



UNIVERSITY of INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY and MANAGEMENT
in Rzeszow, POLAND



UITM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023-2024

(Due to the specificity of higher education institutions, information is presented for the academic year 2023/2024 or for the calendar years 2023 and 2024).





Goal 1: ELIMINATE POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS AROUND THE WORLD

UN explains: Poverty is more than lack of income and the necessities of life. Poverty is hunger, malnutrition, limited access to education and essential services, social discrimination, exclusion and lack of participation in the decision-making process. Economic growth must be inclusive, provide work opportunities and promote equality.

Extensive scholarship system

From the beginning of its activity, UITM has given young people the chance to study, regardless of their financial situation. This is still the case today. Financial resources from the University's own budget supplemented by funds from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education allow for broad support for students, enabling free studies for talented students, financial support for day-to-day life during studies and one-off assistance in urgent life problems.

In addition, in the 2023/2024 academic year, four UITM students received Minister's Scholarships for significant scientific and artistic achievements. The maximum amount of the scholarship is PLN 17,000 and is paid (one-off) to the student by the university from funds transferred for this purpose by the Minister.

Social work – first-cycle studies

UITM is the only university in Poland offering Social Work in English (first-cycle studies). The course is distinguished by an attractive study program, the graduates of which will be able to work in social welfare institutions, non-governmental organizations (e.g. foundations, associations), as well as in private aid and support centers both in the country and abroad. In the 2023/2024 academic year, 81 people began studies. They were foreign students from Zimbabwe, Indonesia, India, Armenia and Nigeria. The partners of the course are PSAR and MOPS. Additionally, as part of cooperation with the UNHCR Field Office, meetings for students are organized as part of the Business Lodge (description – Objective 8).

Combating poverty and menstrual exclusion

Due to the awareness that menstrual exclusion in Poland is a fact, and many women and girls cannot afford to buy the necessary hygiene products, which negatively affects their well-being and activity in public, inspired by the Student Council, UITM has been participating in the *Pink Box* Campaign since 2022. The campaign aims to combat poverty and menstrual exclusion by providing free hygiene products for menstruation and promoting education about menstruation in public spaces. The campaign also seeks to break the taboos surrounding menstruation in Poland, involving both women and men in the discussion.

- **1,916 students** received scholarships in the 2023/2024 academic year, of which
- 1,712 students** received scholarships exceeding the tuition fee
- 4** Minister's scholarships for UITM students

- **81 students** in the field of Social work in the 2023/2024 academic year

- **2** *Pink Boxes* on the UITM campuses

2 ZERO FAMINE



Goal 2: ELIMINATE FAMINE, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

UN explains: Currently the soil, drinking water, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. Climate changes are having an even greater impact on the environment on which our lives depend. They increase the risk of natural disasters such as droughts and floods. It is time to look at how food is produced, consumed and distributed.

Health Education in Civilizational Diseases and Civilization Challenges

The university has been focusing on increasing student awareness of the importance of prevention in maintaining good health and quality of life. First-cycle students are involved in learning about civilizational diseases, the factors contributing to their occurrence, the role of a healthy lifestyle in preventing these diseases, and the ability to critically evaluate health data. This is part of the curriculum in the course *Health Education in Civilizational Diseases or Civilization Challenges*, which has been in the 2023/24 academic year. The discussions about these issues and solutions have been so impactful that the subject will continue in the next academic year.

Action for real change in the food production system

UITM conducts extensive activities aimed at real changes in the food production system. In the past academic year, these included:

- *Green Blog* initiative – start: October 2023 (description – Goal 13);
- organization of the 1st National Debate *Our Planet – Our Common Future* – December 5, 2023;
- speeches by the President of UITM, Prof. Tadeusz Pomianek, Ph.D., eng., Assoc. Prof. in 2024, including: *Why do we have to part with the industrial food production system?* at the seminar of the Institute of Rural Development and Agriculture of the Polish Academy of Sciences – February 5; participation in the European Agricultural Forum in the panel: *Europe in the global food chain: challenges and opportunities for producers* – March 19-20; *How to change the industrial food production system to protect the environment and natural resources* during the meeting of the Sejm Committee on Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry – May 9.

Production, consumption and distribution of food at University catering outlets

The university educates and initiates processes that influence the change of attitudes and habits of the young generation. It is aware of the need to limit meat consumption in favor of plant-based products for the benefit of the climate. In its catering services, the university is gradually increasing the availability of vegetarian and vegan dishes. Additionally, it is building a database of agricultural producers to expand the selection of unprocessed dishes and those produced without harmful chemical production methods. In addition, in the 2023/2024 academic year, among others:

- the amount of plastic has been reduced, by introducing ecological disposable cutlery;
- there are 3 water dispensers on both University campuses, intended for use by both employees and students (implementation of goal 6).



922 lecture participants of the *Health Education* on the Polish language path and **211** students on the English language path

923 lecture participants of the *Civilization Challenges*



over 200 participants in the debate



Almost **55% of catering offer** are vegetarian or vegan products

3 water dispensers

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Goal 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

UN explains: We must continue to work intensively to overcome the incidence of many diseases and emerging health threats. By ensuring more efficient financing of health care systems, improving sanitation and access to doctors, and reducing pollution we can make significant progress in saving millions of lives.

Healthy relationships, healthy mentality – a series of online lectures Brain Awareness Week

In response to the needs of young people, the University has launched a series of online lectures entitled „Healthy Relations, Healthy Mentality“. The lectures are a complement to the offer of the Academic Center for Personal Development and Psychotherapy at UITM (ACROiP). In 2024, the following were implemented:

- *Depression, melancholy, the demon in the middle of the day* – J. Gosztyła, February 13;
- *Narcissus? Border ? A few words about personality disorders* – O. Kurek-Ochmańska, Ph.D., March 19;
- *Self-esteem – Your superpower* – A. Ziemiakowicz, April 30.

