

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2022-2023



UNIVERSITY  
*of* NICOSIA

# CONTENTS

Message by the Rector	3
Introduction to the Report	4
UNIC at a Glance	5
University Sustainability and Responsibility	6
UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings	7
SDG1: No Poverty	8
SDG2: Zero Hunger	9
SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being	10
SDG4: Quality Education	11
SDG5: Gender Equality	12
SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation	13
SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy	14
SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	15
SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	16
SDG10: Reduced Inequalities	17
SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	18
SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production	19
SDG13: Climate Action	20
SDG14: Life Below Water	21
SDG15: Life on Land	22
SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	23
SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals	24



## MESSAGE BY THE RECTOR

I am pleased to introduce the University of Nicosia Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, which offers a broad overview of the work undertaken by the University towards supporting and promoting sustainability. From its inception, the University has always strived to be a pioneer in the field of higher education, while acknowledging its role in supporting environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Through its teaching and learning, research, innovation and engagement activities, the University is in a prime position to play a role, both locally and internationally, towards contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), realising its obligation to maximise its positive impact on the environment.

As an educational institution, the University equips students with the knowledge and skills that will empower them to contribute to building a sustainable future for themselves and future generations. In this global, digital, and technology-driven era, our work is not contained within our physical campus but extends globally through input from our expert teaching and research staff towards local and international public debate and policy.

In 2018, the University was an inaugural participant in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings – the first to measure global universities' success in delivering the SDGs. The 2024 THE Impact Rankings ranked the University of Nicosia among the top 301-400 universities globally in terms of its overall social and economic impact.

The accomplishments presented in this report represent the combined efforts of teaching, research, and administrative staff, as well as students and alumni across all departments. While this is not an exhaustive report, it showcases the progress thus far and provides an indication of the University's current and future direction regarding sustainability as driven by our strategy, internal and external stakeholders' expectations, as well as national and international policy.

I hope that you will find this report informative and inspiring, as well as indicative of our commitment to working diligently towards realising the UN 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

**Professor Philippos Pouyioutas**

Rector

# INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

It has increasingly become apparent that universities have a critical role to play in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through their faculty, staff, and students, as well as their broader stakeholder community and alumni, universities are primed to act as catalysts for societal change. The University of Nicosia Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 aims to present highlights of activities and pertinent information on sustainability. It combines data from various stakeholders across the University, including professional and academic staff, students and alumni, and the association with local communities and businesses. Through our actions for more sustainable business and operations, we are committed to helping our students, government, industry, and society. The report presents information about the University's efforts towards tackling each of the SDGs presented from the viewpoints of Research, Operations, Student Learning, and Community, where available.



In our efforts to espouse a sustainable approach across our University community, we must embed the concept of sustainability in our routine. This necessitates a robust and forward-thinking strategic approach to genuinely achieve the desired outcome. In essence, becoming a truly sustainable institution rests on the method by which we uphold equilibrium between all our activities and the planet we call home. It serves as a wise and essential roadmap, securing the enduring prosperity of societies, businesses, states, and academia. Bearing this in mind, the University of Nicosia remains committed to investing in its people and the broader community, striving to become a regional benchmark for sustainability excellence.

**Professor  
Constantinos N. Phellas**  
Senior Vice Rector



The UN Sustainable Development Goals are paramount for the world's future, especially as complexity increases in every aspect of life, and the environmental, health, poverty, and justice challenges remain unresolved. The University of Nicosia is fully engaged in contributing to sustainability goals through allocating resources and research efforts in various scientific disciplines, as well as training and education. The University continuously explores innovative approaches to maximise the impact of our research and educational outputs and ensure that we communicate all the above to decision-makers. Furthermore, we achieve the above through collaboration with our university, industrial, and government partners worldwide by emphasising social, economic, and environmental impacts.

**Professor  
Dimitris Drikakis**  
Vice President for Global  
Partnerships



As an inaugural participant in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, the University of Nicosia was provided the opportunity to take stock of its achievements and contributions towards the SDGs, and, consequently, look towards the future and explore ways in which it can improve its performance against the SDGs. As such, exercises such as the Impact Rankings, serve as a looking glass that reflects our image back at us, thus, propelling us to work harder, to do better.

**Elisa Bosio**  
Institutional Data Curator

# UNIC AT A GLANCE

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) is one of the leading comprehensive research-oriented universities in the Mediterranean region, committed to teaching, research and innovation, sustainability, societal engagement, and contribution to culture.

The University offers more than 100 conventional face-to-face (on campus) and e-Learning/distance learning (online) programmes at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree level, hosting more than 12,500 students from over 100 countries.

UNIC conducts extensive high quality basic, applied, and interdisciplinary research that benefits society on a national and global scale. Our teaching and research staff excel in many academic disciplines and are acknowledged for their contribution to the creation and advancement of knowledge and technology transfer, with a particular focus on emerging technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and their impact on society.

Our focus on implementing the “Knowledge Square” through actively engaging with research centres, industry, and society, ensures that our programmes are designed and enhanced in close collaboration with related stakeholders. This focus results in programmes that address industry needs and are accredited by relevant professional bodies, correspondingly preparing graduates for a global career in today's evolving workplace.

The University's academic standing and global outlook have been reflected in outstanding results in international rankings. Indicatively, UNIC has been recognised by Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025 as being among the top 2% of universities in the world.

UNIC's main campus is located in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, an EU-member state.



# UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY



The University's Sustainability Strategy has five pillars:



**1**  
Access to education



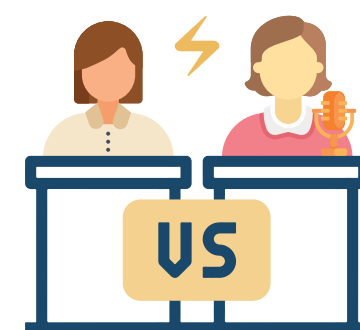
**2**  
Environmental sustainability



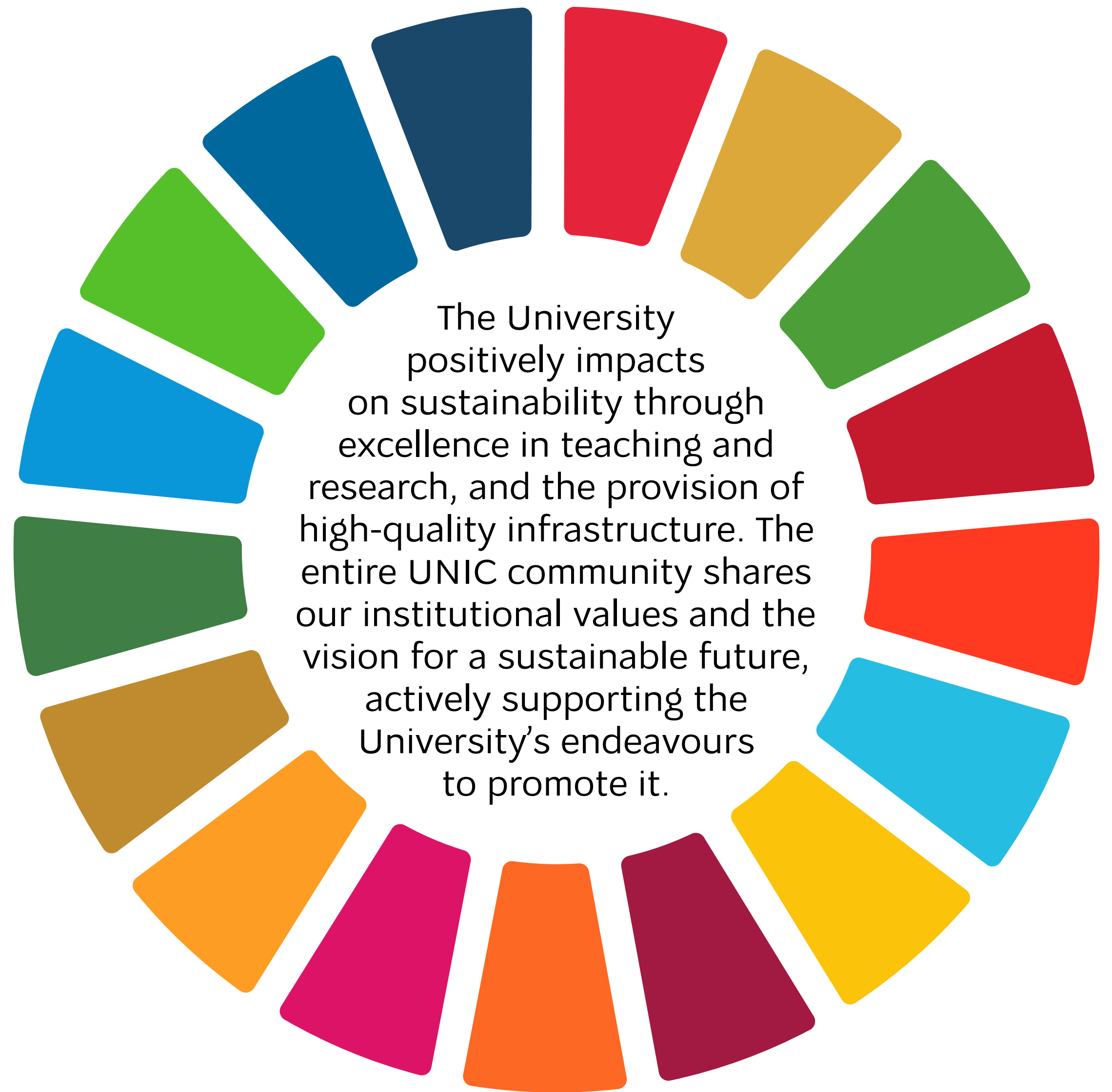
**3**  
Investing in people and the community



**4**  
Advancement in research and technology



**5**  
Social sustainability and contributing to informed public debate



The University positively impacts on sustainability through excellence in teaching and research, and the provision of high-quality infrastructure. The entire UNIC community shares our institutional values and the vision for a sustainable future, actively supporting the University's endeavours to promote it.

# UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. It consists of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. The University of Nicosia aims to map its activities to the SDGs, prioritise the goals and develop a strategy to support these goals in the future.



The 2024 Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings, released in June 2024, ranked the University of Nicosia among the top 301-400 universities globally in terms of its overall social and economic impact.



The University was an inaugural participant in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, which was launched in 2018. The THE University Impact Rankings is the first ranking to measure the success of universities globally in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), viewed as increasingly important given the critical action they stimulate in varied and essential areas for humanity and the planet.

An expanded field of universities participated in the sixth edition of the Impact Rankings, with more than 1950 universities from 120 countries and regions, including strong representation by the USA, the UK, and India.



## RESEARCH

### Centre for Economic Studies

The Centre for Economic Studies (CES) was established to further the investigation and analysis of local and international economic developments, to identify new areas of research and development and to organise activities and events that may promote and strengthen the position of the University as an organisation that promotes economic development.



## OPERATIONS

### Financial Aid

With over 12,500 students, the University is committed to providing access to education to low-income students through the provision of financial aid in the form of scholarships. Indeed, over the past five years, an average of 59% of our students were recipients of financial aid, amounting to approximately 50.4 million Euros.

### Affordable Student Accommodation

The UNIC Residences consist of three separate complexes – SIX, U and TRIANGLE – which are among the most modern student accommodations in Europe. UNIC Residences provide a multitude of dining, relaxing and entertainment options for residents, including restaurants and cafes, a mini-market, gyms, TV rooms, games areas and more. Accommodation is offered at a reasonable, all-inclusive price that includes all residence costs (electricity, water, Internet access, and cable TV).



## STUDENT LEARNING

### Youth Guidance Programme at UNIC

MENTOR is a structured, award-winning community engagement initiative, serving both the University's social outreach pillar and broader societal needs. MENTOR brought together children from underprivileged families with university students, who acted as mentors, providing personal care to the children, and serving as role models. The mentoring relationships fostered along the way served to protect and prevent the children (tomorrow's citizens) from delinquent behaviour, therefore enhancing their opportunities for personal and professional success. At the same time, Mentors experienced some of the country's most critical social problems. With that, they were able to understand and cultivate the social responsibility that, as tomorrow's leaders, they will be called upon to incorporate into their professional positions. The programme at UNIC, which ran under the auspices of the Cyprus Commissioner for Children's Rights, was approved by the Cyprus Antidrug Council as a preventive programme for children from vulnerable groups.

## COMMUNITY

### Professor Constantinos Phellas, Senior Vice Rector, Appointed Cyprus Ambassador of the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN)

Professor Constantinos Phellas, Senior Vice Rector, serves as Cyprus Ambassador of the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN), an appointment made by the Cyprus Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance.

### Conference on the Active Participation of People Living in Poverty

The University of Nicosia participated in the Annual Conference of the National Anti-Poverty Network of Cyprus in November 2022. The conference dealt with the theme "Working poor: Precarious work, challenges and the critical role of social partners". Senior Vice Rector Professor Constantinos Phellas highlighted how the psychological cost of poverty burdens human existence so greatly that it causes chain effects in the community and the national economy. At a time when there is an increase in non-standard forms of employment, fixed-term and part-time contracts, the expansion of precarious work in many sectors of the market, the deprivation of men and women of basic rights such as parental leave all constitute phenomena of social exclusion due to poverty.

### "Dance Escapes" – Dance Classes Support the UNIC Student Welfare Fund

The Department of Student Affairs began offering a series of dance classes in October 2022. Students and alumni could register to attend Ballroom and Latin dance classes twice a week, led by UNIC student Yevheniia Biriukova. A small participation fee was charged, and the proceeds were donated to the UNIC Student Welfare Fund.

