



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Definition – SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) – *Partnerships for the Goals* – aims to strengthen global, regional, and national cooperation to support all 16 Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 17 promotes collaboration in areas such as finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, systemic policy coherence, multisectoral partnerships, data monitoring, and institutional coordination.

Key Aims of SDG 17

- Strengthen global partnerships between universities, governments, private sector, and civil society.
- Promote research and innovation through international networks.
- Increase financial and technological cooperation to address complex global challenges.
- Support capacity-building in education, research, and sustainability governance.
- Enhance data collection, monitoring, and evidence-based policymaking.
- Foster cross-border cooperation to develop solutions aligned with environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

Context

Global context:

SDG 17 is the backbone of sustainable development, as no country or institution can achieve the SDGs alone. Universities play a central role by facilitating international research networks, knowledge transfer, and policy innovation.

National and regional context (Romania):

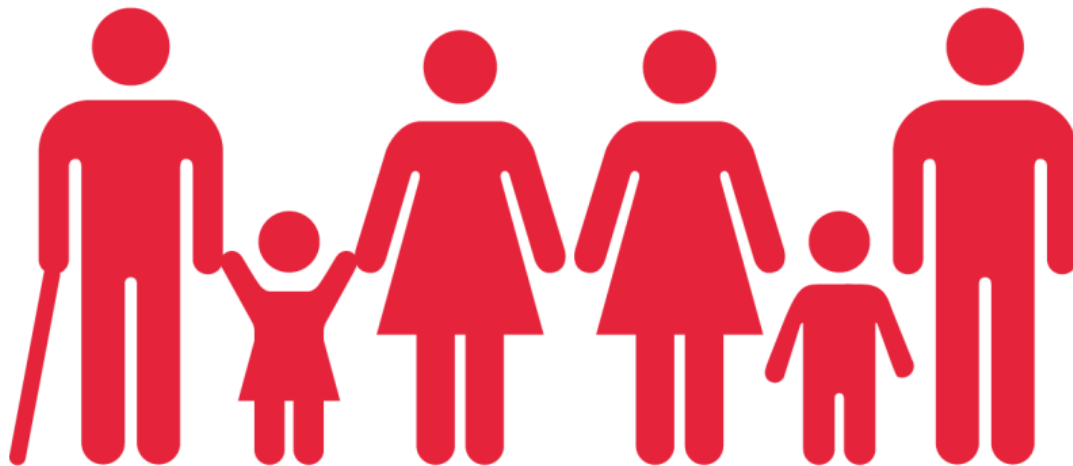
Romanian universities increasingly rely on regional and European partnerships to advance research, education modernization, digitalization, and sustainability. The EU's Horizon programs, Erasmus+, Interreg, and bilateral agreements shape the collaboration landscape.

Purpose of the Report

This Report gathers information regarding the implementation in **Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC)** of all **16 Sustainable Development Goals**.



1 NO POVERTY





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 1 – No Poverty

Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) – “No Poverty” is one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. Its fundamental aim is to **eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions**, reaffirming the international community’s commitment to equity and social inclusion.

UN member states have pledged to **“leave no one behind,”** expressing a firm commitment to reducing inequalities and promoting equitable development by supporting the most vulnerable population groups.

SDG 1 seeks the **complete elimination of extreme poverty**, defined as the lack of access to essential resources such as food, drinking water, and sanitation services. Achieving this goal also requires identifying and addressing emerging challenges associated with climate change, armed conflicts, and other factors that may exacerbate social vulnerability.

From a global perspective, SDG 1 goes beyond providing assistance to people living in poverty; it also aims to **strengthen public service systems** and **optimize social policies**, so that they contribute to the **sustainable prevention and reduction of poverty**.

1.2 Context

Global context: The UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 aims to eliminate poverty in all its forms, with a focus on equal access to resources, education, and social support.

Local context: In Romania, student poverty may be linked to the cost of living, access to academic resources, and employment opportunities.

Purpose of the report: To assess how UAIC contributes to reducing poverty among students and within the community through social programs, scholarships, and educational initiatives.

"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași (UAIC), the oldest higher education institution in Romania, assumes an active role in promoting the values of sustainability, equity, and social inclusion. In the context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UAIC contributes to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 – No Poverty through concrete policies, programs, and partnerships. The purpose of this report is to present the university’s actions, results, and commitments aimed at reducing economic inequalities and supporting equitable access to education during the 2023–2024 academic year.



CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 1

UAIC promotes social inclusion and equal opportunities through a coherent strategic framework: [Planul Strategic al Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași 2024–2029](#) (The Strategic Plan of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași 2024–2029) includes objectives aimed at supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds;

[Regulamentul privind acordarea burselor](#) (The Scholarship Regulations) stipulates social and merit-based scholarships intended to support students with low incomes;

[Procedura de sistem privind decontarea abonamentelor de călătorie pe mijloacele de transport public în comun](#) (The procedure on reimbursing public transport passes) outlines the steps through which students can benefit from reimbursement of public transport passes in Iași (this benefit is made possible through a contract between the University and the Iași Public Transport Company);

[Codul de etică și deontologie universitară](#) (The Code of Ethics and Academic Integrity) ensures a fair framework of treatment and protection against discrimination.

These policies align with Romania’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030 and directly contribute to poverty reduction through education and inclusion.

[Serviciul Suport pentru Studenți](#) (The Student Support Service) offers financial and logistical support, career and psychological counseling, free workshops for personal and professional development, as well as assistance in preparing for employment. Through these services, the Student Support Service helps reduce economic and social barriers for students, facilitating equal access to educational and professional opportunities, in accordance with the objectives of SDG 1 – “No Poverty.” Students can participate free of charge in job fairs, volunteering fairs, and internship events, in networking sessions with employers, and in company presentations, thereby increasing their chances of economic inclusion and financial independence.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 1

Between October 2023 and July 2024, as well as throughout 2024, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași* (UAIC) actively engaged in initiatives aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1): No Poverty. These efforts encompassed academic research, international conferences, and community outreach programs aimed at reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion.

3.1 Programs and initiatives for disadvantaged students



During the 2023–2024 period, UAIC implemented a series of concrete measures aimed at supporting students from vulnerable backgrounds:

- **Social scholarships:** funded through the university’s own budget and government allocations;
- **Subsidized accommodation:** places reserved for orphaned students, those coming from foster care, or from low-income families;
- **Meal vouchers / Social cafeteria:** monthly support provided to eligible students;
- **Mentoring and counselling programs** offered through the Student Support Service.

Institutional Inclusion Project ([“Access to Success” / AccED](#))

UAIC received funding through CNFIS – FDI 2024 for the project “Access to University Success (AccED)”. Activities include school visits, information sessions, free tutoring and mentoring programs. The project’s goal is social equity — supporting access to higher education for disadvantaged groups. The implementation team is public, and information about the project (activities, target groups) is available on the UAIC website.

[“EduACCES – First-Generation University Students” Project](#)

UAIC implements “EduACCES,” part of the “First-Generation Students” initiative. Goal: support students who are the first in their family to attend university through mentoring, counselling, workshops, support groups, company visits, and financial aid. Target group selection criteria are publicly available.

"Access to education, success in the future" – EduACCES is a project designed to support students, especially those from families with a low parental education level, by strengthening their educational journey from pre-university to university education and by implementing measures to prevent and combat school and university dropout rates.

Online Access Project ([“E-Education for All”](#))

UAIC runs the “Access to Online University Education for All” project, aimed at increasing accessibility to online higher education. While this can help vulnerable students by reducing barriers (transport, flexibility, access to teaching), it is not explicitly targeted at the bottom 20% income group.

3.2 Partnerships and collaborations

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași actively collaborates with [public institutions](#) and non-governmental organizations to reduce poverty and promote inclusion:

Partnerships with local NGOs (e.g., Alături de Voi Foundation, Bethany Social Services Foundation): [partners of the UAIC Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences](#);



Collaborations with local authorities (e.g., Iași City Hall, Iași General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection – DGASPC Iași).

3.3. Events supporting the implementation of SDG 1

Conferences Addressing Poverty

EU-PAIR Conference 2024: Held in June 2024, the third edition of the EU-PAIR Conference focused on the challenges and dynamics of the European administrative area. A study presented at the conference evaluated the effects of unemployment benefits on poverty and inequality in EU member states. [EU-PAIR Conference 2024 | EU-PAIR](#)

GEBA 2024 Conference: The XVIth International Conference on Globalization and Higher Education in Economics and Business Administration, organized in 2024, included discussions on trends in insurance entrepreneurship, addressing economic factors related to poverty. [GEBA Annual International Conference \(Oct 2025\), Globalization and Higher Education in Economics and Business Administration Annual International Conference, Iași Romania - Conference](#)

Jean Monnet Project – NextStepEU: This project aimed to enhance students' understanding of the European Union's role in combating poverty and social exclusion, aligning with the course themes on social inclusion and employment equality. [KoFEAA lectures | NextStepEU](#)

3.4. Projects supporting the implementation of SDG 1

UAIC runs institutional projects aimed at equity/inclusion in higher education:

[“Inclusion, Education, and Success through Additional Financial Support for Erasmus+ Mobilities”](#) is a European-funded project [aiming to support inclusion and mobility](#), and provide additional financial support for students with reduced opportunities, explicitly targeted at vulnerable students.

[“The Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeship, and Youth Entrepreneurship Program”](#): the project was implemented under the *Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship* program and was financed by the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021. Its main objective has been to develop the cooperation with institutions from the Donor States through the academic mobility of students, as well as of teaching and administrative staff in order to exchange good practices, acquire new knowledge and valuable information on a large scale, and thus balance the disparities between Romania and the EEA countries.

„Legal and entrepreneurial education – the key to success in business! ([IUS SMART](#))”, POCU/829/6/13/140103



The IUS SMART project aimed to support the operation of 21 new businesses by developing monitoring mechanisms and providing support to ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the 65 newly created jobs, for a period of at least 6 months after the completion of the financing. Long-term goals: Developing legal and entrepreneurial skills for 350 students from UAIC and encouraging the establishment and development of small and medium-sized enterprises operating in economic sectors with competitive potential identified according to the SNC or in areas of smart specialization according to the SNCI.

The “[Future Skills for the Labor Market \(SKILLS-UP\)](#)” project (Project code: CNFIS-FDI-2023-F-0496) focuses on aligning educational offerings with labor market demand, as well as providing career counseling and guidance. The project aims to assess the labor market integration of the 2023 graduating class of UAIC and understand the expectations of both employers and graduates regarding employment opportunities. It seeks to enhance students’ employability by offering targeted career counseling, guidance, and training on relevant topics. Additionally, the project strives to foster and strengthen connections between the academic environment, the economic sector, and public/private organizations to improve university curricula and facilitate meaningful interactions between students and employers. Effective management of human, financial, and logistical resources is also a core objective to ensure successful project implementation.

3.5. Scientific papers in support of SDG 1

UAIC published a series of practical guides for students produced within projects under titles such as “Social Inclusion for Equitable Education”: https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/D1_RAPORT-CNFIS-FDI-2023-0577.pdf; https://cariera.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Lisman_Assante_2023_ghid_de_automotivare.pdf.

3.6. Programs of study supporting the implementation of SDG 1

Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences: Social Work, Lifelong well-being and healthy ageing, Family and the management of family resources
(<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/despre-facultate/planuri-de-invataman/2025-2028>)

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSIONS

UAIC demonstrates, through its actions and policies, a firm commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 – “No Poverty.” Through financial support programs, social partnerships, and educational activities, the university directly contributes to reducing inequalities and ensuring an inclusive academic environment. These efforts strengthen UAIC’s position as a promoter of sustainable development and university social responsibility.



2 ZERO HUNGER





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 2

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2) – Zero Hunger aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. It highlights the need to ensure universal access to safe and nutritious food, support small-scale food producers, promote resilient agricultural practices, and strengthen food systems to withstand climate change and environmental degradation.

Key aims of SDG 2

End hunger and malnutrition: Ensure access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for all, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and young adults.

Promote sustainable agriculture: Encourage environmentally responsible farming systems that protect biodiversity and enhance resilience.

Support food security: Strengthen sustainable food production systems and local supply chains.

Improve nutrition: Address micronutrient deficiencies and promote healthy dietary habits.

Enhance agricultural research: Support innovation in sustainable agriculture, food safety, and ecosystem management.

1.2. Context

Global context: SDG 2 addresses critical global challenges such as food insecurity, climate-induced crop losses, and nutritional inequalities. The goal emphasizes sustainable food systems as essential for long-term global health, poverty reduction, and environmental protection.

Local context: In Romania, SDG 2 focuses on reducing food waste, improving access to healthy food for vulnerable populations, increasing the sustainability of agricultural practices, and strengthening the contribution of higher education institutions to food security, nutrition research, and environmental stewardship.

Purpose of the report: This report presents the actions, programs, and commitments of *Alexandru Ioan Cuza* University of Iași (UAIC) supporting SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, with emphasis on education, research, community engagement, and sustainable campus initiatives during the academic year 2023–2024.

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) actively contributes to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 2. UAIC supports food security through student support programs, promotes sustainable consumption practices, and strengthens research in biology, ecology, agriculture-related sciences, and environmental protection.



CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 2

UAIC integrates sustainability principles into its institutional strategies through policies aimed at supporting food security, responsible consumption, and environmental protection.

Key policy directions include:

- Ensuring equitable access to food resources for students in vulnerable situations through scholarships, subsidies, and emergency support funds.
- Promoting sustainable consumption and nutrition awareness campaigns within the student community.
- Supporting research on biodiversity, sustainable food systems, and environmental processes that impact agricultural productivity.
- Reducing food waste in university facilities and promoting responsible resource use across campus.
- Strengthening partnerships with local authorities and NGOs involved in food assistance, environmental education, and sustainable resource management.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 2

3.1 Services and programs supporting food security and nutrition

Student food subsidies and social scholarships

UAIC offers social scholarships and meal vouchers to support students from low-income backgrounds, helping ensure consistent access to adequate nutrition throughout their studies. The University also offers subsidised meal prices in its canteens, in an effort to keep student meal cost low.

<https://www.uaic.ro/studenti/cantinele-universitatii-alexandru-ioan-cuza/>

Support for students facing vulnerabilities

The Support Service for Students and Alumni assists students experiencing financial hardship, including cases where food insecurity is a risk, by connecting them to scholarships, counselling, and community support programs.

UAIC's bursary regulations explicitly provide meal vouchers for groups of particularly vulnerable students: <https://www.sport.uaic.ro/tmp/files/2024/10/anunt-Tichete-de-masa.pdf>

UAIC operates a **research station for Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecology**, an institutional research facility that can host applied research, demonstrations and technology transfer activities relevant to aquaculture producers.



Stațiunea de Cercetare – Dezvoltare pentru Acvacultură și Ecologie Acvatică Iași -
<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/statiuni-de-cercetare-si-santiere-arheologice/statiunea-de-cercetari-pentru-acvacultura-si-ecologie-acvatica-iasi/>

3.2 Partnerships and collaborations

Participation in EC2U initiatives

Within the **European Campus of City-Universities (EC2U)** alliance, UAIC contributes to initiatives related to [sustainable communities](#), food security, and environmentally responsible living, sharing knowledge and best practices with partner universities.

3.3 Projects supporting the implementation of SDG 2

UAIC researchers contribute to national and European projects related to ecology, sustainable food systems, and biodiversity conservation. Examples include:

- Research on **ecosystem functions and species interactions** that underpin agricultural sustainability and food web resilience ([Biological Research Station „Petre Jitariu” Potoci – Neamț](#)).
- Studies conducted by the [CERNESIM Environmental Research Center](#) on environmental factors affecting water and soil quality, essential for agricultural productivity.
- Participation in interdisciplinary projects on **aquatic ecology and freshwater resources**, relevant for sustainable aquaculture and food security (e.g. the [AquaChain](#) project).
- [The Pilot Project for Environmentally Friendly Algal Biomass Production for Fish Nutrition](#) focuses on developing an environmentally friendly method for producing algal biomass that can serve as a nutritious, cost-effective feed ingredient for fish, thereby contributing to more resilient and sustainable food systems. The project recycles wastewater from recirculating aquaculture systems to cultivate high-quality algal biomass and evaluates its impact on fish growth and health. Through this approach, the initiative enhances sustainable aquaculture practices, promotes resource-efficient food production, and reduces pollution. Over 18 months of cross-border collaboration, the project contributes to improved food security by supporting alternative protein sources and strengthening biodiversity protection within aquatic environments.

3.4 Programs of study supporting the implementation of SDG 2

Several Faculties include subject matter and programmes that can support sustainable agriculture/aquaculture development, training, and applied research:



Faculty of Biology: Biology, Ecology and environmental protection, Biodiversity conservation (https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1474, https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=3294)

Faculty of Chemistry: Environmental chemistry and food safety (<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/ro/programe-de-studii-2025-2026/studii-master-2025-2026.html>)



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 3

Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) - Good health and well-being aims to ensure health and promote well-being for all at all ages by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending epidemics of major communicable diseases (such as AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria); and reducing non-communicable and mental diseases. It also calls for reducing behavioural and environmental health risk factors.

Key aims of SDG 3

Reduce mortality rates: Aims to end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under five and significantly reduce the global maternal mortality ratio.

End epidemics: Seeks to end the epidemics of major communicable diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other neglected tropical diseases by 2030.

Combat non-communicable diseases: Works to reduce premature deaths from non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and diabetes.

Promote mental health: Focuses on improving mental health and well-being globally.

Achieve universal health coverage: Ensures that all people have access to the health services they need without facing financial hardship.

Improve safety and access: Includes targets to reduce deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents, provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, and increase access to affordable and effective medicines and vaccines.

Address risk factors: Calls for reducing health risks associated with environmental factors like air and water pollution, and behavioural factors like tobacco and alcohol use.

1.2. Context

Global context: SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all people by addressing major health challenges such as pandemics, maternal and child mortality, and non-communicable diseases, while strengthening healthcare systems worldwide.

Local context: In Romania, SDG 3 focuses on improving access to quality healthcare, reducing preventable diseases and mortality rates, and strengthening the national health system to ensure the well-being of all citizens, especially in rural and vulnerable communities.

Purpose of the report: Evaluate the ways in which UAIC promotes students' and staff's physical and mental well-being through access to quality health services, health education, and initiatives that encourage healthy lifestyles and a supportive academic environment.

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) takes an active role in promoting the values of sustainability, equity, and social inclusion. In the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UAIC contributes through concrete policies, programs,



and partnerships to achieving **Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being**. The purpose of this report is to present the university’s actions, results, and commitments in promoting physical and mental health, ensuring access to quality health services, and fostering a supportive and healthy academic environment during the 2023–2024 academic year.

CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 3

UAIC integrates the principles of health promotion and well-being into its institutional strategies through policies that foster a supportive, inclusive, and healthy academic environment for students and staff.

Key directions include:

- Ensuring access to quality medical and psychological services through the university’s medical and counselling centres.
- Promoting preventive health care and healthy lifestyle habits across the university community.
- Supporting mental health initiatives, awareness campaigns, and stress management programs.
- Developing academic and research activities focused on public health, psychology, sports science, and social well-being.
- Strengthening collaborations with local healthcare providers, educational institutions, and international partners to advance health education and well-being initiatives.

[Planul strategic multianual de dezvoltare instituțională a Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași pentru perioada 2024–2029](#) (**The Multiyear Strategic Institutional Development Plan of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (2024–2029)**) defines the university’s long-term directions for sustainable and inclusive growth, emphasizing the importance of promoting health, well-being, and quality of life within the academic community. It includes measures aimed at creating a safe, healthy, and supportive campus environment through the modernization of infrastructure, improved accessibility, and enhanced social and psychological support services.

[Planul operațional de dezvoltare instituțională al Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași 2025](#) (**The 2025 Operational Institutional Development Plan**) further details the actions and monitoring indicators for achieving these objectives, including initiatives related to occupational health and safety, mental health awareness, and programs encouraging physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

[Planul de Egalitatea de Gen 2022-2025 Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași](#) (**The 2022–2025 Gender Equality Plan** of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași) contributes to the objectives of SDG 3 by fostering equal opportunities, preventing discrimination, and



promoting a fair and inclusive institutional culture that supports the well-being of all members of the university community.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 3

3.1 Services and programs in support of student and staff health and well-being

UAIC has a dedicated *Serviciul Suport pentru Studenți și Alumni (Support for Students and Alumni Service)*, which offers psychological counselling, career guidance, mentoring sessions, and personal development workshops. The program is aimed especially at first-year students, who are transitioning from high school to university life. <https://cariera.uaic.ro/consiliere/>; <https://www.radiohit.ro/stiri/sprijin-pentru-boboci-uaic-lanseaza-program-de-consiliere-integrata/>

The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Medical Centre

<https://www.uaic.ro/studenti/servicii-medicale/>

UAIC operates a medical centre that provides students with access to essential healthcare services, including medical consultations, preventive check-ups, and health education programs. It also offers psychological counselling and wellness support, helping students maintain both physical and mental well-being throughout their studies. Through these services, the university ensures a healthy academic environment that supports learning, personal development and overall quality of life.

Financial aid for students suffering of chronic illnesses

UAIC supports students facing chronic health conditions by offering dedicated medical scholarships that help cover treatment costs and ensure equal access to education and academic opportunities.

Accommodation for students suffering of chronic illnesses

UAIC provides priority access to suitable accommodation for students suffering from chronic illnesses, ensuring living conditions that support their health, comfort, and full participation in academic life.

Centrul de Dezvoltare Personală și Formare Profesională (Center for Personal / Professional Development & Training) offers workshops for students and staff (e.g. relational intelligence, gender equality, work-life balance etc.) <https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/centrul-de-dezvoltare-personala-si-formare-profesionala/>

3.2 Partnerships and collaborations

UAIC is part of the EC2U Virtual Institute “GLADE” (Good Health and Well-being) which includes online peer counselling, healthy campus initiatives, etc.

<https://ec2u.eu/virtual-institutes-students/glade-for-students/>;

<https://www.uaic.ro/international/glade-virtual-institute/>



Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) is partner in the interdisciplinary research project **EXperiMental: Wearable Technology and EXplainable AI for Mental Health and Inclusivity in Schools**, which explores the use of artificial intelligence and mobile sensing technologies to support mental health in early adolescence. UAIC contributes primarily through its expertise in psychology and cognitive sciences, coordinating the Romanian research component, including the design and implementation of longitudinal studies with adolescent participants. The university's team is responsible for conducting psychological assessments, collecting behavioural and socio-demographic data, and co-developing ethical and user-centered digital interventions together with school psychologists and students. Through this collaboration, UAIC advances the understanding of early adolescent mental health and strengthens international research partnerships in the fields of AI, education, and well-being.

<https://data.snf.ch/grants/grant/230189>

3.3 Events supporting the implementation of SDG 3

UAIC organizes “Săptămâna sănătății mintale la UAIC” (“Mental Health Week”), a multi-day event for students, to help them deal with stress, emotional health, adaptation, etc.

<https://360.uaic.ro/blog/2025/09/24/saptamana-sanatatii-mintale-la-uaic/>;

<https://www.radioiasi.ro/emisiuni/saptamana-sanatatii-mintale-la-uaic-iasi-lect-univ-dr-alexandra-cobzeanu-in-matinal-cu-adina-suhan/>

UAIC hosted the “Healthy Breathing and Stress Management/Respirația sănătoasă și managementul stresului” workshop for the local community in partnership with social services, pre-university education institutions, non-governmental organizations etc. under EC2U.

<https://www.uaic.ro/uaic-a-organizat-un-workshop-dedicat-comunitatii-locale-din-domeniul-social-in-cadrul-aliantei-ec2u/>

Between March 31 and April 4, 2025, UAIC organized, within the EC2U project, the event “EC2U LIFELINE Master Week – Healthy Caring of Older Adults”, in collaboration with the University of Angers, France (a member of the EU Green Alliance). The event brought together 42 experts, professors, students, and researchers in the field of health care for older adults. <https://360.uaic.ro/blog/2025/04/11/uaic-a-organizat-evenimentul-saptamana-masteratului-ec2u-lifeline-ingrijirea-sanatoasa-a-varstnicilor/>

3.4 Projects supporting the implementation of SDG 3

UAIC (through the Faculty of Physical Education & Sport) organised the “**Power of Sport: a project for active and healthy living**” blended intensive programme which included engaging lectures and practical activities on education for an active and healthy lifestyle

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16evPLCzdB/>



<https://www.uaic.ro/international/104407-2/>

<https://sites.google.com/view/soa-reactor/project-details> **PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2021-4119**

Secondary organic aerosol investigations in a newly developed flow reactor SOA-REACTOR

The strategic direction of the project was driven by an additional support infrastructure development for the existing one at CERNESIM centre. Investigations performed on the reaction of aromatic compounds involved in the atmospheric relevant processes provided information on the chemical degradation mechanism and gas phase product formation of aromatic compounds and their impact on urban pollution and human health.

3.5 Scientific papers supporting the implementation of SDG 3

UAIC has published a guide (first Romanian guide) for treating Internet addiction in adolescents (by UAIC researchers) <https://www.radioiasi.ro/stiri/regional/cercetatori-ai-uaic-au-elaborat-primul-ghid-romanesc-de-tratament-pentru-dependenta-de-internet-la-adolescenti/>;

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01926187.2024.2434850#abstract>

3.6 Programs of study supporting the implementation of SDG 3

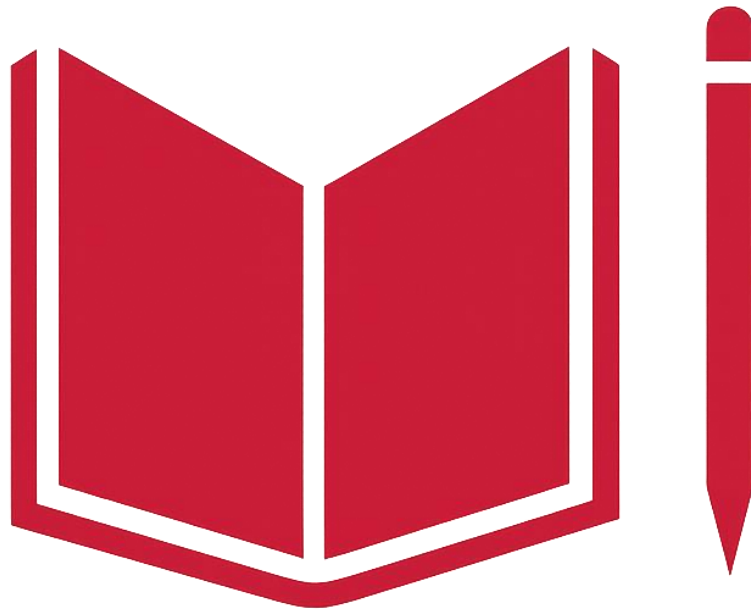
Several Faculties include subject matter and programmes that can support training and applied research concerning the promotion of well-being, fighting diseases, and improving mental health:

Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences: Social Work, Lifelong well-being and healthy ageing, Family and the management of family resources (<https://www.fssp.uaic.ro/despre-facultate/planuri-de-invataman/2025-2028>)

Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences: Special Psychopedagogy, Diagnosis and intervention for people with special needs (<https://www.psih.uaic.ro/facultate/documente-oficiale/planuri-de-invataman/>)

Faculty of Chemistry: The Chemistry of Cosmetic and Pharmaceutical Products (<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/ro/admitere-2022/detalii-cpcf.html>)

4 QUALITY EDUCATION





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. This means that every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status or geographic location, has access to learning environments that are safe, inclusive, and responsive; that the learning provided is relevant, effective and geared towards acquiring the knowledge, skills and values needed for decent employment, active citizenship and sustainable development; and that educational opportunities continue throughout life — from early childhood, through primary, secondary, tertiary and adult learning — so that no one is left behind.

1.2. Context

Global context

At the global level, SDG 4 aims to ensure that all children, youth and adults have access to quality education — one that is inclusive and equitable — and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for everyone. The agenda includes concrete targets to be achieved by 2030 (for example: universal completion of primary and secondary education, literacy for adults, skills for the labour market) and also means of implementation (for example: adequate infrastructure, qualified teachers, equitable access). Although progress has been made (for instance more children are in school now than a decade ago), the pace of improvement is slowing or stagnating in many regions — which threatens the full achievement of these objectives.

Romania-specific context

In Romania, the rate of early school leaving (young people aged 18-24 who have only lower secondary education or less and are no longer in education or training) is over 15%. [National Policies Platform+2Trading Economics+2](#)

Government expenditure on education (from primary to tertiary levels) in Romania is about 2.5 % of GDP according to the OECD data for recent years.

Another source gives a figure of around 3.32 % of GDP for public spending on education in Romania in 2021. [TheGlobalEconomy.com](#)

These figures indicate that Romania is significantly below many peers in terms of relative investment in education, and that there are persistent challenges around equity (especially for rural areas and disadvantaged groups) and quality in the educational system. In conclusion: in Romania we see a contrast between the commitments under SDG 4 and the



realities of the education system — meaning that sustained policies, adequate resources and a strong focus on equity (particularly in rural zones and among vulnerable groups) remain crucial.

A high-quality education should be an area where universities excel. Education is a key gateway out of inequalities, especially multigenerational ones. In addition to improving quality of life, access to inclusive education can help equip communities with the tools required to develop innovative solutions to the world’s greatest challenges. SDG 4 explores early years and lifelong learning.

CHAPTER 2: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 4

UAIC’s policies and strategies ensure that the university contributes to early years education, lifelong learning, and equitable access for all students. The university is committed to **providing high-quality education for all**, including first-generation students and other underrepresented groups, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

2.1. Inclusive Access and Equity Policies

UAIC promotes equal access to educational opportunities regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. The **Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025** and non-discrimination policies in recruitment, teaching, and research guarantee accessibility for all members of the academic community.

2.2. Support for Early Years and Teacher Education

UAIC prepares graduates to enter primary education through targeted teacher-training programs and postgraduate qualifications, supporting UN Target 4.C.

2.3. Innovative Learning Approaches

The university uses **Virtual Reality, Mixed Reality, and Artificial Intelligence** to improve STE(A)M teaching, providing interactive, safe, and accessible educational experiences.



2.4 Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement

UAIC supports lifelong learning for the wider community, offering **executive education programs, vocational training, and public educational events**, ensuring that learning opportunities extend beyond enrolled students.

2.5. EU 2.5 Integration and Internationalization

Programs like **EUconomics** and the **EU-PAIR Jean Monnet Chair** provide students with interdisciplinary knowledge on EU governance, policy-making, and civic engagement, aligning local education with European standards.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 4

3.1. Collaborations and External Partnerships

UAIC actively collaborates with external partners to enhance the quality and inclusivity of education. Key initiatives include:

- **Centre for European Studies (CES):** Provides lifelong learning and short-term courses in European integration, regional development, public administration, project management, environmental protection, and tourism.
- **Continuing Education and Entrepreneurship Center:** Offers IT certifications (Microsoft, ECDL), vocational courses, and bridging programs connecting high schools, universities, and the private sector.
- **International Projects:** Participation in **EUconomics**, **EU-PAIR**, and **GLOBDIVES** promotes EU studies, global citizenship, inclusion, and diversity management in higher education.

These partnerships demonstrate UAIC's commitment to providing **lifelong learning opportunities** and promoting **knowledge dissemination to society**.

3.2. Public Events and Lifelong Learning

UAIC hosts a range of events aimed at the general public, aligning with THE Impact's **lifelong learning metrics** (Indicators 4.3.2 and 4.3.3):

- **KoFEAA Lecture Series (NextStepEU Project):** Public webinars and workshops on social inclusion, EU policies, and financial literacy (Feb, Mar, Dec 2024).



- **EC2U Student Event – “Shaping the Future Through EU Elections”** (May 15–17, 2024): Student-led discussions on European elections with international participation.
- **Scientific Seminars and Workshops:** “Digital Dilemmas in the Humanities” (Oct 28, 2023) and “Promoting Citizen Science” (Mar 27, 2024).
- **Cultural Events:** Art exhibition “Paradise of Flowers” (Dec 14–28, 2024) and the **Melancholia Concert** (Sep 20, 2024).
- **Workshops:** “Natural Protected Areas – Current State and Future Prospects” (Sep 27–29, 2024).

These events ensure that **educational resources are accessible beyond the university**, contributing to community development and lifelong learning.

3.3. Vocational Training and Executive Education

UAIC provides:

- **Short-term Training Programs at CES:** 20–90 hour courses for professionals in public administration, business, and civil society, offering certificates recognized by national authorities.
- **Master’s Programs for Professionals:** Open to lifelong learners seeking advanced knowledge in European Studies and Regional Development.
- **Continuing Education and Entrepreneurship Center:** Offers Microsoft IT Academy, ECDL courses, and professional development in statistics, accounting, marketing, and entrepreneurship.

These programs exemplify UAIC’s approach to **lifelong learning and access to quality education for all**.

3.4. Education Outreach Activities

UAIC engages in **educational outreach beyond campus:**

- **JASSY Summer School:** A week-long program for high school students exploring science, economics, social sciences, and tourism.
- **CES Training Programs:** Designed for teachers, civil servants, and professionals, promoting EU integration, regional development, and public administration knowledge.
- **Community Engagement Projects:** Through initiatives like **NextStepEU**, students and guest speakers contribute to social responsibility and humanitarian projects.
- **Support for Refugee Students:** UAIC provides integration support for Ukrainian refugees, including language and curriculum assistance, ensuring equitable access to education.



3.5. Lifelong Learning Access Policy

UAIC has formalized policies to guarantee that lifelong learning opportunities are **accessible to all**, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender. Examples include:

- **Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025**
- **Inclusive Erasmus+ policies**
- **Support services for students with disabilities**
- **Non-discrimination in recruitment and academic access**

These measures ensure **inclusive and equitable access to education**.

3.6. Scientific Publications and Research on Education

UAIC emphasizes research that contributes to quality education (THE indicators: paper views, CiteScore, publications):

- Studies on digital humanities, STE(A)M education, EU integration, and global citizenship.
- Publications are disseminated widely, ensuring **practical impact beyond citations**, consistent with THE methodology's emphasis on paper views and academic excellence.

3.7 Study Programs and Teacher Training

UAIC offers **undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional programs** aligned with THE metrics for early years and lifelong learning:

- Teacher-training programs and postgraduate qualifications prepare graduates to teach at primary school level (UN Target 4.C).
- Programs like **EUconomics**, **EU-PAIR**, and **GLOBDIVES** provide interdisciplinary knowledge for civic engagement, global citizenship, and professional development.

These initiatives reflect UAIC's commitment to **ensuring quality education and preparing graduates to support sustainable development**.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași demonstrates a strong alignment with SDG 4 through **inclusive policies, innovative teaching, lifelong learning opportunities, and international collaborations**. By providing access to education for first-generation students, lifelong learners, and community members, UAIC ensures that no group is left behind.

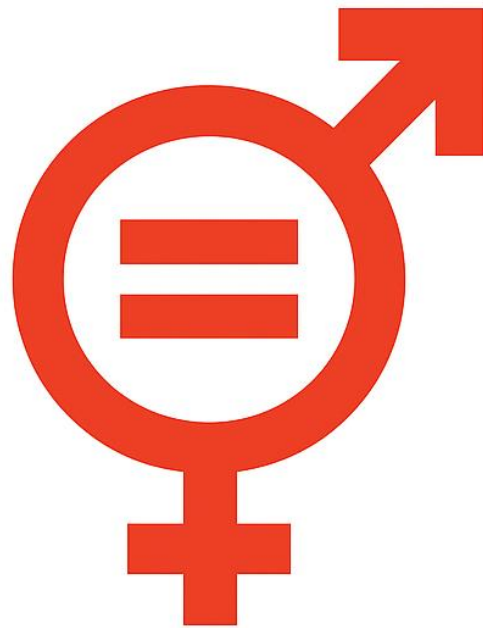


The university's initiatives in **digital education, VR and MR teaching, EU policy programs, and community outreach** exemplify how higher education institutions can actively contribute to equality, social mobility, and sustainable development.

UAIC continues to strengthen its **research impact, teacher education, and access policies**, positioning itself as a leading institution for high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education in Romania and Europe.

5

**GENDER
EQUALITY**





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable society. Women and girls continue to face discrimination in every part of the world, and universities have a critical role in promoting equality—not only by providing access to education but also by supporting academic progression and leadership opportunities for women.

At UAIC, gender equality is embedded in institutional policies, practices, and programs that ensure fair access, representation, and support for women students, researchers, and staff. This report summarizes UAIC’s actions to implement SDG 5.

1.1. Definition SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 5: Gender Equality aims to “*achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*” This goal focuses on ending discrimination, violence, and harmful practices against women and girls, including child marriage and female genital mutilation. It promotes full participation of women in political, economic, and public life, and emphasizes equal access to education, healthcare, and economic resources. SDG 5 also recognizes and values unpaid care and domestic work, while encouraging legislation, policies, and technologies that support gender equality. Ultimately, gender equality is seen not only as a fundamental human right but also as a critical foundation for peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable societies.

