



UIC Barcelona Sustainability and Social Commitment Report 2023-2024

Cooperation and Sustainable Development Office

Report of the Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development Course 2023-2024

Introduction	3
Area 1. Organization	4
Area 2. Teaching and research	7
Area 3. Environmental management	12
Area 4. Social commitment	14

Introduction

This Report on Cooperation and Sustainable Development aims to provide information on the integral sustainability management and development cooperation actions carried out at UIC Barcelona during the academic year 2023-2024. Universities, as trainers of future generations and consumers of resources, must respond to the needs and expectations of the entire university community and society, contributing to the improvement of the same. From the Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development at UIC Barcelona we try to act in accordance with the University's commitment to sustainability, aware that training in this aspect is key to the economic, social and cultural development of society.

This report summarizes the work that has been carried out at the Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development. It also compiles the measures and contributions to achieve integral sustainability at UIC Barcelona.

Dr. Sílvia Albareda Tiana

Director of the Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development

Area 1. Organization



The Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development is composed of Sílvia Albareda, director of the office, Mariona Vila as a technician in cooperation and sustainable development and two interns: Morgan Schockert and Ricardo Ortea, who assist in management aspects.

The Office for Cooperation and Sustainable Development (OCDS) has contributed to make visible the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the University and outside the University through the [web](#). Of the 17 SDGs proposed by the 2030 Agenda, UIC Barcelona is currently working on 12. The website presents 33 selected goals and 53 indicators to measure progress in achieving the goals. This collection is also the starting point for UIC Barcelona in each of the SDGs, which corresponds to the data from the last four academic years. They can be consulted in [Appendix 1](#).

Agenda 2030	SDG ONU	SDG UIC BARCELONA
SDG	17	12
Goals	169	33
Indicators	232	53

Figure 1. Number of SDGs, benchmarks and indicators for UIC Barcelona.

Each SDG consists of:

- Some of the proposed goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- Some indicators for measuring the SDGs with their technical specifications.
- Links to UIC Barcelona actions, news and programs contributing to each SDG

ODS i Metes de referència per UIC Barcelona



Figura 2. ODS i metes de referència per a UIC Barcelona.

- Strategic Plan for Sustainability and Social Commitment 2023-2026

The new Strategic Plan for Sustainability and Social Commitment 2023-2026 presents objectives, actions and indicators linked to sustainability and social commitment. This plan shows a roadmap, accessible tools and priorities to promote a transformation towards sustainability and social commitment of the University, which supports the concept of integral sustainability -social, economic and environmental- according to the mission, vision and values of UIC Barcelona. Consult the [Strategic Plan for Sustainability and Social Commitment 2023-2026](#).

Trough [Sustainability and Social Commitment Commission](#) coordination and follow-up tasks are carried out for this plan.

- Participation in xarxes:

- Justícia Global Ajuntament de Barcelona - Grup de Treball de les universitats amb seu a Barcelona.
- University Council of Catalonia (CIC). Implementation of Agenda 2030 in Catalan universities. Currently cooperation committee and Group of Catalan universities for cooperation.
- Network of sustainability technicians and technicians of Catalan universities.
- National Environmental Education Congress.
- Xarxa catalana d'Aprenentatge i Servei i Red Universitaria de Aprendizaje y Servicio ApS (U).
- SDSN Spain is the Spanish chapter of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a United Nations initiative to implement the Sustainable Development Goals through research, policy analysis and global cooperation.
- CRUE Sustainability - University Teaching Sustainability Working Group.
- CRUE Sostenibilitat - Grup de Treball d'Avaluació de la Sostenibilitat Universitària (GESU).

- CRUE Internacionalització i Cooperació - Grup de Treball de Cooperació.
- Scientific Committee of Scholass Chairs.

Area 2. Teaching and research



- Sustainability in teaching

Regarding research, in the academic year 2023-2024, 121 scientific articles related to sustainability have been published by researchers from different faculties of UIC Barcelona, in addition to the research projects related to sustainability and climate action that are underway.

The Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development is organizing the following events to promote the incorporation of sustainability into university teaching.