In addition, in March 2024, during the Brain Awareness Week, ACROiP proposed a film version of the campaign. The film screenings and accompanying discussions were preceded by a lecture by U. Binduga, *Is your stomach or your head growling? The role of the brain in appetite control.*

 Nearly **4,000** thousand lecture views
60 participants of the Brain Awareness Week

Health Academy 50+ Health Week

Popularizing science and showing its usefulness in everyday life in the prevention of civilizational diseases, environmental threats and the concept of active aging is the goal of the two-year project Health Academy 50+. A series of free lectures and workshops on health topics carried out from October 2023 is funded through the *Social Responsibility of Science II* program.

Additionally, the Health Week held from April 22-26, 2024, focused on raising awareness about lifestyle diseases and promoting a healthy and eco-friendly lifestyle among UITM employees. The activities included classes on mental health, obesity, cancer prevention, physiotherapy, stress reduction techniques, and first aid.

 **8** lectures as part of the 50+ Health Academy
20 workshops and lectures during Health Week

Research into the diagnosis of skin melanoma Neurosparkle Platform

Early detection of skin melanoma allows for the cure of up to 90% of patients. Research by T. Mroczek, Ph.D. from the Department of Artificial Intelligence – presented, among others, at the *5th Polish Conference on Artificial Intelligence* – focus on developing a multi-strategy diagnostic system that would support first-contact physicians and provide reliable and user-independent results.

In turn, providing assistance to neurodiverse people and their loved ones, employers, teachers, doctors in making everyday life easier is the research topic of M. Szczur and A. Mukhamadi, third-year students of Management on English-language paths. The concept of the platform *Neurosparkle* developed by the students won the *Final Pitch: Phase 1 - LEARN*, in the Health category. The preparation of the students was taken care of by: Ł. Cywiński, Ph.D., supervisor of Economic Research Club and T. Skica, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., Head of the Department of Entrepreneurship.

 *Discovering Relationships in an Uncertain Sets of Melanocytic Skin Lesions* one Topics at PP-RAI 2024
1st place for students in the SFF Learn final competition

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Goal 4: ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING

UN explains: Quality education is the foundation for improving people's lives and sustainable development.

General access to education improves quality of life and enables innovative solutions to the greatest problems of the modern world.

Providing quality education involves creating educational scholarship programs, workshops for teachers, building schools, and improving access to water and electricity in schools.

Educational offer for generations Rector's Coffee with a Graduate

UITM has a wide range of educational offers. It is implementing the *Interesting lesson* project, which is aimed at high school students. In addition, as part of the *Patronage Classes* project, a series of lessons is carried out on thematic topics of interest to the school, and educational institutions participating in it can count on advice on the curriculum. The Public Academic High School, which has bilingual departments, operates under the auspices of UITM. The school also runs the 50+ Academy to increase activity and broaden the knowledge of adults, including seniors. Additionally, a new initiative called *Rector's Coffee with a Graduate* has been introduced, which involves monthly meetings of UITM graduates with the Rectors. The purpose of these meetings is to maintain and strengthen ties with graduates.



207.5 lesson hours in **25** schools as part of *Interesting lesson* and **395** hours as part of *Patronage Classes* in **44** schools

274 students of the Public Academic High School with bilingual departments in Rzeszow

377 students of the 50+ Academy

Rector's Coffee with a Graduate – **9** meetings

Projects popularizing science

The university is involved in the dissemination of science through projects such as:

- *Big Questions in Science* – a series of popular science lectures organised since 2016 in cooperation with *Tygodnik Powszechny*;

- *In the Labyrinth of the World* – a series of panel discussions organised in cooperation with the Dominican Monastery in Rzeszów;

- *High five to science* – a project aimed at promoting the culture of knowledge sharing and disseminating the idea of open access to science, education and cultural goods;

- *UITM Podcasts* – from November 2023, UITM has launched podcasts – recordings of meetings and open lectures organized by the University.



35,000 participants live and **23 million** views of film reports

Providing quality international education

UITM actively works to ensure high quality international education. In 2023/2024, among others:

- at the academic level: UITM students could take part in a one-year, 700-hour, intensive *Foundation Year* English language course; the university and its partners started to implement the CERISE project, as part of the Erasmus+ program, aimed at including green skills in teaching programs; the project *Common Languages: A Bridge Between Cultures* was launched;

- at the level of regional cooperation: the implementation of the *Cultural Adaptation* project was continued, within the framework of which high school students have the opportunity to participate in classes conducted by foreign students of UITM; and the activities of EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów, a member of the international network of the European Commission, gathered a group of 8,500 recipients.



42 people completed the *Foundation Year* course
22.5 lesson hours in **8** schools as part of *Cultural Adaptation*

8,500 recipients of educational activities about the EU

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Goal 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS

UN explains: Gender equality is not only a universal human right, it is also the foundation of a sustainable world in which people will live in peace and prosperity. Ensuring that women and girls have equal access to education, health care and decent work, and participate in decision-making on political and economic issues will strengthen sustainable economies and benefit societies and all of humanity.

Gender Equality Plan for 2022-2025

The Equality Plan (Gender Equality Plan) adopted for implementation at UITM aims to create a space of safety and equality that supports the harmonious development of all members of the academic community, which consists of research and teaching staff, lecturers, administrative staff and students. The strategic goals of the adopted Gender Equality Plan are:

- including gender equality issues in research and teaching;
- in the 2023/2024 academic year, issues related to gender equality were added to the content of education implemented within the subjects: *Law, Intercultural Communication, Ethics in Intercultural Relations*, and issues of equality before the law in the subject of *Fundamentals of Law*.

Feminist perspective in the research of UITM scientists

Feminist Bioethics in Space: Gender Inequality in Space Exploration by K. Szocik, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., is the first book in the world devoted to the feminist perspective of thought in reflection on space and space missions. The book appeared at Oxford University Press. In turn, on the pages of *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* – also by Prof. Szocik – published myself text entitled *Proxy failure in social policies as one of the main causes of persistent sexism and racism*. It is also worth mentioning the publishing activity of the Feminist Philosophy Committee, including the article by student K. Wilk, *Feminist Film Theory: The Impact of Female Representation in Modern Movies* in the scientific journal *Studia Humana*.