Relation to other SDGs: SDG 5 is strongly interconnected with other Sustainable Development Goals. It supports SDG 1 (No Poverty) because empowering women leads to better household and community investments that reduce poverty. It is linked to SDG 4 (Quality Education), as ensuring equal access to education for girls strengthens their future opportunities and economic independence. It also connects with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), as women’s full participation in the workforce drives inclusive economic growth. Moreover, gender equality underpins progress in SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

1.2. Context

Global context

Gender equality remains a fundamental challenge worldwide — despite decades of progress, no country has yet achieved full parity across all dimensions of SDG 5, meaning that women and



girls continue to face widespread discrimination, violence, and structural barriers. [UNSD+2Sustainable Development Goals+2](#) The pace of change is slow: for example, women's representation in senior management globally reached only about 30 % in 2023 and at the current rate parity would take nearly a century. [UNSD](#) Moreover, harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation persist at scale — globally one in five young women aged 20-24 were married or in a union before age 18, and more than 230 million women and girls have undergone FGM. [United Nations+2Sustainable Development Goals+2](#)

Key statistics:

- ✓ Women held about **27.2 % of seats in national parliaments** worldwide in 2024. [United Nations+1](#)
- ✓ Globally, women spent on average **2.5 times more hours per day** on unpaid domestic and care work than men. [Sustainable Development Goals+1](#)
- ✓ In 61 of 131 surveyed countries (47 %) there remained legal restrictions that prevent women from doing the same jobs as men. [UNSD+1](#)
- ✓ SDG 4 explores early years and lifelong learning.

Romanian context:

In Romania, gender equality remains a significant challenge: women held only about **22.4 % of seats in the national parliament** as of December 2024, highlighting their under-representation in politics. The country scores very low on leadership and decision-making: in the 2024 European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) Gender Equality Index, Romania ranked last in the EU with a score of **57.5 out of 100**. [European Institute for Gender Equality+1](#) Women and girls aged 10+ in Romania spend around **17.5 % of their time on unpaid domestic and care work**, compared with about **8.5 % for men**, showing a large time-use imbalance. [UN Women Data Hub](#) The employment rate for women is also among the lowest in the EU, at approximately **45.4 %** compared to **62.7 % for men**, indicating persistent labour market inequalities. [Romania Insider](#) Furthermore, while Romania's reported gender pay gap is relatively small at **3.6 %** (2021 data), this reflects structural factors including low female employment and sectoral segregation rather than full equality. hrleadersportal.pwc.com



CHAPTER 2: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 5

UAIC has adopted a comprehensive set of policies and strategies to promote gender equality in higher education and research. These include:

- **Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025:** This strategic document outlines UAIC’s commitment to equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and equity in academic and professional contexts. It is periodically revised to respond to evolving societal and institutional needs.
- **Internal Regulations and Code of Ethics:** All employment, remuneration, and promotion procedures comply with Romanian law and explicitly prohibit discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity, or other protected characteristics.
- **Centre for Gender Equality in Science:** Established in 2013, the centre coordinates research, monitoring, and documentation on gender equality in academia. It leads initiatives such as the UAIC Network of Women in Academics and Research, and provides evidence-based recommendations for institutional policies.
- **Access and Participation Policy:** UAIC tracks women’s applications, admissions, and participation across faculties, ensuring data-informed interventions to increase access for women in all programs, including underrepresented fields.

UAIC recognizes that promoting gender equality in higher education contributes to broader societal goals, including reducing inequality (SDG 10), combating poverty and hunger (SDG 1 and 2), and fostering peaceful and fair societies (SDG 16).

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 4

3.1. Research on Gender Equality

UAIC actively contributes to research on gender equality, ensuring visibility and impact of women researchers:

- ✓ **Proportion of Female Authors:** UAIC monitors the proportion of women authors in indexed publications, tracking participation in research outputs.
- ✓ **CiteScore and Publication Impact:** UAIC evaluates the proportion of gender-related research appearing in top journals and overall research output addressing gender equality, reflecting the university’s excellence and influence.



3.2. Women's 3.2. Access to Higher Education

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (UAIC) operates in full compliance with national education legislation, strictly adhering to the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination established by law. In this regard, UAIC ensures equal access to education for all individuals, both women and men, guaranteeing everyone the right to pursue university studies under fair and equitable conditions. Furthermore, the university regularly compiles statistics and analyses on the access and participation of women in higher education, continuously monitoring and supporting their inclusion, representation, and progress within the academic community.

3.3. Academic Progression and Leadership

Promoting women in academic leadership is a core objective:

- ✓ **Proportion of Senior Female Academics:** UAIC monitors women in senior roles (professors, deans, directors, and research leaders) to ensure fair representation and leadership opportunities.
- ✓ **Mentoring and Tutoring Programs:** Mentoring schemes engage at least 10% of female students, connecting first-year students with peers and academic staff to improve academic adaptation, performance, and progression.

3.4. Supportive Policies and Inclusive Environment

UAIC provides inclusive policies to remove barriers and support women's participation:

- ✓ **Non-Discrimination Policies:** UAIC enforces non-discrimination for women and transgender individuals, covering employment, study, and research. Policies explicitly address inappropriate sexual behavior and uphold personal dignity.
- ✓ **Maternity and Paternity Policies:** UAIC provides maternity and paternity support in line with national law, enabling both parents to balance childcare responsibilities and professional/academic engagement.
- ✓ **Childcare Facilities:** Accessible childcare services are available for students, staff, and faculty, supporting continued participation in academic programs.
- ✓ **Protection for Whistleblowers:** Policies safeguard individuals reporting discrimination from any educational or employment disadvantage, ensuring confidential reporting and institutional response.



3.5. Outreach, 3.5 Projects, and Community Engagement

UAIC actively fosters gender equality beyond its campus:

- ✓ **“Happy Bones” Project:** An Erasmus+ initiative promoting health and physical activity for women aged 50–65, demonstrating interdisciplinary research and community impact.
- ✓ **Mental Health Awareness Week:** Public events engage students and staff, promoting well-being and awareness of gender-specific needs.
- ✓ **International Collaborations:** UAIC partners with European institutions to strengthen gender equality research and programs, including capacity-building and knowledge exchange.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

UAIC demonstrates a comprehensive approach to **SDG 5 – Gender Equality** by integrating policies, programs, research, and metrics to support women’s access, participation, and leadership. By fostering inclusive academic environments and promoting equal opportunities, UAIC not only enhances women’s educational outcomes but also contributes to wider societal goals, including equity, social justice, and sustainable development.

The university continues to monitor, evaluate, and improve initiatives to ensure measurable impact and sustainable progress toward gender equality, reflecting its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 6

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) – Clean Water and Sanitation aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. It emphasizes the importance of access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene, while protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems. Achieving this goal contributes directly to public health, social equity, and environmental sustainability.

Key aims of SDG 6

Universal access to safe and affordable drinking water: Ensure that everyone has access to safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water.

Sanitation and hygiene for all: Provide access to adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, paying special attention to the needs of women and vulnerable groups.

Water quality improvement: Reduce pollution, eliminate dumping, and minimize the release of hazardous chemicals into water sources.

Efficient water use: Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and promote sustainable freshwater management.

Protection of ecosystems: Safeguard and restore water-related ecosystems such as rivers, wetlands, and aquifers.

International cooperation: Support and strengthen community and institutional partnerships for sustainable water and sanitation management.

1.2. Context

Global context: At the global level, SDG 6 responds to growing concerns about water scarcity, pollution, and inadequate sanitation, which affect billions of people. Ensuring universal access to clean water and sanitation is critical to health, gender equality, food security, and climate resilience.

Local context: In Romania, SDG 6 focuses on improving water infrastructure, ensuring equitable access to safe drinking water, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, and enhancing wastewater treatment and pollution control. Efforts are also directed toward environmental education and sustainable resource management.

Purpose of the report: This report aims to present the actions, initiatives, and commitments of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) in support of SDG 6, highlighting its role in promoting environmental sustainability, efficient water management, sanitation practices, and environmental education during the academic year 2023–2024.

As the oldest higher education institution in Romania, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) actively promotes the principles of sustainability, equity, and environmental responsibility. Within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UAIC contributes to achieving SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation through responsible water consumption, research in environmental sciences, awareness campaigns, and strategic partnerships at both national and international levels.



CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 6

UAIC integrates sustainability principles into its institutional strategies through policies that promote environmental protection and resource efficiency.

Key directions include:

- Implementing water conservation measures within university facilities.
- Promoting waste reduction and environmentally friendly cleaning systems.
- Encouraging responsible consumption of natural resources through student and staff awareness campaigns.
- Supporting research and teaching activities on water quality, environmental chemistry, and ecosystem protection.
- Collaborating with local authorities and environmental agencies to promote sustainable water management in the Iași region.

[Planul strategic multianual de dezvoltare instituțională a Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași pentru perioada 2024–2029](#) (**The Multiyear Strategic Institutional Development Plan of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (2024–2029)**) defines the university’s directions for sustainable development, including measures for adapting infrastructure to climate change, improving sustainability, and reducing water and energy consumption.

[Planul operațional de dezvoltare instituțională al Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași 2025](#) (**The 2025 Operational Institutional Development Plan**) further details the actions and monitoring indicators for achieving these objectives, through energy efficiency programs, selective waste collection, and the green modernization of infrastructure.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 6

3.1 Services and programs promoting clean water and sanitation

The Biological Station „Petre Jitariu” Potoci – Neamț

<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/statiunea-biologica-petre-jitariu-potoci-neamt/>

It is located on the southeast shore of the reservoir *Lacul de acumulare Izvorul Muntelui – Bicz* in Neamț county. It was originally founded in response to the environmental changes caused by the hydro-power complex in the area (the dam and the reservoir). Its mission is scientific, educational and applied: it supports field practice for students, and carries out research on aquatic ecosystems and water quality. It houses the Laboratory for Evaluation of Water Quality through Bioindicators – ACVAPUR, which uses aquatic organisms (phytoplankton, zooplankton, zoobenthos, fish) to assess the pollution level / ecological status of the reservoir water.



UAIC organizes summer schools for students (e.g. “Școala de Vară pentru Științe” involving the Faculties of Chemistry & Biology) where sampling of water, understanding differences in water types (sea, distilled, tap) was explicitly part of the activities.

<https://www.cuzanet.ro/academic/general/scoala-de-vara-pentru-stiinte-la-universitatea-alexandru-ioan-cuza-din-iasi.html>

3.2 Partnerships and collaborations

UAIC cooperates with **Apele Române Prut-Bârlad** in educational and community projects promoting clean water access and responsible use of local water resources.

<https://www.uaic.ro/despre-uaic/parteneri/parteneri-din-mediul-economic-si-sectorul-public/parteneri-din-mediul-economic-si-sectorul-public-din-perioada-2020-2023/>

3.3 Projects supporting the implementation of SDG 6

Pilot Project for Environmentally Friendly Algal Biomass Production for Fish Nutrition: The project aims to recycle wastewater from recirculating aquaculture systems, implement an innovative technology for obtaining algal biomass at cost-effective rates, and determine the effect of the obtained biomass on the fish growth process. The general objective of the project is to increase the level of protection and conservation of natural biodiversity and green infrastructure, including urban areas, as well as to reduce all forms of pollution through cross-border cooperation over a period of 18 months.

<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/biroul-proiecte-de-dezvoltare-bpd/proiect-pilot-de-elaborare-si-implementare-a-unei-tehnologii-accesibile-de-obtinere-a-biomasei-algale-utilizata-pentru-nutritia-pestilor/>

Project „AquaChain – Connecting the trophic levels of a freshwater aquaculture food chain” The objective of the proposed project is to follow the fate of essential fatty acids from the primary producer through three trophic levels of a model freshwater food chain. This work is carried out by three research partners from Bulgaria, Romania, and Switzerland, which all contribute their individual competencies to address a transdisciplinary challenge.

<https://www.uaic.ro/proiecte-de-cercetare-ale-uaic-selectate-pentru-finantare-in-competitia-internationala-maps-multilateral-academic-projects/>

<https://data.snf.ch/grants/grant/230408>

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), Romania - Research projects to stimulate young independent teams (TE)

<https://sites.google.com/view/envnanominprec/pagina-de-pornire/home>

The project supports young researchers and doctors of science who have established independent research programs and achieved significant results in their respective fields, enabling them to create or strengthen their own research teams. The initiative contributes to national research and human resource development by advancing studies focused on clean-up technologies. Within this framework, new environmentally friendly materials were



synthesized, characterized, and tested for wastewater depollution, offering potential applications on an industrial scale to promote a cleaner environment. The program's outcomes also benefit society by training a new generation of specialists capable of developing innovative solutions for water purification and pollution control. Furthermore, the project's results were disseminated internationally, enhancing the visibility and impact of the participating researchers and institutions.

3.4 Programs of study supporting the implementation of SDG 6

Several UAIC faculties contribute directly to the goals of SDG 6 through their educational programs:

Faculty of Geography and Geology: Environmental Geography; Environmental Geochemistry; Hydrology and Meteorology

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/specializari/geografia-mediului>

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/admitere/gcm.gml>

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/admitere/hm.gml>

Faculty of Chemistry: Environmental chemistry and food safety

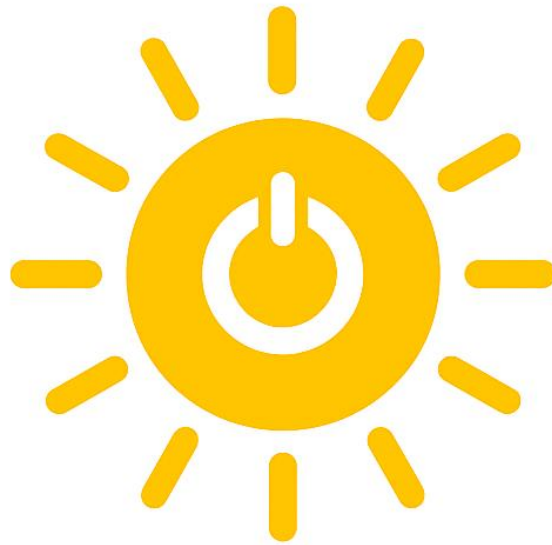
<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/ro/programe-de-studii-2025-2026/studii-master-2025-2026.html>

Faculty of Biology: Biology; Ecology and environmental protection; Biodiversity conservation

https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1474, https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=3294



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 7

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) – Affordable and Clean Energy aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. It promotes energy efficiency, the expansion of renewable energy sources, technological innovation, and inclusive energy policies that support environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

Key aims of SDG 7

- Universal access to modern energy services: Ensure that all communities have reliable and affordable access to electricity and clean energy solutions.
- Increase renewable energy share: Promote the use of solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and other clean energy sources.
- Improve energy efficiency: Encourage sustainable consumption through improved technologies, infrastructure upgrades, and awareness campaigns.
- Support research and innovation: Foster advancements in clean energy technologies and sustainable energy systems.
- Strengthen international cooperation: Facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity development in energy research, policy, and technology.

1.2. Context

Global context: Globally, SDG 7 addresses the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels to sustainable and low-carbon energy systems, in response to climate change, resource scarcity, and rising energy demand. Ensuring access to clean and affordable energy is essential for economic development, environmental protection, and social well-being.

Local context: In Romania, SDG 7 focuses on improving energy infrastructure, expanding renewable energy production, increasing energy efficiency in public institutions, and supporting research and innovation in clean energy technologies. Higher education institutions play a key role in advancing sustainability through campus modernization and scientific research.

Purpose of the report: This report outlines the initiatives, programs, and commitments of *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC)* that contribute to **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy**, highlighting efforts undertaken during the 2023–2024 academic year in infrastructure modernization, energy efficiency, research, and sustainability education.

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) is committed to supporting the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the objectives of SDG 7. UAIC promotes clean energy use, energy-efficient infrastructure, and environmental responsibility while advancing scientific research and educational programs that contribute to sustainable energy systems.



CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 7

UAIC incorporates energy sustainability into its strategic documents and long-term institutional planning.

Key policy directions include:

- Improving campus infrastructure through **energy-efficient modernization programs**, including thermal rehabilitation and upgraded lighting and heating systems.
- Reducing energy consumption through systematic monitoring, digital solutions, and responsible-use guidelines for staff and students.
- Exploring and gradually integrating **renewable energy systems** in campus operations, such as photovoltaic installations.
- Supporting academic programs and research projects focused on clean energy, environmental sustainability, and climate mitigation.
- Promoting awareness campaigns that encourage responsible energy use across the university community.

[Planul strategic multianual de dezvoltare instituțională a Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași pentru perioada 2024–2029](#) (**The Multiyear Strategic Institutional Development Plan of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (2024–2029)**) outlines the university’s long-term commitment to sustainability, with a particular focus on improving energy efficiency and promoting the transition toward clean and modern energy systems. The plan includes measures aimed at reducing the university’s environmental footprint through infrastructure modernization, responsible energy management, and the gradual integration of renewable energy technologies across campus facilities.

[Planul operațional de dezvoltare instituțională al Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași 2025](#) (**The 2025 Operational Institutional Development Plan**) further details the actions and monitoring indicators necessary to achieve these objectives, including programs for improving building energy performance, upgrading heating and lighting systems, implementing smart energy-use monitoring, and fostering awareness initiatives that encourage responsible and efficient energy consumption within the academic community.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 7

3.1 Energy efficiency measures and sustainable campus initiatives

UAIC continuously invests in energy-efficient upgrades of its buildings, including thermal insulation, modern heating systems, LED lighting, and smart energy management solutions. These measures significantly reduce energy consumption and operational costs.



UAIC has secured nearly €4 million in non-reimbursable funding to retrofit student housing with thermal insulation, photovoltaic panels and high-efficiency lighting as part of its clean-energy infrastructure upgrade.

<https://www.uaic.ro/uaic-a-obtinut-finantare-nerambursabila-de-aproximativ-4-milioane-de-euro-pentru-modernizarea-infrastructurii-universitare/>

Green procurement and sustainable operations

UAIC integrates sustainability criteria into procurement processes, prioritizing energy-efficient equipment and environmentally friendly technologies for laboratories, classrooms, and administrative spaces.

3.2 Partnerships and collaborations

UAIC actively collaborates with national and international partners to promote clean energy research and sustainable development.

Examples include:

Participation in [EC2U](#) Alliance initiatives related to environmental sustainability, smart campuses, and green infrastructure.

<https://www.ec2u.eu/magazine/event/apply-now-better-environment-healthy-cities-summer-school-coimbra>

3.3 Projects supporting the implementation of SDG 7

UAIC researchers contribute to national and European projects addressing energy sustainability, environmental processes, and climate adaptation. Examples include:

- Research at [CERNESIM](#) on environmental monitoring, atmospheric chemistry, and pollution analysis—key fields for understanding energy-related environmental impacts.
- Projects on sustainable materials, energy-efficient technologies, and environmental risk assessment developed within the Faculties of Chemistry and Physics.

