



Engaging SDGs for Transformative Education
and Enhanced Sustainability in Universities



Co-funded by
the European Union

Newsletter n.3

December 2025

About SDG4U

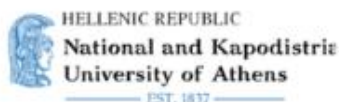
SDG4U's key priority is to stimulate innovative learning and teaching practices through engaging SDGs to transformative education and sustainability practices in universities. The project supports and enhances the implementation of SDGs in higher education by embedding sustainability across teaching, research, operations, and community outreach. The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and spans over 36 months (December 2022 – December 2025).

More at: www.sdg4uproject.eu/



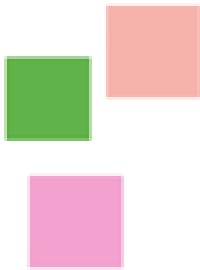
Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



UNIVERSIDAD
DE MURCIA





Empowering Educators for a Sustainable Future: the SDG4U Train the Trainers

The SDG4U project organised a “Train the Trainers” seminar as a key educational initiative designed to empower university educators. The event took place on May 30th at Pantheion University. The seminar aimed to equip participants with tools and methodologies to integrate the SDGs into both teaching and institutional practices, supporting more sustainable and transformative education.



The seminar was structured into four focused modules. Each module includes presentations, exercises, workshops, and open discussions aimed at developing interactive, participatory, and innovative teaching practices.

- Introduction to the SDGs and Higher Education
- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Multi-Actor Collaborative Learning
- Action-Based Learning

Participants gained the necessary knowledge to design courses or activities based on the SDGs and to exchange good practices with colleagues from diverse academic fields.

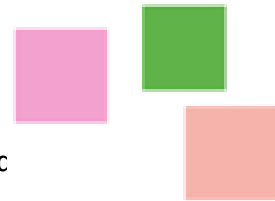
The seminar targeted academic staff who wish to act as change agents within their institutions, promoting sustainability, social responsibility, and active global citizenship.

SDG4U showcased at the UNIMED General Assembly!



More than 100 participants coming from 19 countries gathered at the University of Calabria, last July 9th and 10th, to revitalize the Euro-Mediterranean Partnerships in Higher Education for the UNIMED General Assembly and to celebrate the 30 years long journey from the Barcelona Process to the Pact for the Mediterranean.

As part of the two-days event, UNIMED staff members presented the major initiatives of the network. Martina Zipoli, UNIMED senior Project Manager, introduced to the audience the SDG4U project.



The presentation focused on the project achievements, its potential in shaping economic sustainability and the great commitment of all Partners to support HEIs in Europe and beyond towards the adoption of SDGs, as a powerful tool for a sustainable future for our youth.

SDG4U Raising Awareness Campaign

Advancing understanding of SDGs

SDG4U Partners worked strongly to raise awareness and actively engage the educational community for the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals through an awareness campaign targeting faculty members, students and the general public in Europe and beyond. The campaign involves webinars, social media posting and in-presence institutional events, to ensure the maximum visibility and engagement.

Partners will focus on all 17 SDGs, their targets and how they can be achieved. The **SDGs Awareness Campaign** will support the adoption of SDGs contributing to the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, encouraging everyone to play a role.

Have a look at some of the most successful events!



The 7th CSR Night, organized by the UMU Chair of CSR

On June 11th, over 150 professionals, executives, and entrepreneurs from the Region, alongside professors and researchers from the University of Murcia, got a first-hand look at this exciting initiative's goals. Longinos Marín, Director of the Chair, explained how SDG4U aims to stimulate innovative learning and teaching practices by integrating the SDGs into transformative education and sustainability practices within universities.



UCC Green Week 2025: A Week of Sustainability and Climate Action!

From March 31 to April 4, 2025, University College Cork (UCC) hosted its annual Green Week, bringing together students, staff, and the wider community for a collaborative week of environmental action and sustainability education on campus.

