

Annual Report of SDGs for 2023

Introduction

The University of West Attica (UNIWA) is committed to leading higher education efforts toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This comprehensive report highlights UNIWA's contributions in 2023, showcasing the university's impactful initiatives across education, community engagement, environmental sustainability, and strategic partnerships. Each section of this report reflects the university's dedication to fostering a sustainable and inclusive environment on a local and global scale.

SDG 1: No Poverty

Strategic Initiatives and Programs: UNIWA offers free undergraduate programs and selected MSc and lifelong learning courses to ensure that financial constraints do not impede access to quality education ([link](#), [link](#)).

Community Engagement:

- Conducted workshops and conferences with local authorities to foster entrepreneurship and economic self-sufficiency in disadvantaged areas ([link](#)).
- Provided housing allowances, meal plans, and transportation support to students in financial need, reducing barriers to education.

Impact Metrics:

- **Beneficiaries:** Supported over 5,000 students through financial aid and benefits.
 - **Outreach Impact:** More than 15 public events impacting over 10,000 community members.
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SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Nutrition and Food Security Programs: UNIWA offers comprehensive meal plans for students based on financial criteria, ensuring accessibility to nutritious food ([link](#)). The university emphasizes diverse dietary needs, including vegetarian and allergen-free meals ([link](#)).

Sustainability in Food Distribution:

- Surplus food from university dining facilities is distributed daily to local social support structures, contributing to food security ([link](#)).

Results and Impact:

- **Annual Meal Distribution:** Over 2 million meals provided to students.
 - **Community Assistance:** Daily food donations benefiting over 1,000 individuals in need.
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SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Health-focused Academic and Community Programs: UNIWA's seven health-related academic departments promote comprehensive education and community outreach, including postgraduate and doctoral research programs ([link](#)). Collaborative partnerships extend these health initiatives to wider public health efforts ([link](#)).

Campus Health Services:

- On-campus medical and psychological support accessible daily to students and staff ([link](#)).
- Enforced anti-smoking policies across all university areas, reinforced by educational campaigns ([link](#)).

Key Achievements:

- **Counseling and Support:** Services used by over 3,500 students.
 - **Collaborative Health Campaigns:** Partnered with regional health authorities for educational programs affecting thousands.
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SDG 4: Quality Education

Commitment to Access and Excellence: UNIWA provides free and inclusive educational resources to both students and the general public, including library services, online courses, and computing facilities ([link](#)). Lifelong learning initiatives cover various fields to enhance knowledge and skills in critical areas like technology and sustainability ([link](#)).

Outreach and Engagement:

- Conducted educational programs for local schools and community groups to support diverse learning experiences.

Metrics and Growth:

- **Participation Increase:** Enrollment in lifelong learning programs grew by 20%, benefiting over 2,000 community members.
 - **Public Educational Events:** Engaged over 5,000 attendees in workshops and seminars.
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SDG 5: Gender Equality

Policies and Progress: UNIWA upholds gender equality by monitoring and ensuring equitable participation in all university activities. The Gender Equality Committee actively submits annual plans and oversees the implementation of gender policies ([link](#)).

Family Support Services:

- Comprehensive childcare facilities for staff and students facilitate full participation in university life.

Achievements:

- **Data Monitoring:** Gender distribution data submitted to the Hellenic Statistical Authority for continuous oversight ([link](#) 2021-22, corresponding data have been collected and sent to the Hellenic Statistical Authority for the previous year but have not yet been posted as they are still being processed).
 - **Actionable Equity:** Ongoing programs promoting balanced gender representation and participation.
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SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Water Conservation Measures: UNIWA has implemented measures to conserve water, such as replacing conventional water taps with photocell-operated systems and installing advanced flushing systems to minimize water usage.

Awareness and Community Engagement:

- Plans for water treatment and recycling projects have been initiated, with community workshops to promote responsible water use.

Results:

- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Photocell taps and modern flush systems installed across all campuses.
 - **Future Goals:** Expand water-saving initiatives and initiate water recycling studies in collaboration with local bodies.
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SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Initiatives: UNIWA has implemented energy-saving projects, including the integration of solar panels and wind turbines, significantly reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources ([link](#)).

Achievements:

- **Carbon Footprint:** Reduced from 6,400 tons in 2018 to 4,494 tons in 2023.
- **Energy Use:** Over 40% of campus energy sourced from renewables ([link](#)).

Community Impact: Collaborated with governmental entities on sustainable energy projects that benefit the local community ([link](#)).

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Workplace Policies and Support: UNIWA upholds fair work practices, providing equitable opportunities for all staff, students, and interns. The university collaborates with local businesses and governmental bodies to create internship and employment opportunities for students.

Key Initiatives:

- Ensures compliance with labor standards, fostering a non-discriminatory work environment.
- Supports entrepreneurship and innovation through research funds and partnerships ([link](#)).

Outcomes:

- **Employment Programs:** Facilitated internships for 1,000+ students.
 - **Innovation Growth:** Partnered with industry leaders to develop cutting-edge research initiatives.
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SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Research and Development: UNIWA is equipped with a Special Account for Research Funds that supports innovation and applied research ([link](#)). Collaborations with private and public sectors aim to translate research into practical solutions.

