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pic. Maciej Wróblewski



TOGETHER FOR PEOPLE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROSPERITY.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK THROUGH THE LENS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





pic. Błażej Zabłotny



Ladies and Gentlemen,

the modern world is facing many challenges, which have been recognised and adopted in the UN resolution „Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Achieving the goals set out therein also depends on the responsibility of universities.

The answer to the new global and local challenges is the vision of a socially engaged university, which intensively develops relationships with various stakeholders (e.g. local government, policy makers, business, NGOs, schools, etc.) and involves the widest possible group of citizens and organisations in the creation, transfer and dissemination of knowledge for the common good. Social engagement not only fits in with the assumptions of European research strategies and agendas, but also responds to the assumptions of the Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities, which the University of Gdańsk, as one of the first Polish universities, signed in 2017. The mission of the University of Gdańsk

is to provide education, scientific activity and shape civic attitudes by addressing challenges and problems oriented towards supporting sustainable development, i.e. one that takes into account the well-being of future generations. We look to the future, recognising the dynamic transformations taking place in the world, including the processes of green and digital transformation, which place human-serving solutions at the centre, balancing technological development with social values and the preservation and protection of the environment. It is important to remember that the economic, cultural, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development are complementary.

With this report, we would like to promote those activities of the university that are both in line with global trends, leading to the building of academic excellence, and support our local environment and communities, highlighting the coastal and harbour character of the region and the challenges associated with it.

At the University of Gdańsk, we are taking numerous steps to implement Agenda 2030. In 2021, the Centre for Sustainable Development was launched, whose ambitious activities have already become a benchmark for many Polish universities. An equally valuable field of activity of the university is the equality package, which includes comprehensive implementation of equality policy and counteracting mobbing, which is reflected in the Statute of the University of Gdańsk. We are an active participant in the groundbreaking SEA-EU Universities initiative,

which prioritises the social impact of research and education programmes. Together with our partners, we want to shape socially aware and sensitive citizens, build lasting relationships and cooperation, integrating different scientific disciplines, which will also translate into increased innovation. During the next phase of the SEA-EU Project, our university will be responsible for coordinating sustainability and building so-called 'green campuses', which is certainly an honour and a commitment for us.



pic. Błażej Zabłotny

By presenting this report to you, we are sharing the best selected practices of the University of Gdańsk in the field of social engagement and sustainability. At the same time, I strongly encourage the entire academic community to join in these activities in the years to come, to address

important and ground-breaking topics that prioritise respecting and protecting the planet, all its inhabitants and resources. Especially in times of current crises: climatic, epidemiological, humanitarian, economic, political, the call to make the world a better place rings even louder.

Prof. Dr. Piotr Stepnowski
Rector of the University of Gdańsk



pic. Błażej Zabłotny





University of Gdańsk towards the seas and oceans

The University of Gdańsk is a dynamically developing university, combining tradition with modernity. Education in almost all fields of academic knowledge and in professions sought after by the labour market is combined with modern study conditions in one of the largest university centres in Pomerania, which is being expanded as part of the Baltic Campus of the University of Gdańsk. The University of Gdańsk follows the motto *in mari via tua* (in the sea your way), serving the development of the Pomeranian region, whose wealth is the sea.

The university's maritime authority is built up by excellent research stations of international renown, such as the Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography in Hel, the Bird Migration Research Station and the Biological Station on the Sobieszewo Island. The university's maritime image also consists of fields of study, specialisations and research related to the sea, especially the Baltic coast. This is especially true of the Faculty of Oceanography

and Geography, the Faculty of Biology or the Faculty of Chemistry, and courses such as oceanography, geography, geology, water management and water resources protection, biology and environmental protection, or aquaculture - business and technology. Other faculties are also pursuing maritime topics. At the Faculty of Law and Administration, there are works focused on the study of maritime law, international maritime law, the law and



regime of Pomeranian cities or maritime forensics. At the Faculty of Economics, there is the Institute of Maritime Transport and Trade, whose staff carry out research into the economic aspects of maritime transport and trade, and within the framework of their specialisation in international maritime transport and trade, educate specialists in this field. The interests of literary scholars focus on the city and the region. Long-term projects to investigate the links between literature of different periods and the maritime subject of Pomerania are being continued. Work is underway on the folklore of north-eastern Poland and Balto-Slavic mythology. The research of historians is dominated by the issues of the Baltic Sea region, the history of Gdańsk and Pomerania.



The University of Gdańsk achieves significant scientific successes, consolidating its leadership position, particularly in maritime-related activities and research. The University cooperates in this area with research and scientific centres from almost all countries in the world. The University of Gdańsk forms a network of European universities selected in the European Commission's European Universities competition. The University has twice been a winner of the special Programme of the Foundation for Polish Science - International Research Agendas, which aims to create innovative centres of excellence in Poland with the participation of the best scientists from around the world. The University of Gdańsk received PLN 76 million to create two agendas: the International Centre for Cancer Vaccine Science and the International Centre for Theory of Quantum Technologies (ICTQT). The University continuously



pic. Maciej Wróblewski

undertakes intensive efforts to improve the quality of its research and has received funding for this purpose under the programme of the then Minister of Science and Higher Education - „Strategy of Excellence - Research University”. The University of Gdańsk actively participates in the Baltic cooperation through the implementation of international scientific projects, including: under Horizon 2020 (ASSEMBLE Plus project) and the Interreg South Baltic (Seaplanspace project - a unique European

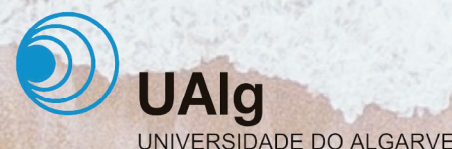
cooperation network for sustainable management of the sea). It is also the leader of the Consortium of the National Baltic Research Centre, which includes universities from Pomerania and research institutes. It is the only Polish university to have a state-of-the-art research vessel, the R/V Oceanograf catamaran, designed for interdisciplinary research into the environment and nature of the Baltic Sea and for teaching students.



University of Gdańsk in the European University of the SEAS, SEA-EU

In 2019, the University of Gdańsk was among an elite group of 17 international consortia - winners of the European Universities competition of the European Commission, funded under the Erasmus+ Programme. The University of Gdańsk has formed the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU) consortium with partners: University of Cadiz (Spain), University of Split (Croatia), University of West Brittany (France), Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel (Germany) and University of Malta (Malta). In 2022, the alliance will be joined by: Parthenope University of Naples (Italy), University of Algarve (Portugal) and Nord University in Bodø (Norway). From 2023, the consortium will start implementing the next phase of the project called SEA-EU 2.0. The grant is intended to develop cooperation in, among other things, education, research and academic exchange. It will be possible to establish joint courses of study, exchanges of academic staff and students, joint research projects and, in the future, a joint degree from all universities. Within the framework of the funds received, the university is implementing a completely new model of education and academic exchange with

partner universities. The maritime sector is of strategic importance to the economies of the nine coastal regions from which our partners come. It is one of the main objectives of education and research conducted by the universities that make up the SEA-EU consortium. The SEA-EU universities, including the University of Gdańsk, educate students in a number of fields of study related to maritime disciplines, numerous research groups work on maritime topics, and the business community is developing dynamically in the sector of production and services dedicated to the maritime economy. The universities involved in SEA-EU have committed to implementing this project in cooperation with associated partners (in the case of the University of Gdańsk these are: the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Sopot, the Maritime Institute of the University of Gdańsk and the Erasmus Student Network UG Association), key public research agencies, national and regional administrations and companies involved in research and business activities related to the sea and ocean, neighbouring our territories.



Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Gdańsk

Dear Sirs,

The University of Gdańsk is responsibly implementing the tasks set by Agenda 2030, understanding the role that higher education institutions should play in this regard. Realising its most important goals: education, research and cooperation with the socio-economic environment, the UG initiates and supports activities disseminating the assumptions of Agenda 2030. To this end, the Rector of the UG established the Centre for Sustainable Development of the University of Gdańsk (CSDUG) in 2021. It began its activities by collecting scientific output and teaching achievements, popularising research results and knowledge on sustainable development, which are the result of many years of involvement of the University's employees. The Centre is actively working to transform the UG into a green university with the least possible burden on the natural environment.

In carrying out its tasks, CSDUG is guided by three priorities: (1) engagement understood as providing knowledge to inspire action for sustainable development; (2) partnership understood as initiating teamwork; and (3) knowledge sharing as creating a platform for the exchange of information, good practices and experiences leading to a synergy of activities between the academic community and its environment for the implementation of Agenda 2030. Our activities focus, among other things, on raising the awareness of the UG students and postgraduates of the complex challenges of the modern world. We want to inspire young people to seek solutions and to take on the role of leaders of change in the economic, political and social space after graduation.

dr hab. Sylwia Mrozowska, prof. UG
***Director of the Centre for Sustainable
Development, University of Gdańsk***



The Centre for Sustainable Development of the University of Gdańsk (CSDUG, hereafter: Centre) is an all-university extra-faculty unit established in January 2021. The main task of the Centre is to support, coordinate and undertake activities disseminating the goals of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development among the academic community and in the socio-economic environment of the University. We implement our goals through eight programmes:

Research and projects

We implement projects in selected strategic areas: Affordable and clean energy (Goal 7); Reduced inequalities (Goal 10); Sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11); Climate action (Goal 13); Peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16). We run a regular training series Design SDG research at the

UG aimed at students and PhD students at the University of Gdańsk, encouraging them to undertake research and development work in the field of sustainable development.

International cooperation

We are systematically building a network of research and educational contacts with European institutions and universities for sharing practices and developing solutions for sustainable development. We initiate collaborations, organise conferences, training workshops with researchers and experts on sustainable development

(Sustainable Development Goals, hereafter: SDGs). As part of the Seaside Alliance of European Universities (SEA-EU), we are actively working in the Sustainability Working Group to develop a common curriculum for sustainability studies and the blue economy.

