

Sustainable Development Goals Report

2020-2021

UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

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INTRODUCTION

With a history of over 150 years, the University of Bucharest (UB) today represents a prestigious, dynamic and inclusive academic space, student-centered and characterized by creativity, innovation and pragmatism.

Within the 19 faculties of the UB, many programmes and schools are organized: 99 bachelor's programmes, 214 master's programmes, 9 didactic master's programmes, 21 doctoral schools in specific fields and an interdisciplinary doctoral school, over 50 research centers and 9 research local centres. UB has established itself as an institution of excellence in education and research, which has made preparing its students for life and profession a priority.

With a fundamental mission to ensure excellence in research at the national and international level, the University of Bucharest promotes fundamental, experimental, and applied research in the scientific fields of its faculties. The UB's research directions are structured around a wide range of areas and are designed to provide concrete solutions and services for society and economy, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge, as well as to encourage inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary approaches, including through the development of international collaborative research or training projects for teachers, researchers, and students at all levels of study.

Anchored to the realities of today's global society, in which competition for human capital is becoming more and more intense, UB is making notable efforts and constant progress in placing itself among elite international universities, including through a visible presence in international rankings.

Since 2018, UB is part of the CIVIS – A European Civic University Alliance, together with nine other prestigious European universities: Aix-Marseille University, National and Capodistrian University of Athens, Free University of Brussels, Autonomous University of Madrid, Sapienza University of Rome, University of Stockholm, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, University of Glasgow and Paris Lodron Salzburg University.

Having over 34,000 students, 1,300 professors, and 500 researchers, 1,300 employees as administrative staff, the University of Bucharest is a strong and supportive community, constantly working to ensure the highest quality of provided services, guaranteeing its graduates easy and effective integration into the labor market, in all domains and study programmes.

METHODOLOGY

The University of Bucharest, through the expertise of its academic community members, especially its teaching staff and students, through the diversity of study programs and research fields, has always been an important actor in the progress of Romanian society. The dimension of social involvement is emphasized in the mission of the University of Bucharest, expressed in the University Charter and reflected in concrete measures adopted by members of the academic community.

After the launch of the first edition of the university Times Higher Education Impact (THE) ranking, the University has become more conscious of its actions towards the achievement of development goals and has started an extensive process of centralization of relevant activities and data, which improved in recent years and that concluded in the first report on sustainable development goals for academic year 2019-2020. In the current report, the structure was improved in order to better reflect the three dimensions of the University of Bucharest's mission: education, research and social engagement as well as the THE IMPACT Ranking methodology. The report was elaborated by a working group created at the Department for Quality Management and coordinated by vice-rector Professor Magdalena Iordache Platis.

The working group's objectives for the future include the further development of the sustainability policy, with a set of specific indicators and the launch or scaling of several awareness-raising and engagement actions in the university community.

Selection of case studies and examples

It was our intention to select examples and case studies that best illustrate how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated in the current activities of the university as a way of showing that UB concretely advances through effective steps in this direction. To do so, information has been selected from official university and faculty reports, websites, and data collected from various administrative departments. This was a challenging task because there were more relevant activities than we could mention. Some of them are kept in mind for future reports while others were already mentioned on the Sustainability web page. Note: the information and statistical data refer to the academic year 2020/2021.

OUR VISSION

The University of Bucharest is an active institution in the direction of institutional approaches that respond to the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals. Through educational programs with updated curricula adapted to national and international socio-economic requirements, through advanced scientific research projects, but also through social responsibility programs, developed together with its partners, the University of Bucharest supports excellence in education and scientific research and assumes a special responsibility towards Romanian society. This report synthesizes the results of activities, whether initiated at departmental, faculty or institutional level, in which the University of Bucharest has played different roles - initiator, coordinator, partner. The beneficiaries of these approaches are internal stakeholders who can develop some activities or initiate new ones, through the internal learning process, but also external ones, through the dissemination of examples of good practices towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We invite you to continue these efforts and move forward towards the Sustainable Development Goals!



**Professor
Magdalena
Iordache Platis,
Ph.D.
Vice-rector of
the University of
Bucharest**

1 NO POVERTY



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's degree program **"Risk groups and social support services"**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- Master's degree program **"Church Social Work"**, Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology

Courses

- **Social policies and programs for homeless people**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- **Poverty and social exclusion**, Faculty of Political Science
- **Family and Child Welfare**, Faculty of Baptist Theology

KEY DATA

7% of the total number of R&D projects specific are relevant to SDG 1

1179 students enrolled in relevant to SDG 1 study programs

4 courses relevant to SDG 1

2313 students financially supported

80% of accommodation needs of students were covered within university facilities

89 agreements and partnerships with institutions, associations, and foundations involved in the social life of the community relevant to SDG 1