### Tropical Medicine: Practising Medicine in A Low Resource Setting – Madagascar

On January 12, 2023, Reverend Archimandrite Anastasios Poyiadjis, MD, PhD, Honorary Professor of Tropical Medicine, UNIC Medical School gave a presentation on his experiences practicing medicine in Madagascar. He received his MD and PhD from the Medical School of the University of Athens, and he specialised in internal medicine. He was then ordained to the priesthood of the Orthodox Church and received his Degree of Theology. He has devoted most of his time, over the past thirty years, to working as a Missionary Priest and Doctor in various African countries including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Madagascar. He has gained a wealth of clinical experience in Tropical Medicine and is a specialist in adapting medical practice to low-income health settings, particularly in rural areas.

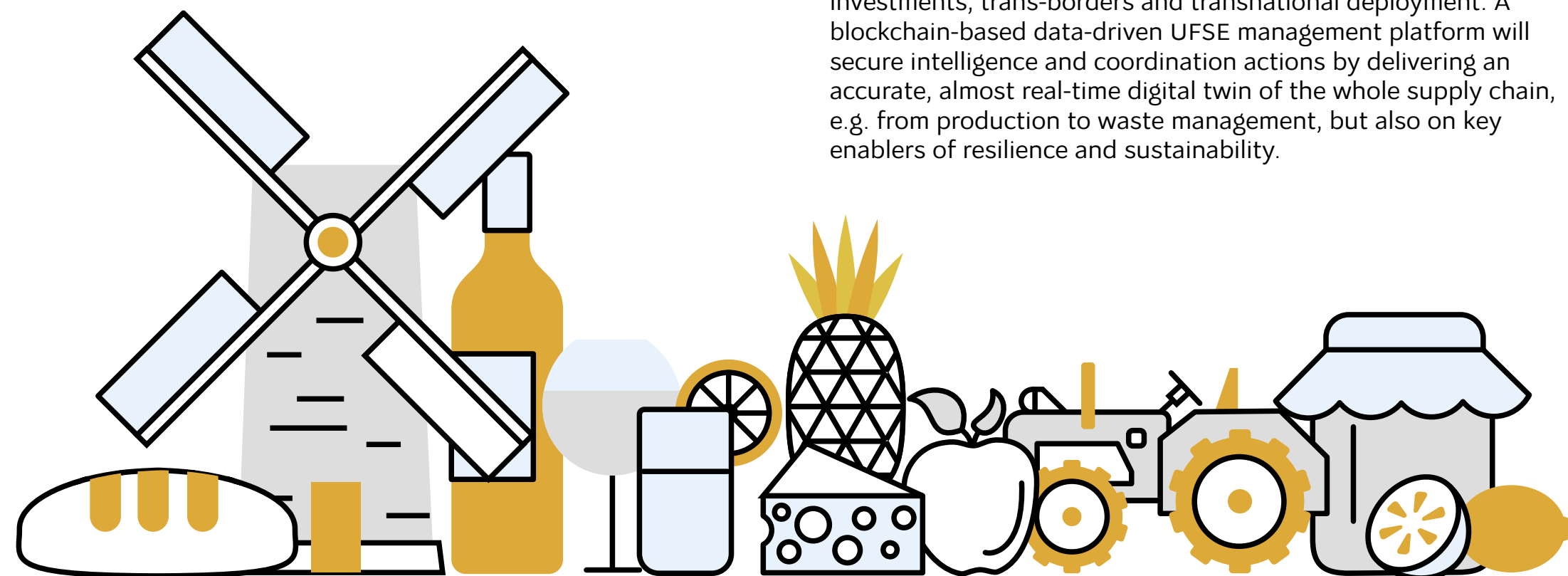




## RESEARCH

### Environmental Health (EH) Research Centre

The Environmental Health (EH) Research Centre guided by the underlying principles of One Health, recognises the intrinsic and complex connection between the health of people, biodiversity, and the environment. It relies on collaborative and transdisciplinary approaches at various levels (local, national, and global), with a final goal to achieve optimal health outcomes, and taking into consideration the sphere where these three key partners interact. While the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations can all be linked to the principle of One Health, the SDGs most related to the EH Research Centre include SDG2 Zero Hunger, SDG3 Good Health and Well-Being, SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG13 Climate Action, SDG14 Life Below Water and SDG15 Life on Land.



### DeVilag Project

The University of Nicosia, through the Life & Health Sciences Department, is partner in an Erasmus+ funded project entitled 'Steering Migration through Sustainable Development Euro-Egyptian Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development'. In line with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the project views a lever of social and economic development for rural areas and, consequently, a means of reducing the number of people seeking to leave the countryside or their countries due to the lack of attractive prospects. Thus, the main aim of this project is to support the Egyptian rural community with the necessary qualified graduates and university expertise to improve agricultural productivity, enable more sustainable food production, develop the poor villages, enhance farmers' income and their living conditions to prevent migration to cities or beyond.

### Cities 2030 Project

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation, is partner in the CITIES2030 project, funded by the EU's Horizon2020 programme. Urban food systems and ecosystems (UFSE) demand immediate action. The main goal of CITIES2030 is to create a future proof and effective UFSE via a connected structure centred on the citizen, built on trust, with partners encompassing the entire UFSE. CITIES2030 commit to work towards the transformation and restructuring of the way systems produce, transport and supply, recycle and reuse food in the 21st century. CITIES2030 vision is to connect short food supply chains, gathering cities and regions, consumers, strategic and complement industry partners, the civil society, promising start-ups and enterprises, innovators and visionary thinkers, leading universities, and research across the vast diversity of disciplines addressing UFSE, including food science, social science and big data. Cities and regions will improve resilience and sustainability, and their leadership will create short food supply chain and ecosystems enabling local investments, trans-borders and transnational deployment. A blockchain-based data-driven UFSE management platform will secure intelligence and coordination actions by delivering an accurate, almost real-time digital twin of the whole supply chain, e.g. from production to waste management, but also on key enablers of resilience and sustainability.

## OPERATIONS

### Affordable Catering on Campus

UNIC offers a choice of student cafeterias located across campus where students, faculty, staff, and visitors can enjoy a meal, grab a quick coffee, or just wind down and relax with some friends. Open during normal University hours, the cafeterias offer a healthy and affordable selection of warm meals, snacks, salads, sandwiches, coffees, and soft drinks, catering to vegetarians as well. They also offer recreational facilities, including free Wi-Fi access.



### An Interprofessional Culinary Medicine Activity

On 22 and 23 February 2023, Year 1 medical students from the Graduate-Entry MD (GEMD) programme joined students from the Culinary Arts Programme of Intercollege in a Culinary Medicine activity to understand more about local Cyprus produce and food practices and to discuss how to support healthy home cooking for their future patients or clients. They prepared together a whole plant-based meal that highlighted the Mediterranean cuisine using local Cyprus products. The activity was developed and led collaboratively by Chefs Maria Charitou and Christiana Siatha of Intercollege's Culinary Arts Programme and Drs Maria Cecilia Mosquera and Chloe Antoniou of the UNIC's Medical School.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### UNIC Hosts the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Diabetes and Metabolic Disease Symposium

The Department of Life and Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia, the Hellenic Diabetes Association, the Hellenic Society of Internal Medicine, the Institute for the Study, Research and

Education for Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases (Greece and Cyprus), the Cyprus Society of Pathology, the Cyprus Society of Gastroenterology, and the Nicosia-Kyrenia Medical Association 'Hippocrates', organised the 11th Annual Diabetes and Metabolic Disease Symposium between 21 and 22 October 2022. Hosted at UNIC, the two-day event took place under the auspices of the Minister of Health and was addressed to doctors, nurses, dieticians, and nutritionists, as well as students and other health professionals.

## COMMUNITY

### Baby Milk Project in Madagascar

In recent years, southern Madagascar is suffering from severe drought. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), about 5% of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. Thus, securing milk for those children is important. To prevent acute and chronic malnutrition of children in the region of Tulear, a Baby Milk Project, supported by NGOs, has been running for some years now at the premises of 'L' Annonciation' Health Clinic in Tulear. The free supply of milk to orphan and malnourished children is being supervised by Dr Anastasios Poyiadjis, an Internist and Honorary Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Nicosia Medical School. The Clinic is furnished by the University of Nicosia and is partly supported financially through fundraising activities which are organised by the University of Nicosia Medical School students.

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## RESEARCH

### UNIC Hosts the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EU-CardioRNA COST Action

The School of Life and Health Sciences organised the 9th and final meeting of the EU-CardioRNA COST Action, which took place between 22 and 24 February 2023 at the University of Nicosia. This specific action aimed to create a collaborative network of researchers across Europe, which will strive to accelerate the understanding of the molecular biology of cardiovascular disease and to further translate experimental data into useful applications in order to improve personalised medicine in this field. A total of 31 European countries and over 70 distinguished scientists participated in the COST Action, which began in April 2018 and ended in April 2023.

### Centre of Neuroscience and Integrative Brain Research

The aim of the Centre of Neuroscience and Integrative Brain Research (CENIBRE) is to investigate the nervous system in health and disease, and develop novel preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to improve neurological and mental health. An interdisciplinary approach, a unique mix of expertise, the application of state-of-the-art technologies and innovative data analysis will be the main attributes of the Centre. The Centre builds on the integration of broad but complementary expertise of its founding members ranging from fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms of neuronal signalling all the way to behavioural and wider determinants of population health and wellbeing.

## OPERATIONS

### One Health

The University of Nicosia espouses the holistic concept of One Health, which emphasizes the relationship between the health of humans and animals within a healthy, sustainable environment. In 2022, the University launched UNIC Health with Professor Andreas Charalambous becoming the first Executive Vice President for Health. UNIC Health is dedicated to further support the development of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Health Sciences at the University of Nicosia.

### UFIT – The University of Nicosia Fitness Centre

The University's recently constructed UFIT Fitness Centre is a leading gym in Cyprus, offering students and members of the local community excellent services under the professional guidance of health and sports science specialists. UFIT certified trainers are dedicated and committed to helping individuals get the best out of themselves. The centre is equipped with brand-new, state of the art equipment and with all the necessary facilities to create a healthy and pleasant environment for everyone to exercise. UNIC students benefit from special discounted membership fees.



### Smoke Free Campus

Smoking has been prohibited on all premises of the University of Nicosia since 1 January 2010. The smoke free policy was updated as of 1 January 2015 to include e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes). The aim of this policy is to provide a healthy environment that promotes the health, well-being, and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors at the University of Nicosia by minimising the negative effects of second-hand smoke; to improve fire safety; and to encourage a more sustainable environment.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### First and Largest Medical School in Cyprus

Over the past two decades, the University of Nicosia has led the development of life and health sciences programmes in Cyprus. The University of Nicosia started the first medical programme in Cyprus in 2011, and today, the UNIC Medical School is the largest in the country, offering two medical programmes and three postgraduate degrees to more than 1200 students from around the world. Students from 97 countries have studied at the Medical School, coming from as far away as the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition to our achievements in medical education and research, students also benefit from world-class faculty members, experienced and supportive staff, international partnerships, and state-of-the-art facilities and learning resources. The student-centred Medicine curricula allows for the early development of clinical skills and reasoning and promotes collaborative learning, critical thinking and reflection, skills that are essential for a future career in medicine. Our graduates are practising physicians across the world, including the USA, Canada, UK, Australia, EU countries, Israel, and Lebanon.

### First Primary Care Conference Organised by the UNIC Medical School

The 1st Primary Care Conference, organised by the Department of Primary Care and Population Health of the Medical School, took place on 20 May 2023. The Conference brought together General Practitioners from all around Cyprus, who work as Personal Doctors (PD) in the General Healthcare System (GHS). It covered a wide range of current medical topics, such as subclinical hypothyroidism, new drugs for diabetes management, and the use of online and telemedicine services.

### WHO Regional Director for Europe Delivers Guest Lecture at the University of Nicosia

Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Europe, delivered a lecture on campus, titled "Pandemic Recovery and Global/Regional Health Security." The lecture was organised by the Medical School's Department of Primary Care and Population Health on 29 January 2023. Dr Kluge said that "A future pandemic is a certainty – it's a matter of 'when' and not 'if'". He noted that strengthening our collective health security architecture at national, regional and global levels "is so urgent" underlining that COVID-19 has taught us that international and regional health cooperation is essential.



## COMMUNITY

### University of Nicosia Medical Centre

Inaugurated in December 2019, the University of Nicosia Medical Centre is the first of its kind in Cyprus, operating under the Cyprus General Healthcare System (GHS). The University of Nicosia Medical Centre serves the primary health care needs of the University of Nicosia community, their families, and the population at large. It is a model primary care centre providing high-quality services based on the UK system of a comprehensive, holistic, and evidence-based approach to primary care practice. In addition to the primary care services offered, the Centre is involved in research work covering the fields of family medicine and public health, while also serving as a training ground for the University of Nicosia medical students.

### Mobile Clinic Completes another Year of Impactful Expeditions

The Medical School's Mobile Clinic concluded its highly successful year by participating in the Cyprus Pride festival on 27 May 2023. This event witnessed the collaborative efforts of the Mobile Clinic team, Cy Checkpoint, and the AIDS Solidarity Movement, as they conducted 128 HIV and Syphilis tests. The Mobile Clinic's participation in the Cyprus Pride festival marked the culmination of a busy and successful year of service. Between October 2022 and May 2023, the Mobile Clinic traversed 11 destinations, reaching out to communities in various villages across four districts of Cyprus – Nicosia, Limassol, Paphos, and Famagusta. Among the villages to benefit from the Mobile Clinic's presence were Farmakas, Lythrodontas, Deryneia, Koilani, Kouklia, Pedoulas, and Episkopi. A total of 163 student volunteers administered 1856 tests, including electrocardiograms, screening of ophthalmic diseases, blood pressure, glucose and body mass index, to 689 patients.