Education for sustainable development

We run a postgraduate programme: Education for Sustainability: offshore wind energy and Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, delivered under the auspices of the Fahrenheit Union of Universities. We organise training and workshops for local people. Our local

strategic partner in the field of education is the Hevelianum Centre, a budgetary unit of the Municipality of Gdańsk, whose activities include educational, scientific, cultural, recreational, pro-social and environmental protection activities.

Green University

The aim of the programme is to inspire, encourage and support the academic community of the University of Gdańsk to transform the university and the facilities at its disposal into a green, resource-efficient and low-carbon campus network. Elements of the programme include: the introduction of green procurement principles, the installation of a photovoltaic system, an external lighting

audit, and the involvement of students and doctoral students in sustainability competitions in collaboration with the Student and Doctoral Activity Centre. Together with the UG Main Library, we have started to develop a system to comprehensively collect information on the achievements of academics in the field of SDGs.

Cooperation with the social environment

We initiate cooperation with non-governmental organisations, local government units, educational units, foundations with a view to developing joint strategies, action plans and preparing sustainable development projects. We co-implement projects on building democratic culture and civic engagement. We

hold expert positions in national, local government and non-governmental bodies. We give lectures, participate in conferences, prepare expert presentations and carry out workshops in response to the reported needs of institutions from the university environment.

Internship programme

As part of the internship programme, the UG students gain additional competences and skills related to project management for sustainable development. An example of

the activities of our interns is a series of interviews with the UG researchers on the SDGs, produced in collaboration with the UG Film and Documentary Production Centre.

Culturally about sustainable development

We undertake critical reflection and research on the role of culture in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The following initiatives serve this purpose: a virtual bookshelf with books related to the

SDG goals, a series of meetings on global issues with experts and invited guests from the university and the region, meetings and interviews with artists and experts.

Conversations on sustainable development

We popularise the research results and teaching and project activities related to sustainable development of scientists, teachers, PhD students and students of the University of Gdańsk. We publish interviews, presentations and popular science articles on the Centre's

website. In the 2021/2022 academic year, more than 40 of them were published. They are part of building awareness and promoting the importance of education and research for the concept of sustainable development.



pic. Mateusz Byczkowski



pic. Błażej Zabłotny



pic. Dominik Werner/KFP



Working, Yet Poor

The University of Gdańsk is actively involved in research into the causes of deprivation among people active on the labour market as a participant in the international project Working, Yet Poor (hereafter: WorkYP). The consortium of the WorkYP project, carried out under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, consists, apart from the University of Gdańsk, of the following universities: University of Luxembourg, University of Bologna, Goethe University of Frankfurt, KU Leuven, Tilburg University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Lund, Utrecht University, as well as social partners: Observatoire Social Européenne in Brussels, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini from Rome and the European Anti-Poverty Network based in Brussels. The main objective of the WorkYP project is to analyse the phenomenon of poverty and social exclusion, the cause of which does not lie in unemployment. It therefore focuses on those groups of people remaining on the labour market whose wage levels and other working conditions do not guarantee an adequate standard of living. In spite of the advanced level of development of the social market economy in

the EU countries and seemingly effective methods of transferring national income to groups at risk of exclusion, it has not been possible to prevent some people from living at what is referred to as the subsistence or subsistence minimum. For many years, the phenomenon of alienation caused by low income was primarily associated with the lack of work and a stable income. Meanwhile, the last decade has seen the emergence of groups of excluded people who are active on the labour market, but the level of remuneration received or its frequency does not ensure a decent standard of living. The project is implemented at the Faculty of Law and Administration.





Plant protection

At the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdańsk and the Medical University of Gdańsk, research is conducted, among other things, on the protection of plants grown on a large scale to meet the most basic nutritional needs of a wide range of consumers, including the less affluent. Research is focused on several groups of issues: the use of molecular, immunological and biochemical methods to detect, identify and study the genetic diversity of bacterial plant

pathogens, monitoring the appearance of pathogenic bacteria of the *Dickeya* and *Pectobacterium* genera in Poland, research into the possibilities of protecting plants against pathogens through the use of plant secondary metabolites, bacteriophages and antagonistic bacteria. The results of the research work are published in the world's top scientific journals and the resulting inventions are under national and European patent protection.



Luminophores

Researchers from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science intend to create state-of-the-art infrared luminophores, which could find applications in the food industry or medicine, among others. The project entitled „Perovskites and broadband infrared luminophores for light-emitting diodes” is being carried out under the Polish-Taiwanese Research Cooperation. Technology that uses infrared, i.e. light that is invisible to the human eye, offers new possibilities. As technology develops, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), like all electronic components, are becoming increasingly miniaturised. As a result, they can be used as light sources in microspectrometers placed, for example, in a smartphone to, among other things, test food for its nutritional value or measure body fat levels. A critical component of such a device, which the researchers are working on, is a suitable phosphor that converts the light emitted by the diode with a single colour - usually in the visible range - into infrared light with a wide spectral range (i.e. emitting multiple wavelengths of infrared light). Only a phosphor with such properties will give the device full practical possibilities, which will enable it to be used, for example, in the analysis of food composition.





Movement is health

The University of Gdańsk promotes a healthy, active lifestyle among students and employees by organising sporting events such as the „Rector’s Cup Run” or the „Bike to the University” campaign. By participating in the campaign organised jointly with the Gdańsk University

of Technology, as part of the University’s Fahrenheit cooperation, employees can gain not only better fitness and well-being, but also attractive gifts. The university encourages its employees to be physically active by offering, for example, an attractive MultiSport card.



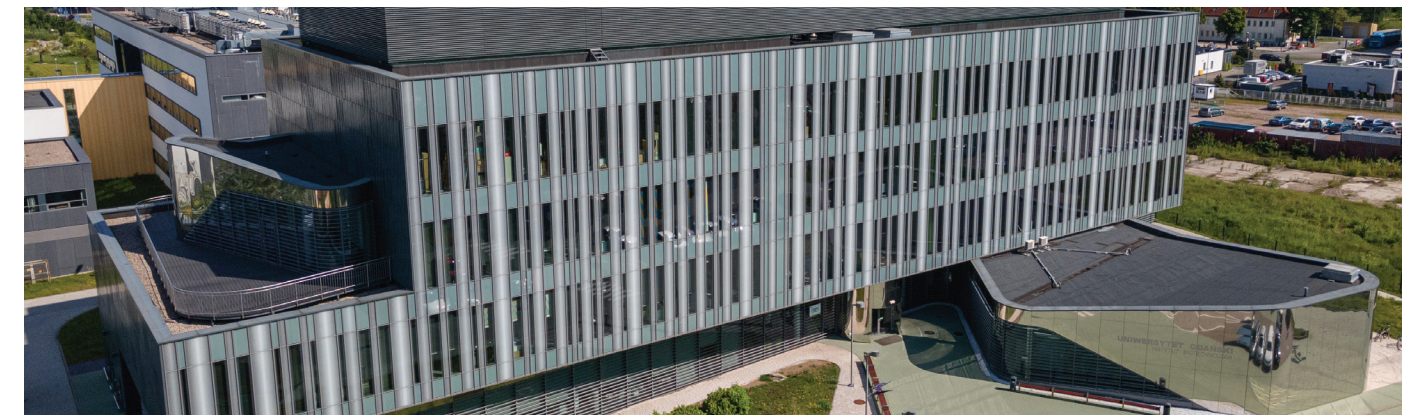
pic. Mateusz Byczkowski

Smoke-free policy

The University has an ordinance on the protection of health against the consequences of tobacco and tobacco products at the University of Gdańsk, under which smoking tobacco products, including novelty tobacco products and smoking electronic

cigarettes and substances released with novelty tobacco products, is prohibited. The sale, advertising and promotion of tobacco products in vending machines is also prohibited.

European Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biomedicine



pic. Błażej Zabłotny

The Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdańsk and the Medical University of Gdańsk (MWB UG and GUMed) is a unique unit established by the two Pomeranian universities to conduct interdisciplinary research and didactics combining biomedical and biomolecular issues and their applications in biotechnology for health and improvement of the quality of life. MWB UG and GUMed has held the status of European Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biomedicine since 2002. In 2017, the Committee for the Evaluation

of Scientific Units assessed the scientific and research and development activities of scientific units, awarding MWB with the best possible grade of A+. The Faculty also has the highest rated teaching activity in the country. In 2019, the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA) granted accreditation for the longest possible period of 5 years. In 2020, the PKA awarded the biotechnology faculty a Certificate of Excellence in Education in the category „Excellent faculty - excellence in education”. The Faculty’s graduates form an elite scientific staff who, through their

knowledge of the world's most modern techniques, feed the best scientific and medical units at home and abroad, making a significant contribution to activities related to the protection of human health and life. The Faculty is distinguished by its ultra-modern research infrastructure, including laboratories for molecular research, specialised apparatus and an animal house and phytotron complex. At present, two laboratories at MWB UG and GUMed are operating in the enhanced BSL-2 security system. The scientific activity carried out at the Faculty is closely linked to the modern education programme which assumes the participation of students in scientific research. The Faculty has research teams that

are pioneers in global research on chaperone proteins, mechanisms of protein protection against stress effects, DNA replication, biogenesis and degradation of protein complexes. The UG scientists affiliated with the Faculty are the only ones in Poland to conduct research in the field of molecular virology, both at the basic level, studying the molecular basis of virus multiplication in the eukaryotic cell, and at the application level, developing recombinant vaccines. Pioneering work also involves molecular studies of bacterial plant pathogens, mechanisms of cancer formation, development and metastasis, mainly breast cancer, and new diagnostic and therapeutic methods using photodynamic approaches.