3.4 Programs of study supporting the implementation of SDG 7

Several Faculties offer programs that directly support SDG 7 objectives:

Faculty of Biology: Ecology and environmental protection,

https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1474

Faculty of Chemistry: The Chemistry of Cosmetic and Pharmaceutical Products

<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/ro/admitere-2022/detalii-cpcf.html>

Faculty of Geography and Geology: Environmental Geography; Natural Hazards and Territorial Planning

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/specializari/geografia-mediului>

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/specializari/riscuri-naturale-si-amenajarea-teritoriului>

8

**DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. It emphasizes the importance of **decent work**, providing fair income, security, and rights that allow individuals to maintain a decent standard of living while contributing to economic growth. It also focuses on **economic growth** that is sustainable and inclusive, creating jobs and improving living standards without exploiting workers or harming the environment. Finally, it highlights **labour rights protection**, ensuring the recognition, evidence, and enforcement of labor rights, preventing forced labor, child labor, and modern slavery, and promoting equality and safe working conditions.

Relation to other SDGs: SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth is closely linked to many other Sustainable Development Goals. By promoting fair wages and productive employment, it directly contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty), while safe and healthy workplaces support SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Access to education and vocational training underpins SDG 4 (Quality Education), and ensuring equal opportunities and pay advances SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Inclusive economic growth helps reduce disparities, aligning with SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), while sustainable business practices and ethical labor policies connect to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Finally, fostering green jobs and sustainable industries links economic growth with environmental responsibility, contributing to SDG 13 (Climate Action). Together, these interconnections show that promoting decent work and economic growth is essential for achieving broader sustainable development.

1.2. Context

Global context

At the global level, achieving SDG 8 remains a serious challenge: in 2023, over **2 billion workers** ($\approx 58\%$ of the global workforce) were employed informally, without adequate social protection, while the informality rate in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) reached $\sim 89.1\%$. (unstats.un.org) In 2024, the global informality rate is estimated at 57.8% , representing tens of millions of additional workers in the informal sector. (unstats.un.org) The global unemployment rate is around **5.0%** in 2024, but the gap between those who want a job and those who have one (“jobs gap”) reached approximately **402 million people**. (International Labour Organization).



At the same time, women’s participation in the labor force has increased only slightly, from 62.8% in 2015 to 64.5% in 2024, and the gender gap persists. (UN Women Knowledge Portal) These data show that, although there has been some progress on headline indicators, the **quality of work, inclusion, and social protection** remain vulnerable points, making the achievement of SDG 8 targets still uncertain.

Romanian context:

At the national level, Romania faces ongoing challenges in achieving SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth. In 2023, the employment rate for people aged 15–64 was approximately **63%**, below the OECD average of ~70% ([OECD](#)), while GDP per capita was around **EUR 14,900**, about 58% of the EU27 average ([EURES](#)). Informal employment remains high at ~27.1% of gross value added, and social protection spending is among the lowest in the EU (~12.8% of GDP) ([OECD](#)). At the regional level, in Iași County and the North-East region, the active population in 2023 was about **276.6 thousand** in Iași, representing ~27% of the regional workforce ([CNP](#)), with ~268.5 thousand employed. The employment rate in the North-East region is lower than the national average at ~49% ([Focus](#)), and GDP per capita (PPS) is only ~25.7% of the EU27 average ([EURES](#)). Average household income in the region remains below the national level (~5,458 lei vs. 6,668 lei), highlighting persistent economic disparities. These data indicate that while Romania and Iași have made some progress in employment and economic activity, challenges such as low productivity, high informality, income disparities, and limited social protection continue to hinder full achievement of SDG 8.

CHAPTER 2: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 5

Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (UAIC) operates as a public institution under the Romanian Constitution, national legislation, and relevant European and international standards in higher education and vocational training. As a state-funded institution, UAIC is financed through the national budget and through internally generated revenues, which are managed in accordance with the principles of university autonomy.

UAIC’s organizational framework and operational principles are guided by the National Education Law and institutional regulations, ensuring alignment with national and European labor standards. The university is committed to:

- **Academic freedom and institutional autonomy;**
- **Equitable access** to study programs, research opportunities, and cultural activities;



- **Non-discrimination** based on sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation;
- **Student-centered education** and inclusive learning;
- **Promotion of national and international collaboration** in research and education;
- **Transparency and accountability** in all decision-making and management processes;
- **Ethics and integrity**, ensuring independence from religious, ideological, doctrinal, or political influences;
- **Fair access to resources**, both financial and material.

UAIC's institutional policies reflect the following core strategies:

- Ensuring free and equal access to study programmes, research and cultural activities;
- Ensuring non-discrimination on grounds of sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation;
- Upholding academic freedom, university autonomy, student-centred education;
- Promoting national and international cooperation in research and education;
- Ensuring equitable access to financial and material resources;
- Ensuring transparency in decision-making and resource-management;
- Ensuring independence from religious, ideological, doctrinal or political influences.

Through these policies, UAIC actively contributes to the implementation of **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**, ensuring fair, ethical, and inclusive employment practices across all levels of the institution.

These policies provide the enabling strategy for UAIC's employment-practice framework, helping to align employer behavior with the UN Targets underlying SDG 8.

2.1 Employment Practice and Living Wage

UAIC ensures that all staff and faculty receive salaries at least equal to the legal minimum wage in Romania. For 2025, the minimum wage is 4050 RON per month. Salaries are defined according to national legislation and internal university regulations. The university ensures transparent recruitment and fair compensation practices in alignment with SDG 8 principles of decent work and equitable pay. Recruitment and remuneration are conducted transparently, with salaries determined based on:

- Position and qualifications;
- Legal requirements;



- Internal regulations ensuring equitable compensation
- Sufficient staffing levels to meet the operational needs of academic and research activities.

By applying these practices, UAIC meets living wage standards, provides supporting evidence, and publishes salary transparency.

2.2. Recognition of Unions and Labour Rights

The UAIC Trade Union (“UNIO”), established in 1990, plays a central role in protecting the rights of employees. Its objectives include:

- Ensuring respect for labor rights and social security;
- Guaranteeing employment aligned with qualifications and professional competence;
- Facilitating professional development and skill enhancement;
- Promoting freedom of expression and collective action;
- Ensuring workplace safety and equitable pay;
- Negotiating additional leave, salary increases, and protective measures for employees in difficult or hazardous conditions.

Union representatives participate in university management structures, including commissions for quality management. Collective labor contracts are updated every five years through consultation between management and union representatives, ensuring participatory governance.

Thus, UAIC satisfies SDG 8 by showing recognized and publicly documented labour-rights mechanisms.

2.3. Anti-Discrimination Policy

UAIC implements comprehensive anti-discrimination measures through its:

- **University Charter;**
- **Code of Ethics;**
- **Internal Regulations for employees;**
- **Gender Equality Plan (2022–2025).**



The **UAIC Code of Ethics** formalizes expected standards of professional, moral, and civic conduct, guiding employees toward exemplary behavior and academic integrity. The **Gender Equality Plan** reflects UAIC’s commitment to the EU’s core principles of equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination. UAIC has institutional mechanisms, including the Center for Gender Equality in Science, to ensure gender equity in recruitment, promotions, and professional development.

UAIC meets the SDG 8: policy existence, supporting evidence, public availability, and up to date review.

2.4. Anti-Forced Labour and Modern Slavery

As a public institution, UAIC strictly adheres to Romanian law, which prohibits forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labor. All employment procedures, salary payments, and administrative processes are conducted legally. Compliance is verified through internal mechanisms such as:

- **Internal Public Audit Office;**
- **Preventive Financial Control Office;**
- Annual reporting to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance.

Periodic external evaluations, including assessments by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (last external audit: May 2022), confirm adherence to labor regulations and ethical employment practices. UAIC therefore contributes to SDG 8 by committing to and publicly documenting its stance against modern slavery and related abuses

2.5. Equal Rights in Outsourcing

UAIC does not outsource the employment of its teaching and administrative staff to third- party providers. Therefore, all staff are directly employed and enjoy full employment rights under national legislation and internal regulations. Documentation of employment structure is available through institutional statutes and annual reports.



2.6. Pay Scale Equity and Gender Equality

UAIC ensures **pay equity** and gender equality through compliance with the Single Salary Law, which establishes transparent salary scales based on work responsibilities, position weight, and performance. The university ensures:

- No gender-based discrimination in hiring or remuneration;
- Regular monitoring of pay scales;
- Recruitment and promotion based solely on merit, qualifications, and competence.

2.7. Employee Appeals and Rights (Indicator 8.2.8)

UAIC provides formal processes for employees to appeal employment decisions or remuneration disputes. Employees can seek support from the Trade Union and invoke internal regulations and the Labor Code. Employment vacancies, application procedures, and results are publicly posted on the UAIC website, ensuring transparency and fairness. These transparent processes satisfy the requirements of SDG 8.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 4

3.1. Research on Gender Equality

UAIC implements SDG 8 through a variety of actions aimed at fostering decent work and inclusive labor practices:

- 1. Regular Review of Compensation and Living Wage Compliance**
 - Salaries are regularly updated in line with national minimum wage legislation and internal agreements.
 - Transparency reports on salary structures are published annually.
- 2. Union Collaboration and Worker Representation**
 - UAIC maintains an active Trade Union to support collective bargaining, worker rights, and workplace safety.
 - Union representatives participate in university committees and decision-making bodies.
- 3. Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Measures**
 - The Gender Equality Plan (2022–2025) is periodically reviewed to align with societal and institutional needs.



- Policies from the University Charter, the Code of Ethics, and Internal Regulations actively promote non-discrimination and equal opportunities.
- 4. **Compliance with Labor Laws and Human Rights Standards**
 - Employment procedures follow Romanian labor law and international standards, eliminating risks of forced labor or exploitation.
 - External audits, internal audits, and evaluations by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ensure continuous compliance.
- 5. **Transparent Recruitment and Appeals Processes**
 - Vacancies, application procedures, and employment results are published publicly.
 - Employees can appeal employment decisions through established channels with the support of the union.
- 6. **Monitoring and Reporting**
 - Employment, pay equity, and labor rights are continuously monitored through internal audits, periodic reviews, and official reports to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to SDG 8 – promoting decent work, fair labor practices, and inclusive policies. Through transparent salary practices, active union collaboration, anti-discrimination measures, gender equality initiatives, and strict compliance with labor laws, UAIC ensures a safe, equitable, and supportive working environment for all employees.

The university’s policies and actions align with both national and European legislation, while internal mechanisms guarantee continuous monitoring, improvement, and adherence to ethical and legal standards. By fostering fair employment practices, UAIC contributes not only to the professional and personal development of its staff but also to the broader social and economic well-being of the community it serves.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Definition of SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9) focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. It emphasizes technological progress, research and development capacity, digital transformation, sustainable industry, and equitable access to infrastructure and information.

Key Aims of SDG 9

- **Develop resilient infrastructure** that supports economic development and human well-being.
- **Promote sustainable and inclusive industrialization** that enhances productivity and efficiency.
- **Enhance scientific research and technological capabilities**, especially in developing regions.
- **Encourage innovation**, including through increased R&D investment and strong academic–industry partnerships.
- **Support digitization** and access to ICT as drivers of sustainable growth.

1.2. Context

Global context:

Across the world, technological advancement is a central driver of sustainable growth, job creation, and competitiveness. Countries are investing in research infrastructures, green technologies, smart industries, and digital transformation.

Romania's context:

Romania's priorities under SDG 9 include strengthening research capacity, improving innovation ecosystems, fostering technology transfer, supporting sustainable industries, and expanding digital and transport infrastructure. Universities like UAIC are essential nodes in the national innovation system.

Purpose of the Report

This report evaluates how Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași contributes to SDG 9 through:

- institutional sustainability policies,
- scientific research and innovation infrastructures,
- technology transfer,
- smart, sustainable infrastructure projects,
- academic programs aligned with industry and technological progress,
- partnerships with businesses, public authorities, and international networks.



UAIC's Role

UAIC contributes significantly to SDG 9 through its:

- advanced research centers ([CERNESIM](#), [RECENT AIR](#), [ARHEOINVEST](#), etc.),
- interdisciplinary laboratories,
- technology transfer platforms and partnerships with companies,
- digital transformation of university infrastructure,
- support for entrepreneurship and innovation through competitions and incubators,
- scientific expertise in STEM and ICT fields.

CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES SUPPORTING SDG 9

UAIC integrates innovation and technological development across its institutional strategy.

Institutional Strategic Documents

- [Strategic Development Plan 2024–2029](#)
Includes objectives for strengthening research infrastructure, promoting digitalization, enhancing innovation capacity, and supporting industry collaboration.
- [Operational Institutional Development Plan 2025](#)
Emphasizes modernization of laboratories, green infrastructure investments, and RDI capacity-building.
- [Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025](#)
Ensures equal opportunities in STEM and innovation-related disciplines.

University-Level Commitments

UAIC commits to:

- continuously upgrading research laboratories with cutting-edge technologies,
- supporting interdisciplinary research teams,
- strengthening ICT infrastructure and digital services,
- improving campus sustainability through modern facilities,
- fostering the innovation ecosystem through programs supporting entrepreneurship, patents, and spin-offs.

These policies form the basis for UAIC's contributions to SDG 9.



CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS SUPPORTING SDG 9 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Research Infrastructure, Technological Capacity, and Innovation

UAIC hosts a diversified RDI ecosystem that directly contributes to SDG 9, including:

CERNESIM – Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies

Excellence center equipped with high-performance scientific instruments supporting research in:

- nanomaterials and spectroscopy,
- environmental analysis and monitoring,
- biophysics and chemistry,
- advanced ecological technologies.

CERNESIM enables innovation in green technologies, pollutant detection, resource efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure modeling.

RECENT AIR Infrastructure

A major initiative aimed at:

- expanding environmental monitoring technologies,
- supporting climate-resilient infrastructure planning,
- developing high-level analytics for risk management.

ARHEOINVEST Platform

Interdisciplinary platform combining:

- geosciences,
- materials science,
- imaging technologies,
- GIS,
- digital archaeology.

ARHEOINVEST supports innovation in heritage conservation, materials testing, and geospatial infrastructure.

UAIC Specialized Stations and Research Units

Enhance applied research in areas relevant to SDG 9, including:



- biotechnologies,
- environmental engineering,
- hydrology and geoinformatics,
- applied physics and chemistry.

Digital Transformation at UAIC

The university invests heavily in ICT infrastructure:

- modern e-learning platforms,
- digital administrative services,
- high-performance computing,
- cybersecurity improvements,
- expanded connectivity on campus.

These actions support innovation, education, and efficient institutional management.

3.2 Partnerships and Collaborations Supporting Innovation and Sustainable Industry

UAIC participates in extensive networks that advance SDG 9:

National Partnerships

- collaborations with Romanian companies for applied research and technology transfer,
- partnerships with public institutions for infrastructure planning,
- innovation clusters in IT, environment, education, and health.

International Collaborations

- **EC2U Alliance**, supporting innovation ecosystems across Europe,
- Horizon Europe consortia in technology, environment, climate, and digital fields,
- Bilateral projects with universities and research institutes worldwide.

Technology Transfer and Innovation Ecosystem

UAIC supports:

- patent generation,
- spin-offs formation,
- prototype development,
- digital innovations,
- entrepreneurship education.

These collaborations reinforce UAIC's role in regional smart specialization.



3.3 Events and Outreach Activities Promoting SDG 9

UAIC organizes and hosts events focusing on:

- innovation and entrepreneurship,
- STEM education and digital transformation,
- sustainable infrastructure planning,
- technology transfer workshops,
- research fairs and public demonstrations of scientific technologies.

Examples include:

- “Researcher’s Night” showcasing innovations across faculties,
- hackathons and innovation competitions for students,
- conferences on sustainable development and technological innovation.

These events strengthen scientific literacy and promote an innovation culture.

3.4 Projects Supporting SDG 9

UAIC implements projects that enhance technological capacity and infrastructure development.

Major Research and Infrastructure Projects

- **RECENT AIR Project goals:**

Enhance the quality and efficiency of RDI activities at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, with applications in the economy and other sectors.

Raise standards for pollutant analysis to provide accurate environmental data and its impact on human health and ecosystems.

Support decision-making for local administrations, government agencies, and economic operators classified as potential polluters.

Assist authorities in regional development policy updates when needed.

Provide consistent support to regulators and businesses in environmental quality control to reduce pollution sources and achieve area decontamination.

Minimize costs for environmental analyses currently outsourced to similar laboratories in other regions or abroad.



- **CERNESIM Modernization and Expansion Projects**
Upgrading laboratory equipment, increasing research capacity and enabling advanced materials and environmental studies.
- **Smart Campus Initiatives**
Investments in:
 - energy-efficient buildings,
 - digital campus infrastructure,
 - eco-technologies and smart resource management.

Applied Research Projects Contributing to Industry and Innovation

UAIC researchers are active in areas such as:

- new materials development,
- environmental and industrial chemistry,
- ICT systems and data analytics,
- geoinformation technologies,
- sustainable technologies for agriculture and aquaculture,
- pollution reduction technologies,
- modelling and simulation tools for infrastructure planning.

Projects:

- **Redefining Education in Universities Using Mixed Realities Technologies,** Technology Development and Application, IFTENE, Adrian

Mixed Reality University Campus is an application for Meta Quest 2 and Microsoft HoloLens 2 headsets that wants to change how higher education works. It uses Mixed Reality (MR) and Digital Twin tech, giving learners and teachers a virtual view of the Faculty of Computer Science. This lets them interact with classrooms and resources in ways that old-school methods can't handle.

The remote learning setups and virtual spaces face big problems like making things easier to access, keeping students interested, and being more welcoming for all. With smart AI chatbots, students can walk around the virtual campus, get help with schoolwork, and find learning tools suited for them. Through blended tech stuff and newer teaching methods, this program improves the education journey and helps students prepare for the future by connecting tech with learning.

- **Increasing the institutional capacity for research by strengthening the infrastructure, improving human resources and implementing a research results management platform (IMPROVE),** MOCANU, Mihaela.

The IMPROVE project's main goal: the development of the research, development and innovation capacity of the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University in Iasi, by improving the existing research infrastructure and perfecting the human resource, thus facilitating the achievement of excellent results, and by implementing an integrated system of management of research results at the level institutional.



- **Mixed Realities Tools Used in Biomedical Education and Training, IFTENE, Adrian**

The platform aims to be accessible to students from universities worldwide, promoting inclusivity and offering advanced medical training to a broader audience. This will bridge gaps in educational resources and allow more students to benefit from immersive learning.