### Centre for Therapy, Training and Research

The Centre for Therapy, Training and Research (KESY) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, established in 2004, that is affiliated with the University of Nicosia. KESY's goal is to provide clients with a safe, caring, and professional environment in which they can access mental health services; train and educate students, parents, professionals, and the public at large via workshops, seminars, lectures, and supervision; and carry out a variety of research projects related to the Centre's domain of practice. As an organisation affiliated with the University of Nicosia, the Centre also provides students of Clinical Psychology, School Psychology and Counselling Psychology at the University of Nicosia a professional site where they can carry out their practical training.



## RESEARCH

### DIALLS Project

UNIC, through its School of Education, is one of eight universities across Europe and Israel to participate in DIALLS (Dialogue and Argumentation for Cultural Literacy Learning in Schools), a three-year project funded under the Horizon 2020 Understanding Europe - Promoting the European Public and Cultural Space call. The project, with €4,4 million in funding, is coordinated by the University of Cambridge. UNIC is working alongside leading universities, including the University of Münster, University of Barcelona, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to further one of the main objectives of the European Commission. More specifically, the consortium engages its network of partner schools (pre-primary, primary and secondary) in both urban and rural contexts. The consortium works on teaching methods for young people's cultural literacy for understanding European identities, cultures and diversities.

### STEMkey: Teaching Standard STEM Topics with a Key Competence Approach

The University of Nicosia, through the Department of Education, School of Education is a partner in an Erasmus+ funded project entitled "Teaching standard STEM topics with a key competence approach" (STEMKEY). The main purpose of the project is to prepare pre-service teachers to teach STEM related topics with an emphasis on key competences (critical thinking, argumentation, digital skills). The research group will prepare specially designed professional development materials that will be tested with pre-service teachers in partner countries. This is an Erasmus+ KA2 funded project coordinated by the University of Freiburg, Germany, with a budget of 450,000 Euros.

## OPERATIONS

### Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre (SSC) assists students in achieving their academic goals through tutorial services and workshops. The staff members of the SSC are committed to enable students to succeed at the University. Working primarily with first year students, the Centre provides transition to university programmes, counselling, and academic skills training to the student population through several programmes. The SSC is responsible for monitoring student performance through: (a) tutorial taught by a Faculty member (6 per Semester), (b) tutorial taught by Postgraduate/Doctorate student, (c) organisation of a summer crash courses / crash foundation courses on subjects crucial for student success, and (d) student mentoring.



### European Leaders in Online/Distance Learning

The University of Nicosia has been a pioneer in Online/ Distance Learning Education in Europe, supporting both its own degree programmes, as well as those of its joint degree partners. UNIC offers 29 innovative e-learning/distance learning (online) programmes at the Bachelor and Master level, deploying the most up-to-date technologies and state-of-the-art learning design theory. The University provides a digital educational environment inspired by technology and driven by pedagogy. The educational material is available on a special e-learning platform, which is constantly updated to remain compatible with current educational needs. UNIC was the first university in the European Union to be awarded a 5-Star rating for Online/Distance Learning in 2017, with the QS Intelligence Unit reaffirming the University's exemplary rating in 2020. This is a testament to the University's commitment to delivering quality distance learning/online programmes, by investing heavily in the requisite people and infrastructure for a world-class offering.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### UNIC Introduces World's First MSc in Metaverse

In June 2023, the University of Nicosia launched the world's first Master of Science (MSc) in Metaverse, a ground-breaking programme designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills required for careers in metaverse design and management. With a rich history in crypto and blockchain education since 2013, UNIC continues to lead the way in innovative educational offerings, cementing its position as a global leader in tertiary education in cutting-edge technologies. The MSc in Metaverse is a fully accredited, interdisciplinary programme offered online, catering to the needs of creators, developers, architects, social scientists, financial professionals, policy makers, and individuals interested in shaping the future of the metaverse. By combining technical expertise with essential soft skills and competencies, such as 3D modelling and design, VR/AR development, blockchain/NFT, data skills, project management, marketing, communication, creativity, and collaboration, the programme provides a comprehensive foundation for success in this emerging field.

### Education Conference 2023 – Digital Transition and Inclusion in Education: An Agenda for Action

The University of Nicosia, the Council for Education in the Commonwealth (CEC), the Association for Commonwealth Universities, the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programs (IDEP), and the UNESCO Chair of the University of Nicosia, jointly organized the "Education Conference 2023 – Digital Transition and Inclusion in Education: An Agenda for Action", held between 18 and 21 May 2023 at the University of Nicosia. The Conference explored the digital transformation of education and how it contributes to greener and more inclusive societies, bringing together esteemed leaders, educators, and professionals from the education sector to discuss and explore strategies for leveraging digital technologies in education. The Education Conference 2023 proved to be a significant platform for exchanging ideas, fostering collaboration, and shaping the future of education in the digital age.



## COMMUNITY

### School of Education Children's Workshop: Illuminate the stories around you!

Graduates of the Pre-Primary Education programme of the Department of Education at the School of Education were invited to attend an interactive event held on 10 December 2022 at the University of Nicosia Library. Participants visited the university with their pre-school aged children and participated in a series of interactive, creative activities. The event was designed around the children's wordless book "Follow the Firefly/Run Rabbit, Run!" by Bernardo Carvalho. The space was set up with various activity stations, which the children could go through, accompanied by their parents, following a staged theatrical performance. Activities included crafting, a creative storytelling game, and movement activities. Students from the Dance Programmes and the UNIC Jazz Choir also participated in the event contributing choreographies and songs about light and its symbolism in life.



### Access to the University Library and Free Events for the Public

The University of Nicosia makes available its Library facilities to members of the public who can visit the University Library free of charge. Members of the public can also register with the Library to borrow books at an affordable membership fee. Additionally, the University hosts and organises dozens of events every year most of which are free to members of the public. In response to the pandemic, the University organised a series of timely webinars that were also available free of charge to the community.

### Academic Cooperation with Hellenic Olympic Committee

The University of Nicosia and the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) have joined their forces to provide educational support and to contribute to the development of top-calibre Greek athletes and members of the Olympic team. Over the next three years, the University of Nicosia will be the academic partner of the Hellenic Olympic Committee. The academic cooperation includes, among other activities, offering a series of UNIC scholarships to high-performance Greek athletes. element being the star, which is the main element of the logo of the Association, and which symbolises the wish of each child.



## RESEARCH

### Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies

Affiliated to the University of Nicosia, the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, that promotes and contributes to projects of social, political, and economic themes relating to gender and women's rights on a national, regional, and EU level. The Institute deals with the complexities of discrimination against women and attempts to eliminate them, using a combination of research, advocacy, and lobbying, as well as trainings, conferences, and other activities. The Institute is closely monitoring the policies and strategies adopted by the State and the European Union in relation to gender equality in all fields. The Institute is in close cooperation with relevant European committees and participates in the implementation of several European projects. The Institute is an active member of the Cyprus Women's Lobby, which consists of 16 women's organisations and NGOs and is the newest member of the European Women's Lobby, the largest coalition of women's NGOs in the European Union promoting women's rights and equality between women and men.

### GEM Project

The University, through its Department of Education, is a partner in the EU funded project, "GEM – Empower Girls to Embrace their Digital and Entrepreneurial Potential". The untapped source of female technology, innovation and entrepreneurial potential leaves Europe with a huge and growing gender and skills gap in these sectors. Education certainly is the most important lever to enable and encourage girls to pursue studies and careers linked to STEM, particularly information and communication technology (ICT), and entrepreneurship. The GEM consortium, which includes higher education institutions from 11 European countries, will organise summer camps for girls, piloting various learning activities, which specifically support the development of a diverse range of STEM related and personal skills. The positive impact of the camps will be bolstered through the establishment of a long-term European network, connecting actors from various STEM education, digital and entrepreneurial spheres.

## OPERATIONS

### University of Nicosia certified as Equality Employer

In 2021, the University of Nicosia was certified as Equality Employer by the National Certification Body for the Implementation of Good Practices on Gender Equality in the Working Environment. The aim of the National Certification Body for the Implementation of Good Practices on Gender Equality in the Working Environment is to certify companies which have adopted policies that promote gender equality, provide equal training and development opportunities, a work life-balance, and equal pay between men and women for the same work or for work of equal value. With a view to effectively manage its employees and facilitate their continuous professional growth and development, the University of Nicosia employs a modern and comprehensive Human Resources Management system. The system revolves around respecting employees and the internationally accepted fundamental principles of HR management, while it is based on a continued effort for improvement, growth, and modernisation.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Guest Lecture on Gender Medicine

A guest lecture on Gender Medicine took place on 16 March 2023 and was delivered by Dr. med. Tanja Volm, University of Nicosia Medical School Academic Lead, Hirslanden Group, Switzerland, with an introduction by Professor Alexia Papageorgiou, Professor in Medical Education and Clinical Communication, University of Nicosia Medical School. Gender medicine is increasingly becoming part of medical training programmes and its primary focus is on the role of sex and gender in the incidence, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Dr. med. Tanja Volm, Director of the Hirslanden Institute for Medical Education in Switzerland, developed the first module of Gender Medicine for medical students at the University of Lucerne in Switzerland.

## COMMUNITY

### Women and Parliamentary Representation

In June 2023, the University of Nicosia took part in an event organised by the Research Center for Gender Equality, under the theme "Women and Parliamentary Representation". Commenting on research findings regarding the Parliamentary Elections of 2021 and whether the treatment of male and female candidates was equal during the pre-election period, Senior Vice Rector Professor Constantinos Phellas stated that the problems created by the unequal representation of the sexes in all aspects of modern politics were demonstrated. Our mission, according to Professor Phellas is to identify ways of bridging the gap and to eliminate unwanted and counterproductive discrimination. He emphasised the need to focus on quality education as a means of bridging the gap on gender equality.

### Gender Equality at Work Matters!

McDonald's, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, delivered a discussion on gender equality and the position of women in the workforce of Cyprus, which was held on 12 July 2023 at the University of Nicosia. The event was attended by Ms. Josie Christodoulou, Commissioner for Gender Equality in Cyprus, and the panel discussion included representatives from McDonald's Cyprus, Ernst and Young Cyprus and UNICARS Cyprus.

### LCI 2022-23 | Authentic Leadership for Women: Courage, Impact, and Influence

A paid 5-week online Women Leadership Programme with Natalie Braithwaite and Rebecca Newton from CoachAdviser, a recognised leader in the professional coaching field, was offered in November 2022 as part of the Life Changing Ideas series, organised by Global Training and the University of Nicosia. CoachAdviser supports executives with their team of highly skilled and accredited coaches. Founder and CEO, Dr Rebecca Newton, was awarded the highest recognition in coaching, Master-level Practitioner, by the EMCC in recognition of her contribution to the field. The programme was geared towards mid-senior level executives and for any woman aspiring to become a leader and to manage her team effectively.

### UNIC Hosts "Women in Mathematical Sciences from around the World" Exhibition

The University of Nicosia hosted the travelling exhibition "Women of Mathematics from around the World: A Gallery of Portraits" (<https://womeninmath.net/>) from 29 May to 13 June 2023. The exhibition was brought to Cyprus by the Women in Mathematical Sciences in Cyprus network, which was recently created in Cyprus with the aim of supporting and recognizing women who work in fields such as mathematics, statistics, data science, informatics, and engineering, among others, in academic institutions in Cyprus. The exhibition was attended by UNIC students, faculty and guests, as well as the members of the newly founded UNIC Centre for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI), which the exhibition was supported by. The traveling exhibition aims to highlight the contribution of women in the mathematical sciences and has travelled to more than 130 destinations worldwide. The exhibition was first launched in Berlin, Germany in 2016 showcasing female mathematicians in Europe and has since expanded to feature portraits of women from around the world.



## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### RESEARCH

#### European Union Funded Project 'Water-DROP'

The University of Nicosia participated in the European Union funded project entitled 'Water Development Resources: Opportunity Policies for the Water Management in Semi-Arid Areas' (Acronym: Water-DROP). The Water-DROP project, funded by the European Union within the framework of the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme, was coordinated by ENEA and included nine partners from Italy, Cyprus, Spain, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan. The main objective of Water-DROP was to develop an integrated water cycle management approach at the Mediterranean Sea Basin level for managing the related cross-sector issues through the enforcement of multi-stakeholder partnerships, with public and private actors. The project outcomes included the development of a Decision Support System integrated by a Geographical Information System (DSS-GIS) for the water cycle management adopted and implemented in four target areas. The 24-month project had a total budget of €1.9 million (90% of which is contributed by the EU).



### OPERATIONS

#### Water Conservation

Cyprus suffers from the highest water stress level in Europe, particularly in years of excessive drought. Due to the dry climate of Cyprus, water conservation plays an important role in sustainability at the University of Nicosia. Our comprehensive approach to water conservation includes high-efficiency fixtures such as ultra-low flow urinals, drought tolerant landscaping, watering the gardens in the early morning and evening when evaporation is limited, drip irrigation and regular leakage checks and repairs. Water fountains and filter machines provide free water to students, staff, and visitors.

### COMMUNITY

#### Is your teenager drinking enough water? Dehydration in adolescent high school students

Researchers from the University of Nicosia took part in a study on dehydration in adolescent high school students. Proper hydration is important for overall health, physical performance during exercise and labour, but also for the maintenance of cognitive functions. A recent study, conducted in the eastern Mediterranean, where temperatures exceed 30°C for many months of the year, found 90% of participating adolescents to be dehydrated in school – around one third of them severely. It was observed that students did not drink enough during classes, and remained dehydrated until the end of school at around 1.30 pm. In the present study, dehydration was associated with feelings of decreased alertness and concentration, as well as fatigue. Further analyses showed that the more fluids the participating adolescents drank, the better they felt in terms of vigilance and focus. "As drinking behaviour differs hugely from country to country", the researchers stressed, "it is apparent that educational measures on the importance of proper hydration must be addressed to youngsters, teachers and parents alike, to have a positive impact on overall health and well-being."