COVID-19 pandemic



The University was involved in a number of activities that supported medical services and the people of the region in dealing with the consequences of the pandemic. When the epidemic was declared in the Pomeranian Voivodeship, there was a lack of equipment resources to perform more tests for the SARS-CoV-19 virus. The University donated highly specialised equipment in the form of a Light Cycler 480 II thermocycler to the Provincial Sanitary and Epidemiological Station in Gdańsk for the determination of SARS-CoV-19 genetic material using real-time RT-PCR technology. This made the Station the first facility in the region to start testing. In addition, two Light Cycler 480 II thermocyclers, two BSL-2 class laminar chambers and two apparatuses for the semi-automatic isolation of genetic material were handed over to the Naval

Hospital in Gdańsk, which is part of the national network of single-name infectious disease facilities. The donation of equipment has enabled the launch of a complete specialised hospital-based molecular diagnostic laboratory for COVID-19, thereby multiplying the number of tests performed and significantly speeding up the diagnosis of

SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequence

The laboratory of the University of Gdańsk was the first scientific unit in Poland to obtain the full genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, isolated directly from a Polish patient. The genetic sequence encodes a lot of important information, such as how the virus 'tricks' the human body by weakening its immunity. By isolating the genetic material and learning such a sequence, it is possible to better understand the properties of the virus, including determining its origin in both evolutionary and geographical contexts. To decipher the genetic code of the virus from the Polish patient from Pomerania, the latest generation of sequencers from Oxford Nanopore Technologies was used, resulting in the absence of additional procedures that could have introduced distortions. Bioinformatics protocols previously developed by ARTIC scientists for the collection of genetic data during the Ebola virus outbreak in Africa were used. The genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus was published in the GISAID global database on 20 April 2020, where previously there had not been a single direct patient-derived Polish isolate. The data obtained allowed scientists from all over the world to also take Poland into account in their

patients from the Pomeranian Voivodeship. In addition, it enabled the research to remain fluid in the event of any instrument failure in one of the two transferred test lines. Both measures made it possible to keep the epidemic situation in the region under full control and the number of tests ordered did not exceed the testing capacity.



studies related to the global epidemiology of COVID-19 disease and provided an important contribution to the understanding of the molecular evolution of the virus.

Psyche - we do not overlook this aspect of thinking about health

There is a Psychological Support Centre at the University of Gdańsk, consisting of certified therapists, specialists who provide free short-term psychological support directly or, for example, through virtual applications

such as Skype. Help is also provided by volunteers, female and male psychology students who offer consultations to their fellow students.



pic. Sylwester Ciszek
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Different dimensions of education at the UG for all generations

University Kindergarten



The University Kindergarten was established in 2019 as a non-public educational institution dedicated primarily to the children of staff, doctoral students and students of the University of Gdańsk, but also open to children of parents from outside the UG. Positive Initiatives-Education Ltd is the kindergarten's governing body as of September 2022, and it is located on the Oliwa campus. The kindergarten has two carefully designed and comfortably equipped teaching rooms and a room for physical and artistic activities. Next to the building there is a fenced playground and a sports field. Convenient facilities for the disabled are provided by a lift. The kindergarten is designed for 28 children in two nursery school divisions. Each division is supervised by two teachers working in shifts. The staff is supported by a teacher. The kindergarten is an integral part of the academic environment. It is a place where children are active explorers in the educational space created by educators, parents, university teachers,

students and listeners of the University of the Third Age, representatives of the local community and other entities operating in the vicinity of the Kindergarten. The organisation of work, space and time plays an important role in the University Kindergarten. The well-thought-out interiors and the way in which educational materials are used (the so-called loose parts) stimulate children's imagination, develop independence, engage children in the learning process and foster relationships. The environment and the collected materials provoke children to think, discover and act. The vicinity of the Tri-City Landscape Park allows the staff to focus their activities on strengthening the children's bond with nature through daily outdoor activities. The natural environment thus

becomes the setting for structured learning activities and a place for individual and team learning based on play. Free play occupies a special place in the rhythm of life at the kindergarten - we appreciate its extraordinary potential and educational value. The kindergarten works using the project method - initiated by children and adults. In addition, it provides the children with the opportunity to freely interact with and create culture, using various means of expression. Through art education, music, visual arts, dance and drama, the children strengthen their self-confidence, develop their creativity, their own language and their individual form of expression. In the kindergarten we implement an extended block of activities in English.

High school students

In July 2021, the declaration of patronage of the Paweł Adamowicz University High School was signed by the authorities of the three largest universities in Gdańsk, the authorities of Gdańsk and the Positive Initiatives Foundation, which is currently the running body of the high school. The signatories to the agreement declared their joint support for the school's development and their participation in its teaching and social projects. A guarantee of the development of education in Gdańsk is education based on modern methods and the experience of the teaching staff. In the case of the University High School, young people will benefit from the scientific potential of the three universities.



Involving employers in student education

Student education at the UG is not only about classroom lectures and laboratories, but also about practical training and workshops with employers, as exemplified by the project 'Business Day at the Philology'. Face to face with an employer', created for students of the UG Faculty of Philology in partnership with O4 Coworking. Those with a good command of foreign languages, open to new challenges and dream jobs received training in self-presentation and CV creation, which they learned to personalise with a specific employer in mind. Within the project there were also organised meetings with employers in the form of speed dating, which were prepared for students wishing to take their first steps on the labour market, check and develop their competences

with a view to a prospective employer. By organising a recruitment speed dating event, it was possible to connect the world of employers with the world of students. The event allowed both employers and future employees to take a more conscious approach to recruitment. The six-minute meetings are a quick test for the two parties and an opportunity to say what we do not read in the job offer or the candidate's CV, as well as a chance to feel or even build the usual interpersonal chemistry. In addition to the company's values or interesting facts from the young person's life, it turns out in the end that it is always about people and their mutual good relations. Event partners included: Amazon, Arrow Electronics, Bayer, Develocraft, Europe Fujifilm, Invest in Pomerania,



Randstad, Ricoh Europe, TELUS Business, Thomson Reuters, thyssenkrupp, Xceedance Poland, ZR Trade. Workshops and meetings with business are an invaluable experience for a student who is starting to think about his/her future on the labour market and often does not

know which direction to take. A philologist and a humanist are an ideal combination, which can work well in the business world, which needs people who are open-minded, creative and imaginative, equipped with soft skills and who think according to sustainable development values.

Education and culture in an international context

The SEA-EU University creates, among other things, the conditions for the development of new and non-standard forms of education. In May 2022, at the University of Gdańsk, students from the SEA-EU partner universities from Cadiz, Brest, Kiel, Split and Malta participated in a week-long intensive course entitled 'ShakEspeAre-EU'. The main aim of the event was to broaden the knowledge of Shakespeare's works and their impact on European culture. Through multidisciplinary lectures and workshops, participants had the opportunity to examine the works of the Stratford playwright from a number of perspectives. Shakespeare, conjugated in all cases, was reflected in many arts and diverse readings, becoming an inspiring material for further individual explorations. During the workshop entitled 'Translating Shakespeare's drama into movement', participants prepared their own interpretation of the prologue from Romeo and Juliet and presented it during a performance of William on my mind, which was attended by the University and City authorities. Using



pic. Rafał Malko



pic. Rafał Malko

their native languages, they made Shakespeare resound on stage in Polish, Maltese, Croatian, Spanish, French, German and the original English. The moving performance was warmly received by the large audience. The cultural and scientific programme was complemented by tourist activities. The participants visited the Shakespeare Theatre in Gdańsk, which is one of the contemporary landmarks of the city, as well as the European Solidarity Centre and the

neighbouring city of Sopot. During the week-long stay, the group integrated very well and put into practice one of the SEA-EU's strategic objectives - to strengthen the sense of European identity among the members of the alliance. The course was organised by the Academic Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Faculty of Philology, the Foreign Languages Centre and the Shakespeare Theatre.

Exploring the science and heritage of Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit



pic. Krzysztof Krzempek

In 1686, Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit was born in Gdańsk - physicist and engineer, inventor of, among other things, the mercury thermometer, creator of the world-famous temperature measurement scale, and patron of the Fahrenheit Union of Universities, which is co-founded by the Medical University of Gdańsk, the Gdańsk University of Technology and the University of Gdańsk. On the occasion of the anniversary of his birth, the three leading universities of Gdańsk, together with the City of Gdańsk, are organising a celebration of Fahrenheit Day, a new celebration of science in the city. On this occasion,

a special tram promoting the integration of the three key universities in the region took to the tracks in Gdańsk, a science picnic was also held and scholarships were funded. On one of the weekends in May, students and residents were able to enjoy themselves at Plac Zebrań Ludowych during Juwenalia Gdańskie 2022 - the largest student festival in northern Poland - and enjoy science attractions and demonstrations in the Fahrenheit Universities tent. The Fahrenheit Science Picnic, which the Fahrenheit Universities organise together with the City of Gdańsk on Góra Gradowa at



pic. Agnieszka Beck

the Hevelianum Centre, was held for the first time in May 2022. Its participants had the opportunity to explore science together through play. There was no shortage of demonstrations prepared by academics, students and doctoral students from the three universities. Changes to the Daniel Fahrenheit Science Scholarship, funded by the Mayor of the City of Gdańsk, are also planned from 2023. The scholarship has been in place since 2005 and was established at the initiative of Mayor

Paweł Adamowicz. It is a programme enabling talented Gdańsk secondary school graduates to go to universities abroad. To date, more than PLN 15.5 million has been spent on the scholarship programme, and this amount has enabled as many as 436 scholarships to be awarded to 150 people. Today, however, we think of Gdańsk as a place that should attract students instead of sending them to other countries. The new scholarship formula will start from 2023.

Gdańsk University of the Third Age



The Gdańsk University of the Third Age began operating in 2004 as a university-wide unit. The main initiator of the venture was Professor Halina Piekarek-Jankowska, Ph.D., then Prorector for Education at the UG. This all-university unit of the UG was established with a view to the intellectual and social activation of people in their 'golden years' from the Tri-City and surrounding areas. A rich educational offer is prepared for the students

every year. Those interested, for a small fee, can attend thematic blocks of classes, which are provided in the form of lectures, workshops, foreign language classes and physical exercise classes. Everyone who joins this community receives an index and a diploma of graduation from GUTW, which are symbolic in nature. There is no obligation to attend all classes, nor are there any examinations, and the whole structure is voluntary.



