University : University of Pécs
Country : Hungary

SDG17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

17,4 Education for the SDGs

17.4.4. Sustainable Literacy

This question explores how you evaluate your students' ability to learn and retain key concepts of sustainability. For 2025 we will not score this question but will use it to inform our decisions for 2026.

Measure the sustainability literacy of students.

1. **SUSTAINABILITY CAMPUS INDEX PROJECT**

Project leader: **Dr. Petra Putzer (Assistant Professor, Sustainability Centre)**

Dr. Vivien Csapi (Associate Professor, ESG Research Group)

Sustainability and the role of universities

Universities play a key role in sustainability efforts. Not only do they provide education and conduct research, but they also have direct links to society and economic actors. The implementation of a "sustainable campus" concept not only reduces the environmental footprint of the institution, but also has a significant impact on shaping the attitudes of students and staff, cooperation with local communities and regional development.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated by the United Nations provide a comprehensive framework covering key areas of economic, social and environmental sustainability. A university, such as the UP, is connected in some way to almost all of these goals in its activities, whether it be energy efficiency, social inequalities, quality education, health preservation or partnerships.

Sustainability is not only a matter of internal operations, but also requires the exploration and involvement of stakeholders' perceptions and needs. In the case of the UP, it is particularly relevant that perspectives and feedback related to sustainability are also expressed by students, alumni, lecturers, employees, partners cooperating with the institution, and the local community (among whom the university is present). Thus, the process encompasses opinions, expectations, levels of awareness and opportunities for cooperation regarding sustainability.

Purpose and structure of the research

The primary aim of the research is to develop a "Sustainable Campus Index" that:

- uses an **SDG-based framework** to cover sustainability aspects,
- is based on **stakeholder-specific** questionnaires (thus truly reflecting the needs and opinions of different groups),
- expresses the sustainability performance of the University of Pécs in the form of **a composite indicator**.

Research questions

1. **How does the UP's sustainable campus vision fit into the SDG framework?**
    - Which SDGs are most relevant to the university's operations?

2. **What are the characteristics of the different stakeholder groups' perceptions of sustainability practices?**
    - What are the most common themes, priorities, challenges and expectations?
3. **What methodology can be used to create a composite index based on the SDGs and stakeholder responses?**
    - How can the weightings and pillars be determined?
4. **What recommendations can be made to the UP based on the results of the research?**
    - How can the resulting index help the institution's strategic sustainability decisions?

During the research, we use different questionnaires for stakeholders (partners, lecturers, residents, students, alumni, employees), which cover different areas of the SDGs with different focus questions.

Types of questionnaires

- **Student questionnaire**: awareness of sustainable campus issues, behaviour patterns on and off campus, knowledge of the university's sustainability measures, satisfaction (questionnaires in English and Hungarian).
- **Faculty questionnaire**: teaching and research practices, knowledge and attitudes related to sustainability, support for university management and assessment of necessary resources.
- **Staff questionnaire**: (non-teaching staff, administration, other employees) – working environment, energy consumption, green office solutions, recycling, awareness raising.
- **Partner questionnaire**: economic and social partners – project-based, innovation or regional development links, joint sustainability programmes, ROI (Return on Investment) and community benefit issues.
- **Public questionnaire**: interactions between the local community and the university, social and environmental responsibility, opportunities for cooperation, local awareness raising.
- **Alumni questionnaire**: interactions between individuals and their alma mater, exploring the "external-internal" image in relation to the sustainable campus, awareness of the university's sustainability measures.

SDG-based question blocks

The questionnaires can be divided into blocks, for example:

- **Environmental (e.g. SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13)**: energy efficiency, waste management, mobility, environmental protection, climate awareness.
- **Economic (e.g. SDG 8, SDG 9)**: sustainable economic development, green innovations, cooperation with local businesses.
- **Social (e.g. SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 10)**: health preservation, quality education, equal opportunities, social inclusion, diversity.

- **Institutional/management (e.g. SDG 16, SDG 17)**: transparency of decision-making, partnerships, stakeholder involvement, monitoring of goals and metrics.

Of course, not all SDGs are equally relevant to all stakeholders, so the questions appear in the questionnaires in a targeted manner, based on relevance.

Expected results

- **Composite metric**: Shows multiple dimensions of sustainability performance at once.
- **Stakeholder-centred approach**: By including the opinions of all stakeholders, management gains a more nuanced picture of areas for improvement.
- **Comparability**: The index can be compared over time and even with other universities.
- **Easy to communicate**: Sustainability performance can be more easily presented to decision-makers, external partners and financiers (at the level of one indicator or a few indicator groups).
- **Know-how and protocol**: Protecting and systematically marketing the questionnaire structure and evaluation protocol associated with the index creates opportunities for the practical application and transfer of results to other institutions.