A key enhancement is the integration of a full-body simulation through a digital twin, going beyond medical equipment to offer a more comprehensive training experience. This will help students understand medical procedures and patient interactions in a realistic setting.

The initiative will also support the adoption of VR technology by collaborating with other faculties to equip institutions with VR headsets. This will enable a wider use of immersive tools across various departments, driving innovation in education.

To reach a global audience, the platform will include multilingual support, breaking down language barriers and making the system accessible to students and educators around the world.

An AI-driven mentorship system will offer personalized feedback during simulations, helping students build skills and gain confidence in clinical scenarios.

- **Research at the UK synchrotron infrastructure, Diamond Light Source, United Kingdom, BRÎNZĂ, Loredana**

Synchrotron research on investigation of heavy metals adsorption mechanisms onto marine macro algae species.

Elucidation of metal bio sorption mechanisms is essential for successful use of algae bio sorbent, its regeneration and reuse in consecutive cycles. This will also lead to further objectives which will be looking into finding the most efficient eluent (type and concentration) to be used concomitantly to recondition the biomass but at the same time to recover the adsorbed heavy metals. The results will have significant impact on optimizing Cd adsorption process and set the premises for biomass best reuse protocols. Publication of the results in high impact factor ISI journals.

3.5 Study Programs Supporting SDG 9

UAIC offers programs that train experts in technology, engineering-related fields, analytics, infrastructure, and innovation.

Faculty of Biology

- Microbial and Cellular Biotechnologies
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Ecology and Environmental Protection
- Molecular Genetics



- Medical Laboratory

Faculty of Geography and Geology

- Hydrology and meteorology
- Environmental Geography
- Geochemistry
- Geomatics
- Environmental Protection and Risk Management
- Current Environment and Sustainable Development
- Environmental consulting

Faculty of Chemistry

- Environmental Chemistry and Food Safety
- Chemistry of Cosmetic and Pharmaceutical Products
- Technological Biochemistry
- Medical chemistry
- Advanced Studies in Chemistry

Faculty of Mathematics

(Highly relevant to SDG 9—digital infrastructure and innovation)

- Applied Mathematics
- Mathematics Informatics
- Research-Oriented Master's in Mathematics

Faculty of Computer Science

- Computer Science
- Software Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- Cybersecurity
- Innovation, Interoperability and Digital Transformation

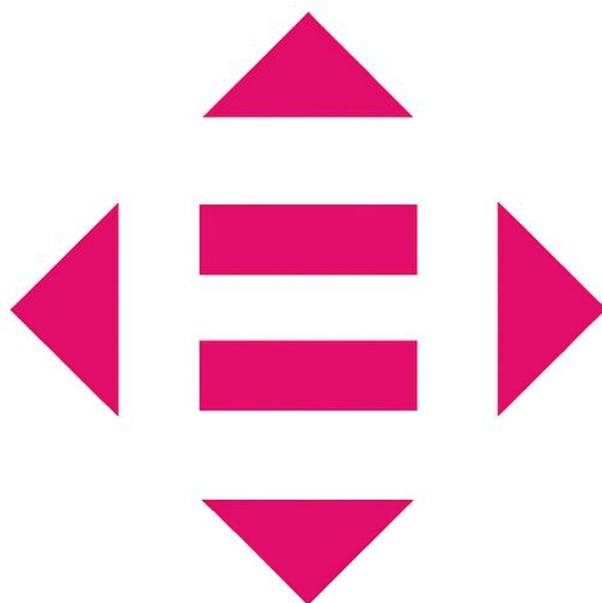
Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

- Business Administration
- Business Information Systems
- Economic Statistics and Data Science
- Entrepreneurship and Business Development
- Project Management
- Data mining
- Software Development and Business Information Systems

These programs provide the expertise needed for digital transformation, technological innovation, and resilient infrastructure development.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities aims to reduce inequality within and among countries by promoting social, economic, and political inclusion for all. It seeks to ensure equal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, empowering disadvantaged and marginalized groups to fully participate in society. By addressing discrimination based on age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, or other status, SDG 10 works to reduce social, economic, and political disparities at local, national, and global levels, contributing to a more just and equitable world.

Relation to other SDGs: SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities is closely linked to multiple other Sustainable Development Goals. By reducing economic and social disparities, it supports **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**, ensuring that disadvantaged populations have access to resources and opportunities that help lift them out of poverty. Equal access to education, healthcare, and social services strengthens **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)** and **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, promoting healthy, educated populations. By fostering inclusive economic growth and fair employment opportunities, SDG 10 contributes to **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**. Furthermore, reducing inequalities can mitigate social tensions that impact peace and justice (**SDG 16**) and help protect vulnerable populations from environmental harm, linking to **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**, and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**. Overall, achieving SDG 10 is essential to ensuring that progress across all SDGs benefits everyone, leaving no one behind.

1.2 Context

Global context: Globally, inequality remains a major challenge. The richest 10% of people earn around **40% of global income**, while the poorest 10% earn only **2–7%**. At the same time, millions of people are excluded from education, healthcare, and economic opportunities because of discrimination, disability, or social background. These gaps show why SDG 10 emphasizes that everyone should have a fair chance to succeed, no matter their circumstances. You can explore the data and reports on global inequalities here: [UN SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities](#). uncertain.

Romanian context: In Romania, reducing inequalities remains a key challenge. About **one-third of the population** is at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and income gaps are higher than the EU average, with the richest benefiting much more from economic growth than disadvantaged groups. Vulnerable communities, including Roma people, those with disabilities, and residents of rural areas, often face limited access to education, healthcare, and jobs. To achieve SDG 10, Romania needs inclusive policies that provide fair opportunities, stronger social



protection, and support for underrepresented groups, ensuring that growth benefits everyone. More details and data can be found here: [UN SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities](#).

Eurostat: “People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024” — shows that Romania’s rate was 27.9%. [European Commission](#)

“Living conditions in Europe – poverty and social exclusion” (Eurostat) — provides country-level data on social exclusion in Romania. [European Commission](#)

In Iași County, socio-economic challenges remain significant. The unemployment rate in late 2024 was **3.64%**, while the average net salary in early 2025 was around **5,159 lei**, slightly below the national average. About **11,200 people** receive minimum inclusion income, highlighting persistent poverty in parts of the county. These figures show that, despite regional development, many residents—especially in rural areas—face limited access to employment, education, and basic services, underlining the need for policies that reduce inequalities and support vulnerable groups. ([Administrația Județeană Iași](#))

CHAPTER 2: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 10

2.1 Introduction: Framing Equality in Sustainability

Equality underpins every aspect of sustainability. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires attention to disadvantage in all its forms. While SDG 5 focuses on gender equality, **SDG 10 addresses the intersectionality of disadvantage**, encompassing economic, social, cultural, health-related, and international inequalities. Disadvantaged groups are more likely to be excluded from opportunities and suffer disproportionately from global challenges, including climate change and economic volatility.

In UAIC, policies aim to address **economic, health, and international inequalities** by ensuring access, inclusion, and support across all academic levels, promoting both equity and excellence in higher education.

2.2 Legal Framework and Core Principles

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (UAIC) operates under the Romanian **Education Law** and complies with the regulations of the European Higher Education Area (SEIS). The University Charta, revised in 2024, ensures alignment with both national and European legislation, providing a framework that governs the rights, responsibilities, and ethical conduct of all university members.

UAIC’s policies are guided by principles that foster **equity, inclusion, and academic excellence**:



- **University autonomy and academic freedom**, enabling independent management and decision-making in research, teaching, and governance.
- **Free and equal access** to educational programs, research opportunities, cultural activities, financial resources, material resources, and auxiliary services without discrimination based on sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation.
- **Promotion of national and international cooperation** in research and higher education initiatives.
- **Adherence to ethical standards**, ensuring representativeness and proportionality in all governance structures.
- **Decision-making based on consultation** with members of the university community.
- **Independence from religious, ideological, doctrinal, or political influence**, safeguarding impartiality in academic and administrative affairs.

The University is committed to **public responsibility**, including:

- Compliance with legislation and national and European policies in research and education.
- Application of regulations regarding **quality assurance and institutional evaluation**.
- Transparency in all decisions and activities.
- Efficient management of human, financial, and material resources.
- Respect for the rights and freedoms of all members of the university community.

2.3 Policies for Reducing Inequalities

UAIC's strategies for reducing inequalities are aligned with **SDG 10** and include:

- **Transparent and non-discriminatory admissions** with documented positive discrimination measures for underrepresented groups.
- **Access and recruitment policies for underrepresented groups**, including ethnic minorities, low-income students, students with disabilities, Roma students, and rural high school graduates.
- **Anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies**.
- **Diversity and equality offices** advising on inclusion, human rights, and equal opportunities.
- **Targeted support programs** for underrepresented students, staff, and faculty.
- **Accessible facilities and accommodations** for students and employees with disabilities.

These measures ensure that no group is excluded from educational opportunities, services, or career pathways, supporting the UN principle that **sustainable development cannot be achieved if people are excluded** from a chance for a better life.



2.4 Administrative Transparency and Access Policies

UAIC ensures transparency in access to higher education through official documents available on the University website:

- **UAIC Charta**
- **Regulations for undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral studies**
- **Admission methodologies** for all academic cycles
- **Institutional regulations for doctoral studies**

To promote **equitable access**, UAIC implements **positive discrimination measures**, reserving specific places for:

- Romani students
- Students from rural high schools
- Students with disabilities
- Students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds

These measures align with **SDG 10** which tracks applications and admissions of underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities, low-income students, non-traditional students, women, LGBT students, and newly settled refugees.

2.5 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity Policies

UAIC adheres to strict anti-discrimination policies:

- Anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies are defined in the University Charta, Ethical Code, Student Status, and Gender Equality Plan.
- The University has established a **Diversity and Equality Committee**, tasked with advising and implementing policies, programs, and training related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and human rights on campus.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 10

3.1 Programs Supporting Underrepresented Groups

Mentoring Program for First-Year Students

- Conducted annually as part of the **Welcome to UAIC event**, coordinated by the Educational Marketing, Events, and Academic Image Service (MEDIA).



- Provides opportunities for first-year students to meet and interact with upper-year student mentors, facilitating integration and academic adaptation.
- In 2024, over **2,500 students participated** (2,000 freshmen and 500+ mentors) across all 15 faculties.
- MEDIA Service handled coordination, promotion, and operational support.

Accommodation and Social Support

- Dormitories house **over 16% of full-time students**, offering furnished rooms, private bathrooms, internet access, and kitchens.
- The Dormitories and Canteens Department manages housing, canteens, and international student exchanges.
- Reduced local and railway transport fares are provided for students in accordance with legislation.

3. Counselling and Guidance Services

- The **Service for Students, Career Guidance, Professional Insertion, and Alumni** provides academic, professional, and personal counseling.
- Integrates psychological counseling, coaching, and career advice to support student development.

Medical Services

- Students have access to consultations, therapy, certification for scholarships, and medical support required for academic progression.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

UAIC provides scholarships and material support without discrimination, funded through state and university resources:

- **Categories of scholarships:** Performance, Merit, Cum Laude, Olympic Merit, Social Aid, Occasional Social Aid, Rural Students, Laudamus, and Cultural/Artistic activities.
- **Social aid scholarships** prioritize orphans, students from foster care, those with severe medical conditions, or families with low income.
- Scholarship amounts and eligibility are transparent and publicly accessible.

Tutoring and Learning Support



- **Faculty-level tutoring programs** assist students with academic adaptation and professional development.
- The **Learning Center**, established in 2018, provides targeted support for students at risk of dropout, offering literacy courses, workshops on time management, stress management, teamwork, effective learning strategies, and coaching sessions.
- Tutors include teaching staff, psychologists, coaches, volunteer students, and alumni.

3.2 Accessibility and Disability Support

UAIC prioritizes **accessible facilities and services**:

- Elevators, ramps, adapted sanitary facilities, and online admission systems are provided.
- Faculties implement additional support measures for students with disabilities, including mentoring, personal assistance, and interpreters.
- UAIC applies a reasonable accommodation policy for disabled students, including prioritization in housing, financial support, and access to all university services.

3.3 Admissions and Communication

UAIC ensures clear and accessible communication for prospective students:

- Online guidance covers account creation, registration, document upload, payment, validation, and admission result management.
- Staff from MEDIA provide information via email and social media channels.
- Promotional presentations are conducted in high schools in Iași and other cities across Romania.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași demonstrates a **comprehensive commitment to SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities** through:

- **Non-discriminatory access policies** across all academic programs.
- **Support structures** including mentoring, tutoring, counseling, housing, scholarships, and financial aid.
- **Accessibility measures** for students with disabilities and targeted assistance for underrepresented groups.
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion programs**, coordinated at the institutional level, ensuring a safe and inclusive academic environment.



UAIC’s integrated approach—combining legal compliance, institutional policies, financial and social support, and proactive student services—ensures equitable access to education, reduces academic and social inequalities, and promotes inclusive growth within the university community.

Through continuous monitoring and alignment with **national and European higher education standards**, UAIC fosters a culture of **academic fairness, diversity, and inclusion**, making it a model institution in the implementation of SDG 10.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Cities and communities must themselves be sustainable. Increasingly, the world’s population lives in urban centers, which are also home to universities. Cities can be hubs of innovation and opportunity, yet they may also concentrate poverty and inequality. The interaction between universities and their communities—both urban and rural—must be positive and sustainable over generations.

Universities act as custodians of heritage and the environment. A sustainable community must have access to its history and culture to thrive. Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) embraces this responsibility through policies, programs, and infrastructure that ensure public access to cultural, educational, and natural resources, while promoting sustainable practices in transport, housing, and campus planning.

Cities are intertwined with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): they are centers of culture and innovation (SDG 9), may host concentrations of poverty and hunger (SDG 1 and SDG 2), and interact with ecosystems on land and in water (SDG 14 and SDG 15). Climate change (SDG 13) further amplifies the need for sustainable urban development.

1.1. Definition SDG 11

SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable by ensuring access to affordable housing, quality public services, green and public spaces, and cultural heritage, while reducing the environmental impact of urbanization. It emphasizes promoting safe, accessible, and inclusive urban environments for all residents, preserving cultural and natural heritage within both urban and rural communities, and encouraging sustainable infrastructure, low-carbon mobility, and resilient planning to support long-term environmental and social well-being..

Relation to other SDGs: SDG 11 is closely interconnected with multiple other Sustainable Development Goals. By fostering inclusive and sustainable cities, it supports SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by addressing urban poverty and food access. Sustainable infrastructure, innovation, and resilient urban planning contribute to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Protection of urban ecosystems, green spaces, and biodiversity aligns with SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Actions to reduce urban emissions, improve public transport, and increase resilience to climate impacts support SDG 13 (Climate Action). Moreover, promoting access to culture, heritage, and inclusive communities



strengthens SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), highlighting the cross-cutting nature of sustainable cities in achieving global development objectives. Economic growth is essential for achieving broader sustainable development.

1.2. Context

Global context

Globally, over 55% of people live in cities, a proportion expected to reach nearly 70% by 2050, highlighting the critical role of sustainable urban development. Cities can be engines of innovation, economic growth, and cultural exchange, yet they also concentrate challenges such as inadequate housing, traffic congestion, pollution, and social inequality. SDG 11 promotes inclusive, safe, resilient, and environmentally sustainable cities, ensuring access to affordable housing, green and public spaces, cultural and natural heritage, and efficient transport systems. Progress is measured through data on slum conditions, access to public transport and green spaces, preservation of heritage sites, urban resilience strategies, sustainable mobility, energy-efficient infrastructure, and participatory urban governance. These indicators, collected by national statistical offices, UN-Habitat, and other global agencies, allow universities and cities to benchmark performance, guide sustainable policies, and strengthen the long-term wellbeing of urban communities.

Romanian context:

In Romania, approximately 55% of the population lives in urban areas, with major cities such as Bucharest, Iași, Cluj-Napoca, and Timișoara serving as economic, cultural, and educational hubs. Romanian cities face typical urban challenges, including traffic congestion, air pollution, pressure on housing, and unequal access to public services and green spaces. The implementation of SDG 11 in Romania focuses on creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and environmentally sustainable cities, integrating urban planning, cultural and natural heritage preservation, and sustainable mobility solutions. Key national indicators include the proportion of urban population living in adequate housing, access to public transport and green spaces, protection of historical monuments, disaster preparedness plans, and energy-efficient urban infrastructure. Data are collected by **Institutul Național de Statistică (INS)**, local authorities, UN-Habitat, and other agencies, providing the foundation for monitoring progress and designing policies that promote equitable and sustainable urban development across Romania.



Here are several **reliable data sources** for Romania relevant to Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) indicators:

- National Institute of Statistics Romania (INS): Population & Housing Census 2021 – synthetic results. [INSSE](#)
- INS: Dwellings stock — key indicators on number of dwellings, living area etc. [INSSE](#)
- INS: Living Conditions of Romanian Population 2023 (housing, employment, etc). [INSSE](#)
- World Bank: Urban Development Portfolio in Romania – data and indicators on urban policy. [World Bank](#)
- Biodiversity Information System for Europe: Green infrastructure in Romania (green urban space measures). [biodiversity.europa.eu](#)

Iasi context

- **Access to green & public spaces:** The green-space data suggest that Iași is making progress but still has room to improve access and quantity of green and public spaces.
- **Sustainable transport & mobility:** Initiatives for low-emission transport and digital mobility are in place, yet traffic congestion data indicate persistent challenges.
- **Inclusive, safe, resilient cities:** Programs and strategies exist, but socio-economic data highlight issues of inequality and risk of exclusion – indicating that full inclusivity is yet to be achieved.
- **Cultural and natural heritage:** Green space and environmental heritage are addressed, but I found fewer specific data on heritage preservation in the context of Iași for this analysis.

CHAPTER 2: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 11

UAIC implements SDG 11 by focusing on four strategic areas: cultural heritage access, support for arts, sustainable urban practices, and housing and mobility for staff and students.

1. Cultural Heritage and Public Access

UAIC provides public access to buildings, monuments, and natural heritage landscapes of cultural significance:

- **Hall of the Echoing Footsteps:** Featuring 19 monumental murals by Sabin Bălașa, open daily to the public.
- **“Anastasiu Fătu” Botanical Garden:** Romania’s first university botanical garden, hosting seasonal plant exhibitions and attracting over 290,000 visitors annually.



- **University Museum:** Offers guided tours, educational workshops, and interactive exhibits for students and the broader public.
- **Astronomical Observatory and Natural History Museum:** Free access and educational programs promote scientific and natural heritage awareness.