Women at the University of Gdańsk

The situation of women at the University of Gdańsk has received a lot of attention for several years. It has been comprehensively diagnosed with the creation of the report published in 2020 „Women in Science. Managing diversity and gender equality in the social responsibility of the University of Gdańsk”. The report identified needs and outlined objectives, which were detailed in the „Plan for the implementation of gender equality policy at the University of Gdańsk, published at the end of 2021. Equality actions for 2022-2023”. It is one of the instruments for the implementation of the Strategy of the University of Gdańsk for 2020-2025, which assumes the development and implementation of a model of social inclusion, counteracting discrimination and social inequality and other elements of sustainable development policy, including, among others, the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the anti-discrimination policy, the building of an academic community based on a scientific culture of equality (science culture equality), and the development and implementation



of a coherent monitoring system for gender equality policy. The implementation of the principles of equal treatment is referred to in the UG Statute in § 4, sec. 3, sentence 2. According to its wording: „[...] The University embodies the principle of equal treatment and counteracts violations of this principle on the grounds of gender, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, creed, worldview, disability, age or sexual orientation. Any form of discrimination at the University is unacceptable”. „The Plan for the Implementation of the Gender Equality Policy at the University of Gdańsk” is also supported by the „Declaration of the Social Responsibility of the University”, signed by the University of Gdańsk on 16

November 2017, which implies taking measures to promote equality, diversity, tolerance and respect and protection of human rights for the entire academic community. At the University of Gdańsk, there are also international projects that conduct research and analyses and reports on the equal treatment of women and men at our University. These and many other activities systematically build awareness of the need to increase the position of women and care for equal opportunities in creating a better world, and thus strengthen the role of women not only at the University of Gdańsk, but also in society.

MINDtheGEPs



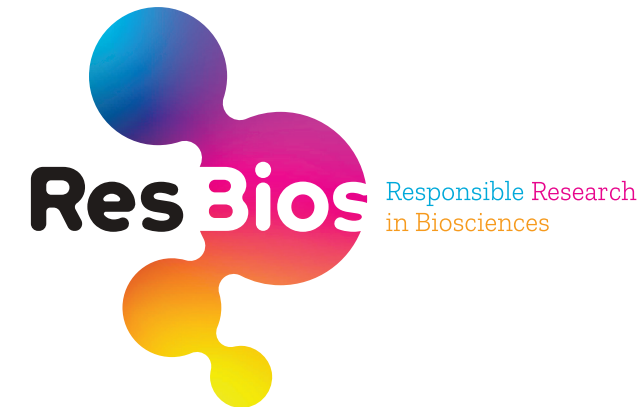
Since February 2021, the project MINDtheGEPs - Modifying Institutions by Developing Gender Equality Plans funded by Horizon 2020 under the theme „Supporting Research Organisations in the Implementation of Gender Equality Plans” has been running at the University. The project aims to promote gender equality through the implementation of Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) in different types of research-performing organisations, in five European countries that have not reached the 25% score for the proportion of women in leadership positions in higher education. In addition to Poland, in the group



there were also the following countries: Ireland, Italy, Spain and Serbia. The European Partners in the project are: Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy) - project leader, National Research Council (Italy), Institute of Technology Tralee (Ireland), Jagiellonian University (Poland), School

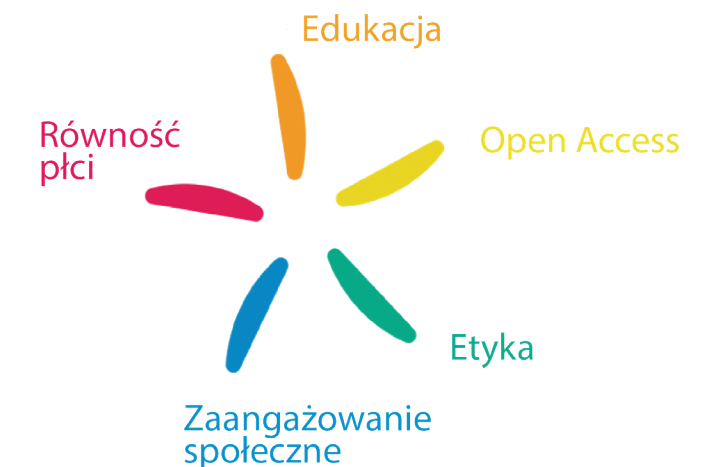
of Electrical Engineering-University of Belgrade (Serbia), Fundación para la promoción de la Innovación, Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico en la Industria de la Automoción de Galicia (Spain), Knowledge and Innovation (Italy), Uppsala University (Sweden), Elsevier (Netherlands).

ResBios



The ResBios (Responsible Research and Innovation Grounding Practices in Biosciences) project, funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme, was launched in January 2020 as part of a consortium formed by 12 partners from 11 countries, coordinated by the University of Tor Vergata, Rome. Referring to the experience of implementing structural change in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), gained during the earlier Horizon 2020 project STARBIOS2, the objective was set to implement RRI practices in five new European research organisations through the implementation of a dedicated package of activities. These activities are expected to result in institutional changes in the participating entities in relation to the five key areas of RRI (public engagement, education, gender equality, open access, ethics). The selected STARBIOS2 project

partners, who have already implemented RRI action plans, leading to structural changes in their institutions, will, as experienced organisations, take on the role of ,mentors' to the ,beginner' partners, to whom they will offer advice, examples and support. The consortium consists of Ivan Franko University of Lviv (Ukraine), Faculty of Agriculture Zagreb University (Serbia), Democritus University of Thrace (Greece), National Council of Scientific Research - CSIC (Spain), Knowledge and Innovation SRL (Italy), European Science Engagement Association (EUSEA, Austria), University of Bremen (Germany), AgroBioInstitute (Bulgaria), University of Primorska (Slovenia) and Aarhus University (Denmark).

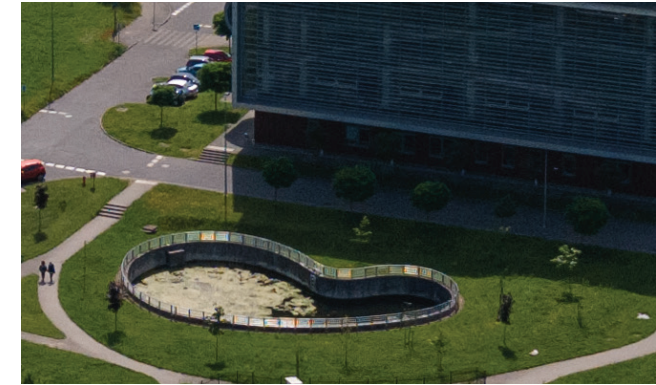




Healthy habits



A consistent move away from plastic packaging, including beverages bottled in this way, is promoted at the University of Gdańsk. Drinking clean, running water is promoted. A total of dozens of drinking water dispensers have been set up in various locations at the University, from which students and staff draw healthy water directly into their own reusable vessels.



pic. Błażej Zabłotny

A retention reservoir has been built on the Gdańsk-Oliwa campus for the recovery of excess rainwater. The surface area of the reservoir is 288.18 m², with a corresponding capacity of approximately 288 m³. The collected rainwater is used in times of drought to water vegetation on the UG Campus.

Polish Water Protection Platform



The University of Gdańsk, in partnership with members of the Polish Platform for Water Protection, conducts industrial and developmental research related to the reclamation of water reservoirs. In addition, the University's scientific staff supervise the methodology and environmental safety of experiments in natural conditions and act as experts at scientific conferences on water protection issues, working out solutions to the most important problems, such as cyanobacterial

blooms, hydrological drought, biogenic compounds in surface waters or pollution of the water environment by pharmacological products. Members of the Polish Platform for Water Protection cooperate with the University of Gdańsk in organising scientific conferences and symposia, jointly promoting natural water reclamation technologies. The University also plays a key role in the implementation of the research agenda in limnocoals conducted on open water bodies and watercourses.

Pharmacology and water

Water pollution by pharmacological products is a new type of environmental degradation. The Faculty of Chemistry research groups are working intensively to develop methods for their effective detection. All of these substances, even in trace amounts present in the aquatic environment, have specific biological effects - both easily predictable, such as the effect of antibiotics on bacteria in the environment (often causing drug resistance in microorganisms) or the effect of hormones on living organisms leading to modification of their reproductive

capacity, and surprising, such as the proven toxicity of certain anti-inflammatory drugs to certain animal species. In groundwater, i.e. drinking water sources, the concentration of pharmaceutical substances is negligible. In surface water it is slightly higher, but the concentrations of drugs in the environment are increasing. So it may be that even in groundwater their amount will become alarmingly high over time and the challenge will be how to deal with this problem, which will pose a significant threat to humans.



Partnership with business

The University of Gdańsk, in cooperation with Polenergia S.A. - the largest private energy group, active in the field of energy generation from conventional and renewable sources, as well as in the distribution and trading of electricity - is taking bold further steps towards educating human resources for the economy of the future, based on renewable energy sources, with a mission to care for our planet. This partnership will enable knowledge transfer and action to support the realisation of a sustainable EU economy. By providing research and education in the areas of clean, green energy, the University acts as a bridge between science and business, supporting the development of new technologies, solutions that are part of the implementation of the challenges and demands enshrined in the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda.



Clean and accessible energy on university campuses



pic. Alan Stocki

The University buildings are being prepared for the installation and commissioning of a photovoltaic micro-installation involving the comprehensive design and construction of a system of photovoltaic modules to generate electricity. Some of the University buildings have been designed and built using renewable energy sources. The University has five renewable energy sources in the form of a heat pump with submerged collectors and four ground air heat exchangers. Renewable energy sources in the form of ground air heat exchangers have been used in the Central Administration building, the Neophilology building, the Institute of Informatics in the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, as well as submerged collectors in the Biology Station building of the Faculty of Biology.

