

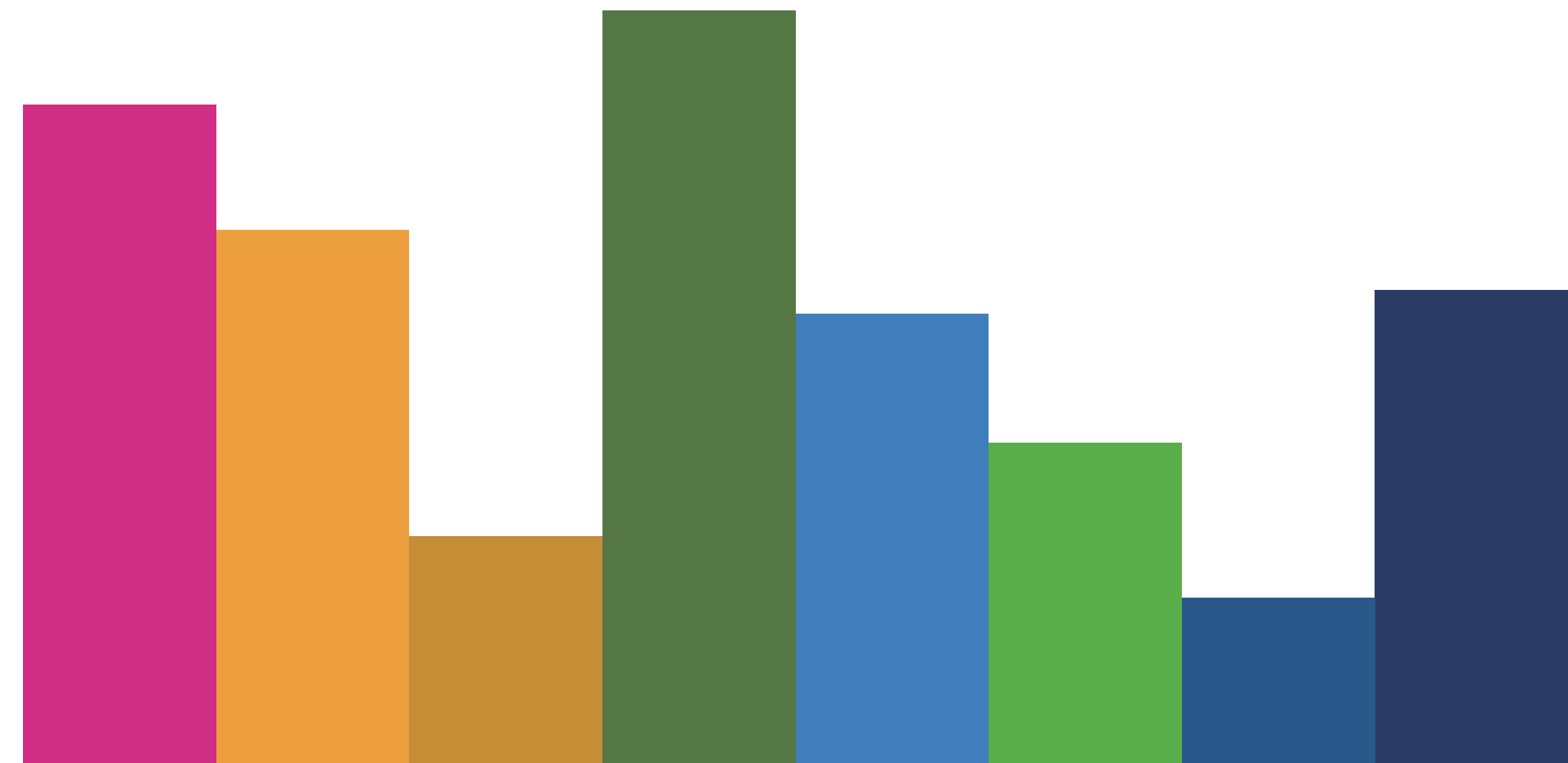
# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2023-2024



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



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 2023-2024, 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 societal 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 THE Impact Rankings 2025 ranked the University of Nicosia among the top 401-600 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 2023-2024 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 a research-oriented university committed to teaching, research, innovation, sustainability, societal engagement, and contributing to culture. It offers more than 100 programmes at the Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degree levels, both on-campus and online, to more than 12,500 students from over 100 countries. UNIC conducts high-quality research in various academic disciplines, with a particular focus on emerging technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and their impact on society. The University actively engages with research centres, industry, and society, its actions resulting in programmes of study that address industry needs and are accredited by relevant professional bodies. UNIC has an outstanding academic reputation and a global outlook, reflected in its impressive results in the international rankings. Indicatively, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 has recognised UNIC as one of the top 2% of universities in the world. Located in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, an EU-member state, UNIC's main campus is ideally situated for students who are aspiring to study in a dynamic and multicultural environment while enjoying the benefits of a modern and welcoming city, Nicosia.



# UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY



The University's Sustainability Strategy has five pillars:



**1**  
Access to education



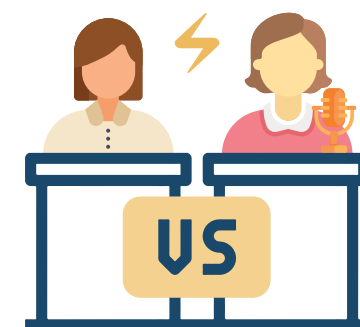
**2**  
Environmental sustainability



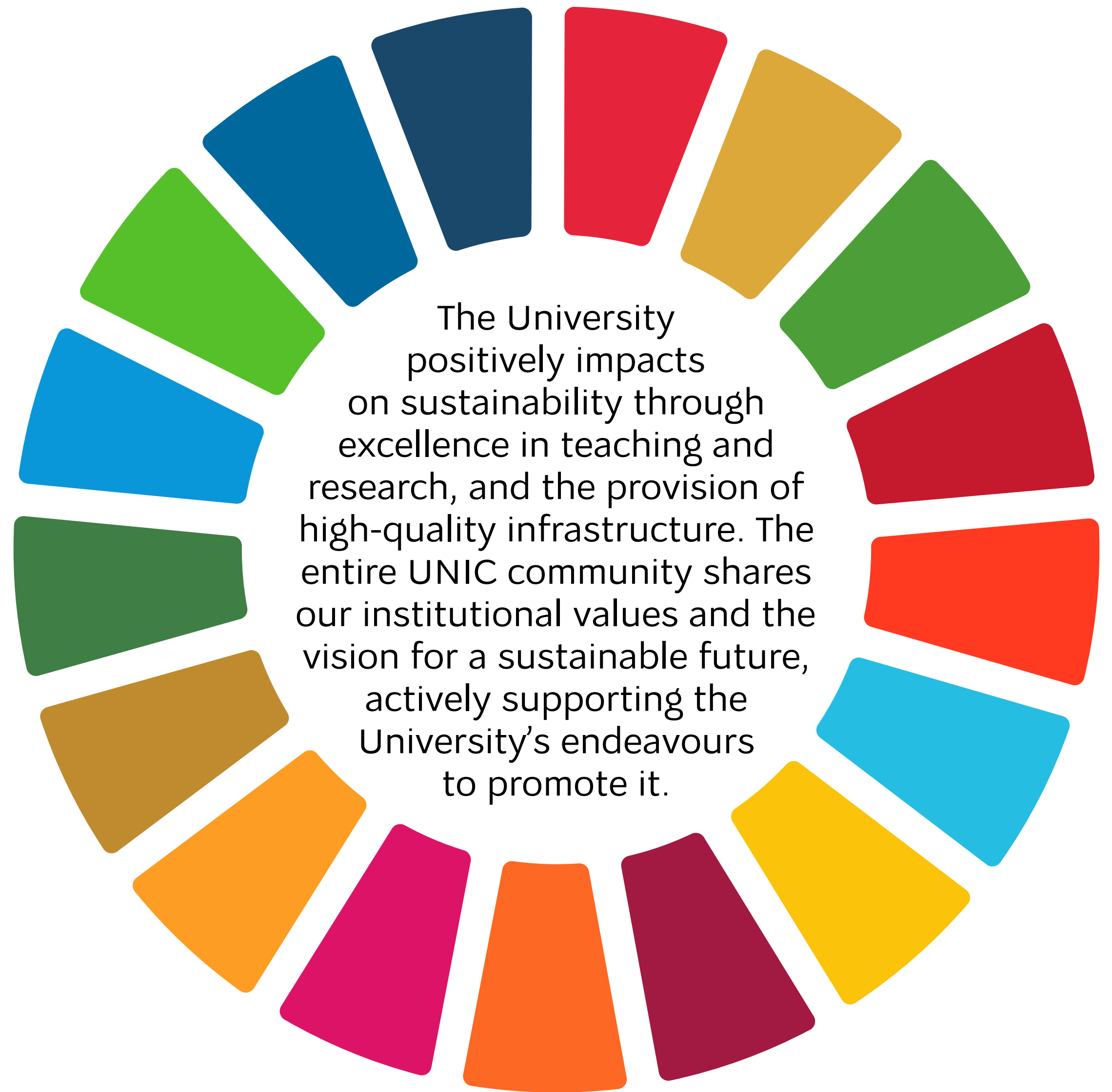
**3**  
Investing in people and the community



**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 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings, released in June 2025, ranked the University of Nicosia among the top 401-600 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 seventh edition of the Impact Rankings, with more than 2300 universities from 130 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 60% of our students were recipients of financial aid, amounting to approximately 50.7 million Euros.