## RESEARCH

### Project PARITY

The University of Nicosia, through the Department of Digital Innovation, School of Business, is a partner in the Horizon2020 funded project "Prosumer AwaRe, Transactive Markets for Valorization of Distributed flexibility enabled by Smart Energy Contracts" (PARITY). Involving over a dozen partners and led by the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), the project, which commenced in September 2019 will run for 42 months and conclude in the spring of 2023. Transactive energy is a new kind of energy market, operated by consumers, which will change the way energy is generated and consumed. Blockchain technology would serve as an ideal platform for the transactive electricity market, helping to ensure that diverse assets on the grid work together. It also allows the IoT to share information efficiently, reliably, and securely. The EU-funded PARITY project is working on a local flexibility market platform that seamlessly integrates IoT and blockchain technologies. The solution also includes active network management tools to address the present 'structural inertia' of the distribution grid. PARITY's solution is expected to increase grid durability and efficiency, facilitating penetration of renewable energy sources in the electricity energy mix beyond 50%.



## OPERATIONS

### Energy Conservation Programme

Over the past few years, the University has been working towards putting into place an energy conservation programme. This has included the installation of:

- The access control system of amphitheatres in connection with lighting
- Low energy consumption bulbs across the campus
- Occupancy sensors in various spaces (e.g. Library)
- Thermo windows and polycarbonate for natural lighting in various buildings
- Occupancy sensors for cafeteria air conditioning
- Occupancy sensors for standard toilets in various buildings
- The access control system at entrances and High-Risk Workshops at the Medical School

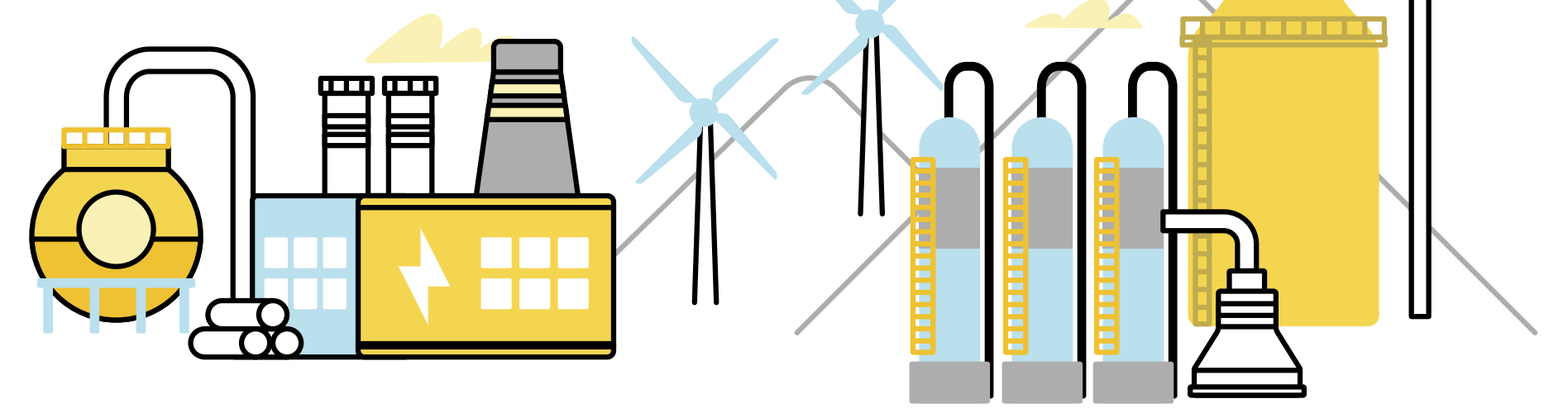
## STUDENT LEARNING

### Energy Web Endows PhD / Doctoral Studentship at UNIC to Advance Blockchain Research and Commercialization

The University's Institute For the Future (IFF) became the first Energy Web Academic Member in December 2020, entering into an agreement with the University of Nicosia (UNIC) to fund a PhD / doctoral studentship focused on interoperability, advancing blockchain research and implementation. The endowed studentship will sit within the Distributed Ledgers Research Centre (DLRC) at UNIC's Institute For the Future (IFF). For the endowed PhD studentship, UNIC and Energy Web will jointly agree on the thematic focus of a candidate's blockchain research. The initial focus of the research will address the interoperability of the UNIC EW-DOS tech stack and Energy Web ecosystem with existing and emerging blockchain systems. Energy Web will also be able to nominate an industry expert to join UNIC's academic PhD committee as an external advisor.

### Interactive Training Workshop on 3D Printing

The Marine & Carbon Lab at UNIC organised an interactive training workshop on 3D printing on 21 June 2023 suitable for secondary, high-school students, undergraduate/graduate students in the sciences and engineering, and hobbyists interested in 3D printing. During the training, twenty attendees had the opportunity to design and print a small item. Moreover, they became familiar with the process of designing, rendering, meshing, and the sequence of stages for additive manufacturing also known as 3D printing. During the workshop, emphasis was placed on the applications and prospects of 3D printing in various fields such as medicine, fashion, food industry, construction and the automotive industry. In addition, the training included an overview of the "FabRock" research project, funded by the Research and Innovation Foundation in Cyprus.



## COMMUNITY

### The Latest Developments in the Hydrocarbon Sector in the South-Eastern Mediterranean

On 9 February 2023, the Schools of Law of UNIC and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) co-organised an online event entitled: "The Latest Developments in the Hydrocarbon Sector in the South-Eastern Mediterranean". The event was held under the auspices of the newly established Chair of Cypriot Studies of AUTH, which was established and operates at the Faculty of Law of AUTH, thanks to a donation granted by the Cypriot Government. Speakers included the Secretary General for Energy and Mineral Resources at the Ministry for the Environment and Energy Alexandra Sdoukou, Associate Professor of Geopolitics and Energy Policy at the University of Nicosia Theodoros Tsakiris, the Dean of UNIC School of Law Prof. Achilles C. Emilianides, the Dean of the Faculty of Law of AUTH Prof. Panagiotis Glavinis, and the Head of the Scientific Committee of the of UNIC School of Law Prof. Antonis Manidakis. In particular, the effort of Greece and Cyprus for energy autonomy through the research and exploitation of hydrocarbons was presented.





## RESEARCH

### Management Science

UNIC's dedicated Mediterranean Institute for Management Science (GNOSIS) is fast positioning itself as a regional leader in the field. Gnosis is a dynamic organisation that aims to produce cutting edge scientific knowledge in the wider field of Management. Gnosis works with and for the industry and society to bridge academia and practice, instituting itself as a regional leader in its domain and a recognised top expert in the wider Mediterranean region. Through research, publications, training and synergies, Gnosis explores needs and challenges, thus enabling positive change. Its in-house researchers and professionals are specialists in Business Strategy, Marketing and Management, the Social Sciences and the Humanities.

## OPERATIONS

### Investing in Our People

Higher education is a people-powered service that relies heavily on the contribution of faculty and staff to deliver high-quality education and support services. The University continuously works towards offering training and development opportunities for its faculty and staff either through in-house training or through the Erasmus staff mobility programme.

### Equal Opportunities Policy Statement

The University of Nicosia is committed to providing equal opportunities in employment. It opposes all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination, direct or indirect, on the grounds of sex, marital/civil partnership status, colour, race, religion/philosophical belief, ethnic or national origin, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, gender reassignment (change of sex) or age. It is the policy of the University of Nicosia to treat all employees and business contacts with respect and dignity and to ensure that no individuals are victimised or subjected to harassment or bullying.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### UNIC Career Success Centre

The UNIC Career Success Centre (CSC) supports students and alumni in their continuous career exploration journey with vital insights and advice, employability seminars and trainings, company open days, and many more tools and services. The CSC actively supports and equips students with the tools they need to land an internship or job placement. From their first year at UNIC, students are encouraged to take advantage of the CSC services and opportunities and pursue as many internships during their studies as possible. The CSC works to develop mutually beneficial relationships with its partners and to connect students, faculty, and the industry. Through its highly developed network, the CSC gives students the opportunity to gain real-life knowledge and experience.

### Workshop on Leaders' Ethics and Responsibilisation: Advancing Responsible Management Learning and Education

The UNIC School of Business organised a workshop on "Leadership, Ethics and Responsibilisation", which took place on 27 June 2023. The workshop was part of the courses "Leadership and Innovation" (MBAN-744), and "Integrity in Organisations" (MBAN-702), taught by Prof. Elena Antonacopoulou and Dr. Leonidas Efthymiou, respectively. Responsible Management Learning and Education reflects one of the grand challenges for Business Schools, which continue to be criticized for developing managers who neglect the well-being of employees, communities and the environment. Within this framework, the scope of the workshop was to involve MBA students in and enable them to formulate the process of Advancing Responsible Management Learning and Education, as part of the Business School's mission.

### Bank of Cyprus and University of Nicosia Join Forces

The University of Nicosia's Department of Computer Science, School of Sciences and Engineering and the Bank of Cyprus (BoC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April 2023. The Memorandum of Understanding provides, among other, the granting of scholarships to students, the conduct of research and implementation of projects. The Memorandum was signed on behalf of BoC by Mr. George Kousis, Executive Director of Technology and Operations Division, and on behalf of the University of Nicosia by the Head of the Department of Computer Science, Professor Athena Stassopoulou, and the Director of the Career Success Centre, Dr. Maria Siopacha.

## COMMUNITY

### Series of Job Fairs organised by the Career Success Centre of the University of Nicosia

The Career Success Centre of the University of Nicosia organised a series of sector-specific job fairs, in the wider field of Business Administration, Health Sciences, Accounting, Information Technology and new technologies aimed at students and graduates of the University of Nicosia. The job fairs took place on campus with 75 businesses participating in the exhibitions, providing interested students with information about employment opportunities at various levels of specialisation. During the events, career advisors and company executives informed participants about practical issues related to accessing and smoothly integrating into the job market, as well as available internships and job opportunities. Business representatives presented the nature of their work, and the skills required in the specific sectors they represent. Participants were provided the opportunity to get to know companies established in their field and network with professionals in the areas that interest them and submit their resumes and conduct on-site interviews.



### Cyprus "Future of Work" Conference: Reinventing a New World of Work

The University of Nicosia participated in the Cyprus "Future of Work" Conference, which took place on 25 October 2022. Dr. Alexandros Antonaras, Vice President of Student Services at the University of Nicosia was among the speakers and panelists. The conference aimed to approach all of the major trends that define the future of work and HR. UNIC was a Gold Sponsor of the event, which was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB), and World Trade Centers Holdings (WTCH).





## RESEARCH

### Horizon 2020 Projects

UNIC is currently a coordinator or partner in multiple Horizon 2020 research consortiums, the EU's flagship research programme. These entail tackling contemporary societal challenges and enhancing Europe's global competitiveness, in collaboration with partners that include some of the leading research universities in the world, such as University of Cambridge, University of Barcelona, Telecom Paris Tech, University of Münster, and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

### Digital Currencies and Blockchain

UNIC is widely regarded as having the most developed university Blockchain and Digital Currency Initiative in the world. In addition to teaching, it has made significant progress in research and development in key areas such as digital credentialing, decentralized social networking, blockchain transaction analytics and other key areas of certificate issuance.

### Artificial Intelligence

UNIC's AI Lab aims at developing cutting-edge technology as well as state-of-the-art research in the fields of Data Science (Data Stream Mining, Deep Learning), Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning, Uncertain Reasoning, Bayesian Networks), Smart Cities (Learning from Urban Data), Computational Social Science, Sentiment Analysis and Social Network Analysis.

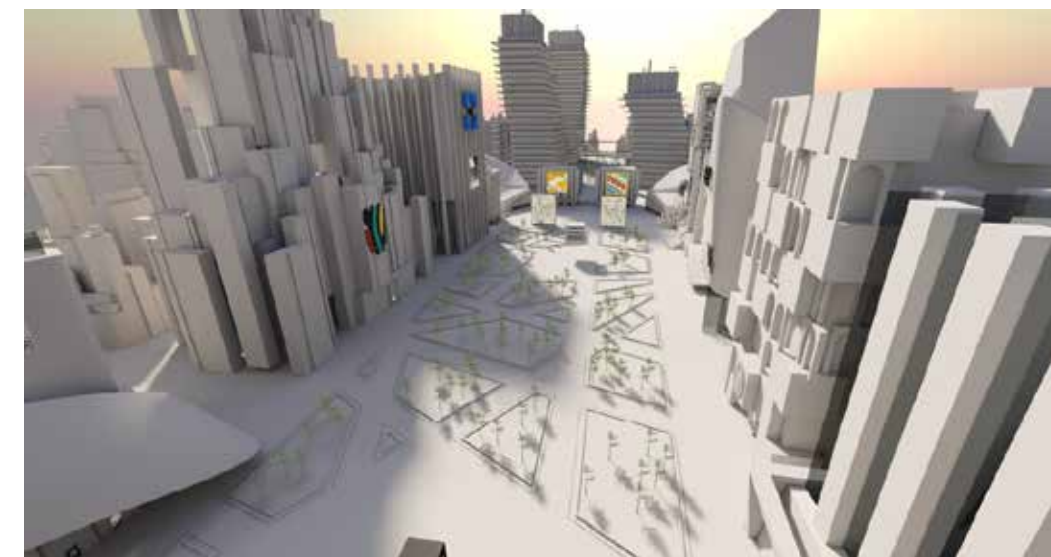
## OPERATIONS

### UNIC Launches the World's First University Course to be Delivered Exclusively on the Blockchain and in the Metaverse

In September 2022, the University of Nicosia launched its free, online course "Introduction to NFTs and the Metaverse"; the world's first university course to be delivered exclusively on the blockchain and in the metaverse. The course represented the latest ground-breaking initiative by UNIC in the context of its decade long engagement in the field of Blockchain, which is marked with a series of international pioneering actions. It was taught over a 12-week period and attracted more than 20,000 registrants. The course was delivered by Punk 6529 – a deeply influential thinker on NFTs and the metaverse and one of the largest NFT collectors in the world – alongside UNIC faculty, led by Professor George Giaglis and an array of guest panelists and lecturers. The course is part of the UNIC Open Metaverse Initiative, a new comprehensive initiative by UNIC's Institute For the Future (IFF), focused on the academic, research and policy issues relating to the metaverse, with a particular emphasis on open public systems and standards.

