



University name: University of Pécs
Country: Hungary

SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

University of Pécs – Report on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 9) 2024

1. Introduction

The University of Pécs considers **SDG 9** to be a central element of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): "**Industry, innovation and infrastructure**". During 2024, the University further strengthened its research, development and innovation (R&D&I) activities and implemented institutional and corporate partnership programmes that contribute to the green and digital transition.

In order to achieve **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**, the UP has become a key player at both national and international level in the areas of knowledge sharing, technology transfer and start-up incubation. The University aims to function as a regional innovation centre where research results are transformed into real economic and social value.

2. Strategic and institutional background

The development of innovation and infrastructure is a key priority **in the University Strategy for 2023–2030**.

The strategy defines three main directions:

- Strengthening knowledge transfer and corporate cooperation
- Developing the university start-up ecosystem
- Implementing sustainable, smart infrastructure investments.

3. Research and development and knowledge transfer

Within the framework of the project entitled "Development of knowledge transfer activities at the University of Pécs with a view to establishing a university-centred innovation ecosystem" (project ID: 2019-1.2.1-EGYETEMI-ÖKO-2019-00015, the following main activities and results were achieved under the professional leadership of the UP Research Utilization and Technology Transfer Department.

Experts assessed and made available in a searchable format on the renewed innovacio.pte.hu website the "knowledge map" of the University of Pécs, which offers more than 200 Hungarian and English-language research, development and innovation results, technologies and services to the university's economic and scientific partners. The activities carried out provided a good opportunity to strengthen university-business innovation cooperation and knowledge transfer. With the help of the project, the number of joint developments and R&D contracts with companies was increased, further expanding the University of Pécs' intellectual property portfolio. They succeeded in ensuring that some of the research results were utilised outside the university. In order to increase the innovation performance of researchers, the project supported a number of university developments with the help of the Proof of Concept fund.



The UP has thus become one of Hungary's most active knowledge transfer centres, effectively linking research results with economic actors.

4. Start-up ecosystem and business development

In 2024, the **University of Pécs** continued to register **several start-up companies**, most of which are linked to research or student ideas originating at the university. These include companies supporting the health industry, biotechnology, agricultural innovation, information technology and the circular economy.

Start-ups from the University of Pécs portfolio (selection):

- DATelite Ltd. – remote sensing, image processing and HPC technologies;
- Pro-Limb Ltd. – customised 3D printed prosthetic limbs;
- Neo-Antigen Biotechnology – vaccine development platform for the post-COVID-19 era;
- Smobyra – development of vegan leather from bacterial nanocellulose;
- Nitrogreen – production of natural, emission-free fertiliser from food industry waste;
- HerbaDei – plant-based oral hygiene products;
- Skillversum – gamified social learning platform;
- HUMAN-Y – artificial intelligence-based HR analytics system;
- POTEcho – interactive feedback software for teachers and students;
- OPENUP – digital education and innovation collaboration platform.

The Hungarian Startup University Programme (hereinafter: HSUP or Program), launched by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office with the policy support of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (legal successor: Ministry of Culture and Innovation), is Hungary's first higher education-level startup programme. The aim of HSUP is to stimulate university students' interest in innovation and entrepreneurship and to increase the number of innovative businesses they launch. The Program focuses on teaching an innovative mindset and sparking interest in innovation. The Program familiarises the younger generation with the structure and functioning of the innovation ecosystem and offers them the opportunity to get involved. As part of the university course linked to HSUP, students can learn about solution-oriented thinking with the involvement of experts from a number of start-up sectors, thus involving Generations Y and Z in the innovation environment by connecting the generations, resulting in the creation of an "innovation generation".

5. Simonyi Hackathon

In 2024, the Simonyi Hackathon idea competition was held twice, in collaboration with the Sustainability Centre of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the UP and the Hydrogen Centre of the UP, in which student teams were asked to develop an educational strategy to promote knowledge about hydrogen as an energy source and increase social awareness and acceptance.

6. Innovation Days 2024

The Innovation Days 2024 event at the University of Pécs was unique in that it was jointly organised by the University of Pécs and Deutsche Telekom (DT) IT Solutions Hungary. The presentations and roundtable discussions focused on artificial intelligence and its impact on education, research and development, as well as our everyday lives.



The aim of the event was to present the results of research carried out in the university's innovation ecosystem, to promote its usefulness in a business and social context, to build partnerships between the academic and industrial spheres, and to create networking opportunities for participating companies, researchers and staff.

7. Summary

In 2024, the University of Pécs achieved outstanding results in the implementation of **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**.

The University of Pécs is one of Hungary's largest universities with a comprehensive scientific profile, whose mission is to be a key player in Hungarian higher education in both education and research, as well as a knowledge centre providing significant research services to businesses and other organisations supporting Central European climate goals. The institution actively seeks relationships with companies operating in its immediate and wider environment, as well as with partners involved in research, development and innovation.