### Affordable Student Accommodation

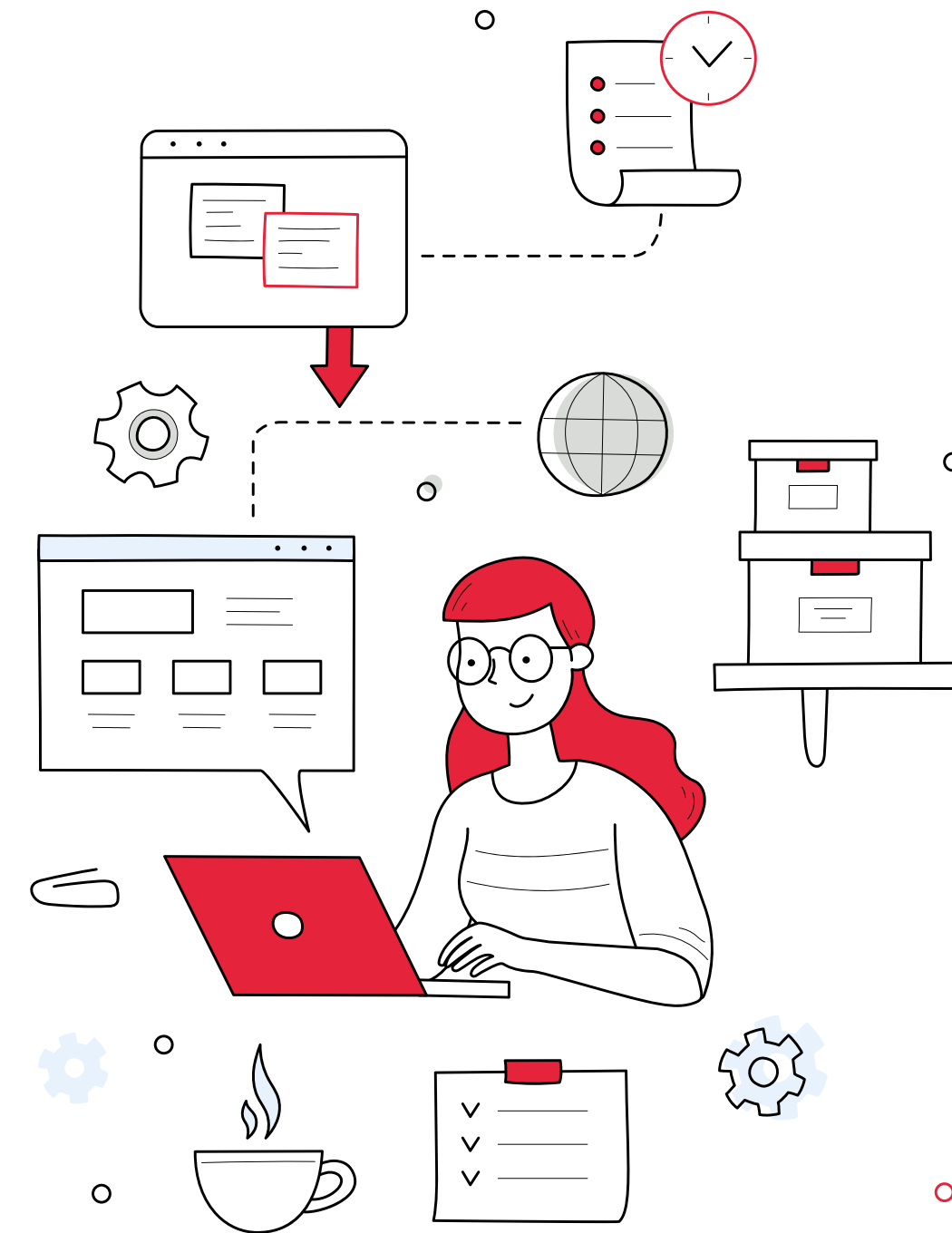
The UNIC Residences consist of three separate complexes – SIX, U and TRIANGLE – which are among the most modern student accommodations in Europe. UNIC Residences provide a multitude of dining, relaxing and entertainment options for residents, including restaurants and cafes, a mini-market, gyms, TV rooms, 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.

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

The Department of Student Affairs began offering a series of dance classes in October 2023. 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

The University of Nicosia Medical School continues its ongoing collaboration with Reverend Archimandrite Anastasios Poyiadjis, MD, PhD, Honorary Professor of Tropical Medicine. 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.



### TRUSTFOOD

UNIC is involved as a partner in TRUST-FOOD, a project, aimed at supporting the development of advanced digital skills of people in the labour force, with a focus on SMEs, as well as of job seekers, by providing access to high-quality and specialised training courses, that will reflect the latest developments in the area of Blockchain technologies applied holistically to the food supply chain and the agri-food sector. The courses, which will be launched during the second half of 2024, will be highly practical and will provide specific knowledge about key digital technologies of Blockchain and their applications to the food supply chain sector. The TRUST-FOOD project which started in January 2023 and will run until December 2025, is funded with €2.6 million by the Digital Europe programme and is made up of a consortium of 14 partners from the European Union (EU) and Ukraine.

### 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.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### UNIC Hosts the 12<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 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Diabetes and Metabolic Disease Symposium between 3 and 4 November 2023. 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.

### Dr. Phroso Economidou Hadjilucas Honoured as Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) in the USA

Dr. Phroso Economidou Hadjilucas, a distinguished member of UNIC's teaching staff, has been honoured with the prestigious title of Fellow by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) in the USA. This recognition is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding career and significant contributions to the profession of food science and technology. Dr. Hadjilucas, who has been an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Nicosia for the past decade, was nominated for this honour by Dr. Mary K. Schmidl of the University of Minnesota and Professor Kyriakos Felekis, Dean of the School of Life and Health Sciences at the University of Nicosia. Her nomination was subsequently approved by the IFT Fellows Review Committee. With a distinguished career spanning over 40 years in administration, public service, education, research, and volunteer work, Dr. Hadjilucas has made significant impacts on food policy, education, and standards. Notably, she played a pivotal role in establishing mandatory food standards during her tenure as the Head of Food Standards at the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, and Industry, starting in 1980. Dr. Hadjilucas's contributions also extend to educational initiatives. She was instrumental in founding the Atsas Educational Centre, a certified vocational training unit focused on sustainable agriculture and food safety.

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## RESEARCH

### UNIC Health Part of a €700k Award for Ground-breaking Brain Study Infrastructure

UNIC Health, through the combined efforts of its Veterinary and Medical School faculty, announced the successful participation in the Small Infrastructure Call of the Research and Innovation Foundation which resulted in a research award of approximately €700,000. This funding will be instrumental in establishing a first of its kind infrastructure in Cyprus for functional brain studies using animal models of human diseases. This initiative is not only a first for Cyprus but also a significant step forward in the field of neurological research. Leading this ground-breaking project are Assistant Professor Nikolas Perentos, from the School of Veterinary Medicine, and Professor Avgis Hadjipapas, from the Medical School. Their expertise in electrophysiology will be pivotal in the development of this advanced research infrastructure. This project is further strengthened by the collaboration with partners from the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics and the Cyprus University of Technology.

### 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

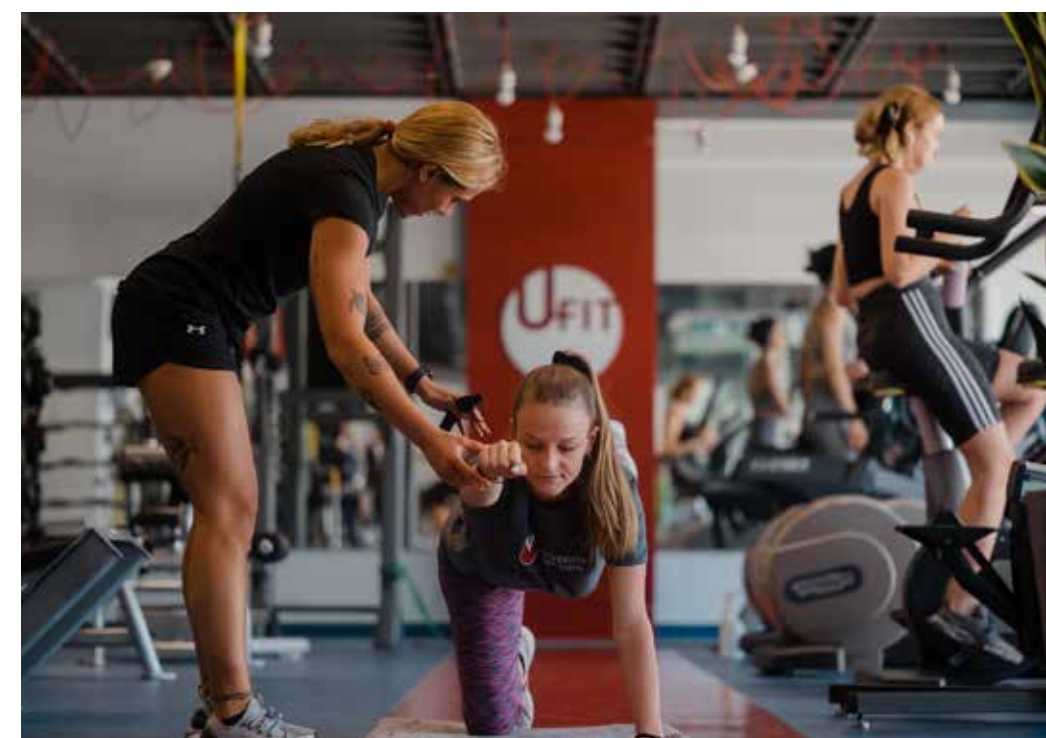
### Unit for Diversity Competence (UDC) in Healthcare and Healthcare Education

In September 2023, UNIC announced the formation of the Unit for Diversity Competence (UDC) in Healthcare and Healthcare Education, which will operate under the UNIC Health umbrella. The mission of the UDC is to nurture an inclusive and culturally competent environment within our healthcare community. The primary objectives of UDC are:

- **Training & Support:** UDC will offer support and training in diversity and cultural competence in healthcare to staff, faculty and students of the Medical School, School of Veterinary Medicine, and School of Life and Health Sciences.
- **Guidance for Affiliates:** UDC will provide support and guidance to all UNIC Health affiliated healthcare organisations in working effectively with diverse patients.
- **Research & Development:** UDC will develop or participate in research projects and collaborations and will publish in the area of diversity and cultural competence.

### 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.



## STUDENT LEARNING

### UNIC Medical and Nursing Students Benefit from Shriner Children's Visit to Cyprus

In the final week of October 2023, the Shriners Children's team, including doctors, nurses, and staff, carried out their annual visit to Cyprus. The George and Thelma Paraskevaides Foundation has consistently been instrumental in enabling these visits. During their stay they assessed over 150 children, primarily from Cyprus, but also from Egypt, Lebanon, and Greece, all of whom were facing severe orthopaedic challenges and coral spine abnormalities. The collaboration between Shriners Children's and the UNIC Medical School provided a unique opportunity for UNIC medical students. They not only witnessed clinical evaluations but also facilitated Greek and Arabic live translations for the patients' families and the Shriners medical team. In addition, medical student volunteers assisted the Shriners Children's research team in collecting data from patients and their relatives for the Genomics and Precision Medicine Project. This project aims to understand the role of genetics in conditions such as orthopaedic concerns, coral spine damages, metabolic bone diseases, and post-burn complications. In Cyprus, the project is run in cooperation with the UNIC Medical School. This year, nursing students also had the opportunity to attend training sessions at Makarios Hospital, led by Shriners' nursing experts.