On November 14, 2023, the [15th transversal workshop on sustainability](#) was held with the theme Climate action, health and social commitment. A total of 37 research projects and didactic proposals were presented and 170 students from different faculties participated. During the event, didactic proposals and research projects were presented and evaluated by a panel of experts in sustainability made up of PAS and PDI members and some guests from outside the University. The winners in the category of didactic proposals were Carmen Alsina, Anna Martí, Laia Olivé, Julia Antón with “Let’s



make solar energy” of the Primary Education Degree. In the research project category, the winners were: Paula Alba, Ania Verdugo and Núria López, also from the Primary Education Degree with the Analysis of the effectiveness of Sustainability Education programs in different schools. As Master's Thesis, the students who won were: Andrea Montaccini, Edoardo Montemagno, Alicia Piglia, Alba Rins i Andrea Segovia with “Eco-Mellerware: Packaging a sustainable future”. The day concluded with a conference-colloquium by Josep Garí, Senior Policy Advisor, UNDP, United Nations Development Programme, with the title “Geopolitical consequences of the Paris Agreement”.

Imatge 1. Lecture by Dr. Josep Garí 15th Transversal Sustainability Workshop

Sílvia Albareda Tiana, professor and researcher at the Faculty of Educational Sciences and director of the Sustainability Office at UIC Barcelona, has led an interdepartmental project, the results of which have been reflected in the study entitled Enhancing curricular integration of the SDGs: fostering active methodologies through cross-departmental collaboration in a Spanish university, which has been published in the International Journal in Sustainability in High Education, a top-ranked journal.

The study aimed to assess the effectiveness of active teaching methodologies, specifically problem-oriented learning and the case method, in developing sustainability competencies. The research also aimed to analyze the advantages and challenges for teachers in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in eight undergraduate and one postgraduate degree programs at UIC Barcelona, within the framework of this interdepartmental collaboration.

On May 3, 2024, two events took place at the Sant Cugat campus. First, the [third edition of the SDGs Congress](#) was held. More than 300 students from the degrees of Medicine, Early Childhood Education, Advertising and Public Relations and Psychology presented intervention proposals and research projects related to a situation or problem linked to climate action. The projects and proposals were evaluated by PAS and PDI members of the University, as well as external experts. Of all the proposals, the winners were students from the Faculty of Advertising and Public Relations with the project “Sustainable Event”, while the best research project was from students from the Faculty of Medicine with “Water Pollution and its Impact on Human Health and the Environment”. The SDGs Congress is an annual conference open to the entire university community in which an interdisciplinary work on an issue related to the Sustainable Development Goals is carried out.



Imatge 2. Presentation of the project for primary school students.

Afterwards, the [II edition of the Agenda 2030 SDG Awards](#) for Bachelor's and Master's degree final projects was held. It began with a brief presentation of the winning papers: Aline Van Driessche, with the paper “Unraveling Advantages and Bottlenecks of Implementing AI-Based Post-Earthquake Damage Assessments” and Judith Miralda, with “DROPLET: Sustainable Approaches for Fluorine-free Omniphobic Coatings”. Subsequently, the presentation of diplomas for the winners and finalists was held, and finally the presentation of the award (an iPad) to the winners, as a token of recognition for the excellent work done and awareness of the objectives of sustainable development.



Imatge 3. 2nd ODS Awards Ceremony in TFG and TFM. Winners: Aline Van Driessche and Judith Miralda, together with Sílvia Albareda.

The Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development of UIC Barcelona also organizes the [III edition of the Awards for the Final Thesis \(TFG\) and Master's Thesis \(TFM\)](#) on human rights, sustainability and social action. This is a call open to students of the University, which aims to recognize works of academic excellence, with conceptual contributions and practical implications related to human rights, sustainability and social action.

- Sustainability in Research

The following are some contributions from research groups related to sustainability.

The [Empremta CO⁴](#) project has reached its third phase - the commitment - in which, through a transformative educational practice of apprenticeship-service-learning (ApS), which includes shared action-reflection dynamics, the participants have formed a network of young people committed to global justice and integral ecology, involving schools and organizations, the local environment and institutions, the participants are shaping a network of young people committed to global justice and integral ecology, involving the schools and organizations, the local environment and the institutions that make decisions. Different educational centers and young activists had the opportunity to explain what is the key to take action. Sílvia Albareda won the competitive project EDUCLIMA: [“Measuring the positive impact of actions taken to mitigate climate change. Climate education at and from the university”](#) funded with 117.246,06 € through the call for grants to finance research projects for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change 2023 of the Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR). The project aims to identify the causes of the invisibility of citizen actions related to climate change, and to measure the positive ecosocial impact. The project aims to promote inclusive, innovative and reflective societies and is aimed at all stages of education and business.

On April 5, on the occasion of World Awareness Day, the EDUCLIMA project organized the day ['Doing science with awareness'](#), where researchers and researchers from UIC Barcelona who develop research projects in sustainability explained what is being done. There was also a round table and a workshop on ecological awareness to make visible good practices in sustainability. The importance of sustainability research and citizen involvement in climate action was highlighted during the day. Projects such as luminous trees and plastic-free cosmetics to promote sustainability were shared. It has also been discussed how the university has to work to contribute to create a more just and ecological society. UIC Barcelona's Vice Rector for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer, emphasized the importance of promoting cross-cutting actions towards integral sustainability.