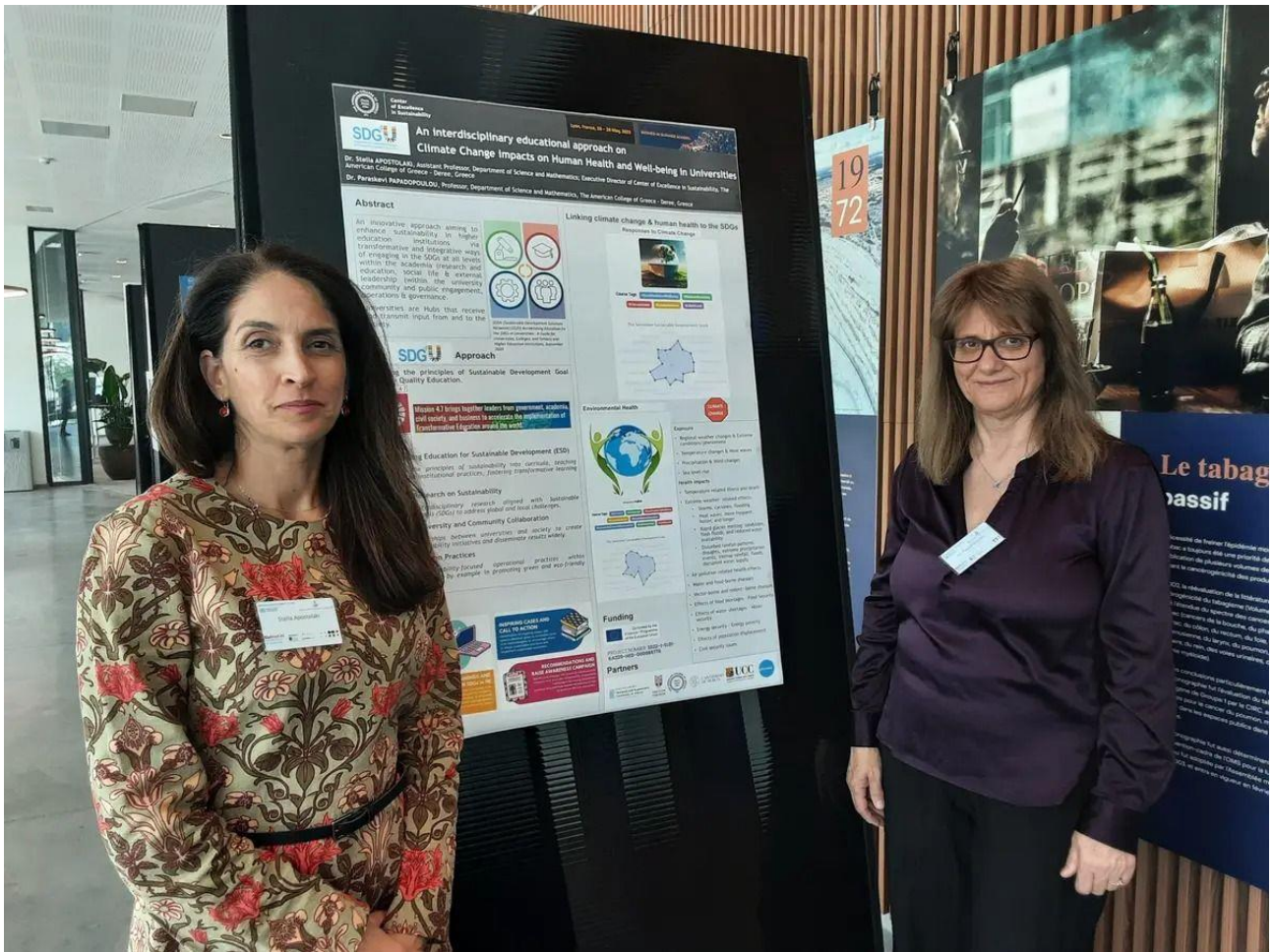
The main highlights of the Week include:

- COP29 Reflection Event: the participants could reflect on UCC's participation at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and discuss key takeaways from the UCC delegation.
- Bike Doctor on Campus: Offering free bike checks and tune-ups by expert mechanics.
- Vegan & Vegetarian Food Vendors: Providing a variety of delicious and sustainable plant-based food options across campus.

Green Week 2025 also coincided with the European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition Student Board's visit to UCC. Together, they explored sustainability leadership, sharing and developing student-led initiatives such as:

- A 'green challenges app' to engage the campus community in sustainability efforts.
- Leftovers vending machines to reduce food waste.
- Incentivising meat-free meal choices in campus cafeterias.
- Incorporating nature spaces on campus, like ponds or beehives.