## COMMUNITY

### UNIC Partners with 7th Cyprus HealthCare Conference as Academic Partner

The 7th Cyprus HealthCare Conference took place on 16 May 2024 and brought together a diverse group of participants including medical professionals, business leaders, and stakeholders from across the healthcare industry. The conference focused on the evolution towards an equitable and universal health system. The event addressed the rapid technological advancements, the changing needs of an aging population, inflationary pressures, and economic challenges that are reshaping the global healthcare sector. The conference was moderated by Dr Christos Petrou, Associate Professor at the UNIC School of Life and Health Sciences, and Head of the Department of Health Science, while Vered Aharonson, Professor of Medical Physics at the University of Nicosia Medical School, delivered a presentation on 'How technology and changing patient demands are transforming the medical sector'.

### University of Nicosia Organises the First "Academic Industry Health Summit 2023"

UNIC successfully organised the first meeting of the School of Life and Health Sciences' recently established School Advisory Committee with Industry representatives. The Committee, which is composed of representatives of companies from Cyprus and abroad, has as its main objective the strengthening of ties between the School and Industry in areas such as education, research and employment. The event, titled "Academic Industry Summit in Health 2023", was the precursor to an annual conference that will be open to the public and will focus on issues related to collaboration between academic institutions and industry. The ultimate goal of this effort is to create the appropriate culture between the two institutions for the benefit of health and patients. The event was attended by representatives from the Federation of Employers & Industrialists (OEB), the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Director General of the Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF).

### Ormideia's UNIC Medical Centre Welcomes the Mobile Clinic for Community Care

On 21 October 2023, the Mobile Clinic visited Ormideia village, located in the Larnaca District. Fourteen medical student volunteers put their clinical skills into practice and provided Blood Pressure, Glucose and Body Mass Index measurements to the residents of Ormideia and the neighbouring communities. The expedition took place at the newly established UNIC Medical Centre in Ormideia and was supervised by Dr Soteris Demosthenous, a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Medical School and a Personal Doctor at the Ormideia Centre.



## RESEARCH

### GNOSIS Participates in 2nd Transnational Project Meeting for EU Erasmus+ Project: “Creative Learning for Boosting Bio-economy within HEIs’ Curricula – CL4BIO”

From 6 to 8 September 2023, Gnosis | Mediterranean Institute for Management Science participated in the 2nd Transnational Project Meeting for the Erasmus+ Project “Creative learning for boosting bio-economy within HEIs’ curricula – CL4BIO”, that took place in Aveiro, Portugal. The overarching objective of the CL4BIO project is to equip teaching academics with advanced and creative skills, fostering excellence in pedagogical approaches, particularly in novel and online education. This initiative encompasses transdisciplinary methodologies, novel curriculum development strategies, and the establishment and evaluation of connections between education, research, and innovation. The project, which is co-funded by the European Union, began in November 2022 and will run for 36 months. The project partners include the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland – Coordinator, University of Foggia, Italy, University of Nicosia, Cyprus, University of Aveiro, Portugal, and ValueDo srl, Italy.



## 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 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.

### Launch of VHealthLab Programme: Advancing Virtual Biology Labs in Higher Education

The inaugural meeting of the “Virtual Health Lab in Higher Education – VHealthLab” programme took place on 1 and 2 February 2024. Representatives from organizations and educational institutions from Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Romania attended the meeting. During the opening session, Dr. Stella Nicolaou, the programme’s coordinator from the University of Nicosia and Associate Professor of Immunology at the School of Life and Health Sciences, highlighted the need to create open-access laboratories that can be used in Health Sciences as a way to supplement or support in-person laboratory work. The “VHealthLab” programme officially launched in December 2023 and is funded for two years by the European Union (Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnerships in Higher Education). The University of Nicosia is the scientific coordinator of the programme, and the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth from Cyprus is also participating. The main objective is the creation of virtual biology laboratories (Virtual Labs – VL). Laboratory experiments are a vital educational tool that helps students develop 21st-century skills such as complex problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. The closure of schools during the pandemic brought numerous challenges in teaching STEM laboratory courses in both Higher and Secondary Education. Until recently, in-person labs were the norm, but the use of VL is gaining ground in STEM fields and across all educational levels.

## COMMUNITY

### 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. The star, which is the main element of the logo of the Association, and which symbolises the wish of each child.

### UNIC Co-organises the GCEE 2023 – Global Entrepreneurship Education Conference 2.0

The Department of Management of the University of Nicosia and Junior Achievement Cyprus organised the GCEE 2023 – Global Entrepreneurship Education Conference 2.0, which took place on 1 March 2024 at the University of Nicosia. The conference provided an opportunity to academics, educators, scientists, professional entrepreneurs, and students to present their work, exchange ideas and network for future collaborations in the field of Entrepreneurship Education. The Conference was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Sport, and Youth. Distinguished scholars in the field of entrepreneurship education presented research and practices around the subjects of entrepreneurship education. Specifically, Dr Alexandros Kakouris from the University of Peloponnese and the Hellenic Open University, Professor Despo Ktoridou from the University of Nicosia and Dr Stelios Yiatros and Dr Antonia Christou from the Cyprus University of Technology delivered presentations on relevant topics.



## 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.

### Project TINKER

The University of Nicosia, through the Department of Education, School of Education, is a partner in the funded project, TINKER (an auThentic learNing and gender inclusive framewoRk for tEaching infoRmatics in schools across Europe), which aims to revolutionise informatics education in upper primary and lower secondary schools through a comprehensive pedagogical framework. Rooted in authentic learning principles, the project encourages students to engage with real-life tasks, promoting exploration and intentional connections between theoretical knowledge and practical experiences. This pedagogical approach aligns with the latest JRC report that emphasises the importance of problem-solving and product creation in informatics curricula, as well as contributes to the EU's goal of ensuring that by 2030, 80% of adults will possess basic digital skills and there will be 20 million ICT specialists across the member states. The project also aims to address and overturn the severe underrepresentation of women and gender minorities in the field, by adopting a progressive gender-inclusive stance. In particular, it will promote

gender-inclusive teaching practices creating positive student-centred environments that celebrate diversity. By addressing existing biases, TINKER aims to contribute to a transformative educational experience where gender diversity is not only respected but also valued as an asset. The project commenced in January 2024 and is co-funded by the European Union.

### Project Sport GVP

The University of Nicosia, through the Department of Education, School of Education, is the Coordinator of the funded project, Sport GVP (Preventing Gender Based Violence in and through Sport). Sport GVP puts forward a comprehensive programme that entails multifaceted actions to contribute to the prevention and tackling of gender-based violence in and through sport. It involves a structured set of activities that wish to generate knowledge and data on the extent and forms gender-based violence appears in sport in the implementing countries and pave the way for responses and actions in and through sport to prevent and tackle violence against individuals on the basis of their gender. Specifically, the scope, work and objectives the project will primarily focus on promoting the Sport's programme's priority to combat violence and tackle racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport' which calls for actions to combat said behaviours, fight any form of discrimination and promote equality in sport. The project, which commenced in January 2024, will run for 24 months and is co-funded by the European Union.

## 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.

## COMMUNITY

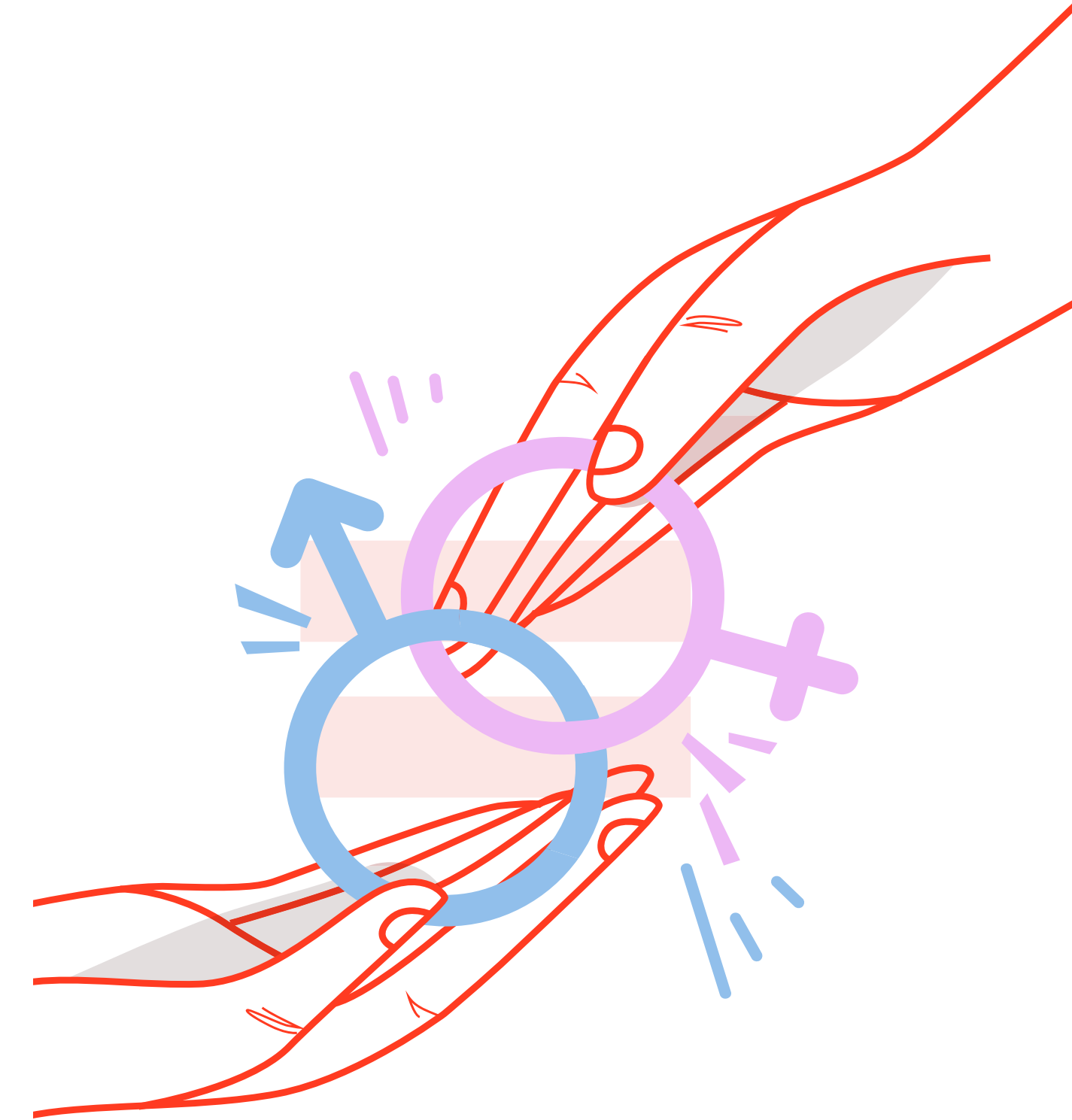
### UNIC Hosts Conference on Women in Diplomacy

In 2024, UNIC hosted a conference entitled "Women in Diplomacy: Practicing Foreign Policy, Security and Defence." The conference was co-organized by the Diplomatic Academy of the University of Nicosia and the Office of the Cyprus Commissioner for Gender Equality. University of Nicosia Senior Vice Rector Professor Constantinos N. Phellas addressed the participants and noted that "substantial diplomacy cannot exist without the active participation of women." The keynote speaker at the event was Ms. Julie Fisher, U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus, who spoke extensively about the issues women have faced at the U.S. Department of State. She spoke about the discrimination against women even today, emphasizing that a targeted effort needs to be made to open up to women the sectors in which women are underrepresented. The event highlighted the role of women in diplomacy and the ways in which they have influenced foreign policy, security and defence.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference "Woman & Health: Common Problems in Elderly Women"

Donna Health Care, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia Medical School, hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on World Women's Health Day, on 28 May 2024. The conference, which took place under the auspices of the Cyprus Medical Association and the Cyprus Third Age Observatory, was open to medical professionals, medical students, and the public, addressing common problems faced by elderly women. Renowned experts from Cyprus and abroad participated in the conference addressing issues such as breast cancer in the elderly, Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, as well as depression and isolation.