Women and girls empowerment activities for the academic community and region

UITM is involved in several activities to strengthen the position of girls and women in the academic community and the region. In the 2023/2024 academic year, among others:

- a debate was organized *Every gender is equal* during which they talked about the various forms of gender inequality in the world and actions that help reduce these inequalities – 12 December; female scientists from UITM shared their reflections on scientific work from a female point of view on the occasion of the International Women in Science Day – February 11;
- a meeting entitled *Polek self-portrait* was held with the participation of J. Kuciel-Frydryszak, A. Siewierska, Ph.D., Professor of the University of Rzeszów and sister M. Chmielewska and moderation by K. Kubisiowska (as part of the 5th edition of the series *In the Labyrinth of the World*) – April 24;
- an anti-discrimination workshop for gender equality at the academy was carried out, I. Leonowicz-Bukała, Ph.D. – June 14, 17.



In the 4-person Rector's Board there are **three** female Vice-Rectors, and the positions of Deans of Faculties are filled in **75%** % by women, and among Vice-Deans, women constitute **73%**



The world's first book devoted to the feminist perspective of thought in reflection on space and space missions



Over **160** participants in the debate *Every gender is equal*
Nearly **600** participants of the meeting entitled *Polek self-portrait*

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Goal 6: PROVIDE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL THROUGH SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

UN explains: Every person in the world should have access to clean water. On our planet, we have enough water to make this happen. However, due to a weak economy or poor infrastructure, millions of people, mostly children, die every year from diseases related to inadequate water supplies, poor sanitation and bad hygiene. Water scarcity, its low quality and improper sanitation have a negative impact on food security and livelihoods.

Water resources management Areas absorbing water

UITM actively monitors water consumption and implements new solutions to reduce it. UITM focus on modernizing sanitary facilities and utilizing rainwater collection. To modernize sanitary facilities, the university installed air aerators on taps and flushers to regulate the amount of water used in toilets. Additionally, UITM purchases rainwater containers to implement drip irrigation for crops grown on campus, which saves approximately 8 thousand liters of water from municipal sources per season. The university also prioritizes green spaces, with over half of its total area consisting of water-absorbing areas such as lawns, flower beds, and forests. These areas not only contribute to the campus's recreational value but also benefit the local community.



Tap inserts and aerators installed in faucets and cisterns reduced water consumption by **25%**
8,000 liters of rainwater collected per season
More than **50%** of the UITM campus area is water-absorbing

Water is life

Do we use more water when eating than when drinking?

With the participation of poster designers and artists from: Argentina, China, Denmark, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Macedonia, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Slovakia, the United States, Taiwan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Hungary, the United Arab Emirates – including students of UITM – the exhibition *Eco poster in UITM* was created in December 2023. The exhibition aimed to use visual communication to express their opposition to the destruction of the planet. The artists were offered two topics: *Biodiversity* and *Water is Life*. The curator of the exhibition was P. Longawa, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., Head of the Department of Graphic Design. The exhibition accompanied the 1st National Debate *Our Planet – Our Common Future* (Description – Objective 2), where the topic of water was raised by, among others, G. Karaś, a Management student working in SC Green Economics, delivered a paper entitled *Do we use more water when eating than when drinking?*



30 outstanding designers and poster artists from all over the world took part in the exhibition

Soil and Water Laboratory

The Department of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development at UITM focuses on implementing five of the seventeen sustainable development goals. The department has established laboratories to support education in the field of *Sustainable Development in the Economy*. One of these laboratories is the Soil and Water Laboratory, which conducts research on drought problems, prevention, and mitigation. It also focuses on maintaining an aesthetic plant cover, emphasizing terrain value, and ensuring appropriate soil hydration to prevent erosion. The laboratory's equipment allows for testing water for nitrates, orthophosphates, and detergents, as well as analyzing the causes, sources, and effects of eutrophication in surface waters.



1 Soil and Water Laboratory

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Goal 7: PROVIDE EVERYONE WITH ACCESS TO SOURCES OF STABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY AT AFFORDABLE PRICE

UN explains: Overcoming challenges and taking advantage of numerous opportunities in today's world involves access to energy. Energy is necessary to perform work, ensure safety, fight climate change, produce food, or in efforts to increase national incomes. Access to clean fuels and technology must be increased, and the use of renewable sources of energy in buildings, transportation and industry needs to be enhanced.

Scientific research – employees

The university conducts research on green energy sources, which results in international publications. An example of such a publication is the article by Sunil Tiwari, Grzegorz Mentel, Kamel Si Mohammed, Mohd Ziaur Rehman, Anna Lewandowska *Unveiling the role of natural resources, energy transition and environmental policy stringency for sustainable environmental development: Evidence from BRIC +1*, which addresses the impact of economic growth, energy transition, minerals market, traditional energy, stringent environmental policies and dependency ratio on the management of natural resources and environmental sustainability in BRIC +1 countries over the period 1993-2020.

Scientific research – students

The article by A. Gacek, a student of Management, entitled *The Polish energy sector facing the challenges of global warming* was distinguished in the competition for an innovative scientific article organized by the Office of J. Buzek – MEP in partnership with, among others, the Silesian Center for Business Ethics and Sustainable Development. The student associated with the Financial Science Club FLOW competed in the competition category *Scientific Debut 2024 – Sustainable Development and the European Green Deal*. After positive reviews, the article is waiting for publication in a scientific monograph. The substantive preparation of the student was provided by: K. Palimąka, Ph.D., and J. Rodzinka, Ph.D. from the Institute of Financial Research and Analysis of UITM.

Solar panels in Kielnarowa Smart Buildings

The campus in Kielnarowa has solar panels installed, the energy of which is used to heat water. The energy obtained from this green source in 2023 will be over 8 thousand kWh.

In addition, each of the UITM buildings has at least 5 Smart Building elements.



