



University name: University of Pécs
Country: Hungary

SDG4: Quality education

University of Pécs – Report on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4) 2024

1. Introduction

Among the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University of Pécs pays particular attention to **Goal 4: "Ensure quality education for all and promote lifelong learning opportunities."**

As Hungary's oldest and one of its largest higher education institutions, the University pursues this goal through the unity of education, research and social engagement. With its wide-ranging educational and research portfolio, regional and international partnerships, and community engagement, the UP works to improve the quality, accessibility and inclusiveness of education.

The University of Pécs is committed to providing quality, inclusive and sustainable education. The University's mission is to make knowledge accessible to all, to support lifelong learning and to promote the development of the competencies necessary for sustainable development.

The 2024 SDG 4 report presents how the UP contributes to the global goals of Quality Education in the areas of education, research, innovation and social responsibility.

This report is based on **the UP University Strategy 2023–2030 document**, the professional work of the faculties, and **the activities of the UP Green University Program Office and the Sustainable Development Coordination Council**, as well as the activities of the **relevant organisational units of the University**.

2. Institutional guidelines and strategic background

The University of Pécs' strategy for 2023-2030 defines quality education as one of the main pillars of university development. The document identifies the development of quality and inclusive higher education, lifelong learning, and digital and innovative teaching methods as its main directions.

Of the four dimensions of the strategy, the **education and training dimension** is directly linked to SDG 4. Its main elements are:

- the development of a learner-centred, competence-based education system;
- strengthening equal opportunities and inclusion;
- increasing the attractiveness of teacher training and the teaching profession;
- expanding internationalisation and interdisciplinarity;
- developing the infrastructure for lifelong learning;
- integrating digital competences and innovative teaching methods.

The aim of the UP's educational policy is to ensure that its students not only acquire professional knowledge, but also develop value-based, socially responsible and sustainable attitudes.



3. Educational quality, inclusiveness and equal opportunities

The University applies regular accreditation, self-assessment and quality assurance processes to ensure quality education. The UP operates its quality management system in accordance with the principles of **the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**.

Equal opportunities are a key value of the university's strategy. The UP has a **Gender Equality Plan (GEP)** and renews its **Equal Opportunities Plan** annually, which serve to create an inclusive educational environment.

As part of the **Teach for Hungary program**, UP students mentor disadvantaged students, supporting access to education and equal opportunities in the region.

The University's educational programmes include the pedagogy of sustainability and global responsibility.

4. Lifelong learning and community education programmes

The UP plays a leading role in the development of the Hungarian lifelong learning system. **Each year, PTE** provides continuing education, digital skills development and language courses to **more than 2,000 participants**. As part of its open university initiatives, the University of Pécs also offers **public lectures, educational programs and courses**, with a particular focus on adult learners in disadvantaged areas.

The expansion of learning opportunities is supported by the digital transition and the introduction of online education platforms.

The University of Pécs carries out a number of educational activities for the wider community, which, depending on the programme, are available to the following target groups:

- university citizens (students, employees)
- local communities
- disadvantaged people
- refugee/immigrant communities

5. Cooperation and research for the development of education

As a founding member **of the Sustainability Platform of Hungarian Universities**, the UP participates in the national coordination of sustainability education, the sharing of good practices, and the development of teaching materials aligned with the SDG goals. Its cooperation with international partners strengthens the global dimension of sustainable education. The UP works with numerous international partners to improve the quality of education and to strengthen knowledge transfer and mobility.

6. Teacher training and recruitment

The community activities of the University of Pécs promote the values of health and well-being in the spirit of social responsibility.

Teacher training is a strategic pillar of the UP's educational portfolio.

The **Faculty of Sciences** and the **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** operate coordinated programs to strengthen the teaching profession.



In 2024, the University of Pécs, the Municipality of Pécs and the Diocese of Pécs launched a unique **housing scholarship program** to retain young teachers and support their career choices. The aim of the programme is to retain teacher candidates and early career teachers locally and to improve the conditions for quality education in the region.

7. Community participation and partnerships

As part of its third mission, the University reaches out to broad sections of society with its educational and knowledge transfer programmes. The UP maintains close ties with local governments, civil organisations and schools.

The partnership between the UP and the Baranya County Local Government serves to promote lifelong learning, youth training and cultural development. The UP regularly organizes open days, career guidance events, volunteer and mentoring programmes to expand learning opportunities.

8. Education, research and partnerships

Promoting sustainability in global higher education requires an integrated, interdisciplinary approach. Universities need to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration and integrate sustainability into their curricula to equip students with both knowledge and practical skills. Experiential learning – such as internships, community projects and applied research – increases student engagement and civic responsibility.

Targeted funding is essential to drive innovation in key areas such as quality education, climate adaptation, renewable energy, sustainable cities, health and equality. International partnerships further amplify impact through shared knowledge and joint action. Universities also play a vital role in shaping public policy with evidence-based knowledge and engage communities to ensure that initiatives are inclusive and locally relevant. Through these efforts, higher education institutions can play a leading role in the transition to a more sustainable and equitable future.

9. Summary

The University of Pécs has achieved outstanding results in the field of quality, inclusive and lifelong education in 2024. The values set out in the strategic documents – knowledge, opportunity, innovation and sustainability – are reflected at all levels of the university's operations.

Improving the quality and accessibility of education is not only the responsibility of the institution, but also a basic prerequisite for social development. The activities of the University of Pécs in 2024 demonstrate that the university is an active participant in building a sustainable, knowledge-based and inclusive society.

In 2024, the University of Pécs once again demonstrated that the quality and accessibility of education play a key role in its operations. Integrating sustainable development goals into education, research and community activities contributes to the creation of a knowledge-based, inclusive and innovative society.

The University of Pécs remains committed to strengthening the sustainability approach at all levels of education and integrating SDG 4 into its overall university strategy.