



SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainability and responsibility
at the University of Helsinki in

2022



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

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FOREWORD

VICE-RECTOR TOM BÖHLING

In terms of sustainability and responsibility, the year 2022 was in many ways revolutionary and surprising at the University. Russia's attack on Ukraine, a shock felt around the world early in the year, also affected our international University community. As a university, we responded to the crisis quickly, providing students and staff with support, the provision of which has continued throughout 2023. The autumn was overshadowed by the European energy crisis accelerated by the war and preparations for energy-saving measures. I wish to thank the entire University community for our joint efforts during a difficult year. Together, we took the necessary measures, for example, by conserving energy and supporting one another in difficult times.

In spite of the difficulties, we turned our gaze to the future. In March, we published our new sustainability and responsibility plan for the period 2022–2024. The plan will guide our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the coming years, laying down the key focus areas and measures needed to make the world increasingly sustainable.

As we strive for change, the plan will serve as one of our tools. On the basis of research, we now know that global warming is happening faster than predicted, and that we need immediate and determined climate action. Only by working together can we ensure a viable future for our planet. I am pleased that several measures outlined in the University's sustainability and responsibility plan were successfully promoted already in the inaugural year of the plan. Active members of the University community created new meadow patches on campus, while we established a sustainability and responsibility network open to the entire University community and invested in the development of the sustainability expertise of our staff.

The work carried out and initiatives introduced during the year are important steps on our journey towards being a leader in sustainability and responsibility.



SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022

This Sustainability Highlights report presents our key sustainability and responsibility measures taken in 2022. The report is divided into five elements of sustainability and responsibility at the University of Helsinki: sustainability governance and management, research, teaching, societal interaction and daily operations.

As one of the highlights of the year, we released our sustainability and responsibility plan for the period 2022-2024 in March. In this report, we will demonstrate how we made progress in terms of the measures included in the plan during its first implementation period. The plan is actively monitored together with the responsible units in accordance with the Plan-Do-Check-Act quality management model observed by the University. Thanks to this monitoring, we will be able to respond to any challenges related to the implementation of measures, while at the same time gaining the opportunity to put new ideas into practice.

The monitoring of the plan was carried out through visits to the management groups of University Services units and University-level councils in spring 2023. This process provided us with an overview of how we have progressed so far in our chosen priority areas and individual measures for sustainability and responsibility.

In this report, we have described the progress of the measures with the help of colour coding and written statements. We emphasise that, rather than necessarily telling the whole truth about each measure, colour coding and written descriptions constitute indicative estimates. Active monitoring of measures and open discussion in and between different units are key, not individual colour codes.

In addition to the monitoring of the measures taken under the plan, we will present in this report other significant measures related to sustainability and responsibility taken in 2022. For example, we describe our reaction to the war in Ukraine and the pressure to conserve energy in the autumn, as well as highlight our multidisciplinary research and investment in strengthening the sustainability skills of students and staff.

In spite of several examples, this report introduces only a part of all sustainability and responsibility efforts carried out at our University. We hope that this report will provide a comprehensive overview of what the University of Helsinki is doing in terms of sustainability and responsibility, how we are monitoring these efforts, and which related areas of development we have identified.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UN AND THE THESES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY BY UNIVERSITIES FINLAND UNIFI PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR OUR EFFORTS

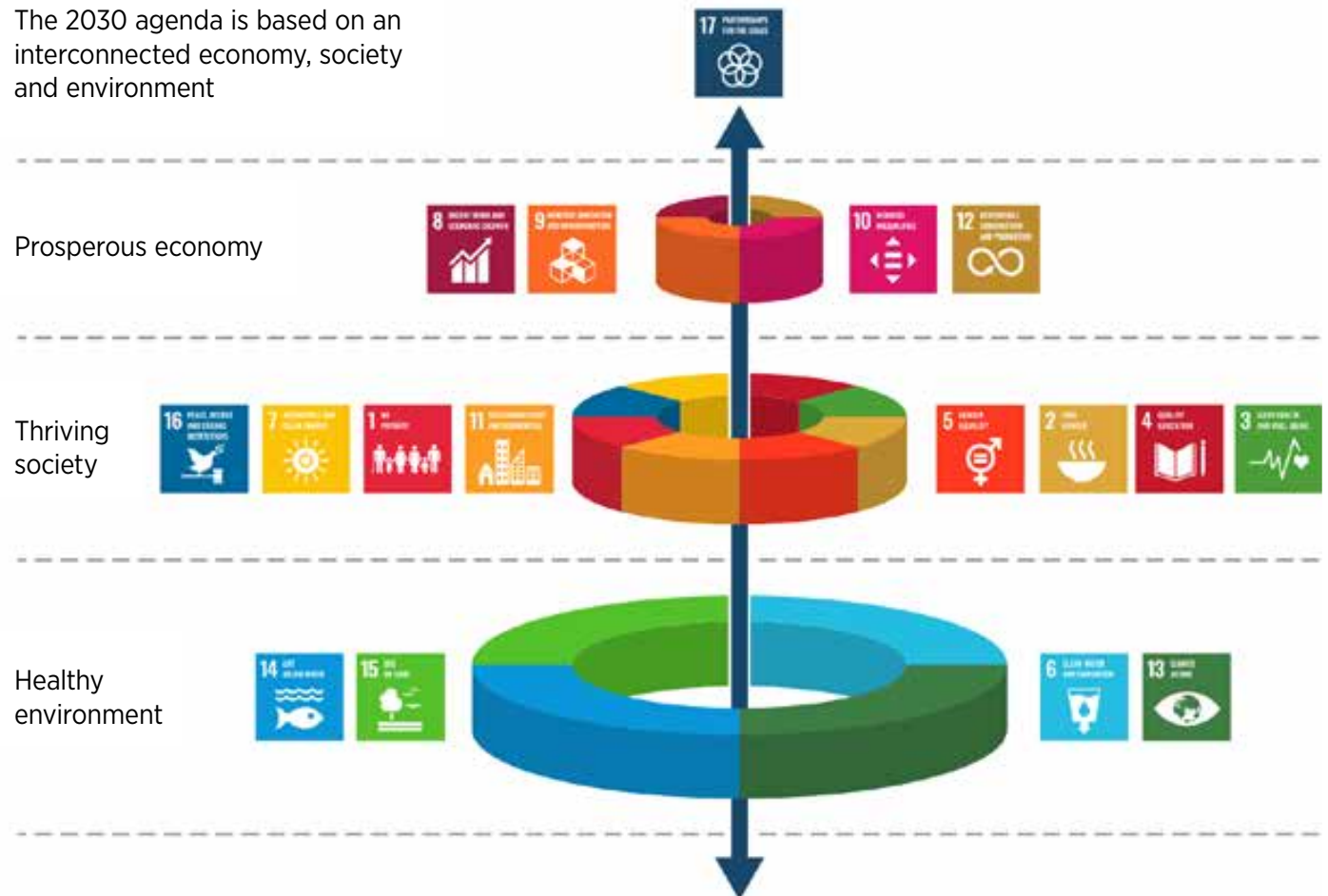
In accordance with our strategic plan, we base our sustainability efforts on the [Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations](#). In our operations, we are committed to promoting all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. From 2022 to 2024, we will focus particularly on the following goals:

- ◆ Quality education (SDG 4)
- ◆ Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9)
- ◆ Climate action (SDG 13)
- ◆ Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17)


Alongside the UN goals, the theses on [sustainable development and responsibility by Universities Finland UNIFI](#) constitute the framework for the sustainability efforts of the University of Helsinki. With these collaboratively defined 12 theses, Finnish universities join forces to promote the sustainability transition.

Read more on the [University website](#)

The 2030 agenda is based on an interconnected economy, society and environment



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

- 
- > The Suunnanmuutos ('Change of direction') event series was organised at Think Corner.
 - > We jointly expressed our support for Ukraine and its academic community, denouncing Russia's military aggression in the country.
 - > As a founding member, we joined the Nature Positive Universities network.
 - > We published our sustainability and responsibility plan for the period 2022-2024.
 - > We launched a sustainability and responsibility network open to the entire community.
 - > Together with Aalto University, we organised the Sustainability Science Days conference.
 - > We published a micro-credential in sustainability.
 - > The new sustainability and responsibility committee launched its term of office.
 - > As a first for a Finnish university, the faculties appointed vice-deans for sustainability and responsibility.
 - > A meadow experiment was conducted on several lawns on Viikki Campus.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NUMBERS



90

Our placement in the QS World University Rankings: the Sustainability 2023 ranking.



€167,500

in donations to students and researchers fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Leftover lunch for
€2,70
at UniCafe cafeterias.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



150,000

kilometres cycled in annual kilometre challenges for staff.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



41,965

continuous learners upgraded their skills at the University of Helsinki.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



52,6%

of teaching and research staff are women.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



375

new unisex toilets installed in University facilities.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Energy-efficiency measures totalling at

2,259

MWh

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



300

participants in training related to disability inclusion.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



93

invention disclosures and 30 patent applications.

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



600

More than members of the University community signed an antiracist petition.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.



154

researchers from a range of fields at the Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies Urbaria.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



1,109

pieces or sets of furniture sold through the Kiertonet service.

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



28

higher education institutions involved in the Climate University network headed by the University of Helsinki.

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



120

years of research related to submarine life at the Tvärminne Zoological Station.

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



6

lawn patches included in a meadow experiment on Viikki Campus.

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



12

vice-deans for sustainability and responsibility.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



1,300

More than registered participants at the Sustainability Science Days conference from every continent and 54 countries.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY BY REVIEWING GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Opportune circumstances for sustainability and responsibility are established through everyday structures. Our goal is to integrate sustainability and responsibility into all of our operations, and to make them an increasingly systematic part of our administrative structures and practices. In the sustainability and responsibility plan for 2022–2024, we have defined the priority areas as well as related measures, responsibilities and indicators through which we will achieve our goals.

