

## **Annual Report of SDGs for 2022**

### **SDG 1 NO POVERTY**

In order to tackle the challenges of SDG 1 for 2022, The University of West Attica, as a public university, offers all its undergraduate programs free of charge to students regardless of their financial situation. In addition, some MSc degrees and life-long learning programs are free of charge. In addition, through lifelong learning programs, it provides certified knowledge on sustainable development issues.

The University of West Attica organizes actions in the local community (conferences, partnerships with Municipalities, information workshops) in order to apply the principles of sustainable development in entrepreneurship and in the operation of local structures.

Students with proven financial need are provided with benefits, as defined by the Greek law, such as free daily meals, free accommodation in halls of residence, housing allowance, reduced cost of public transport.

### **SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER**

For 2022, The University of West Attica, in full compliance with the Greek law, provides three free meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) to students of all levels, if specific financial criteria are met. The restaurants operating in the University's campuses provide meals at a very low price to any student who is not entitled to free meals and to the rest of the academic and administrative staff.

The food in the restaurants is made from ingredients of the highest quality and are nutritious. Additionally there is a variety of options for students and staff that are vegetarians, or might have problems with allergies to some ingredients, among other provisions.

Leftovers from the University restaurants are distributed on a daily basis to the relevant structures in the local community, to help people in need.

Through the Departments of Food Science and Technology and Wine, Vine and Beverage Science, the University provides expertise (through partnerships and informative workshops and conferences) to professional producers and farmers and on sustainable development issues.

### **SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

The University of West Attica has 7 departments with undergraduate programs of study related to health professions. These departments organize a large number of postgraduate programs as well as doctoral and postdoctoral programs.

The University, either through initiatives of its departments or at the leadership level, carries out actions and collaborations at both local and national level concerning health, quality of life, family, sport, well-being among others.

Through its integrated medical structures and the competent psychological support services, it provides daily medical support to the entire academic community.

In full compliance with the Greek legislation, an anti-smoking program is in place and fully implemented in all areas of the institution. Moreover, continuous information campaigns on smoking are offered regularly to the community, either local or academic.

#### **SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION**

For 2022, the University of West Attica continued the culture of Quality Education improvement. In its aim to address the needs of the society, the University offers free access to educational resources, not only for those studying at the University, but also the community, e.g. computers, library, online courses, access to lectures. Actually, several of the University's structures are accessible to the public (e.g. library, some free MSc and life-long learning programs, medical care). In addition, through lifelong learning programs, the general public has the opportunity to acquire certified knowledge in various fields of science. The University offers ad-hoc and programmed campaigns, for various areas of expertise, for the local community, such as Primary and Secondary Schools, Municipality structures among others. All of the events addressed to the general public are accessible without any discrimination to any variable. In 2021, The University appointed the Gender Equality Committee, which continued to be in place for 2022 and submitted to the Academic Leadership, the action plan of avoidance of any discrimination.

Due to the wide scientific range covered by the University's departments, some of the graduates, after acquiring the basic skills and pedagogical competence, are able to teach specific subjects in primary schools.

#### **SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY**

For 2022, the University of West Attica continued its work on issues of equality and equal opportunities in full compliance with the Greek and European legislation. As a result, equal participation, in all activities of the University are ascertained, regardless of gender. Nevertheless, systematic annual monitoring of the numbers of students by gender is carried out in order to take corrective action, where feasible and foreseen by the Greek legislation.

In order to assist in the maternity process and unhindered participation in the educational and administrative process, the University provides childcare facilities for both students and staff (academic, administrative).

#### **SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

In 2022, The University of West Attica, realizing the effects of the climate crisis and its impact on the adequacy of water resources, is at the beginning of the effort to save and use water properly.

For this reason, it has replaced all conventional water taps on all campuses with photocell taps and conventional flush toilets with new technology to ensure minimization of the amount of water used.

In the immediate plans of the University's programming for water management and use are awareness-raising activities both within and outside the academic community. It is also in the process of finding funds and then studies on issues of treatment of used water both at the level of recycling and use and before it is discharged into the aquifer.

#### **SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

For 2022, the University continues and enhances its efforts for clean energy. The policy of the University is to replace energy-consuming appliances (e.g. air conditioning, light bulbs) with new technology in order to save energy. Wind turbines and solar panels have been installed at the University, and a large part of the energy consumed comes from them in environmentally friendly ways. As a result of these efforts, the carbon footprint is also reduced from 2018 onwards.

In addition to the above internal actions within the University, there are community outreach activities on reduction and environmentally friendly energy production and partnerships with agencies in the wider government for two-way transfer of expertise on energy.

## **SDG 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

The University of West Attica is fully harmonized with the current Greek legislation, applies all rules concerning working conditions (hours, pay, insurance, available equipment, ensuring zero discrimination based on gender, religion, age, sexual preference) either within the University or in partner institutions outside the University. The same framework applies to students doing their internship within the framework of the program of study they are following. The University will continue to be in full compliance with the Greek legislation and ensure that its personnel get the legislative predicted living wage.

## **SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

According to the Greek legislation, each university has created a Special Account for Research Funds. The purpose of the Special Account for Research Funds of the University of West Attica is the management and allocation of funds from any source to cover the costs of research planning and execution. The University carries out collaborations aimed at promoting theoretical and applied research and related activities in the fields of the University's areas of expertise.