Research conducted at UITM results in international publications in the field of green energy sources



Positive reviews of the student's article, *The Polish energy sector facing the challenges of global warming*



Over **8,000 kWh** of green energy in 2023

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8: PROMOTE PERMANENT, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL PEOPLE

UN explains: economic growth requires societies to form conditions that enable people to engage in quality work that drives the economy without harming the environment. New work opportunities must be created and decent work conditions must be provided for the entire working-age population. Access to financial services should also be increased, enabling proper income management, wealth accumulation and effective investment. Increasing resources for the development of trade, banking and agricultural infrastructure will also help to increase economic productivity and reduce unemployment level in the world's poorest regions.

Certificates	Business Lodge Trade fairs and industry festivals	Scientific conferences
<p>The University has extensive experience in implementing proven certified educational solutions.</p> <p>UITM studies enable students to earn prestigious language, business and IT certificates valued by employers.</p>	<p>UITM runs a series called <i>Business Lodge</i>, addressed to UITM students. These are meetings with employers and business practitioners to familiarize with the secrets of a given industry. In the 2023/2024 academic year, meetings were held with the participation of experts from the following companies: People Can Fly; Trans.eu; Znam; Focus Graf Printing House; Diamenty Publishing House; Anglojęzycznie; WEBCON; Lufthansa Group.</p> <p>Moreover, the University has once again become an Academic Partner of the Carpathian Startup Fest 2024, one of the largest events in the Subcarpathian region in the field of entrepreneurship and startups, and for over two decades the UITM Careers Office has been the organizer of the Subcarpathian Job Fair.</p>	<p><i>Start For Future European Megatrends Summit</i> in Munich (with the participation of T. Skica, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., and Ł. Cywiński, Ph.D.), devoted to key challenges in research on entrepreneurship ecosystems, taking into account the issues of sustainable development; 3rd International Scientific Conference of Prof. J. Winiński <i>Economic Shocks, Resilience, and Institutions</i> in Frankfurt (Oder) (with the participation of A. Yakymchuk, Ph.D, W.Misiąg, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., K. Błędowski, Ph.D., U. Zaremba, Ph.D., and J. Misiąg), devoted to economic crises and strengthening the resilience of the economy; <i>Faces of Prosperity</i> in Gdańsk (with the participation of S. Guneri, Ph.D and student A. Hoghoughi Esfahani), a conference devoted to research on different faces of prosperity, taking into account sustainable practices in industries, including aviation – these are examples of events in the area of sustainable economic growth, which were co-created by scientists from UITM in the 2023/2024 academic year.</p>
<p>➤ To date over 100,000 certificates have been awarded: 32,000 IT, 84,000 language and 1,000 business</p>	<p>➤ 10 meetings held as part of the <i>Business Lodge</i> 31 employers and several thousand visitors to the 21st Subcarpathian Job Fair Over 1,000 companies cooperating with the UITM Careers Office on a daily basis</p>	<p>➤ UITM lecturers co-create scientific conferences in the area of sustainable development</p>



Goal 9: BUILD DISASTER-RESISTANT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SUPPORT INNOVATION

UN explains: At the core of efforts to achieve environmental goals is technical progress, including increasing material and energy efficiency. Without technology and innovation there will be no industry, and without industry there will be no development. More investment in highly advanced technologies is needed to increase efficiency of manufactory production. Attention should be paid to the development of mobile phone services that improve people-to-people contact.

Scientific and artistic development and support for student innovation and creativity

The influence of virtual reality (VR) on body balance and stress reactions of the body under the supervision of student A. Rodak (implementation: SC RehSCIENCE under the supervision of M. Krawczyk-Suszek, Ph.D., SC New Programming Technologies under the supervision of M. Jaszuk, Ph.D.); *DACHSHUNKI - a card game, a time-based, logical and skillful party game*, under the supervision of student E. Musiał from SC Board and Role-playing Games (supervisor: M. Maslyk); *Green synthesis of silver nanoparticles (Ag-NPs) using extracts from Indian neem (Azadirachta indica) and their use in cosmetic formulations* under the supervision of student B. Balon (realization: SC Cosmetic Plants under the supervision of K. Gawel-Bęben, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., and P. Lechwar). These are examples of 3 out of 5 awarded projects in the competition for scientific, artistic, and popularization of science and art projects, implemented by the SC UITM in 2024.

 **5** awarded scientific projects of the UITM Student Research Groups in 2024

Cooperation with representatives of the business world in the area of implementation of modern technological solutions

The IT Services Center, operating within the UITM structures, implements various IT projects involving modern technologies. These projects are carried out for external business clients. As part of the completed orders, university employees have developed four IT project implementations using modern technologies.

 **4 implementations** of IT projects using modern technologies

Connecting the world of business and science:

15th edition of the InternetBeta conference
15th edition of the National Scientific Conference *Science and Passion are the Key to Success*
II TEDxRzeszow Countdown

InternetBeta is a conference distinguished by its interdisciplinarity, creating a space for meetings of representatives of the most important advertising and digital agencies, investors, startups, managers and owners of the largest websites and online stores, people responsible for marketing and innovation, working for the largest and niche brands, as well as sociologists, psychologists, representatives of local governments and NGOs.

The National Scientific Conference *Science and Passion as the Key to Success* is an annual event aimed at promoting the activities of young scientists, presenting research and views, and integrating academic communities. Previous editions have allowed *Science and Passion* to become a permanent fixture in the conference calendar throughout Poland.

Lectures and discussions aimed at providing a detailed understanding of the climate crisis and developing possible actions to take comprised the 2nd TEDxRzeszow Countdown organized by Ł. Bis, EMBA at UITM (December 2023).

 **Over 80** speakers and **350** participants at the 15th edition of the InternetBeta conference
Over **90** speakers from **20** universities from Poland and abroad and nearly **100** participants in the conference *Science and Passion are the Key to Success*

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Goal 10: REDUCE INEQUALITIES WITHIN AND BETWEEN COUNTRIES

UN explains: The international community has made significant progress in saving people from poverty. However, inequality still persists around the world and not everyone has equal access to health care, education and other goods. It is crucial that everyone can benefit from inclusive economic progress, based on the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Taking into account the needs of disadvantaged people and marginalized groups should become a common principle in policies seeking to reduce inequality.