UIC Barcelona hosted from June 17 to 21, 2024 the working sessions and meetings of the first phase of the [Erasmus+ POLIS Project](#) that will have as main result the design and implementation of a Specialization Course in Urban and Territorial Planning in six universities in Peru, Chile and Ecuador. The sessions have been coordinated by Professors Eduardo Natividade, from the Polytechnic University of Coïmbra; Stella Schroeder, from the University of Piura, and Dr. Carmen Mendoza as principal investigator of the project at UIC Barcelona. The program stems from the need to train specialists in urban and territorial planning in Latin American cities in order to address the main environmental and social challenges they face.

The Japanese architect Kengo Kuma bet on an architecture that reconnects the urban with nature in the lecture he gave at the cycle Forums, organized by the International University of Catalonia (UIC Barcelona). The [conference](#) took place on Thursday, May 17, at the Aula Magna of the University. Other speakers were Jordi Viñals, Chief Project Manager at Kengo Kuma & Associates, and Lorenzo Chelleri, researcher and professor at UIC Barcelona and president of the Urban Resilience Research Network.

Area 3. Environmental management



- Participation in rankings

For the fourth consecutive year, UIC Barcelona has been ranked in the [UI GreenMetric World University Ranking on Sustainability](#), which presents evidence of environmental involvement in the areas of infrastructure, energy, waste, water, transport, teaching and research. This year it has climbed 41 positions compared to the previous year and is ranked number 260 out of 1183 worldwide. At the national level it has moved up three positions and now UIC Barcelona is 13th out of the 29 Spanish universities that have applied.

This year the university has also been ranked in the [QS World University Rankings](#), where it was ranked 751-760 out of 1393. This is a ranking of universities around the world where the social, environmental and governance impact is evaluated. Among the different areas that make up this ranking, UIC Barcelona excels in the area of governance, in which it ranks 382 out of 1,397

universities worldwide. In areas such as equality (243 out of 1,397) or education (348 out of 1,397), the university also stood out.

3. WORLD RANKINGS HISTORY

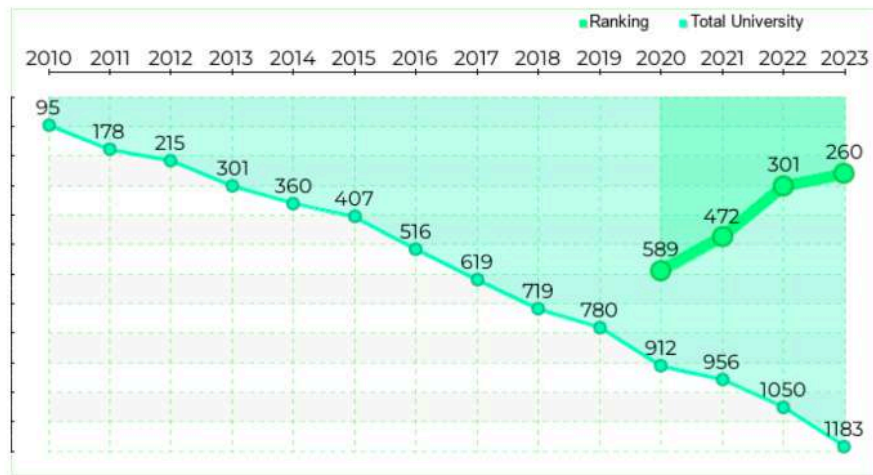


Figure 2. UIC Barcelona's global position on the GreenMetric in the years 2020-2023

On the other hand, in January 2024, UIC Barcelona carried out the CRUE environmental sustainability self-diagnosis with an overall evaluation result of 56.5%.

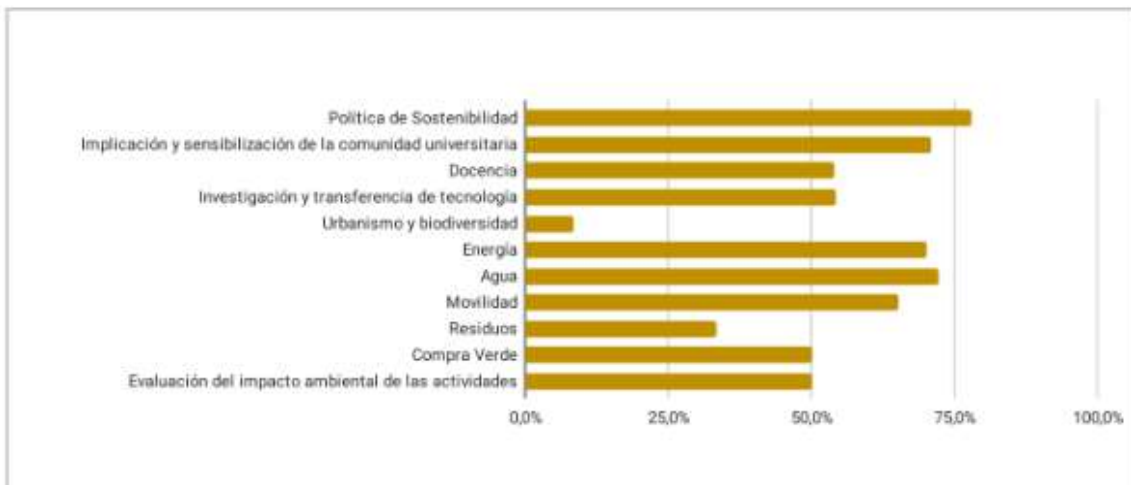


Figure 3. Results of UIC Barcelona in the CRUE environmental sustainability self-diagnosis.

Course 22-23

- Sustainable mobility

this year we have carried out the Mobility Survey for students, PAS and PDI to know how the university community moves to campus in order to plan a more sustainable mobility, with the motivation of the raffle of two electric bicycles Tucano Bikes, one for students and another one for PAS/PDI financed by Bank Santander.

- Energy

UIC Barcelona remains firmly committed to sustainability and energy conservation in order to face the climate emergency. In this regard, the Operations Department has installed 293 photovoltaic solar modules on the roofs of the alpha and beta buildings of the Barcelona Campus. The installation is expected to result in energy savings of between 12% and 15% and a reduction in UIC Barcelona's carbon footprint.

- Water management

Faced with the drought and lack of water, the university community has been made aware of water conservation and all the [corresponding measures](#) have been applied, not only to comply with regulations but also to promote sustainable water consumption in small actions.

Area 4. Social commitment



- Participation in cooperation workshops

UIC Barcelona participates in the [VII Conference of the Observatory of University Development Cooperation](#). On December 14, 2023, Mariona Vila presented a poster at this conference on the development cooperation actions of UIC Barcelona, held in the framework of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Ningú va dir fàcil. Technical conference designed by ONGAWA on methodologies and approaches to promote sustainable human development skills through university cooperation. Mariona Vila, participated last February 16 in this conference funded by the Spanish Agency for International

Development Cooperation (AECID) and supported by the Observatory of University Development Cooperation (OCUD).



Mariona Vila representing the Office of Cooperation and Sustainable Development of the University.

- Official Development Aid

Presentation of UIC Barcelona's interventions every year in the **ifo@od survey of the Official Development Assistance Information System and other official flows (Tossd)**, including UIC Barcelona grants for students from developing countries, the pilot program that makes it possible to offer university studies in Catalonia to refugees in Lebanon and the Cooper Plan, which are grants for socially committed projects for development cooperation activities, which is funded from 0.7% of the University's research and knowledge transfer agreements.

- Community service activities linked to students' curricular internships:

- **Aprenentatge and services (ApS)**

School of Nursing

The Department of Nursing has been promoting for years the [Nursing Teaching and Research Unit \(AIDIR\)](#) in the exercise of its commitment to society and nursing students. It is a teaching innovation project that promotes synergies between the university and the professional world of health; it also guarantees future nursing professionals excellence in knowledge and skills in the leadership of care. They are physical spaces (clinics) for interaction and learning within the clinical-social environment. This unit is coordinated by Mrs. María Vera.

She has been implementing the Learning and Service (ApS) methodology since 2015 through two practical units:

- [Aidir de Ciutat Vella](#) within the Fundació Esperança
- [Aidir Pere i Virgili](#) within the Parc Sanitari Pere i Virgili.

These units represent a practical space where students have the opportunity to carry out new initiatives in terms of health education. Students in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th years of Nursing go to these units to do their practicum. There are two nurses linked to the UIC who work directly in these units, Lorena Moya and Eira Bejarano.

In addition to the two Learning and Service units, another Learning and Service activity is carried out in the 2nd year of the Degree in Nursing: the Health Promotion Days. Activity in which 2nd year nursing students participate as volunteers in the design and implementation of health promotion workshops on Alcohol, Drugs, Bullying, use of Social Networks, CPR ... aimed at students of Baccalaureate and Vocational Training in Catalonia.

Several professors of the Department participate in the experience. From the course of Public Health and Community Nursing, tutoring the work: Laia Wennberg, Blanca Goñi and Marian de Juan. Other professors guide some of the workshops on the day of the Conference; Encarna Rodríguez, Jordi Castillo, Albert Gallart, Pilar Fuster... They have also collaborated some years: Marisa Martín, Laura Brichs. And we receive the support of the secretary of Nursing: Queralt Maya, Aga Ferreiro, and the management of Vanesa Alcántara.

They presented their experience at the VII International and XIII National Congress of the Association of Community Nursing (ACS) in Madrid in October 2023. In addition, they received a teaching innovation award from the CNDE, after measuring the impact of the experience in two promotions: ANEU_02CNDE2019 and entitled "Jornada de Promoció de la salut liderada por estudiants de Infermeria", has decided to grant it the maximum funding (500€) for its development for 3 years. PI: Encarna Rodríguez.

They have already made 11 editions. They have reached more than 2,400 young people in Catalonia and have allowed the students of the Degree in Nursing to put into practice their training in community nursing.

[The 11th Health Promotion Day was held on February 24, 2024.](#)

In addition, in some internships the students carry out another activity of learning and service, designing and carrying out health promotion workshops aimed at different populations: Associations, institutions, schools...

We work on the SDGs: 3, 4, 5 and 17.

Faculty of Education Sciences

The Learning and Service (ApS) methodology has been implemented since 2006 in different subjects and related to teaching innovation projects. It has always offered the possibility of doing ApS through the School Practices III: in Aules Hospitalàries de Catalunya, rural schools in Guatemala and in the Raval of Barcelona.

In the 23-24 course it has been done in the following subjects:

- Language learning and literacy III (Child Education Degree). Community service: Teaching how to tell stories to ESO students in the meridian city of Barcelona. They needed to know how to hold a literary gathering because they would be doing it with primary school children. Responsible: Dr. Marion Graell.
- Systematic Observation and Analysis of Contexts (Child Education Degree). Community service: Food collection campaign throughout the UIC Health campus. Responsible: Dr. Marion Graell.
- School Practice III (Degree of Early Childhood Education). Service provided to the community: Integration of families with social vulnerability. Responsible: Dr. M. Teresa Fuertes
- School Practice III (Primary Education Degree). Community service: Improving communication in the context of hospital classrooms. Responsible: Dr. M. Teresa Fuertes

The ODS are being worked on: 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10.

Other service activities

Faculty of Psychology

The Faculty of Psychology signed a collaboration agreement with the Health and Person Foundation to be able to attend to people with mental health problems through the Psychology and Psychiatry Support Clinic. Students of the Psychology Degree do internships in the Support Clinic

The teachers responsible are Dra. Iris Crespo and Dr. Maria Fernandez Capo.

The ODS are being worked on: 3, 4, and 16.

Faculty of Dentistry

Students and professors of the degree in Dentistry at UIC Barcelona participated in the Edugascar project, with a clinical training [course applied in solidarity care to vulnerable people in a rural area of Madagascar](#). The trip took place from October 9 to 13, 2023.

Five students and two teachers from the fourth and fifth year of the Faculty of Dentistry carried out these actions in schools, health centers and the hospital in the area. Part of this project was financed by the Cooper Plan.

Solidarity internship

The Curricular Solidarity Internship has been running since approximately 2016. The degrees that have incorporated it are the following: Law, Ade, Audiovisual Communication, Journalism, Advertising and PR, Humanities and Nursing.

The objectives of the solidarity practicum are to provide a service to the Community and develop students' skills in: empathy, social awareness, problem-solving ability, initiative, responsibility, ability to make ethically correct decisions, etc.

They coordinate at the UIC: Mònica Argemí and Marianna Zanui.

- International volunteering

The student service has organized different [international volunteering](#) projects to collaborate and accompany needy people from other countries through specific programs of action in the areas of education, health, reconstruction and accompaniment in activities of leisure. This activity has the option of recognizing ECTS credits.

In the 2023-24 academic year:

- 7 programs have been offered in Uganda, Tanzania, Greece, Brazil, Jordan, Kenya and India
- It has collaborated with Asociación Adesci, Rafiki Projects For Development, Colegio Mayor Bonaigua, Fundación Montblanc and Cooperating Volunteers.
- In addition to this offer promoted by UIC Barcelona, students have been presented who will participate in these and other international volunteering projects through the Cooper Plan, a program of aid for cooperation and social commitment projects.