## 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



### RESEARCH

#### Project CyMIC

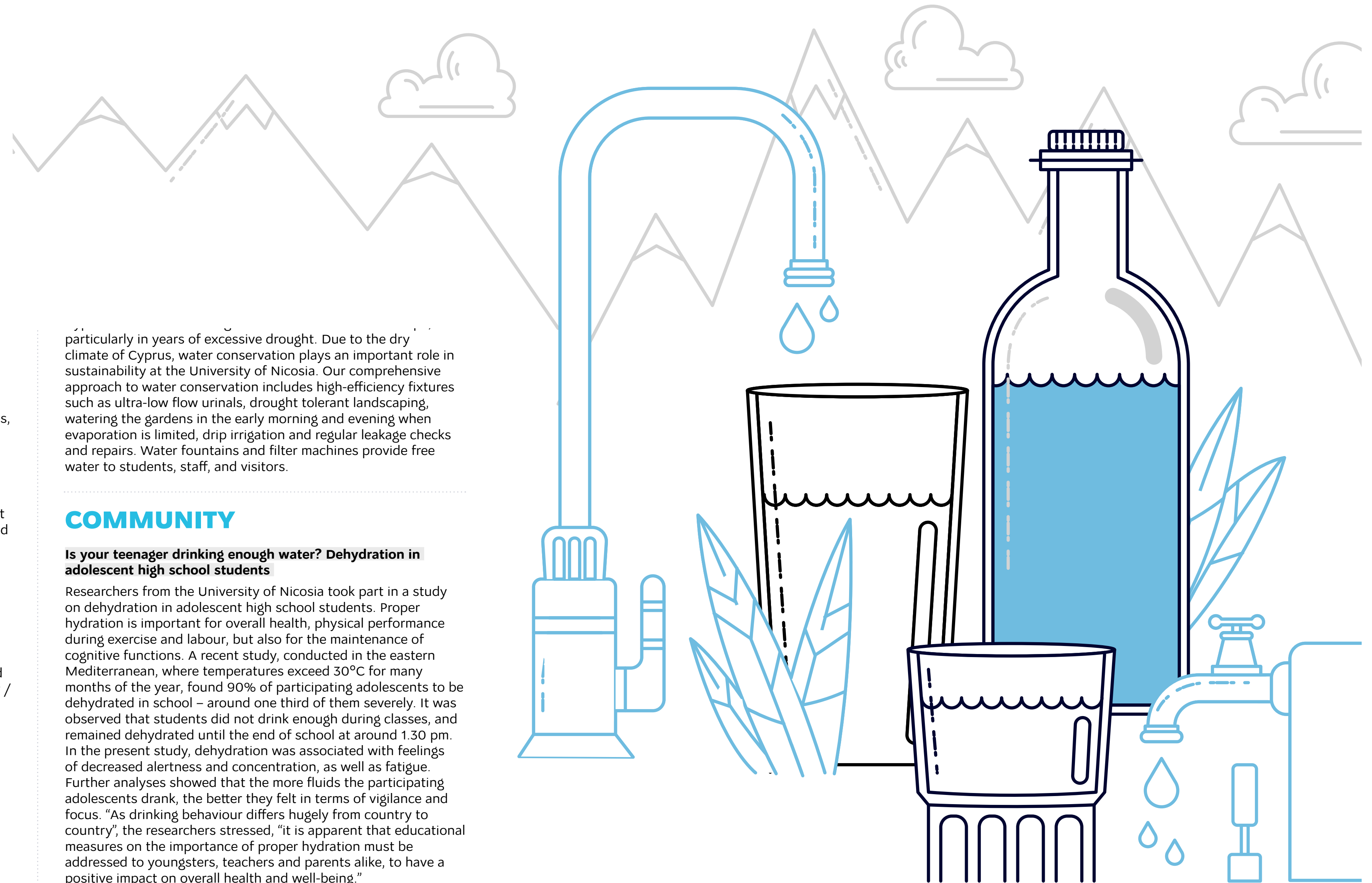
The University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF) is the Coordinator of the funded project, CyMIC (MIC Involvement in Damaged Water Pipes). Water is essential for life, for the economy, and plays an important role in climate regulation. Cyprus is among the 25 countries in the world facing extremely high water stress each year. Among some of the problems experienced within drinking water networks is distribution losses, especially in countries under severe water stress. Damaged pipes are a significant source of water loss, which impacts even further on the existing high-water stress. Among other factors accounting for water loss, corrosion and aging is a major cause of pipe damage. The CyMIC project aims to demonstrate the potential involvement of microorganisms in corrosion, a fact that is not usually considered by experts. Microbiologically influenced corrosion (MIC) refers to corrosion caused by the presence and activities of microorganisms – microalgae, bacteria, archaea, and fungi. This project represents the first of its kind in Cyprus and will provide knowhow to the industry and government authorities on how to use multiple lines of evidence to evaluate cases of corrosion in pipes, and their prevention and mitigation. The project is co-funded by the Republic of Cyprus and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), in the frame of the Operational Programme «ΘΑΛΕΙΑ» 2021-2027/ Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) / «Proof of Concept for Technology / Knowhow Applications» Programme (CONCEPT/0823).

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 LINK-EU

The University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF) is a partner in the project, LINK-EU (Linking local democracy and solidarity to E.U institutions for the design of resilient energy policies) funded by the European Union Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV). LINK-EU seeks to celebrate rural territories' resilience, to foster long-term cooperation and to build a shared narrative of the EU's rural communities through the organization of four main events across rural Europe. Through workshops, expert meetings and dissemination of good practices, LINK-EU aims to improve citizens' and local authorities' knowledge of EU policies while promoting local initiatives. The main product of the project is the building of the Rural Resilience Roadmap, including a shared long-term vision of rural territories of Europe and solutions to perform the transition in rural Europe. LINK-EU is made of 4 events to be held in Portugal, France, Spain and Hungary, each involving 25-50 participants. The main activities of the project are the organization of the 4 events, and the conduct of online public consultations between the events to reach out to the broader public and co-construct the Rural Resilience Roadmap. The main aim of the project, the Rural Resilience Roadmap describing how to build more resilient rural communities, will be communicated to EU decision-makers at the end of the project to be used as a contribution to the European Green Deal policies and programmes and related EU initiatives.

## 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

### A Workshop by Shell PLC at the University of Nicosia: NXplorers Pro Workshop Empowers Changemakers of Tomorrow

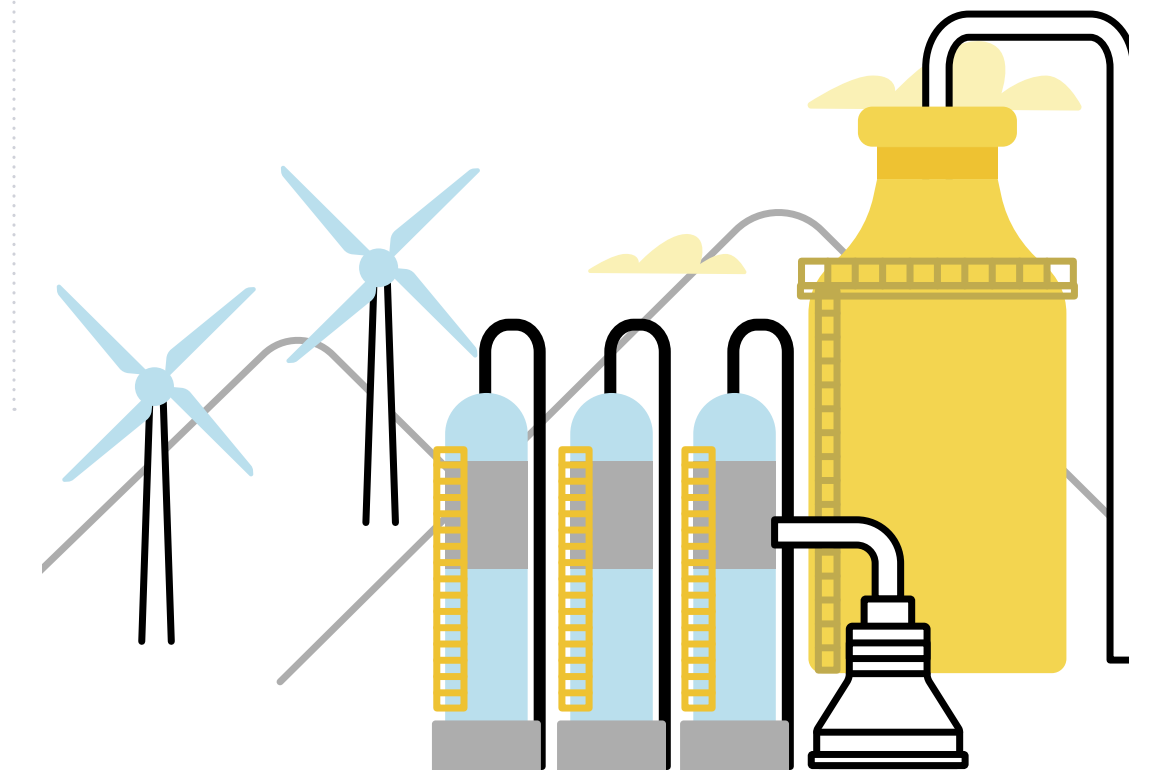
The Department of Engineering at the University of Nicosia in collaboration with Shell PLC offered the NXplorers Pro Workshop to a group of highly motivated engineering students. Held on 17 November 2023, the all-day workshop provided an immersive and transformative experience for participants, equipping them with skills necessary for a successful career. Through a hands-on, team-based approach, engineering students embarked on a journey from complex problems to sustainable solutions, that included: defining and exploring real-world issues, uncovering root causes and leverage points, envisioning multiple futures and shaping a preferred one, and transforming ideas into lasting change. Throughout the workshop, the students worked in teams to develop actionable strategies for positive impact, demonstrating their ability to apply the skills and knowledge gained to real-world problems. The workshop fostered a collaborative learning environment, encouraging participants to share ideas, perspectives, and expertise.