More information about the event are available [here](https://www.ucc.ie/.../sustain.../news/green-week-2025-.html):
<https://www.ucc.ie/.../sustain.../news/green-week-2025-.html>

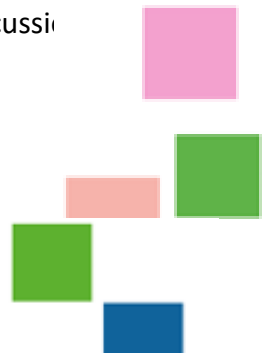


The SDG4U project participated in the 3rd edition of the BioMed-AI International Initiative Summer School!

From May 26th to May 28th , the 3rd edition of the summer school, organized by the Digital Health Literacy & Policy Hub explored the powerful theme:

"Transforming Healthcare Through Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities, Challenges, and Ethical Frontiers."

Representing The American College of Greece, Professors Paraskevi Papadopoulou, Stella Apostolakis, and Alexia Polissidis, along with five dedicated students, presented their scientific work through oral and poster sessions. The BioMed-AI Summer School was an inspiring and transformative experience—bridging the latest in AI innovation with critical discussion on ethics, and policy.





Training Seminar on Transformative Education and Sustainability hosted by the American College of Greece

On Wednesday November 19, 2025, the American College of Greece (ACG) organized and hosted a comprehensive training seminar as part of the SDG4U Erasmus+ Project, titled “Engaging SDGs for Transformative Education and Enhanced Sustainability in Universities.” The event, addressed to both faculty and students, aimed to strengthen understanding and integration of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) within higher education.

The seminar was coordinated by ACG’s Center of Excellence in Sustainability (CoES), in collaboration with the SDG4U project partners: the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Project Coordinator), Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Murcia, University College Cork, and UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union.

Two Dedicated Training Sessions

The program consisted of two targeted sessions—one for faculty and one for students—each designed to support deeper engagement with the SDGs through academic practice, research, and campus sustainability initiatives.

The program was structured into two dedicated sessions—one for faculty and one for students—with the overarching goal of actively engaging both groups and enhancing their awareness of the SDGs. Each session was tailored to encourage deeper involvement with the Sustainable Development Goals through academic practice, research initiatives, and sustainability actions on campus.

The Faculty session opened with an introduction of the 17 SDGs delivered by Dr. Stella Apostolaki, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Deree–ACG, Executive Director of CoES, and ACG’s Principal Investigator for the project, together with Dr. Paraskevi Papadopoulou, Professor of Biophysics and Cell Biology at Deree–ACG.

Following this, Professor Andreas Papandreou, Director of the Political Economy of Sustainable Development Lab at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Co-Chair of UN SDSN Greece, presented the SDG4U project and its specialized Mapping Tool, an open-source platform designed to help universities align their curricula with SDGs. This innovative tool allows professors and students to assess and enhance the integration of sustainability in courses, offering features

like interactive data visualization and comprehensive feedback mechanisms. By fostering collaboration and reflection, the tool inspires a culture of sustainability-driven education.

This session aimed to equip faculty with practical strategies for embedding SDGs and their sub-targets into new and existing curricula, as this is one of the project long-term objectives and the focus of the efforts put in place by Partners over the course of the past two-years

The Student Session began with an overview of the 17 SDGs by Dr. Apostolaki, after which students presented six “Campus as a Living Lab” projects, showcasing hands-on sustainability research and innovation:

- “AI Innovations and Environmental Impact in Biomedical and Environmental Sciences” – presented by Ms. Paniz Mokhtarpour (ACG), supervised by Dr. Papadopoulou
- “Total Ozone Monitoring on Campus” – presented by Ms. Zoi Trigkaki (ACG), supervised by Dr. Ioannis Christodoulakis
- “Mapping the Campus Biodiversity” – presented by Mr. Nikitas Vainores (ACG), supervised by Dr. Apostolaki and Dr. Anastasia Misseyanni
- “Wild Litter; Insect Hotels; Upcycling and Clothing Exchange” – presented by Dr. Ines Lopez Lopez, Catedrática de Universidad, Coordinator of Social Responsibility, University of Murcia (UMU)

The session concluded with an engaging SDGS Hackathon, where students worked in teams to tackle one of 26 sustainability challenges linked to the 17 UNSDGs, fostering creative problem-solving and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Contributing to sustainable development

Through interactive sessions, workshops, and a student hackathon, participants were actively engaged in learning more about the 17SDGs and challenged to think creatively on practical ways to integrate SDGs into university teaching and research.