BEST PRACTICES

In 2021, the University of Bucharest launched the **"Virtute et Sapientia" Foundation**, an initiative designed to contribute to a stronger involvement of the UB community and its partners in the development of education and training programs for young generations. At the same time, the Foundation's first program was launched: **UB SEED - Educational Support for Disadvantaged Students**, developed together with the National Council of Students, the "Together" Agency, and World Vision Romania. Through the SEED program, UB offers support to high school students with potential, from low-income families, and disadvantaged backgrounds, who cannot develop educationally due to material and financial deprivation. Students selected for the UB SEED program benefit from online courses, activities, events, mentoring, material, and/or financial support for 5 school years.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center of Research and Innovation in Social Services**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- **Center for Social Policies**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

Research projects

- A multidimensional approach to social exclusion in later life - health consequences for aging populations, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Hospice "House of Hope"
- Romanian Anti-AIDS Association
- Save the Children - Humanitarian Aid Organization for Children

Social engaging

- The students from the "Business, Ethics and Social Responsibility" club at the Faculty of Business and Administration regularly organize donations for people in need under the campaign **"Let's Help Our Peers"**.

2 ZERO HUNGER



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Management of Social and Health Services", Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- Master's Degree Program "Theology and Social Mission of the Church", Faculty of Orthodox Theology

Courses

- Intervention techniques for at-risk families, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- Social assistance for at-risk groups, Faculty of Roman Catholic Theology

KEY DATA

2% of the total number of R&D projects are relevant to SDG 2

3 courses relevant to SDG 2

1054 students enrolled in Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in Social Work

142 students employed after graduation in fields relevant to SDG 2

67 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 2

BEST PRACTICES

The Faculty of Geography hosted the “Behind the Dishes” presentation given by the Association for Awareness in the Agricultural Industry. The event aimed to encourage sustainable food choices. The presentation addressed topics such as “the impact of food choices on the environment and the planet’s resources (farmland, forests, water, food, biodiversity); the efficiency and process of food manufacturing by origin; the effects of farms on those involved in the industry; the benefits and drawbacks of different types of food; and ways to help reduce food’s impact on the environment”.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- Product Quality Control Center (LaborQ), Faculty of Chemistry

Research projects

- From classical nutrition to precision nutrition in animal husbandry, scientific basis for ensuring the nutritional security of the population, Faculty of Biology
- Integrating food provision in urban policies in the context of land use transformation and displacement, Faculty of Geography

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- “Feed the Children” Organization
- UNICEF Romania

Social engaging

- The Students’ Association of the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures organizes the annual **SMILE Humanitarian Campaign**, which raises funds for children from vulnerable communities.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program **"Chemistry of Medicines and Cosmetics"**, Faculty of Chemistry
- Master's degree program **"Medical Physics"**, Faculty of Physics
- Master's Degree Program **"Health Psychology"**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Courses

- **Nutrition Biochemistry/Ecotoxicology**, Faculty of Biology
- **Environmental Risk in Health**, Faculty of Geography
- **Public Health Policies in the European Union**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

KEY DATA

10% of the total number of R&D projects are relevant to SDG 3

5 courses relevant to SDG 3

2024 students enrolled in relevant to SDG 3 bachelor's and master's degree programs

500 students employed on graduation in field relevant to SDG 3

72 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 3

1 sports base comprising of 11 sports halls and fields, and a base for mountain sports activities

SOCIAL ENGAGING

The University of Bucharest has been actively involved in supporting the efforts against COVID-19, and several actions were organized to provide advice and expertise on health and wellness issues to the wider community. A UB **Coronavirus Info (COVID-19)** page was rapidly developed, providing objective information on the most important questions associated with the pandemic situation. Meanwhile, information campaigns such as **Informed and Vaccinated** were organized. To support the vaccination effort, the “We get vaccinated. Are you?” campaign was launched to address the need for information of the university community (March 2021). As part of the campaign, short videos were created in which specialists and students from the University of Bucharest answered the most frequently asked questions about the immunization against COVID-19.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center for Research on Mental Health**, UB Clinic for Psychological and Educational Assistance and Intervention
- **Center for Research on Neurobiology and Molecular Physiology**, Faculty of Biology
- **Laboratory of Health Psychology and Clinical Neuropsychology**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Research projects

- Integrated development project for advanced medical treatment technologies, Faculty of Biology

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- International Geographical Union - Commission on Health and Environment, Faculty of Geography
- International Organization for Health, Sports and Kinesiology, Department of Physical Education and Sports

Best practices

- In 2021 was launched the **UB Dose of Science** project, a platform for dialogue with the general public that proposes a focused and dynamic way of communicating scientific information. Initiated under the aegis of the UB Conferences “Science for all”, the UB Dose of Science encourages the connection between the academic and non-academic world, addressing current topics of interest and contributing to the popularization of science.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Alternative Pedagogies and Theatre Arts in Education" Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- Master's Degree Program "Learning, Innovation, and Coaching in Education", Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Courses

- Educational Policy Analysis and Development, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- Quality Management in Education, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

KEY DATA

15% of the total number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 4

5 courses relevant to SDG 4
8125 students starting a degree

2278 students enrolled in postgraduate programs come from graduates of other universities

80% of the total number of students continue their studies at UB

718 foreign students study at the UB

61 students with disabilities study at UB

2451 students enrolled in undergraduate and master's degree programs, relevant to SDG 4 (Pedagogy and teaching)

226 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations, relevant to SDG 4

BEST PRACTICES

The University of Bucharest, through the programs offered, supports lifelong learning and thus contributes to the development of knowledge and skills that enable graduates to obtain jobs adapted to the changing labor market. Relevant in this respect are, in addition to the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs, the Postgraduate Programs and the Professional Conversion Programs materialized through the Lifelong learning offer of UB.

