

# ***“HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PRACTICES AND LEADERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”***

## ***THE UCY STORY***

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**Jointly organised by UNICA and IAU**










**Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου  
University of Cyprus**

# Strategic Target | Sustainable Development of the University of Cyprus

## Vision on Sustainability

The University of Cyprus (UCY) aims to become an **exemplar in the area of Sustainability** by becoming a **role model** for sustainable development in Cyprus, through its future expansion and its day to day operation.

UCY will take an **active approach** towards sustainability by **embedding the principles of sustainability** in its future development, internationalisation, learning, teaching and research.

ENERGY	TRAVEL	WATER	ENVIRONMENT	EDUCATION	PARTNERSHIPS	
Aim to be a net zero energy University	Seek to transition from private to effective public transport and on-campus living	Minimise the use and maximise its reuse	Increase planting of native species to provide shade and help local cooling	Share our learning with our students, staff and our wider community	Developing and sustaining international partnerships	
						

## WHERE WE ARE AT THE MOMENT...

- Bottom-up approach
- Fragmented actions by individual staff, Academic Departments and Administrative Services

BUT



- The UCY leadership, recognising that sustainability is cross-cutting and horizontal, and that a holistic approach is necessary, has recently set-up a Committee on Sustainability.
- Through this Committee, UCY is contemplating to find to the most suitable method to coordinate sustainable development and alignment with SDGs.

# THE UCY ROADMAP TO HOLISTIC APPROACH

Form a Sustainability working group to:

- ✓ Map Existing Situation for all SDGs
  - Identify courses offered according to SDGs
  - Identify research projects according to SDGs
- ✓ Enact policies to promote SDGs in all aspects of academic life
  - E.g. compulsory courses for students (teaching)
  - E.g. use SDG's as a criterion for internally-funded projects (research)
- ✓ Participate at THE Impact Rankings
- ✓ Facilitate collaboration with other international and national Institutions, through existing or new channels



# SUCCESS STORIES

## Extensive PV Installations on rooftops and on ground



- 436 kW installed capacity
- Annual yield of approx. 600MWh





# SUCCESS STORIES

**SAVES and SAVES2:** Great examples of cross-sector, cross-country collaboration for student engagement in pursuit of energy savings. (EU funded projects)

## SAVES2

### Energy savings in dormitories 2017-2020



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



13 CLIMATE ACTION



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# SUCCESS STORIES

## UCY Research Centres promoting SDGs:

- Nireas- International Water Research Center
- Economics Research Centre
- Research Centre for Gender Studies
- KIOS Research Center for Intelligent Systems and Networks
- FOSS - The Research Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Oceanography Centre
- Centre for Medieval Arts & Rituals
- CY-Biobank
- Center for Applied Neuroscience
- The Cyprus Neuroscience Research Unit



## UCY Student Services promoting SDGs:

- The Social Support Office
- University of Cyprus Students Welfare Fund
- Counselling Services

# SUCCESS STORIES

Participation in the YUFE (Young Universities for the Future of Europe) Alliance for the development of a European University.

The ingrained DNA of YUFE of a young, student-centred, non-elitist, **open and inclusive European University**, embracing and celebrating **diversity and inclusivity**

The **four YUFE Focus Areas**: a. European Identity and responsibilities in a global world, b. Citizens well-being, c. Digital Societies and d. **Sustainability**, wide enough to ensure the fullest coverage of research and innovation topics

**SDG3: Good health and well-being**

**SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

**SDG5: Gender Equality,**

**SDG10: Reduced Inequalities**

**SDG17: Partnerships**





# SUCCESS STORIES

Through YUFE, UCY is coordinating the **YUFERING PROJECT - YUFE TRANSFORMING R&I THROUGH EUROPE-WIDE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

YUFERING Research and Innovation Agenda planned to **align its impact with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the European Research Area** and other related EU policies such as the **European Green Deal** and **Europe's Digital Strategy**.

- **SDG4, quality education.** YUFERING is expected to tackle global challenges
- **SDG11: Sustainable cities and communities:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- **SDG13: Climate action,** take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts as well as to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and to restore biodiversity and cut pollution under the European Green deal



# SUCCESS STORIES

## Establishment of a Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity Office at UCY

Aim: to create a fair, safe and pleasant environment for the entire university community, where students and staff, within and beyond their multiple identities, will feel supported, both in their professional and personal development.



# SUCCESS STORIES

## Building sustainable relationships by promoting strategic partnerships internationally:

- ✓ Establishment of the Confucius Institute at UCY
- ✓ Establishment of the Aula Cervantes at UCY
- ✓ Participation in the ERASMUS+ Programme
- ✓ Active participation in university networks/associations
- ✓ Close collaboration with the Greek and Cypriot Diaspora
- ✓ Signing of Agreements of Cooperation with institutions across the world
- ✓ Participation in the YUFE Alliance



# FUTURE PLANS

- ✓ New 5MW photovoltaic installation with energy storage
- ✓ On-going installation of geothermal heat pumps (biggest installation in Cyprus)
- ✓ Superior energy performance requirements for new campus buildings
- ✓ Medical School will be the first LEED Gold building in Cyprus
- ✓ Establishment of Strategic Partnerships
- ✓ Cooperation with international institutions for offering joint postgraduate programmes of study
- ✓ Organisation of Summer Schools for international students
- ✓ Increasing the number of full-time international students
- ✓ Promote environmental sustainability through learning and teaching



# THANK YOU

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Professor Ioannis Giapintzakis  
Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Finance and Administration