Science, teaching, popularization

UITM scientists are taking numerous actions to reduce inequalities. In the 2023/2024 academic year, these included:

- *Union of Equality. Between Assumptions and Reality*, commissioned by the European Commission – with the participation of M. Szewczyk, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. – a report on the strategy for implementing regulations on equality and non-discrimination in the EU;
- publications scientific, including in Health Communication, and presentations, including *Chat, imagine a disabled person, (Re)creating representations of disabilities and disabled people with Generative AI tools during Disability studies in eastern Europe. Reconfigurations* (Kraków, 2024) – research results on the activity, support, and image of disabled people on the Internet and the impact of new technologies on reinforcing stereotypes and inequalities. The research is conducted by the team: M. Struck-Peregończyk, Ph.D., I. Leonowicz, Ph. D., and M. Birek, Ph. D.;
- anti-discrimination workshops *POZNAJMY_SIĘ* with the participation of Philology students and I. Leonowicz, Ph.D and P. Wiczorek, Ph. D., organized by the Ukrainian House and PSAR at the TUTU Center.



Several publications, studies, workshops conducted by UITM scientists on reducing inequalities

Counteracting mobbing, discrimination and violence

At UITM, there is a policy against mobbing, discrimination, and violence targeting students and employees. In 2020, the university appointed K. Kurzępa-Dedo, Ph.D. as the Rector's Representative for Counteracting Mobbing, Discrimination and Violence. In October 2023, K. Kurzępa-Dedo, Ph.D. joined the Academic Network of Security and Equality, an organization of individuals holding roles at Polish universities related to protecting academic rights and values, as well as promoting security, equality, and diversity among students and employees.

Moreover, first-semester training is provided for students in all Polish- and English-language study paths. During this training, the university discusses the principles of its anti-discrimination and violence policy and the Gender Equality Plan, as well as the types of assistance and support available through the Academic Centre for Personal Development and Psychotherapy.



Membership in **the Academic Network of Security and Equality (ASBiR)**
10 training courses for students on anti-discrimination and violence

Participation in charity events and social projects

The University, as a Signatory of the Diversity Charter (an international initiative aimed at promoting diversity and equal opportunities in employment regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, disability, or religious denomination), received a distinction in the 2nd edition of the UITM Diversity Charter Award for *the Unity Bridge: #Together for Ukraine*, i.e. actions taken for refugees from Ukraine after the Russian attack on that country in 2022. In the area of student activities, it is worth mentioning:

- the victory of the Dream Team, an international team of UITM students, in the Open category in the *Hackathon AviaTech Challenge* in Mielec. Project by Y. Mukhamedkarim, A. Zharylkassinova, Z. Malik and A. Avdillaev, L. Żywicka, and A. Sozanska on creating safe spaces at airports for people with neurodiversity;
- bronze medal for M. Cyzio – student of Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production – in swimming 50 m breast-stroke during the *Polish Integration Championships of AZS*, a sports competition for people with disabilities run since 2016.



Honorable Mention in the 2nd edition of the UITM Diversity Card Award for *the Unity Bridge: #Together for Ukraine*
1st place in *Hackathon AviaTech Challenge* in Mielec and **bronze medal** during the *Polish Integration Championships of the AZS*

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Goal 11: DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE CITIES AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESISTANT TO THE EFFECTS OF DISASTER AND SUSTAINABLE

UN explains: Cities are centers of culture and science, industry and productivity, as well as social development, and this is also where new ideas are born. When a city flourishes, people benefit from social and economic development. With the number of people living in urban areas expected to rise to 5 billion by 2030, effective urban planning and management practices must be implemented to meet the challenges of urbanization. Cities should grow, at the same time we need to improve the efficiency of resource use, strive to reduce pollution and combat poverty.

Student innovations

G. Pękala, a student of Psychology in Management, emerged as the winner in the competition accompanying the Business Workshops titled *Start your own company*. The competition jury commended her concept of the Plenerok.pl internet platform, which aims to assist owners of green areas in making their plots available for external events.

The creators of the LAight project clinched the special prize from the Subcarpathian Innovation Center for their intelligent city lighting system idea. The system is designed to only activate lamps in close proximity to people. This prize was awarded as part of the largest hackathon in Rzeszów, HackCarpathia, which was jointly organized by UITM and PCI. The winning team included a representative of the UITM, D. Bis, a student of Computer Science.

Air quality monitoring

The University actively participates in fighting smog.

In order to reduce air pollution with dust and dangerous substances, only eco-friendly furnaces are used for space heating.

An Airly CAQI (PM) device was installed on the campus in Rzeszów, which continuously measures the concentration of PM10, PM2.5, and PM1 dust and measures air temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, and wind speed. The measurements are made available online via the UITM website, which also serves the residents of Rzeszów. The online readings complement the research conducted over the last four years, which has shown that dust pollution is systematically decreasing. The linear regression of selected PM10 dust research results showed a decrease of over 70%. A similar decrease in pollution was observed for PM 2.5 and PM 1 dust over the last four years.

Kielnarowa Campus – exhibitions / green infrastructure / outdoor gym

Bike rental

The UITM campus in Kielnarowa is, on the one hand, a student campus and, on the other hand, a modern conference and recreation complex, where ideal conditions have been created for organizing congresses, conferences, workshops, and training, integration meetings, social gatherings, and leisure. The facility is located in the beautiful surroundings of the Dynowskie Foothills, just 10 km from Rzeszów. Specialized infrastructure also allows for organizing sports camps, which is why the campus is often used by sports teams.

In the Kielnarowa campus, in the Tourism and Recreation Center, there is, among others, a Green Bike bike rental, which can be used free of charge by employees and students of the University and students of ALO. The rental offer includes, among others, six electric bikes from Ecobike Traffic.