### University of Nicosia's Course on "NFTs & the Metaverse" Receives Award by INATBA for the "Most Exciting Project in Education" in 2023

On 31 January 2023, the International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA) organised an Awards Ceremony and Gala event in Brussels, Belgium to recognise blockchain excellence and presented groundbreaking NFT Awards. During the event, the University of Nicosia's course on NFTs & the Metaverse received the award for the 'Most Exciting Project in Education' in 2023. The award attests to UNIC's ten-year track record as the leading university in the field of blockchain and the metaverse.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### Qredo Partners with UNIC's IFF to Provide Blockchain and Cryptoasset Education to its Employees

In October 2022, the University of Nicosia's Institute For the Future (IFF) announced a partnership with Qredo. Qredo is a decentralised digital asset management infrastructure and product suite designed to unlock new opportunities for institutional investors in digital assets and decentralised finance. In the framework of this partnership, Qredo's 170+ employees from all around the globe will be educated on blockchain and cryptoasset-related topics, by gaining access to leading UNIC blockchain courses, including the MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency, Blockchain Academic Certification Programmes and the free Introductory MOOC on Digital Currency.

### Binance Charity and UNIC Partner to Provide Scholarships to World's Leading MSc in Blockchain

Binance Charity, the philanthropic arm of Binance, the world's leading cryptocurrency and blockchain infrastructure provider, and The Institute for the Future (IFF) of the University of Nicosia (UNIC), announced their partnership on 22 November 2022. The partnership will see Binance Charity provide five full scholarships for prospective students from Cyprus and Greece to study the world's leading graduate programme in the field, MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency, offered by UNIC. As a result of this partnership, UNIC joins a global network of like-minded academic institutions involved in Web3 and Blockchain that Binance Charity is establishing, including UC Berkeley, Frankfurt School Blockchain Centre and University of Western Australia.

## COMMUNITY

### UNIC Participates in the Cyprus Tech Career Fair 2022

UNIC CEO, Antonis Polemitis, took part in the Panel Discussion "Technology, innovation and research: the pillars that are driving economic growth for the future" at the Cyprus Tech Career Fair 2022, which took place between 24 and 26 November 2022 at the Cyprus International Fair. The Cyprus Tech Career Fair was a major event and the first of its kind, and one which aimed to help Cyprus stay ahead in the global innovation race by re-orienting its talent towards technology. The event aimed to bring technology companies and technology-related companies closer to students and young professionals in Cyprus and give them the chance to explore new and exciting career paths.

### University of Nicosia Supports "Stronger Together through the Power of Artificial Intelligence for the Common Good" Hackathon

The Department of Computer Science of the University of Nicosia supported the hackathon "Stronger Together through the Power of Artificial Intelligence for the Common Good", which took place between 16 and 18 December 2022. The hackathon was organised by the British Council, in collaboration with CYENS – Centre of Excellence, and with the financial support of Microsoft. The hackathon was open to 18–35-year-olds with a background in the following fields: computer science, engineering, mathematics, life sciences, climate activism, social sciences, social innovation and entrepreneurship. Participants formed teams and received training from a UK expert on how they can use artificial intelligence to design solutions to contemporary critical challenges. Mentors supported each team through the process and the original ideas were presented in front of a jury.



### University of Nicosia an Official Partner of the Digital Agenda Summit 2022

The University of Nicosia served as an Official Partner of the 2022 Digital Agenda Summit, which took place on 17 October 2022 at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre. University of Nicosia CEO Antonis Polemitis participated with a discussion entitled 'Vision or Illusion?'. The goal of the Digital Agenda Cyprus Summit is to become an established meeting point for prominent figures and young people who come together to discuss and develop the future of mankind at the regional and European levels. An equally important aim is to draw attention to Nicosia as a regional education hub, where discussion on the digital agenda takes place. The event includes speakers from all around the world.



## RESEARCH

### Erasmus+ Programme SPIRIT: Sport and Physical Education as a Vehicle for Inclusion and Recognition in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka

The University of Nicosia is a participant in the Erasmus+ Programme “Sport and physical education as a vehicle for Inclusion and Recognition in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka”, which aims to bring change to the three programme countries in terms of sports education for a healthy lifestyle that combats growing chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and promotes social inclusion and participation in sports. Between 22 and 26 May 2023, faculty and students from the partner institutions had the opportunity to meet at the University of Nicosia to participate in a week-long seminar offered by the School of Life and Health Sciences in sport science, nutrition, physiotherapy and pharmacy. The seminar included lectures by the faculty in the morning and visits to gyms and labs in the afternoon. The project is coordinated by Lovely Professional University from Punjab in India. The coordination at the University of Nicosia is carried out by the Rector, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, assisted by Kyriakos E Georgiou, Senior Administrator at the Rectorate.



## OPERATIONS

### Disabled Access

UNIC’s modern campus is made up of 20 purpose-built and customised buildings situated amid the urban landscape in the bustling suburb of Engomi in Nicosia. Disabled access is available across the campus except for two buildings that provide partial access. Moreover, the UNIC Residences are equipped with special accessibility apartments designed for students with physical disabilities.

### Measures against Discrimination: Underrepresented Groups

The University adheres to a policy of non-discrimination in admitting students without reference to race, colour, religion, gender, age, disability, or national origin. Admission to the University is granted under different categories depending on student qualifications and educational objectives. The University admissions policy relies on the student’s past records, including high school grades. However, all relevant information such as student gender, income status, disability, nationality, etc. are stored in the University of Nicosia Administration System and is available as readymade or upon-request reports.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Online Session: The Importance of Inclusivity Using a Cultural Grounded Approach

On the occasion of World Social Work Day, the Social Work Programme of the University of Nicosia organised an online session entitled “The Importance of Inclusivity using a Cultural Grounded Approach”, which took place on 21 March 2023. The event was hosted by Dr. Despina Cochliou,

Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Nicosia. Speakers included Dr Roxxi M. Davis, a full-time BSW programme director at UIndy, Dr. Stephanie Rudd, Associate Professor of social work at the University of Indianapolis and Dr. Lisa Adams-Qualls, full-time Assistant Professor at Concordia University, and Co-chair of the university’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

## COMMUNITY

### Refugee Scholars Share Their University Experience

Young refugees who received scholarships by the University of Nicosia (UNIC) under the UNIC – UNHCR Refugee Scholarship Programme opened up about the opportunities these have provided them with, as well as some of the challenges they faced during their studies. The meeting took place on 7 June 2022 at the University’s premises, with a delegation from both UNIC and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in attendance, to also renew the dedicated scholarship programme the University has been running for the past 5 years under an MOU concluded with UNHCR. Over seventy deserving refugees have been awarded with full or partial scholarships through the UNIC – UNHCR Refugee Scholarship Programme since 2017.



### UNIC and Coinbase Award 15 Full Scholarships to Minority Professionals

In November 2022, the University announced the recipients of 15 full scholarships to the MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency in partnership with Coinbase. In 2021, Coinbase launched a scholarship programme for minority professionals in partnership with the Institute For the Future, University of Nicosia, a global leader in blockchain and crypto assets education. By providing talented minority professionals with a full scholarship to obtain an MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency, Coinbase will help foster the next generation of leaders in the cryptocurrency industry. This is in line with the University of Nicosia’s declared objective in expanding accessibility and affordability of higher education. The UNIC MSc programme is made available to students worldwide through an online and on-campus format.

### Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition Game

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the University of Nicosia Medical School celebrated the European Public Health Week from 22 to 26 May 2023, which aimed to highlight the importance of public health and showcase how individuals and organisations across different sectors are working towards addressing “Public health: Global issues, local actions”. As part of the week, UNIC Health and Student Services joined forces with the Nicosia Team Rollers for an exhilarating Wheelchair Basketball Exhibition Game that took place on 23 May 2023 at the Multi Training Centre Evangelos Florakis in Engomi, and aimed to help better understand the needs of people with disabilities.

### Intercultural Education and Mediation: A Pillar of Regional Development and Socio-educational Inclusion

On 10 September 2022, the Department of Educational Sciences and Early Childhood Education at the University of Patras, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, organised a seminar entitled “Intercultural Education and Mediation in the age of multiple crises: From the neighbourhood school to the citizen of the future”. The purpose of the seminar was to set a broader framework for reflection on Intercultural Education and Mediation as a pillar of regional development and socio-educational inclusion, as well as, to present the various dimensions of intercultural education, communication, dialogue and mediation in the school environment. The participants had the opportunity to attend relevant presentations, which were followed by a Q&A discussion.

### Presentation on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the LGBTIQ+ Community in Cyprus

In September 2022, the University of Nicosia presented findings on the deterioration in the quality of life of LGBTIQ+ people in Cyprus, particularly during the period of the coronavirus pandemic. Notably, a deterioration in the LGBTIQ+ community’s mental and emotional state was identified, as shown in the University’s research. The research was carried out in collaboration with the AIDS Support Movement, the HIV/AIDS Support Center, as well as the Advisor to the President of the Republic for Multiculturalism, Acceptance of Respect and Diversity, Mr. Costas Gavrielidis. A sense of reduced social connection, as well as the loss of physical contact with friends and other community members, in spaces where they feel good, were the main negative effects of the lockdown period. The data collection process was carried out between February and March 2022.





## RESEARCH

### UNIC School of Law Hosts the Kick-off Meeting of Erasmus+ Funded Project “Sust-HEIn”

The School of Law hosted the kick-off meeting of the Erasmus+ funded project “Sust-HEIn – Fostering whole institution approach to sustainability in higher education through systems-thinking”. The project team’s principal investigator is the faculty member Dr. Odysseas Christou, and the School is also represented by Dr. Evi Eftychiou. The project will promote an institutional model to support HEIs’ strategic planning in effectively responding to evolving needs and conditions to deliver systemic, institution-wide integration of sustainability. It will use a systems-thinking approach to facilitate the transition of HEIs to green, sustainable institutions that contribute to confronting the growing complexity of societal challenges such as climate change and clean energy use. The project, which will run from January 2023 to October 2026 is under the ERASMUS-LS programme and is co-funded by the European Union.



## OPERATIONS

### Collaboration with Local Authorities to Address Planning Issues and Development

UNIC is in constant communication and planning with local authorities to guide the development of the University campus in ways that are consistent with the master plans and objectives of the town at large. This includes prioritising development in a former industrial area so as not to compete with residential areas. The UNIC Residences were built in relatively abandoned areas next to the Cyprus DMZ (Demilitarised Zones), again, to not compete with existing residential planning and, in this case, to serve as a catalyst for the development of previously marginal areas. The three newly completed student residences provide affordable student housing that serves to alleviate the pressure of student housing/rental needs from within the community, which leaves more housing available for permanent residents of the community.

### Building New Buildings to Meet Sustainable Standards

The ‘SIX’ Residences received the top-level ranking “A” from the national energy efficiency bureau based on the use of materials and technologies that provide high thermal coefficients. The building is also fitted with solar panels for heating water as well as PVs for generating electricity.

### Building on Brownfield Sites

Two of the recently built UNIC Residences are built on brownfield sites. Moreover, ‘Six’ and ‘Triangle’ border the Cyprus DMZ (Demilitarised Zone) and, as such, they are considered by the Republic of Cyprus as being in an under-developed zone for which they encourage development.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Architecture Programme Addresses Sustainable Design

The Architecture degree provides students with a comprehensive set of skills to prepare them for a career in Architecture. Courses that are offered as part of the degree include Sustainable Design (ARCH-411), History and Theory of Sustainable Design (ARCH-441) and Cultural Heritage (ARCH-252).

### The CRISIS Project MOOC

The University of Nicosia launched a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Smart City Resilience Officer (SCRO) that commenced on 20 March 2023. As cities around the world become more digitalised and interconnected, the need for trained professionals to plan and build resilience in Smart Cities is urgent. The SCRO is an innovative position in a smart city that acts as the city’s central person for resilience planning. However, with urban resilience being a multifaceted concept that spreads across many dimensions, SCRO’s need to have an integrated view of all potential hazards and be able to prioritise the most important ones for a city. The MOOC was offered as part of the CRISIS project, which is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, and is implemented by the School of Business.



### Photo Competition: #CYCULTURALCLICKS2023

A photo competition was organised by the students of the “Conference and Exhibition” course under the project “EduTourism” (Interreg V-A Greece – Cyprus 2014-2020) with the theme “Cyprus Culture Clicks 2023”. Culture serves as the unspoken thread that unites people. A community’s culture is reflected in its art, literature, language, and religion. The photo competition aimed to unite the younger generation to promote and create awareness of Cyprus’s gastronomy culture, tradition, environment, and history. The competition was open to all students in higher education worldwide.

