



University: University of Pécs
Country: Hungary

SDG17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

17,2 Relationships to support the goals

17.2.5. Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs

Collaborate with NGOs to tackle the SDGs through: student volunteering programmes, research programmes, or development of educational resources

- student volunteering programmes
- research programmes
- development of educational resources

• STUDENT VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMMES

Dream Factory of Sustainability

15/02/2024

Students of the University of Pécs Practice Primary and Secondary School Babits Mihály Secondary participated in an exemplary, innovative initiative, the goal of which was to support a disadvantaged family. The students, within the framework of the compulsory 50-hour community service, “produced” paper briquettes enough to supplement heating for an entire season, made from wastepaper, sawdust, and water.

As Hungary’s greenest university, the University of Pécs strives to take the lead in building sustainable communities, of which we have seen several examples recently.

The briquette-making project of the students of Babits Mihály Secondary School is a great example of how even a smaller cooperation can improve the life of others, this time that of a disadvantaged family in Komló. However, the cooperation does not end here, the members of the first briquette-making group are continuously passing on the know-how of paper briquette production to other students.

“We gladly supported the initiative, which, besides serving a noble cause, promotes waste recycling and plays a significant role in striving for environmental and social responsibility, as well as in developing openness and receptivity among students. We are very pleased that we were able to make our efforts for a shared goal together with our cooperating partners. The project was realized in cooperation between the Chancellery of the University of Pécs, the UP Practice Primary and Secondary School Babits Mihály Secondary School, the UP Green University Program, Mecsekerdő Zrt., and Agro-Porta Ltd. of Szentlőrinc” - said István Decsi, Chancellor of the University of Pécs.

“The cornerstone of the concept of the UP Green University Program is awareness-raising to support the achievement of the goals of sustainable development. It is particularly important that we develop and extend the green philosophy and promote environmentally conscious thinking. To develop awareness, the University of Pécs devotes special attention and provides space for the targeted education of secondary school students so that the ‘green’ mindset may become a basic element of their daily lives” - emphasized Tünde Kulcsár, Program Coordinator of the UP Green University Program.

“The idea came from my colleague Gergő Pintér, who is a PE teacher and homeroom teacher at the school, and who is very socially sensitive. First, with the support of the Green University Program of the Chancellery, he purchased the briquette-making machine, then came up with the idea of how to recycle the paper waste generated at the school, and how we could



involve the students in the process. I was very happy about it and welcome every similar initiative, especially if it comes from colleagues or students. Sustainability and social sensitization are integral parts of school programs. We continuously cooperate with the UP Green University Program, participate in their programs, and of course, we collect waste selectively. We are very lucky because many colleagues in the institution lead by positive example. I would like to highlight Dóra Tarnai, who lives by the principles of sustainability and the green concept, which is exemplary for all of us. She involves the school in many national and international projects. We currently have an international project running where we are setting up two raised beds, which will also be worked on by students. I believe that students gain a lot from these initiatives,” said Andrea Sulyok, Head of the Babits Mihály Secondary School unit of the University of Pécs Practice School.

She added: it is advantageous for students that they can fulfill the compulsory 50 hours of community service locally, within the institution, and it is very important that during this time they truly experience what it is like to help. “I support the idea that volunteering should be about something where our students genuinely provide help because I believe every student will feel these principles their own if we bring those close to them, if they can gain personal experience. I think a student who has tried briquette-making and has seen how it works will experience the task in a completely different way. They feel what it means to help others, see that we can recycle the waste generated in our environment, and contribute to a family not having to be cold” - added Andrea Sulyok.

Transmitting social sensitivity and a sustainability mindset is a key goal of the institution. The high school earned the title of Eco-School in 2021, coordinated locally by Eszter Muráth, thanks to whom students can participate in further green programs that bring the conscious and green lifestyle closer to them. “Personal example has very great pedagogical value, and my colleagues mentioned do not only talk about sustainability, but live according to it, they are true role models!” - emphasized Andrea Sulyok.

The institution is undergoing digital transition, yet a significant amount of paper still ends up in the school’s recycled waste bins. For briquette-making, this paper waste is used partly, and partly donations, for example, shredded invoices. The finished compressed paper bricks provide excellent heating support alongside wood, coal, or pellets. In the future, with the support of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP and Körber Hungária Ltd., a paper shredder will also assist the recycling process.

“The essence perhaps is not what we do, but the purpose for which we do it. We wanted to help the most disadvantaged families, in a cause that few deal with. When the energy crisis was announced in the summer of 2022, everyone was scared about what would happen. The two worst situations in life are being hungry and cold. I thought of an idea that could perhaps be feasible, with which our school and students could help those who would not be able to afford gas or firewood and would be left on their own without heating” - said Gergő Pintér, initiator of the project and teacher at the Babits Mihály Secondary School.

Briquette-making consists of a few simple steps that students can easily learn and pass on. The first step is to mix the dry material, so the shredded paper waste with sawdust, which is good because it has a higher calorific value than paper. The combined solid texture of the two materials results in a heat-retaining mass, significantly increasing the heating value compared to burning paper alone. Students take water from the school’s rainwater collector to moisten the shredded paper and sawdust. After this, the mixture is left to sit and soak, during which the cellulose dissolves from the paper, which has an adhesive effect, meaning that after pressing and sun-drying, the dissolved cellulose glues the briquette together.

“Thanks to the project, students can fulfill their compulsory 50 hours of community service here at the school, which is a requirement for taking the final exam. The students are very



enthusiastic, there are some who feel this initiative close to their hearts and continuously participate, helping the newly joining ones” - said Gergő Pintér.

So far, approximately 100 students have participated in briquette-making, who receive one hour of verified community service for every 15 briquettes made. Thanks to the collaboration and the well-functioning system, a family in need now has 1.5–2 cubic meters of briquettes to make the heating season easier. Gergő Pintér also said that paper briquettes are a good choice because their combustion releases fewer harmful substances into the air, compared to when people living in deep poverty literally burn everything they can find, to keep their homes warm.

“I am in contact with the leadership of the Unified Special Education Methodological Institute in Komló, and with their help we found a student who performs well in school and is multiply disadvantaged, and it was their family to whom we delivered the prepared briquettes. This was the first briquette package that was sent out today, but hopefully not the last, because we really want to continue this initiative” - emphasized Gergő Pintér.

Among the students, there are some who had already completed their compulsory 50 hours and joined the project after that, because they found briquette-making interesting. As they said, they love when the ‘briquette factory’ is buzzing with work, everyone has their own task, and the atmosphere is always great.

400 More Oaks

20/03/2024

The University of Pécs Green University Program and the Mecsekerdő Zrt. stylishly celebrated the International Day of Forests (March 21 – ed.) with a joint project, when a total of 400 oak trees were planted by university students and employees of Mecsekerdő Zrt.

The community tree planting was organized on March 20, 2024 the employees of Mecsekerdő Zrt. helped with the proper planting of the trees and the selection of the designated area. The event concluded with a shared lunch, where participants were invited by the staff of the UP Green University Program.

“Planting trees has numerous environmental benefits: it improves air quality, absorbs sudden rainfall, and naturally cools the air in summer, just to name a few reasons why it is worth planting trees. Tree planting is one of the most climate-effective activities, through which we can make our cities more livable and also improve their appearance. In addition, collaborating for a good cause also contributes to community building. Our university is a Green University; the green mission is important to us. The Mecsekerdő Zrt. is also committed to these values, thanks to that we had participated in several programs together. This tree planting initiative is the result of our joint thinking, during which we planted 400 oak trees together with university citizens, supported professionally by the employees of Mecsekerdő Zrt. At this point, we are not only talking about shaping attitudes but also about tangible, air quality improving, decarbonization goals” - said István Decsi, Chancellor of the University of Pécs.

“In the framework of the national afforestation program, the forest-covered area of our country is continuously increasing. In forest renewals, in addition to the greatest possible usage of natural processes, while considering the local conditions, it is also important to introduce climate-resilient propagation material (seeds, saplings) and expand the range of tree species to improve the forest’s ability to adapt. Whoever plants a tree believes in the future. I am delighted by our shared thinking in the green mission with the employees and students of the UP. I am convinced that those who actively participate in enriching and maintaining the living environment will set up a much more conscious and moderate life for themselves” - emphasized István Ripszám, CEO of Mecsekerdő Zrt.



The Most Energy-Efficient PTE Dormitory to Receive a Recreational Zone!

03/04/2024

Climate change and environmental degradation pose serious threats and challenges worldwide today. It has become clear to everyone how important it is to protect our environment effectively, as the future of our planet is at stake. Therefore, the conscious and economical use of our resources is of key importance. In this light, energy savings play an outstanding role in addressing energy and climate protection.

“For the University of Pécs (PTE), sustainable energy management is a key priority, and to this end, the university has implemented several cost-saving and environmentally friendly measures. Additionally, PTE encourages its citizens to adopt a more environmentally conscious mindset in terms of energy use, as involving and engaging the university community is essential for success. This is a shared responsibility—the goal is to reduce operating costs, lower energy consumption, and protect our environment. After all, the greenest energy is the one we don’t use,” emphasized Tímea Zalay-Cseresznyés, Director of Operations and Investments.

Electricity costs can be further reduced by utilizing solar energy. To this end, the Pannon Energy Community Nonprofit Ltd. was established in 2023, of which PTE is also a member,” added István Decsi, Chancellor of the University of Pécs. To ensure that everyday energy-saving efforts are effective, a new mindset and conscious behavior are necessary. To support this, the University of Pécs invites its community to participate in various activities. “At PTE sites, we are placing stickers to help promote energy-saving habits. Economical behavior is a fundamental element of environmental sustainability, and many of our awareness campaigns are connected to this. One example is the initiative announced for faculties, ‘Green Steps for Health – Take the Stairs with Us!’ which encouraged students and staff to participate with various playful elements. We are also promoting the green mindset among dormitory residents through an energy-saving challenge competition. The most energy-efficient dormitory will be rewarded with the creation of a full recreational zone.

The Forest Path Towards the Tripammer Tree Has Been Cleaned Up

11/04/2024

Nearly fifty people collected litter on April 11, 2024 in the Mecsek Mountains as part of the UP Green University program. Participants included class 2/c from the No. I Practice Primary School of the University of Pécs (UP), as well as staff from the Chancellor’s Office, the Teacher Training Center, the University Library, the Green University Program, and Mecsekerdő Zrt. Their enthusiasm was much needed—without their dedicated efforts, the area surrounding the popular hiking destination in the Mecsek would have remained a rather dismal sight.