 **2** awards for student innovations

 Air quality monitoring has been carried out for **4 years**

 **Over 25** – total number of events organised on the Kielnarowa campus in the 2023/2024 academic year
6 Ecobike Traffic electric bicycles at the disposal of the UITM academic community members

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Goal 12: ENSURE MODELS OF RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

UN explains: Sustainable consumption and productions are related to promoting effective use of energy and other resources, lasting infrastructure, access to basic services, decent workplaces, including in the environmental sector, and better life quality. The use of such patterns helps in the implementation of development plans, reduces economic, environmental and social costs, strengthens economic competitiveness and reduces poverty.

The Collector Movie Training at PODR

Shaping patterns of responsible consumption and production can take place using a variety of forms, as exemplified by the activities of UITM lecturers, including:

- P. Wilczyńska from the Department of Graphic Design, whose film *Collector* (2023) was recognized at the Time-Line Film Festival as a finalist in the category of Best Short Film Filmmaker. The film is a 4-minute animation about the negative effects of consumerism on individuals, the environment, and the mental health of society. The film aims to inspire a change in viewers' attitudes, promote critical thinking, and build conscious consumption;
- M. Bzowska-Bakalarz, Ph.D., eng., Prof., Head of the Department of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, who, in cooperation with the Subcarpathian Agricultural Advisory Centre in Boguchwała, trained farmers in the field of limiting the use of chemical plant protection products in favor of those based on microorganisms, macroorganisms, and biotechnical agents (January 2024).

Customer Returns as a Sustainability Concept

Consumers often take advantage of store return policies, which contributes to increased environmental pollution from transportation emissions. To address this issue, K. Lysenko-Ryba, Ph.D. and M. Reveniuk from the Department of Logistics and Process Engineering are leading a project to study consumers' ecological awareness during product returns. They aim to propose solutions that encourage more environmentally conscious consumer behavior. In 2023, they conducted research using the CAWI method, surveying consumers about their views on sustainable development, shopping habits after the pandemic, their behavior when making returns, and their attitudes towards ecological packaging.

Responsible production with Enterprise Europe Network

Specialist workshops in the area of sustainable consumption and production organized by the UITM Enterprise Europe Network, which has been operating since 2010, are an example of the wide range of services offered by the EEN center for Subcarpathian entrepreneurs. Recently, training courses have been conducted, including:

- *The impact of sustainable development on increasing the company's competitiveness* – 27/07/2023;
- *Integration of energy into the sustainable development goals of the enterprise – practical implementation of requirements* – 27/09/2023;
- *Digitalization is a challenge for a manufacturing company. How to do it effectively? Digitalization methods and paths adapted to each company* – 24/10/2023;
- *Road transport management taking into account changes resulting from national and international transport law* – Mielec, 28/11/2023; Rzeszów, 05/12/2023;
- *Digital solutions in the company* – Rzeszów, 06/03/2024; Mielec, 11/06/2023;
- *Management of environmental requirements taking into account BDO, KOBIZE, GOZ and ESG* - 28/06/2024.



Collector honored at TimeLine Film Festival
Training of Subcarpathian farmers on biological plant protection methods



305 people took part in the survey



8 workshop conducted
A total of **161** workshop participants

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Goal 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS

UN explains: Current climate changes are felt in every country on all continents. They disrupt the development of national economies and threaten human lives and entire societies. People experience severe impacts from climate change, including those related to changing weather patterns, sea level rise and extreme weather events. The emissions of greenhouse gases created by human activities continue to increase and push climate change forward. If we do not take action, the average global temperature in this century is expected to rise by over 3⁰ Celsius, or even more in some regions of the world.

UITM didactics for climate

UITM students have access to laboratories and a didactic garden where they learn to better understand nature and environmental changes. These are:

- Biodiversity Laboratory, which enables research on plant and seed diversity;
- Soil and Water Laboratory (description – Objective 6);
- Microbiology Laboratory, intended for research on, among others, bacterial morphology and microbial culture;
- Educational garden – enabling the expansion of knowledge in the field of plant biodiversity and its application to plant cultivation.

In addition, students of all fields of study can take part in a competition for the best diploma thesis on sustainable development in the areas of environment, society, and economy, the first edition of which was announced in 2024.

Partnership in sustainable development Project: Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Education

In October 2023, the Responsible Business Forum Association – the longest-running and largest non-governmental organization in Poland that deals with the concept of sustainable development comprehensively – became a strategic partner of the courses Sustainable Development in the Economy (second-cycle studies) and Sustainable Development and the environment (first-cycle studies).

UITM together with partners from Iceland (Reykjavik University), Portugal (Politécnico da Guarda), Lithuania (Kazimieras Simonavičius University) and Poland (Wirtualis Sp. z o. o.) are implementing the *SEED project: Sustainable Entrepreneurship in Education*. The initiative aims to support the digital and ecological capabilities of the higher education sector by increasing the digital competencies of educators and developing a set of innovative teaching tools (promoting sustainable development) aimed at academic teachers. The university is the coordinator of the project.

Green blog

The University runs a green blog, the idea of which was conceived by the President of UITM, T. Pomianek, Ph.D., eng. Assoc. Prof. The *Green blog* is devoted to the existential threats facing humanity: global warming, environmental degradation, and the problem of waste. It is also intended to make recipients aware of how devastating the ongoing process of environmental degradation is, including the loss of biodiversity. The blog is also devoted to the issues of Polish agriculture and the so-called „provinces”. Leading experts in the presented area are invited to write articles, including P. Januszewicz, Ph.D., Prof., Head of the Department of Civilization Diseases and Regenerative Medicine at UITM; Z. Karaczun, Ph.D., eng. Professor of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences; P. Kramarz, Ph.D., Professor of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków; M. Bzowska-Bakalarz, Ph.D., eng., Prof., Head of the Department of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and distinguished ecological activists. With the help of the blog, the University wants to contribute to the education of society.