## COMMUNITY

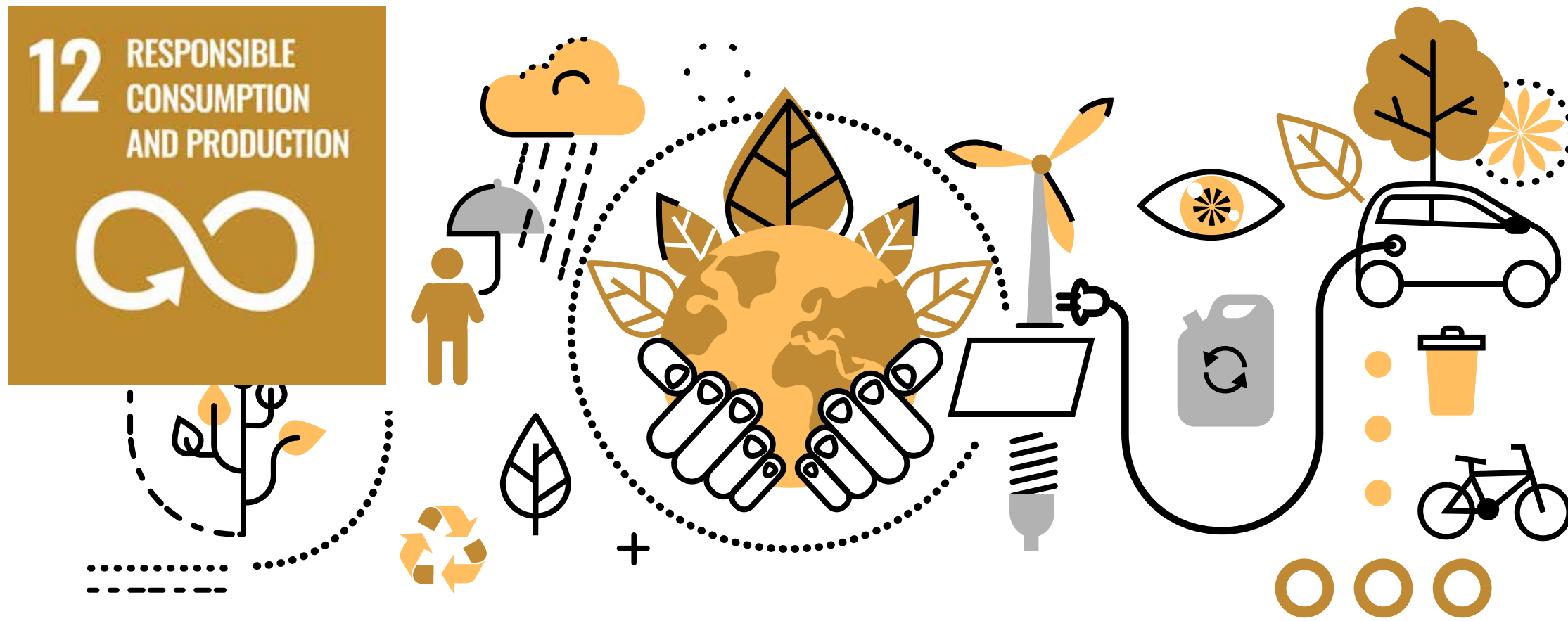
### Showcasing Educational Tourism for the Promotion on Environmental And Cultural Heritage

A two-day information session entitled “Showcasing educational tourism for the promotion on environmental and cultural heritage” was organised between 6 and 7 April 2023 as part of the Cooperation Programme “EduTourism” (Interreg V-A “Greece-Cyprus 2014-2020”). The project aims to develop an integrated educational tourism product for young people 16-25 years old, that will connect Crete and Cyprus in terms of history, culture, and environment. The two-day event was organised with the support of the Department of Management of the University of Nicosia. The project’s implementation involves the strategic planning of educational tourism routes consisting of several specific sites in the two countries that share common characteristics in a cultural and environmental framework. The EduTourism project is co-funded by the European Union (more specifically the European Regional Development Fund) and the National Funds of Greece and Cyprus.

### Department of Student Affairs Organises ‘Nature Adventures’ for Students and Alumni

Over the course of the academic year 2022-2023, the Department of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Cyprus Hikers, organised a series of hikes that aimed to provide UNIC students and alumni the opportunity to experience different aspects of Cypriot culture and nature. The hikes included visits to locations and trails around the island including Panagia village, Stavrovouni Monasteri, Lagoudera Village Bridge, Xyliatos Water Dam, Tselefos Bridge in Plati Valley as well as the Troodos Persephone, Fontana Amorosa and Xystarouda-Agiasma-Vasiliki trails.





## RESEARCH

### Enhancing Green Economy in 3 Countries of Asia (EGEA)

The University, through the School of Sciences and Engineering, was a partner in an Erasmus+ funded project entitled EGEA. The transition to sustainable development is an urgent necessity for the Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, and India, since at present, these countries' socio-economic development is largely based on the consumption of natural resources. Today, these countries face challenges that pose a threat to their future sustainable development, the most important of which are: depletion of natural resources without creation of effective alternatives, loss of basic natural ecosystems and stagnation of human capital. The introduction of green economy concepts in law, business, economics, environmental studies, or management programmes should support economic development adopting curricula to changes in labour market and to an increasing demand for new "green" skills. The project specific objective is thus to stress the fostering of green skills in different target groups (students, teachers, professionals, young generations) and for different subject areas.



### UNRF a Beneficiary of the Project 'InterRecycle'

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF) is among the beneficiaries of InterRecycle – "Robotic Rapid Screening System for the Enhancement of the Interregional Recycling Activities of Greece and Cyprus". The aim of InterRecycle is to design and develop a robotic system that will improve the process of sorting recyclable waste, making it more efficient and sustainable. Furthermore, the social reciprocity of the project will be examined to maximize the positive impacts of InterRecycle to the environment, the society and the economy. During the programme, multiple educational actions will be implemented in order to raise awareness about project and its results, as well as environmental issues. The project is implemented within the INTERREG VA Cooperation Program "Greece – Cyprus 2014-2020". It is co-financed by the European Union (ERDF) and the National Resources of Greece and Cyprus. The project will run for 24 months, and project partners include the Institute of Technology and Research (FORTH), the Association of Solid Waste Management of Crete (ESDAK) and Green Dot Public Co Ltd.

## OPERATIONS

### Recycling Programme

The University of Nicosia began its recycling programme in 2007. Initially, the programme only provided for the recycling of higher quality office paper. We have grown over the years to include almost every grade of paper. Other materials that have been added to the programme since its inception are packaging paper, toner, batteries, medical waste, glass, and plastic.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### University of Nicosia and University of Pittsburgh Inter-institutional Workshop on "The Supply Chain Environmental Footprint"

On 11 May 2023, a notable collaboration between the Universities of Nicosia and Pittsburgh commenced, driven by the need to assess the environmental impact of the supply chain. In particular, the focus of this cooperative exercise was to determine the CO2 equivalent emissions associated with the transportation sector, taking into consideration the overall "Well-To-Wake" impact, and examining - as a case study - the University of Pittsburgh students' travel from Pittsburgh to Nicosia under the Global Semesters student exchange program. By quantifying the carbon footprint of this journey, the aim was to provide students with valuable insights into the environmental consequences of anthropogenic activities. After an introductory lecture by Dr. Elias Yfantis, coordinator of the Mechanical Engineering programme at UNIC, students from both universities were organised into six groups and worked on the modes of transportation, assumptions, key parameters, calculations, documentation, and final deliverables. On behalf of University of Nicosia, an international team was formed with students from Cyprus, Greece, Russia, Cameroon, Sudan, and Italy. Overall, the experience left the students feeling energised and enriched, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie.

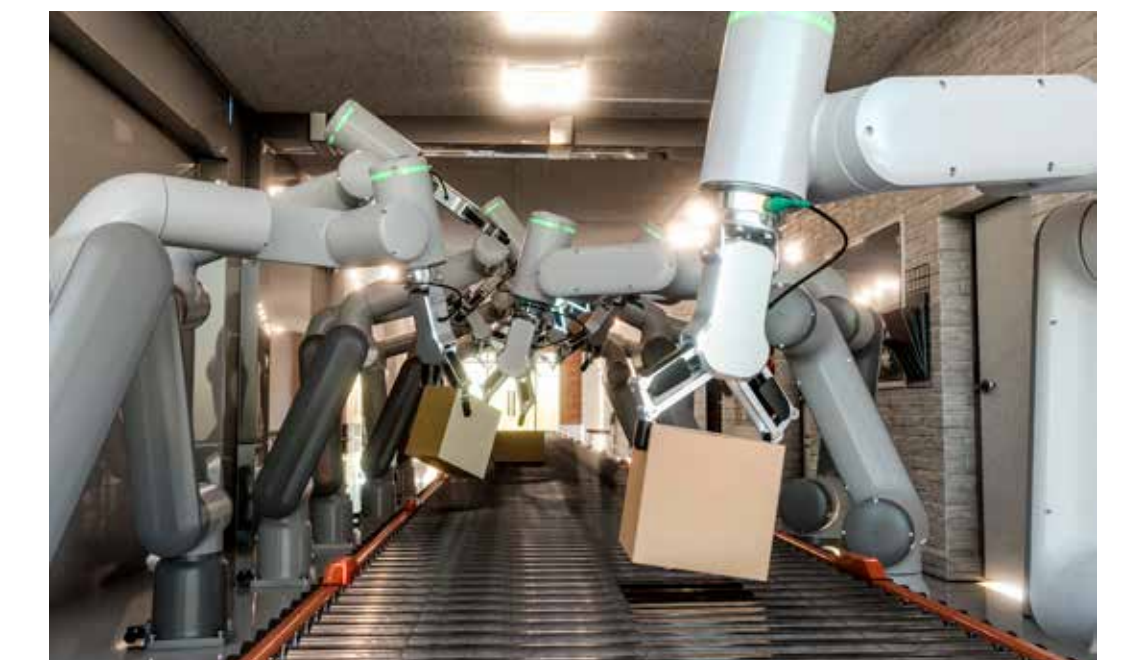
## COMMUNITY

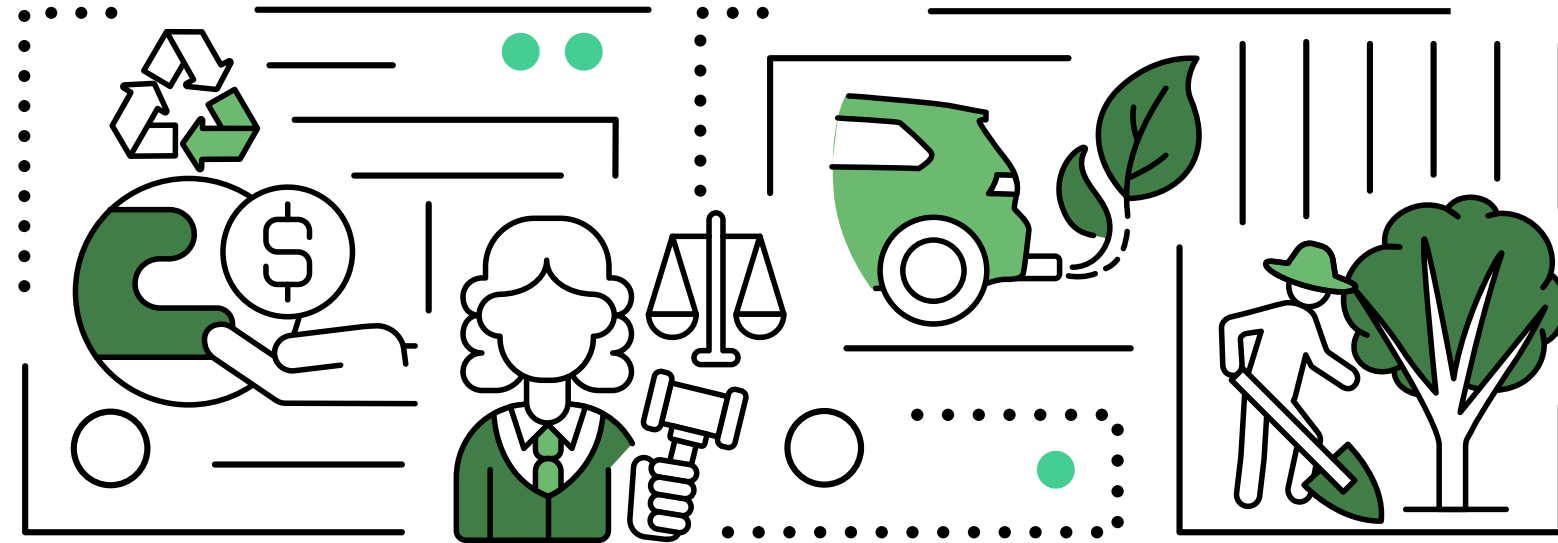
### Online Seminar on Household Pharmaceutical Waste Management

The Pharmacy Programme of the Department of Health Sciences of the University of Nicosia held an online seminar on the new legislation on the management of household pharmaceutical product waste, which was held on 7 June 2023. Speakers included Dr. Christos Petrou, Head of the Department of Health Sciences at the University of Nicosia, as well as representatives from the Cyprus Pharmaceutical Services, the Pancyprian Association of Generic Medicines Manufacturers, the Cyprus Association of Research and Development Pharmaceutical Companies, and the PanCyprian Pharmaceutical Association. Through the discussion, the necessity of implementing the legislation was underlined and it was emphasised that the implementation of this initiative requires the cooperation of all interested parties as well as the public, the need to inform the public, and the implementation of a specific plan that will be agreed upon by all involved parties.

### Robotic Sorting Systems in Recycling

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation is involved in the 'InterRecycle' programme, "Robotic Rapid Waste Sorting System for the Strengthening of the Interregional Recycling Activities of Greece and Cyprus". The programme is co-financed by the European Union and the national resources of Greece and Cyprus within the INTERREG VA Cooperation Program "Greece - Cyprus" 2014-2020. Robotic sorting systems are automated systems designed to quickly and efficiently sort collected recyclables. Within the framework of the programme, fast-sorting robotic systems were used in two recycling facilities to sort materials such as aluminium, paper, plastic, glass and metal in Greece and Cyprus. Additionally, the public was invited to take part in an online questionnaire about their views on the robotic system for rapid sorting of recyclable materials. Finally, several educational activities were organised with the aim of promoting the project, its results and general awareness on environmental issues among members of the public.