The UB Learning Center, established in 2019, provides students with coaching and personal development services in the area of social and emotional skills, career counseling and career guidance, remedial learning programs as well as courses to develop critical thinking, scientific reasoning skills, and academic writing skills.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- Center for Higher Education Development and Training
- University of Bucharest Learning Center
- "University of Bucharest Graduate Employment Observatory" Research Centre

Research projects

- Building and managing Science Education Community in Europe by promoting Inquiry-Based Science Education, Faculty of Physics
- MARPE Diplo - Developing a European higher education curriculum in public, corporate and civic diplomacy, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
- The Association of Universities in European Capitals

Social engaging

- To meet the needs of high school students preparing for the baccalaureate exam and candidates for the entrance exam for bachelor studies, the faculties of the University of Bucharest organized from February to June 2021, **free training courses** offered by the teachers and students of the University of Bucharest, together with high school teachers.
- The **E-books virtual library** provides open access to scholarly works by professors and researchers affiliated to the university. These resources are sorted into six categories: Exact Sciences, Life and Earth Sciences, Humanities, Theology, Social and Political Sciences, and Legal Sciences.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Equal Opportunities Policies in the Romanian and European Context", Faculty of Political Sciences

Courses

- Equality and Gender, Faculty of Philosophy
- Gender and Politics, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences
- Gender Studies, Faculty of Letters

KEY DATA

3% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 5

5 courses relevant to SDG 5

1 Gender Equality Plan developed at the University level

67% of the total number of students are women

70% number of women starting a degree
36% female teaching staff

73 female teaching staff in management structures

19 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 5

63 students enrolled in study programs relevant to SDG 5

BEST PRACTICES

The **UB for Women in Science** initiative was launched at the level of the UB university community to help break down the invisible entry barriers faced by women in science, while also promoting the outstanding contributions of women in the scientific community and celebrating their scientific success.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center for Equal Opportunities Policy**, Faculty of Political Science

Research projects

- **ATHENA** - Implementing gender equality plans to unlock research potential of RPOs and RFOs in Europe, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- **National Literature. Figures of Women**, Faculty of Political Science

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- **International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies**

Social engaging

- The Students' Association from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures organizes "**Diversity**", a yearly event that has the aim of facilitating free communication and awareness of social injustices, overcoming prejudice, and eliminating the stigmatization of the people around us.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Climatology and Water Resources", Faculty of Geography

Courses

- Polymeric materials in water remediation and purification, Faculty of Physics
- Water Supply, Faculty of Geography
- Water and Health, Faculty of Geography

KEY DATA

11% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 6

8 courses relevant to SDG 6

~370179 m³ water consumption in 2021

17 partnerships and practice agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations are relevant to SDG 6

183 students enrolled in study programs relevant to SDG 6

BEST PRACTICES

The Research Center in Systems Ecology and Sustainability (RCSES), of the University of Bucharest is implementing, together with other partners in Romania and abroad, the international project **IDES** - Improving water quality in the Danube river and its tributaries by integrative floodplain management based on Ecosystem Services. The project team aims to improve water quality management by developing and implementing a transnational integrative ecosystem services approach. According to the project presentation, "the IDES tool should enable key national stakeholders in water quality management to identify the most sustainable measures without neglecting the needs of other sectors".

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center for Coastal Research and Environmental Protection**, Faculty of Geography
- **Water Resources and Related Risks Management Research Center**, Faculty of Geography

Research projects

- Improving water quality in the Danube river and its tributaries by integrative floodplain management based on Ecosystem Services, Faculty of Biology
- Treatment of water from contaminated sources with nitrate and chlorinated organic compounds using integrated catalytic reduction/oxidation and biofiltration processes, Faculty of Biology
- Green technology for the removal of pharmaceutical compounds from water using environmentally friendly oxidation catalysts, Faculty of Chemistry

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Commission for the endorsement of alternative methods of analysis of drinking water quality parameters used in the official control of drinking water
- European Federation for Freshwater Sciences

Social engaging

- The Faculty of Geography has been involved in the activities of the pan-European project "People & Planet: The Common Destiny", which aims to promote sustainable development through several actions, such as the pan-European campaign "**#Whater is**" which aims to raise awareness on the problems related to water scarcity.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources" interdisciplinary between the Faculty of Physics and the Faculty of Chemistry

Courses

- Renewable Energy Sources, Faculty of Physics
- Environmental Resources and Renewable Energy, Faculty of Geography
- Green techniques and infrastructures, Faculty of Geography