The Building Management System (BMS) used for the intelligent management of lighting, heating, air-conditioning or alarm systems is located in the building of the Neophilology Faculty (13,037.30 m²), the Faculty of Social Sciences (31,196.40 m²), the Rector's Office (7,557.88 m²), the Main Library (16,283.00 m²), Chemistry (28,572.00 m²), Biotechnology (9,395.05 m²) and the IT Institute of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics (3,889.31 m²). Already in 2010-2012, thermal modernisation of teaching and research facilities was carried out, which contributed, among other things, to: increasing the energy efficiency of the buildings, reducing energy losses, reducing pollutant emissions. Every year, reports on the energy efficiency improvement projects carried out are prepared and published.



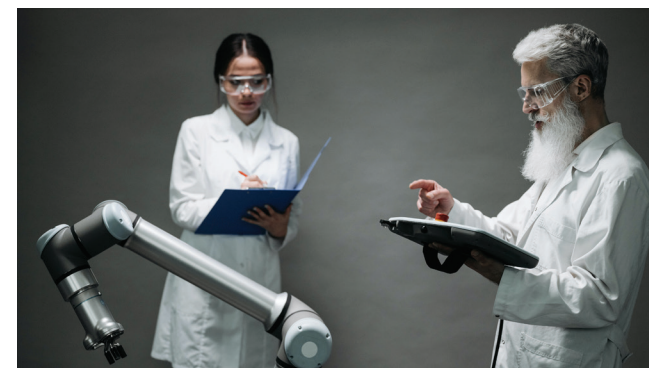
pic. Mateusz Byczkowski

Improved organic materials

The project „Two current problems, one solution: improved organic materials for OLED and hydrogen photovoltaics”, carried out at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of the University of Gdańsk, is focused on two issues: improving ‚all-organic’ OLED technology in the red and near-infrared (NIR) range and developing technology to produce hydrogen from water using organic catalysts and a renewable energy source

- sunlight. The outcome of the research undertaken will be the development of low-cost, low-toxicity, efficient and easily recyclable organic materials, with the aim of lowering the price and bringing the market closer to the arrival of environmentally friendly flexible, lightweight, transparent OLED smartphones and dispensers, and finding new solutions for producing the clean fuel of the future, which hydrogen is considered to be.

New hybrid materials

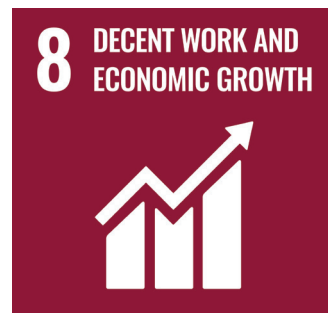


The „Pioneering hybrid materials for CO₂ photoconversion” - „HotHybrids” project at the Faculty of Chemistry aims to create a new class of hybrid materials that will combine the unique properties of perovskite nanocrystals and organometallic frameworks. The knowledge gained from this project may influence the development of energy storage technologies, the development of solar cell technologies, bioimaging and obtaining new materials with luminescent properties.

Photoconversion of CO₂

The Faculty of Chemistry also has a project entitled „The role of ionic liquids in the photoconversion of CO₂”, which is part of the work on CO₂ photoconversion technology, which may, in the long term, influence

the development in the ‚clean’ energy production sector, which will ultimately lead to a reduction in CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere and an increase in the consumption of energy from renewable sources.



Local entrepreneurship

Training and advisory support for local entrepreneurship and non-governmental organisations is one of the manifestations of the Faculty of Management activities to strengthen the Pomeranian economic environment. Activities are directed, for example, to the booming tourism industry, social economy entities and the amber industry. The University is an active entity supporting local entrepreneurship and dynamising the economic development of the region. Many scientists are active in influential bodies in the business world, such as the Gdańsk Business Club and the Pomeranian Science and Technology Park. Through the Univentum Labs special purpose vehicle, university researchers in the, university researchers support Pomeranian entrepreneurs with their unique knowledge and skills, both in natural and scientific disciplines (marine biota research, phytotronics, ichthyology, cyber-security and quantum technologies), as well as in economic, financial and management consulting. In cooperation with the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Management, projects are being implemented



to support the development of local tourism, increase the competitiveness of ports and the transport and logistics industry, and target the introduction of green and low-carbon solutions in the shipbuilding industry. The Univentum Labs is also involved in building partnerships with local associations aimed at developing entrepreneurship among pupils and students; carrying out analytical projects in the field of building an innovation

strategy for regional governments; and organising the Young Fahrenheit competition aimed at young academics whose research has commercialisation potential and is useful to society (the work of the winners concerns, for example, the fight against Alzheimer's disease, preparations for accelerating wound healing or ways to clean the air).

The UG as an employer: human resources development policy

The University implements the innovative „University of Gdańsk Personnel Development Policy”, adopted and accepted almost unanimously at all collegiate levels of the University. Transparent hiring procedures, clear and flexible paths for the development of academic and administrative staff are the main tenets of the document. According to Prof Anna Jurkowska-Zeidler, Chair of the Senate Committee for the development of the Policy: „The Policy is subordinated to the mission, vision and values set out in the University of Gdańsk Development Strategy 2020-2025 and the principles of the European Charter for Researchers. The implementation of the Development Policy is also central to the Action Plan in the HR Excellence in Research strategy.” The UG HR Development Policy should be the main recommendation and basis for all hiring decisions made by selection committees and



decision-makers in respect of the applicable law, including the UG Statute and the Work Regulations. At the same time, it points to possible academic career paths for those seeking employment at the UG at different levels of their careers. Professor Piotr Stepnowski, Rector of

the UG stated: „The fundamental aim of the policy is to define transparent hiring procedures and to ensure flexibility in academic staff development paths in line with the European Commission’s Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The document formulates the University’s expectations of staff along with instruments for systemic support of academic career paths at the UG. The rules for the employment and participation of retired professors in the life of the University are clarified. The academic staff development policy also addresses, at each stage of professional development, the principle of equal treatment and equal opportunities.” The policy identifies three academic career paths: research and teaching, teaching and research. Recommendations for employment in particular positions in each of the paths set out directions for the desired development and competence building of academic staff at the University of Gdańsk. They should shape good practices in hiring and promotion, motivate to work and shape career paths in a uniform and fair manner. The recommendations do not constitute and do not replace the criteria for periodic evaluation of academic staff. The document also refers to non-academic staff. The fundamental purpose of the policy is to identify transparent hiring procedures and career paths, as well as to define the most important aspects, directions and courses of action in human resources management for the strengthening of intellectual capital, the development of the University and the professional development of employees. It formulates the University’s expectations of employees, including reference to employee appraisal established on the basis of detailed criteria. The policy also deals with the issue of age management at the UG in an innovative way

- without prejudice to the principles of equal treatment of employees, the UG implements an employment policy aiming to implement high quality teaching and optimal intergenerational distribution of positions and functions, including managerial functions. In this area of policy, the rules for working with employees after retirement age and the status of Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Emeritus of the University have been established. Both the University and the academic community as a whole are committed to maintaining and improving the level of teaching and research, thus achieving the University’s high prestige not only at home but also abroad. Therefore, a priority task of the University, in addition to scientific and teaching activities, is to take care of the development of scientific and teaching staff. In this area, the adopted the UG Personnel Development Policy is strategic.



Blue bioeconomy



„Development and technology transfer for blue bioeconomy in the Baltic Sea region BlueBioTECH” is a project implemented by the Faculty of Oceanography and Geography in international partnership with: Klaipėda Science and Technology Park, Coastal Research and Planning Institute, SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG, University of Tartu, Royal Institute of Technology, University of Kiel, Aarhus University. The aim of the project is to identify key trends, technology and innovation needs in the blue biotechnology and

broader aquaculture industry, with a particular focus on the specific requirements for the Baltic Sea region. The project is intended to prepare a larger target project on the development of blue technologies and marine resource management based on circular economy principles. The idea for it stems from the University of Gdańsk’s participation in projects: InnoAquaTech and BluePlatform - focused on technology transfer, development and promotion, and AquaVIP - which will create new practical and online courses.

Innovative aquaculture

The Faculty of Oceanography and Geography also intensively promotes the latest developments and trends in aquaculture development. An example of this is the workshop „Innovative Technologies in Aquaculture”, organised as part of the BluePlatform project together with the SUBMARINER network. Their topics included, among others, recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS), algae farming and aquaponics, as well as support for the development of more innovative technologies throughout the Baltic Sea region. The event was aimed at entrepreneurs, students, local authorities, academics and professionals interested in the current state of the Baltic Sea region, global trends, as well as local opportunities and challenges.



Infrastructure innovations



Upgrading one of the laboratories at the Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology of the University of Gdańsk and the Medical University of Gdańsk to Biosafety Level 3+ (BSL-3+) is an infrastructural innovation that opens up completely new opportunities for the UG researchers. Currently, two laboratories operate in the enhanced BSL-2 security system. The transition of one of them to the BSL-3+ system will enable a full range of work with airborne viral pathogens. Molecular virology has been a field that has been developed in Gdańsk for more than 25 years, since the inception of this interuniversity unit. Virologists from the University of Gdańsk present world-class achievements in this field. During this time, dozens of projects in the field of virology have been carried

out, financed by Polish and international grants won by scientists from the Faculty. Work is being carried out on, among others, influenza viruses, herpesviruses, hepatitis B and C viruses, Zika virus and tick-borne encephalitis

virus. The establishment of a world-class safety innovation laboratory allows the panel of pathogens studied to be expanded to include the most infectious agents.

Innovations in teaching

The Centre for Didactic Improvement and Tutoring at the University of Gdańsk is a university-wide, non-departmental organisational unit established to broadly develop a high culture of education and to create solutions for managing the educational process at the university-wide level to ensure high standards, taking into account the area of didactic academic career paths, criteria for periodic evaluation of the teaching activity of academic teachers and conducting a diagnosis of the needs of academic staff and students. In addition, the Centre works on the creation of teaching development paths for academic teachers with varied experience in the field of academic teaching, supports the care

of doctoral students in the field of didactic education taking into account the content-related care and analysis of experiences related to the implementation of teaching practice within doctoral schools, and coordinates activities related to the activity of the UG tutors, including the implementation of tutor cycles at various faculties and within the framework of Interdisciplinary Individual Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences (MISH-S) and interdisciplinary studies. The Centre plays an important role in mentoring support for all academic staff in day-to-day matters related to teaching and academic self-development.