## COMMUNITY

### University of Nicosia Signs MoU with Pontem Analytics

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in October 2023 between the Department of Engineering of the University of Nicosia (UNIC) and Pontem Analytics, committing both parties to closer collaboration in the broad area of Geo-Scientific research and data analytics. Pontem Analytics is an international leading consulting and investment company known for its expertise in data analytics and domain knowledge. Pontem Analytics has over 10 years of experience delivering design and operations consulting solutions including process optimization, flow assurance and production chemistry services to major projects in the Eastern Mediterranean region and hopes to leverage this experience to deliver additional value in the future. The signed MoU signifies the shared vision and the mutual desire for collaboration between UNIC and Pontem Analytics and in the realms of engineering and data analytics, with a specific focus on energy and the Eastern Mediterranean oil and gas industry.





## 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 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.

### Prof. Fulvio Ananasso delivers insightful talk on Digital Transformation at the University of Nicosia

The School of Business at the University of Nicosia and the Knowledge Management, Innovation and Strategy Centre hosted a talk by the esteemed Prof. Fulvio Ananasso on 8 November 2023. In his talk, Prof. Ananasso examined the intricacies of Digital Transformation and its socioeconomic impacts. He provided valuable insights into the enablers of Digital Transformation, including the roles of 5G and 6G networks, the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, the metaverse and eXtended Reality (XR). He illustrated these concepts with several use cases across various sectors, including healthcare, education, defence, infrastructure monitoring for predictive maintenance and agriculture. A key highlight of the talk was the emphasis on the importance of ethics and humanistic education in the development of critical thinking. Prof. Ananasso stressed that these elements are crucial for problem solvers in a super-smart society, as they navigate the complexities and challenges brought about by Digital Transformation.

## COMMUNITY

### MOFC Celebrates Successful Conclusion of M6 Competition and "Future of Forecasting" Conference

The Makridakis Open Forecasting Center at the University of Nicosia's Institute for the Future (IFF) successfully concluded both the M6 Financial Forecasting Competition and the "Future of Forecasting and the M6 Competition" Conference. Conducted from February 2022 to February 2023, the competition marked the sixth edition of the renowned Makridakis (or M) Competitions which have been held since the 1980s aiming to identify optimal methods for forecasting financial prices and explore the correlation between forecast accuracy and investment returns in the stock and ETF markets. Led by Professor Spyros Makridakis, the M6 Competition provided a valuable platform for forecasting experts, researchers, and practitioners to showcase

their skills, exchange knowledge and techniques, and compete for the 300,000USD in prize money generously provided by the M6 sponsors. MOFC hosted in USA New York the "Future of Forecasting and the M6 Competition" Conference in New York, USA. The conference delved into measuring forecast performance and culminated in an in-depth presentation of the M6 Competition's findings. Distinguished speakers from major technology companies and eminent academics graced the conference, sharing expertise and insights. The program featured presentations by developers of the top three most accurate methods of the M6 Competition, offering practical implementations for the broader forecasting community.

### UNIC Supports 22nd Leadership and Human Resource Management Conference

The University of Nicosia endorsed the 22nd Leadership and Human Resource Management Conference, which took place on 16 November 2023 and was organised by IMH. Dr. Epaminondas Epaminonda, Associate Professor in the Department of Management at the School of Business, represented UNIC as a panellist discussing the topic, "Unlocking Talent Magnetism: Strategies for Making Your Organization Irresistible to Top Talent." Centred on the Jobs of the Future, the conference offered a unique platform to explore the latest trends, strategies, and best practices in human resource management.

### Job Fairs Organised by the Career Success Centre of the University of Nicosia

With the aim of supporting young people in connecting with the local and international job market, and linking businesses with the University, its students and graduates, the Career Success Centre of the University of Nicosia organised a series of sector-specific job fairs, which took place in November 2023 and March 2024. Around 80 businesses participated 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. At the same time, participants were given the opportunity to get to know companies established in their field and network with professionals in the areas that interest them. The job fairs organised by the Career Success Centre are part of a broader action plan aimed at familiarising students and graduates with the job market, facilitating their smooth integration into it, strengthening their professional networking, and ultimately increasing their employability. The job fairs are exclusively open for students and graduates of the University of Nicosia.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## 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 the 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.

### University of Nicosia to lead on Metaverse research through the 'AGORA' Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network

The School of Business and the Institute for the Future (IFF) announced the success of "AGORA – trAining younG researchers On shaping Metaverse for business and social vAlue" proposal in the highly competitive and prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks call. The AGORA project is a research and educational programme of doctoral studies which aims to train the next generation of Metaverse researchers and practitioners who will be able to address the ecosystem challenges identified and co-create new knowledge and solutions across sectors and industries. AGORA encapsulates the collaboration between academic and non-academic partners offering cross-disciplinary academic excellence and hands on industrial experience insights. AGORA will recruit 17 PhD candidates, each of which to receive 3-year fellowship. The students will be part of a European doctoral network of Universities and Industries and will be trained on conducting high-quality research, research exploitation and commercialisation and will receive tailored personal development guidance on different career avenues. The project started on September 1st, 2023 and will last for 48 months. Dr. Ariana Polyviou, Assistant Professor at the Department of Management and Prof. George Giaglis, Director at the Institute for the Future will coordinate the project. The project consortium includes: University of Nicosia, Audencia Business School, Durham University, University of Adger, Athens Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Maggioli SPA, Innov-Acts LTD, Unparallel Innovation, MeticBaltic, Future Intelligence, Aegis IT Research, CollegeLink.

## OPERATIONS

### Building Blocks of the 4th Industrial Revolution

UNIC believes that technological progress will cause rapidly accelerating societal change over the coming decades. A wide range of technologies – artificial intelligence, biotechnology, nanotechnology, robotics, augmented and virtual reality, blockchain, drones, computational medicine, modern space exploration – have already started reaching commercial viability. Each one of these technologies will be individually disruptive. In aggregate, these technologies will have a compounding effect on the economy, social structures, legal systems, income distribution, governance, education, and warfare – and raise fundamental questions on how society is organised.

This 4th Industrial Revolution is dynamically engaging in key areas which relate to the following pillars:

- Crypto-Assets and Blockchain
- Machine Learning and Big Data
- Metaverse
- Modelling and Simulation
- Future of Biomedicine/Biotechnology.

The University of Nicosia is at the forefront of these developments and engages in high-quality research, cutting-edge initiatives, academic/industry collaborations, and the development of academic as well as professional training programmes that explore and tackle the challenges presented by the 4th Industrial Revolution.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### UNIC's Pioneering Blockchain & Digital Currency MOOC Evolves: Brand New Curriculum

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the world's first MOOC on Digital Currencies offered by the University of Nicosia and its Institute of the Future (IFF), has undergone a radical transformation. Previously structured as a comprehensive 12-week course, it is now revamped into two levels, offering students the flexibility to customize their educational experience and earn two certificates within the same timeframe. Students now have the option to embark on a 12-week journey divided into two levels – an 'Introductory Level' spanning six weeks, followed by an 'Advanced Level' for the following six weeks. This unique structure allows students to gain two certificates by completing both levels or to choose a single level based on their background and aspirations. The revamped course introduces a brand-new curriculum, reflecting the latest developments in digital currencies and blockchain technology.

## COMMUNITY

### University of Nicosia an Official Partner of the Digital Agenda Cyprus Summit 2023

The University of Nicosia was an Official Partner of the Digital Agenda Cyprus Summit, which took place on 17 October 2023, in Nicosia. 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.

### Youth Tech Fest 23 at the University of Nicosia

The Youth Tech Fest 2023 took place on 18 November 2023 at the University of Nicosia. With the motto "Together we can inspire the generation of the future", the festival was dedicated to young people's curiosity about technology, science, art, environment and entrepreneurship. More than 1,000 participants, including students, teachers and parents from all over Cyprus, took part in the festival, which was organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth. The Festival was organised by the Executives' Club of Cyprus, in collaboration with the University of Nicosia, and was aimed at students aged 6-18 years old from public and private schools in Cyprus, with a strong emphasis on technology and science. In addition to the new technologies and technological tools used in education, teachers, students and their parents had the unique opportunity to listen to the experiences of speakers representing, among others, the European Commission, Shell, Google in Education, Oracle Academy, the University of Nicosia, etc. Students enriched their knowledge with interactive performances, workshops, masterclasses and hands-on activities led by teachers, engineers, scientists and developers.





## RESEARCH

### Erasmus+ Programme SPIRIT

The University of Nicosia participates 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. The project address two existing problems in the three partner countries involved – namely, growing chronic noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the need for young people for free time, space and fellowship to enjoy sport and play. The project is coordinated by Lovely Professional University from Punjab in India and is co-funded by the European Union. 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.

### UNIC Announces an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy

In its efforts to address the practice and implementation of a holistic approach towards equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), the University of Nicosia has put forward an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy that seeks to fill in any gaps and uncertainties over how we understand and embrace all of our community members. The UNIC community is a vibrant, diverse, and warm collective that stands out in so many ways: from creativity to innovation, and from scientific to artistic approaches, every single individual should be allowed to freely express themselves, however they wish. UNIC is dedicated to raising awareness among its staff, faculty, students, associates, and partners, by pursuing a set of strategic objectives aimed at promoting equity, safety, security, and embracing the unique qualities of each individual in our University and extended community.

## COMMUNITY

### Workshop for Physiotherapy Professionals: Domestic Violence and their Role in the Support Chain for Victims of Violence

The Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS) and the Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence in the Family hosted a workshop for physiotherapy professionals on domestic violence and their role in the support chain for victims of violence, which took place on 20 January 2024 at the University of Nicosia. The workshop was held within the framework of the European OPEP-DV Programme entitled “Online Professional Education for Physiotherapists and other Healthcare Professionals on Domestic Violence”, which is coordinated by the University of Tartu, Estonia. The Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS), affiliated with the University of Nicosia, is a partner in the project. OPEP-DV aims to provide professional education and training to physiotherapists so that they can recognize potential signs/indications of domestic violence (DV) and provide assistance to victims of violence in the context of their profession.

