and bioinformatics centre and research infrastructure that provides most useful services and products for healthcare, agriculture, university education, research and industrial developments at maximum cost effectiveness. Thanks to the funding the project received, they were able to purchase the Illumina NovaSeq sequencing equipment, using it to establish a complex system that was only available in Vienna and Prague in Central Europe so far. The Szentágothai Research Centre has initiated the launch of the all-encompassing, synchronised and multidisciplinary Hungarian National Genome Programme, that would also serve national economic purposes. This programme is unique not only in Hungary, but also in the Eastern-Central European region as well, and has various advantages: both for the health of society, and for scientific development and economic stability. The goal is to determine the genetic characteristics of the Hungarian population, development of disease-specific genetic panels and promoting the identification of new pharmaceutical targets.

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology strengthens practical education with new industrial partnerships

Joint research and development projects, cooperation in education, and a university training portfolio adapted to the guidelines of the industrial company - are the areas of cooperation between the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs and two major Hungarian companies: the steel construction, aesthetic and industrial facade cladding design, production and construction company KÉSZ Metaltech Ltd., and Amphenol, one of the world's largest electrical connector system manufacturers with a turnover of USD 8.6 billion last year, based in Pécs. The framework cooperation agreement with the two companies focuses on three areas: research, development, and innovation, where the two parties undertake to ensure knowledge exchange and create cutting-edge knowledge and technology through joint projects.

Cooperation between the UP and MVM has reached a new level

A cooperation agreement was signed between the MVM Energetics Private Limited Company and the University of Pécs. Under the terms of the contract, Hungary's fourth largest group of companies, the thirteenth largest in Central Europe, and "Hungary's first university" will work together to ensure effective compliance with and implementation of the strategic vision of the National Energy Strategy and the National Energy and Climate Plan, and to promote the widespread use of environmentally friendly energy sources. The MVM and the UP have been cooperating for many years, but this agreement takes their joint activities and strategy to a new level. The newly signed document covers education, training of professionals, further training,



scientific research, and development. UP students will also benefit from this cooperation, as MVM will provide professional support to the departments and laboratories that are of key importance to the university in terms of ensuring the supply of new talent, and will offer students training programs and work placements that are in line with its business profile. With an active presence in 23 countries and more than 120 member companies, the MVM Group provides opportunities for academics and researchers to gain industrial, large-scale experience and contributes to the participation of its experts as invited speakers in the teaching of the UP. Climate protection has been one of the strategic objectives of the University of Pécs for several years. MVM provides professional support for the implementation of the UP's energy efficiency strategy and supports the higher education institution's intention to create a university background in line with the principles of the circular economy for both institutional and market players through green energy, cleantech, smart research and development, training and innovation programs and infrastructure development in these fields.

Huawei signs training agreement with the oldest Hungarian university

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs and Huawei Technologies Hungary have signed a long-term framework agreement on joint educational programs and strategy, as well as on the launch of accredited info-communications training courses. According to the signed letter of intent, the University and the company will cooperate in the definition and implementation of joint projects, education, and training programs, in addition to the regular exchange of knowledge and experience. To make Hungarian IT training more marketable, a long-term cooperation strategy will be developed, which will be in line with the values of both parties and will be integrated into the Faculty's program. As the first step of their cooperation, the University of Pécs and one of the world's leading info-communications companies are launching the so-called Huawei ICT Academy program. First, teachers and then students will be introduced to the latest knowledge on next-generation mobile networks, new perspectives and trends related to 5G technology or the use of network devices in the industry, as well as Big Data and Artificial Intelligence. Huawei will also provide the educational materials and the tools needed to acquire the knowledge, while the University will provide the infrastructure and maintenance. The cooperation will also include the possibility for the university's students to participate in the company's SEEDs for the Future study tours, through a competitive application process.

Together for the integration of vocational education into higher education

Starting from the new academic year, the Baranya County Vocational Training Center, the Center's Zipernowsky Károly Technical School, and the University of Pécs have signed a cooperation agreement. At a press conference on Thursday, the cooperation was presented to harmonize the content of vocational training and higher education courses and promote the further higher education of students with vocational qualifications, i.e. to serve the needs of the labor market even more efficiently. The University of Pécs aims to make higher education courses offering competitive knowledge and skills available to as many young people as possible, regardless of their social status.