KEY DATA

6% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 7

4 courses relevant to SDG 7

~5099215 kwh is electricity consumption in 2021

16 partnerships and practice agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations are relevant to SDG 7

23 students enrolled in specific SDG 7 study programs

SOCIAL ENGAGING

In September 2021, the UNESCO International Geopark Hateg Country, managed by the University of Bucharest, and the aspiring UNESCO Geopark Buzau Valley joined the **European Researchers' Night**. The main theme for the 2021 edition was green energy. Under the call **"ReCoNnect - The Green Deal"** the general public was invited to discover, in an interactive scientific results relevant to this subject. The objective was to bring research to the countryside and to challenge students in the EduGeoparc Network to discover green energy in their community. Within this framework, students met with experts who gave them details of how green energy is produced and were able to debate, under the format of community talks facilitated by the Geopark, topics related to clean energy and the future of Earth.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Nanosciences - Alternative Energy Sources Research Center** (3Nano-SAE), Faculty of Physics

Research projects

- Cooperation and partnership strategy for the enhancement of the education quality of strategic master Chemistry of Advanced Materials in line with Green Chemistry requirements - Green Chemistry of Advanced Materials, Faculty of Chemistry
- Innovative Teaching methods for tomorrow's Renewable Energy Specialists, Faculty of Chemistry

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Energy policy group

Best practices

- The University of Bucharest is involved, through the Research Center in Systems Ecology and Sustainability, in the implementation of the IRENES project - Exchanging knowledge and experiences for Integrating Renewable Energy and Ecosystem Services in territorial environmental and energy policies. The objective of this project is „to exchange experiences and best practices on the complementarity and synergy of the exploitation of renewable energy sources with multiple Ecosystem Services at the territorial level”.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Labor Law, Labor and Industrial Relations", Faculty of Law
- Master's degree program "Philosophy, politics and economics", Faculty of Philosophy
- Master's Degree Program "Occupational Health and Human Resource Performance", Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

Courses

- Policies for Sustainable Economy, Faculty of Business and Administration
- Quality of Life at Work and Development of Excellence, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- Health assessment in the organizational environment, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

KEY DATA

12% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 8

12 courses relevant to SDG 8
9.34% teaching staff in management positions

77% of the total number of posts (teaching, research, and administrative) are filled

60% labor market insertion of graduates on completion of a learning cycle (graduates class of 2021)

3 labor unions for the UB employees

18 student associations for UB students

100% of the total number of students complete internships, mandatory through their study plans

13085 euro/year average gross salary at UB (for teaching and non-teaching activity)

81 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations, relevant to this SDG

1276 students enrolled in study programs relevant to SDG 8

BEST PRACTICES

The UNIHUB Student Entrepreneurial Society was created in 2017 as a mechanism to support, develop and encourage entrepreneurship in the university community, especially among students and graduates of the University of Bucharest. Moreover, it provides the necessary support for the setting of new businesses by students and graduates of UB. To this end, there are organized annually mentoring and consultancy activities that include: exchange of ideas and best practices with specialists and entrepreneurs; support in formulating the objectives of the future business and the steps for writing a business plan; support in identifying solutions for the challenges met during starting or managing a business; development entrepreneurial, sales, presentation and leadership skills and others.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center for Research on the Field of Human Resources, Management and Marketing**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- **Research Center in Applied Ethics**, Faculty of Philosophy

Research projects

- Non-invasive methods for the protection of people with high-risk professions, Faculty of Physics

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation

Social engaging

- In order to be more accessible to the wide public but also to meet the changing requirements of the labor market, the University of Bucharest has opened three branches outside the Bucharest university center: at Focșani offering study program in Business administration, Tourism geography, Primary and early childhood pedagogy, at Drobeta Turnu Severin has a study program Territorial planning, and at Buzău a study program in Primary and early childhood pedagogy. Through these programs, the university provides its graduates with a greater stability in relation to the labor market by providing them access to the highest quality educational services, while contributing more broadly to the reduction of poverty and social inequalities in the areas where they were established.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "**Chemistry of Advanced Materials**", Faculty of Chemistry
- Master's degree program "**Physics of Advanced Materials and Nanostructures**", Faculty of Physics
- Master's degree program "**Artificial intelligence**", Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Courses

- **Industrial Policies for SMEs**, Faculty of Business and Administration
- **Industrial Property**, Faculty of Law
- **Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery**, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

KEY DATA

10% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 9

9 patents
6 courses relevant to SDG 9

15% of UB income are allocated for research (in total UB income)

62 agreements and partnerships with research institutes in Romania relevant to SDG 9

28 agreements and partnerships with research institutes abroad relevant to SDG 9

319 students enrolled in study programs relevant to SDG 9

SOCIAL ENGAGING

In November 2020, UB organized at UNIHUB the third edition of “UB Challenges: IdeaJam”. This event was designed as a prolific environment for generating and validating entrepreneurial ideas. It was also a preparatory event for the InnovationLabs pre-incubator program, a hackathon followed by 3 months of coaching, which offered participants the opportunity to interact with people from industry and academia. The evolution of each team was constantly monitored in order to help students turn their idea into a reliable product and business.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- “Solomon Marcus” Center for Computational Linguistics, Faculty of Letters
- Center for Research on Mechanics of Continuous Media, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Research projects