### Health Screening at Anarita Village, Paphos

On 12 November 2023, the UNIC Medical School Mobile Clinic embarked on a community outreach in the village of Anarita, located in the Paphos district. This event saw the participation of twenty volunteer medical students, who were supervised by Professor of Cardiology Joseph Moutiris. The team successfully conducted free health screenings, including electrocardiograms, blood pressure checks, and body mass index measurements, benefiting 46 local patients. In addition to these services, the team also utilized this opportunity to conduct a study on the cardiovascular characteristics of the participants. The findings revealed a concerning high prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors among the community members, highlighting the importance of such outreach programmes in raising health awareness and prevention. This initiative is part of the ongoing commitment to provide essential healthcare services to underserved communities.





## RESEARCH

### UNIC School of Law Engaged in Erasmus+ Funded Project “Sust-HEIn”

The School of Law is a partner in 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).

## COMMUNITY

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

Over the course of the academic year 2023-2024, 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 the Adelphi Forest Area trail, the Persephone trail in the Troodos Mountains and the Moutti tis Choras - Selladi tou Karamanli trail.



### The University of Nicosia Supports the Artificial Intelligence for the Common Good Hackathon on the Theme of Green Cities

The University of Nicosia Supports the Artificial Intelligence for the Common Good Hackathon on the Theme of Green Cities

The Department of Computer Science of the University of Nicosia supported the “Artificial Intelligence for the Common Good” hackathon on the theme of Green Cities. The hackathon, organised by the British Council, in collaboration with hack and the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation took place between 17 and 19 November 2023. Participants between the ages of 18 and 35, with a relevant background, formed teams and received training on how they could use artificial intelligence to design solutions to the contemporary challenge of making cities sustainable. The teams were tasked with trying to generate creative ideas and design a solution through AI tools to respond to the challenges of the global climate crisis, create an original idea and present it in front of a jury that selected a winning team.



## RESEARCH

### Project QUEST

The University of Nicosia is a partner in the project, QUEST. QUEST (Promoting Quality internships in Sustainable Tourism & Heritage Management) is an innovative Erasmus+ project aimed at increasing Higher Education (HE) students' employability in the tourism sector, one of the most fast paced sectors in terms of innovation and most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. QUEST is carried out by a partnership of eight organisations – three HE universities, four organisations working in the fields of tourism and/or cultural heritage, one Cultural Route of the Council of Europe – and led by Libertas International University (Zagreb, Croatia). It is a 3-year project, starting in December 2021 and ending by November 2024.

### Project Breath IN

The University of Nicosia is a partner in the project, Breath IN. The Breath In (Towards a better and sustainable indoor air quality environment) project is made up of a consortium of four Higher Education Institutions from three European Countries. The Coordinator is the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar (Instituto Politécnico de Tomar, IPT) from Portugal, while partners include the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (IPLeia, Portugal), University of Nicosia (UNIC, Cyprus), and the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTHS, Greece). The project aims to address the challenges in indoor air quality and its impact on human health and well-being. The project commenced on 1 September 2023 and is funded under the European Union Erasmus+ KA220 action programme.

## 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

### Lecture under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia on the Poetry and Paintings of Indigenous Australians

An interesting lecture was organized on 27 September 2023, under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair at the University of Nicosia, on the poetry and paintings of indigenous Australians. Mr. Yiannis Milidis, a former Lecturer in Greek Studies at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia, highlighted the rich and complex culture of the Aborigines, the indigenous inhabitants of Australia, who have maintained a continuous presence and culture for over 60,000 years on the continent. Their paintings, singing and dancing were important means of preserving their culture. Through his presentation, Mr. Milidis highlighted the importance and the way in which these arts reflect the history, resistance and survival of a people who faced extreme atrocities.



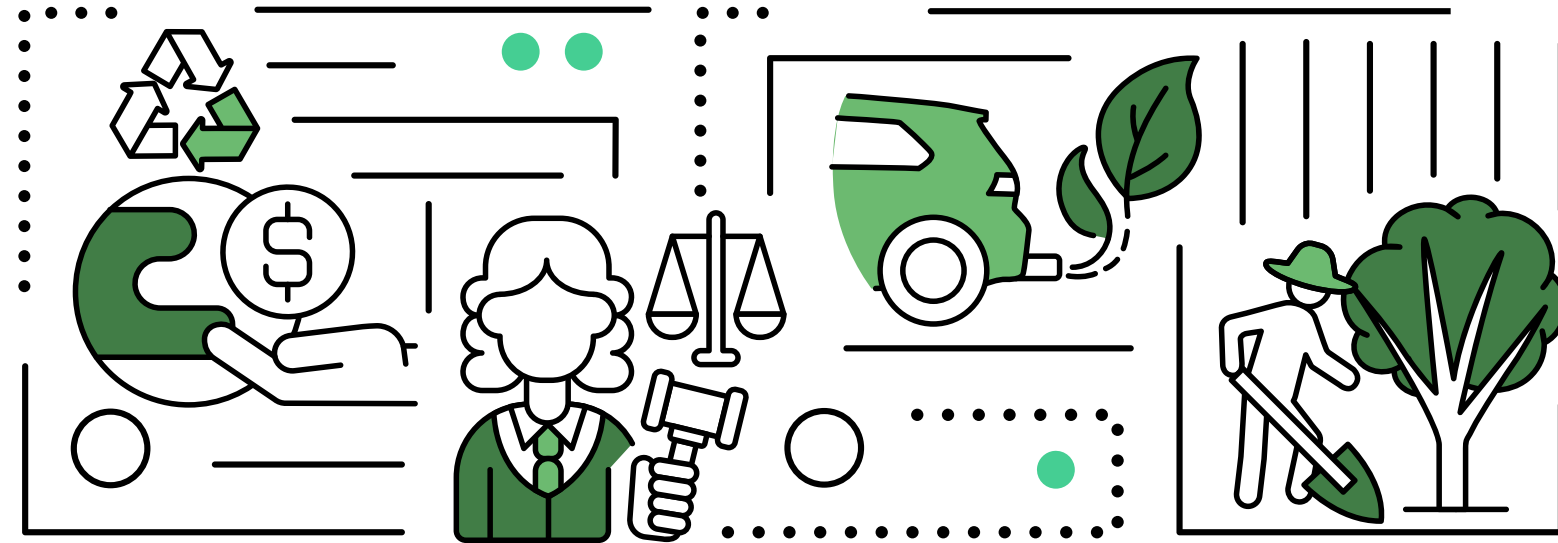
## COMMUNITY

### Book Launch | ANEPADON ONEIPEMATA: A Volume of Essays Exploring the Body in Culture, Education, and the Arts

The Department of Music and Dance of the University of Nicosia organised the book launch of ANEPADON ONEIPEMATA: A volume of essays exploring the body in culture, education, and the arts, edited by Ms. Maria Kamperi, dance instructor and choreographer, and Dr. Dara Milovanovic, Associate Professor of Dance at UNIC. The book was published by UNESCO Chair in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue for a Culture of Peace at UNIC. The book presentation took place on 10 December 2023 at the UNIC Architecture Building. During the presentation, the main themes of the book and the inspiration behind it were highlighted and attendees had the opportunity to enjoy an evening dedicated to culture and speech.

### Seminar | Blending Melodies: Bridging Cultural Identities – Composers' Perspectives

Sistema Cyprus, in collaboration with the Music programme of the University of Nicosia, organised a seminar entitled "Blending Melodies: Bridging Cultural Identities – Composers' Perspectives", which took place on 17 February 2024. The seminar was held within the framework of the European programme "B-Me – Blending Melodies: Bridging Cultural Identities", which is based on the transnational creation and circulation of original musical compositions created through the collaboration of local composers with musicians with a refugee or migrant background. Sistema Cyprus, El Sistema Greece and Associação das Orquestras Sinfónicas Juvenis Sistema Portugal, joined their expertise with the aim of bridging different cultural identities through musical diversity and the formation of a new European musical identity. Fifteen local composers from Cyprus, Greece, and Portugal collaborated with fifteen musicians with a refugee or migrant background (5 and 5 in each partner country) in an intercultural experience that creatively enhanced social diversity. During the seminar, the five composers of the pieces from Cyprus described the methods they used with their collaborators and explained their collaborative process for each composition.



## RESEARCH

### The University of Nicosia participates in the European Research Project Erasmus+, Geo-CLIC

The University of Nicosia participates in the European Research Project Erasmus+, Geo-CLIC (Geoinformatics Climate Change), which aims to contribute to the reversal of climate change and the return of the global climate to a more sustainable level through the use of geoinformatics technology and the utilization of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing to analyse available information, data, draw useful conclusions and adopt the necessary policy changes. The project is coordinated by the Free University of Brussels (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), while partners in the project in addition to the University of Nicosia are the Technical University of Valencia (Universitat Politècnica de València), the University of Zagreb (Sveučilište u Zagrebu) and the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf). The coordination of the project at the University of Nicosia is carried out by the Rector, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas, assisted by the Senior Administrator to the Rectorate, Mr Kyriakos E. Georgiou. As part of the project, between 5 and 9 February 2024, students from all participating universities attended a winter school on Climate Smart Agriculture, at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture. The lectures and hands-on workshops included, among others, subjects in Challenges Faced in Agriculture due to Climate Change, Remote Sensing Applications in Agriculture, GIS Applications in Agriculture and Derivation of Soil Erosion Risk Map.