## RESEARCH

### Climate and Social Changes in Cyprus in The Last Millennium

Since 2021, scientists led by Dr. Carole Nehme from the University of Rouen (France), with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology – KIT (Germany), the Centre de Recherches en Environnement-Espace Méditerranée Orientale-CREEMO of Saint-Joseph University of Beirut (Lebanon), and the University of Nicosia in Cyprus, have been working together to understand how the landscape was shaped by the climate and Cypriot society from the Venetians until now, and how it affected the emergence of infectious diseases such as typhus and malaria. The project is funded by the French National Agency (ANR) and National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). Dr. Iris Charalambidou, a faculty member with the Department of Life Sciences, School of Life and Health Sciences, and Kyriakos E. Georgiou, Senior Administrator from the University of Nicosia are engaged in the project. Such an international project is a valuable contribution to the understanding of climate interference with land use and disease outbreaks in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

## OPERATIONS

### UNIC: A Safe, Pedestrian-Friendly Campus

UNIC is in favour of sustainable mobility, including pedestrian and bicycle access. Over the past few years, we have worked with town planning/public works to increase the number of pedestrian crossings close to campus. This has been achieved with pedestrian crossings established opposite the University's main entrance and close to the UNIC Residences. We have also invested in the development of additional pedestrian lanes on-campus to allow students to attend university without needing a car at all and our master planning process has an objective of continuing to make the campus more walkable and accessible. Additionally, we are part of the Nicosia bicycle path network and most of our buildings and all our housing options have bicycle storage/racks available.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### University of Nicosia Students Actively Participate in the Erasmus+ Project Geo-CLIC

The University of Nicosia participated in the European Research Program Erasmus+ Geo-CLIC (Geoinformatics Climate Change, which aimed to contribute to the reversal of climate change and the return of the global climate to a more sustainable level using geoinformatics technology and the utilisation of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing to analyse available information, data, draw useful conclusions and adopt the necessary policy changes. The project was coordinated by the Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel). The coordination at the University of Nicosia was carried out by the Rector, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, assisted by the Senior Rectorate Administrator, Mr Kyriakou E. Georgiou. Between 27 February 27 and 3 March 2023, students from all participating universities, including four students from the University of Nicosia, attended a winter school at the University of Weihenstephan-Triesdorf in Germany.



## COMMUNITY

### Climate Crisis in Cyprus – Facts and Figures

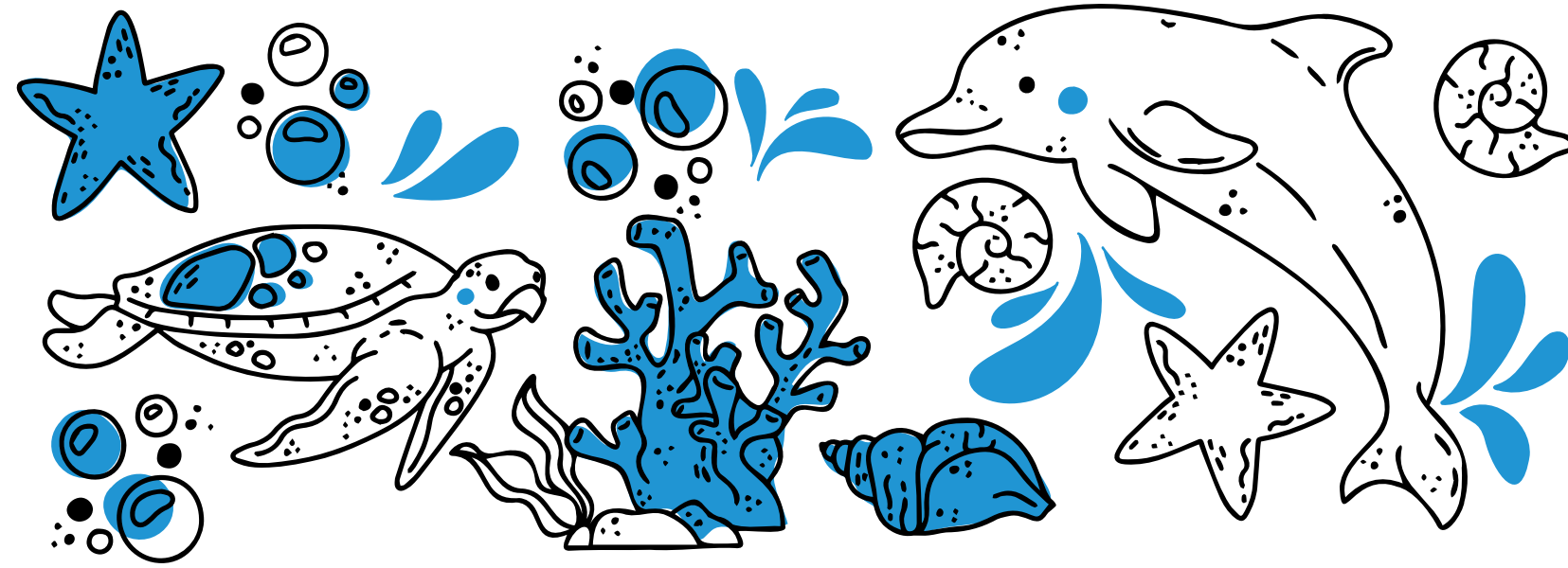
The University of Nicosia and the Office of the Commissioner for the Citizen organised an event entitled "Climate Crisis in Cyprus – Facts and Figures" that took place on 22 November 2022. The event was organised within the framework of the European Year of Youth. Dr. Alexandros Antonaras, Vice President of Student Services and Associate Professor at the School of Business, University of Nicosia took part in the discussion.

### Community Clean Up

The Department of Student Affairs in collaboration with the University of Nicosia Medical School and School of Veterinary Medicine Student Services, Active Citizens Fund, Cans for Kids and WE CAN, organised a community clean up on 30 November 2022. Living in a clean environment is both a human right and responsibility. The aim of the action was to raise awareness on the importance of a clean environment among students by involving them in the cleaning of local community area. Plastic bags and gloves were provided to participants and volunteers received free pizza after the clean up.

### Emerging Climate & Environmental Health Risks in Cyprus

The Medical Schools of the University of Nicosia and the University of Cyprus together with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health organised an event entitled "Emerging Climate & Environmental Health Risks in Cyprus" that took place on 18 January 2023.



## RESEARCH

### Open Sea Aquaculture in the Eastern Mediterranean

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation is the coordinator in a project funded through the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation entitled OS Aqua. OS Aqua is a national strategic project that will enable the development of an Open Sea Aquacultural Industry in Cyprus. The development of Open Sea Aquaculture will be highly beneficial to Cyprus due to its potential to significantly increase food production while minimising impact to the natural environment. OS Aqua will define maritime zones, design facilities, automatise, and monitoring systems, and conduct a financial sustainability study. OS Aqua will have socioeconomic benefits to Cyprus by contributing to the increase in food exports, attracting investments, opening new work positions, and ensuring social acceptance and environmental sustainability.

### MARI-Sense Project

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation is coordinator in a project entitled 'Maritime Cognitive Decision Support System (MARI-Sense)', which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Republic of Cyprus through the Research and Innovation Foundation. The MARI-Sense project develops intelligent systems that allow human operators to make sense of the complex maritime environment for applications including transport and shipping, coastal tourism, search and rescue, and maritime spatial planning. The secondary general objective is the development and implementation of strategies for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth with a beneficial impact on the society, technology, and economy powered by the diverse capabilities of members of the quadruple helix and general public.

### PLASTICMED Project

UNIC study finds that approximately 66,000 plastic bottles, bags, straws, and food wrappings litter the shorelines of Cyprus. Endowed with 69 Blue Flag designated beaches, Cyprus needs to invest more in efforts to safeguard its coastlines. Researchers at the University of Nicosia have developed an innovative method to assess the extent of plastic pollution affecting the island's shorelines, as part of the 4-year PLASTICMED Project. Using artificial intelligence tools, the University's Marine & Carbon Lab team was able to identify, localise and estimate the amount of plastic detritus dotting the Cypriot coastlines. The PLASTICMED Project research team consisted of Ms. Kyriaki Kylili, Dr. Alessandro Artusi and Dr. Constantinos Hadjistassou, the latter of which is an EH Research Centre Fellow. The findings of the study appeared in the prestigious scientific journal of Marine Pollution Bulletin. The PLASTICMED Project was jointly funded by the Universitas Foundation, the University of Nicosia, the A.G. Leventis Foundation, and the EU's Horizon 2020 programme.





## RESEARCH

### Sustainable Landscapes

The University, through its School of Sciences and Engineering, was partner in an Erasmus+ funded project entitled Sustainable Landscapes (SUSTAIN). Through the project, twelve European partners developed e-learning modules on sustainable landscapes and research in Spain, Cyprus, and the Netherlands, linking learning inside and outside the classroom. For SUSTAIN, the million-dollar question is how society can use landscapes for industry, housing, agriculture, and recreation without hampering biodiversity. This is a major issue for future generations, and young people must therefore be included in the discussion. The project members – researchers, schoolteachers, science education providers and experts in science communication – formed a community of learners (CoL) and developed e-learning modules on a topic relevant to the region. At the end of the project, each of the three countries hosted a science festival to reach a wide audience.

### GEOSTARS Project

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation is partner in the project 'Astrological observation & natural environment- An alternative product for the development and promotion of Eastern Mediterranean geoparks (GEOSTARS)', which is funded by the EU Interreg programme. GEOSTARS intervenes in the Troodos National Forest Park and in the Troodos Geopark, as well as in Psiloritis and Sitia Geoparks in order to develop activities in parallel with new forms of alternative tourism that will exploit further the comparative advantages of the application areas. These three areas are considered as the most degraded and depopulated areas of the islands while at the same time they have special environmental and natural mountainous features that provide them with common comparative advantages of tourism development based on 'Earth (Geo)'. The GEOSTARS project significantly enhances the infrastructure of these areas and improves the visitors' attractiveness of the Troodos National Forest Park and the three Geoparks in Cyprus and Greece.

## OPERATIONS

### Enhancing the Greenery around the Neighbourhood

The University of Nicosia recently invested in enhancing the green landscape on and around campus in an effort to enhance the local surroundings and improve the experience of students traveling to campus on foot.

### University of Nicosia Launches First Veterinary Medicine Programme in Cyprus

The first Veterinary Medicine programme in Cyprus, offered by the University of Nicosia, welcomed its first students on 31 October 2022. The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM is a five-year (300 ECTS) programme and is taught in English. It has been evaluated and certified by the Agency for Quality Assurance and Certification of Higher Education (DIPAE) and ensures the recognition of the title by all EU/EEA countries and worldwide.

### Cambridge Vet Dean Becomes UNIC Vet Dean

In May 2023, UNIC Health proudly announced the appointment of Professor Michael Herrtage as the new Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Professor Herrtage brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this role, having previously served as Dean of the University of Cambridge Veterinary School and overseeing Small Animal Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging services at the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital. His appointment as Dean is expected to have a profound impact on the School's development and growth, contributing to its establishment as a leading institution in the field of veterinary medicine both regionally and internationally.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Clinical Endocrinology Seminar

The University of Nicosia organised a Clinical Endocrinology Seminar on 5 July 2023 that took place on campus. During the seminar, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, Professor Michael Herrtage, presented the topic "How do I diagnose and treat Canine Cushings Disease" and Professor Manel Lopez-Bejar, the Dean of the Veterinary School at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, presented the topic "Detecting anxiety and stress in dogs through hormonal indicators". A reception followed providing participants the opportunity to exchange views and discuss the latest advancements in the field of veterinary science.

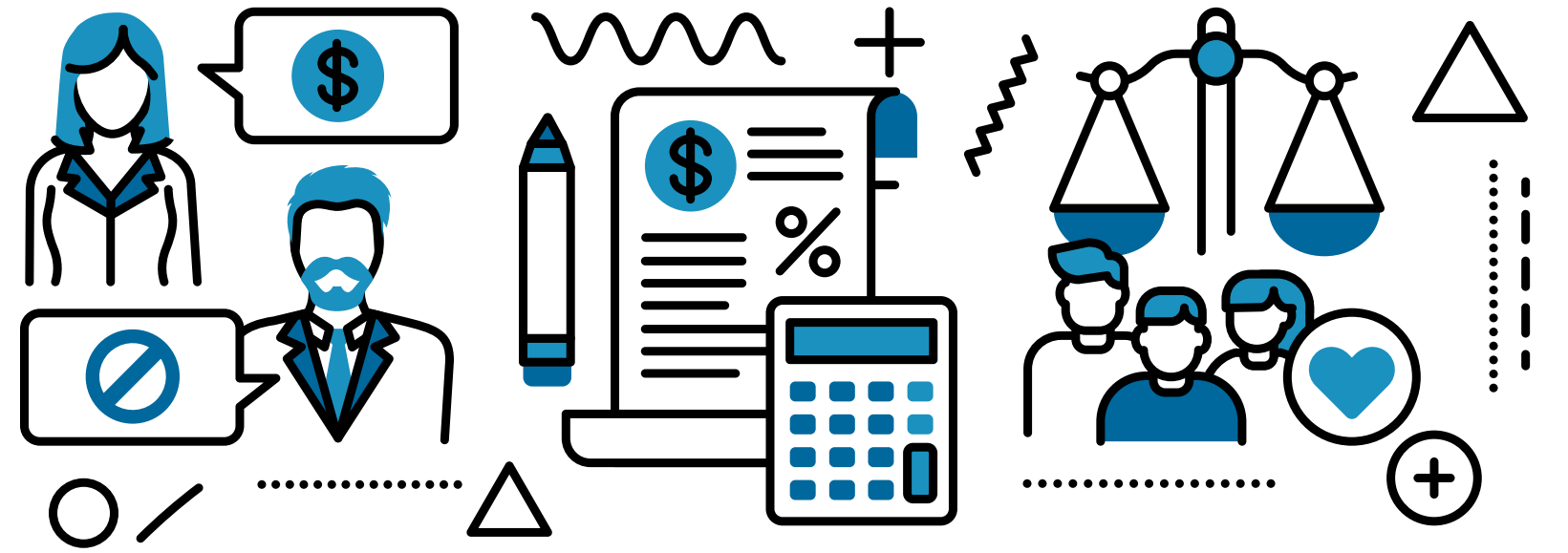


## COMMUNITY

### UNIC School of Veterinary Medicine and UAB Faculty of Veterinary Medicine sign Cooperation Agreement

The University of Nicosia School of Veterinary Medicine (UNIC) and the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UAB) signed a cooperation agreement on 27 April 2023. The agreement signifies an important step forward in international collaboration for the two institutions. Professor Andreas Charalambous, Executive Vice President for UNIC Health, and Professor Manel Bejar-Lopez, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at UAB, met to discuss and finalise aspects of the cooperation agreement, which will focus on the development of joint degrees, student and faculty exchanges, and research collaboration on infectious and zoonotic diseases. This collaboration aims to strengthen the ties between UNIC and UAB, fostering a spirit of innovation and excellence in veterinary medicine. Students and faculty from both institutions will benefit from the opportunity to learn from each other, share resources, and collaborate on cutting-edge research projects.