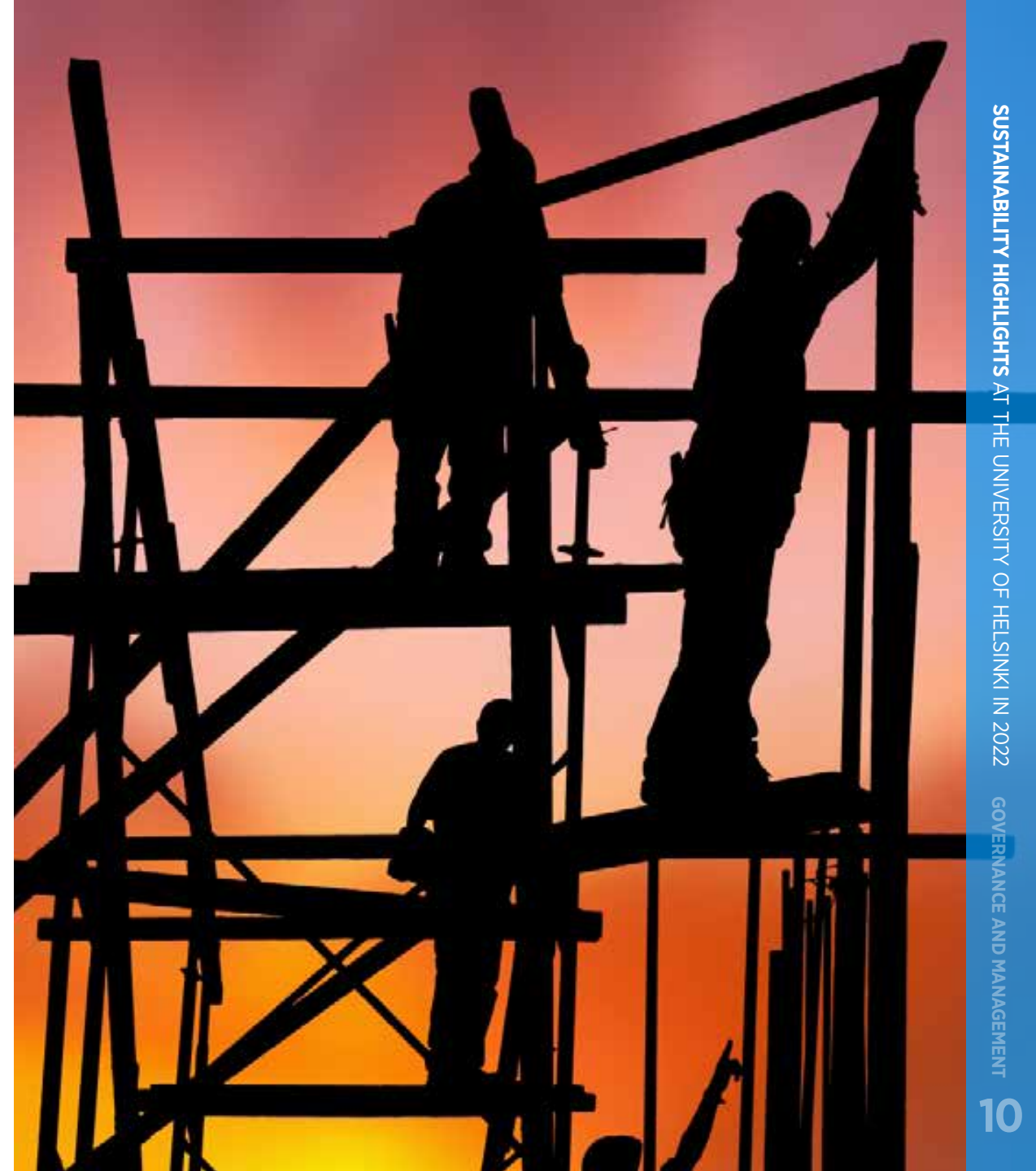


GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022-2024

- Targets and indicators
- Operations management
- Possibilities for sustainability action

Over the course of the year, we progressed as planned in the three priority areas chosen for the governance and management element of the report. For example, we established a sustainability fund, included sustainability themes in target negotiations held with the rector and launched a sustainability and responsibility network open to the entire University community. In other words, the efforts to integrate sustainability and responsibility into all of our governance are well underway.

The progress of measures related to governance and management is described in more detail in the table on page 13 of the report.



- ◆ The faculties appointed the **first vice-deans for sustainability and responsibility** in their history. We are the first Finnish university to have a vice-dean in charge of sustainability and responsibility for each faculty. The vice-deans promote the University's sustainability and responsibility efforts on the faculty level and highlight the perspectives of their faculties on the University level.

Docent of Political Science **Hanna Wass**, vice dean for sustainability and responsibility at the Faculty of Social Sciences, considers sustainability management significant also in the broader development of society:



Veikko Somerpuro

“The capacity of the political system to respond to crises facing humanity as a whole is central to the preservation of democracy. Mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss, strengthening security and preventing the worsening of economic and social inequalities require long-term policies and globally shared solutions. It is important that our understanding of sustainability and responsibility as a whole encompasses the promotion of a democratically sustainable transition in both society and the University's decision-making, in which vice-deans have a significant role.”

- ◆ At the end of the year, the University celebrated the **30th anniversary of its tripartite model**. The University adopted the tripartite model in multi-member decision-making bodies in 1992, when the new legislation pertaining the University of Helsinki came into force.
- ◆ Preparations for a **survey on democracy at the University** were made in the autumn, with the results completed in early 2023. The topic of the survey was the University community's experiences of personal opportunities for influence and participation at the University of Helsinki.
- ◆ We actively developed our sustainability and responsibility reporting. **We published our first reports highlighting our sustainability and responsibility efforts** from the previous strategy period and 2021.




Veikko Somerpuro



- ◆ Over the course of the year, we promoted **three strategic sustainability projects**: the project to launch the sustainability and responsibility plan, the Carbon neutral University of Helsinki by 2030 project, and the project for strengthening sustainability expertise.
- ◆ In November, we launched **a sustainability and responsibility network** open to the entire University community. In addition, we continued to work in previously established internal working groups, such as the **environmental safety network** established in 2021.
- ◆ Active since 2021, **the Ethics Advisory Council** continued its operations. The council has discussed, among other things, the updating and application of ethics principles, the opportunities for researchers and the University to conduct international cooperation in certain projects, and questions related to the ethics of artificial intelligence. On the proposal of the council, **a research ethics committee was established in the fields of natural sciences**. In accordance with the proposal of the council, the new research ethics committees, appointed by the chancellor, commenced their terms from the beginning of 2022.



This is how we made progress in the measures recorded under the sustainability **governance and management** element of the sustainability and responsibility plan:

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS		STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE
Targets and indicators			
We will publish a sustainability and responsibility plan for each implementation planning period, outlining the University's key sustainability and responsibility targets, actions and responsible units and persons, and promoting the transparency of our sustainability and responsibility efforts.	▲	Next sustainability plan published in 2025	
We will develop our sustainability and responsibility reporting by publishing an annual sustainability and responsibility report, incorporating information on the University's related efforts. Key results will be reported annually to the rector and vice-rectors. In addition, key sustainability and responsibility actions will be summarised in the University's annual review.	▲	Annually, from 2022	
We will incorporate sustainability and responsibility themes permanently into the target negotiations between the rector and the units.	▲		
An annual discussion of the sustainability and responsibility framework will be added to the agendas of the University's committees and councils. As part of this annual review, the committees and councils will explore, in particular, the implementation of UNIFI's theses on sustainable development and responsibility and of the University's sustainability and responsibility plan, and will assess development needs in their field.	▲		
We will survey how the perspective of sustainability and responsibility can be better linked to the University's quality assurance efforts and thinking. We will examine indicators of responsibility and sustainability suitable for the University.	▶	By 2025	
We will participate in the annual Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking.	▲	2022	
We will establish the University of Helsinki Sustainability Fund to support the University's sustainability research, teaching and public engagement activities.	▲		
Operations management			
We will survey how sustainability and responsibility assessment can be incorporated more closely into the University's project planning and reporting.	▶	By 2024	
We will survey how sustainability and responsibility assessment can be added to the strategic portfolio reviews in the University's project management activities.	▶		
We will develop responsibility and sustainability risk assessment in units.	▶	By 2025	
Possibilities for sustainability action			
We will further develop the University's sustainability and responsibility network activities that offer the community opportunities to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals in practice. We will include the University's alumni in our network activities and seek ways to promote sustainability and responsibility together with our alumni. We will promote discussion, reflection and action on and for sustainability.	▶	2022-2024	
We will promote sustainability and responsibility together with the Student Union and seek ways to increasingly promote sustainability and responsibility together with our students. We will develop campus gardening with the association Kampusviljely ry and the Student Union.	▶		

- ▲ Completed
- ▶ Progressing as planned
- ▼ Not promoted for the time being



PURSuing THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION THROUGH RESEARCH

Through science and research, we gain new knowledge and make sustainable solutions based on it. Through such solutions, we make a difference in the wider society. In research, we foster dialogue and integrate into our operations various methods of knowing. We produce cultural and knowledge capital that is based not only on research, but also on integrity, tolerance and lifelong learning. Moreover, the sustainability of research includes observing the principles of responsible conduct of research, supporting the principles of open science and promoting a complex global perspective in the pursuit of solutions to sustainability challenges.

In the spirit of global responsibility, we are committed to building an increasingly sustainable future by producing knowledge to help develop solutions to both local and global problems. By means of responsible and ethical research, we are increasing knowledge that benefits society in conditions and research and teaching environments safe to all.



RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

- Sustainability research and global partnerships
- Safe research and teaching environment
- Responsible research

Over the course of the year, we made progress in the priority areas chosen for research as expected and achieved, among others, the following goals: For example, we increased the number of strategic doctoral researcher positions in the multidisciplinary research themes of sustainable development by recruiting 10 multidisciplinary doctoral researchers focused on these themes, strengthened our global partnerships by establishing an exchange programme for early-career researchers at African universities and contributed to protecting threatened scholars through the Scholars at Risk network.

The progress of measures related to research is described in more detail in the table on page 25 of the report.



SOLVING CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION AND WELLBEING

Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies **Urbaria** is a network-based and multidisciplinary operator within the University of Helsinki that brings urban studies under one roof and develops public engagement in the field.

Urbaria Postdoc Forum is a multidisciplinary group of postdoctoral researchers in urban studies funded by the cities of Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa. In 2022, postdoctoral researchers were recruited in the final recruitment round to investigate urban ecology and diversity, urban housing and migration, as well as sustainable mobility and artificial intelligence.

The topics of the **Urbaria Summaries Series** included urban schools and disadvantage, poverty in Helsinki and the meanings connected to urban areas in online discussion. The Urbaria Summaries Series is a popular series publishing Urbaria's research summaries and brief thematic research reviews. The publications are useful for both decision-making pertaining to urban areas and stakeholder activities.

4

faculties

154

researchers from a range of fields

80

research projects

Urbaria researchers produced

286

publications, increasing the number of co-authored Urbaria publications to

1,110



**INSTITUTE FOR ATMOSPHERIC AND EARTH
SYSTEM RESEARCH INAR**

The top-level research conducted at the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research INAR strengthens atmospheric and environmental research in Finland and globally, as well as produces research-based knowledge for the benefit of society. The institute conducts research on both the molecular and global levels, in particular with regard to climate change, air quality, biogeochemical cycles and ecosystem processes.

- ◆ Its national partners are the Finnish Meteorological Institute, the University of Eastern Finland and Tampere University.
- ◆ INAR has **more than 250 members** from the fields of physics, chemistry, meteorology, forestry, environmental sciences and the social sciences.

Table 2. INAR publications during 2020–2022

Source: Tuhat database, 24 March 2023

Type of Publication	2020	2021	2022
Number of scholarly peer-reviewed publications (A, C)	288	337	311
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	22	39	17

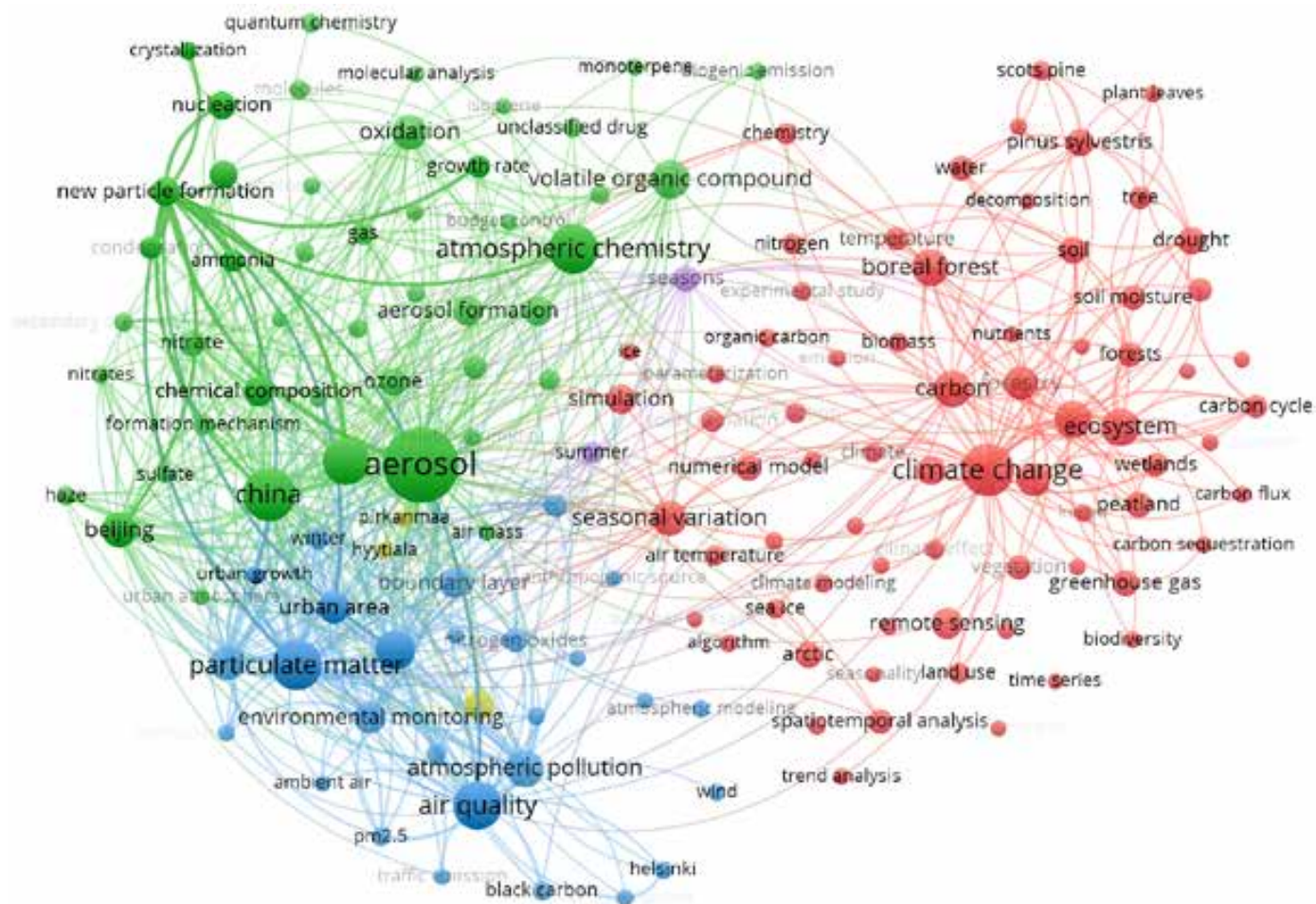


Figure 2. INAR publications during 2020–2022, co-word analysis, VOSviewer (data: Scopus)

INAR conducted significant research on climate and sustainability themes in 2022, as well evidenced in a co-word analysis based on publications, where three central, interconnected research themes stand out: ecosystem processes and ecosystem-climate interaction (red), atmospheric processes and aerosol-climate interaction (green), as well as emissions caused by human activity and air quality-climate interaction (blue).

The analysis can be examined in further detail on the INAR website.

ACCC UTILISES RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE TO DEVELOP PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

The Atmosphere and Climate Competence Center (ACCC) Flagship, coordinated by the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research INAR, focuses on investigating the climate and the atmosphere as well as the societal impact of this research. New research initiatives included the **ForClimate project**, which investigates the role of forests in climate change, and the cross-disciplinary **Interactions of Earth Components (InterEarth)** project, in which the interactions and feedback between all Earth components – biosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere and atmosphere – are investigated from the perspective of environmental research.

In addition, ACCC is involved, for example, in the **Climademy** project, which is building a European climate change academy for teachers.

The **Safer Climate** network was established to boost the interaction between research, art and civil society.

The growth of ACCC's collaboration network was also boosted by, among others, a scientific conference organised at Tampere University with hundreds of participants, the Data as the basis for policy, innovation and education session at COP27, and the appointment of Professor Markku Kulmala, ACCC's director, as a council member of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).



MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND BROAD-BASED RESEARCH ON DIVERSE QUESTIONS OF INEQUALITY

INEQ is a multidisciplinary research community whose researchers produce results that increase understanding of the causes and consequences of intersectional inequalities. Eight faculties are involved in the community: the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Educational Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Social Sciences as well as the Swedish School of Social Science.

Table 3. INEQ publications during 2020–2022
Source: Tuhat database, 24 March 2023

Type of Publication	2020	2021	2022
Number of scholarly peer-reviewed publications (A, C)	315	433	277
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	176	170	105