## 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

### UNIC Students Actively Participated in the Erasmus+ Project Geo-CLIC Summer School

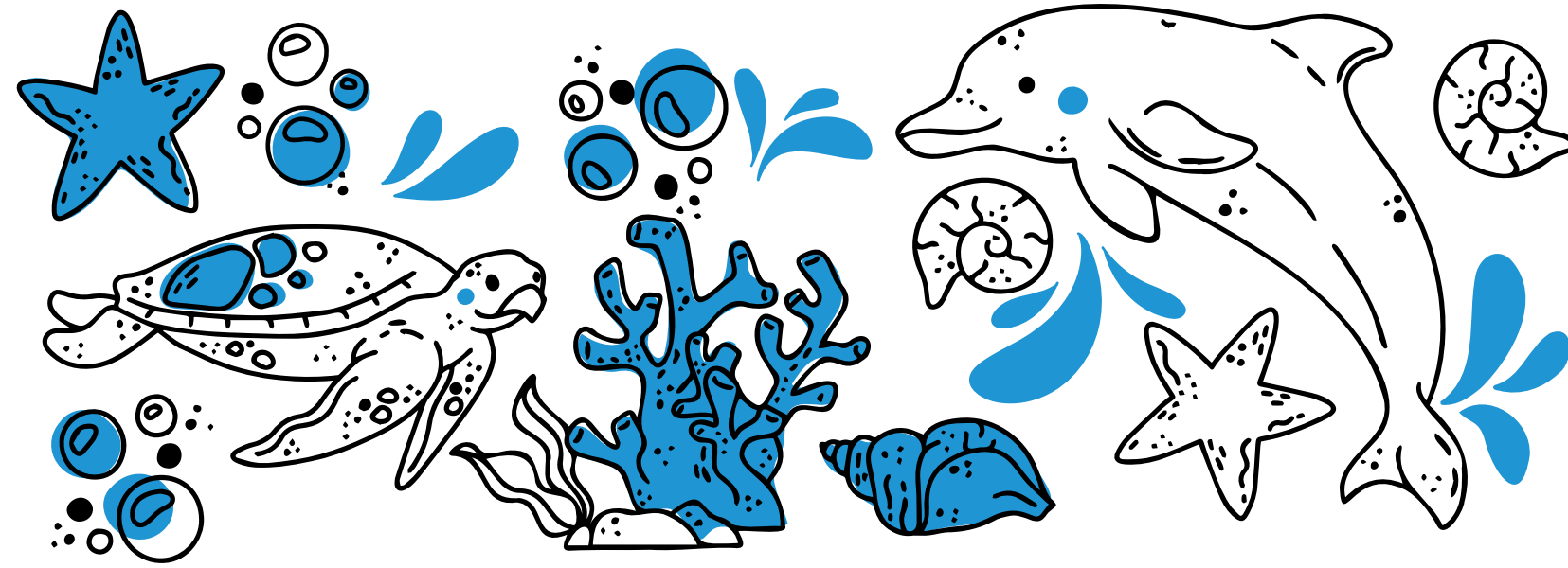
In the framework of the European Research Programme Erasmus+ Geo-CLIC (Geoinformatics Climate Change), students from all participating universities attended a summer school with the theme "Coastal Dynamics Monitoring". The Summer School took place between 17 and 21 June 2024, at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain. The lectures and practical workshops included the challenges faced by coastal areas from the dynamic interaction of the sea, climate, environment and man. The analysis was carried out with the utilization of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing to analyse the available information and draw useful conclusions and adopt the necessary policy changes.



## COMMUNITY

### Lecture on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Hydrocarbon Production Activities

A lecture on the topic of pollution of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea from oil and gas mining and production activities took place on 7 December 2023 at the University of Nicosia. The lecture was delivered by Dr. George Zodiatis as part of the Energy Security and Risk Management course, of the Undergraduate Programme in Energy, Oil and Gas Management. The lecture focused on the role played by the Eastern Mediterranean as a transportation corridor for oil and other fuels through the Suez Canal. Among other things, the lecture presented advanced methods for locating and predicting the dispersion of liquid fuels, both at sea and towards the coasts. In addition, special reference was made to gas condensates, produced from natural gas extraction in the Levantine Basin. Using numerical models and simulations, examples of hydrocarbon dispersion were presented, both from potential and actual pollution incidents from neighbouring countries on various coasts, taking into account sea currents, waves and winds. The lecture concluded with a discussion and reference to the rich bibliography related to the subject of dealing with marine pollution incidents from hydrocarbon spills.



## RESEARCH

### Project DIGI4ECO

The University of Nicosia is a partner in the project, DIGI4ECO. DIGI4ECO (Digital Twin-sustained 4D ecological monitoring of restoration in fishery depleted areas) is a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to unlocking new discoveries and advancements in the management and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. The project recognises the critical importance of these ecosystems for both environmental conservation and socio-ecological activities and is committed to harnessing digital innovation to address these challenges. DIGI4ECO's methodology focuses on utilising sleeping data, developing tools to process data from various sources, promoting standardisation, and harmonising data by unifying libraries and resources. The project aims to conduct sea-basin scale monitoring tests, provide guidelines for stakeholders, and make tools open-source for continuous improvement. The project commenced in January 2024 and is funded by the European Union Horizon programme.



## COMMUNITY

### UNIC Celebrates World Fisheries Day with the Creation of a Short Video

On the occasion of World Fisheries Day, 21 November 2023, the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Nicosia released a new social responsibility post and video clip highlighting the vital importance of fisheries in our ecosystems. The video outlines key reasons why fisheries are important. These included the fact that fisheries provide a vital source of protein for billions of people worldwide, ensuring food security and nutrition for coastal communities and beyond. Additionally, fishing supports millions of jobs, from fishermen to processors, traders, and restaurant workers and is a cornerstone of livelihoods and local economies. Sustainable fisheries management helps protect marine ecosystems by preventing overfishing and preserving aquatic biodiversity, while fishing traditions and practices have deep cultural significance for many communities, connecting generations and preserving cultural identities. Healthy oceans and sustainable fishing practices are critical for combating climate change and maintaining a balanced ecosystem.





## 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.

### Project GEOSTARS

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.

### School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Granted Provisional Membership of the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)

The AAVMC is a prestigious organization that supports and advances veterinary medical education globally. Its membership consists of institutions that are committed to preparing the next generation of veterinary professionals. The Association provides its members with valuable tools, resources, and opportunities for engagement in its programmes, aiming to enhance the quality of veterinary education. The AAVMC resources will provide key guidance to the School in its preparations for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), when eligible to apply. With its membership, the School will be able to participate in Association meetings and activities, eligible to serve on certain AAVMC committees, task forces, and working groups, and can attend AAVMC Assembly meetings.

## STUDENT LEARNING

### Hands-on Learning: Veterinary Students Dive into Animal Husbandry Experiences

The first-year cohort of the UNIC Veterinary School undertook an outdoor practical at the Cavalier Riding School, under the guidance of Clinical Assistant Professor Daphne Mavrides. During their visit, they delved into essential management aspects of equine husbandry. With the expertise of equine specialist Dr Stavros Yiannikouris, they practiced various handling techniques and conducted basic clinical examinations on horses. This visit is part of an ongoing series for the animal husbandry course, which introduces students to the clinical handling and management of diverse species, ranging from cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry to

many others. This course also educates students on the optimal environment, housing, and welfare standards required for these species in a farm setting. After their hands-on experience at the equine stables, the veterinary students have been continuing their educational journey with weekly visits to different establishments. In one of their recent sessions, they explored the Agricultural Research Institute Farm. Here, they gained insights into the health, management, and welfare of cattle, sheep, and goats, and observed the routine milking procedures for these animals. These experiences are integral to their training, ensuring they acquire essential hands-on skills, a cornerstone of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine programme's Day 1 skills curriculum.



### First-Year Veterinary Students Engaged in Exotic Animal Care and Griffon Vulture Conservation Project

First-year veterinary students visited Dr Antoniou's exotics clinic as part of their Animal Husbandry course, led by Dr Daphne Mavrides. This visit provided insights into the care of exotic species, including birds, reptiles, and small mammals, which differ from the husbandry of common pets like cats and dogs. The students also learned how to handle various animals such as pigeons, crows, goshawks, ferrets, and guinea pigs. Additionally, some students joined Dr Antoniou in a special conservation activity. They participated in the ringing of 8 Griffon Vultures, part of the "LIFE with Vultures CY" project, funded by the EU. These vultures, arriving from Spain, are part of the efforts to prevent the extinction of the species in Cyprus.

### UNIC Veterinary Students Gain Practical Insights on Farm Visits

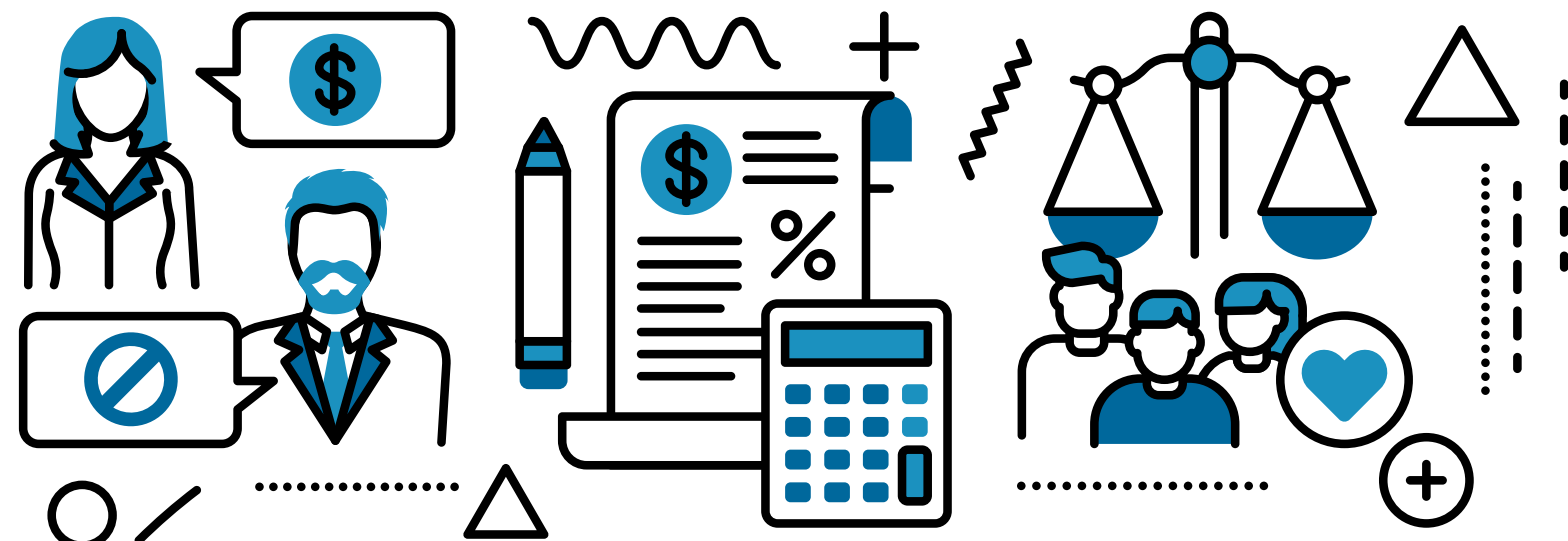
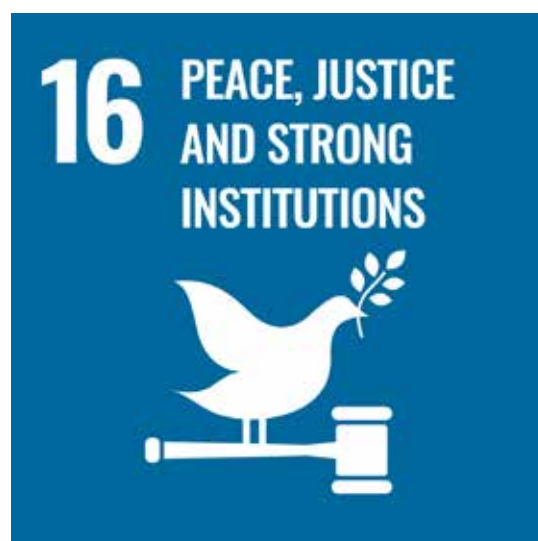
The second-year veterinary students participated in practical learning experiences at various dairy and livestock farms, as well as a boar centre. These field trips were led by Dr Catalina Cabrera, Assistant Professor of Veterinary Reproductive Biology and Animal Breeding, and Dr Marios Christoforou, Clinical Associate. The students gained hands-on experience in farm management, also immersing themselves in essential aspects of farm husbandry, including the application of reproductive technologies. They practiced their skills in pregnancy diagnosis in cattle using ultrasound, extended similar techniques to sheep and goats, and observed various procedures at the boar centre, a facility specialising in advanced swine genetics. These farm visits are an integral component of the reproductive biology and genetics course, that introduces students to reproductive systems, assisted reproductive technologies, and fundamental genetic principles. They are crucial for optimising production, tackling infertility and genetic problems, and equipping students with the skills they will need as future veterinarians.