The group set off from Árpádtető towards the Tripammer Tree, collecting discarded waste along both sides of the Melegmány Road. This notable pedunculate oak is also accessible by car, which may unfortunately be what attracts litterbugs, as this stretch of road is less frequented. As one young environmentalist put it:

Worn-out shoes, various dirty, tattered clothes from T-shirts to sweaters, countless beer and energy drink cans, tossed cigarette butts, plastic bags and sacks were all gathered into the trash bags. Although it only takes 4 minutes to drive the approximately 2.5 km stretch, it took an entire morning to clean both sides of the road from waste.

Little Climate Heroes in Big Action

22/04/2024



In line with Sustainability Theme Week and supported by the PTE Green University Program, the Deák Ferenc Primary School of the PTE Practice Primary and Secondary School joined this year's "TeSzedd! – Volunteering for a Clean Hungary" campaign, the largest voluntary waste collection movement in the country. On Earth Day, April 22, the students cleaned up the area around the school from litter.

The movement has been encouraging primary and secondary school students, as well as their parents and teachers, to collect abandoned litter and clean up our environment for twelve years now. The students of the PTE Practice School set off in small groups equipped with gloves and garbage bags from the school's main entrance to clean and beautify the neighborhood. As an eco-school, the institution takes part in waste collection every year, and the program is always very popular, especially among the younger students. This year, 200 students participated in the campaign. One of the school's key goals is environmental education, which is integrated not only in lessons but also through extracurricular activities in everyday life. Before the collection, the children received safety training, learning which hazardous waste items should only be picked up by accompanying adults.

"Livia Balogh, the teacher and action coordinator, said that this event was the first activity of the Sustainability Theme Week, and the children will participate in further programs and competitions throughout the week. We cooperate closely with the University of Pécs Green University Program, as well as the PTE Babits Mihály High School and the 1st Practice Primary School. Thanks to these programs, environmental awareness becomes part of the children's everyday lives, and they actively participate in these initiatives. We believe it is important to start this kind of education at a young age because environmental awareness will become a moral principle for them, allowing them to set a good example for their own children and grandchildren.

As part of Sustainability Theme Week, on April 23, 25 upper-grade students will visit Budapest for the UNICEF climate protection conference, where they will be welcomed with all-day programs, including film screenings and workshops. On April 25, 2024 the younger students will take part in the last playful block of the competition organized by the 1st Practice School at the Botanical Garden of the University of Pécs. A few students from the school have successfully advanced to the Kaán Károly competition, whose next round will also take place this week on April 26. Besides these, the students will also participate in the GreenSmart Cup, a multi-round sustainability team competition that requires significant preparation, as the challenges include not only everyday but also professional questions.

The University Student Union of the University of Pécs, the Doctoral Students' Union and the University Student Union of all ten Faculties of the University deal with sustainability issues affecting the university and the faculties.

Some of the events from the table:

Information
Name of the activity: Cultural adventures - Busó Carnival in Mohács Description: This event was a cultural trip to Mohács on 12th February to experience the famous Busó Carnival, including a bus ride from Pécs and a souvenir magnet as part of a semester-long series. Participants enjoyed the parade of Busó groups, street festivities, folk dances, music, and the traditional bonfire and coffin burning. The program was open to UP students at a discounted price and to a limited number of non-students.
Name of the activity: STIPENDIUM Hungaricum Forum 2024 Description: The Doctoral Student Association of the University of Pécs organized an online Stipendium Hungaricum Forum on 19th March, held via MS Teams.



Participation was free of charge but required prior registration through an online form. The event warmly welcomed all international doctoral students and provided information relevant to the scholarship community.

Name of the activity: **XII. Interdisciplinary Doctoral Conference**

Description:

The 12th Interdisciplinary Doctoral Conference (IDK2024) was held on 5-6th April, 2024 at the University of Pécs, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The conference invited PhD and undergraduate students from all scientific disciplines, offering them the opportunity to present their research as oral or poster presentations in both English (primarily) and, for a few, Hungarian. Registration and abstract submission preceded the event and it provided an international, multi-disciplinary forum for sharing scientific findings.

Name of the activity: **Nevetnikék Charity Concert**

Description:

The Student Government of the Faculty of Music and Visual Arts of the University of Pécs organized a **Charity Concert for the Nevetnikék Foundation** on 24th April, 2024, in the Liszt Ferenc Concert Hall. The program featured works by composers such as Bach, Pergolesi, Clara Schumann, Saint-Saëns, and García Lorca, performed by students and young musicians. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Nevetnikék Foundation, supporting hospitalized children through playful and therapeutic activities.

Name of the activity: **Volunteer action for flood protection**

Description:

The Student Union of the University of Pécs and the Student Government of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology organized a **volunteer action for flood protection** on 20th September, 2024. Volunteers traveled by bus to Dunaszekcső, where they helped fill sandbags to strengthen defenses against the rising Danube. Around 40–50 students and lecturers participated.

Name of the activity: **MEDPécs 2024 – Online Conference**

Description: The Doctoral Student Council of the University of Pécs organized **MedPécs2024**, an online conference held on 22nd November 2024, for PhD students in the fields of health, medicine, and pharmaceutical sciences. Participants presented their research through oral and poster sessions, with English as the main language, though some Hungarian presentations were also accepted. The event welcomed not only doctoral students but also graduate students with outstanding scientific achievements.

Project name: **Angel package**

Description: The University Students' Union of the UP and its sub-governments organized a gift collection campaign, where they prepared gift packages for disadvantaged children, for whom this surprise could be the only present under the Christmas tree.

Project name: **Language Cafe**

Description: The Language Cafe was organized again by the Student Government of the Medical School of the UP, giving students the opportunity to practice their English and German skills in small group discussions. The main topic of conversation was Oktoberfest. Attendees enjoyed coffee, hot chocolate, and tea while engaging in lively discussions.

Project name: **Donations to Misina animal shelter**

Description: The Student Government of the Medical School of the UP organized a fundraising to celebrate the 30th birthday of the Misina Animal Shelter. Donations of dog and cat food, canned food, blankets, and towels were collected at the Student Office between 18th and 22nd March. The event successfully gathered essential supplies to support the shelter and its animals.

Project name: **Preloved Fair**



Description: The popular Preloved Fair was organized again on 12th November by the Student Government of the Medical School of the UP, welcoming everyone who wanted to hunt for preloved treasures or sell their used clothes. The event took place in the Main Building, Aula, from 4 PM to 7 PM. Attendees enjoyed browsing, buying, and selling second-hand fashion in a lively and friendly atmosphere.
Project name: Blood Donation Description: The Hungarian Red Cross, with the help of the Student Government of the Faculty of Health Sciences organized a volunteer blood donation event on 21st March, 2024, at the "D" building of the Faculty of Health Sciences in Pécs. Donors were reminded to stay well-hydrated and have a hearty breakfast beforehand, and to bring their ID, address card, and social security card. Many participants attended to give the life-saving gift of blood and help those in need.
Project name: Fundraising for Nevetnikék Foundation Description: The Nevetnikék Foundation and the Student Government at the Pécs Medical School collaborated again to support sick children. During Freshmen Camp, they raised HUF 80,000 by returning bottles and another HUF 170,000 through first-week freshman program tasks, which meant they were able to donate a total of HUF 250,000 to the foundation.
Project name: Chill with the Peers Description: On 15th October the “Chill with the Peers” event was held in the Dr. Romhányi György Hall at the Medical School of the UP. Students were welcomed with hot chocolate, snacks, and informal conversation corners to meet peer helpers and staff from the Student Services Office. The Peer Program, part of the faculty’s well-being concept, aimed to introduce students to peers they could turn to for support with academic, personal life, or mental health issues.
Project name: 2024 Spring Teqball Tournament Description: The Student Government of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP organized its 2024 Spring Teqball Tournament. Participants competed for victory and the top podium spot.
Name of the activity: Charity bake sale Description: The Student Self-Government of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the UP organized a charity bake sale at the Faculty.
Name of the activity: International Evening Description: The English-German Student Council (EGSC) of the Medical School organized the International Evening on March 9, a cultural celebration of the University of Pécs’ international students. The event, rich in tradition, was hosted at the Expo Center in Pécs.
Project name: Charity bake sale Description: On 30th April, the Student Union of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP organized a charity bake sale in front of the faculty’s main entrance. The proceeds were donated to MancsRanch – zoo and animal shelter, and visitors could also meet and pet adorable animal guests. Participants supported the cause either by baking treats or by purchasing sweets at the event.
Project name: Cigarette cleanup campaign Description: The Student Union of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Pécs organized a cigarette butt cleanup on 8th May under the stairs of the Boszorkány Street Dormitory.
Project name: E.ON Picnic Description: On 8th May, the E.ON Picnic was held at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP. Visitors enjoyed roundtable discussions on diversity,



sustainability, and green energy, hosted by Csaba Azurák with guests Pixa and Gergő Szobácsi.
Project name: Beginning of the World: The Search for the Good Life in the Age of Ecological Crisis Description: On 15th November 2024, at 6:00 p.m., the College for Sustainable Development of the UP, the Contemporary Challenges Research Center of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Pécs Community Foundation organized a public event at Reggeli. The guest was human ecologist András Takács-Sánta, who was interviewed by Judit Farkas from the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. The discussion focused on his book <i>“Beginning of the World: The Search for the Good Life in the Age of Ecological Crisis”</i> exploring its aims, his related work, and the role of communities in the ecological crisis.
Project Name: Sustainability, or circular economy in the fashion industry Description: The College for Sustainable Development of the UP organized a lecture on 16th April by Réka Szentesi on whether sustainability is truly sustainable in the fashion industry. She discussed how this vast and complex global sector has become one of the most polluting industries, why the concept of sustainable fashion has become outdated, and why the focus should shift toward circularity. Her talk also examined the current business models of fashion and their environmental consequences.
Project Name: Upcycling craft workshop Description: The College for Sustainable Development of the UP organized an upcycling craft workshop at Ördögkatlan Festival led by one of its students, Adri Szabó. Participants created durable everyday objects from single-use packaging materials, demonstrating how upcycling can reduce waste and integrate long-term solutions into daily life and material culture.
Project Name: Living library on sustainability and human ecology Description: The program introduced participants to human ecology, a field dealing with the relationship between humans and nature, the ecological crisis, and possible solutions. Attendees had the opportunity to meet the instructors and students of the new Human Ecology MA program and the College for Sustainable Development of the UP, learning about their work, methods, and challenges in building a more sustainable world.
Project Name: Workshop for the Nevetnikék Foundation Description: The Student Union of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at the University of Pécs visited the Nevetnikék Foundation for a cheerful workshop where eco-friendly toys were created. These toys were placed in treasure chests at various children’s hospitals, allowing young patients to choose a favorite piece to give them courage and patience during examinations and treatments. The Student Union expressed gratitude for the opportunity and emphasized the foundation’s dedicated and invaluable work, which fully deserves support.

• RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The H2 Project Begins

01/03/2024

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.

Collaborative Clinical Trials

08/07/2024

A strategic cooperation agreement focusing on clinical trials was signed last November between MSD Pharma Hungary Ltd. and the University of Pécs. This collaboration aims to provide patients with earlier access to innovative therapies and to accelerate the launch of clinical trials.

According to the agreement, the two organizations will hold biannual meetings to discuss ongoing clinical trials, their results, and any challenges encountered, in order to enhance the success of these goal-oriented research studies.

The first such meeting took place on June 11 2024.

Currently, 41 clinical trials are underway at the University of Pécs, sponsored by MSD Pharma Hungary Ltd., with a total of 64 patients participating to date. Approximately three-quarters of these trials focus on oncological diseases, while the rest target cardiovascular conditions.



As part of the strategic cooperation, MSD Pharma Ltd. will offer internship opportunities to final-year and/or penultimate-year students of the Medical School (ÁOK) and the Faculty of Pharmacy (GYTK) at the University of Pécs. These internships will run for an indefinite period, with a weekly commitment of 20 hours.

To maintain and further enhance its existing competitiveness in the field of clinical trials, the University of Pécs also aims to simplify and accelerate the contracting process among other things, by introducing electronic signatures.

Archaeological research led by the UP

In addition to the tomb complex of Sultan Suleiman, researchers also found traces of a city in Szigetvár. This was revealed during the research around the tomb. The excavation also found cutlery handles belonging to an Ottoman noble dining set, unique in Hungary. The rich finds revealed reveal the city's prominent role and prosperity. The results of the summer investigations, as well as the highlighted part of the finds, were presented on September 7 in the Zrínyi Castle of Szigetvár and at the site.

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Field research continued in the summer around the mausoleum of Sultan Suleiman I in Szigetvár (Turbék) based on a contract signed between the University of Pécs and the Gül Baba Mausoleum Heritage Protection Foundation.

During the 2024 research, the researchers examined the wider environment of the tomb with modern instrumental methods, field visits, and the collection of finds. The significant extent, structure, and various features of the character of the former Ottoman city became clear. The rich finds reveal various aspects of everyday life in Turbék, the city's prominent role, and its prosperity. Part of the population also used luxury items, according to the standards of the time.

Researchers' Night

27/09/2024

The shouting contest and the pancake made with renewable-energy were the most popular at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs during the European Researchers' Night, which is traditionally organized nationwide annually on the last Friday of September. This year, the UP awaited visitors with nearly 250 colorful programs across 10 venues.

The sweet aroma of pancakes was the last thing we expected when we entered the building of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology late Friday afternoon, to discover what computer scientists, architects and engineers are working on. But that is what welcomed us, so we immediately stopped at the first station, which was offering the delicious treats. According to the poster, we were participating in the Renewable Energies in Everyday Use demonstration, but it was actually about quick and efficient pancake production.

In our daily lives, we use a lot of electricity, but the moment there's a power outage, we immediately feel a bit lost. The enthusiastic employees of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology demonstrated how electricity can be generated with a single modified exercise bike, so with renewable energy, which was then used at the event to power an induction cooktop where pancakes were made continuously.

At the next table, we could test ourselves in olfactory diagnostics, where surprisingly the children were much better than adults at identifying the scents of everyday ingredients, spices, and wood shavings in the glass bottles.



Directly across the hall, the focus was also on renewable energy, here we could explore hydrogen technologies which serve as the base of the future energy economy. A little further on was the popular “3D Printing in everyday life” station, where we could observe the detailed process of the 3D printing of a cute, tangible replica of Mimike, the faculty’s mascot adopted from the Pécs Zoo. With the help of various types of special machines, not only adorable, but also logical games could be made, and of course many everyday objects like headphone stands could be produced.

A long line of children waited to try the Electric and hydrogen go-karts built by students of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, and at the Mini Car Simulator next to it, where they could control a four-wheeled, built vehicle on a track behind them via a monitor, using a steering wheel and pedal. Those who haven’t had enough of the go-karting experience and had long enough legs could take a seat in the Go-kart Simulator, where they could try what it’s like to drive a real go-kart on a virtual Formula 1 track.

In connection with IT security, ethical hackers demonstrated the potential dangers of using IP-addressed devices. During the presentation, the audience participated in a phone conversation with someone else, then found out some time later that they had been intercepted, giving unauthorized parties access to their sensitive data.

In the same room, you could play noughts and crosses with a Tic-Tac-Toe robot, Feri, and those who wanted to show off their strength could do so with the help of a strength meter.

One floor below, in a soundproofed room, a screaming contest took place. A decibel level meter was used to measure the sound level of the not so shy shouters, so anyone could find out how loud they could make and then take the result with them on a personal certificate of recognition. I finished in the strong midfield with my 114.2 decibels.

As part of the European Researchers' Night, there was of course an opportunity to listen to scientific presentations, the detailed report of the Water purification with sedge and reed event.

A series of special events awaited participants interested in science at the Medical School of the University of Pécs during the European Researchers' Night. The university has prepared a rich variety of programs to offer exciting and educational experiences for all ages.

One of the evening's most popular activities was the teddy bear rescue, where children could explore the operation of the human body with the help of medical students. Dressed as surgeons, they were able to perform life-saving surgery and look at X-rays while laughing and learning new things about the world of medicine.

The curious visitors could also get an insight into the eerie world of the Institute of Forensic Medicine, where the last moments of the murder cases in Baranya County were explored under the guidance of Dr. Gábor Simon, director. The programme showing the work of forensic doctors known from the CSI films was particularly popular, as the audience could even visit the autopsy room.

Besides medicine, the guests were also fascinated by the colourful world of biophysics. Through a four-stage demonstration, they discovered how the invisible becomes visible: from the differences between fluorescence and phosphorescence, to microscopes and the necessity of glasses. The participants could observe the different biological samples with their own eyes, try out lasers and luminescent screens.

In addition, there were numerous lectures and interactive activities that further expanded the scientific experiences. The variety and interactivity of the presentations ensured that the Medical School provided a memorable experience for all ages during the European Researchers' Night.

Science Locked in the Eyes



Let's imagine we are in a store, browsing among different products lined up on the shelves. Our choices are influenced by both conscious and subconscious factors. This is where the science of neuromarketing comes in, a field specialized in understanding consumer behavior, working with particularly intriguing methods. On the European Researchers' Night, participants could have an exciting insight into this scientific discipline at the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Pécs, where they could learn about the innovative methods of eye-tracking research and had the opportunity to try out the latest technology that is revolutionizing the development of marketing strategies.

In neuromarketing research, the eye-tracker plays a key role, as it can monitor consumers' eye movements in real time. During purchasing decisions, both conscious and subconscious factors influence choices. The eye-tracker enables researchers to monitor where participants are looking, how much time they spend at different products, and how they react to visual stimuli.

During the European Researchers' Night, Erika Lázár, a researcher at the CoRe Lab, presented in detail the benefits of using the eye-tracker and explained that neuromarketing is not only useful for marketing professionals but also plays a significant role in enhancing consumer experience.

"With the help of the eye-tracker, we can see in real time where consumers' attention is directed and how they react to different visual stimuli. This method allows us to understand the motivations and emotions behind purchasing decisions" - said the researcher. These words are particularly important as they highlight that in addition to conscious consumer decisions, subconscious reactions also play a key role. The researcher emphasized that "traditional market research methods often fail to provide a complete picture of the internal processes of consumers. However, with eye-tracking technology, we are able to collect data that can help optimize products and advertisements."

For the event's interactive section, participants had the chance to try the eye-tracker themselves and explore how the facial recognition system works. This brought them closer to the practical application of neuromarketing, and they could personally experience how the subconscious influences purchasing decisions.

The European Researchers' Night not only offered an entertaining experience but also opened a new dimension in the field of marketing, in which science and practice both play an important role. The opportunity to take a look into the exciting world of neuromarketing may encourage future marketing professionals to enrich their strategies with creative and scientific approaches.

6th National TDK Forum

18/10/2024, UnivPécs

The National Council of Scientific Students' Associations (OTDT) and the University of Pécs jointly hosted the 6th National TDK Forum in Pécs on October 17–18. The conference focused on the current status, role, and opportunities of student research groups.

The central question of this successful strategic event series was: How can the appeal of TDK and the competitiveness of research careers be preserved and strengthened amidst rapidly changing social conditions? More than 250 participants attended, including leaders from domestic and cross-border higher education institutions—rectors, vice-rectors, deans—as well as organizers and student representatives of the upcoming 37th National Conference of Student Research Societies (OTDK).

The event began with a meeting of the OTDT, where attendees were informed about the launch of the new OTDK website. The platform is now more user-friendly and transparent, with continuous updates planned.



Regarding the 37th OTDK—scheduled for spring 2025—it was announced that a completely new media communication strategy will be introduced, allowing all 16 scientific sections to be streamed live through a dedicated platform.

This marks a milestone for OTDK, significantly increasing public accessibility. The new communication efforts are supported by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority.

In his welcoming speech, Rector Attila Miseta of the University of Pécs expressed his honor in hosting the event. “I highly recommend a career in science—there’s always something interesting to explore, and new questions constantly arise,” he said. He also pointed to both the potential and the risks of artificial intelligence, noting that while AI often reflects the majority view on the internet, science does not operate on majority opinions.

“The participation of over 200 individuals shows this community is alive, active, and deeply embedded in Hungarian higher education,” emphasized Tamás Weiszbürg, president of the OTDT. He added that he was pleased the forum was held in Pécs—a city traditionally seen as a hub for higher education and talent development in Hungary.

The forum provided an opportunity to discuss how the situation of Hungarian university students has evolved and to explore directions for further development.

Zsófia Nagy-Vargha, Deputy State Secretary for Youth at the Ministry of Culture and Innovation, opened the event. She introduced the latest developments of the National Talent Program and addressed the growing challenges in talent development within higher education. She highlighted a newly launched, more structured online platform designed to support talent professionals, which includes a map-based search tool with 10 filtering criteria covering nearly all areas of talent.

“We believe competitions are essential—how could a young talent become a champion without being tested?” she said. She also announced that, as a result of collaborative efforts, Hungary will host the International Mathematical Olympiad in 2027.