- Development of radiopharmaceuticals and nuclear techniques in oncology for personalized imaging and treatment at the molecular level, Faculty of Biology
- Innovative polymer-based nanotechnologies for new advanced materials, Faculty of Physics
- CoToHiLi: Computational Tools for Historical Linguistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

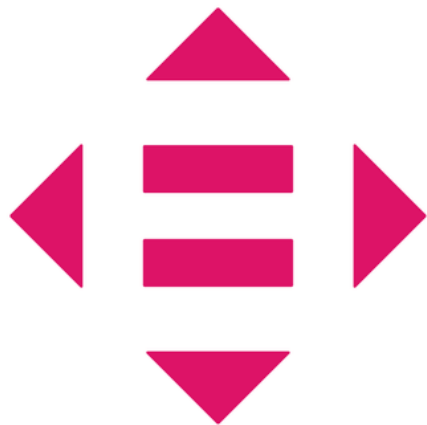
Partnerships/ Affiliations

- “Magurele Science Park” Association
- The Black Sea Universities Network
- University-Industry Innovation Network

Best practices

- At the university, there is a **micro-production workshop** that aims to familiarize students with the means and equipment involved in the production process of promotional items.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's degree program **"Risk groups and social support services"**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- Master's degree program **"Equal opportunities policies in the Romanian and European context"**, Faculty of Political Sciences

Courses

- **International Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid**, Faculty of History
- **Global Agenda for International Development Cooperation and Equal Opportunities**, Faculty of Political Science
- **Social Equality**, Faculty of Political Science

KEY DATA

6% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 10

8 courses relevant to SDG 10

2% of the number of admission places are allocated to disadvantaged people and/or people with special needs

61 students with disabilities

12 employees with disabilities

24% of students from developing countries enrolled at UB

97 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations

202 students enrolled in relevant to SDG 10 study programs

BEST PRACTICES

The University has taken steps to improve access for people with disabilities. Thus, at the level of the university community, there is the **CONNECT** network of volunteers whose main objective is to support young people with disabilities in accessing the administrative and educational services offered by the university. From a practical point of view, interventions have been carried out to make educational and housing spaces accessible to students with disabilities. The information available on the university's website has also been adapted for screen readers used by blind people.

The UB is running the **BlindHUB project**, implemented from October 2020 to September 2022 in partnership with the Romanian Association of the Blind, which is intended to facilitate the access of blind and visually impaired people to the labor market and in the university educational environment. One of the results of this collaboration is the **BlindHUB App** which aims to facilitate information, orientation, career counseling, and digital mediation in the labor market and university environment for blind and partially sighted people.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center for Research and Promotion of Advocacy in Education**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- **Center for Research on Intergenerational Justice, Social Responsibility and Sustainability**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- **Center for Research and Innovation in Social Services**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

Research projects

- **Empowering at-Risk Roma Girls' Mattering through Reproductive Justice**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
- **Integrating Special Needs Individuals into Digital-Holistic Education**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- European Social Work Research Association
- Romania Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

Social engaging

- The Center for Research and Advocacy of Equity in Education organized in June 2021 the conference **"Inclusion and Equity. Reality or desideratum? Research results on the situation of children with disabilities and/or special educational needs (SEN)"**. The event created the context for education professionals, who have assumed an important role in the inclusion process, to carry out an analysis on the school integration/inclusion of children with disabilities and/or SENs, identify services and resources for an inclusive development process and establish the needs of schools to provide access and participation to all students.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's degree program **"Urbanism and Spatial Planning Law"**, Faculty of Law
- Master's Degree Program **"Geobiology Applied in the Conservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage"** Faculty of Geology and Geophysics
- Master's Degree Program **"History, Cultural Resources and Heritage in Contemporary Society"**, Faculty of History

Courses

- **Territorial Systems Management**, Faculty of Business and Administration
- **Innovative methods and tools for urban and spatial planning**, Faculty of Geography
- **Urban Space**, Faculty of Letters

KEY DATA

10% of the number of R&D projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 11

10 courses relevant to SDG 11

more than 95% of the space required for curricular and extracurricular activities is owned by the university

more than 75 % of the total UB land represent green spaces

6430331,81 lei was the amount spent for investment works in infrastructure

82 library/reading rooms, with a total floor area of 6545.16 sqm and a capacity of about 3800 seats

Other facilities include: 1 museum, 1 botanical garden, 1 park, 1 zoo, 1 university house, and 1 hotel

The average accommodation fee in UB dormitories is approximately 29 euro/month, below the average rent for a room (approx. 125 euro/month)

18 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations, relevant to SDG 11