Institutional support

An Office of the Equal Treatment and Anti-Bullying Ombudsman has been established at the UG. The tasks of the Office include initiating, implementing, coordinating or monitoring activities aimed at ensuring equal treatment, in particular protection against discrimination and counteracting mobbing, as well as undertaking activities aimed at eliminating or reducing the effects arising from a breach of the principle of equal treatment or a reasonable suspicion of mobbing. The Office promotes, disseminates and advocates the principles of equal treatment, participates in the development and implementation of a system for monitoring gender equality of opportunity and takes steps to investigate the validity of complaints concerning violation of the principles of equal treatment or cases of mobbing. The University, as an employer, is committed to equal treatment and non-discrimination in employment of every employee. In terms of both the establishment and termination of the employment relationship, terms and conditions of employment, promotion and access to training to improve professional qualifications, employees must



pic. Sylwester Cizek

not be discriminated against in any way, irrespective of their sex, age, disability, race, religion, nationality, political beliefs, trade union membership, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, or the manner or extent of their employment. The University is obliged to respect both women's and men's rights to work according to physical conditions and external circumstances. The

work of adolescents and pregnant women and early maternity is particularly protected. At the University of Gdańsk, mobbing and discrimination are considered to be highly reprehensible, condemnable phenomena, any manifestation of which is not tolerated. Everyone should oppose bullying and discrimination and support activities aimed at building and strengthening positive interpersonal relations between employees. There is a particular duty to counter bullying and discrimination on the part of those in managerial positions. The rules on how to proceed in the event of a suspicion that situations representing mobbing or discrimination are taking place in the workplace are described in the University's „Policy against mobbing and

Accessible University

The University is implementing the project „Accessible UG - Comprehensive Programme to Eliminate Barriers to Education for Persons with Disabilities”, which aims to improve the University's accessibility for students with disabilities by implementing a comprehensive solution focused on organisational, architectural, technological and educational changes and organising training for teaching and administrative staff to improve their competences in working with persons with disabilities. The above project activities will allow the University to adopt a comprehensive and modern approach to the process of organisational changes and to raise the awareness and competencies of the UG staff in the field of disability. These assumptions are in line with Article 24 of the UN

discrimination”. The University has an Office for Persons with Disabilities, whose activities are aimed at students, doctoral students, postgraduate students, employees and university applicants with disabilities. The unit also offers support to those studying at the UG who have experienced a sudden deterioration in their health during the course of their studies (e.g. cancer, stroke, aneurysm) or who have become disabled due to an accident. The office also helps to make efficient use of study time, ensures that appropriate and reasonable conditions for study and personal development are provided, and works towards equalising educational opportunities.



Convention „On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”, whose overriding goals include: elimination of exclusion of persons with disabilities from the general education system, introduction of reasonable solutions to support

individual disabilities, consideration of individual needs to maximise intellectual and social development, in line with the goal of full integration.

HR Excellence in Research



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

On 18 April 2016, the University of Gdańsk became the second university in Poland to be awarded the HR Excellence in Research logo by the European Commission, with the highest possible rating in 2022 and an extension of this distinction for a further three years. This distinction is awarded to institutions that both endorse and put into practice the principles expressed in the „European Charter for Researchers” and the „Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers”. HR Excellence in Research is part of the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R), which aims to increase the attractiveness of working conditions and, by extension, the number of researchers in the European Union. The content of both documents focuses on setting standards for research institutions in terms of creating favourable working conditions and career development for researchers (e.g. rights and obligations of the institution and the employee, research mentoring, mobility) and implementing tools to



pic. Sylwester Cizek

realise the OTM-R, i.e. principles of open, transparent recruitment based on candidate qualifications (e.g. equal access to information, non-discrimination). All actions that are taken by the University of Gdańsk to implement the HR strategy are divided into 3 areas: Ethical and professional aspects; Recruitment and employee evaluation; Career development and working conditions. This division is the result of an internal analysis (including a survey of academic staff and doctoral students) to verify the consistency of the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers with those existing at the University. Each year, the UG prepares a detailed report on the implementation of individual tasks and their compliance with the schedule and presents an updated action plan for the following years preceded by a needs analysis.



The largest university in the region



The University of Gdańsk is inextricably integrated into the functioning of the city and the region. It makes a considerable spatial, intellectual and cultural contribution to the life of the metropolis. The university space is open, hospitable and welcoming to the whole community of the Tri-City, the region, but also to visitors, whether from home or abroad. For the University of Gdańsk is not only Gdańsk - it is also the campuses in Sopot and Gdynia, and research

stations ranging from Hel, where the UG Marine Station co-creates the city centre and sets the tone for its life, not only in the summer, to research stations at the Kashubian lakes. Everywhere, the University of Gdańsk offers open access to its safe and welcoming spaces with inviting leisure facilities, buildings and green spaces, libraries, museums and exhibitions.

The University makes an important contribution to the promotion of culture by maintaining the activities of excellent artistic groups within the UG Academic Cultural Centre „Alternator”. Performances by the internationally award-winning UG Choir put residents and guests attending open carol concerts in a festive mood. The Jantar Song and Dance Ensemble brings the people of Pomerania closer to the folk culture of all corners of Poland, from the sea to the Podhale. The University of Gdańsk is the only academic centre in the country with a unique course in Kashubian ethno-philology, where one can study the Kashubian language and culture. The Kashubian language and culture graduates, as employees of regional cultural institutions, contribute to the preservation of the region's unique Kashubian heritage. It is important to emphasise the intensive expert activity and cooperation with local authorities in building sustainable cities and people-friendly metropolises, as well as educating experts in these fields. The UG researchers serve as experts in bodies that shape urban and metropolitan processes. The team of the Department of Social and Economic Geography at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Gdańsk specialises in interdisciplinary research on the development of cities and regions, carries out diverse scientific projects for major national and international institutions such as the European Commission and the OECD, and cooperates with dozens of scientific units from all over the world. The researchers are involved in application projects in partnership with the authorities responsible for creating regional and urban policy in Poland, with particular emphasis on the Pomeranian Voivodeship. They also teach courses in spatial management and geography, as well as economics, history



pic. Dawida Kopaniszyńska



pic. Michał Mazurkiewicz

and sociology offered by the University of Gdańsk. As part of the activity of the RECOURSE Centre of Excellence at the Department of Social and Economic Geography, knowledge is exchanged and interdisciplinary, creative discussions are held on topics related to urban policy and socio-economic geography in the broadest sense, and the results of scientific projects conducted by the Department's staff are publicly presented and discussed.



Plastic reduction and purchasing policy

A move away from plastic packaging is promoted at the University. The procurement policy takes into account the need to reduce the purchase of plastic-packaged products as much as possible. The use of potable water from potable tap water intakes is promoted, using your own pots and avoiding plastic packaging. The University has developed and implemented CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) policies for both contracts and contractor selection procedures. These require contractors to declare that they comply with the applicable laws and regulations on environmental protection in the broadest sense, in particular with regard to obtaining the necessary permits, making notifications and submitting information, and respecting restrictions on the use of the environment, including in particular those arising from sound waste management. Furthermore, the contractor declares that it operates in a sustainable manner and takes measures to limit the negative impact of its own activities on the environment. The policy also includes environmental clauses and criteria for assessing the contractor in relation to the State Purchasing Policy in terms of sustainable and innovative procurement.



Waste management



With effect from 1 January 2020, an obligation was introduced for the University to keep electronic waste records through the Database on Products and Packaging and Waste Management (BDO). The University, as a BDO-registered entity, keeps records of waste generated and reports on its generation and disposal. The operation of the BDO system is based on the fact that a waste transfer note (KPO) must be issued before waste is transferred to an external recipient. This applies in particular to the following groups of waste: chemical waste from laboratories (reaction mixtures, used or out-of-date chemical reagents, standards and other chemical agents containing hazardous substances, gases in disposable containers, sorbents, filter materials); biological waste from laboratories (medical waste, veterinary waste, infectious biological material, disposable protective clothing, genetically modified material - GMO and GMM, i.e. organisms, micro-organisms); packaging containing residues of hazardous substances; others not previously mentioned for which records in BDO are necessary, e.g. waste electrical and electronic equipment. Municipal waste generated at the institution is segregated and sent for disposal in accordance with local requirements (resolutions of city councils on the maintenance of cleanliness and order in cities).

Recycled outfits - zero waste fashion show

In June 2022, a Zero Waste Fashion Show was organised at the UG Faculty of Chemistry as part of the Sustainable Development Day celebrations. Thirteen creative and unconventional creations prepared by staff and students of our University were presented. In line with the theme: „Less is more, or how to overcome consumerism”, new outfits presented on the catwalk by the UG students and employees were created using clothes or materials no longer needed. Thirteen participants took part in



pic. Alan Stocki



pic. Alan Stocki

the competition and presented their recycled outfit ideas. One could see, for example, a costume made of garden fleece, bubble wrap or old set pieces from the theatre. The large audience seemed delighted and gave the models thunderous applause. The idea behind the competition was to draw attention to the enormous environmental burden of the textile industry, which, by introducing fashion ‚micro-seasons’ up to 52 times a year, drives the supply of clothing - its production emits a massive amount of pollution into the environment.



Reducing carbon footprint

The University of Gdańsk has been committed to protecting and reducing the university's carbon footprint for years: it protects green spaces, supports environmentally friendly projects and ensures that campus facilities are built in harmony with their surroundings. Some university buildings have been designed and built using energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy sources - heat pumps with submerged collectors and ground-based air heat exchangers. Further projects to use renewable sources, such as photovoltaic installations, are underway. The University of Gdańsk monitors carbon dioxide emissions resulting from electricity consumption and the use of traditional boiler houses located in older buildings. The Centre for Sustainable Development at the University of Gdańsk is in the process of developing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Pilot activities in this area are being carried out in cooperation with the European University SEA-EU.