4 educational facilities for a better understanding of nature and environmental changes

Competition for a diploma thesis on the topic of sustainable development



Responsible Business Forum

is a strategic partner of sustainable development directions

UITM **is the coordinator of** the *SEED* project



2023/2024 Academic year:

25 articles, **14** authors,

over 2.6 thousand views



Goal 14: PROTECT THE OCEANS AND SEAS AND USE THEIR RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

UN explains: Oceans – their temperature, chemical structure, currents and life within them drive the world’s ecosystems, without which human life on Earth would be impossible. Rainwater, drinking water, weather and climate, coastlines, much of our food and even the oxygen we breathe are all dependent on seas which act as a regulator. For centuries, important trade and transportation routes have been running through the seas and oceans. Careful management of these irreplaceable resources is the key to a sustainable future. However, the condition of coastal waters is deteriorating due to pollution, and ocean acidification is threatening the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. These phenomena also have a negative impact on local fisheries.

Responsible wastewater management

Wastewater from both University Campuses is discharged to the Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Municipal Water and Sewage Plant in Rzeszów. Wastewater treatment technology assumes full mechanical and biological treatment of wastewater using the removal of biogenic substances (nitrogen, phosphorus). The treated sewage flows by gravity to the Wisłok River, 100 m from the sewage treatment plant, while the sludge is directed to the Separate Fermentation Chamber (SFC) via a pumping station. Fermentation results in stabilized digested sludge and biogas which are used to produce electricity and heat in cogenerators and boilers. Dewatered and dried sludge is used in industrial agriculture and for recultivation.

Youth for the Planet

Fast Fashion – an industry that accounts for 20% of the world’s total water consumption – and the Atacama Desert in Chile, located at one of the largest duty-free ports in South America and transforming into a fashion cemetery, were among the topics of the National Competition *Youth for the Planet* addressed to high school students and organized by UITM. The competition aimed to engage young people in ecological projects and to shape their sensitivity to problems related to the promotion and implementation of the idea of sustainable development. The topic *Fast Fashion and the Atacama Desert – how to change our awareness and habits?* turned out to be close to the students, and its film interpretation performed by A. Maguda, M. Juszczak, A. Krzysztof – students of the 1st General High School with Bilingual Departments named after M. Copernicus in Krosno, prepared under the supervision of teacher P. Kilar, took 3rd place.

Highlighting the graphic interpretation of the problem of plastic pollution in the seas and oceans

A fish (swordfish) on a blue background, with its „sword” stuck in a white plastic shopping bag, is one of the artistic visions that qualified for the finals of the BISTA BI International Student Talent Awards in South Korea. The aforementioned work entitled *Surrender* by D. Kamiński, a student of *Graphic Design*, is a graphic interpretation of the problem of plastic pollution in the seas and oceans. The poster emphasizes the impact of plastic waste on marine life and encourages environmental protection. In addition, the finals of the aforementioned competition included the work *The acid rain*, by Z. Poplewska, a student of *Computer Graphics and Multimedia Production*, which is a warning about the impact of acid rain on the environment. Students are members of the Poster Design Committee B1, supervised by P. Longawa, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof.



100% of wastewater is discharged into certified municipal and city networks, where it is processed in accordance with applicable regulations



27 applications from **17** high schools from the Subcarpathian, Lesser Poland and Greater Poland regions in the National Competition *Youth for the Planet*



2 posters by UITM students in the final of BISTA BI International Student Talent Awards in South Korea



Goal 15: PROTECT, RESTOCK AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF LAND ECOSYSTEMS, MANAGE FORESTS SUSTAINABLY, FIGHT DESERTIFICATION, STOP AND REVERSE SOIL DEGRADATION, HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

UN explains: Forests cover 30.7% of the Earth's surface. They not only provide food security and shelter for various forms of life, but also play a key role in combating climate change, protecting biodiversity, as well as are the place where indigenous people live.. Protecting forests will allow us to improve natural resource management processes and increase land productivity. Every year 13 million hectares of forest are lost, and ongoing degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares of land. Despite the fact that nearly 15% of areas are now protected, biodiversity is still under threat.

Forest on the UITM campus in Kielnarowa

The UITM campus in Kielnarowa includes a mixed forest with an area of 2.8 ha and 2 forested plots with a total area of 17 ha. Each year, as a result of a review of the tree stand, a decision is made on new plantings. In the 2023/2024 academic year:

- a field garden was created (description – Goal 13);
- several fruit trees were planted (apple trees, plum trees);
- a flower meadow was created with melliferous plants (phacelia, lupine, buckwheat, field beans);
- the vegetable garden was enlarged, where, among others, lettuce, cabbage, pumpkins, cour-gettes, watermelons, garlic, onions, beetroots, and dill were planted;
- a new flower garden was created at the White Hall (over 100 plants were planted).

Seminars and conferences

Representatives of the Medical College participated in the following conference activities:

- International Congress of Natural Products Research – Kraków – July 2024 – K. Głowniak, Ph.D, Prof., K. Gawel-Bęben, Ph.D., DSc., Assoc. Prof.;
- 1st International Scientific Conference MRTBS 2024 – Opole – April 2024 – P. Lechwar, A. Lichtarska, M. Lasota, student B. Balon;
- 1st Seminar *Natural Cosmetic Preparations in Modern Cosmetology* - online event: Pomer-anian Medical University, Medical College of the Jagiellonian University and UITM – March 2024 – K. Gawel-Bęben, Ph.D., D.Sc., Assoc. Prof. and B. Antosiewicz-Klimczak, Ph.D.).

Project : GreenCosmln – Green chemistry and biotechnology approaches for the development of nature-based cosmetics

The scientific team of the Department of Cosmetology at UITM: K. Głowniak, Ph.D, Prof., K. Gawel-Bęben, Ph.D., D.Sc., Assoc. Prof., B. Antosiewicz-Klimczak, Ph.D., and M. Biesiadecka, Ph.D from the UITM Centre for Biomedical Research and Services obtained funding under the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) – Staff Ex-change program (Horizon Europe) for the implementation of the project entitled *GreenCosmln – Green chemistry and biotechnology approaches for the development of nature-based cosmetics*. The project aims to create a close, multi-sectoral network of cooperation between the academic community and commercial entities to implement pro-ecological approach-es to the exploitation of natural resources for the acquisition of natural raw materials for cosmetics. The project will develop in particular the so-called green extraction meth-ods and the use of biotechnological meth-ods to enrich nat-ural cosmetic ingredients. The aim of the project will also be the transfer of knowledge between commercial and academic entities, as well as countries less developed in terms of science such as Mongolia, Tunisia, or French Polynesia.