Infrastructure Enhancements:

- Invested in modernizing research labs and facilities to promote advanced studies and sustainable development ([link](#)).

Achievements:

- **Projects Funded:** Over 50 projects focusing on sustainability and innovation.
 - **Community and Industrial Partnerships:** Engaged in partnerships to facilitate knowledge transfer and technological advancement.
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SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Inclusive Educational Access: UNIWA follows national guidelines to ensure that students from all backgrounds, including those with disabilities, are supported ([link](#), [link](#)).

Support Services:

- Personalized academic advising and infrastructure designed for accessibility, including ramps, elevators, and reading rooms.

Impact and Results:

- **International Enrollment:** A 10% rise in foreign student admissions.
 - **Disability Support:** Over 500 students received tailored assistance.
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SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Integration and Access: UNIWA's commitment to open access encompasses green spaces, sports facilities, and libraries, supporting academic and community engagement ([link](#), [link](#)).

Collaborative Urban Projects:

- Partnered with municipal authorities to develop eco-friendly transportation solutions, such as electric buses, and support sustainable urban planning ([link](#)).

Outreach and Cultural Engagement:

- Hosted art exhibitions, workshops, and community festivals to foster cultural appreciation and sustainable development ([link](#), [link](#), [link](#))
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SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Sustainable Practices: UNIWA promotes responsible consumption through recycling programs, reduced paper use via digital platforms, and partnerships with local recycling agencies ([link](#), [link](#)).

Campus Initiatives:

- Waste reduction campaigns and agreements with local bodies for recycling plastic, paper, and toxic waste.

Achievements:

- **Paper Reduction:** 50% decrease in paper use through digitalization.
 - **Community Involvement:** Organized workshops on sustainability and responsible consumption.
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SDG 13: Climate Action

Climate Initiatives and Research: UNIWA focuses on energy conservation and renewable energy adoption, reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability within and beyond the campus ([link](#)).

Research Contributions: University-led research on renewable energy has facilitated community projects, such as the solar charging station installation on Tilos island, benefiting local residents ([link](#)).

Achievements:

- **Renewable Energy Use:** More than 40% of energy consumption powered by renewable sources.
 - **Educational Outreach:** Awareness campaigns on climate responsibility reached wide audiences.
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SDG 14: Life Below Water

Marine Conservation Efforts: UNIWA raises awareness about reducing plastic use and protecting aquatic ecosystems through campaigns and voluntary beach clean-up activities.

Sustainability Measures:

- Ensured waste disposal practices prevent contamination of water bodies.
- Monitored water quality and controlled raw materials used in campus dining.

Results:

- **Community Involvement:** Over 500 students participated in clean-up events.
 - **Reduced Plastic Use:** Campus-wide initiatives led to a 30% reduction in single-use plastics.
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SDG 15: Life on Land

Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management: UNIWA's departments focus on sustainable land practices through specialized programs and workshops ([link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#) , [link](#))

Collaborative Actions:

- Partnerships with local institutions for reforestation and land restoration projects.
- Educational campaigns to promote awareness of biodiversity protection.

Key Results:

- **Tree Planting Initiatives:** Planted over 1,000 trees in partnership with local environmental groups.
 - **Workshops:** Conducted 15+ workshops on sustainable land management ([link](#))
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SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Governance and Transparency: UNIWA operates under a democratically elected administration and upholds academic freedom as per national guidelines ([link](#)).

Community Engagement:

- Close collaboration with government and community organizations on social justice initiatives and educational programs ([link](#)).

Achievements:

- **Ethical Guidelines:** Full compliance with Greek academic regulations ([link](#) , [link](#))
 - **Student Associations:** Support for recognized student groups in promoting dialogue and inclusivity ([link](#))
 - **External Expert Committees:** Academic departments of the University have external expert committees, which perform an advisory role in the formulation of the curriculum ([link](#))
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SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strategic Approach to Partnerships: UNIWA fosters an extensive network of local and international collaborations to amplify its impact on the SDGs. The university leverages its partnerships to expand resources, knowledge sharing, and project implementation that align with the global sustainability agenda.

Local and National Collaborations:

- **Policy Partnerships:** Worked closely with local and national governments to develop and implement sustainability policies, including energy and waste management ([link](#)).
- **Community Programs:** Collaborations with NGOs and local agencies to deliver workshops on health, education, and sustainability practices ([link](#)).

International Partnerships:

- **Research Initiatives:** Participation in EU-funded programs like Horizon Europe and collaborations with global academic networks to promote joint research in clean energy and technology ([link](#)).
- **Global Recognition:** Contributed to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and the GreenMetric World University Rankings, demonstrating leadership in sustainability and collaborative impact ([link](#)).

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:

- **Workshops and Conferences:** Hosted over 30 workshops to promote sustainability and best practices in community health ([link](#)).
- **Cultural Events:** Organized art and cultural events in partnership with local artists to engage the community in sustainability dialogues ([link](#)).

Outcomes and Future Directions:

- **Expanding Partnerships:** Plans to initiate new collaborations with international universities and NGOs for expanded global impact ([link](#)).
- **Research and Impact:** Secured funding for 10+ major research projects focusing on sustainability, health, and renewable energy.