## RESEARCH

### Contributing to Policy-Focused Research

The University of Nicosia is engaged in policy-focused research through its various academically affiliated institutions that focus on, among others, gender rights (Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies), politics and diplomacy (Cyprus Centre for European and International Affairs) and emerging technologies (Institute For the Future).

### Institute of Criminal Studies and Criminology

The Institute of Criminal Studies and Criminology at the University of Nicosia was founded in 2013. It is the first academic institute in this field in Cyprus. The goal of the Institute is to conduct research in current issues related to criminal justice, criminology, criminal law, evidence law, sexual offenders, sentencing, and human rights, to promote research, and to organise lectures, seminars, and conferences.

### CAPONEU Project

Faculty members from the Department of Languages and Literature, School of Humanities and Social Sciences are engaged in an ambitious research initiative which received a grant under the HORIZON programme competition in 2022 entitled CAPONEU. It aims to examine how a specific literary genre (the political novel) in various national and cultural contexts deals with political issues and thereby shapes the perception of local and global politics. The CAPONEU's goal is to assess the political novel as an important element of the European cultural heritage and as a tool for community building and European advocacy. The consortium brings together an interdisciplinary research team that seeks not only to unpack the rich literary heritage of the 20th century but also to make the political novel experiences relevant to our present. The project is coordinated by the University of Zagreb in Croatia.

## OPERATIONS

### UNESCO Chair on Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue for a Culture of Peace Renewed until 2025

In 2005, the first ever UNESCO Chair in Cyprus was inaugurated at the University of Nicosia. The purpose of the UNESCO Chair is the promotion of a comprehensive framework of educational

activities, research, provision of information and documentation in cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and the intercultural dialogue for a culture of peace, on a local, national or regional

level. Through a multitude of activities, events, collaborations and international meetings, the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia has and continues to diligently serve the triptych of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, and culture of peace. In 2022, it was announced that the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia would be renewed until 2025, which would mark the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO Chair at UNIC.

### Representation, Academic Freedom and Anti-Corruption

- The University's Academic Freedom Statement commits our university to the principles of academic freedom.
- The University's Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy is included in the University's Code of Business Conduct.
- The highest governing body of the University is the Council. The composition of the Council includes representatives of students (undergraduate and postgraduate), faculty and staff.
- The Student Union is recognised by the University with representatives of the Student Union participating both in the Council and the Senate.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Launch of the Journal of the Sociology of Law and Religion

The School of Law of the University of Nicosia, in cooperation with the PhD Programme on Human Rights, Society, and Multi-Level Governance offered by the Universities of Padova, Zagreb, Western Sydney, and Nicosia, announced the launch of its new journal, the Journal of the Sociology of Law and Religion (JSLR). The JLSR is peer-reviewed and shall serve as a forum where original research is presented, and discussion is shaped. The journal will be published in the English language and will be available online through an open-access platform. The journal aims to present original work, review the legislative, case law, and doctrinal development on law and religion, as well as focus on comparative papers, which would assess law and religion issues through the lens of social sciences.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium of the Procedural Law Unit of the Law School of the University of Nicosia

The 2nd Symposium of the Procedural Law Unit of the Law School of the University of Nicosia took place on 15 December 2022 on "European Civil Procedure after Brexit: delays and the need for acceleration, technology in justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution". The main topics of the Symposium were, among others, the recent reforms in civil justice in Cyprus, new technologies and their integration into civil procedure, alternative dispute resolution (ADRs), cross-border disputes in the EU as well as the impact caused by Brexit on procedural law and arbitration issues. Among the speakers were Gilles Cuniberti, Professor of Comparative Law and Private International Law at the University of Luxembourg, Adamantia Manta, from the Directorate General for Structural Reform Support of the European Commission and Tigran Karapetyan, Head of Transversal Challenges and Multilateral Projects Task Force of the European Council.



## COMMUNITY

### Open Discussion with the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection

On 21 February 2023, an open discussion was organised with the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection Ms Irene Loizidou Nikolaidou, at the University of Nicosia. The Dean of the UNIC School of Law Professor Achilles C. Emilianides addressed the event. Ms Loizidou Nicolaidou presented important aspects of the Cypriot independent supervisory Authority for the protection of personal data, the relevant EU and Cypriot legislation, and explained the concept of personal data and the basic principles of personal data processing. The Commissioner pointed out that personal data protection is primarily a cultural issue; and culture constantly transforms due to a continuously changing environment. She highlighted that her Office has a consultative, advisory, and guiding role, mainly with regard to the best possible understanding of personal data. The event was attended by students, academics, lawyers and the wider public, who asked many questions, expressed their opinions, and participated in a free discussion with the Commissioner, engaging in a constructive dialogue on multiple issues of personal data protection.

### UNIC's IFF and IPS launch 'Financial Investigations for Digital Assets' Diploma Programme for Dubai Police G.H.Q employees

The University of Nicosia's Institute for the Future (IFF) collaborated with the Dubai Police G.H.Q, and particularly the General Department of Criminal Investigation and the General Department of Human Resources, to offer a diploma programme on "Financial Investigations for Digital Assets". The training aimed to enhance the expertise and proficiency of Dubai Police employees in combating financial crimes involving digital assets. The launch of the programme was announced by Dubai Police G. H. Q during the 2nd edition of the World Police Summit, which concluded its work at the Dubai World Trade Centre after three days full of sessions and workshops. The launch of the programme falls within a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between IFF and the Dubai Police G.H.Q in November 2021, aiming to enhance their collaboration and coordination in areas of mutual interest, such as the practical application of blockchain and digital currency in law enforcement.

### Conference: What is New with the New World Order? Post-Pandemic and Post-War Probabilities

Between 4 and 5 November 2022 the University of Nicosia co-organised and hosted the timely conference entitled "What is New with the New World Order? Post-Pandemic and Post-War Probabilities". The conference was organised by three think-tanks including the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs at UNIC, the London School of Economics and Political Science's LSE Ideas, the New Strategy Center, and the Embassy of Romania in Cyprus. It addressed issues and trends of the new emerging international order in the post-pandemic and post-war era and was made up of seven sessions.



## RESEARCH

### C-MOR – Research Consortium and Platform for Monitoring Overall and Cause-Specific Mortality Resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Epidemiology Team at the University of Nicosia Medical School is leading an international initiative aimed at conducting a comparative study on the direct and indirect mortality burden of COVID-19 since the start of the epidemic. The proposed study will investigate the above in different countries, all with their own characteristics (e.g. population structure, healthcare systems, social support systems, etc.) and different approaches in regards to containment of the pandemic. Ultimately, the proposed study aims to inform the management of future epidemics (or the next pandemic), both at regional, national, and global level, to ensure protecting public health and reducing the mortality burden. The interim/ongoing data and results, while incomplete, can also inform decision-making during this pandemic when leaders must make important public health decisions, by using comparative overall year-on-year mortality data as an additional data point for decision-makers. The project consortium is made up of 59 partners from over 40 countries.

### UN4DRR Project

UNIC, through the Department of Computer Science, is partner in the Erasmus+ funded project entitled 'University Network for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Indian Ocean Rim (UN4DRR)'. The overall aim of the UN4DRR project is to modernise the courses related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management integrating GIS/RS applications as the significant part of the course content. The long-term effect will be to educate future experts for prevention and management of natural and human-induced disasters (e.g. fires) in the Indian Ocean Rim supporting national and EU policies. The project encourages the cooperation with national authorities, public and private sector offering joint DRRM initiatives and access to short courses for use of GIS/RS via online/offline mode. The project also motivates a more proactive cross-region dialogue in DRRM related educational programmes in the realisation of capacity building and internationalisation.

## OPERATIONS

### NEOLAIa European University Alliance Awarded Funding by the European Commission

The European University Alliance NEOLAIa (<https://neolaiacampus.eu/>), of which the University of Nicosia is a member, has been selected for funding by the European Commission. The NEOLAIa Alliance will receive funding for four years, beginning in the academic year 2023-2024, totalling 14.25 million Euros. The main strategic goal of the NEOLAIa Alliance, among others, is to strengthen and acquire a common digital identity, to digitise the educational environment, to strengthen tolerance, diversity, and inclusion, to invest in research, to contribute to society and culture, to support democracy, to offer innovative solutions to global health issues, and to provide high-quality education for all the member university regions. Participants in the network, alongside the University of Nicosia, are the University of Jaen, Spain, the University of Tours, France, the University of Bielefeld, Germany, the Örebro University, Sweden, the University of Salerno, Italy, the Šiauliai State University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania, the Stefan Cel Mare University of Suceava, Romania, and the University of Ostrava, Czech Republic. The University of Nicosia will lead the "Digital Transformation" work package, as well as co-lead the "Adopting and Sustaining Open Science" work package, taking on a vital role in materialising the Alliance's vision. The "Digital Transformation" work package is heavily focused on the Metaverse and one of its aims is to support all universities/members of the Alliance to embrace digital transformation in education via the Metaverse and the innovative development of Virtual and Augmented Reality applications. The Rector of the University of Nicosia, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, is a member of the Governing Rectors Board of the Alliance.



NEOLAIa

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Education around the SDGs

The University of Nicosia has a commitment to meaningful education around the SDGs, which is reflected in various courses that relate to the SDGs that make up part of some programmes offered at the University. Examples include: Public Health Nutrition (BIOL444), Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure (CEE463), Renewable Energy Sources and Technologies (ECE467), Theory and Practice of Intercultural Education (taught in Greek) (EDUC505DL), Sustainable Packaging Design (GDES523), Health Promotion, Communication and Behavioural Studies (NUTR580), Renewable Energy Resources (OGEN220), Global Climate Change and Adaptation (OGEN225), Sustainable Futures (OGEN315), European Energy and Environment Policy (OGEN350), Positive Psychology: Health Promotion and Prevention (PSYC604) and Health Safety and Wellness (THOM395).

### Student/Alumni Seminar: The UN Sustainability Agenda 2030 and How yo(U)NIC Can Support It

The global sustainability agenda is important to universities, students, and an important topic for the UN. On 23 November 2022, the University of Nicosia organised a presentation that aimed to explain what the UN 2030 Agenda is all about, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and how students, alumni and the University of Nicosia can contribute towards a more sustainable future for all. The presentation was delivered by the Vice President of Student Services of the University of Nicosia, Associate Professor Alexandros Antonaras.

### UNIC Hosts and Co-organises with British Council a Round Table Discussion on Internationalisation of Higher Education

The British Council, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, successfully organised a round table discussion on the Internationalisation of Higher Education. The event took place on 18 May 2023, at the University of Nicosia. The objective of the round table discussion was to address the challenges and present emerging trends and opportunities for institutional partnerships between the United Kingdom and Cyprus in the field of Higher Education. Participants included Ms. Anastasia Andritsou, Director of the British Council Greece, Ms. Pantelitsa Michael, Education Manager, British Council Cyprus, Mr Ben Rawlings, British Deputy High Commissioner, Cyprus and Mr Mark Crossey, Assistant Director, Policy Global Engagement at Universities UK International. The event provided a unique platform for networking, collaboration, and the exploration of potential partnerships between the UK and Cyprus in the higher education sector.



### Global Networks for Sustainability

The University of Nicosia is a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), which promotes integrated approaches to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation. The University recently became a member of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in supporting and contributing to the realisation of United Nations goals and mandates, including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to education, sustainability, and conflict resolution.



## COMMUNITY

### Israel-Hellenic Forum Reconvenes in Nicosia for the First Time

The Israel-Hellenic Forum – the major platform for furthering relations between academics, public intellectuals and experts in Greece, Cyprus and Israel – reconvened in Nicosia between 19 and 21 June 2023. This was the third conventional plenary session of the Forum since it was established by the B'nai Brith World Center, with earlier sessions being held in Jerusalem (November 2019) and Athens (June 2022). In 2020 and 2021 the Forum was held online. The meeting was organised in cooperation with the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, which is associated with the University of Nicosia and the Institute of International Relations (IDIS) at Panteion University in Athens. More than 40 leading diplomats, academics, politicians and journalists from Greece, Israel and Cyprus participated in the event.



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