Following the opening speeches, four introductory presentations were held under the theme Institutional Practices for Identifying, Engaging, and Supporting Talents in a Changing Environment.

First to speak was Tamás Fedeles, Vice-Rector for Education at the University of Pécs, who outlined the university’s five-pillar talent strategy: faculty-based research groups, honors colleges, talent scholarships, visibility, and recruitment. The goal is to create a student-centered, service-oriented talent support system.

“The master-student relationship offers lifelong guidance,” he said, noting that talent development must begin as early as elementary school. Thanks to PTE’s practice schools, this is already in progress. Programs like Szinapszis+ Mentor Program offer mentoring for secondary school students, along with additional university admission points. PTE had 132 award-winning TDK papers in 2023, with 19 honors colleges, 589 student members, and 82 mentors currently active.

Charaf Hassan, Rector of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, emphasized the importance of starting talent support early and mentioned that a special TDK section is offered for high school students. Zita Horváth, Rector of the University of Miskolc, highlighted the need to support underprivileged but talented children. János Abonyi, Rector of the University of Pannonia, spoke about the university’s commitment to developing student competencies through targeted training programs.

A roundtable followed, joined by Marcell Eszterhai, President of the National Conference of Student Governments, and Dániel Molnár, President of the National Association of Doctoral Students. The student leaders stressed the increasing pull of the job market and the need for universities to respond with attractive career models. They also emphasized the importance of clear communication and the role of families in supporting scientific careers. In



their view, talent development is only successful through strong collaboration between families and educational institutions.

Afternoon sessions were dedicated to professional committee meetings, covering topics such as the impact of AI, expectations for submissions, and the involvement of international students in TDK and OTDK.

The professional outcomes of the TDK Forum will play a key role in the societal impact of the 37th OTDK. Its broadened public visibility is being supported by the National Media and Infocommunications Authority. The collaboration agreement with OTDT runs through March 2026 and aims to strengthen the national student research movement, enhance OTDK's communication services, and support digital media literacy.

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 Against the Threat of Laser Attacks

28/10/2024, UnivPécs

Researchers from the University of Pécs' Faculty of Sciences and Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, in collaboration with an industrial partner, are developing a special device to detect laser attacks aimed at aircraft pilots.

Laser pointers and light pens — once rare technical gadgets — are now widely available. But in the wrong hands, these tools can become dangerous. Their power levels vary greatly, from the low-output pointers used in classrooms to high-intensity lasers used in healthcare and industry. In Hungary, their classification is strictly regulated by official standards.

"We're used to the types of laser pointers teachers use in lectures," explains Dr. Ervin Pirkhoffer, Associate Professor at the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, PTE Faculty of Sciences.

"But some models can burn a wall from 10 meters away or light a match. These devices can carry a shocking amount of energy — and are capable of striking an aircraft from up to 18 kilometres away."

A Rising Threat in the Skies:

In recent years, there has been a troubling rise in incidents where individuals use these devices to target aircraft and interfere with pilots by shining lasers directly into their eyes.

"Globally, about 60,000 laser attack incidents are reported each year," Pirkhoffer notes. "It's particularly dangerous if there's only one pilot onboard. A brief moment of blindness can lead to an accident — or in the worst case, permanent eye damage. Now imagine this not at a small airport like Pécs-Pogány, but somewhere like San Francisco, where planes take off and land every minute. A single mistake could result in a mid-air collision."

In Hungary, using a laser in this way is illegal and qualifies as disruption of air traffic, which is punishable by law. One notable case involved a young Hungarian man charged for shining a powerful hunting lamp at helicopter pilots flying along the Hungarian-Ukrainian border.

Developing a Laser Threat Detection System:

To address the issue, the University of Pécs is working in partnership with Fly-coop Ltd. to develop a device that can pinpoint the origin of laser attacks with an accuracy of up to 5 meters.

"This would help authorities identify and apprehend offenders," says Dr. Pirkhoffer.

With sufficient data, this technology could even support the development of a global database and high-risk laser interference zones, enabling pilots to anticipate potential threats on certain routes.

The R&D is divided between the Faculty of Sciences, which handles theoretical and sensor development, and Fly-coop, which conducts real-flight testing. The prototype sensors are mounted on various parts of the aircraft to determine the most effective placement — ideally, somewhere like the cockpit interior, which doesn't require as much environmental shielding.

"Determining where a laser came from might sound simple at first," says Pirkhoffer. "But consider that an aircraft can travel at 270 km/h during landing — it moves dozens of meters every second, while the attacker is usually stationary, often using a tripod. This contrast in movement actually helps us pinpoint the shot's origin and altitude with great precision in just a few seconds."

A Multidisciplinary Effort with Major Support:

On the university's side, the project brings together faculty, PhD students, and assistants from the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, as well as a mathematician from the Faculty of Engineering and IT. The entire research is expected to last two years, with results — and potentially a patent — anticipated by 2026.

The development is funded by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) with a grant of 597 million HUF.



Hungarian Researchers Create a Unique Workstation in Europe

31/10/2024, UnivPécs

A consortium of the University of Pécs (PTE) and the HUN-REN Szeged Biological Research Centre (SZBK) has completed the project titled “Development of a multifunctional femtobiological workstation and investigation of light-induced biological processes using few-cycle spectroscopic methods” (ID: 2018-1.2.1-NKP-2018-00009), funded with nearly 300 million HUF.

Life on Earth relies on fundamental biological processes, such as photosynthesis and photo-reception, occurring at the nanoscale and involving complex photophysical and photochemical reaction chains. Some of these ultrafast reactions last only a few femtoseconds (10^{-15} seconds). Understanding these processes mechanistically is challenging both from a quantum physics and biological perspective, but it is crucial for developing new bio-inspired solar cell technologies.

The ELI ALPS laser facility in Szeged aims to provide laser sources and instruments surpassing current technology to study the fastest physical processes on femtosecond and attosecond timescales.

The project focused on utilizing new laser sources to develop measurement workstations tailored for photobiological applications. A team of researchers from HUN-REN SZBK, ELI ALPS, and international partners from Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University developed a multidimensional optical spectroscopy user workstation. This ELI workstation—the only one of its kind in Europe—can measure ultrafast light-induced dynamics in complex biological materials with the highest spectral and temporal resolution, in a fraction of the time needed by conventional laboratory instruments.

Parallely, PTE researchers designed experimental workstations and new experiments. The team conducted multidisciplinary studies on the biophysics of photosynthesis in plants, algae, and cyanobacteria, revealing new detailed insights into structure-function relationships governing efficient light energy utilization. Their findings challenge long-standing dogmas and encourage rethinking widely known phenomena like chlorophyll fluorescence.

The infrastructure and collaborative research network built during the project will remain active beyond its official end.

Geoinformatics in Practice – GIS Day 2024

20/11/2024, UnivPécs

On the occasion of the international day of geoinformatics, the Faculty of Science of PTE once again organized GIS Day on November 20, which this year took on a completely new format. Instead of the usual professional lectures, the focus was on practice and high school students.

The primarily high school student attendees were welcomed by Dr. András Trócsányi, Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Pécs, who said that this year’s event is completely different from previous years; this time the faculty and corporate sector representatives did not give all-day lectures, but instead the interested were introduced in smaller groups to different, exciting areas of geoinformatics.

Dr. András Trócsányi, Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Pécs

“Geoinformatics, or GIS education at the faculty already has serious historical traditions; it has become a defining element of geography education,” said Dr. András Trócsányi, who briefly also introduced the faculty and its institutes, and invited the attendees to the faculty’s open day on November 26.

GIS Day 2024



The organizers divided the high school students into separate groups, then in different corners of the Youth Road campus, they were introduced in rotation via half-hour lectures to different areas of geoinformatics. The young people gained insight into 3D modeling, satellite measurements, geoinformatics software and online platforms, and the world of cartography.

Dr. Ervin Pirkoffer gave a brief overview in the section titled “Terrain Table and Remote Sensing – learning maps with the help of digital terrain tables” about geography and the significance of geoinformatics itself, then modeled with a terrain table for the high school students why it is not enough to model different environmental impacts and phenomena only virtually.

“Computer science beyond a certain limit cannot reproduce reality. There are things that computer programs model with difficulty, whereas with a terrain table, for example, the unpredictability of nature,” explained the instructor.

GIS Day 2024 Terrain Table

During the demonstration, water flowed over terrain with different grain sizes of sandy-like material, just like the Dráva, headstrong, making its way wherever it could. Based on what was seen, there was discussion about the properties of rivers, the path of water, how precipitation behaves in a forested area, and in an urban environment.

The students visibly enjoyed the individual demonstrations and showed great interest in the different software and online solutions.

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

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.

Tracing disappearing water with your mobile

Due to global climate change and increasing human water use, more and more watercourses are drying up, with a growing impact on our daily lives and the economy. The 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 the process. This is why a Citizen Science network has been launched with researchers from the



University of Pécs as part of a Horizon 2020 research project, and the DRYRivERS smartphone app has been developed to ask for the public's help in collecting data to protect our small watercourses.

Rivers and streams are some of the most vulnerable biodiversity hotspots on Earth, as well as ecosystems essential for human well-being. This is the focus of DRYvER, a Horizon 2020 project involving more than 100 researchers from 25 research institutions. The DRYvER project, which brings together researchers from 16 countries - including Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, and the United States - was launched, with the Department of Hydrobiology of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Pécs representing the professional side of the project from Hungary. The main objective is to develop a new global framework, including strategies, tools, and recommendations for adaptive management of these river networks, based on detailed information collected on nine drying river networks in two continents, Europe and South America, and using a cross-disciplinary approach (hydrology, biogeochemistry, ecology, sociology, economics).

The app can be downloaded for free from Google Play and the App Store, download links and user guides are also available on the project website (<http://www.dryver.eu/citizen-science>). All observations recorded with the DRYRivERS app are publicly available on the DRYvER project website (<https://www.dryver.eu/app>), and registered users can edit their data via the website, add new data, narrow down their data to specific periods, and subsequently participate in games, challenges, and collect awards and badges through their activity.

Ultramodern 3D body scanner developed at the University of Pécs

The Bay Zoltán Public Non-profit Ltd. and the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs have jointly developed an ultramodern, three-dimensional body scanner to analyze and help children and adults to maintain correct posture.

Innovations, results, and products created by domestic intellectual capital have always been key to the development of the Hungarian economy. Key to this process is the cooperation of key players in scientific research, the sharing of their experience, and their involvement in international research.

It is along these guidelines that the Bay Zoltán Public Non-profit Ltd. and the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs declared their intention to cooperate on Wednesday morning, with the aim of mutual support in innovation and education activities, joint R&D projects, international and domestic R&D&I fundraising, project management, education, and technology commercialization.

• DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

With campus credit for a Greener University

02/02/2024

As part of the Sustainability Platform of Hungarian Universities, eleven Hungarian universities cooperated in launching the online sustainability course „*Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs*”, which starts in the spring semester of the 2023/24 academic year, similar to the UI GreenMetric WUR initiative.

In 2022, initiated by the University of Pécs, fourteen regional universities established the **Sustainability Platform of Hungarian Universities** through a framework agreement. The goal of the platform is to share best practices related to the topic of sustainability,



organize regular actions together and develop closer cooperation in the name of improvements that aim for sustainability.

The first action of the cooperation – in which eleven universities are participating - is the now-starting course, which can be taken up in Neptun as a 3-credit elective subject by university students. The course will launch 12th February and is available for all the ten faculties of the University of Pécs.

The video-based learning materials created by partner universities will be available on the platform of Moodle, allowing each student to view them in their own pace and preferred order. The exam will be accessible on the same platform during the designated period (Week 14), with three attempts to complete it. The evaluation will be based on the Study and Examination Rules' orders, which are detailed in the course syllabus.

Partner universities of the course:

- Corvinus University of Budapest
- Budapest Metropolitan University
- Budapest University of Technology and Economics
- Eszterházy Károly Catholic University
- Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- University of Miskolc
- University of Nyíregyháza
- University of Pannonia
- University of Pécs
- University of Sopron
- University of Szeged

Gamification pedagogy for development

18/01/2024

The Dienes-games, products of a collaboration between Körber Hungary Ltd. and the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs were introduced to the public on 18th January 2024 in the office building of Körber. The primary aims of the contract signed in December by Körber and the Faculty was to develop talent nurturing and -developmental programs, to broaden the experience opportunities of students and to support education together. As first step, they have produced the developmental games of the world-famous Zoltán Dienes doctor honoris causa of the University of Pécs; Körber has manufactured 100 pieces of the games. Körber belongs to the region's biggest factories; its official collaboration with the university has begun in 2018. However, the actual partnership is much older, because the enterprise welcomes students to do their practice for a long time now, and helps with teaching certain courses; besides, it has financed the renovation and digital modernisation of classrooms on three Faculties already.

New Partners in Teacher Training

30/01/2024

The University of Pécs welcomed its new partner institutions on January 30, 2024 in the Senate Hall of the Rector's Office, with them, the UP's partner institution network for teacher training now includes 186 public education, vocational training, and early childhood education institutions, as well as 41 civil organizations working in education, and foundations, cultural and other institutions await students and support the preparation of prospective teachers.

The main role of the University of Pécs Centre for Teacher Training is to coordinate the work related to training among the university's faculties engaged in teacher education, carried out through a network-based collaboration. For this reason, the university launches



a programme each year with the aim of expanding the network of partner institutions, involving new public education, vocational training, and early childhood education institutions committed to supporting the professional development of future teachers, and whose mentor teachers are dedicated to preparing students. Depending on their available trainings, partner institutions host students for the completion of mandatory practice required in teacher training.

“Networks are very important, as while we can be successful individually, the further we progress in our career, whether in teaching or research, the more important colleagues, friends, and acquaintances become who can support our work and career development. So, the more professional, friendly, and human connections we form, the more successful we can be” - said Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Educational Vice-Rector at the University of Pécs, quoting the writing of Albert-László Barabási on network research.

Regarding teacher training, the Vice-Rector highlighted the importance of practical education, which could not reach such a high level without the partner institutions.

Dr. Zsuzsanna Gerner, Director General of the UP Centre for Teacher Training, shared that the University of Pécs currently has 186 partner institutions, resulting in a very diverse network that includes many types of institutions.

“In addition to university-level disciplinary preparation, the teacher training is crucial as well, which includes methodological and practical preparation. Currently, around 1,800 students at the University of Pécs are studying in some form of pedagogical training. Well over half are studying to become public education teachers, while the rest are preparing for early childhood, arts, or vocational teaching professions. We learned from the student feedback that they often consider the practical training the most successful part of their preparation” - emphasized the Director General.

In the programme launched in fall 2023, 19 new institutions earned the title of UP Partner Institution: 6 in kindergarten teacher training, 6 in primary teacher training, 6 in public education teacher training, and one in special needs teacher training. The title is granted from January 1, 2024, for an indefinite period, as long as the conditions and expectations for partner institutions and mentor teachers are met, the title allows institutions with positive results for their application to use a plaque awarded by the university, and display it on their walls, and to use the digital badge on their websites.

Became a UP partner institution in public education teacher training: Óbudai Árpád Gymnasium, Jókai Mór Primary School in Pécs, Jurisics Street Primary School in Pécs, Mezőszél Street Primary School in Pécs, Garay János Gymnasium in Szekszárd, and the Szent Orsolya Benedictine Primary School, Basic Art School and Dormitory in Dombóvár. In kindergarten teacher training Alapi Kindergarten – Mini Nursery, Keleti Városrészi Kindergarten, Magyarkeszi Bagolytanya Kindergarten, Pusztahencse Kindergarten, Sárbogárd Zengő Kindergarten, and the Szentlőrinc Regional Kindergarten and Nursery expands the partner institution network.

In primary teacher training Dr. Fejérpataky László Sports Primary School in Iváncsa, Jurisics Street Primary School in Pécs, Királyegyházai Primary School, Madocsa Reformed Primary School, Pécs-Normandia LIONS Club – LIONS School Alternative Daycare, József Attila Primary School in Pusztaszabolcs, Eötvös Loránd Hungarian-English Bilingual Primary School in Százhalombatta, and Zomba Primary and Basic Art School won the partner institution title.

In special education teacher training: Pécs-Normandia LIONS Club – LIONS School Alternative Daycare became a UP Partner Institution.

Get to know the University of Pécs and earn 2 campus credits!

07/02/2024



Few people have the chance to see the University of Pécs in its entirety. The UP is truly a giant—albeit a friendly one. Education, healthcare, and research take place across its ten faculties and many other organizational units. It is home to many students, including a growing international community, as well as outstanding educators and researchers. At the same time, the University of Pécs is the largest employer in the region, and nationally, it is the institution associated with the highest number of patents.

We often come across such phrases in speech or writing.

“We may know the facts — but do we truly understand them? Can we make the most of what they offer?”

Back in the 1990s, I was once a student at this university. At the time, there was no Facebook, no Instagram, no TikTok. Instead of specialty coffees, the moka pot was in fashion, and we browsed courses from printed course lists, collecting real signatures in our little black grade book – the index. I had five (well, actually six) full years to discover, semester by semester, all the opportunities the university had to offer, together with my friends. Theatre, journalism, cultural events, scholarships – and the list goes on. Life moved at a slower pace, and I felt we had more time to get to know what was available and explore it in ways that matched our interests.

Today – and I say this now as the Head of the Public Relations Centre of the UP – everything has sped up. Opportunities must be squeezed into ever shorter and more practice-oriented programmes. Of course, I’m not mourning the past, but...

...I firmly believe that once someone becomes a student at the University of Pécs — no matter how short their time here may be — they should have the opportunity to truly discover and make the most of everything this university has to offer.

That’s why we’ve organized this course, as a pilot initiative...

With the help of my colleague Éva Harka’s great ideas and effective organizational work, we invite experts as course lecturers who can offer a behind-the-scenes look. These are people who work daily for the community of the University of Pécs to ensure everything runs smoothly — even though their work is often invisible to the average university member.

How is the UP structured?

What international opportunities does it offer?

What do its IT specialists do?

How can such a large institution be physically and digitally secured?

What sports facilities are available?

What does it mean that the UP is a Green University?

These questions — and many more — will be answered. Assessment will be done through online questionnaires.

The course’s Neptun code: OIG-PTE_Int.

Promoting active engagement of the youth through diplomacy

22/02/2024

The Department of Political Science and International Studies of the University of Pécs organized a Kick-off meeting for the PACIFY-D Erasmus+ project on June 20-21, 2022, at the House of Civil Communities in Pécs. The two-day meeting brought together participants from 6 countries. The project, which started in spring 2022, will end in March 2024.

The purpose of the project’s first meeting was for the partners to agree on the distribution of individual tasks. The participants came from Greece, France, Italy, Spain, the project was led by the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the UP, and the project’s leader was Associate Professor Dr. Andrea Schmidt. The PACIFY-D program aims to provide innovative training



opportunities for young people and to establish national information points, strengthening active civic participation in connection with the training.

Talent, Community, and Seraphs

26/02/2024

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 ideas of the architecture students from Pécs are shaping the 2000-year-old city

08/02/2024

What might still be considered unusual in other cities works exceptionally well in Pécs. A few years ago, the architecture students of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs made proposals about a way of selling goods at the marketplace of Pécs that is suitable for our modern age, fairground's spatial layout, its landscape and architectural renewal, and they have since then participated on several occasions in the shaping of the city's various places with their ideas. They have been involved in the creation of the Water Valley of Pécs or the new concept of university campuses exploring the interconnection of the city and the university, as well as in the reuse of the old market hall building or the development of the Mecsek Park Forest. A recent cooperation agreement between the city and the faculty has also seen the start of a project to rethink a road section often used by university students as well, in which the city of Pécs is also counting on the proposals of the architecture students with the focus on sustainable development and zero ecological footprint.

"In the spring semester, we will be working on the rethinking of Hungária Street, which connects the historic city centre and the district of Sziget as the university district. Here, students will work on the public community space itself, and the renewal of the buildings related to it. They will have to think about the functioning of the area based on a complex system of criteria: they will have to take into account the natural environment and also the built environment, just as they have to consider the social, economic processes as well. Discussions with external contributors and urban experts will bring new perspectives and approaches to the design work, for example, an environmental rehabilitation engineer will draw attention to accessibility, but we will also talk about how we can help crime prevention by shaping the built environment. These are topics that students should reflect on in their designs, also as a way of bringing challenges based on real-world problems into university



education" - outlines the details of the assignment ahead Dr János Gyergyák, Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Urban Design of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP.

According to the expert, Pécs is a city that is very well suited for design, even on a Hungarian and European scale, in the past decade, the local government asked for suggestions from the architecture students of Pécs on a number of complex urban development issues, who could provide inspiration for the development of concrete plans with their up-to-date, fresh perspectives. The planning processes of the semester led by the professors at the faculty's Institute of Architecture, are conducted among others in the Complex Planning, Experimental Design, Urban and Spatial Planning subjects, with occasionally up to 60-80 students in small groups suggesting or presenting a broad perspective on a proposal. After finishing their work, the participants introduce their ideas to decision-makers in presentations and exhibitions. In the case of the marketplace redevelopment, for example, a public virtual exhibition was organized for the general public, who could also vote on the student projects they liked best.