77 students enrolled in specific study programs for SDG 11

BEST PRACTICES

The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB), together with "Șezătoarea Urbană", developed the project "Please touch the intangible cultural heritage", which resulted in a digital communication platform designed to provide support and expertise to all those working for the valorization of traditions and elements of folklore, called the "Network of specialists in the fields of intangible cultural heritage in Romania and the Republic of Moldova". The results of the project also include a Catalogue of Good Practices for specialists from Romania and the Republic of Moldova and a Guide to Intangible Cultural Heritage for Pre-University Education.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies**, Faculty of Geography
- **Center for Geodemographic Research and Territorial Analysis**, Faculty of Geography
- **Research Center for Regional Analysis in Tourism, Environment, and Sustainable Development**, Faculty of Geography

Research projects

- A complex multidisciplinary platform for integrative and systematic research on identities and tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage in Romania, Faculty of Physics
- Developing novel collaborative planning approaches to increase cities' sustainability, Faculty of Geography
- Evaluating the role of nature-based innovations for healthy cities, Faculty of Geography

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

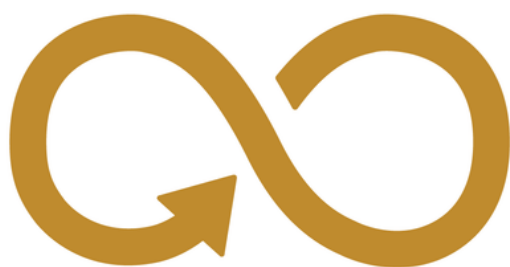
Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Cultural Association "Heritage for the Future"
- National Commission for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Ministry of Culture)
- Society for Urban Ecology

Social engaging

- The University of Bucharest is a partner for **UNTEATRU**, an independent cultural project that aims to promote and make visible a new generation of artists, directors, actors, musicians, choreographers, and visual artists, as well as education through culture. In 2021, UB hosted on its premises the UNTEATRU Days Festival, which inaugurated the eleventh UNTEATRU Open-Air summer season.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's degree program **"Behavioral Economics"**, Faculty of Business and Administration
- Master's degree program **"Fashion, advertising, consumption"**, Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences
- Master's Degree Program **"Sociology of Consumption and Marketing"**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

Courses

- **Green economy - the pillar of sustainable development**, Faculty of Business and Administration
- **Global sustainability and energy policies**, Faculty of Philosophy
- **Sustainable consumption**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

KEY DATA

10% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 12

8 courses relevant to SDG 12

7 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 12

1 project actively involving students and promoting responsible consumption

70 students enrolled in specific SDG 12 study programs

BEST PRACTICES

A team of students from the Master's degree program "Médias, développement, société" (Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences), created the **ConsumActor** platform, where entrepreneurs are promoted according to their emphasis on the use of locally sourced raw materials, recycling, clean production technologies, and the development of local traditions and communities.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- Polymeric materials, mesospheres, and unconventional methods of environmental protection, Faculty of Physics

Research projects

- Ecological Footprint through Eco-awareness, Faculty of Biology
- Eco-innovative technologies for the recovery of the platinum metal group from used automotive catalytic converters, Faculty of Physics

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Society for the Protection of Reusable, Inexhaustible, and New Energies

Social engaging

- The University continued the implementation of the **SAVES2** project (Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings) by organizing several smart energy-saving campaigns to change sustainable energy behaviors among students and promote the reduction of energy waste. For its work on this project, the University of Bucharest won the award in the category Universities and Research Institutes at the Sustainable Development Gala 2021.



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Environmental Policies for Sustainable Development", Faculty of Geography
- Master's degree program "Environmental Sciences – Integrated Assessment of the Environment", Faculty of Geography

Courses

- Environmental Impact Assessment and Risk Management, Faculty of Biology
- Methods and equipment for environmental investigation, Faculty of Physics
- Climate change and its impact on the environment, Faculty of Geography

KEY DATA

16% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 13

5 courses relevant to SDG 13

~1351291.97 kg carbon emissions in 2021

34 partnerships and practice agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 13

363 students enrolled in study programs relevant to SDG 13

BEST PRACTICES

The University of Bucharest, together with the University of Oslo, the West University of Timisoara, and the National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering "Horia Hulubei", is implementing the project **ClimaLAND**, which intends to "complete the global picture of geomorphological responses to recent climate change, focusing on two contrasting but equally sensitive environments: the Romanian Carpathians and the Danube Delta". In March 2021, a UB team carried out measurements in the central sector of the Retezat Mountains to collect snow cover basal temperature data.