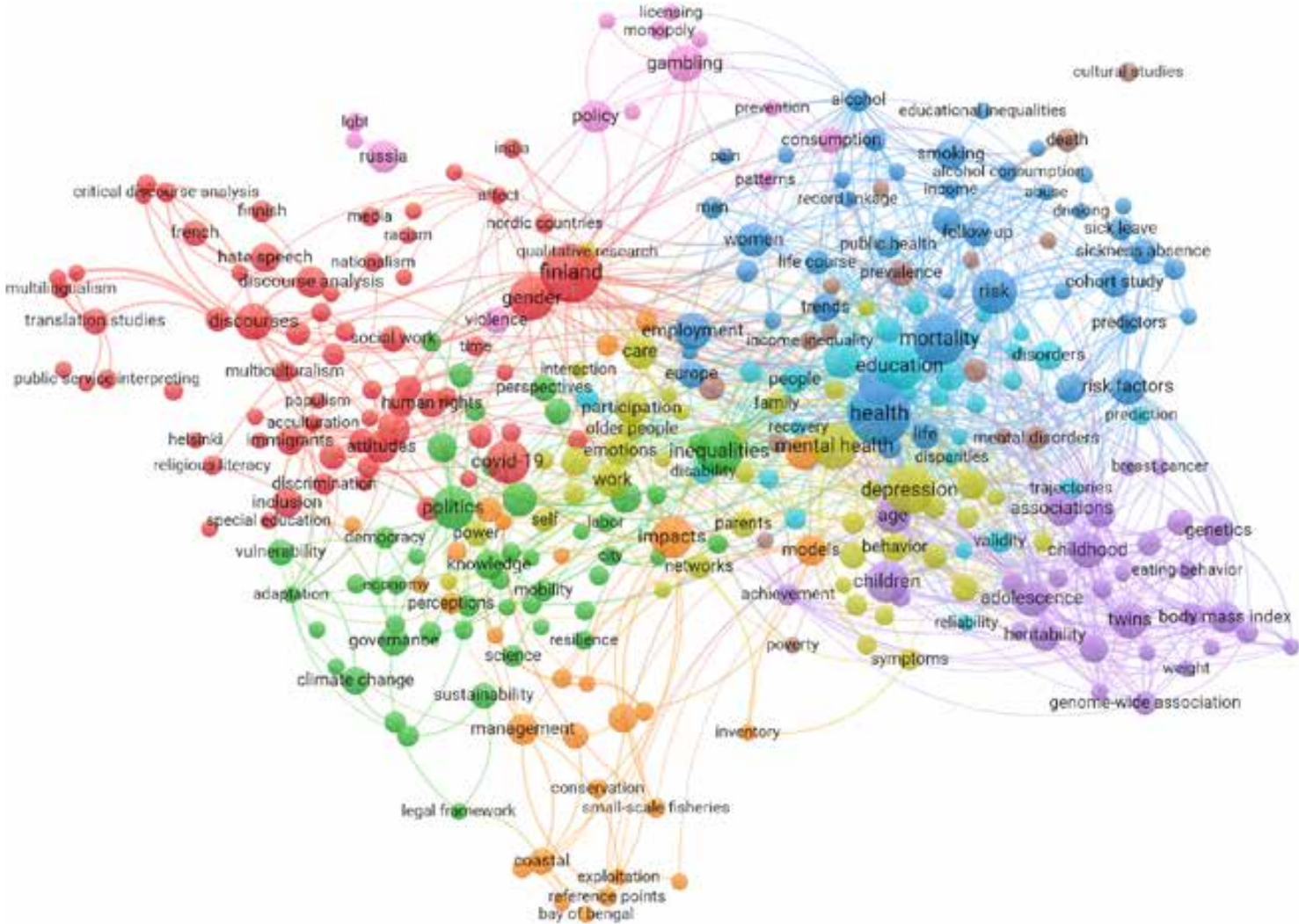


Figure 3. INEQ publications during 2022–2022, co-word analysis, VOSviewer (data: Tuhat database)
Inequalities are examined in relation to a range of factors and positions, as well as their intersections. The analysis shows that gender, for example, is linked in the study of inequalities to the study of education, mortality, ageing, work, politics, care, substance abuse and violence. In contrast, research associated with education is broadly linked to themes such as socioeconomic status, health, employment, gender and social inequality. The visualisation also demonstrates that the Covid-19 pandemic gained a lot of ground in the inequality research conducted at our University. Inequalities are studied by utilising a range of methods, particularly in the fields of social sciences, demography, health science, economics and education as well as multidisciplinary research in the fields of gender and migration. The analysis can be examined in further detail on the [INEQ website](#).



Helsinki One Health HOH is a research network that was established to support and coordinate research at the University of Helsinki on the shared health issues of humans and animals. The network focuses on the interaction between the health of animal and human populations in a rapidly changing environment.

Table 4. HOH publications during 2020–2022
Source: Tuhat database, 24 March 2023

Type of Publication	2020	2021	2022
Number of scholarly peer-reviewed publications (A, C)	255	305	260
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	45	44	14

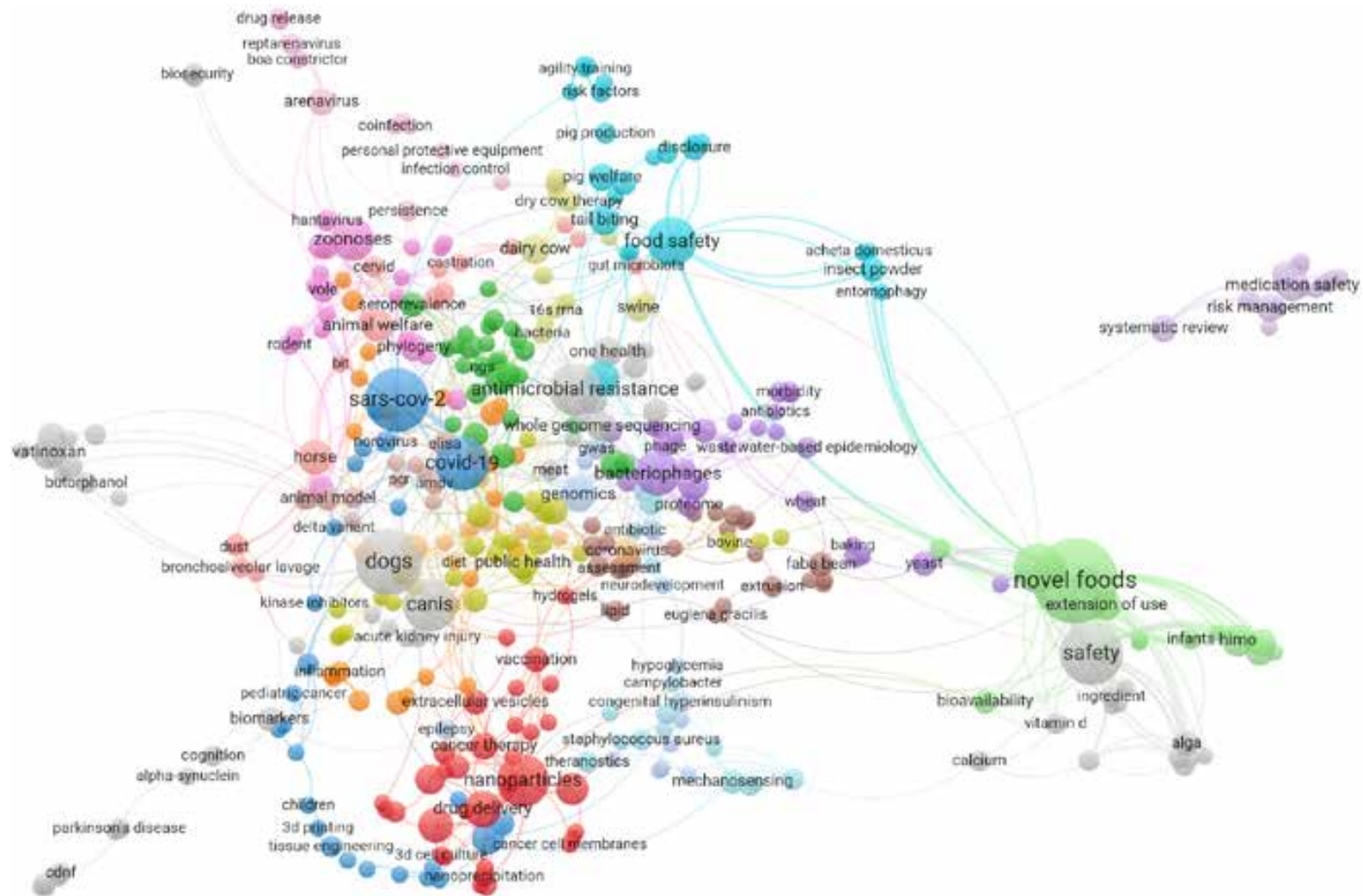


Figure 4. HOH publications during 2020–2022, co-word analysis, VOSviewer (data: Scopus)

The analysis can be examined in further detail on the HOH website.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Africa Programme

We launched a programme related to our Africa Programme for 2021–2030, which supports early-career scholars in Africa and brings them together with top-level researchers from the University of Helsinki. The purpose of the programme is to increase collaboration in Africa and support new ambitious research and education collaboration. A total of 22 researchers applied to the programme, of whom six were selected. They received grants for visits of 4 to 10 months to the University of Helsinki.

Read more about related research: Virus research in Kenya can prevent future pandemics

The University of Helsinki's Taita Research Station in Kenya is looking for transdisciplinary solutions to humanity's biggest challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pandemics. Thanks to a donation made by the Weisell Foundation, a new virus laboratory with a high biosafety level is to be built at Taita, opening up a wealth of opportunities for viral research.



INDIGENOUS STUDIES ACROSS TRADITIONAL DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES

The focus areas of indigenous studies at the University of Helsinki include research methods and ethics among indigenous peoples, epistemological diversity, biocultural diversity, rights and history, and the arts and languages of indigenous peoples. Indigenous studies reaches across traditional disciplinary boundaries, emphasising sustainable and ethical research in cooperation with indigenous peoples.

[Read more about indigenous studies.](#)

Read more about related research: Investigating experiences of biodiversity in the Amazon

The five-year interdisciplinary Conceptualising Biodiversity in Amazonia research project examines local experiences and understanding of biodiversity in the local community of the Amazon in Brazil, utilising participatory research methods.



TOP-LEVEL EXPERTISE IN THE FIELDS OF ARCTIC STUDIES

We published the **University of Helsinki Arctic Programme 2022–2030**, which outlines our efforts to develop research, education, interaction and international collaboration related to the Arctic.

[Explore the programme.](#)

The Arctic region is one of the five research themes of the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science HELSUS. The theme is aimed at putting questions on climate change, sustainability and changing environments in the Arctic into practice by providing them with a multidisciplinary platform. Other research themes at HELSUS include consumption and production, Global South, theory and methodology, and urban regions.