Impacts on different stakeholders

- **Students**: They can see how much the university supports sustainability, what measures are being taken, and provide feedback on what activities they themselves are involved in.
- **Teachers**: They can receive feedback on the sustainability aspects of their teaching and research activities and become more involved in university decision-making.
- **Staff**: It highlights areas for improvement in the workplace environment, sustainable operations and everyday practices.
- **Partners**: They can gain a clearer understanding of how they can contribute to common goals, and the university can see which partners it can rely on for sustainability cooperation.
- **Local community**: The university's acceptance by the local community may increase, and it may become visible how it supports sustainability in the region.
- **Alumni**: They can see how much their alma mater supports sustainability, what measures are being taken, and they can provide feedback on how they themselves view their former place of education.

The proposed research involves a multi-stage methodology that aims to provide a comprehensive yet stakeholder-specific assessment of the sustainability situation at the University of Pécs.

The main advantage of this method is that it approaches sustainability not only in terms of "hard" indicators (e.g. energy consumption, CO_2 emissions), but also takes into account the opinions of the stakeholders themselves. This promotes joint action and the development and continuous adjustment of the university's strategy. In addition, it also allows the UP to compare its own sustainability development with other similar institutions in the long term and to embed its sustainability efforts internationally.

2. "Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals" online sustainability course

The **"Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals" online sustainability course** covers 14 weeks of material and takes about 50 hours for students. 1400 students from 14 universities have taken the course.

Subject data

Department/institute: University of Pécs, Faculty of Economics, Institute of Economics and Econometrics

Course coordinator: Dr. Hanga Bilicz

Course title: Introduction to the issue of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Subject name in English: Introduction to the issue of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Credits: 3 credits

Course requirements: **colloquium** / practical grade

Course type: **lecture *(in the case of colloquium)*** / seminar *(in the case of practical grade)*

Weekly/semester hours: 2 hours

Course description:

During the semester, students will learn about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly for the period up to 2030, which offer a better future for our planet and billions of people worldwide. The goals call on both developing and developed countries to take action to address inequalities and tackle climate change. The goals address not only economic growth and prosperity, but also people's health, education and social needs, while focusing on environmental protection. The instructors of this online course, which is unique in Hungary, are experts from various universities who analyse different aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. The instructors of this online course, which is unique in Hungary, are experts from various universities who analyse different aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Assessment and evaluation system: online written examination (20-30 questions at the end of the semester)

0–50.0 points: fail (1)

50.1–65.0 points: satisfactory (2)

65.1–75.0 points: average (3)

75.1–85.0 points: good (4)

85.1–100.0 points: excellent (5)

3. "Solutions to climate change" course

"Solutions to climate change" course open to all: UP citizen (students, staff), resident of Baranya.

COURSE TOPICS AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS
2023/2024 FALL SEMESTER
Title Solution to Climate Change
Subject code SZB072MN
Weekly hours: ea/gy/lab 2 ea
Credit points 2
Department(s)/ type All departments
Requirement Mid-term mark
Announcement semester autumn semester
Prerequisite(s) -
Department(s) PTE-MIK Department of Environmental Engineering
Subject responsible Dr. Ernő Dittrich
Instructors Dr. Ernő Dittrich
COURSE DESCRIPTION
A brief description of the course: Physical and chemical foundations of the climate change process. The current extent of climate change and its changes so far. Comparison of natural global cooling and warming cycles and warming caused by anthropogenic emissions. Climate models, climate forecasts. Limits of irreversible changes. Global goals. Impacts of climate change on the environment and human society. Technical and scientific solutions in the fight against climate change. Social and economic solutions in the fight against climate change. The role of the individual in the fight against climate change. The 6 Programs of Change as a complex solution system…
COURSE TOPICS
1. PURPOSE OF EDUCATION
Formulation of objectives and learning outcomes achievable by completing the subject.
Accurate understanding of the problem of climate change. Systematization and presentation of technical, social, economic and individual solution options.
2. COURSE CONTENT
TOPICS
LECTURE Topic 1: Fundamentals of climate change
Topic 2: Nature conservation from a new perspective – Revitalization Program
Topic 3: Transformation of the settlement system – Agglomeration Program
Topic 4: Solution to overpopulation – Population Program
Topic 5: Transformation of personal attitude – Happiness Program
Topic 6: Modification of the economic system – Economy Program
Topic 7: Social transformation – Society Program
8. Green electricity system
9. Green heat production
10. Green transport
11. Green buildings and infrastructure
12. Green agriculture and industry
13. Green water management
PRACTICE -
LABORATORY PRACTICE
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4. Orientation Day

Every year, admitted students receive guidance on the Sustainability Guidelines of the University of Pécs at the **Orientation Day** and receive the UP Green Compass document online, which can be found below: