

BUP Sustainability Report

About this document

Within the BUP's project Sustainability at participating universities, a strong emphasis has been placed on students. As part of the project, the BUP Student Ambassadors have created this Sustainability Report which details enlightening moments and ideas about sustainability at BUP participating universities. Here, BUP Student Ambassadors profile and discuss sustainability at their university and how they are being inspired and motivated.

The future generation will enter a world and society with significant challenges, for which they must be prepared. Universities are key nodes in this process through their education, innovation, technology and commitment to and around sustainability. Universities have to inspire the next generation to act as changemakers and spearhead the transition to a more sustainable future.

It is therefore of great interest and use to gauge a student perspective on sustainability at participating universities. The Baltic Sea Region, of which BUP participating universities are a part of, is diverse and encounters sustainability in shared and different ways.

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that we, Josefine and Bénédicte, are writing these few words to introduce The Baltic University Programme (BUP) Sustainability Report 2022. Thanks to the inputs of our ambassadors from German, Swedish, Slovak and Latvian universities, we have compiled, in the form of a booklet, a few initiatives implemented across the Baltic institutions we represent in a bid to become more sustainable.

Sustainability and sustainable development often seem to become buzzwords that are used in a fashionable way without much reflection on what it means. In a few words, being sustainable or adopting a sustainable lifestyle would refer to being aware of the potentially negative impacts our daily actions could have on the environment and the rest of society whether near or far, alive or unborn, human or non-human. It is about constantly reminding ourselves that we are not alone and that this is the only planet we will live on, as a way of being conscious of our actions and responsibilities.

Sustainability thereby does not only encompass the possibilities for individual action, but -especially within the scope of the BUP- a way of producing and communicating knowledge about the world we live in. The BUP participating universities each have a very special approach towards Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and towards research in related areas. As such, the BUP itself contributes to a sustainable learning and working environment by fostering intercultural exchange and collaboration.

In the name of the BUP Student Ambassadors of 2022/2023, we wish you some enlightening moments and ideas from the reports about sustainability at BUP participating universities.

Editors

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Germany

University of Hamburg

Sustainability through the lens of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW)

At Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, there are numerous engaged scientists, employees, students, and lecturers that contribute to creating a more sustainable future. A few of them are presented here as examples, but there are many more to discover at HAW Hamburg.

FTZ NK

The Research and Transfer Center for Sustainability and Climate Change Management (in German abb. FTZ NK) was founded 15 years ago by Prof. Dr. Dr. Walter Leal Filho. Since then, numerous projects have been conducted and initiatives have been founded. The most current is the International Expert Centre for Climate Change and Health (IECCCH).

CC4E

The competence center for renewable energy and energy efficiencies (in German abb. CC4E) tackles the questions of sustainable energy in the future in an interdisciplinary manner. The center is home to a variety of projects focusing on energy, and regularly organizes events around their key topics. Within the topic of sustainable energy, they mostly focus on sector coupling and hydrogen, heat, wind energy, and social transformation and acceptance.

Ukraine Nature

The project *Ukraine Nature* is coordinated by the FTZ-NK. Armed conflict in Ukraine has damaged many areas, including the existing ecosystem. Bombs and weapons have not only left physical damage to nature, destroying the habitats of animals, but also leave heavy metals that can contaminate water. The project aims to study protected areas and document the damage that occurred. This will provide useful information for future reconstructions. Below are a few examples of how the samples from the studied areas are taken, so they can be analyzed afterward.





Expedition to areas of study. Photos: Dr. Anastasia Splodytel

Bioplastics Europe

Conventional plastics have become an enormous problem on our planet. They end up in landfills, pollute the marine environment, and even adversely affect human and animal health. Thus, they pose a threat to planetary health. Bioplastics, which are bio-based and biodegradable, could be a possible solution for this problem. Bioplastics Europe is an EU-funded Horizon project that deals with this issue, the EU plastic strategy, and questions of the circular economy. It is coordinated at the FTZ-NK.

Bioplastics Europe has a broad variety of partners, a lot of them located in the Baltic Sea region, like the Kaunas University of Technology, the Lodz University of Technology, or the Swedish Environmental Research Institute.

Green Office (GO)

The Green Office (GO) at the HAW was founded this year and aims to make education at the HAW more sustainable. It provides support for employees at the HAW for questions relating to sustainability but also provides initiatives to motivate students to act more sustainably in their

everyday lives. This can be the simplest way, such as taking the stairs instead of the elevator to save energy (and do something good for one's health!). Thus, they are active in the fields of learning and teaching, research, everyday campus life, and collaboration with external stakeholders.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



#SustainHAW_HH

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all!

Energy is the dominant contributor to climate change, accounting for around 60 % of total global greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency and increased use of renewables contribute to climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction.

Bioenergy is the single largest renewable energy source today, providing 10% of world primary energy supply.

Maintaining and protecting ecosystems allow using and further developing hydropower sources of electricity and bioenergy.

HOW TO SAVE ENERGY AT UNIVERSITY:

-  Use the stairs instead of the elevator
-  Switch off the lights when possible
-  Switch off your laptop or use energy saving mode when you don't need it
-  Open the windows wide every hour for a few minutes while the heating is switched off

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Benefits of using stairs

- No waiting
- Less crowded
- No chance to see the elevator boys
- It strengthens your back
- You get some exercise
- Walking lowers your blood pressure
- See more of the university





Office of Sustainability Services

Green Office
HAW Hamburg
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 @GoHawHamburg

Some information about the GO. Photo: Caterina Baars

European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR)

Another initiative coordinated by the FTZ-NK is the European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR). The ESSSR organizes courses, research projects, publications, and joint training for PhD students in sustainability science. Furthermore, the initiative collaborates with the BUP and other partners, such as the Inter-University Sustainable Development.

Christian Albrechts University Kiel

The School of Sustainability

The Kiel School of Sustainability was established in 2011 to bring together academic staff and research from five faculties at Kiel University: 1) Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, 2) Faculty of Agriculture and Nutritional Sciences, 3) Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, 4) Faculty of Arts and Humanities, 5) Faculty of Law.

The School offers six taught Master programmes, each one with a specific focus on sustainable development. Within these programmes, students are organised in a student government, which provides them with assistance and represents their interests in the University's committees. Researchers and academic staff from a total of 26 different research groups are involved in teaching the Master programmes and in supervising Master theses. Furthermore, the School of Sustainability enables students to study abroad by participating in the ERASMUS+ programme.

One important goal of the School is to bridge academic education and social entrepreneurship. Therefore, the yearly held "Yooweedoo idea contest" awards sustainable and innovative student-led start-ups. In total, the initiative has already supported 245 projects and over 1000 young founders from Kiel University.

EnJust Network

The geography department at Kiel University hosts the EnJust Network – a network of stakeholders from research, management, planning and civil society that sensitizes to issues of environmental (in)justice. In a recent project, members of EnJust together with other stakeholders discuss future

implications of extreme weather events and sea level rise for Kiel as a coastal city and develop feasible mitigation strategies.

The Permaculture Center Kiel EV



<https://permakulturzentrum.org/>

The Permaculture Center Kiel - a local club of the global permaculture network, consisting of a team of permaculture enthusiasts who learn with and from each other, garden and support each other. The objective is to develop a sustainable, grandchild-friendly nutrition system in an urban context and to promote productive and regenerative urban living spaces, and to enable people to actively shape their concrete living environment.

Since its inception in 2018, the mission and goals of The Permaculture Center Kiel remain grounded around these three pillars:

Nature: To understand how ecosystems work and our role as humans in them as comprehensively as possible,

Network: To offer a meeting point for all those interested in permaculture, through open meetings for gardening and eating together.

Training: To learn together and acquire both knowledge and practical skills about permaculture.

Latvia

University of Latvia

The University of Latvia (UL) is an active promoter and implementer of sustainable development.

One of the most influential sustainable development-related conferences held by UL is the “Baltic Sea Region Innovation, Investment and Development Conference”. This conference has brought together decision-makers, public development banks, development financing institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and stakeholders to discuss the main challenges and share experience in the implementation of large development projects, taking into account the challenge for Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050. This conference focused on three topics: implementing green energy pilot projects, development projects of public institutions in the Baltic Sea Region countries, and public development banks. In addition to the conference, some projects and initiatives are also being promoted by UL.

The project of “future cities of Europe: Beyond Lüneburg 2030+”

Currently, the project of “The future cities of Europe: Beyond Lüneburg 2030+” is being implemented at the UL, which promotes the development of Baltic and German cooperation networks, as well as UL participating in a large-scale sustainable practice cooperation project to promote cooperation between universities and local governments in the creation of a sustainable environment and sustainable local community, the project also includes as associate partners various local municipalities.

The focus of the project is the cooperation between universities and local governments in environmental management and the promotion of sustainable development of education in local communities, especially in the involvement of youth - the participation of youth eco-schools in local government environmental management.



The initiative “Environmental Innovation Generator”

The initiative calls for students to participate in the four-month program "Environmental Innovation Generator", during which they will create innovative solutions to selected environmental problems. Program participants will develop initial prototypes in scientific, technical or social fields. The topics included in this initiative are: smart energy, conservation of biological diversity, efficient use of resources and waste management, climate change, environmental health, environmental communication.

Poland

Medical University of Gdansk

The Medical University of Gdańsk (MUG) is a modern academic centre and the largest medical university in northern Poland. It has been providing high quality education in all medical professions and conducting world-class scientific research and patient-care for over 70 years. The highly trained academic staff and constantly modernized infrastructure along with the latest generations of diagnostic tools, all creates excellent conditions for strengthening our organization's position as a research university in national and international levels. This development is a success because it has been based on values that we consider essential.

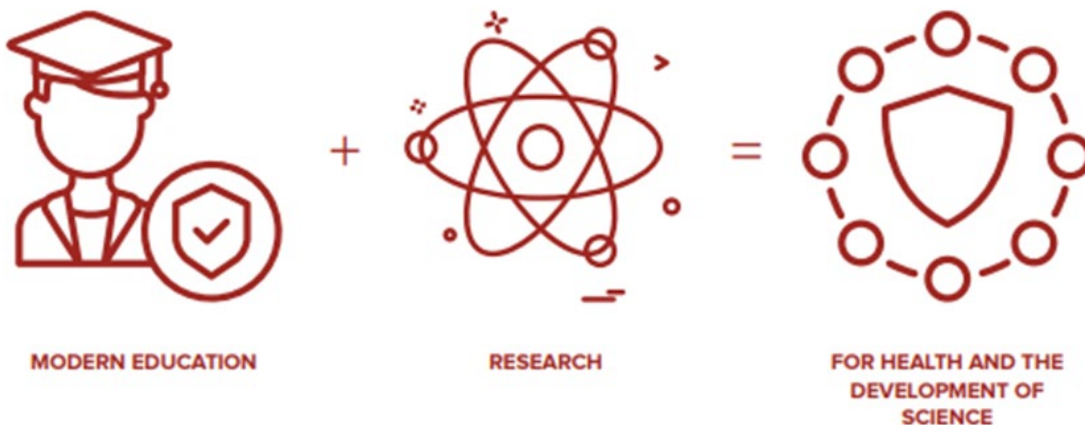
Reflecting the field of academics and profession, our university's primary focus involves supporting the sustainable development goals such as quality education, good health and well-being, partnerships for the goals, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, clean water and sanitation.

Strategic Objectives and Initiatives

The University has well-defined strategic objectives completely based on the needs of students and doctoral students, employees, clinical units and the environment broadly understood (local community, authorities, patients and business partners). The strategic vision presenting the image of the University in 2025 will be pursued through five strategic objectives. Therefore, the Strategy will be sustainable, and its result will be the development of the University in all key areas.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

MODERN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOR HEALTH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINE



Vision of the MUG in 2025:

- We are the leading medical university in the country and recognisable in the world, providing high quality education and research.
- We care about health and the development of medicine thanks to our graduates, employees and partners.
- We make up a modern and efficient organisation, inspiring students, doctoral students and employees to engage and develop.

The vision and mission of MUG mainly focus on:

- Humanism

- Professionalism
- Proactivity
- Partnership
- Common good

Ethical issues in research Projects

Ethical issues in research projects carried out in the university are adequately addressed as per the statutes of relevant national and international regulatory bodies.

- The requirement for research involving humans and biological material of human origin is conducted with prior permission of the local Bioethics Committee for scientific research. Information related to the commission's procedures can be found at: <https://informato.r.gumed.edu.pl/178c53>
- Consent of the Local Committee for Animal Experiments is acquired for projects involving animal testing. The procedure is described on the page appropriate for the province. of the Pomeranian Commission in Bydgoszcz: <http://lke.utp.edu.pl>

Sweden

Lund University

Sustainability in student accommodations

Lund University has its own student accommodation, where students can apply for housing. The landlord's name is AF Bostäder. In Sweden, all the trash has to be sorted by their category. In addition to this, sorting. AF Bostäder also focuses on recycling cooking oil. Oil recycling stations can be found in several student accommodations. AF Bostäder provides a special funnel for the cooking oil disposal. According to their website, the cooking oil is collected and later used in production of biofuel and soap (AF Bostäder, 2022).



Containers for recycling cooking oil and fat. Photos: Gabriela Ponce

Educational programs and courses sustainability

Sustainable education is one of Lund University's key objectives. The goal should be to ensure that each student leaves with a deep understanding of sustainability, and an understanding of how it applies to their future education and careers.

Courses and programmes related to the environment, climate, and sustainability should include up-to-date sustainability research. It would be ideal to include students in active research projects already from the master's level, as this will allow them to contribute to the shaping of the university output. Students often help to revitalize our research by asking the most probing questions and bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the table. After students graduate, they take knowledge with them to their workplaces or participation in society. Therefore, their knowledge and expertise can directly influence innovation, politics, and behavior.

The Sustainability Forum

Lund University has a sustainability forum that carries out loads of activities. You can read about the sustainability forum here: <https://www.sustainability.lu.se/start>. One example is that they have created a online guide for a sustainable student life: <https://www.sustainability.lu.se/education/sustainable-student-life>

One of the main activities from the sustainability forum is the yearly Sustainability week. Their main activity is the Sustainability Week which takes place once every year. It includes many different activities and is open to students, staff and the general public. You can read about the sustainability week here: <https://www.sustainability.lu.se/sustainabilityweek>

Massive Open Online Classes (MOOCs)

Lund University offers MOOCs for free to all students of the university and there are several on sustainability. Note that these courses are not credit-bearing but if a student is interested in taking a MOOC, they can find them here: <https://www.sustainability.lu.se/education/moocs-digital-courses-about-sustainability>

Public/Global Health and sustainability

In the context of my master's degree in public health, the first thing that crosses my mind is a global health perspective. Connecting global health, sustainable goals, environmental health, social health, and animal health together. Health is a human right that transcends geographical and social boundaries. However, poverty and a lack of democratic governance impede many people's accesses to this right. To abolish health inequalities and achieve sustainable improvements in health and wellbeing, global partnerships and the effective spread of knowledge are essential. It is therefore critical to educate the future public health experts who will contribute to this global effort from a broad, interdisciplinary viewpoint.

MPH program focus is thus cross-disciplinary with a consistent global perspective. The courses designed to provide students with evidence-based knowledge and the skills and tools necessary for conducting research, policymaking and promoting health. The teaching and learning approaches are dynamic and continuously adapted to an optimized learning environment. Instructors and guest lecturers have considerable experience in a variety of disciplinary and geographic contexts and come from countries such as Sweden, Ghana, Iran, Uganda and the United Kingdom. The diversity and experience of fellow students also contribute to an inspiring learning environment.

The Global health teaching and research process at Lund University provides global and local perspectives and examples of some of the most pressing health issues we face today and their

impact on health, well-being and means of people's subsistence. Highlighting four major emerging and ongoing global health challenges:

- The inevitable health impacts of climate change (heat stress, extreme cold, flooding, rising incidence of vector-borne diseases)
- Prevailing health crises (causing preventable deaths and disease outbreaks, contributing to the poverty trap, eroding economic output, polluting the environment)
- The global nutrition paradox (obesity versus malnutrition - rising global demand for animal products, fats and sugars and its effects on people and the environment, food insecurity and its effects on health, development and the environment)
- The health impacts of global consumerism and manufacturing (the effects on human health and environmental pollution caused by the electronics we use, produce and waste)

The Global health course covers the links between three major areas of study in sustainability studies: development, environment and global health to gain a better understanding of the importance of good health for social, economic and environmental sustainability.

In other words, the course and teaching techniques at Lund University are uniquely designed to ensure the link and connection between the study programs and the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information please check the following link:

<https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/article/how-lund-university-can-contribute-sustainable-development>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



Slovakia

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

The UI Green Metric World University Rankings is the world's first university ranking that measures each participating university's commitment to building an environmentally friendly university. The evaluation of universities is carried out in six areas - infrastructure, energy and climate change, waste, water, transport and teaching.

SUA in Nitra retained its place in the top ten universities within the V4, whose activities are environmentally friendly - Teaching and water management were among the best rated categories - [SPU opäť patrí k najudržateľnejším univerzitám na Slovensku | SPU Nitra \(uniag.sk\)](#)

The SUA organized a Winter School on the topic of “The potential of sustainable tourism for community development” in 2022 - [INVEST: Zimná škola na tému Potenciál udržateľného turizmu pre rozvoj komunity | SPU Nitra \(uniag.sk\)](#)

In 2019, students of SUA in Nitra decided to connect theory with practice. They prepared a community composting project for students who live in the dormitories. In this way, they want to improve the relationship and responsibility of the dormitory residents towards the waste they create; Boarding school Mladost', which belongs to SUA, is the first university boarding school in Slovakia that composts. - [O nás :: Komunitný komposter-spu \(webnode.sk\)](#)