2. Libraries and Knowledge Access

The “**Mihai Eminescu**” **Central University Library** provides general public access to books, publications, and electronic resources, ensuring broad dissemination of knowledge.

3. Arts and Cultural Contribution

UAIC promotes local arts through choirs, exhibitions, and musical performances. The **Universitas Choir** performs over 20 annual events and has a growing digital presence, engaging national and international audiences.

4. Sustainable Practices and Campus Planning

UAIC prioritizes sustainable commuting, housing, and campus design:

- Bicycle racks, scooter lanes, and public transport support reduce carbon footprint.
- Telecommuting options for employees and flexible work hours minimize unnecessary commuting.
- Affordable housing for students and staff promotes inclusion and accessibility.
- Pedestrian-friendly campus layouts and sustainable building standards are prioritized.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 11

Support for Arts and Heritage

UAIC’s initiatives support SDG 11 Targets 11.4 and 11.7, measured using the Impact Methodology indicators:

Public Access to Buildings and Monuments

- Full public access is available to UAIC’s Hall of the Echoing Footsteps, Botanical Garden, Astronomical Observatory, University Museum, and Natural History Museum.
- Evidence includes opening hours, visitor statistics, and program schedules.

Public Access to Libraries

- The Central University Library and branch libraries provide open access, both physical and digital.
- Access is provided after registration, with minimal restrictions.



Public Access to Museums and Galleries

- All UAIC museums and exhibition spaces are open to the public.
- Periodic exhibitions of contemporary art and musical heritage (e.g., “From Bach to Enescu – Musical Confluences”) further enhance community engagement.

Public Access to Green Spaces

- The Botanical Garden and university campuses provide permanent open access to green and recreational spaces.
- The Tافرali Cafe and Bookstore also serve as community hubs for cultural interaction.

Arts and Heritage Contribution

- The Universitas Choir organizes over 20 performances annually, promoting classical and contemporary music to local, national, and online audiences.

Recording and Preserving Cultural Heritage

UAIC University Museum preserves tangible heritage, including Cucuteni Civilization artifacts and Moldavian medieval objects.

- The **Eminescu Digital Collection (PROEM)** digitizes and disseminates the works of Mihai Eminescu, safeguarding literary heritage.

Expenditure on Arts and Heritage

- UAIC allocates dedicated resources to museums, galleries, libraries, exhibitions, and conservation projects.
- Operational costs related to arts and heritage are tracked, excluding sports facilities and academic research.

Sustainable Practices. Sustainable Commuting Targets

- UAIC measures and sets targets for walking, cycling, shared transport, and electric vehicles.
- Evidence includes bicycle racks, dedicated lanes, and promotion of low-carbon commuting.

Promoting Sustainable Commuting

- UAIC undertakes initiatives such as subsidized transport, shared mobility programs, and infrastructure for bicycles and scooters.



Remote Working and Condensed Workweeks

- Telecommuting policies exist in compliance with national labor law, reducing commuting impacts for staff.

Affordable Housing for Employees

- UAIC provides on-campus housing at subsidized rates, ensuring affordability for staff with median incomes or below.

Affordable Housing for Students

- Dormitories across Titu Maiorescu, Codrescu, and Târgușor Copou campuses accommodate over 4,700 students with affordable, modern, and secure facilities.

Pedestrian Priority on Campus

- Campus layouts prioritize pedestrian movement, safety, and accessibility.

Collaboration with Local Authorities

- UAIC works with local government to address urban planning, sustainable development, and community housing needs.

Sustainable Building Standards

- New university buildings are constructed in accordance with sustainable standards, including LEED-aligned practices.

Brownfield Development

- UAIC prioritizes redevelopment of previously built or underused sites for new infrastructure projects.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași demonstrates measurable impact in line with SDG 11 through a combination of heritage preservation, arts and cultural contributions, and sustainable urban practices.

- **Cultural and Natural Access:** Museums, botanical gardens, observatories, and historic buildings are open to the public, promoting lifelong learning and community engagement.
- **Arts and Heritage:** Choirs, exhibitions, and digital projects safeguard and disseminate tangible and intangible cultural heritage.



- **Sustainable Practices:** UAIC promotes low-carbon commuting, pedestrian-friendly campuses, affordable housing, and environmentally responsible building standards.

Through its comprehensive approach, UAIC strengthens the university-community relationship, supports sustainable cities, and contributes to interlinked SDGs such as SDG 9 (industry and innovation), SDG 1 and 2 (poverty and hunger), and SDG 13, 14, and 15 (climate action and ecosystem protection).

The University's strategies reflect a long-term commitment to sustainability, accessibility, and cultural preservation, providing a benchmark for Romanian and global higher education institutions.

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition – SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12) seeks to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns by reducing waste generation, improving resource efficiency, promoting sustainable management of natural resources, and supporting environmentally responsible economic practices. It encourages institutions, companies, and individuals to adopt circular-economy principles, implement sustainability standards, and foster environmentally friendly behaviors.

Key Aims of SDG 12

- **Efficient use of natural resources** and circularity in production processes.
- **Reduction of waste generation**, with strong emphasis on recycling, reuse, and minimization.
- **Environmentally responsible practices** in procurement, chemicals use, and materials management.
- **Sustainability education** and consumer awareness.
- **Monitoring environmental impacts** throughout product and service life cycles.

Context

Global context

Unsustainable consumption patterns remain a driver of pollution, climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion. SDG 12 is essential for aligning economic development with ecological boundaries through sustainable production chains, waste reduction, recycling, and environmental stewardship.

National context (Romania)

Romania faces challenges related to waste management, recycling rates, chemical use in agriculture and industry, and public consumer awareness. Universities play a major role in research, education, policy advising, and implementing sustainable campus practices that support SDG 12.

Purpose of the Report

This report evaluates UAIC's contribution to SDG 12 through:

- institutional policies and sustainability strategies,
- scientific research and environmental monitoring,
- waste reduction and sustainable campus activities,
- teaching programs related to environmental responsibility,



- innovation in circular economy and resource efficiency,
- community engagement and partnerships.

UAIC's Role

Through its faculties (Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Geology, Economics and Business Administration, Physics, Law, and others) and its advanced research centers ([CERNESIM](#), [RECENT AIR](#), various ecological [research stations](#)), UAIC significantly contributes to sustainable production and consumption through research, education, innovation, and responsible institutional policies.

CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES SUPPORTING SDG 12

UAIC integrates sustainability into its main institutional strategies, supporting SDG 12 through responsible resource management, environmental protection, and campus-wide sustainability actions.

Strategic Documents Supporting SDG 12

- [UAIC Strategic Development Plan 2024–2029](#)
Includes commitments to environmental sustainability, efficient resource consumption, minimization of waste, responsible procurement, and sustainable infrastructure.
- [Operational Institutional Development Plan 2025](#)
Focuses on water and energy efficiency, green administrative practices, recycling, and monitoring consumption indicators.
- [Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025](#)
Promotes inclusion within sustainability-focused programs, green innovation, and responsible research that integrates SDG principles.

University-wide Environmental Commitments

- Responsible **waste management** across laboratories, dormitories, canteens, offices, and research stations.
- Adoption of **green procurement principles** (energy-efficient equipment, sustainable office supplies, environmentally friendly chemicals).
- **Reduction of plastic use** and paper consumption through digitalization.
- Environmental **risk prevention** and safe chemical handling in laboratory activities.
- **Energy and water efficiency programs** integrated into campus infrastructure upgrades.
- Support for interdisciplinary research groups focusing on resource efficiency, pollution reduction, and circular economy.



CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS SUPPORTING SDG 12 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Research, Monitoring, and Innovation Supporting SDG 12

UAIC conducts research aligned with responsible consumption and production, through faculties and specialized centers such as the CERNESIM Research Center, RECENT AIR infrastructure, and the ecological and geographical research stations.

CERNESIM Research Center

CERNESIM supports SDG 12 through:

- environmental quality monitoring,
- pollution remediation technologies,
- atmospheric chemistry and aerosol research,
- identification and quantification of pollutants for sustainable industrial practices,
- evaluation of ecological technologies for minimizing emissions.

Its advanced infrastructure allows UAIC to contribute to national and EU-wide environmental monitoring efforts.

RECENT AIR Project

RECENT AIR expands UAIC's research capacity for:

- environmental factor monitoring,
- analysis of pollution sources,
- assessing the effects of climate change on consumption patterns and resource use.

The project contributes to sustainable resource management and informs public policy.

3.2 Partnerships and Collaborations Supporting SDG 12

UAIC participates in partnerships promoting responsible production, circular economy, and sustainable resource management:

- **EC2U Alliance** initiatives in sustainability education and green campus development.
- Collaborations with environmental NGOs, local governments, and national agencies for waste reduction programs and resource efficiency projects.
- Joint programs with agricultural, industrial, and economic stakeholders to support sustainable production chains.



3.3 Events and Outreach Activities Supporting SDG 12

UAIC organizes educational and civic activities to promote sustainable consumption and production:

- **Green campus and recycling campaigns**
Awareness programs for reducing plastic, paper, and food waste.
- **Public lectures and seminars** on sustainability, circular economy, eco-design, and environmental management.
- **Student activities** such as environmental volunteer programs, eco-fairs, and citizen science initiatives.
- **University-wide environmental days**, promoting responsible behavior.

3.4 Projects Related to SDG 12

UAIC contributes to projects that strengthen sustainable production:

- Projects on soil quality, pollution reduction, and sustainable agricultural technologies.
- Development of innovative, sustainable aquaculture feeds that reduce environmental impact and optimize resource use.
- Cross-border eco-innovation initiatives, including environmentally friendly biomass use.
- Centers of Excellence focusing on water resources, aquaculture, and environmental sustainability, promoting resource-efficient technologies.

3.5 Study Programs Supporting SDG 12

UAIC offers academic programs that support SDG 12 by training specialists in sustainability, environmental protection, and eco-innovation.

Relevant Faculties and Programs

Faculty of Biology

- Ecology and Environmental Protection https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1474
- Biodiversity conservation https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1489
- Microbial and cellular biotechnologies https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1489

Faculty of Geography and Geology

- Environmental Geography <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Hydrology and Water Management <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Geomatics <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-master>



- Geography of Risks and Environmental Protection <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-master>
- Geochemistry <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Environmental geochemistry <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Environmental planning <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Current environment and sustainable development <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-master>
- Tourism and regional development <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>

Faculty of Chemistry

- Environmental Chemistry and food safety
<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/en/specialities/master.html>
- Biochemistry and Biomonitoring
<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/en/specialities/master.html>

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

- [Economics and Business](#) programs integrating:
 - sustainable business models,
 - environmental economics,
 - corporate social responsibility.

These programs ensure a highly skilled workforce capable of advancing sustainability and responsible production practices.

13 CLIMATE ACTION





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 13

SDG 13 – Climate Action focuses on taking urgent steps to combat climate change and its impacts by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience, and supporting adaptation efforts worldwide. It calls on countries, institutions, and individuals to work together to protect the planet from the growing threats of global warming, extreme weather, and environmental degradation. This goal encourages the development of sustainable energy systems, investment in climate education, and improved disaster preparedness to safeguard communities. It also emphasizes international cooperation, helping developing countries build their capacity to respond to climate-related risks. Overall, SDG 13 is about creating a healthier, safer, and more sustainable future for both people and the planet.

Relation to other SDGs: SDG 13 – Climate Action is closely connected to almost all other Sustainable Development Goals, as climate change affects every aspect of sustainable development. It links directly with SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) through the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, and with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by encouraging resilient urban planning and disaster risk reduction. It supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) by helping protect ecosystems threatened by rising temperatures and pollution. SDG 13 also reinforces SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) since climate impacts influence food security, clean water, and public health. Ultimately, climate action serves as a foundation for achieving all SDGs, ensuring that economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection progress together in a balanced and sustainable way.

1.2. Context

Global context

In the global context, **SDG 13 – Climate Action** represents one of the most urgent challenges facing humanity today. Climate change is affecting every region of the world, leading to more frequent heatwaves, floods, wildfires, and rising sea levels. According to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, global temperatures have already risen by more than **1.1°C above pre-industrial levels**, and current emission trends could push this increase beyond **1.5°C** by the early 2030s if no major action is taken. To address this, countries around the world are



working together under international frameworks such as the **Paris Agreement (2015)**, committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition toward clean energy systems.

Global initiatives like the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and **COP Conferences** provide platforms for nations to share strategies, finance green technologies, and build resilience in vulnerable communities. However, progress remains uneven—developing countries often face greater climate risks and need stronger financial and technical support. Overall, **SDG 13** calls for urgent, collective, and science-based global action to secure a sustainable and livable future for all.

Romanian context:

Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13, *Climate Action*, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași demonstrates a comprehensive institutional commitment to mitigating climate change through low-carbon energy use, environmental education, strategic research, and cooperative planning at both local and international levels. Following **SDG 13**, this section details UAIC’s performance across **SDG 13**, presenting evidence-based initiatives, measurable outcomes, and alignment with national and global frameworks.

CHAPTER 2: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 13

Low Carbon Energy Use

Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13, *Climate Action*, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași demonstrates a comprehensive institutional commitment to mitigating climate change through low-carbon energy use, environmental education, strategic research, and cooperative planning at both local and international levels. Following **SDG 13**, this section details UAIC’s performance across **SDG 13**, presenting evidence-based initiatives, measurable outcomes, and alignment with national and global frameworks.

Low-Carbon Energy Use

UAIC actively measures its total and low-carbon energy use across campus operations, fulfilling Indicator 13.2.1 (Low-carbon energy tracking). In 2024, the university reported a total energy consumption of **2,806,562 GJ**, integrating renewable energy sources within its operational framework. This indicator contributes directly to **Target 13.2 of the UN SDGs**, emphasizing institutional climate strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. UAIC’s measurement



approach ensures accountability and transparency through documented reporting mechanisms and public data validation, in line with THE's evidence-based scoring system.

CHAPTER 3: ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SDG 13

Environmental Education Measures

In alignment with Indicator 13.3.1, UAIC promotes environmental literacy through its participation in the **Innovation in Climate Change Education Project (e-InnoEduCO)**, a European Erasmus+ initiative (budget €251,305, 2021–2023). This STE(A)M-based program enhances students' competencies in digital, experimental, and sustainability-oriented learning, integrating augmented reality and geolocated data models. UAIC's involvement demonstrates strong evidence of educational outreach on climate change mitigation and adaptation ([Project video](#)).

At the national level, UAIC contributes to the **National Strategy on Education for the Environment and Climate Change 2023–2030**, the first of its kind in Romania, developed under the Ministry of Education. The strategy's objectives—implementing a national environmental education program, fostering sustainable school infrastructure, developing digital ecosystems, and promoting teacher training—establish Romania's education system as a key vector in climate resilience. UAIC's integration into this strategy situates it as a *strategic partner in national climate literacy and sustainability transition*.

Climate Action Plan and Research Infrastructure

UAIC's **Climate Action Plan** is operationalized through the **RECENT AIR Project (Research Center with Integrated Techniques for the Investigation of Atmospheric Aerosols in Romania)**, co-financed by the Competitiveness Operational Programme 2014–2020. The project created 10 research laboratories and 2 mobile units, enhancing Romania's national capacity to monitor air quality, analyze atmospheric aerosols, and assess pollution impacts on human health and biodiversity.

This project significantly strengthens the university's RDI capacity by creating **10 research laboratories and 2 mobile laboratories**, including facilities for:

- Atmospheric aerosol science and air quality monitoring;
- Applied meteorology and climatology;
- Marine and coastal atmospheric research;



- Environmental economics and sustainable resource management.

Through these laboratories, UAIC contributes to regional environmental monitoring, supporting **local authorities** and communities in understanding pollution patterns, health risks, and ecosystem impacts.

Key facilities, including the **CERNESIM Centre**, comprise advanced laboratories in atmospheric chemistry, bioremediation, and environmental economics. These research infrastructures enable predictive modelling of pollutant dispersion and risk assessment for disaster prevention—an essential contribution to Romania’s climate disaster preparedness. For instance, the **L3 Laboratory for Atmospheric Studies** simulates regional climatic conditions and develops eco-technologies for gaseous pollutant reduction, integrating advanced spectroscopic and chromatographic systems.

The **CERNESIM Centre** within UAIC houses five laboratories dedicated to:

- Physico-chemical analyses of pollutants;
- Biomonitoring and bioremediation;
- Atmospheric process investigation;
- Environmental studies and geospatial analysis;
- Environmental economics and policy evaluation.

These units ensure data-driven decision-making, strengthen Romania’s contribution to the **European Environmental Data Network**, and support local governance in developing **climate risk prevention** and **early warning systems**.

Cooperative Planning and NGO Collaboration

UAIC participates in national cooperative frameworks addressing climate disaster risk, supporting early warning systems and regional monitoring efforts. Collaboration with **NGOs and governmental institutions** under the Green Schools initiative and the COP27 National Declaration reinforces its engagement in climate adaptation and policy dialogue. The university’s **CCE 2024 Conference on Climate Change in Europe: Impact, Risks, and Mitigation** further consolidates its role as a knowledge hub and policymaking partner in Eastern Europe.

Commitment to Carbon Neutrality

UAIC has set a clear target for **carbon neutrality by 2030**, in accordance with **Greenhouse Gas Protocols** (Scopes 1, 2, and partial 3), aiming to reduce institutional emissions by **78% by 2030**.



This commitment reflects Indicator **13.4.1** and **13.4.2**, supported by infrastructural investments, renewable energy integration, and data-driven emission tracking. The university’s strategic framework aligns with the EU Green Deal and Romania’s National Energy and Climate Plan, reflecting a coherent institutional pathway toward net-zero emissions.

Impact Summary

Through integrated research, education, and policy collaboration, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași embodies the principles of SDG 13, ensuring climate action is embedded in institutional governance, curriculum, and research excellence. Its alignment with SDG 13 demonstrates strong performance across key indicators—**low-carbon operations (27%)**, **education and engagement (23%)**, and **carbon neutrality commitment (23%)**—positioning UAIC as a regional leader in sustainability innovation and climate resilience.

Key Data and References:

- Total energy use: 2,806,562 GJ (2024)
- Carbon reduction target: –78% by 2030
- National Strategy for Environmental Education 2023–2030 ([Official Document PDF](#))
- e-InnoEduCO Project ([Video Evidence](#))
- RECENT AIR Project and CERNESIM Centre ([ADR Nord-Est](#))

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași demonstrates a comprehensive and multi-level approach to implementing **SDG 13 – Climate Action**, combining institutional energy management, environmental education, advanced research infrastructure, and strong local partnerships.

By actively participating in national strategies and European collaborations, UAIC integrates climate literacy into its curricula, supports clean technology research, and strengthens Romania’s resilience to environmental challenges.