## **SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

The admission of foreign students to the University of West Attica is subject to the terms and conditions of the Greek legislation without discrimination according to the country of origin. Similarly, the admission of students with disabilities is carried out in the manner described by the Greek legislation and the Internal Regulation of the University. The data of students entering the University are imported into the student Registry application by each of the departments and therefore it is possible to monitor individual data (e.g. nationality, gender, disability)

The University of West Attica has a permanent Equality Committee that takes care of policies, programs and training on equality issues. There is also the provision of the Academic Advisor and a separate Academic Advisor for people with disabilities in each department that deals with student requests/problems.

In all areas of the University there are infrastructures to assist people with disabilities (e.g. ramps, lifts, reading rooms with specialised equipment, electronic course manuals in readable format for visually impaired people)

## **SDG 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

The access of students and the academic community in general to the University's premises is free, without restrictions. This includes access on campus to green spaces, sports facilities, physical and electronic libraries (through partnerships with international and domestic publishing houses), art events (theatre performances, painting, photography and exhibits, singing). In fact, as the University has 4 departments of applied arts and culture, they also organize various art events both inside and outside the University through partnerships with local institutions and cultural bodies, to which the entire academic community has free access.

A key principle of the university is the direction towards sustainable development. Along this axis, continuous efforts are being made by the university administration and by members of the academic community (increasing green space and paths, use of electric bus to move members of the academic community between campuses, production of electricity in environmentally friendly ways (sun, air), proper use of water, partnerships with state and local community bodies on sustainable development issues, research projects, energy efficiency upgrades of existing buildings and construction of new ones).

## **SDG 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

The development of the University is intertwined with sustainable development. In addition to what has already been mentioned in SDG 11, there is a continuous effort in the management and reduction of waste in all its forms. Through agreements with the prefecture and neighboring municipalities, paper and plastic is collected and recycled. Internal campaigns are being conducted to inform the academic community to reduce the use of plastic.

Through electronic applications (student registry, electronic protocol, digital signature, electronic platform for requests for materials and services) the use of paper is reduced to a minimum.

The food left over daily from the university's restaurants is made available to the local community through partnerships with relevant local agencies, for use by people with financial difficulties. Through agreements with private companies, toxic waste is collected and recycled. The technical department makes an annual inventory of organic and inorganic waste.

## **SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION**

For 2022, The actions and initiatives described in SDG 11 and 12 result in a continuous reduction of the carbon footprint (from 6400 tons in 2018 to 4318 tons in 2022).

The scales of the technical service carry out annual measurements of energy consumption and the percentage of it coming from renewable energy sources. This percentage is very high and there is already an agreement with the national energy provider to purchase from it a percentage of the energy generated on one of the institution's campuses.

The University's actions in this direction are not limited within the University but there are collaborations and awareness raising activities with local and national bodies. In fact, the first solar charging station for electric vehicles has already been installed and is operating on the border island of Tilos, sponsored by the University.

In addition, a number of research projects on environmentally friendly energy production and use have been funded through the University's Special Research Funding Account.

## **SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER**

For 2022, there are information and awareness-raising activities for members of the academic community regarding the reduction of plastic use, which is the main source of pollution of aquatic ecosystems, as well as voluntary actions by students to clean up the coasts of the Attica region.

The University fully complies with the Greek legislation and the water quality controls of the water company. Through the collection and recycling of the university's waste, it is largely ensured that the water used within the university that ends up in the aquifer is in as harmless a composition as possible for the sea water.

And for both ecological and quality control reasons, the University controls the origin of the raw materials used in its restaurants.

### **SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND**

The University of West Attica, through its departments of Tourism Management, Food Science and Technology and Wine, Vine and Beverage Sciences, provides educational programs that include sustainable land management. Through actions and collaborations of the above departments with local institutions and the general government, the culture and two-way knowledge of sustainable land management is promoted to the community.

Through agreements with the prefecture and neighboring municipalities, paper and plastic collection and recycling is carried out. Internal campaigns are carried out to inform the academic community about the reduction of plastic use.

Through electronic applications (student Registry, electronic protocol, digital signature, electronic platform for requests for materials and services) the use of paper is reduced to a minimum. Both for ecological and quality control reasons, the University controls the origin of the raw materials used in its restaurants. As mentioned in SDG 12, Through agreements with private companies, toxic waste is collected and recycled. The technical department makes an annual inventory of organic and inorganic waste.

### **SDG 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

In full compliance with the Greek legislation on the operation of academic institutions, the University of West Attica has an elected administration (administration board) consisting of 6 internal and 5 external members. Similarly, student associations exist and are fully recognized in their role, as required by law.

In addition to the 5 external members of the administration council, the academic departments of the University have external expert committees, which perform an advisory role in the formulation of the curriculum.

At the University of West Attica there are procedures and institutions for disciplinary control and academic freedom, as defined both in the internal regulations of the university and in the Greek legislation on the operation of academic institutions.

There is close cooperation between the university and local institutions and the government on various issues related to sustainable development and the sciences that the University of West Attica treats (both in terms of research and information as well as on a practical level).

### **SDG 17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS**

The University of West Attica, either at the level of Leadership, academic department or faculty, participates in actions, collaborations and research projects with governmental and non-governmental organizations for problem solving and two-way transfer of know-how both for the development of the University and for the improvement of the operation of processes and practical applications outside the University. Participates in data collection and measurement related to the TIMES HIGHER Rankings SDG (e.g. GREEN METRICS)

As the University has 27 different academic departments and a large number of graduate programs, many degree programs or part of them are directly related to the TIMES HIGHER Rankings SDG.

Similarly, a large number of lifelong learning programs are also operated and offered to the general public, many of which have a subject related to the TIMES HIGHER indicators.

At the same time, a large number of activities (e.g. workshops, conferences, artistic events) are organized both inside and outside the University that are open to the general public.