➤ **2,8 ha** of the total are of the Campus covered with forest vegetation
17 ha covered with forest vegetation

➤ Representatives of UITM in the Committee of Therapy and Drug Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences for the term 2024-2027

➤ **1.3 million** Euros – total project value

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Goal 16: PROMOTE THE EXISTENCE OF PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; ENSURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL; BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

UN explains: Murder, violence against children, human trafficking and sexual violence pose serious threats to peace and inclusive societies. Access to justice must be provided for all people and effective, responsible and friendly institutions must be created at all levels.

Your choices

Your choices – this is the slogan accompanying the 3rd edition of the National Graphic Competition European Poster Gallery. The competition, organized by EUROPE DIRECT Rzeszów at UITM, was addressed to people aged 18-25. The task of the competition participants was to create a pro-professional poster before the elections to the European Parliament in 2024. The European Poster Gallery is an initiative implemented since 2020, the aim of which is to arouse public interest in the discussion on the future of Europe, enabling young creators to participate in it through the poster as a form of expression. The exhibition of posters distinguished in the 3rd edition of the competition was presented – as one of the initiatives accompanying the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Poland in the EU – at the UITM campus in Rzeszów.

Zróbmy: P. Longawa, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. won the 12th International Eco-Poster Triennial *The 4th Block* in the category *Reimagine the future*, the aim of which is to support social and environmental ideas, uphold the principles of sustainable development of society and safe environmental policy through art and design.

Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon

The Amnesty International Letter Writing Marathon took place on December 4-8, 2023 at UITM. The event was organized by the Humanus Interdisciplinary Science Club under the supervision of P. Wieczorek, Ph.D. at the Department of English Philology. The Letter Writing Marathon has been a tradition since 2001 and has been held for almost two decades at the University. This marathon serves as a symbol of solidarity and commitment of the academic community to defending human rights and promoting equality. As part of the tradition, the local community, including teachers and students from the 1st General High School named after King Władysław Jagiełło in Dębica, participated in writing letters alongside students and lecturers from UITM.

The Phenomenon of Polish hospitality – Project Summary

The project entitled *Experiences of welcoming Ukrainian refugees into one's own home. Sociological analysis of the phenomenon of Polish hospitality* (description – Objective 16, Report ZR UITM 2022/2023), implemented thanks to financing from the NAWA Intervention Grants Program, has come to an end. The research was prepared and conducted by a team of researchers from the College of Media and Social Communication at UITM in cooperation with three universities from Poland, UA, and CA. The study included 30 in-depth interviews with refugees from Ukraine living in Polish homes after the outbreak of the war on February 24, 2022. The interviews were a continuation of the research project entitled *Guest-otherness*, as part of which interviews were conducted with Polish hosts. Thanks to the research material collected in both projects, the following were developed, among others: several recommendations for local governments regarding the problem of housing for refugee families from the UA, non-governmental organizations cooperating with local authorities, as well as a guide for hosts and guests.



79 works in the 3rd edition of the European Poster Gallery graphic competition
The victory of the UITM representative in ***The 4th Block***



Over **300** letters in defense of human rights



30 in-depth interviews with refugees from Ukraine and a number of recommendations for local governments and NGOs cooperating with local authorities

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Goal 17: STRENGTHEN MECHANISMS FOR THE FORMATION OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND REVITALIZE EXISTING PARTNERSHIP

UN explains: Effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Such inclusive partnerships should be built on principles and values, a shared vision and shared goals that put people and the planet at the center of action. We need such partnerships at global, regional, national and local levels.

UI GreenMetric

In the international UI GreenMetric ranking, UITM came second among Polish universities – a year ago it was third. The ranking takes into account ecological solutions and sustainable development, and the list includes 1,183 universities from all over the world.

In 2023, universities from 84 countries around the world, including 15 from Poland, participated in the UI GreenMetric ranking. UITM is in second place, which gave it 325th position in the world ranking.

GreenMetric ranking has been assessing universities' activities related to sustainable development and climate protection since 2010. The ranking methodology draws on the best models, including Times Higher Education, Webometric, HEEACT, QS Ranking, and The College Sustainability Report Card.

Inclusive partnerships

Working towards the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the University cooperates with numerous entities at the global, regional, national, and local levels, including:

- together with over 860 leading business and management schools from 99 countries around the world, as part of the UN-supported initiative *The Principles for Responsible Management Education*, takes action to build a more sustainable future;
- In 2024 the university has become a representative of PRME in the region and a strategic partner among the Management Board of the Polish Branch of PRME. Currently, UITM coordinates tasks regarding the management of funds from the Lego i5 Foundation and the Global Compact, for the cocreation of new projects, as part of sustainable initiatives;
- together with over 150 Polish universities, it is a signatory to the Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities, a voluntary commitment of higher education institutions to promoting the idea of sustainable development and social responsibility in educational programs, scientific research and management, and organizational solutions of universities.

European University

In June 2024, the University joined the group of European Universities. In the 5th edition of the competition in the Erasmus+ European Universities, 14 new university consortia were selected. Nine Polish universities were included in the list of European Universities, and UITM is one of three non-public universities in this group. UITM, along with eight other universities, will be carrying out the project *Smaller (Strategic) Universities Network for Regional Innovative and Sustainable Evolution – SUNRISE*. UITM partners are technical universities with extensive experience in research programs, including the Horizon Europe program. Therefore, the *SUNRISE* project will include UITM in the family of European universities involved in promoting European ideas in education and research. The university, together with its partners, will shape a model of cooperation for the development of local communities in the spirit of sustainable development. The beneficiaries of the project are students, employees of the University, and the environment of UITM.



325th position in the world ranking
and **2nd** in Poland



PRME
Declaration of Social Responsibility
of the University



UITM **is the only university from the Subcarpathian region and one of four non-public universities** among all university alliances