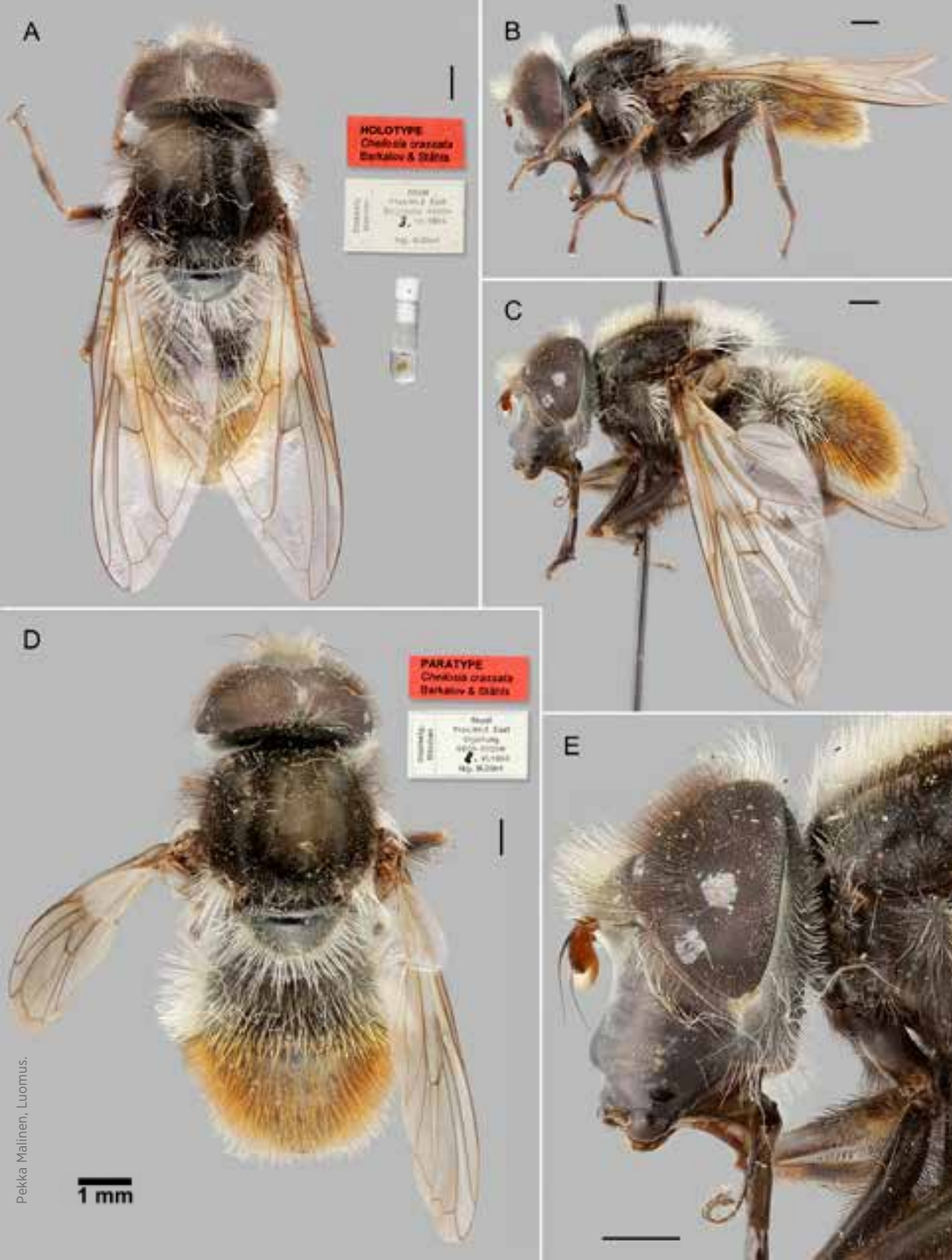


RESEARCHERS AS DRIVERS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

The research field of several new professors appointed in 2022 is closely linked to sustainability and responsibility. Their research topics are related to, among other things, the urban climate, particle research in the Arctic, the link between the health crisis and the sustainability transition, the sustainability of the food culture and the opportunities provided by plant-derived food products in issues related to food sufficiency, as well as equality in the labour market.

[See the University website for more information.](#)





➤ MAKING BIODIVERSITY VISIBLE

The vast majority of Earth's organisms are without a scientific name. Every year, researchers at the [Finnish Museum of Natural History Luomus](#) describe dozens of species new to science, as well as investigate the evolutionary history and systematics of organisms. Named species are needed in research and society. Without names, we cannot unambiguously communicate which species we are talking about, and only named species can be included in threat assessments or be protected. The species named in 2022 included representatives of coleoptera, hymenoptera, lepidoptera and syrphids. The valuable type specimens of these species are preserved in the collections of Luomus.

➤ INVESTMENTS IN THE AVAILABILITY AND OPENNESS OF KNOWLEDGE

We fared well in the national monitoring of open science. On a scale of 1 to 5, the University's openness was rated at 4, which is also the national average for Finnish universities.









Helsinki University Press (HUP) is an open scholarly publishing house operating under Helsinki University Library, whose publishing activities have grown and rapidly become increasingly international in its first two years of operations. HUP promotes open science and publishing in a concrete manner, helps consolidate the operating models of open access publishing, and serves as an example to others.

In September, Helsinki University Library launched the **Avoimella otteella ('An open approach') science podcast**, where members of the University community who utilise open-access publishing channels describe, from the perspective of their teaching or research activities, the key elements of increasingly open science.

The Alfred Kordelin Foundation awarded the National Library of Finland a **grant to improve the accessibility of Sámi linguistic and cultural material**. The Major Cultural Project grant enables the creation of support for the Northern Sámi language in three digital services administered by the National Library and utilised by many other operators: Finna, Finto and Kotoistus. This will improve the visibility and findability of Sámi information and cultural heritage material. Information retrieval in Northern Sámi will also be facilitated.



Our progress in the measures recorded under the **research** element of the sustainability and responsibility plan:

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS	STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE	
Sustainability research and global partnerships			
We will strengthen inter-faculty initiatives related to sustainability research which is inter- and transdisciplinary and solution-oriented through the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science HELSUS.	▶	2022–2024	 
We will increase strategic doctoral researcher positions in the multidisciplinary research themes of sustainable development by selecting 10 multidisciplinary doctoral researchers focused on these themes.	▲	2022–2026	
We will strengthen our global partnerships, for example, by establishing an exchange programme for Early Career researchers working at African universities, connected to the goals of sustainable development.	▲	2022–2025	
We will develop ways of monitoring and analysing the share of publications related to research on sustainable development.	▶	2022–2024	
We will host UniPID (Finnish University Partnership for International Development), and support the network’s actions for the establishment of responsible global academic partnerships, including their initiative to devise ethical guidelines for academic collaboration with the Global South.	▶	2021–2024	
Safe research and teaching environment			
We will contribute to protection of threatened scholars through actions within the Scholars at Risk network, and related funding arrangements. We will chair the Finnish section of Scholars at Risk in 2022–2023.	▲	2022–2023	  
Responsible research			
We will reinforce the support provided to academic staff in issues of research ethics. We will create online training on research integrity for supervisors and researchers. We will offer training in responsible research.	▶	2022–2024	  
We will actively support responsible research data management through our research data policy and data protection principles and their implementation.			
We will support the principles of open science, research and learning as part of responsible research. We will establish a coordination body for open science and research, outline objectives for open science and research, and formulate rules for the provision of open infrastructures and data. We will integrate qualifications in open science and research into the assessment of research and researchers.	▶	January 2024	

- ▲ Completed
- ▶ Progressing as planned
- ▼ Not promoted for the time being

SUSTAINABILITY AS PART OF EDUCATION

Knowledge and learning are for everyone. We wish to educate changemakers and teach learners of all ages the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to tackle complex global challenges. In the spirit of open knowledge and lifelong learning, we are continuously developing a range of opportunities for continuous learning. Our goal is to permanently integrate sustainability themes into all of our degree programmes and the expertise of our staff. In the field of teaching too, we wish to further intensify our efforts with our global partners to enable learning and change across national and continental borders.



TEACHING

PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022-2024

- Sustainability in education
- Global partnerships
- Continuous learning

In the priority areas associated with teaching, we took big strides towards our goals during the year, some of which were achieved. Among other things, we published a sustainability micro-credential long under preparation in the Una Europa alliance, and included sustainability studies in the curricula of degree programmes to be launched in autumn 2023. We also implemented the One Health Early Career Champions partnership with the University of Nairobi.

The progress of measures related to teaching is described in more detail in the table on page 32 of the report.



Velikko Somerpuro

11

faculties

96

bachelor's and master's programmes

30,996

degree students

26,100

bachelor's or master's level students

2,240

international degree students

263

students completed the Sustainability Course

971

open university courses

105,755

credits completed in continuous learning

71

students in the Master's Programme in Urban Studies and Planning

193

students in the Master's Programme in Environmental Change and Global Sustainability

48

students in the Master's Programme in Atmospheric Sciences



➤ A NEW MICROCREDENTIAL IN SUSTAINABILITY

In October we announced a **micro-credential in sustainability** designed as part of our Una Europa collaboration. The module provides students in different countries with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the principles of sustainable development in a multidisciplinary manner.

The micro-credential includes the following courses:

1. Introduction to Sustainability, 3 cr
2. Climate.now, 2 cr
3. Biodiversity.now, 2 cr
4. Political Economy of Sustainability, 2 cr
5. Sustainability and the Arts, 1 cr

[Read more about the micro-credential](#)

➤ WE STRENGTHENED THE SUSTAINABILITY SKILLS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

The curricula for degree programmes for the period 2023–2026 were approved at the end of the year. In connection with curriculum design, **sustainability expertise was included in the curricula of all degree programmes**, for example, by including in degrees studies in sustainability in the module for expert skills.

The University of Helsinki's **Sustainability Course** was piloted for the third time in the spring and the fourth time in the autumn. In total, roughly 470 students took the course during the year.

In the spring we established the **Teachers for Sustainability network**, the purpose of which is to strengthen sustainability teaching and bring together teachers providing teaching in sustainability themes. In support of teachers, we shot three instructional videos focused on integrating new sustainability expertise into university teaching.

Read more about the development of sustainability expertise in the [Educating Sustainability Experts blog](#).



Tuomas qusheimo

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY TEACHING FOR ALL

The Climate University is a network of 28 Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences headed by the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research INAR that develops climate and sustainability teaching at the institutions. The network has published 10 open online courses, with two new courses to be launched during 2023-2024.