The university has set a **target to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2030**, aligning its sustainability goals with the **Greenhouse Gas Protocol** and the European Green Deal framework. Its integrated projects—such as **RECENT AIR** and **e-InnoEduCO2**—illustrate a

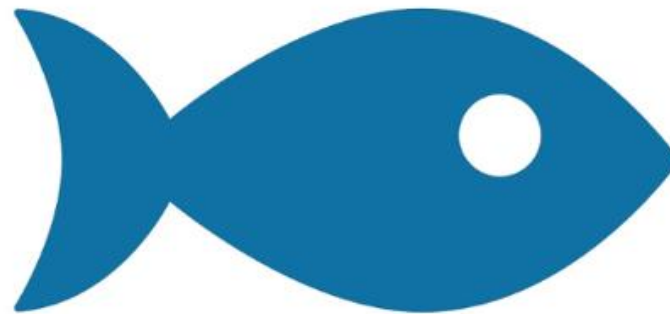


robust institutional commitment to science-based action, knowledge transfer, and sustainable transformation.

UAIC's policies, programmes, and partnerships reflect an evidence-based approach to sustainability, ensuring continuous progress toward a **carbon-neutral future** and contributing meaningfully to both **national and global climate goals**.



14 LIFE BELOW WATER





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 14 Life Below Water

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) – *Life Below Water* – aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. It focuses on reducing marine pollution, protecting coastal and marine ecosystems, regulating fishing practices, strengthening scientific knowledge on marine biodiversity, and supporting sustainable blue-economy initiatives.

Key Aims of SDG 14

- **Reduce marine pollution:** Particularly from land-based activities, plastics, and chemical pollutants.
- **Protect marine ecosystems:** Strengthening resilience and restoration efforts.
- **Sustainable fishing:** Ending overfishing, illegal fishing, and harmful fishing practices.
- **Increase scientific knowledge:** Strengthen research capacity on marine biodiversity, climate change impacts, and sustainable use of marine resources.
- **Support conservation policies:** Implementing international agreements and supporting sustainable blue economy practices.

1.2. Context

Global context: SDG 14 is essential to planetary sustainability as oceans regulate climate, host most of Earth’s biodiversity, and support billions of people through food security and economic activities. Major global challenges include plastic pollution, acidification, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable exploitation.

Local context (Romania): Romania plays a major role in **Black Sea ecosystem protection**, **Danube River basin conservation** and reducing **land-based pollution** that reaches marine waters. Rivers, wetlands, and freshwater systems are essential components of marine protection.

Purpose of the Report

This report evaluates how Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) contributes to SDG 14 through:

- institutional policies and strategies,
- freshwater and marine research,
- environmental protection activities,
- training and academic programs,
- national and international partnerships



UAIC's Role

While UAIC is not a maritime university, its scientific expertise in biology, ecology, geography, environmental science and chemistry directly supports SDG 14 through research on aquatic ecosystems, pollution, biodiversity, climate impacts, and sustainable environmental management.

CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES SUPPORTING SDG 14

UAIC embeds sustainability and environmental protection across its strategies, contributing indirectly and directly to SDG 14.

- [UAIC Strategic Development Plan 2024–2029](#) includes commitments to environmental sustainability, biodiversity protection, pollution reduction, conservation education, and green campus initiatives.
- [Operational Institutional Development Plan 2025](#) promotes activities related to environmental monitoring, responsible resource management, and sustainability education.
- [Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025](#) reinforces inclusion in scientific research, including environmental sciences and sustainability-related fields.

University-wide Environmental Commitments

- Reducing pollution from university activities (waste management, chemical handling in laboratories, water conservation).
- Promoting green procurement and sustainability-focused infrastructure improvements.
- Supporting interdisciplinary research teams working on environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.
- Integrating sustainability into teaching across faculties.

These policies form the foundation for UAIC's contribution to SDG 14 through research, education, and community engagement.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS SUPPORTING SDG 14 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Research, Monitoring, and Conservation Initiatives

UAIC conducts high-impact scientific research relevant to SDG 14, particularly through the [Faculty of Biology](#), [Faculty of Geography and Geology](#), [Faculty of Chemistry](#), [Interdisciplinary Research Department](#) through [CERNESIM](#), [RECENT AIR](#), **Marine**



Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea" Agiea <https://www.uaic.ro/statiunea-biologica-marina-prof-dr-ioan-borcea-de-la-agiea/>, **Research and Development Station for Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecology Iași** <https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/statiuni-de-cercetare-si-santiere-arheologice/statiunea-de-cercetari-pentru-acvacultura-si-ecologie-acvatica-iasi/>, Stațiunea Biologică „Petre Jitariu”, Potoci, Neamț, **“Petre Jitariu” Biological Station**, Potoci, Neamț, **“Ion Gugiuan” Student Research and Practice Station**, Rarău, Suceava, **“Simion Mehedinți” Student Research and Practice Station**, Tulnici, Vrancea, **Physico-Geographical Research and Environmental Quality Monitoring Station**, Mădârjac, Iași

Key research areas include:

- **Freshwater and aquatic ecosystem research** (rivers, lakes, wetlands feeding into the Danube–Black Sea system).
- **Water quality and pollution monitoring**, including chemical pollutants, microplastics, heavy metals, and organic aerosols.
- **Biodiversity and conservation biology**, focusing on aquatic species and habitat protection.
- **Climate change effects on hydrological systems**.
- **Ecotoxicology research**, evaluating pollution impacts on aquatic organisms.
- **GIS-based monitoring of water resources** and environmental risks.

The **CERNESIM Research Center** through its organizational structure and available infrastructure, the CERNESIM Center enables an integrated systemic approach to environmental issues for a better understanding of the natural and social phenomena occurring in the environment, such as climate change, addressing both the causes and the impact, as well as the prevention and mitigation of undesirable environmental changes in the medium and long term.

The **CERNESIM Center** within the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași hosts advanced labs for environmental chemistry, spectroscopy, biophysics, and atmospheric sciences, enabling multidisciplinary research supporting SDG 14: **Laboratory of Physico-Chemical Analyses, Laboratory of Environmental Quality Biomonitoring and Remediation, Laboratory for the Investigation of Physico-Chemical Processes in the Atmosphere and for, Testing New Ecological Technologies for the Destruction of Gaseous Pollutants, Enviromatics Laboratory, Laboratory of Environmental Economic Studies and Analyses.**

The ability to predict the behavior of pollutants in the environment at different times (disasters, accidental pollution events) and over various periods (hours, days, years) can bring significant benefits to society and the economy. International pollutant monitoring programs aim to assess their presence in air, water, and soil. At the European level, precise and sufficiently comprehensive information is collected and stored regarding the distribution of many pollutants. Unfortunately, Romania’s contribution to the development of the European Atlas—which presents a synoptic overview of pollutant concentrations across the entire continent—is almost insignificant, unsystematic, and inconsistent. This effort is vital for European nations, a fact



highlighted in 2015 in Paris during the Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The role of identifying and quantifying pollutants is to provide reliable, objective, and comparable information at the European, national, and local levels, enabling decision-makers to take appropriate measures and ensuring that the population is correctly and promptly informed about the state of the environment. The diversity of pollutants in all environmental compartments makes their identification, quantification, and control just as complex and challenging as their variety.

The [CERNESIM Center](#), through its facilities—some unique at the national and Eastern European levels—can provide new data regarding the distribution of pollutants characteristic of the North-East Region of Romania. The CERNESIM Center can contribute to improving the quality of environmental research. The CERNESIM laboratories offer researchers the necessary infrastructure to carry out analyses, studies, and simulations regarding environmental aspects such as pollutant level identification, the applicability of non-polluting technologies, environmental investments and projects, and the economic modeling of environment-related processes.

The [RECENT-AIR](#) project will contribute to increasing the research, development, and innovation capacity of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (UAIC) by developing and modernizing the existing infrastructure and by creating new research infrastructure at UAIC, aligned with international standards, intended for monitoring and analyzing environmental factors, with a view to preventing and sustainably managing the risks induced by climate change on resources.

3.2 Partnerships and Collaborations

UAIC participates in national and international networks focused on environmental and aquatic research:

- **Danube River basin monitoring collaborations** with environmental agencies and research institutions.
- **Cross-border partnerships** for biodiversity conservation.
- **EC2U Alliance** initiatives involving sustainability, environmental protection, and interdisciplinary training.
- **Partnerships with NGOs and public authorities** for monitoring pollution and ecosystem protection.

These collaborations enhance UAIC’s capacity to address pollution risks and ecosystem degradation relevant to SDG 14.



3.3 Events Supporting SDG 14

UAIC hosts educational and outreach events promoting aquatic ecosystem protection and sustainability, such as:

- public lectures on biodiversity and water conservation,
- environmental awareness campaigns for students (waste reduction, water protection),
- citizen science activities in collaboration with schools and environmental groups,
- workshops on climate change impacts on water systems.

Papers in Conferences

Barbacariu, C.-A.; Dumitru, G.; Rimbu, C.M.; Horhoge, C.E.; Dîrvari, L.; Todiras, cu-Ciornea, E.; Serban, D.A.; Burducea, M. Inclusion of Sorghum in *Cyprinus carpio* L. Diet: Effects on Growth, Flesh Quality, Microbiota, and Oxidative Status. *Animals* 2024, 14, 1549. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14111549>

Barbacariu, C.-A.; Dîrvari, L.; Serban, D.A.; Rîmbu, C.M.; Horhoge, C.E.; Dumitru, G.; Todiras, cu-Ciornea, E.; Lungoci, C.; Burducea, M. Evaluating the Use of Grape Pomace in *Cyprinus carpio* Nutrition: Effects on Growth, Biochemistry, Meat Quality, Microbiota, and Oxidative Status. *Fishes* 2024, 9, 219. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fishes9060219>

Rîmbu C.M., Horhoge C.E., Vulpe V., Grecu M., Anița D., Balbarau A., Barbacariu A.C., Burducea M., Miron L.D.- HAFNIA ALVEI-- opportunistic pathogen involved in septicemia in the rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus Mykiss*, *SCIENTIFIC PAPERS VETERINARY MEDICINE VOLUMUL LVI (3)*, 2023, Timisoara, Ed. IMPRIMERIA MIRTON, Timisoara, Romania ISSN: -1221-5295

Gheorghita-Florentina Gătej, Elena Todirașcu-Ciornea, Gabriela Dumitru, Cristian-Alin Barbacariu, Lenuța Dîrvari & Marian Burducea *STUDII PRIVIND UTILIZAREA SUCULUI DIN IARBĂ DE ORZ ÎN ALIMENTAȚIA CRAPULUI*. EDIȚIA a VII-a, Iasi, 26 octombrie 2023 Sesiunii Științifice Anuale a Studenților Naturaliști (SSASN).

Gheorghita Florentina Gătej, Elena Todirașcu-Ciornea, Cristian-Alin Barbacariu, Lenuța Dîrvari, Marian Burducea, Gabriela Dumitru, *THE INFLUENCE OF ABIOTIC FACTORS ON THE SILURUS GLANIS SPECIES*, STUDENT SCIENTIFIC SESSION Faculty of Food Engineering, Tourism, and Environmental Protection, The XXIst Edition, May 29-31, 2023, Arad, Romania

Gheorghita Florentina Gătej, Elena Todirașcu-Ciornea, Cristian-Alin Barbacariu, Lenuța Dîrvari, Marian Burducea, Gabriela Dumitru, *RESEARCH ON THE USE OF PEAS AS A QUALITY PROTEIN SOURCE IN CARP FEEDING*, Faculty of Food Engineering, Tourism, and Environmental Protection, The XXIst Edition, May 29-31, 2023, Arad, Romania



Marian BURDUCEA, Iurie UNGUREANU, Lenuța DÎRVARIU, Eugen OPREA, Cristian-Alin BARBACARIU, The use of local ingredients in carp feed for a sustainable aquaculture. CONFERINȚA ȘTIINȚIFICĂ INTERNAȚIONALĂ TRADIȚIE ȘI INOVARE ÎN CERCETAREA ȘTIINȚIFICĂ, ediția a XII-a, din 06-07 octombrie 2023, Bălți, Republica Moldova.

Cristian-Alin BARBACARIU, Lenuța DIRVARIU, MarianBURDUCEA, Eugen OPREA, Răzvan Ștefan BOIANGIU, Gabriela DUMITRU, Elena TODIRASCU-CIORNEA. THE EFFECT OF INCLUDING BARLEY GRASS JUICE IN THE DIET OF COMMON CARP CULTIVATED IN RECIRCULATING AQUACULTURE SYSTEM. The 18th Edition of Present Environment and Sustainable Development International Conference, Iasi, 2023.

Marian Burducea, Lenuta Dirvariu, Crstian-Alin Barbacariu. EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP SEED INCLUSION IN VEGETAL DIET ON GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND NUTRITIONAL COMPOSITION OF COMMON CARP (CYPRINUS CARPIO) IN A RECIRCULATING AQUACULTURE SYSTEM. EURO-ALIMENT 2023, THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM, Insights of Future Foods -From concepts and challenges to technological innovations 19-20th October, Galați, Romania

International Conference Present Environment and Sustainable Development 7-9 June, 2024, Iași. Lenuța DÎRVARIU, Dana-Andreea ȘERBAN, Marian BURDUCEA, Eugen OPREA, Gabriela DUMITRU, Elena TODIRAȘCU-CIORNEA, Cristian-Alin BARBACARIU- The impact of including green peas in the diet of common carp cultivated in Recirculating Aquaculture System.

3.4 Projects Supporting SDG 14

UAIC contributes to projects involving:

- **water quality monitoring** in regional rivers and lakes, feeding into the Black Sea basin;
- **freshwater biodiversity assessments** (macroinvertebrates, fish species, aquatic plants);
- **organic aerosol studies** relevant to atmospheric deposition in aquatic systems;
- **land-based pollution source analysis**, including agricultural runoff, urban waste, and industrial pollutants;
- **climate change impacts on hydrology and aquatic ecosystems.**

Projects:

Project Implementation of active conservation measures on the territory of the Natura 2000 site ROSCI0073 Agigea Marine Dunes and the protected natural area of national interest Agigea Marine Dunes – code 2.366 (Stage I) <https://statiunea-agigea.uaic.ro/istoric-proiecte/> , <https://www.innoeduco2.org/>



2024-Demonstrative Experimental Project, Title: Development of an innovative feed for sustainable aquaculture in Romania, Id: PN-IV-P7-7.1-PED-2024-0339

2024-Proiect Interreg-Next Romania-Republic of Moldova, Title: Pilot Project for Environmentally Friendly Algal Biomass Production for Fish Nutrition, Aconim: Algae4FishRo-Md, Budget: 320.553,55 euro, Id: ROMD00586.

2024- Center of Excellence, Title: Center of Excellence in research for integrated assessment of water resources, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries, ID: PN-IV-P6-6.1-CoEx-2024-0043

[UAIC Research and Development Station for Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecology Iasi](https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/statiuni-de-cercetare-si-santiere-arheologice/statiunea-de-cercetari-pentru-acvacultura-si-ecologie-acvatica-iasi/)

<https://www.uaic.ro/organizare/statiuni-de-cercetare-si-santiere-arheologice/statiunea-de-cercetari-pentru-acvacultura-si-ecologie-acvatica-iasi/>,

The station's profile is scientific-didactic, with fundamental and applied research on preserving the quality of the aquatic environment in fish farms and public waters, modernizing fish technologies and developing high-performance fish feed recipes.

Research and technology transfer center in aquaculture and aquatic ecology – CETACVA

Research and technology transfer center in aquaculture and aquatic ecology – CETACVA aims to develop the regional capacity for research-development and technological transfer in the field of aquaculture and aquatic ecology. Within the center will be created 6 RAS systems (recirculating aquaculture system) and 4 laboratories.

The locations for the project implementation are: **Research and Development Station for Aquaculture and Aquatic Ecology-Iasi (SCDAEA)**, and **“Petru Jitariu” Biological Station Potoci – Neamț (SBPJ) within the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University.**

Research directions:

1. Development of RAS technologies using 6 RAS systems.
2. Artificial reproduction of freshwater fish.
3. Physiology of aquatic animals.
4. Aquatic ecology.
5. Microbiology and molecular biology.

These projects support data-driven policy recommendations for ecosystem conservation and pollution control.

3.5 Scientific Publications Supporting SDG 14

UAIC researchers publish on topics relevant to Life Below Water:



- maintain ecosystems and their biodiversity,
- technologies towards aquatic ecosystem damage prevention,
- ecology and conservation of aquatic species,
- limnology and freshwater system dynamics,
- water pollution and ecotoxicology,
- climate change impacts on water resources,
- chemical pollutants and organic aerosols affecting aquatic environments.

Barbacariu, C.-A.; Dîrvari, L.; Serban, D.A.; Rîmbu, C.M.; Horhoge, C.E.; Dumitru, G.; Todiras, cu-Ciornea, E.; Lungoci, C.; Burducea, M. Evaluating the Use of Grape Pomace in *Cyprinus carpio* Nutrition: Effects on Growth, Biochemistry, Meat Quality, Microbiota, and Oxidative Status. *Fishes* 2024, 9, 219. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fishes9060219>

Barbacariu, C.-A.; Dumitru, G.; Rîmbu, C.M.; Horhoge, C.E.; Dîrvari, L.; Todiras, cu-Ciornea, E.; Serban, D.A.; Burducea, M. Inclusion of Sorghum in *Cyprinus carpio* L. Diet: Effects on Growth, Flesh Quality, Microbiota, and Oxidative Status. *Animals* 2024, 14, 1549. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani14111549>

Barbacariu, C.-A.; Rîmbu, C.M.; Burducea, M.; Dîrvari, L.; Miron, L.-D.; Boiangiu, R.S.; Dumitru, G.; Todiras, cu-Ciornea, E. Comparative Study of Flesh Quality, Blood Profile, Antioxidant Status, and Intestinal Microbiota of European Catfish (*Silurus glanis*) Cultivated in a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) and Earthen Pond System. *Life* 2023, 13, 1282. <https://doi.org/10.3390/life13061282>

Burducea, I.; Burducea, C.; Mereuta, P.-E.; Sirbu, S.-R.; Iancu, D.-A.; Istrati, M.-B.; Straticiuc, M.; Lungoci, C.; Stoleru, V.; Teliban, G.-C.; et al. Helium Atmospheric Pressure Plasma Jet Effects on Two Cultivars of *Triticum aestivum* L. *Foods* 2023, 12, 208. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods12010208>

Rîmbu C.M., Horhoge C.E., Vulpe V., Grecu M., Anița D., Balbarau A., Barbacariu A.C., Burducea M., Miron L.D.- HAFNIA ALVEI– opportunistic pathogen involved in septicemia in the rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, *Scientific papers veterinary medicine volumul LVI (3)*, 2023, Timișoara, Ed. IMPRIMERIA MIRTON, Timișoara, Romania ISSN: -1221-5295.