"This kind of complex design process develops a range of competences in future architects. Following a context analysis, students create a joint development concept, for which dialogue between each other is essential, and all of this excellently supports the learning of communication. From a large spatial development vision, they select elements on a point-by-point basis and then individually design and develop them further. It is important that their concept is in accordance with all the aspects that arise during familiarization with the task, because when they later actually have to design, meaning in real life, in their day-to-day work, their assignments will be just as complex, and they will have to respond to the needs with the plan they have created. Several of the ideas formulated by our students have been included in the development concepts of the city of Pécs, which also shows that our work is clearly viewed positively " - says János Gyergyák, who sees the next level of cooperation in applying and involving the scientific research results of students from the faculty's Breuer Marcell Doctoral School of Architecture. They would like to collaborate with the city on tasks that would encourage the creation of more architectural doctoral theses connected to Pécs.

Green Physical Education for Sustainable Health

27/02/2024

Improving the mental and physical fitness of university students through outdoor physical activity is the aim of the project that the Institute of Sport and Physical Education of the Faculty of Science of the University of Pécs participates in alongside a Polish, a Czech, and a Slovakian university.

The GreenPE, meaning green physical education project, aims to implement an innovative model of physical education in higher education, focusing on environmental and health sustainability.

From each partner, 15 university students will receive an outdoor exercise plan, as well as nutritional and mental health counseling over the 20 weeks. Physical education teachers, fitness instructors and sports major student demonstrators, during the autumn semester of the 2024-25 academic year, will provide students with two outdoor P.E. sessions per week and one classroom lecture on the theory of fitness and outdoor physical activity.

At the beginning and end of the programme, participants' mental and physical health will be assessed.

The University of the Third Age in Paks

04/03/2024



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 network of training institutions of the University of Pécs is further developed

08/03/2024

The network of the training institutions of the University of Pécs is further improved by the agreement concluded between the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs, and the University of Pécs Kelemen Endre Health Vocational Secondary School.

The aim of the cooperation, which is a defining feature of the educational life of Szekszárd city with county rights and Tolna County, is to support higher education and individual learning paths for young people, providing a flexible, personalized career path in the fields of social and pedagogical studies.

A Unique Digital Event Platform Was Developed at Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the UP

11/03/2024

It uniformly manages event registration and program scheduling, as well as additional applications within, tracks the interest of visitors, and also provides precise statistics about their activities – these are, among others the functions included in the iWASTHR platform's cloud-based service system, which was jointly developed by professors and students at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology of the University of Pécs.

The unique event platform also has a mobile application, available for iOS, Android, and Huawei operating systems, allowing participants to download their personal attendance log of the event as a certification. The iWASTHR was tested live during last year's 4th Irány a PTE! Kultúrfeszt, and the experiences there promise many opportunities for varied use. According to the decision of the Hungarian Marketing Association, the event platform turned out to be one of the best nationally in the category of technological solutions, which is why it recently received a Marketing Diamond Award. The Irány a PTE! Kultúrfeszt – where anyone can experience what it's like to be a university student for a day – belongs among the most important and popular events of the University of Pécs, where high school students can get information about the admission process, as well as those who would like to continue



their studies in master's or postgraduate programs. Last year, it offered around 70 programs for over 2,200 pre-registered participants and the nearly 4,000 personal attendees.

The platform includes numerous functions, from registering for the event to issuing a certificate of attendance. Participants can use QR codes with their smartphones to navigate between different sections of the event or, for example, to register for a limited capacity lecture. Visitors' movement at the venue is recorded by digital signals, documenting their presence, which makes, for instance, proving attendance at events that provide extra admission points much simpler. With one function of the application participants can also check whether there are still available spots at a program they are interested in.

The development process of iWASTHR not only broadens students' professional knowledge but also improves competencies in them that will provide clear advantages later on in the job market. They learn how to manage a project, work in a team, and it shapes their cooperative ability and creativity.

Application images: Google Play Store

Free Data Law Trainings for Companies

18/03/2024

As part of the Data-EDIH project, the Faculty of Law of the University of Pécs is launching data law-themed training courses to support Hungarian small and medium-sized enterprises and public sector actors in improving their digital maturity. Two free training courses are available for companies in March.

The data assets managed by the public sector and the reuse of public data for business or scientific purposes carry significant potential, which may be beneficial both to the public authority managing the data and to the business partner.

During the training, participants can learn about the legal frameworks and obligations hindering reuse and their clarification. The training provides useful support for both data-holding (public authority) organizations and potential data users.

The online training takes place on the Moodle platform of the University of Pécs, following registration, consisting of materials available there, a workshop, and an hour long live online consultation.

The services provided by Data-EDIH are not free of charge but are cost-free, as the companies participating in the project have the opportunity to account for the incurred costs under the so-called de minimis or innovation support framework.

The project is carried out in consortium form, with the participation of 9 members.

Innovative German Language Teaching and Learning Material Related to the Nursing Sector

19/03/2024

Interview about the project implemented within the "Innovative digital language learning for workers in the healthcare sector" (2021-2-AT01-KA220-VET-000049281) programme. The aim of the IDEAL project was to create an online language learning package presenting real-life situations, thematically focusing specifically on nursing tasks and aimed at improving German nursing technical language knowledge. Ten videos and two types of manuals – for language learners and for language teachers – have been produced, accompanied by an interactive glossary and exercises.

The learning material will be available from April in Hungarian, English, German, and Slovak languages.

A new chapter in the cooperation of education and healing is opened by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Sanofi of the University of Pécs



22/03/2024

A university classroom was created at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Pécs, which promotes innovation and creativity, facilitates more effective learning and knowledge sharing, and also functions as a community space, with the support of Sanofi. The classroom that was expanded with several new functions, according to the intentions of the pharmaceutical manufacturer and the institution will open a new chapter in how an innovative pharma company and a university can cooperate. With this, Sanofi reinforced its commitment to combining education and practical knowledge.

In the room, which has been transformed into a truly inspiring environment, the atmosphere and comfort surrounding the students contribute to effective studying and the creation of new ideas. During its building, it was particularly important to ensure that the room is not only a place of learning but a real community space where students can meet, work together, and share their knowledge.

During the renovation, the space was equipped with tools and furniture that promote interaction and collaboration between students.

The pharmaceutical company puts great emphasis on the education of future generations, thereby it has maintained close relations with Hungarian universities for many years. Many university students participating in pharmaceutical and chemical training have completed their internships at the company before. They actively operate internship programs in several other business areas, currently employing more than 130 interns. In addition to industrial areas, the company's commercial center and dynamically developing global service center also offer excellent opportunities, where students can get a taste of the international world of a globally operating large company in many professional fields.

Sanofi not only offers practical opportunities but also helps students with thesis writing by involving company mentors. They are regular participants in university open days and job fairs, where interested parties can get insights into their work and receive information directly about currently open positions. The internship program offers not only experience but also paid vacation and various trainings for participants, which is outstanding in the market, and last year, the first "Intern of the Year Award" was also presented. After internship period, the company often offers permanent job opportunities to students.

The handover of the newly renovated classroom and the continuous cooperation is an important step toward Sanofi's long-term goal, which aims to develop the knowledge and skills of future generations.

How to be successful in job searching and at work?

20-22/03/2024

One way to measure the success of the student career path is whether after getting their degree, the freshly graduated young person finds the ideal job for themselves, and if they can fit into the culture of the given workplace in a way that allows them to assert themselves both professionally and personally. In order to help and support them, the OIG Career Office of the UP organized for the second time the three-day "kiléPTető" program series on March 20–22, 2024.

The goal of kiléPTető was to facilitate the transition into the world of work for graduates and to support the development of the competencies needed for job searching and workplace integration.

"We don't want to live a half-life!" - Generation Z on the labor market roundtable discussion
The first day of kiléPTető also hosted the Career Evening event, organized together with the Directorate of Innovation Management and Economic Relations, where participants could listen to an exciting roundtable discussion. The event was supported by the Prodiák School Cooperative.



Among the guest speakers of the discussion there were HR leaders, a university professor, a media researcher, a company executive, and a senior student, therefore they could examine the workplace challenges arising from generational differences, the expectations, needs, motivation, and retention possibilities of Generation Z workers from various aspects and perspectives. The students were active participants during this evening and could also ask questions and receive answers to related topics that concerned them.

In the feedback, participants highlighted the relaxed atmosphere, the open, supportive communication, and were grateful that the organizers invited speakers who shared relevant, practical experiences.

Onboarding - workshop supporting workplace integration

On the second day of kiléPTető, graduates participated in a small-group workshop using playful, interactive tasks to learn and develop skills that could improve their confidence and help them face the challenges of fitting into a new workplace more easily. The workshop was conducted by the Career Office's trainer and the HR Generalist of Prohuman, based on the content developed from employer feedback. 100% of the audience left the event satisfied, enriched with lots of useful information and experiences.

kiléPTető consultations

On the third day of kiléPTető, students had the opportunity to receive individual help, so they participated in private sessions about CV writing, job interview preparation, and career planning with graphology. The bravest could even try out mock interviews in English and Hungarian. Feedback from participants included:

Every participant who came to the programs clearly didn't regret it, as in a safe university environment they received feedback, support, and tools that can be used in real situations to help them enter the labor market more prepared and confident.

Focusing on Hydrogen technology

20-21/03/2024

The sustainable energy sources, the hydrogen technology, was the focus of this year's Simonyi Hackathon, which was organised on 20 and 21 March, 2024 at the Faculty of Business and Economics. The 21 participating teams had to develop an educational campaign and a concept for the use of alternative energy sources. Corporate partners also participated in the event, supporting the groups as experts. The Simonyi Hackathon is a competition of ideas for students of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Pécs Simonyi BEDC Entrepreneurship Centre. Students from all faculties of the UP participated in the contest.

EDUC Career Diversification Online Course

02/04/2024

The EDUC University Alliance offers a new opportunity.

Eight universities in the EDUC Alliance are creating an online career diversification course for professors and researchers. The online training conducted in English will focus on consciousness and awareness-raising.

Participants can join in the following topics:

1. Overview of Career Diversification
2. Capacity self-assessment
3. Capacity building: soft skills to improve your career opportunities
4. From academia to industry and back

Starting in April, the University Alliance will set up work groups for each of the modules, with the help of EDUC coordinators to facilitate progress and provide technical support.