SUSTAINABILITY INTEGRATED INTO STUDIES – COURSE EXAMPLES

The **Geographies of Inequalities course**, organised for the third time, taught discourse on sustainable development and analytical thinking. In their group assignments, students discussed complex transnational links that generate inequalities, such as global coffee production, energy as a national security issue, and transnational problems related to electronic waste.

Towards Better Wellbeing and Studying, a course open to all degree students organised by the Centre for University Teaching and Learning, focused on promoting and supporting wellbeing in studying, developing study skills and, consequently, supporting studying.



TEACHERS AS DRIVERS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

Laura Riuttanen, University Lecturer in atmospheric sciences, promotes the sustainability transition in the Una Europa network and beyond.

“What is really needed in our societies right now is change. Of course, research is extremely important – it’s important to have reliable knowledge and to produce new knowledge, but I think teaching is, above all, the right way to change our societies. Every year, thousands of students are taught at our universities. I believe universities can genuinely take the reins of the sustainability transition if the knowledge originating in them is combined with the training of thousands of students.”

[Read more about Laura’s work on the University website.](#)



SCIENCE EDUCATION AT RESEARCH STATIONS AND ON CAMPUSES







The Tvärminne Zoological Station offers **learning projects in marine research to groups of children and adolescents** of varying ages as well as to adults. Science education at the Tvärminne Zoological Station is part of the global effort to enhance ocean literacy, or to increase awareness and understanding of the significance of the oceans and seas as part of the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 declared by the UN.

Since spring 2022, the Värriö Subarctic Research Station has offered **climate and environmental education to the general upper secondary schools** in Salla, Savukoski and Sodankylä. From autumn 2023 onwards, the scheme will be expanded, with the support of the Finnish Cultural Foundation, to cover upper secondary education institutions in the entire eastern and northern regions of Lapland. The teaching will be organised as field courses at the Värriö Subarctic Research Station and the Kilpisjärvi Biological Station. The courses focus on climate change, nature and natural resources from the perspective of northern Finland, with the aim of increasing regional equality in the accessibility of the University of Helsinki and research-based knowledge.

We organised an **adventure art camp for children** in the Kumpula Botanic Garden, during which the children visited the garden, created artworks, discussed biodiversity and the remote conservation of plants, as well as learned skills in urban adventure and nature.

As a new arena for science education, a pop-up section was opened on the fourth floor of the Natural History Museum, which will provide much-needed additional space for temporary exhibitions. The first exhibition in the space was constructed in close cooperation with the Tvärminne Zoological Station, celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Our progress in the measures recorded under the **teaching** element of the sustainability and responsibility plan:

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS	STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE	
Sustainability in education			
In connection with planning the curriculum period 2023–2026, we will draw up joint policies and guidelines for strengthening sustainability expertise. Sustainability and responsibility will be integrated into the model of academic specialist skills.	▲	2022	 
We will implement a project on the promotion of sustainable development in teaching, in which degree programmes will develop ways of integrating sustainability themes into their content. The project will support degree programmes in implementing the sustainability policies for curriculum design in practice and will encourage faculties and degree programmes to implement shared multidisciplinary sustainability teaching activities.	▶	2022–2024	
We will strengthen the pedagogical expertise of teachers and degree programme directors, taking the UN Sustainable Development Goals into account, by developing a course entitled Generic Academic Skills and Constructive Alignment for teachers and by redesigning the training of senior lecturers in university pedagogy and the curriculum in university pedagogy.	▶		
Each year, we will organise the HELSUS Co-creation Lab to enable master’s students to explore key sustainability challenges in their master’s theses together with collaboration partners.	▶		
Global partnerships			
We will implement One Health Early Career Champions collaboration together with the University of Nairobi.	▲	2021–2022	 
We will strengthen equal collaboration with partners in the Global South through global pilots, such as the Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning (GINTL) that promotes solutions for global education challenges.	▶	2021–2024	
We will host the UniPID (Finnish University Partnership for International Development) network, and for example their support for creating collaborative online courses with partners from the Global South.	▶		
Continuous learning			
We will develop a micro-skills programme in sustainable development as part of the Una Europa network and will offer the programme as part of our continuous learning provision.	▲	By 2023	 
We will actively develop our continuous learning provision and collaboration with other higher education institutions. We will commit to coordinating and developing the Climate University network and will offer related courses to our students. We will support the formation of the national Biodiversity Education Network.	▶	2022–2024	
We will develop the sustainability expertise of our staff through the ‘Responsible University’ programme. We will draw up two new sections for the programme: sustainability and responsibility in the University’s operational environment, and a sustainability MOOC for staff. We will offer staff the ‘Equal University’ training programme.	▶		

▲ Completed

▶ Progressing as planned

▼ Not promoted for the time being

COLLABORATION FOR AN INCREASINGLY SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Responding to current global challenges requires collaboration with various operators and sectors of society. As a university, we recognise our responsibilities and opportunities for influence in society. We wish to promote local, regional, national and international forms of cooperation and partnerships, and to increasingly integrate research-based knowledge into societal decision-making.



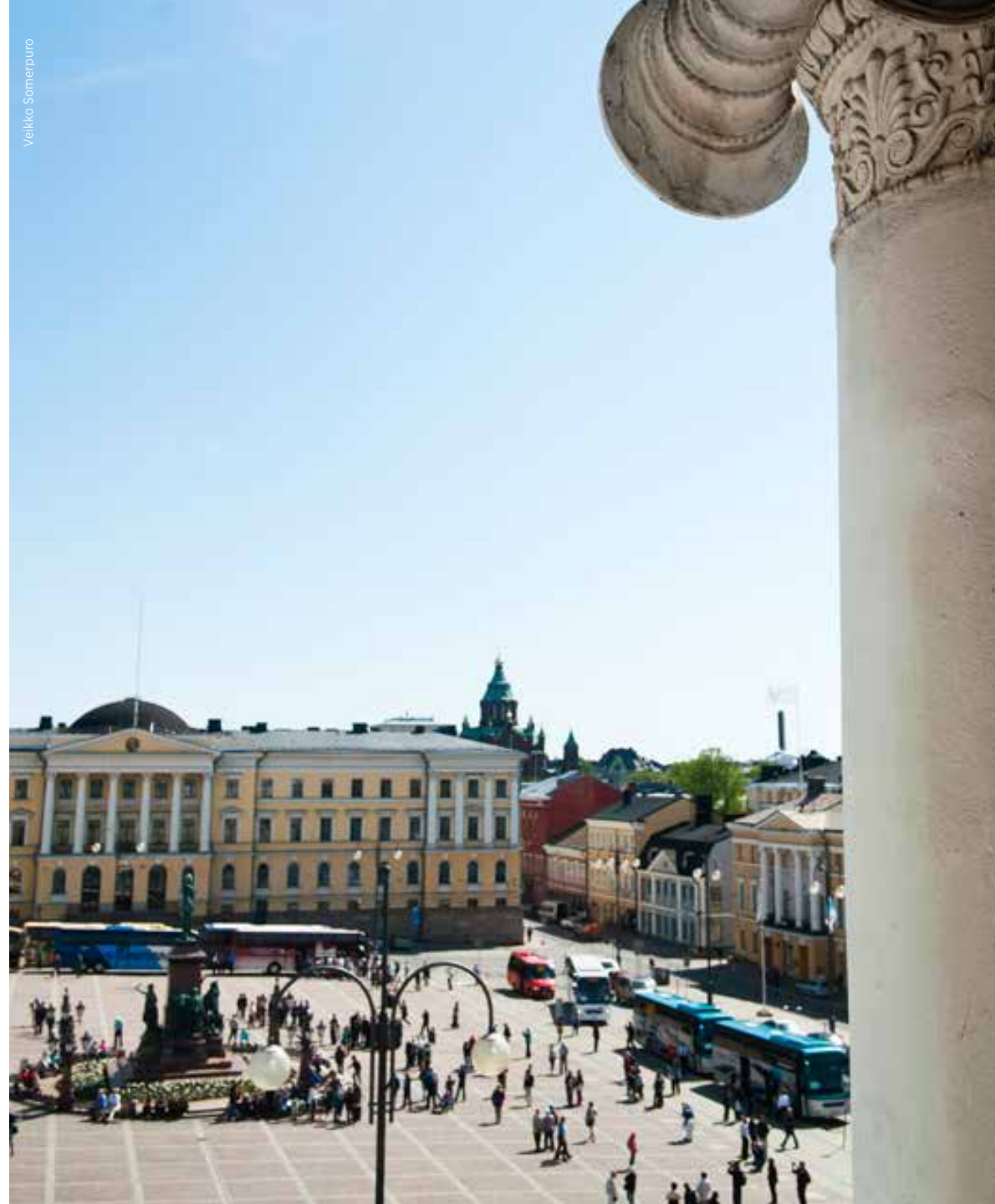
SOCIETAL INTERACTION

PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

- Research-based knowledge in decision-making
- Responsible partnerships
- National and international cooperation

Over the course of the year, we made progress according to plan in many aspects of the priority areas for societal interaction. We strove to bring research-based knowledge to the public by organising several sustainability-themed events open to all during the year. We made the theme of sustainability and responsibility an increasingly integral part of all University communications. Together with Aalto University, we organised the annual Sustainability Science Days conference. To strengthen responsible partnerships, we updated the ethical guidelines for business collaboration. In addition, we created opportunities for promoting innovations focused on sustainability. At the same time, we fell slightly behind, for example, in our goal of improving the assessment and management of risks in international collaboration by the end of the year, which is why we need to invest in this in the future.

The progress of measures related to societal interaction is described in more detail in the table on page 48 of the report.



Veikko Somerpuro

➤ WE RESPONDED QUICKLY TO AN UNEXPECTED INTERNATIONAL CRISIS

Russia's military aggression in Ukraine shocked the entire University community. In March 2022, soon after the war began, we expressed our support for Ukraine and its academic community, denouncing Russia's military action in the country. Together with other Finnish universities, we expressed our support for Ukraine through [Universities Finland \(UNIFI\)](#) and a [statement](#) by the European University Association.