Raising awareness of climate change



pic. Mateusz Byczkowski; Bags and folders made from old banners

The University of Gdańsk is particularly committed to raising awareness among the academic community and the socio-economic environment of the impacts of climate change and to promoting actions to increase resilience and adaptation to climate change in local communities. These activities include education and information campaigns, e.g. implemented as part of the project of the Foundation for the Development of the University of Gdańsk „Pomeranians feel the climate!”, initiated by the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk, and didactic projects, e.g. co-financed by Norwegian funds, which introduce the topic of climate change into academic didactics. As part of the „Education for Sustainable Development” programme, the Centre for Sustainable Development at the University of Gdańsk invites to postgraduate studies prepared jointly

with the Gdańsk University of Technology and the Medical University of Gdańsk (the Fahrenheit Union of Universities) Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, responding to a request from Pomeranian entrepreneurs and local government officials. In cooperation with the city's educational institutions, representatives of the Centre for Sustainable Development run workshops on „Climate change - everything you want to know about it but are afraid to ask” for students and residents (Dom Zdrojowy, Gdańsk) and participate in expert discussions. Climate change issues feature prominently in the university media. The Limnological Station in Borucino conducts research that addresses, among other things, the impact of climate change on water bodies, including local lakes.



Protection of aquatic ecosystems



The main contribution to this objective is the research, educational and expert activities in the field of cognition and protection of aquatic ecosystems undertaken by the Faculty of Oceanography and Geography. The Faculty has a unique, modern infrastructure, one of the most modern research vessels in Europe, the R/V Oceanograf, and operates a research station on the Hel Peninsula. Numerous activities are undertaken devoted to the protection of endangered Baltic species, the popularisation of knowledge about the seas and oceans, their importance and protection. The University cooperates closely with the industrial sector, providing environmental expertise, e.g. to promote offshore wind energy while maintaining the safety of the marine ecosystem.

Professor Krzysztof Skóra Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk, Hel

The Professor Krzysztof Skóra Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography at the University of Gdańsk in Hel is, thanks to its location in the central point of the Gulf of Gdańsk, particularly well-placed to undertake research into the functioning and protection of life in the Baltic. The knowledge gained in numerous projects is disseminated by the staff of the Hel Station through specialised conferences, expert meetings, lectures, regular and occasional thematic courses and public information and educational events, as well as through public

educational exhibitions (the seal house, the Porpoise House and the Blue Village area). By developing biological and acoustic research, including post-mortem analyses and acoustic monitoring of harbour porpoises, and undertaking active mammal protection activities (restitution, threat analysis and mitigation, education), the Marine Station practically supports the fulfilment of Polish obligations to international conventions and agreements (e.g. HELCOM, ASCOBANS).



The Marine Station runs the only seal rehabilitation centre in Poland, which provides assistance to animals in need of care and treatment. By developing biological, veterinary and breeding research on seals, the Hel Station provides practical support to the international campaign to restore and protect these animals in the Baltic Sea. The Station's patients are mainly seal pups found on beaches, deprived of the necessary care from their mothers.



pic. UG Marine Station Archives

The UG Marine Station also runs a grey seal breeding centre to support grey seal restitution and conservation projects. The much-visited seal centre acts as a public forum for popularising knowledge of both seals and their environment. While learning about the life of seals, visitors learn about general conservation issues in the Baltic Sea. The facility's staff teach and inform everyone who needs this kind of knowledge - from children to politicians. In addition to popularising knowledge about Baltic seals, the Marine Station's seal centre conducts physiological and behavioural research and develops

Prepared for independent life with the help of humans, they are returned to their natural environment, where they are the subjects of ongoing scientific observations. Seal rehabilitation also aims to partially compensate for the losses that their protected Baltic population suffers as a result of human activities (fishing, marine pollution, disturbance from tourism).



pic. Maciej Wróblewski

techniques to preserve the animals' welfare. The Marine Station also runs a special educational project dedicated to schoolchildren called 'Blue School'. The dissemination of information on the protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem, including in particular the situation of marine mammals, is an important element of the activities of the Hel Marine Station. Students of natural sciences gain the most comprehensive professional knowledge of the sea here. Lectures, seminars, internships, field exercises and specialised courses are organised for them.

Action to protect the harbour porpoise



pic. UG Marine Station Archives

The harbour porpoise is the only cetacean species permanently inhabiting the Baltic Sea. Once abundant in this sea, it is now under extreme threat of extinction. The Baltic population is around 500 individuals, which has only been found out in recent years thanks to an international project involving the UG Marine Station. The part of the project carried out by the University was co-financed by the EU financial instrument LIFE+, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and the University's own funds. Since the 1980s, the Marine Station has maintained a database on the occurrence of harbour porpoises in Polish waters, continued acoustic research on porpoise occurrence and post-mortem studies to assess the population's condition. The Station also actively educates on the problems of Baltic harbour porpoises, for which it has received numerous national and international awards, including the ASCOBANS award (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas). Every year, the Marine Station organises an educational event to mark International Baltic Porpoise Day established by ASCOBANS.

Citizen science

Together with the World Wide Fund (WWF), the Polish Marine Station has introduced a form of citizen science to marine mammal research in Poland, involving volunteers to work alongside professional scientists. Together with volunteers of the so-called Blue Patrol, monitoring activities are carried out to record seal sightings on Polish beaches, as well as aid activities for grey seals, which are more successful every year. More and more people are becoming aware of the threats to this species and how to behave appropriately in the event of an encounter with a seal. Volunteers intervene in the event of a perceived threat, ensuring the tranquillity of seals appearing on beaches. The Marine Station also carries out practical activities to reduce threats to porpoises and seals from fishing. One such activity has been the test fitting of



fishermen with acoustic deterrents, known as pingers, which protect porpoises from accidental death in fishing nets. Another example of similar activities is a planned testing of fishing with marine mammal-safe gear, so-called alternative fishing gear, in cooperation with fishermen.

Research vessel Oceanograf



pic. Maciej Wróblewski
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The Oceanograf is a specialised research vessel flying the Polish flag, used by research workers and students at the University of Gdańsk. The catamaran is equipped with specialised equipment for interdisciplinary research into the environment and nature of the seas and oceans. In addition to laboratories inside the vessel, there are also observatories and a seminar room for students. With its extensive equipment, the Oceanograf is the most



pic. Maciej Wróblewski
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modern research vessel sailing in the Baltic Sea, enabling a wide panel of research (bathymetric, biological, chemical, physical, geological, magnetic and seismoacoustic) to be carried out. The vessel's double-hull design and dynamic positioning system ensure the stability of the vessel, the accuracy of the research carried out even at sea state 4 and wind force 5 on the Beaufort scale. The vessel can enter the survey area in any weather conditions.



pic. Maciej Wróblewski

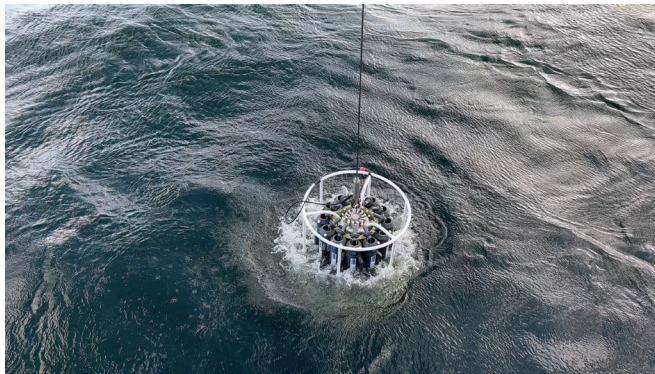
The sea in the research

Research is focused on the southern Baltic area and includes environmental impact assessment of investments and economic activities at sea, rational management of the coastal zone, sustainable harvesting of marine resources and effective protection of the marine environment, including:

- interdisciplinary studies of coastal water ecosystems, especially in Natura 2000 protected areas,
- assessment of marine pollution and of the impact of human activities on the marine environment,
- new methods for the study of marine ecosystems, including ecohydrodynamic models describing the status and predicting changes in selected basins of the Baltic Sea,
- interdisciplinary research on new forms of marine living resources,
- research on the social and economic importance of marine ecosystems for humans and decision support tools for marine resources management,
- research on the impact of contemporary climate change on the functioning of marine ecosystems,
- climate variability with special emphasis on the Baltic Sea basin,
- hydrology of the coastal zone of the southern Baltic and young glacial areas,
- natural and anthropogenic transformation of lakes in northern Poland.



pic. Wojciech Głodek



pic. Wojciech Głodek



pic. Wojciech Głodek



More trees and green areas



pic. Błażej Zabłotny

Since the beginning of the Oliwa Campus, systematic tree planting has been carried out, which is linked to the landscaping of areas next to old as well as newly constructed buildings. The Maciej Płażyński EcoPark, a place of recreation for the academic community and residents of the Tri-City, has been put into use, featuring a unique exhibition of a conservational collection of rare and endangered native species. The EcoPark has

been designed so that, in addition to its educational, scientific and recreational function, it has a natural function, manifested in the preservation of the balance and biodiversity of plant species, as well as an ecological function, according to which green areas are created that approximate natural conditions, i.e. relief, soil, water relations and living organisms.

Biodiversity conservation



The Faculty of Biology conducts intensive research on the species diversity of the world of plants, fungi and animals of different latitudes. The Faculty staff specialise in studying vascular plants of northern Poland, selected groups of plants (orchidaceae of South and Central America, Africa, Madagascar and New Guinea), lichens (Poland, Europe and selected non-European regions, especially Bolivia) and various groups of invertebrates (both free-living and parasitic). This type of work - of a fundamental nature - is of crucial importance for determining the degree of biodiversity of different areas and their subsequent changes over time. Most of the material studied is then deposited in the Faculty's collections of biological material, as documentation not only of the research itself, but also of the biodiversity and genetic resources that are available to other researchers. A significant part of the collection is digitised as part of the Herbarium Pomeranicum project and made available to all interested parties. Learning about insects preserved in fossil resins also plays an important role. The Faculty of Biology has a substantial collection of around 1,000,000 alekata.

