



University name: University of Pécs  
Country: Hungary

## **SDG10: Reducing inequalities**

### **University of Pécs – Report on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 10)**

**2024.**

#### **1. Introduction**

Among the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University of Pécs pays particular attention to **Goal 10: "Reduce inequality within and among countries."**

As Hungary's oldest and one of its largest higher education institutions, the UP promotes equal opportunities and social cohesion through education, research, social responsibility, and inclusive institutional operations. The University is convinced that reducing inequalities is not only a moral and legal obligation, but also a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development, social stability, and the creation of an innovative knowledge-based economy.

The UP has made ensuring equal opportunities and the integration and empowerment of disadvantaged groups (including people with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and members of international and ethnic minorities) an integral part of its organizational culture. The institution is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all its students and staff, where social, economic, cultural, or other differences do not constitute barriers to personal and professional development.

The 2024 SDG 10 Report presents how the University of Pécs contributes to the global goal of reducing inequalities. The document outlines the policies, programs, and data in the areas of education, research, institutional management, and social responsibility that promote the reduction of social inequalities and the strengthening of inclusive higher education.

The report is based on the **2023–2030 University Strategy**, the professional activities of the faculties, and the work of the **UP Green University Program Office, the Sustainable Development Coordination Council, and the relevant organizational units of the university**, the report presents the measures, results, and strategic goals for the future related to SDG 10.



## 2. Political and legal frameworks

The operation of the UP is governed by the principles of equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and social justice.

The institution's policies are based on the following legal and internal regulatory frameworks:

- Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education
- Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities
- Legislation on public education and higher education admission procedures (EMMI decrees)
- The Organizational and Operational Regulations of the University of Pécs and its Annex 6, which sets out the legal basis for student allowances and social support.
- The University of Pécs's 2024 Equal Opportunities Plan, which covers all faculties, organizational units, and employees.
- The UP University Ombudsman institution, which promotes the fair treatment of university citizens and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The UP admission procedure is non-discriminatory and awards 40 extra points to applicants who are disadvantaged, have a disability, or are on unpaid leave for childcare purposes. This system ensures that all applicants have equal opportunities to participate in higher education, in accordance with Sections 108(9)–(10) of the Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education and the expert review procedure set out in Decree 15/2013. (II.26.) EMMI.

## 3. Indicators and measures

The University of Pécs implements its measures aimed at reducing inequalities in a complex, multi-level system. With the help of the national admissions system (Felvi) and the Higher Education Information System (FIR), the university is able to monitor the proportion of disadvantaged and disabled students, dropout rates, and the distribution of social and academic support. Although the collection of special personal data (e.g., ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs) is restricted by law, the university pays special attention to social diversity and the support of disadvantaged students.

### Support for disadvantaged and disabled students

Each faculty at the UP has student and social affairs officers who help students in need to take advantage of scholarship and support opportunities.

The university provides barrier-free access (ramps, elevators, special classrooms), technical conditions for visual and auditory access (sign language interpreters, digitization of notes, software aids), as well as psychological and academic counseling for students with disabilities.



Financial support for students includes:

- **Regular and special social scholarships, Bursa Hungarica scholarship, and housing and meal subsidies.**
- **UP Sport and Parasport Scholarship**, which supports the studies and competitive activities of athletes with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Ildikó Kriszbacher and János László doctoral scholarships**, which strengthen the diversity of the next generation of academics at the university.

### **Inclusive educational environment and digital access**

The UP's 2023–2030 strategy considers "digital inclusion" and the creation of a "barrier-free learning environment" to be priority goals. As part of this, an increasing proportion of study materials are available online, the Moodle system has been made accessible, and the conditions for participation in distance learning are being continuously developed in line with the Digital Education Strategy. Internal training courses are held for teachers on the topics of inclusive pedagogy and supporting individual learning paths.

### **Employment and organizational measures**

The principle of equal treatment applies not only to students but also to employees. The UP 2024 Equal Opportunities Plan details the measures aimed at eliminating workplace discrimination, reducing gender pay gaps, and ensuring a family-friendly working environment. Special attention is given to **employees over the age of 40, parents with young children, and employees with reduced working capacity.**

### **Accessibility and infrastructure development**

Based on the UP Equal Opportunities Plan, complex accessibility improvements were carried out in more than 20 university buildings between 2021 and 2024, including the buildings of the medical, arts, and economics faculties. As part of the program, new elevators, ramps, tactile markings, audio information systems, and accessible restrooms were installed. The goal of the **Infocommunications Accessibility** project is to bring the University of Pécs's websites and IT systems (e.g., Neptun, Moodle, HR portal) into compliance with the WCAG 2.1 standard.

### **Social partnerships and regional impact**

The University of Pécs cooperates with local authorities, civil society organizations, and labor market partners to promote social inclusion and reduce regional inequalities. The "**Learning City Pécs**" program supports social mobility by expanding adult education and community learning opportunities. The **Roma College (Wlislöcki Henrik College)** brings together and integrates Roma/Gypsy students studying at various faculties of the University of Pécs. The founders' goal was to provide a space for the professional



development of Roma/Gypsy students who, beyond their studies, aspire to a high level of education. Contact details and further information about the organization.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The University of Pécs implements the SDG 10 objectives through an integrated system of education, research, human resources policy, and community services. The institution's legal and ethical principles ensure the prohibition of discrimination, while actively supporting social inclusion, acceptance, and diversity. The university will continue to treat the further strengthening of social equality as a priority, with particular regard to reducing regional disadvantages, gender equality, and expanding access to education for people with disabilities and disadvantaged groups.

#### **5. References**

- University of Pécs' Sustainability Report 2024
- University of Pécs' Strategy 2023–2030
- Act CCIV of 2011 on national higher education
- Act CXXV of 2003 on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities
- Decree 15/2013. (II.26.) EMMI on the operation of pedagogical specialist services
- UP Equal Opportunities Plan (2024)
- UP Organizational and Operational Regulations (2024)