While strengthening awareness on sustainable development, the seminar allowed faculty members and students to jointly reflect on the importance of contributing with innovative ideas to modern challenges, and institutions on how to embed sustainability as a core element of teaching, learning and research.

Universities are no longer viewers of changes but drivers of innovation and active players in promoting sustainability and generating more responsible citizens and youth.



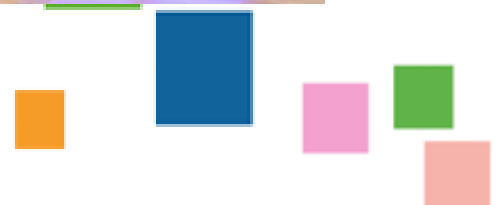
SDG4U was recognized with a BRAVO Sustainability Award

We are delighted to announce that SDG4U has been honoured with a BRAVO Sustainability Award. This distinction recognises SDG4U's contribution to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on SDG4 – Quality Education, by promoting innovation, collaboration and societal engagement through higher education.

The award reflects the strong commitment of NKUA and SDSN Greece to leveraging Erasmus+ initiatives as catalysts for sustainable development at national and European level.

This is a meaningful acknowledgment to a truly collective effort.

Congratulations to all partners and contributors from the SDG4U community!

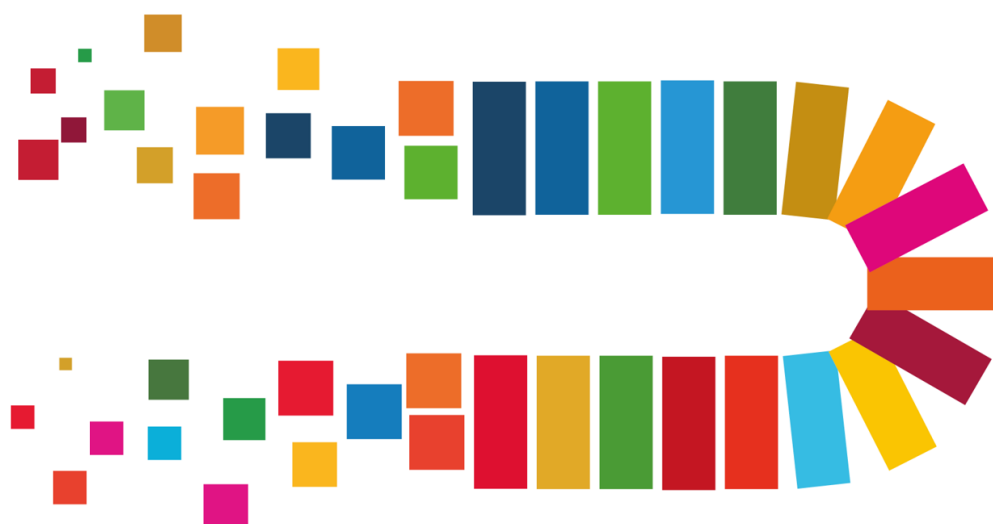


Paving the way for sustainable education across Europe and beyond

As part of their ongoing contributions to the SDG4U project, partners have developed a set of educational materials designed to facilitate the adoption of sustainability practices within higher education institutions, for both university staff and students. These include learning materials, guidance tools, inspiring cases and awareness-raising activities that promote cross-sector collaboration, foster inclusive engagement, and encourage active reflection on the role of education in achieving the SDGs. Through these efforts, the partners collectively support the transformation of higher education institutions into spaces of sustainability, innovation, and societal impact.

Know more consulting our Results page

<https://www.sdg4uproject.eu/results/>





Stay connected with SDG4U

SDG4U is about to end, but its legacy will stay long alive!

Visit the project website and keep benefitting from all the resources developed by the project, the Mapping Tool and the inspiring cases identified during the project lifetime.

Sustainable development
is meant to last over time.
SDG4U will stay as a resource,
beyond the project lifetime,
for all those willing to contribute
to a more sustainable future.

More at: www.sdg4uproject.eu/