Bird migration



Since the beginning of the UG, the Faculty of Biology has been conducting comprehensive studies of migratory birds along the Polish coast, taking into account the response of migratory birds to global environmental changes, including climate warming, as well as monitoring

long-term morphological changes in migratory birds. For many years, Gdańsk ornithologists have also been following environmental changes in the polar regions. In addition, the ecological and epidemiological aspects of diseases and parasites in migratory birds are analysed.

Secrets and protection of plants

The department also explores the secrets of the biology and ecology of Poland's vanishing and protected vascular plants and lichens through studies of population characteristics and phytocenotic-habitat conditions, analysis of genetic and morphological variation as a basis for effective species conservation. Researchers make an important scientific contribution to the determination of the natural variation, dynamics and anthropogenic transformations of the plant cover of Gdańsk Pomerania. A seed bank of 33 rare and endangered plant species of

Gdańsk Pomerania and an in vitro culture bank of these species have been established at the Faculty of Biology. Their gene resources were thus secured. The work was carried out as part of the project „Conservation of gene resources of wild endangered vascular plant species of Gdańsk Pomerania”, funded by the Provincial Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk. On the basis of fieldwork and a literature and herbarium search, a publishing series on the vanishing vascular plant species of Gdańsk Pomerania was initiated.

Forest protection

The University of Gdańsk cooperates with the Regional Directorate of State Forests (hereinafter: RDSF) in Gdańsk to jointly carry out educational and research projects. The basis for the actions taken is concern for the state of the natural environment, including forest ecosystems supervised by the Regional Directorate of State Forests in Gdańsk, and the desire to increase the level of knowledge

and public awareness related to the protection of natural resources of the area. The co-operation primarily includes tasks aimed at synergic development of information and education activities with the use of scientific research and implementation of the results of this research for innovation in forest practice and expansion of the didactic offer.



Peace, justice and strong institutions

The University of Gdańsk fulfils all possible requirements of a strong, law-abiding institution, governed transparently, through the development of relevant policies and regulations, with concern for every member of the academic community. Each group of people who make up the University's academic community is represented on the University's governing bodies. There are the Student and Doctoral Student Councils, which look after the best interests of these groups that make up the academic community. The trade unions, in turn, focus their attention

on the interests of the employee professional groups and look after the welfare of each employee at all levels of the complex structure that is the university. At the University, initiatives are taken to counteract any exclusion, to prevent malpractice, to respect academic freedom, so that the university space is open and welcoming. The University of Gdańsk educates cadres for social work, local government, forms legal elites, supplying local and state institutions with minds that shape the present and the future.

Helping Ukraine

The year 2022 brought new challenges related to the war in Ukraine. In the face of this crisis, the UG community has opened their hearts in solidarity to those in need of help. The University implemented a number of measures to support refugees, including providing dormitories for refugees (a total of almost 400 people in 2 buildings found

temporary shelter), and the premises of the historic Palace in Leżno were also donated for this purpose. Monetary and in-kind collections for those in need continued for many months, with the involvement of all members of the community - students and staff alike, thanks to which dozens of lorries were sent to our neighbours.

The UG Faculty of Social Sciences organised a collection of bicycles and scooters. More than 50 were donated to refugees from Ukraine living in student residences provided by the University to the City of Sopot.



pic. Mateusz Byczkowski

For more than two months, the UG Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology hosted a weekly charity fair of homemade cakes and coffee. Under the slogan 'Help is sweet', an amount of over PLN 10 000 was raised. In addition, unusual varieties of violets donated by naturalists from the Faculty of Biology were available for purchase.



pic. Agnieszka Beck

The Creative Activity Zone was established with the children of Ukraine in mind. Thanks to the commitment of students, staff, numerous UG units and donors, a cosy and safe space was created in the building of the UG Faculty of Chemistry to allow for a moment's rest, but also to foster the artistic development of the young charges. The common room, open to children of all ages, also offered a special area for mothers. The safety of the games was supervised by experienced entertainers from Ukraine.



pic. Katarzyna Furmaniak

The Faculty of Philology of the University of Gdańsk, in cooperation with the Academic Centre for Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners and with the support of the Gdańsk Branch of the Polish Language Lovers' Society, organised workshops for volunteers wishing to help refugees learn Polish. ACJPIKP organised free Polish language courses for war refugees from Ukraine: intensive basic courses, a summer school of Polish language and culture, a course in Polish medical language and a free online course for lecturers preparing migrants for the Polish language certificate exam.



pic. Michał Algebra

In May 2022, the University of Gdańsk hosted and co-organised together with the National Agency for Academic Exchange NAWA a national conference „Solidarity with Ukraine. Students, academics, institutions”. Its aim was to present the involvement of the scientific and academic community in helping Ukrainians. Participants in the conference discussed support for Ukrainian students who have come to our country, support for scientists, and the various forms of assistance offered - systemic, action-based in the form of volunteering. The prospects for international scientific cooperation between our countries in the face of the enormity of the misfortunes of war were discussed. The guest of honour at the conference was Professor Andrei Vitrenka, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, who appealed for further support.



pic. Paweł Sudara

The Daniel Fahrenheit Union of Universities in Gdańsk (FarU) was established at the joint request of the Rectors of the Medical University of Gdańsk, the Gdańsk University of Technology and the University of Gdańsk. The Senates of the three leading universities in Pomerania passed appropriate resolutions and approved the content of the Union's statute, which defines the scope of tasks, bodies and governance of this new organisation.

The most important task of the Union is to make the best possible use of the resources and potential of the three universities that form it. Its activities focus on developing solutions to support joint research and development work, as well as recommendations for consolidation or the establishment of new, inter-university doctoral schools.

One of the strategic tasks of the Union is to conduct a joint promotion and ranking policy, especially in the international arena, as well as to express opinions and represent common interests to state and local administration and legislative initiatives. The Union is also to strengthen the publishing activities of the three Universities. The Medical University of Gdańsk, the Gdańsk University

of Technology and the University of Gdańsk have for many years been pursuing joint initiatives in the areas of science, education and organisation. The establishment of the Union of Universities makes it possible to deepen the existing cooperation and create in Pomerania one of the strongest academic centres in Poland.

The supervisory body of the Union is its Assembly, which is made up of the rectors and the presidents of the university councils.

Magna Charta Universitatum



pic. Alan Stocki



The University has been a signatory of Magna Charta Universitatum since 2021, which aims to nurture university traditions and encourage strong ties between universities. The act was first signed on 18 September 1988 by 388 university rectors and heads of universities on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the University

of Bologna. The Charter was updated in 2020, but is still based on the fundamental principles on which the mission of universities around the world should be based, i.e. those relating to academic freedom and institutional autonomy. The new version is expanded to reflect the global nature of universities today and their responsibility

to the communities they serve to benefit humanity and contribute to sustainable development. David Lock, Secretary General of the Magna Charta Observatory, put it this way: „Universities, their staff, students and alumni are well placed to make an increasing contribution to society and improve its future. They can do this more effectively if they cooperate with other universities. The connections made by signing MCU 2020 and engaging with this global community will help universities realise

this potential.” The document draws attention to both the more global nature of universities’ activities and their wider local responsibilities. By signing Magna Charta Universitatum 2020, the University has thus declared its commitment to the original declaration and to the principles, values and responsibilities contained in the new document, in order to strengthen the role of universities in protecting the planet and promoting health, well-being and enlightenment worldwide.

European University Association, EUA



Participation in international bodies in the field of higher education is a priority for the University of Gdańsk. The European University Association is a very vibrant organisation with more than 850 universities from 49 European countries and is a trendsetter in the implementation of the so-called Bologna Process and now also the Sustainable Development Goals. It is

a chance to share good practices, exchange experiences at the level of special focus groups, committees or advisory bodies operating within the EUA, it is also an opportunity to learn through participation in numerous training courses and conferences and, finally, it is an opportunity to include the UG’s voice in the European discourse on the future of universities.

About the Report

The concept for this publication emerged from the identification of three needs. The first one touches on the practical side, i.e. the requirements and expectations from university ranking institutions regarding the reporting of activities relating to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We would like to emphasise, however, that this is not a report on the realisation of these goals, but only a synthetic presentation of selected activities of our University in the indicated areas, which are thus a certain point of reference. The second need touches on the promotion of the social impact of the University, also in the context of the environment and the economy. Finally, the third and most important one is, in line with the rectoral authorities’ intention, to enter the current discourse on the transformation and social engagement of HEIs through the prism of the Goals, implemented at the level of all three missions of the HEI, i.e. education, research and innovation and cooperation with the socio-economic environment. The report indicates a balance between global and local activity, as these two dimensions are equally important. Such a comprehensive approach does not allow for an exhaustive exploration of all issues, but only selective highlighting of selected initiatives, which are a small part of the full spectrum of the University’s activity. The content included was taken from the University’s resources, primarily the University’s website and other sources publicly available on the Internet. Some of the information was obtained from those implementing the various activities. In May 2022,

the third UNESCO international conference was held in Barcelona, bringing together around 1,500 delegates from around the world. The published assumptions for the report „New visions for higher education institutions towards 2030” indicate new trends in the perception of the role of universities in society through the prism of the transformations taking place, including digital or green transformation. However, the 2030 perspective is too close to call. The UN Sustainable Development Goals are a global yet political agenda, a kind of compromise between the very different interests and expectations of countries, business, the third sector and society. And like any vision, it will not be fully realised. So we are already wondering what the next step will be, what the course for the next few years will be. Hence the R/V Oceanographer was featured on the cover of the publication. This ship made its way to the cities and ports of our SEA-EU alliance partner universities in May-June 2022, taking on board students and academics from various universities to conduct research together. It symbolises not only a voyage towards new and unknown territories, but also everything that the University of Gdańsk boasts: innovative research and teaching, links with the sea, cooperation, pooling of potentials, and at the same time passion and adventure. This publication is therefore intended to disseminate the achievements of a university that contributes so much to society, the economy and the preservation of biodiversity or the environment.