

Universum International College Institutional Report on Sustainable Development Goals- 2024

Introduction

After 3 years of establishing the SDG Working Group at Universum International College, aimed to implement and monitor our alignment with SDGs and preparing the first report, we have reevaluated our capacities, goals and accomplishments to better reflect the evolution of our institutional strengths and the needs of Kosovo's society.

Strategic Partnership with Arizona State University

The strategic alliance with Arizona State University signaled a turning point in the history of Universum International College and brightened the education horizon in Kosovo.

Arizona State University is ranked:

- Number 1 in the U.S. for innovation,
- Number 1 in the U.S and 2 in the world for sustainable practices,
- Among the Top 20 for women in STEM for undergraduate in Chemistry,
- Number 1 in air and climate,
- Number 3 in the US for clean power,
- **Number 1 Institution in the U.S., and among the Top 10 globally for work towards the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals by the Times Higher Education 2025 Impact Ranking.**

It is important to highlight that the three core principles of Arizona State University Charter are:

- **It is a comprehensive public research university measured by whom it includes and how they succeed.**
- **It advances research discovery of public value.**
It assumes responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

Thanks to this groundbreaking partnership, our commitment to work towards United Nations Sustainable Development has been tremendously reinforced.



Vision and Commitment

Universum International College aims to be among the leading higher education institutions in Kosovo and the Western Balkans for excellent, relevant, and purpose-driven learning, teaching and applied research aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our commitment is to contribute to the development of the new generations, instilling in them the values and the principles to contribute to a better society in Kosovo, thus to a more sustainable world.

Adopted by the UN General Assembly, the SDGs are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed as a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030.

Universum College has fully committed to placing these goals at the core of our strategy, operations, and educational vision and mission.

Institutional Framework and Integration

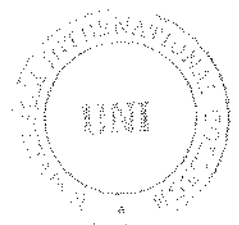
In 2021, Universum College established the SDG Working Group composed of representatives from all the Schools and Programs. The group's mission was to design a Sustainability Impact Framework aligned with the SDGs and ensure consistent data collection across all departments.

We embed SDG values into learning, teaching, and community engagement to inspire our students to act as change-makers — addressing challenges from citizenship and justice to climate action and innovation.

Beginning in 2021, the SDGs have been included as a mandatory subject in the third year of all Bachelor's programs, enabling every student to understand and apply sustainability principles in their future careers.

Our focus in Erasmus+ European Projects has been to be part of projects related to the SDGs:

1. E-Physio
2. Nuric
3. reZEB
4. FLIPP
5. CO-Host
6. Laia



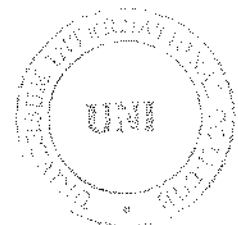
Our Priority SDGs

Each year, after obtaining the results from The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking, we reassess our capacities based on our accomplishments on measurable goals to expand our SDG engagement. In 2022, we defined as main SDGs: Universum College has prioritized six SDGs that reflect both institutional strengths and Kosovo's societal needs.

1. **SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being:** Promotion of education on mental health, drug and alcohol prevention, and healthy lifestyles. Health is a human right and an essential foundation for sustainable development.
2. **SDG 4 Quality Education:** Ensuring inclusive, high-quality education and lifelong learning. Scholarships were provided for daughters of war martyrs and minority communities. The 2022 campus expansion in Prishtina improved accessibility for persons with special needs.
3. **SDG 5 Gender Equality Gender:** Equality between women and men was already achieved in all our study programs. Equality is both a human right and a driver of prosperity. We empower women and girls by ensuring equal access to education, healthcare, employment, and leadership opportunities.
4. **SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy:** Promoting sustainable energy use in all facilities and raising awareness about the importance of renewable resources for social and economic development.
5. **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Contributing to building inclusive, safe, and resilient campuses, aligning with global efforts to reduce pollution, poverty, and inequality.
6. **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals:** Strengthening global partnerships through programs such as Erasmus+ Mobility and collaborations with universities and NGOs, advancing sustainability both locally and internationally.

We are proud to participate in the reZeb Project (European Commission) and have integrated the following courses in our Bachelor and Master Curricula:

1. Life Cycle Management (B.A.)
2. Sustainable Development Economics (B.A.)
3. Understanding Energy, Resources and Consumption (B.A.)
4. Financial Management (MBA)
5. Energy Management (MBA)



The Summary of our Performance in Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024 showed:

1. Overall Impact Ranking: Placed in 1501+ band.
2. SDG 3. Good Health and Wellbeing: Ranked 1001+.
3. SDG 4. Quality Education: Placed among 1001-1500.
4. SDG 5. Gender Equality: Ranked 401-600
5. SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals: Ranked 1501+

Future Outlook

As a learning community, Universum College is dedicated to continuing deepening its SDG engagement year after year. We will apply for the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) 2025, and extended our SDGs to

- 1.SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.
- 2.SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- 3.SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Conclusion

At Universum College, education for sustainable development is more than a vision — it is a responsibility. Through our curricula, applied research, and community partnerships, we empower students to become leaders and active contributors in the configuration of a better society in Kosovo and beyond. We transmit to them the values underpinning sustainable development.

Universum International College
September, 2024