RESEARCH

Research centers and stations

- Climate and Air Environment Research Center, Faculty of Geography
- Orșova Research Station
- "Prof. Ștefan Atanasie Pătrașcu" Didactic and Scientific Research Facility

Research projects

- The response of climate-sensitive environments to global warming, sea-level rise, and increasing extremes: The Carpathians and Danube Delta
- Contribution of small urban green infrastructure in achieving environmental justice, Faculty of Geography
- The impact of recent climate change on the ecological productivity of forests in Romania, Faculty of Geography

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

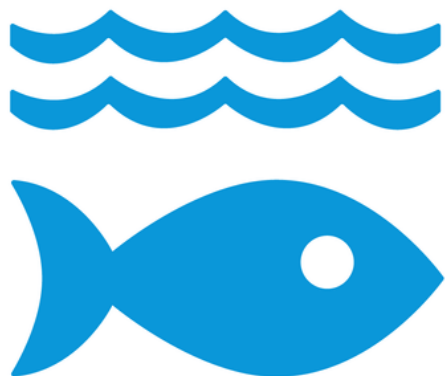
Partnerships/ Affiliations

- International Geographical Union - Commission on Health and Environment
- Society for Urban Ecology

Social engaging

- UB is part of the international project **Reducing the Ecological Footprint by Raising Awareness Among Young People on Environmental Issues**, being responsible both for activities that increase awareness among young people regarding the impact of human lifestyles on the environment and for conducting tests that lead to the determination of the ecological footprint.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Undergraduate program "Biology", Faculty of Biology
- Undergraduate program "Ecology and Environmental Protection", Faculty of Biology
- Undergraduate program "Hydrology and Meteorology", Faculty of Geography

Courses

- Hydrobiology, Faculty of Geography
- Environmental Water Policies, Faculty of Geography
- Ocean Sciences: Marine Biogeochemistry, CIVIS Course

KEY DATA

8% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 14

6 courses relevant to SDG 14

3 research resorts

18 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 14

150 students enrolled in specific SDG 14 study programs

BEST PRACTICES

The University of Bucharest organized in July 2021, together with Penn State University, the **CHANCE ROMANIA 2021 FIELD COURSE:** Global Conservation: Environmental Challenges Facing the Danube River. The course addressed complex, interdisciplinary and global challenges related to water issues facing the Danube Fluvium. According to the project's website, the student's research is included in a research database for access by the community of scientists researching to restore the Danube waterway ecosystem. Results are also presented to leaders and stakeholders in Romania and the US and the Penn State community. At the end of the course, students from the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences of the University of Bucharest produced promotional material available [here](#).

RESEARCH

Research stations

- Brăila Ecological Research Stations
- Sfântu Gheorghe Marine and Fluvial Research Station
- Orșova Research Station

Research projects

- Earth observation services for the Black Sea Coastal Zone Management
- Tools for modeling water-soil-plant-air interface processes for intelligent and sustainable management of watersheds and groundwater-dependent ecosystems

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Commission for Water Sustainability of the International Geographical Union
- International Association for Danube Research - Expert group on Water Quality

Social engaging

- UB is part of the implementation team for "TEAM4SEAS - Creating an innovative and operational participatory platform to connect science, stakeholders and legislation for successful maritime spatial planning in Romania" that has developed a **web-GIS platform** for the implementation of MSP - Maritime Spatial Planning, accessible to those interested on the project website. According to the project team, the aim was to "illustrate how a WebGIS system can be applied as a solid basis for incorporating an ecosystem approach to spatial planning initiatives applied in the maritime domain".

15 LIFE ON LAND



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Undergraduate program "Biology", Faculty of Biology
- Undergraduate program "Ecology and Environmental Protection", Faculty of Biology

Courses

- Biodiversity Conservation Strategies, Faculty of Biology
- Conservation Biogeography, Faculty of Geography

KEY DATA

16% of the number of research/development projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 15

7 courses relevant to SDG 15

4 research stations

1 Botanical Garden

32 partnerships and internship agreements with institutions, associations, and foundations relevant to SDG 15

420 students enrolled in specific SDG 15 study programs

SOCIAL ENGAGING

From 29 July to 1 August 2021, the Research Center for Systemic Ecology and Sustainability of the University of Bucharest organized the first edition of the "ECOcamp" ecology camp for high school students. The camp took place at the Ecological Research Station of Braila but also included a field trip to the Balta Mică Natural Park of Braila. The event was supported by Kaufland Romania and organized in partnership with the Opportunities Lab, an association that organizes yearly projects for high school students across the country. The camp included courses in ecology, spatial analysis, microbiology, biodiversity, and genetics. There was also a discussion on the biodiversity of micro-organisms and the importance of ecosystem services provided by the soil.

RESEARCH

Research centers and stations

- **Research Center in Systems Ecology and Sustainability**, Faculty of Biology
- **Center for Monitoring of Habitats and Species** - Eşelnița
- **UNESCO International Geopark Tara Hațegului**
- **"Dimitrie Brândză" Botanical Garden**
- **Sinaia Zoological Station**
- **Ecological Research Resort** in Sinaia

Research projects

- A systematic analysis of the social and landscape drives of human-wildlife coexistence, Faculty of Geography
- Invasive species management in Romania according to REGULATION (EU) 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, Faculty of Geography
- LIFE ROSalia Conservation of saproxylic beetles in the Carpathians, Faculty of Geography

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- Commission for the Verification and Registration of Resources/Reserves of Useful Mineral Substances - Metallic, non-metallic, and mineral of the National Agency for Mineral Resources

Best practices

- The University of Bucharest is a partner in the trans-European project eLTER-PPP (H2020) - **The European Long-Term Ecosystem Research**, whose main goal is to contribute to a better understanding of ecosystems by "facilitating research on the combined impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, pollution and unsustainable resource use in terrestrial, freshwater and transitional water ecosystems".

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



EDUCATION

Study programs

- Master's Degree Program "Social Deviance and Criminality", Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

Courses

- Public opinion, social justice, crime, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- Elements of International Law and Human Rights Law, Faculty of Political Science
- Global Justice, Faculty of Political Science

KEY DATA

8% of the number of R&D projects carried out by the UB are relevant to SDG 16

5 courses relevant to SDG 16
The UB Senate is comprised of 25% students and 75% teaching staff

3793 students enrolled in specific SDG 16 study programs (Law)

75 tenured professors teach at the Faculty of Law

1043 students graduated from the Faculty of Law

79 partnerships and internship agreements with state institutions relevant to SDG 16

28 partnerships and internship agreements with private institutions relevant to SDG 16

UB has committed to publishing annually its financial information

BEST PRACTICES

The UB's Council for Strategic Orientation and Analysis (**CSOA**) assists in the development and implementation of the University's strategies by providing analysis and recommendations on strategic development directions and objectives, as well as an evaluation of the University's previous strategic documents and actions. **CSOA members** include personalities from Romania and abroad with extensive national and international experience in the field of management, such as former UB rectors, members of the Romanian Academy, and representatives of private associations and organizations (EUA, UNICA, KPMG, BRD Romania).

The University **Ombudsman** provides members of the academic community and the University's technical-administrative staff with independent and impartial advice and information on the resolution of disputes and problems in complete confidentiality.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- **Human Rights Center**, Faculty of Law
- **Research Center in Applied Ethics**, Faculty of Philosophy
- **Centre for the Prevention and Control of Drugs and Criminality**, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

Research projects

- Resilience and stability in polycentric governance systems. Theoretical, empirical, and applied approach
- Probation Observatory. Training and Network - PONT, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization
- Oxford Global Society

Social engaging

- **UNIBUC CONSULT** is the UB's consultancy "division", which brings together areas of high expertise present in academic and research staff, intending to exploit them in projects with practical impact or at the public policy level. It aims to transfer knowledge and expertise from the academic world to solve concrete problems in the national and international socioeconomic environment.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



EDUCATION

Study programs

- UNESCO Chair in Interculturality, Good Governance and Sustainable Development, Faculty of Philosophy

Courses

- Environmental Ethics and Sustainable Development, Faculty of Philosophy
- Sustainable Development, Faculty of Geography

KEY DATA

45% of research/development projects are relevant to SDG's

44% of the total number of agreements and partnerships concluded by the UB relevant to SDG's

43% of students enrolled in SDG's specific study programs

17,25% from total number of study programs are UB relevant to SDG's

BEST PRACTICES

The University of Bucharest is one of the 10 member universities of the European University Consortium **CIVIS**, launched in 2019 and funded by the European Union. This initiative aims to promote European values, cultures, and citizenship among new generations of students as well as inclusive quality education and innovative and integrated educational and research programs, regardless of borders, languages, or academic disciplines. At the same time, the consortium's priority is to respond to major global challenges, acting as a vector of change and innovation in the following priority areas: health; urban environment, territories, and mobility; climate, environment, energy; digital and technological transformations; society, culture, and heritage.

One of the most successful initiatives launched within the CIVIS Network was **CIVIS Open Labs: think globally, act locally**. These Open Labs were designed to „create a forum where universities and local citizens can meet so that they can develop together solutions to the challenges facing their city and region“. At the University of Bucharest, the first Open Lab call for co-financed social responsibility projects was launched in December 2020 and resulted in the financing of three initiatives: People and Trees. Baneasa Forest management solutions for sustainable urban development and resilience, Learning content accessibility services and support for children/young people from vulnerable groups and Science for Resilience. Research for local sustainable development where the context of the project is represented by the UNESCO International Geopark Țara Hațegului.

RESEARCH

Research centers

- The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest

Research projects

- Exchanging knowledge and experiences for Integrating RENEwable energy and Ecosystem Services in territorial environmental and energy policies, Faculty of Biology

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Partnerships/ Affiliations

- The Romanian Young Academy
- United Nations Academic Impact

Social engaging

- In December 2020 took place the first edition of TEDxUniversityOfBucharest. The thematic concept of this event, **Mind the Gap. Creating (Comm)Unity**, was designed to highlight the differences between how we imagine an ideal, just world and the journey we have to take from decision-making to action to achieve this ideal. This edition's lectures included: The power of social networks in spreading COVID-19 (Marian-Gabriel Hâncean), Everyday citizen (Marian Rădună), About disability and justice (Mircea Dumitru), About illness, empathy, and infodemics (Anamaria Nicola), How we create bridges in building an inclusive society (Alex Cucu), How I fought statistics and came out on top (Cătălina Olteanu), My generation is building (Robert Stredie). The event was available to the general public, both live and as recordings (on the University's Facebook and YouTube accounts).

MENTIONS

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**We thank the academic
community for their efforts
in achieving SDGs.**

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