Examples of our support measures during the year:

- Discussion sessions open to all were organised to support the community and maintain wellbeing in the exceptional circumstances.
- More than **280** members of the community donated almost **€167,500** to students and researchers fleeing the war who wanted to continue their studies at the University of Helsinki.
- As a community, we collected **more than 32 cubic metres** of humanitarian aid in just a few days.
- We donated **€50,000** to victims of war through UNICEF. In addition, the University Pharmacy donated a total of **€20,000**.
- We provided salary subsidies to Ukrainian researchers.
- We offered **free-of-charge studies** to those who were forced to drop out of their university studies in Ukraine. All in all, the right to study was granted to 37 individuals. Some students received a grant that enabled them to continue studying as exchange students.
- A total of **170** students were granted the right to complete open university courses free of charge.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture awarded **€250,000** to a project at the Faculty of Social Sciences, which is developing English-language educational offerings to meet the needs of Ukrainian students fleeing the war.

[Read more about our efforts for Ukraine on the University website.](#)



➤ EXPEDITING THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION THROUGH INNOVATION AND BUSINESS COLLABORATION

We received a significant donation from the City of Helsinki to promote research and innovation. The city awarded a total of **€1,177,830** from its Innovation Fund for the implementation of the Kumpula innovation campus project in 2023–2025. The project is aimed at developing the innovation environment of Kumpula Campus as part of the University of Helsinki's new innovation operations and to strengthen broad-based research and innovation cooperation with businesses on the campus. The goal is to establish an innovation platform and hub for AI, sustainability and deep technology themes on the campus, bringing businesses and research together.

[Read more on the University website.](#)

➤ PRESENTING FUTURE-PROOF RESEARCH-BASED INNOVATIONS AT EVENTS

At the major international startup event **Slush**, the University of Helsinki and Helsinki Innovation Services Ltd (HIS) presented, in addition to 16 spinouts founded on research conducted at the University, research projects in advanced stages of commercialisation representing excellence in their fields. This was the eighth time the University and HIS participated in Slush.

Among the 16 innovations were solutions related to boosting the human immune system, practical medical and pharmaceutical applications, molecular technology as well as protein alternatives and healthier lipids. Among the presenters was **MyShroom**, a project seeking an alternative to animal proteins, which is developing a mycoprotein based on mycelium.

[Read more about the event on the University website.](#)

We also participated in the **Arctic15 event**, which promoted networking in the spheres of circular economy, food systems as well as the climate and sustainability. The event brings together high technology, growth companies, funders and support organisations. From the University of Helsinki, experts representing the Viikki Innovation Platform, the Viikki campus incubator programme and the University of Helsinki Funds attended the event, as did several potential companies from the University of Helsinki and Viikki.



➤ PRE-INCUBATORS FOR SOCIETALLY IMPACTFUL IDEAS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS

SÄRÖ/FRACTURE, a **pre-incubator** focused on societally impactful ideas under Helsinki Incubators, launched in the autumn with 14 teams. The central themes of the ideas chosen for the inaugural programme of the pre-incubator were wellbeing, inclusivity and increasing understanding between communities.

In the Compass pre-incubator, which focuses on deep-tech solutions and artificial intelligence, 15 teams developed solutions related to environmental sustainability into business ideas with the help of artificial intelligence and other technologies.

The teams chosen for the circular economy-oriented **Circulator 1.0 pre-incubator** came up with ideas for, for example, the recycling of clothing, sports equipment and coffee as well as for the repair of goods, and sustainable local food production.

The pre-incubators are made possible by the City of Helsinki.

➤ INCUBATORS FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A call for applications to Helsinki Incubators' six-month **Biosphere business incubator** for new impactful bioeconomy and circular economy solutions was launched late in the year. The purpose of Biosphere is to offer support to innovators in the bioeconomy and circular economy, previously unseen at this level at the University of Helsinki.

The first **NEXUS incubator** programme brought together 20 talented innovator and entrepreneur teams from the deep tech, AI and sustainable development sectors.

At the end of the year, the **TREMOR incubator** focused on societal impact, the reduction of inequality and education was launched, with 16 teams participating. In the third round of applications for the **Urban Tech Helsinki incubator**, solutions were sought, in particular, to the challenges of sustainable urban development.

Read more about our business incubators.





➤ HELSINKI THINK COMPANY PROGRAMMES FOCUSED ON SOCIETAL THEMES

Helsinki Think Company, a community of academic entrepreneurship at the University of Helsinki, organised in 2022 several programmes related to sustainability and impact. The Hack for Society programme brought together politicians, researchers and students to solve societal problems identified by scholarly research, while in the 4UNI solution competition student teams developed socially, ecologically and economically sustainable solutions to the challenges of well-functioning professional life and a vibrant city. In the autumn, business ideas related to the circular economy were developed in the Circular Economy Sprint. In the weekend-long Gam-e-Quality and Kollaasi design sprints, people created solutions addressing the inequality of the gaming industry and a sustainable future for the arts and culture sector.

[Read more about Think Company's year](#) (in Finnish only).

➤ PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION OF THE FOOD SYSTEM

Viikki Food Design Factory is a home for food innovation on Viikki Campus. It brings together food and innovation specialists and facilitates the creation of new sustainable solutions related to the primary production, processing, distribution and consumption of food. Viikki Food Design Factory is a place where new sustainable food and food system solutions are introduced to the world and developed into innovations for the benefit of people and society.

The Germinator pre-incubator brings innovation teams and businesses in the food system sector together to germinate inventions into functional solutions for the market. Seven teams and early-stage startups were chosen for the second Germinator round: Arctic Farming, BinkiApp, Five Letter Foods, Molt, Montinutra, Squee and Three Mushketeers. During this round, the Pre-Germinator programme for University of Helsinki students was piloted, with students inspired to innovate sustainable food system solutions and supported in putting their ideas into practice.



➤ A UNIVERSITY FUND SUPPORTS STUDENT STARTUPS

The **HELSEED entrepreneurship programme** targeted at students was organised for the third time. In the programme, the most promising startups can obtain an investment of €10,000–€50,000 from the University of Helsinki Funds. In addition, credits are awarded for participation in the programme.

You can read more about Evexia and Evergreen Walls, recipients of HELSEED funding, on the [University website](#) and in [Finnish-language blog entries by Think Company](#).

➤ MASTER'S THESES ON SUSTAINABILITY THEMES THROUGH BUSINESS COLLABORATION

At the **HELSUS Co-Creation Lab**, master's students tackle sustainability challenges presented by business partners and complete their master's theses on topics developed during the process. The aim is to introduce future experts to pressing sustainability issues. The partners can include businesses as well as operators in the public and third sectors. The University of Helsinki was a partner in the 2022–2023 HELSUS Co-Creation Lab for the first time. The other partners were Helen, Valmet, Metsä Group and Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY.



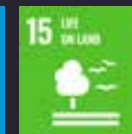


INFLUENCING LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

Researchers from the University of Helsinki actively contributed to the **Expert Panel for Sustainable Development**, the **Finnish Climate Change Panel** and the **Finnish Nature Panel**. The panels promote dialogue between research and politics in questions related to sustainability, the climate and the environment, and provide recommendations for the Finnish government. In 2022 the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science HELSUS coordinated the Expert Panel for Sustainable Development, while the Climate Change Panel's secretariat is located at the University of Helsinki. The secretariat also coordinates communications by the Nature Panel.

In early 2022, the sixth climate report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was published. Associate Professor Annalea Lohila from the University of Helsinki's Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research and the Finnish Meteorological Institute was the only Finn among the 234 lead authors of the physical science section of the report.

Urbaria launched and coordinated the roundtable discussion on urban policy held by the University of Helsinki and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment in June. The discussion was hosted by Minister Mika Lintilä and Rector Sari Lindblom.





➤ COOPERATION WITH THE CITIES IN THE HELSINKI METROPOLITAN AREA

The **Urban Academy** is a collaboration platform for research-based urban development coordinated by the University of Helsinki, Aalto University as well as the Cities of Espoo, Helsinki and Vantaa, which promotes interaction between urban studies and urban development while supporting multidisciplinary collaboration.

In 2022 the annual theme of the Urban Academy was urban climate action. The Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies Urbaria actively contributed to the planning and implementation of the annual programme of the Urban Academy.

Networking meetings of the Urbaria Postdoc Forum were organised on the Urban Academy's collaboration platform.

Urbaria continued to organise the joint **Urban Lunch Hour** series of the City of Helsinki, the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the University of Helsinki and Aalto University, and the **Urbaria Academic** seminar series at the University of Helsinki.

Urbaria and the Urban Academy continued to collaboratively organise science sparring. Science sparring is a dialogue-based method for bringing together topical research-based knowledge and perspectives as well as the expertise of professionals involved in practical application. The topics in last year's science sparring included support for a sustainable lifestyle in various population groups and the role of cities, as well as ecological compensation. Climate-themed science sparring was also organised for city councillors in Helsinki, Espoo and Vantaa.



◆ HELSUS EVENTS ATTRACT A BROAD AUDIENCE

The theme of the annual **Sustainability Science Days event**, organised collaboratively by HELSUS and Aalto University, was 'Systemic transformations to sustainable futures in a globally connected world and highlight the urgency to act now.' The event was held on 18-19 May, with attendance possible on Otaniemi Campus and online. More than 1,300 participants from around the world had registered for the event.

The **Where are the limits!?** event celebrated the 50th anniversary of the publication of The Limits of Growth report. Professor Emeritus Jørgen Randers, one of the authors of the report, spoke at the event, which was organised in cooperation with the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland Kela and the Club of Rome.