## COMMUNITY

### School of Veterinary Medicine and Nicosia Race Club Join Forces

The School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) and the Nicosia Race Club (NRC) announced the signing of an Agreement which solidifies an existing partnership between the SVM and NRC, aimed at enhancing equine veterinary care, education, and research. As part of this Agreement, the NRC's equine veterinary clinic will be exclusively utilized for veterinary activities, educational programmes, and research initiatives by the SVM. Additionally, the SVM will contribute to upgrading the clinic's infrastructure and equipment, ultimately leading to improvements in horse care services.



## 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.

### Project CAPONEU

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 JSLR 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.

### European Commission Vice President Engages in Dialogue with Students at UNIC

On 22 March 2024, the University of Nicosia hosted Mr. Margaritis Schinas, the Vice President of the European Commission, who visited the University in the framework of his 3-day official visit to Cyprus. At UNIC, Mr. Schinas engaged in a dialogue with students, discussing topics ranging from democracy to the upcoming European elections. The dialogue, moderated by the University's Senior Vice Rector, Professor Constantinos N. Phellas, provided students with a unique opportunity to directly exchange views with Mr. Schinas on crucial European issues. Throughout the discussion, Mr. Schinas emphasized the importance of active youth participation in shaping the future of Europe, highlighting the role of democracy and the European Way of Life. He encouraged students to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming European elections, underscoring its significance in safeguarding democracy and advancing the values of solidarity, security, and prosperity in Europe.

## COMMUNITY

### International Conference on Hannah Arendt

On 29 and 30 March 2024, UNIC hosted an international conference entitled "Hannah Arendt: Law and Politics". The conference was co-organised by the School of Law of the University of Nicosia and the Department of Law of the University of Cyprus. It represented the first Greek-speaking conference on the work of the leading 20th century philosopher, Hannah Arendt (1906-1975), and one of the few that has been organized internationally with a specific thematic focus on law. The keynote address of the conference was delivered by Professor Vana Nikolaidou-Kyriakidou, Chair of the Department of Philosophy of the National University of Athens. This was followed by six sessions with 22 speakers, focusing on various

aspects of Arendt's work including the "right to have rights", statelessness and refugees, totalitarianism, democracy, the crisis of education, and modern technology. The conference was attended by renowned professors from Greece, Cyprus and the UK, researchers, lawyers and doctoral candidates. The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion.

### The Institute For the Future (IFF) of the University of Nicosia participated in the World Police Summit in Dubai, UAE

The Institute for the Future (IFF) of the University of Nicosia participated in the World Police Summit, which took place in Dubai, UAE, from 5 to 7 March 2024. Representing the IFF at this global event were Dr. Charis Savvides, a distinguished Faculty Member at the Department of Digital Innovation, and Ms. Hazal Aripinar, Business Development and Enrolment Manager at IFF. During the summit, Dr. Charis Savvides served as featured speaker at the Crime Prevention Conference, specifically in the "Anti-Money Laundering Crime" Session. The Institute For the Future was honoured to contribute its expertise to this international event, showcasing its commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering discussion on critical issues in the rapidly evolving digital age. Furthermore, in a continued effort to assist Dubai Police in undertaking more structured initiatives towards educating and training their members in blockchain, a compelling panel discussion titled "The Future of Blockchain: Challenges & Opportunities" was organised at the Dubai Police Academy on March 4th. Distinguished panellists included Major Ahmed Al Suwaidi, Director of the Admission and Registration Department, Dubai Police; the Director of the Organised Crime Department; the Director of the Future Exploration Department; and Dr. Charis Savvides from the University of Nicosia.

### Cypriot Initiative Dedicated to Children Wins the Cristal Scales of Justice Prize

Dr. Alexia Zalaf, Assistant Professor at the UNIC School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Department of Social Sciences), along with her team from Sheffield Hallam University (UK), and Hope for Children CRC Policy Centre was awarded the Council of Europe's Crystal Scales of Justice Prize for a psychoeducational tool aimed at supporting children giving evidence in court. The award aims at discovering and highlighting innovative and efficient practices within the judicial system. This tool was chosen as the awarded initiative from 48 projects submitted from 17 countries. The Kids in Court Psychoeducational Tool (KiCPsy-Tool) consists of four mini board games aimed as assisting children in alleged child sexual offence cases when they are called to give evidence in court. The purpose of the KiCPsy-Tool is to improve children's knowledge of the legal process and to reduce their court-related stress through playful activities. The project team was led by Dr Marilena Kyriakidou at Sheffield Hallam University, and the tool was co-created with Dr Alexia Zalaf from the University of Nicosia and Joanna Drousiotou from the Hope for CRC Policy Centre (Children's House).



## RESEARCH

### Project UN4DRR

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

### University of Nicosia at the Inaugural Event of NEOLAiA Alliance

The University of Nicosia, as a partner of the NEOLAiA Alliance of European Universities, participated in the official Kick-off Meeting of the Alliance, which took place in Brussels, on 7 and 8 February 2024. In this context, the Rectors and Vice-Rectors of the nine universities participating in the Alliance attended the festive ceremony of the official launch of the project. They also participated in the meetings of the Rectors' Governing Board and the Steering Committee of the Alliance respectively and took part in the social events organised as part of the meeting. At the official launch event, the University of Nicosia was represented by a large group of academics, researchers and administrators, led by the Rector of the University, Professor Philippos Pouyoutas, who sits on the Rectors' Governing Board of the Alliance. The launch event was attended by the University of Nicosia Delegates and task force members of the Work Packages, as well as one Doctoral Degree and one Bachelor's Degree student, as members of the Student Governing Board that will bring together students from the nine Alliance partner universities. The aim of the Brussels event was to officially launch the Alliance. Among others, the main strategic objectives of the NEOLAiA Alliance are to empower and acquire a common digital identity for its members, to digitise the educational environment, to foster tolerance, diversity and inclusion, to invest in research and contribution to society and culture, to support democracy, to offer innovative solutions for global health and to provide high quality education. The Alliance is funded with €14.4 million from the European Commission for 4 years, under the European University Alliances programme. Together with the University of Nicosia, the network includes top, young, outward-looking and innovative universities, ranked among the best universities in the world according to the main university rankings: University of Jaén, Spain; University of Tours, France; Bielefeld University, Germany; Örebro University, Sweden; University of Salerno, Italy; Šiauliai State University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania; "Ștefan Cel Mare" University of Suceava, Romania; and University of Ostrava, Czech Republic.



## 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 28 February 2024, 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.

## COMMUNITY

### Medical School Announces Collaborative Agreement with the Sorbonne University Faculty of Medicine in Paris, France

The University of Nicosia Medical School entered into a collaborative agreement with the Sorbonne University Faculty of Medicine in Paris, France in 2023. This partnership paves the way for mutual advancements through student and faculty/staff initiatives. Key features of the collaboration include exchange programmes for medical students to gain diverse clinical and research experiences; joint research projects, leveraging the expertise of both institutions in areas of mutual interest; and organizing shared events like workshops, seminars, symposia, lectures, and conferences.

### UNIC Named the Only PRME Champion in Cyprus, Greece, and Southeastern Europe, for 2024-2025

In January 2024, the University of Nicosia was selected as a PRME Champion for the 2024-2025 cohort. This prestigious recognition is awarded by the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), a United Nations-supported initiative. As a PRME Champion, the University of Nicosia joins a global collective of 47 Business and Management schools dedicated to raising the bar for sustainable business education. Each institution was selected to join the cohort by the PRME Secretariat from a pool of strong and diverse applicants. This recognition underscores the University's commitment to equipping future business leaders with the skills necessary to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through business. The University of Nicosia is the only PRME Champion in Southern Europe, the Balkans, and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a PRME Champion, the University of Nicosia will participate in collaborative projects aimed at furthering the principles of responsible management education. These projects will provide students with practical experience in sustainable business practices and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



### University of Nicosia Medical School Honours WHO Chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

The University of Nicosia Medical School awarded an honorary Doctor of Medicine degree to Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), at the Medical School's graduation ceremony, which took place on 27 June 2024. Dr Ghebreyesus, who has been at the helm of WHO since 2017, has a distinguished career in public health and diplomacy. Upon his election as WHO Director-General, Dr Ghebreyesus pledged to strengthen the organisation to meet the challenges of the 21st century, ensuring it is inclusive, effectively managed, and well-resourced. Since taking office, Dr Ghebreyesus has spearheaded the most ambitious programme of organisational change in WHO's history. His leadership has been particularly notable during the COVID-19 pandemic, where WHO played a crucial role in the global response. In addition to receiving the honorary doctorate, Dr Ghebreyesus delivered the keynote speech at the graduation ceremony.



UNIVERSITY  
*of* NICOSIA

46 Makedonitissas Avenue, CY-2417,  
P.O.Box 24005, CY-1700, Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel (Main): +357 22 841500

E-mail: [university@unic.ac.cy](mailto:university@unic.ac.cy)

Web: [unic.ac.cy](http://unic.ac.cy)