These scientific contributions strengthen national and international understanding of aquatic ecosystem health.



3.6 Study Programs Supporting SDG 14

Programs directly relevant to SDG 14:

Biology

- Ecology and Environmental Protection https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1474
- Biodiversity conservation https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1489
- Microbial and cellular biotechnologies https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1489

Geography and Geology

- Environmental Geography <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Hydrology and Water Management <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Geomatics <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-master>
- Geography of Risks and Environmental Protection <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-master>
- Geochemistry <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Environmental geochemistry <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Environmental planning <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>
- Current environment and sustainable development <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-master>
- Tourism and regional development <https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/studii-universitare-de-licenta>

Faculty of Chemistry

- Environmental Chemistry and food safety <https://www.chem.uaic.ro/en/specialities/master.html>
- Biochemistry and Biomonitoring <https://www.chem.uaic.ro/en/specialities/master.html>

These programs train specialists in aquatic research, conservation biology, hydrology, pollution control, and sustainable environmental management.

By supporting multidisciplinary research, sustainability education, and innovative environmental projects, UAIC strengthens regional and international efforts to protect aquatic biodiversity and promote sustainable use of water resources.



15 LIFE ON LAND





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Definition SDG 15

Sustainable Development Goal 15 (SDG 15) – Life on Land aims to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. It focuses on conserving biodiversity, managing forests sustainably, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and preserving natural habitats to support resilient and thriving ecosystems.

Key aims of SDG 15

Protect terrestrial ecosystems: Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and other natural ecosystems.

Prevent biodiversity loss: Stop species extinction, safeguard vulnerable and endangered species, and protect natural habitats.

Combat desertification and land degradation: Restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by drought and floods.

Promote sustainable forest management: Reduce deforestation, reforest degraded areas, and strengthen community-based forest governance.

Support biodiversity research and education: Enhance knowledge, awareness, and scientific research related to ecosystem health and conservation.

Strengthen conservation partnerships: Foster global, national, and local collaboration for the protection of biodiversity and sustainable resource management.

1.2. Context

Global context: Globally, SDG 15 addresses accelerating biodiversity loss, deforestation, habitat destruction, and land degradation intensified by climate change and human activities. Protecting terrestrial ecosystems is vital for ecosystem services, food security, climate resilience, and human well-being.

Local context: Romania's diverse natural landscapes—forests, mountain ecosystems, wetlands, and protected areas—face challenges such as deforestation, land-use pressures, soil degradation, and biodiversity loss. National efforts focus on enhancing protected areas, conserving species, restoring degraded ecosystems, and promoting environmental education.

Purpose of the report: This report presents the actions, results, and commitments of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC) in support of SDG 15 – Life on Land, emphasizing its involvement in biodiversity research, ecosystem conservation, environmental education, and sustainable management initiatives undertaken during the 2023–2024 academic year.

As one of Romania's leading research universities, *Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași* (UAIC) actively contributes to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems through scientific research, conservation programs, field studies, environmental monitoring, and educational initiatives. In alignment with the *United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UAIC supports SDG 15 by promoting biodiversity conservation, fostering interdisciplinary



research, and strengthening collaborations with national and international partners dedicated to environmental sustainability.

CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 15

UAIC integrates environmental conservation and sustainability into its institutional development strategies through policies focused on protecting natural resources and supporting ecological research.

Key policy directions include:

- Promoting biodiversity conservation and environmental protection activities on campus and in university-managed research sites.
- Supporting academic programs and research initiatives related to ecology, conservation biology, and terrestrial ecosystem management.
- Encouraging sustainable land use, green spaces enhancement, and ecological restoration projects.
- Strengthening partnerships with environmental agencies, protected area administrators, and conservation NGOs.
- Integrating environmental ethics, sustainability, and conservation principles across university operations and educational practices.

[Planul strategic multianual de dezvoltare instituțională a Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași pentru perioada 2024–2029](#) (**The Multiyear Strategic Institutional Development Plan of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (2024–2029)**) outlines the university’s long-term commitment to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. The plan includes measures for adapting campus infrastructure to climate-related environmental changes, enhancing ecological sustainability, and promoting the responsible use of natural resources.

[Planul operațional de dezvoltare instituțională al Universității „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași 2025](#) (**The 2025 Operational Institutional Development Plan**) further specifies the actions and monitoring indicators required to achieve these objectives, emphasizing green infrastructure modernization, selective waste management, and programs that support ecosystem protection and reduced environmental impact.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 15

3.1 Services and programs supporting biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

Biodiversity monitoring and ecological research



UAIC conducts continuous field research to study the biodiversity of regional ecosystems such as the Prut River basin, the Iași hills, alpine and subalpine zones in the Carpathians, and various Natura 2000 protected areas. Research teams monitor plant and animal populations, habitat quality, and ecological change.

Campus green space management

Through the Faculty of Biology and the *Atanasie Fătu Botanical Garden*, UAIC implements measures to preserve urban biodiversity within campus green areas, including the maintenance of native plant species, tree health monitoring, and small-scale habitat restoration initiatives. UAIC plays a significant role in protecting terrestrial biodiversity through the activities of the **Atanasie Fătu Botanical Garden**, the oldest and one of the largest botanical gardens in Romania. As an integral part of the university, the Botanical Garden functions as a key centre for **biodiversity conservation**, [ecological research](#), **environmental education**, and **habitat restoration**. Its collections include thousands of native and exotic plant species, carefully curated to preserve genetic diversity and support conservation efforts. The garden contributes to SDG 15 through its programs focused on **cultivating rare and endangered species**, **monitoring ecosystem health**, **maintaining thematic habitats**, and implementing sustainable horticultural practices. It also serves as a living laboratory for students, researchers, and the wider community, offering guided tours, educational workshops, and citizen science activities that promote awareness of the importance of protecting life on land.

Educational programmes on ecosystems / sustainable land use

Through the Geography & Geology Faculty event for Earth Day (“Ziua Pământului at Geology Dept.”) in 2025, UAIC engages students in land-/ecosystem-oriented activities (treasure hunt, etc.). <https://geology.uaic.ro/2025/ziua-pamantului-la-geologie/>

3.2 Partnerships and collaborations

https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=3240

https://www.botanica.uaic.ro/relatii_internationale.html

UAIC collaborates with several national and international partners to advance biodiversity conservation, including:

- **INCDSB București/Centrul de Cercetări Biologice “Stejarul” Piatra Neamț**
- **The Romanian Academy – Institute of Biological Research Iași**
- **Environmental Protection Agencies (APM Iași and neighboring counties)**
- **Natura 2000 site administrators** in Moldova region
- **EC2U Alliance** – through sustainability, biodiversity, and environmental science clusters
- **International universities** and botanical gardens and institutes engaged in ecology, conservation biology, and environmental monitoring



Participation in EC2U initiatives

Within the European Campus of City-Universities (EC2U) alliance, UAIC contributes to initiatives related to biodiversity within the [Virtual Institute for Life on Land \(VI LL\)](#), bringing together students, researchers and innovators in joint activities which can take the form of joint research activities but also webinars and/or seminars.

These partnerships support research exchanges, fieldwork, joint publications, and collaborative conservation projects.

3.3 Events supporting the implementation of SDG 15

1. The Faculty of Biology of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, in partnership with "Anastasiu Fătu" Botanical Garden, Iași Natural History Museum, and the Iași branch of the Romanian Academy, is organizing the fifth edition of the scientific session "[Trends in Biology: from molecules to complex systems](#)" from October 23-26, 2025.

The session will have the following major themes:

- Taxonomy and Ecology
- Experimental and Molecular Biology
- Educational Resources in Biology

2. UAIC's Faculty of Geography & Geology organised the international conference "[Present Environment and Sustainable Development \(PESD\)](#)" in June 2025, with topics including biodiversity, risks, sustainable development and management of protected areas. https://www.geo.uaic.ro/images/geodocs/Scoala_Doctorala/2024-2025/anunturi/PESD_2025.pdf

3. UAIC organised a "[Think Tank](#)" on urban / community resilience to climate change (which touches on land, ecosystems, community planning) with municipal/agency/civil-society partners.

4. UAIC was partner in a [project on conservation of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems](#) (site: Dunele Marine de la Agigea) in collaboration with the National Agency for Protected Natural Areas.

3.4 Projects supporting the implementation of SDG 15

UAIC was involved in research published in Nature Communications on "**multiple land-degradation pathways in Europe**" (co-author from the UAIC Faculty of Geography & Geology).

<https://www.uaic.ro/cercetator-din-cadrul-uaic-coautor-al-unui-studiu-despre-degradarea-multipla-a-terenurilor-publicat-in-revista-nature-communications/>

The "**Green EDU WORK UAIC**" project emphasises "competențe verzi" (green skills) and environmental-friendly behaviours. <https://cariera.uaic.ro/green-edu-work/>



The larger project “**SIDNER – Sistem interdisciplinar integrat pentru implementarea activităților de dezvoltare durabilă din regiunea de Nord-Est a României**” includes biodiversity & environment among its domains. <https://www.uaic.ro/uaic-a-castigat-un-proiect-european-de-pestre-88-milioane-de-euro-in-domeniul-dezvoltarii-durabile/>

Project title: Ex situ Conservation of Relict Plant Species from Acid Oligotrophic Marsh Habitats for Environmental Education in the Iași Botanical Garden https://www.uaic.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/D3_Gradina-Botanica_RAPORT-FDI_2023.pdf

3.5 Programs of study supporting the implementation of SDG 15

Several Faculties include subject matter and programmes that can support ecosystem biodiversity / land-ecosystem collaboration:

Faculty of Biology: Biology, Ecology and Environmental Protection; Biodiversity Conservation (https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=1474, https://www.bio.uaic.ro/?page_id=3294)

Faculty of Chemistry: Environmental Chemistry and Food Safety (<https://www.chem.uaic.ro/ro/programe-de-studii-2025-2026/studii-master-2025-2026.html>)

Faculty of Geography and Geology: Environmental Geography; Natural Hazards and Territorial Planning

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/specializari/geografia-mediului>

<https://www.geo.uaic.ro/programe-de-studii/specializari/riscuri-naturale-si-amenajarea-teritoriului>

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS





CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Definition of SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Sustainable Development Goal 16 aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. It focuses on reducing violence, strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption, ensuring transparent and accountable governance, protecting fundamental freedoms, and promoting inclusive participation in decision-making processes.

Key Aims of SDG 16

- **Peaceful societies:** Reduce all forms of violence and promote conflict prevention.
- **Rule of law and justice:** Guarantee equal access to justice, legal protection, and fair institutions.
- **Effective, accountable institutions:** Strengthen governance, transparency, and public trust.
- **Anti-corruption measures:** Reduce bribery, corruption, and abuse of power.
- **Inclusive decision-making:** Promote participatory processes and civic engagement.
- **Fundamental freedoms:** Protect human rights, freedom of expression, academic freedom, and personal safety.

Context

Global context:

Around the world, SDG 16 is essential for social cohesion, stable governance, and sustainable development. Challenges include political instability, conflict, inequality in justice systems, cyber-security threats, and declining trust in public institutions.

National context:

Romania continues to strengthen its legal, administrative, and anticorruption frameworks while facing challenges in institutional trust, public administration efficiency, and civic engagement. Academic institutions play a key role in improving governance, promoting democratic values, ensuring transparency, and educating future decision-makers.

Purpose of the Report

This report examines the way **Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (UAIC)** contributes to SDG 16 through:

- institutional strategies promoting integrity, ethics, transparency, and good governance,
- research on law, justice, cybersecurity, public administration, and social cohesion,
- educational programs in political and legal sciences,
- community engagement and civic participation,



- partnerships that strengthen institutional capacities at regional and national levels.

UAIC's Role

As one of Romania's oldest and most prestigious university, UAIC contributes significantly to strengthening institutions through:

- expertise in **Law, Political Science, Sociology, Public Administration, Economics, History, Philosophy** and **Social Sciences**,
- university governance models grounded in transparency and ethics,
- training professionals in justice, administration, public policy, and security studies,
- promoting academic freedom, democratic values, social responsibility, and civic participation.

CHAPTER 2: UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES SUPPORTING SDG 16

UAIC integrates SDG 16 principles - transparency, integrity, participation, and justice across all institutional documents and strategic frameworks:

UAIC Code of Ethics

The Code is integrated into UAIC's **Charter**, giving it an institutional and legal foundation. *The Code is designed to promote a positive institutional climate built on cooperation, respect, collegiality, trust, discretion and solidarity.* The Code prohibits discrimination, plagiarism, fraud, sexual harassment, defamation, and other forms of abusive behavior.

UAIC Strategic Development Plan 2024–2029

Includes commitments to:

- strengthen institutional integrity and ethical governance,
- enhance transparency in decision-making,
- support academic freedom and democratic values,
- promote safe, inclusive, and supportive university environments.

Operational Institutional Development Plan 2025

Reinforces:

- anti-corruption and anti-discrimination measures,
- quality assurance and accountability in university management,
- improved access to information and administrative digitalization,
- community-oriented initiatives promoting civic responsibility.



Gender Equality Plan 2022–2025

Supports SDG 16 by:

- promoting equal opportunities in academic and administrative roles,
- preventing discrimination and harassment,
- implementing procedures to address grievances, rights violations, and ethical concerns.

University-wide Governance Commitments

- Ethics Code, Ethics Commission, Anti-plagiarism procedures
- Transparent financial and administrative management
- Inclusive student governance structures
- Ombudsperson
- Student support services
- Digital platforms for transparency, open data, and public reporting
- Academic integrity training for students and staff

These policies form a solid institutional foundation aligned with SDG 16 goals: creating a fair, safe, transparent, and democratic academic community.

CHAPTER 3: UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACTIONS SUPPORTING SDG 16 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Research, Monitoring, and Academic Expertise

UAIC focus in research areas central to SDG 16, especially through the educational programmes and research developed at:

- **Faculty of Law**
- **Centre for European Studies**
- **Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences**
- **Faculty of Economics and Business Administration**
- **Faculty of Computer Science**
- **Institute of Interdisciplinary Research**

Key research areas include:

- human rights and constitutional law
- public administration transparency and digital governance
- anticorruption policies and institutional ethics
- conflict prevention, international relations, and security studies
- cybersecurity, digital risks and data protection
- social inclusion, inequality and public trust in institutions
- migration,



- cohesion, and democratic participation

These research efforts contribute to stronger institutions and improved governance at national and European levels.

3.2. Events Supporting SDG 16

UAIC organizes ongoing public events, conferences, and workshops on topics related to SDG 16:

- debates on the rule of law, European governance, and democracy
- conferences on cybersecurity, human rights, and legal reform
- public lectures on ethical conduct, responsible research, and academic freedom
- events on civic education, participation, and electoral engagement
- awareness conferences on equality, anti-harassment, and anti-discrimination
- round tables with public institutions on justice and governance reforms

1. Governance, Ethics, Quality, and Institutional Capacity

UniE-Quality Project: UAIC runs a project called UniE-Quality: Dezvoltarea culturii calității și îmbunătățirea activității didactice (Institutional Development Fund, FDI) which is explicitly about improving quality management, enhancing academic ethics, and strengthening internal institutional processes.

Through this, UAIC developed a Center for Competence in university management and quality.

This contributes to institutional accountability and transparent processes, core to SDG 16's “effective, accountable institutions” target.

University ethics and deontology at UAIC – integrity in academic activity through continuous training of teaching staff (UniEthic), ATASIEI, Daniel. Main objective of the project was to strengthen the institutional culture of university ethics at UAIC and reflecting it in academic activity by developing the ethics and deontology component of the continuing education program for university teaching staff.

ARACIS Report on Quality Assurance: UAIC's external evaluation by ARACIS (the Romanian Quality Assurance Agency) shows the university holds a “high confidence” institutional rating.

Capacity-Building for Research: Through a FDI-funded institutional capacity project, UAIC supports new techniques, instruments of research with a view to integrity and ethics among staff and researchers.



2. Social Innovation, Peacebuilding, and Participation

Think Tank on Social Innovation for Peacebuilding: UAIC organized (June 2024) a “Think Tank on Social Innovation for Peacebuilding” involving students, researchers, civil society (including Romanian Red Cross, community foundations), and local government

The objective was to generate inclusive, innovative solutions to societal problems, building trust and strengthening social cohesion — directly related to **peaceful and inclusive societies** (SDG 16).

The event was part of the **EC2U (European Campus) alliance**, which aims at policy recommendations and knowledge-transfer for societal challenges.

Conference on Equality of Opportunity: UAIC hosted a conference titled “*Egalitatea de șanse în fața provocărilor contemporane*” (“Equality of Opportunities in the Face of Contemporary Challenges”) in March 2025.

Call for Papers: Gendered Violence: The **Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences** at UAIC has issued a call for academic work on “gendered violence: phenomenology, prevention, and reintegration.

3. Inclusion and Social Equity

Training for Staff — Disability Inclusion: UAIC is a training workshop for the staff on (“Effective ways to interact with students with disabilities”). This supports *inclusive education*, equal access, and institutional responsiveness — relating to SDG 16’s focus on inclusive institutions and non-discrimination.

Access to Education for Disadvantaged Youth: Through the “**AccEd**” project (CNFIS-FDI 2024), UAIC supports students from underprivileged backgrounds, disseminating information about its educational offer, and providing student engagement in outreach (“Caravana UAIC” in high schools from disadvantaged areas).

4. Accountability, Research, and Policy Engagement

“**City: Future Organisation of Changes in Urbanisation and Sustainability**” — developing a model of governance urbană (urban governance) and resilience.

“**SAGES: Spatial Analysis of Growth Environment and Sustainable Well-being**” — analyzing well-being in relation to policy, inclusion, and sustainable development.

These events enhance public understanding, strengthen civic culture, and promote peaceful and inclusive societies.



3.3 Study Programs Supporting SDG 16

- UAIC offers a wide range of programs directly supporting SDG 16 goals through **Faculty of Law, Center for European Studies, Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of Computer Science**

Through its policies, research, academic programs, partnerships, and institutional practices, UAIC plays a significant role in supporting SDG 16. The university:

- promotes transparency, ethics, and strong governance,
- trains specialists in justice, administration, security, and public policy,
- contributes to anticorruption and institutional capacity building,
- supports human rights, democratic values, and peaceful coexistence,
- strengthens civic participation and social cohesion.

UAIC's commitment to SDG 16 reinforces its mission as a leading institution that cultivates responsible, informed, and engaged citizens capable of contributing to peaceful, just, and strong societies.