Blood donation-related resuscitation training

07/05/2024

Blood donation-related resuscitation training was organized for students of the University of Pécs at the Collegium Seraphicum. Blood donation-related resuscitation training was organized for students of the University of Pécs at the Collegium Seraphicum. The University of Pécs and the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of the Magyars signed a cooperation agreement in February, which also includes supporting the work being done at the Collégium Seraphicum.

With the help of the agreement, the dormitory, which houses 90 university students, was transformed into a Franciscan College, the first program of which was a resuscitation training organized with the help of instructors from the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

14/05/2024

On 5th May, 2024 in Szekszárd, the University of the Third Age programme series will be setting out on its journey again, organised by the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs, with the support of the Municipality of the City of Szekszárd, and the Southern Neighbours Pensioner Cooperative of Public Interest, in the spirit of supporting and promoting lifelong learning and intergenerational dialogue.

The series of lectures, which takes place over two semesters within the framework of higher education, offers a high-quality, innovative scientific and cultural programme especially for people over the age of 50, enriching the range of cultural opportunities available in Szekszárd. The first lecture of the spring semester will be opened on 14 May by János Gyurkovics, vice-mayor of Szekszárd; Dr Gábor Szécsi, dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the UP; and Gabriella Tóth, head of the Southern Neighbours Pensioner Cooperative of Public Interest.

THE UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS AND THE THERMAL SPA HARKÁNY IN COLLABORATION

17/05/2024

The University of Pécs has signed a cooperation agreement with one of Central Europe's most renowned thermal spas, the Harkányi Gyógyfürdő Zrt.

The two institutions aim to connect in several areas. One such area is the education in health science, where the spa will provide a professional internship site for university students.

Another potential area of cooperation is innovation, and research and development, with the goal of initiating new collaborations that may also involve intellectual property rights.

Furthermore, the two organizations are considering joint implementation of domestic and international projects and grant applications.

Additional good news is that, as part of the cooperation, the spa will offer a 10% discount on ticket prices for university staff.

INNOVATION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

21/05/2024

The Innovation and Social Responsibility conference, dedicated to honouring Professor Attila Buday-Sántha, was successfully held on 17th May, 2024 at the Szekszárd campus of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development of the University of Pécs. The event featured a rich programme, focusing on rural development and sustainability.



The conference was officially opened by Prof. Dr Gábor Szécsi, dean of the Faculty. During the ceremony, participants experienced moving moments as Dr habil. Andrea Buday-Sántha and Dr habil. Zoltán Raffay welcomed the audience, followed by brief commemorative speeches from colleagues and former students.

The plenary session began with a presentation by Dr habil. Iván Zádori, who addressed the connection between rural development and sustainability, then he was followed by Prof. Dr László Szerb, who explored the topic of small business competitiveness. After the lectures, an official reception was held for the guests at the university's dining hall.

In the afternoon, parallel sessions were held on Innovation and Sustainability and Rural Development. Acclaimed speakers gave thought-provoking presentations on relevant topics. Among them, Tamás Szilágyi highlighted the need for responsible innovation, while the rural development session, led by Dr Zsolt Huszti, focused on local economic development and networking. The day concluded with a closing plenary session where the session chairs summarised the key takeaways and reflections.

The conference attracted considerable interest and provided valuable insights and knowledge for attendees.

THE 23RD 'CHINESE BRIDGE' INTERNATIONAL CHINESE LANGUAGE COMPETITION

24/05/2024

The 23rd 'Chinese Bridge' International Chinese Language Competition offers university students from all over the world a great opportunity to showcase their knowledge of the Chinese language and culture. The event, held on 24 May, 2024 aims to provide young people studying Chinese with the chance to deepen their knowledge and gain a better understanding of Chinese culture. This year, the Confucius Institute of the University of Pécs hosted the competition, which took place at the Littke Palace Visitor Centre. Contributing institutions included the Confucius Institutes of Eötvös Loránd University, the University of Szeged, the University of Miskolc, and the University of Debrecen.

During preparation and the competition itself, participants not only refine their language skills but also gain a deeper insight into Chinese culture, thereby contributing to the strengthening of understanding and friendship between the two cultures. This year's theme was: 'One World, One Family', emphasising global unity and togetherness.

"The 'Chinese Bridge' language competition is a large-scale international contest sponsored by Hanban, in which foreign language learners can compete in three categories: the 'Chinese Bridge' language competition for foreign university students, the 'Chinese Bridge' language competition for foreign secondary school students, and the 'Chinese Bridge' language competition for international students studying in China. These increasingly popular competitions are held annually in around 20 countries, with the finals taking place in China. As the competition includes delivering presentations, a deeper understanding of Chinese culture is an essential component. In addition to other valuable prizes, students who perform well in the competition may receive generous scholarships to finance their studies in China. Our institute offers preparation for both secondary and university-level students who are keen to participate," reads the website of the Confucius Institute of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs.

At the opening of the competition, the Chinese Ambassador to Hungary, Gong Tao, emphasised the importance of the relationship between China and Hungary and of language learning in his welcome speech. "Language is a tool of communication, but also a bridge for mutual understanding. Learning each other's language, history and culture promotes mutual understanding and affinity between the two nations, and contributes to building a community



with a shared future for mankind. I am glad that the Chinese language is becoming increasingly popular among Hungarians.” He also highlighted that the ‘Chinese Bridge’ competition not only develops language skills but also broadens the cultural horizons of the participants, contributing to more harmonious international cooperation.

József Betlehem, vice-rector for General Affairs, Connections and Strategic Affairs of the University of Pécs, stated: “When the Confucius Institute was opened at the University of Pécs nearly ten years ago, the leaders at the time also spoke about building bridges. I am pleased that His Excellency once again mentioned bridges, because if several bridges are built at the same time, more people will be able to cross them more quickly, to the joy and success of us all.”

During his stay, Ambassador Gong Tao met with the university leadership at the Knowledge Centre, where he donated books about China and Chinese culture to our university. Following this, the Ambassador visited the Confucius Institute as well, where he learned about the institute’s work and its ongoing activities. “In ancient times, the Silk Road was very popular, and today it is the Chinese Language Road. I hope that more and more of my Hungarian friends will follow the ideas of the ‘Chinese Bridge’ and ‘One World, One Family,’ and become ambassadors for promoting the friendship between our two nations,” said the Ambassador.

In the competition, students had the opportunity to test their knowledge in various categories, including cultural history and artistic performances. At the end of the event, the best participants were awarded valuable prizes and scholarship opportunities, which will further support their Chinese language and cultural studies.

Specialized Training in Animal Welfare Law to Be Launched by the University of Pécs and the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest

27/08/2024

Sustainable animal welfare means that the goals and means serve to strengthen animal protection, are based on scientific and objective foundations, align with international processes, and also meet economic rationality. They effectively protect animals and their welfare, while not questioning the primacy of humans. A cooperation agreement on the joint launch of the International Sustainable Animal Welfare Legal Training program, which is unique even in a European context, was signed by Prof. Dr. Péter Sótonyi, Rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest, and Prof. Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Vice-Rector for Education of the University of Pécs, on August 27, 2024 at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest.

The purpose of the framework cooperation agreement between the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest and the University of Pécs (UP) is to support each other’s professional, educational, and scientific work, with particular emphasis on the field of animal welfare. According to the agreement, the parties will collaborate on shared projects and programmes aimed at enhancing the professional competencies of students, professors, and researchers, as well as supporting research activities. The cooperation will also extend to organizing professional training programs and scientific conferences, launching joint undergraduate and postgraduate courses, and developing teaching materials.

According to Péter Sótonyi, Rector of the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest, the institution plays a unique, irreplaceable role in the training of animal welfare professionals in Hungary. It is the only university in our country where veterinarians and specialized animal welfare veterinarians are trained. The University of Veterinary Medicine looks forward to cooperating with the University of Pécs, which is not without precedent: since 2021, the Civil Law Department of the Faculty of Law of the UP and the University of Veterinary



Medicine Budapest's Animal Welfare Center have been organizing successful animal welfare seminars together for the law students of Pécs.

The signing of the agreement opens up new horizons, as the training of animal welfare professionals with an international perspective and a long-term, scientifically based approach is key to the future of animal welfare, and the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest is committed to providing the necessary support for this.

Prof. Dr. Tamás Fedeles, Vice-Rector for Education of the University of Pécs, stated that one of the most prestigious faculties of the University of Pécs is the Faculty of Law, which preserves the centuries-old legacy of legal education in Pécs. While maintaining the high standard of traditional education, the directorate of the faculty and its well-prepared teachers also respond to the problems and challenges of the modern era. This is demonstrated by their participation in the International Sustainable Animal Welfare Legal Training program, which also aligns with one of UP's strategic goals, to ensure sustainability across a broad spectrum. It is a source of joy that this newly launched postgraduate specialization will be implemented together with the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest, a university with a rich history and strong international reputation.

Prof. Dr. Adrián Fábián, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the UP, emphasized: postgraduate training programs play an increasingly significant role in legal higher education, including at the Faculty of Law of the UP. Programs that incorporate multiple disciplines alongside law are particularly popular. Today, animal welfare raises increasingly important and complex professional issues, and a specialized postgraduate training program is ideal for examining, answering, and acquiring related knowledge.

The announced legal training program will be coordinated on the UP's side by the Civil Law Department of the Faculty of Law, and on the University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest's side by the Animal Welfare Legal, Analytical, and Methodological Center.

Learning in the spirit of sustainability

19-21/09/2024

The 8th Pécs Learning City Festival will once again await the audience with special programmes and experiences between 19-21 September 2024. The aim of the event is to make the joy and benefits of learning accessible to all, while building a green future in the spirit of sustainability.

During the three days of the festival, there will be many exciting programmes for the participants in the heart of the city centre, at Széchenyi Square and the House of Civil Communities, as well as in other parts of the city. This year's motto, "Pécs - the sustainable learning city", focuses on green and digital technologies, sustainable culture, health and well-being. As part of the event, the 13th Science Festival will be organized in the Zsolnay Quarter, offering a unique opportunity for young people to gain insights into the world of digitalization and technological innovation. In addition, the festival programme will also include sustainability and community building themes, reflecting Pécs' commitment to environmental protection and knowledge sharing.

Don't miss out on this inspiring event, where learning and community-building are combined, and where everyone can find a programme that suits their interests.

Further information and detailed programmes are available on the Science Festival website and on the Pécs Learning City Festival website.

"Ride by bicycle to the University!"

03/25-02/08/2024

The UP Green University Program and the Rector's Cabinet Relations Directorate of the UP announced a cycling giveaway for UP employees between March 25 and August 2 titled



“Ride by bicycle to the University!” Those who arrived at work by bicycle, e-bike, scooter, e-scooter, or Segway at least 30 times during the specified period were awarded on September 17, 2024 in the Chancellery Section Room of the UP.

To participate, employees had to take photos with date stamps clearly showing the vehicle used and the university site and upload them to the game’s website. Each UP citizen could upload one photo per each working day, a participant could register at least 30, and not more than 40 photos. Tünde Kulcsár, coordinator of the UP Green University Program, thanked all participants, expressing her happiness that the initiative was such a success.

With the giveaway, they wanted to draw attention to environmental sustainability, a healthy, sporty lifestyle, and also aimed to promote alternative transport forms.

István Decsi, Chancellor, said that the nearly 1,000 submitted photos prove that the University of Pécs still deserves its title as a Bicycle-Friendly Workplace, which was given to the institution for the third time this year. He also spoke about the university’s participation in the pedelec test program, which will conclude in one and a half months, and whose experiences together with the “Ride to Work by Bike!” free employee bike-use initiative will be used in future infrastructure developments, such as additional bicycle storage facilities.

“I believe that cycling is a great option in urban transport. If someone can organize their life around committing to this transport form, they can gain many benefits, from health preservation to avoiding traffic jams, or, in the university’s case, freeing up parking spaces” - said István Decsi.

Fanni Navreczki, program manager of the UP Green University Program, pointed out that this week is European Mobility Week, in which the university is also participating in. Among other things, at university campuses and partner institutions, bicycle breakfast and prize draws are organized for everyone who arrives by environmentally-friendly means of transport. The UP Green University Program will also be present at the 13th Science Festival with colorful and exciting programs.

Cooperation for University Education for Seniors

04/10/2024

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.



VII. Sports Science Conference in Pécs

10/10/2024 UnivPécs

The 7th Sports Science Conference will be held in Pécs on October 18, organized by the University of Pécs (UP) Faculty of Health Sciences and the Cserepka János Hungarian English Bilingual Baptist Sports School, Primary and Secondary School.

The conference will feature presentations on a wide range of topics, including:

- prevention and therapeutic physical education,
- talent development in sports,
- youth athlete training,
- enrollment in sports schools,
- operation of sport-focused classes,
- sector-specific sports education and athlete selection,
- best practices in sports and physical education,
- health education and healthy lifestyle,
- challenges and best practices in digital education in physical education and sports,
- sports psychology,
- sports coaching and mentoring,
- mental health,
- and theoretical aspects of sports training.

Participation is free of charge, but requires prior registration. In-person attendance is limited to the first 60 registrants, while online participation is unlimited.

Testing electric bikes

16/10/2024

The University of Pécs (UP), Hungary's greenest university, remains committed to environmentally conscious solutions, especially when it comes to promoting sustainable modes of transport. As part of its Green University Program, UP has already supported cycling to work through a spring initiative — and now, thanks to a collaboration with the Institute for Transport Sciences and Logistics (KTI) and Hellovelo Zrt., a pedelec (electric-assist bicycle) test program has been launched. The official handover of the e-bikes took place on 16th October, 2024 at the UP-Chancellor's Office.

As part of the Green University Program, UP made bicycles available to interested staff members free of charge for an entire year, encouraging the use of environmentally friendly commuting alternatives. A related sustainability campaign, "Ride to Work on Two Wheels", also offered incentives through a prize draw to motivate more university staff to cycle to their workplace.

In addition, UP is now participating in a pedelec test program initiated by KTI, allowing two staff members to test electric bicycles until the end of November. This initiative provides further insights into sustainable mobility options. The aim is to support the development of efficient mobility solutions and offer UP staff the opportunity to experience how these bicycles can be integrated into their everyday routines.

"The Green University Program is our flagship sustainability initiative, showcasing the commitment our university citizens demonstrate toward sustainable transportation.

This year, we've placed a special focus on sustainable mobility, which is why we were pleased to provide bicycles to our colleagues in the spring, and now these 15 electric bikes serve the same goal.

We believe that initiatives like this can empower our university community to take an active role in building a more sustainable future,"

said István Decsi, Chancellor of UP.



Thanks to Hellovelo Zrt., UP staff members now have a new opportunity: they can test 15 electric-assist bicycles free of charge, either through shared or exclusive use.

The goal of the test program is to assess which distances and campus locations are best served by these bikes for commuting and official university travel. E-bikes offer a flexible and practical transportation alternative and can make a significant contribution to UP's sustainability goals.

"It's extremely important for us to be present in regional cities like Pécs and to demonstrate that bicycles are a viable mode of transport.

Electric bikes aren't just ideal for short trips within the city — they also encourage more environmentally conscious thinking and can help reduce urban traffic in the long term," emphasized Ágoston Hényel, CEO of Hellovelo Zrt.

One of the program participants, Eszter Merkl, a maintenance worker in Facility Zone 4, shared her experience:

"The e-bike will make it much easier for me to get to work. We often travel between university sites, and we've typically used cars to move between faculties, so I thought I'd try this more sustainable form of commuting."

Tünde Kulcsár, Head of the Green University Program Office at UP, added:

"Within the Green University Program, we continuously seek opportunities that contribute to sustainability — whether in transportation or other areas of university operations.

Cycling is not just an option anymore; it's increasingly a necessity. It provides a practical, fast, and cost-effective way to travel between campuses."

During the one-month testing period, users of the electric bikes will explore how this form of mobility can improve their daily work experience and help ease parking congestion across the UP's campuses.

Collaboration for the Development of Young Film Talents

16/10/2024 by UnivPécs

In support of nurturing future filmmakers, Dr. Gábor Szécsi, Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Education and Regional Development (KPVK) at the University of Pécs (UP), signed a cooperation agreement with producer Gábor Kindl, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the *Shoot for the Planet!* Foundation. The signing took place on 14th October, 2024 at UP KPVK's campus in Szekszárd.

The aim of the agreement is to ensure the continuation of the internationally renowned *Shoot for the Planet!* film competition, which is part of UP's strategic programs. In addition, a new media workshop program will also be launched, giving high school and university students the opportunity to get acquainted with filmmaking tools and genre-specific techniques.

A separate competition will be organized specifically for the young participants involved in the program. At the press conference, it was announced that the *Shoot for the Planet!* film competition will be held in both Hungary and the United States in 2025, with a central theme focusing on healthy living and the issue of food waste. The broader goal of the collaboration is not only to educate the next generation of filmmakers but also to raise awareness of sustainability and health consciousness.

iExpo

08/12/2024, UnivPécs

The Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Pécs once again held the iExpo Student Project event on 4 December, celebrating creativity, innovation, and community responsibility. More than 70 student groups were present at the event.

iExpo is a unique innovation in Hungary. "iExpo provides a tool that urges students in the direction expected by the actors of the economy. It is not just an event but a comprehensive



pedagogical innovation which we intend to integrate into the structure of our programmes in the long term,” said one of the senior lecturers of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the UP.

The greatest challenge faced by universities today has become clear:

It is no longer sufficient to provide students with merely theoretical knowledge. The expectations of the labour market and economic players require graduates with practice-oriented knowledge, the ability to work efficiently in teams, an entrepreneurial mindset when approaching problems, and the ability to communicate their results clearly and confidently.

The Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Pécs has recognised this game-changing situation and, in a way unique in Hungary, has created iExpo – an innovative pedagogical tool that places the development of student skills and competencies at its core. Through iExpo, the Faculty of Business and Economics of the UP demonstrates that higher education is capable of adapting to the challenges of the 21st century and can take a leading role in social and economic innovation.

During the event, students presented their work in five different categories (“Research and Analysis,” “Problem Solving and Consulting,” “Social and Community Projects,” “Idea and Innovation,” and “Other Projects”). The best teams received scholarships and tangible prizes, provided by the corporate partners of the event.

iExpo is not merely a showcase but a platform that connects talent with career opportunities in a revolutionary way, aligned with the needs of the future labour market. More than 40 companies and 80 experts collaborate to test the abilities of students in real-life situations and provide them with professional support. The event also received significant attention among the teaching community: 34 lecturers joined the programme, not only from the Faculty of Business and Economics but also from several other faculties.

More than 70 teams from eight faculties of the University registered for iExpo. This year, the greatest interest was shown in the “Idea and Innovation” category, but the “Research and Analysis” category also proved popular, and numerous teams entered the “Social and Community Projects” and “Problem Solving and Consulting” categories as well.

Green AURA project

The Green University Program of the University of Pécs strives to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. The Green AURA project was developed by the UP at the end of 2020 with the aim of presenting transport, energy and environmental developments of the University and the city of Pécs that help reduce the environmental burden, as well as drawing the attention of students and the population to the importance of using them, involving them in the in planning new developments and programs.

The tender is supported by the Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia Cooperation Program, and we therefore work together with the city of Kapronca and the Northern Energy Agency on the Croatian side as partners.

The central element of the project is an exhibition that presents environmentally friendly technologies, organizations and opportunities available in Pécs. The university also wanted to present the developments in Pécs with an interesting solution for the younger age groups, so it created a field table depicting Pécs and three tables showing environmentally friendly technologies (waste, energy, water). On the surface of the tables there are landmarks created by 3D printing, next to them there are markers similar to QR codes. After reading these, the animations, descriptions, photos and videos showing the individual topics appear on the visitors' phones and tablets. In this way, they can get to know the city's electric transportation options, environmentally friendly energy production solutions, green surfaces, local



producers, and the university's related research. The exhibition can be viewed at many city events and schools.

The Green Aura table contains 23 markers that represent the following topics:

1. Community bicycle
2. Electric scooter
3. Electric buses
4. Electric cars and charging points
5. Cycle path development
6. Geothermal energy
7. Biomass-based energy production
8. Energy efficiency of district heating
9. Environmental significance of district heating
10. Selective waste collection
11. Biogas power plant at the wastewater treatment plant
12. Water recycling
13. Green roof and root zone water management
14. Recreational water surface (Tüskésrét)
15. Examination of the drying up of watercourses
16. Flash floods
17. Environmental education
18. Tree planting programs
19. Environmentally friendly grape growing
20. Pécs Basket Society
21. Local product markets
22. Environmental effects of meat consumption
23. University of Pécs - Green University Program

Thematic tables present the following topics:

- Waste:
 - o Operation of the Kökényi sorting plant - where does the selectively collected waste go
 - o Pass it back, Bro! campaign - collecting used mobile phones, extracting rare metals
 - o University without PET bottles
- Energy: energy-efficient houses designed by the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (Solar Decathlon)
- Water: root zone wastewater treatment, which is an environmentally friendly technology