In addition, HELSUS continued to organise the Viikki Sustainability Research Seminar, Global South Encounters, Sustainability Discussion Group, HELSUS Brown Bag Lunch and HELSUS Youth Forum seminar series and events.



EVENTS OPEN TO ALL AND COMMUNICATION ON SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

As a significant societal operator, we recognise our responsibility for highlighting questions of sustainability and responsibility as extensively as possible also outside the University community. Over the course of the year, we organised a number of sustainability-themed events and series open to all. In addition, sustainability issues constitute a focus area for University communications, with the sustainability transition being one of the communication spearheads towards the end of the year.

- ◆ In the **Suunnanmuutos event series** at Think Corner, consideration was given to how the economy, lifestyles as well as energy and food production can be redesigned while maintaining – and improving – the health of humans, the environment and animals. The floor was given to top-level experts from the University of Helsinki and elsewhere. The series reached more than 1,200 people on site at Think Corner and over live streams. The YouTube videos and podcast episodes of the series garnered roughly 62,000 starts in the final weeks of the year 2022.
- ◆ Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish Nature Panel, the **Pysäytetäänkö luontokato?** ('Can biodiversity loss be stopped?') event was also held at Think Corner.

Sustainability issues were also discussed in the **Pinnalla** ('Current issues') discussion series at Think Corner, organised in collaboration with the Helsingin Sanomat daily. In the session held in April, experts assessed Finland's climate measures in light of the latest IPCC report.

- ◆ In the **Kaiken maailman terveys** ('Global health) events, the focus was on human, animal and environmental health as a single global interconnected whole.
- ◆ A great deal of research-based news pertaining to the theme of sustainability were published on the helsinki.fi website. Sustainability-related topics were also highlighted in the articles published in the **Akatemia service of the MustRead online media outlet** and in the University's **Utelias mieli ('A curious mind') podcast**.

- ◆ In the **Sustainable Development Week** organised by the Student Union of the University of Helsinki, the focus was on the manifold challenges of consumption from different perspectives.





➤ INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON SUSTAINABILITY THEMES

- ◆ We were active in the sustainability group of the **Una Europa alliance**. Sustainability was chosen as a cross-cutting theme for the four-year Una Futura project launched in 2022. As part of the collaboration, we also coordinated a panel discussion in the Una Europa Talk series entitled 'Shaping our future together – Europe and Africa, solving global challenges', which focused on strengthening cooperation between the two continents. We also participated in the sustainability group of the **League of European Research Universities (LERU)**.
- ◆ In December, we joined the **Nature Positive Universities network** as a founding member. The aim of the network is to encourage universities and members of the academic community to take action to preserve biodiversity and slow down climate change. [Read more about the Nature Positive Universities network](#).
- ◆ **The Global Innovation Network for Teaching and Learning (GINTL)**, which is part of the national global pilots of the Ministry of Education and Culture, aims to promote the global connections of Finnish higher education institutions particularly in the educational sciences. The network of 20 universities and universities of applied sciences is developing novel forms of partnership for solving global educational challenges. The University of Helsinki coordinates the GINTL China and GINTL Africa projects.
As part of the activities, GINTL seed funding was awarded to eleven initiatives by researchers and students relating to the challenges of global education and international partnerships. [Read about the initiatives that received funding here](#).
- ◆ The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) protects animal and plant species that are threatened by international trade. **The Finnish Institute of Natural History is the scientific CITES authority in Finland**. The work involves, among other things, the identification of seized specimens and participation in international conservation cooperation.



NATURE INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC USE

Luomus experts investigate changes occurring in nature with the help of long-term monitoring. Launched in 2022 were the national pollinator monitoring scheme and a project focused on methods for organising long-term monitoring of species of decaying trees. The data are utilised in conservation work, land use planning and environmental impact assessments.

- ◆ With a total of **more than 400,000 visitors**, the four public attractions of Luomus reached a new visitor record.
- ◆ Nearly **8,500** people attended guided tours. The largest group of clients was primary schools, followed by daycare centres and pre-schools. Groups of general upper secondary school students and adults also visited the attractions.
- ◆ Luomus's public attractions are involved in the **culture companion scheme** of the City of Helsinki. The activities are intended for anyone who finds it difficult to attend a cultural event, or who would prefer to attend an event accompanied by another person.
- ◆ Luomus initiated **collaboration with the city library in Viikki**. As a result of the collaboration, you can, for example, "borrow" tickets to the Natural History Museum.





THE PASSION FOR THE BALTIC SEA PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

provided a unique look under the surface of the Baltic Sea. The free-of-charge exhibition open to all by the Tvärminne Zoological Station at Think Corner introduced the submarine habitats of the Baltic Sea, such as underwater forests of bladderwrack, eelgrass meadows and blue mussel reefs, as well as species living in them, including the colourful three-spined sticklebacks, flounders and straight-nosed pipefish.

The United Nations has proclaimed the period 2021-2030 as a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Knowledge gained through marine research is crucial for solving the global biodiversity and climate crisis.



➤ ALUMNI AS PART OF PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

Together with our alumni, we constitute the largest network of experts in Finland.

The themes of sustainability and responsibility were strongly highlighted in our alumni events:

- ◆ We organised Alumni Insight events on the themes Luonnon monimuotoisuus – muutosta tekemässä ('Biodiversity – Making change') and Kestävä maailma – mission impossible? ('A sustainable world – Mission impossible?').
- ◆ In October, we organised a sustainability and responsibility-related evening session for alumni.
- ◆ In the Think & Lead morning session in May, we discussed the human sustainability of organisations and how to promote it.









At the end of the year, the number of registered alumni was

49,487



Veikko Somerpuro

Our progress in the measures recorded under the **societal interaction** element of the sustainability and responsibility plan:

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS	STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE	
Research-based knowledge in decision-making			
We will support decision-making and public discussion, promoting sustainable social development founded on research-based knowledge. We will organise Finland's largest sustainability science conference, the annual Sustainability Science Days, together with Aalto University.	▲	2022-2024	  
We will support the role of national advisory panels on science and research. Coordination responsibility for the Finnish Expert Panel for Sustainable Development in 2021-2022. Coordination of the communications of the Finnish Climate Change Panel and the Finnish Nature Panel.	▲		
We will promote collaboration with the City of Helsinki. We will strongly focus the direct impact activities of the urban collaboration engaged in the Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies (Urbaria) on themes of sustainability and responsibility between 2022 and 2024. Of the Urbaria activities, events in the Direct Dialogue series, science and research coaching, and the research discussions for leaders organised by the Urban Academy's strategic management group will focus from 2022 to 2024 on the theme of sustainability and how its impact can be enhanced.	▶		
We will aim to put the spotlight on sustainability and responsibility in all University communications.	▶		
Responsible partnerships			
We will update the ethical guidelines for business collaboration. We will draw up guidelines and, possibly, forms for the assessment of business collaboration partners involved in research.	▲	2022	  
We will strengthen the assessment of responsibility and sustainability as part of analysing the strategies of potential fundraising partners and examining the prospecting efforts of international partners.	▶	2022-2024	
We will improve the assessment and management of risks in international collaboration.	▼ *	Start 2022	
We will ensure that events organised at the University are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will create a University-level manual for organising sustainable events to obtain concrete tools and guidelines for events organised at the University or by the University community.	▶	June 2023	
We will advance the entrepreneurial skills of students and the academic community through the activities of Helsinki Think Company. The focus will be on influencing urgent social issues and developing concrete solutions to significant problems with the help of opportunities offered by entrepreneurship. We will support the sustainability transformation of society through campus incubator activities.	▶	2022-2024	
National and international cooperation			
We will participate actively in the Finn-ARMA and UNIFI sustainability groups as well as in various international networks (e.g., IUCA, SDSN Northern Europe). Active participation and promotion of sustainability and responsibility in international networks, such as the LERU and UNA Europa networks.	▲	2022-2024	 

- ▲ Completed
- ▶ Progressing as planned
- ▼ Not promoted for the time being

* Particular attention will be paid to promoting the measure in 2023.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH EVERY- DAY OPERATIONS

As a community of more than 40,000 people, we recognise our opportunities for influence in our daily operations. In our everyday action, we invest particularly in achieving our carbon neutrality goal, the promotion of biodiversity, the circular economy, the sustainability of procurement and responsible investment. We promote equality, non-discrimination and diversity as well as wellbeing in our community. We create a range of opportunities for members of our community to participate and influence.



DAILY OPERATIONS

PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

- Carbon neutrality
- Biodiversity and circular economy
- Sustainable procurement
- Responsible investing
- Equality and diversity
- Wellbeing and participation

Over the course of the year, we progressed as planned in many of the priority areas chosen to promote everyday sustainability and responsibility. For example, we drew up the Carbon neutral University of Helsinki by 2030 roadmap, which was published in April 2023. We intensified the use of workspaces, creating better opportunities for hybrid work and, consequently, the reduction of commuting. We revised the University's procurement and tendering principles, which emphasise the principles of moderation, sustainability and responsibility. With the focus on disability inclusion in our equality and diversity efforts in 2022, we provided our staff related training and developed our operations from the perspective of inclusion. We also took steps to improve student wellbeing and continued to promote anti-racism efforts. In spite of progress in many areas, we did not advance in all of our goals as planned during the year, which is why we will focus particularly on promoting them in the coming years.

The progress of measures related to daily operations is described in more detail in the table on page 66 of the report.



TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY

The project for a **carbon neutral University by 2030** launched in autumn 2021 progressed as planned during the year. In the project, the goal was to determine the method for calculating our carbon footprint and calculate it for the University, as well as to define the focus areas for reducing carbon emissions by 2030.

In the project, calculations were further defined from the previous years. In accordance with the new calculation method, the University's carbon footprint in 2022 was **62,448 tonnes of CO₂e**, of which facilities accounted for 49%, procurement for 35%, travel and transport for 12% and food for 4%.

For more information on our carbon neutrality efforts, see the [University website](#).

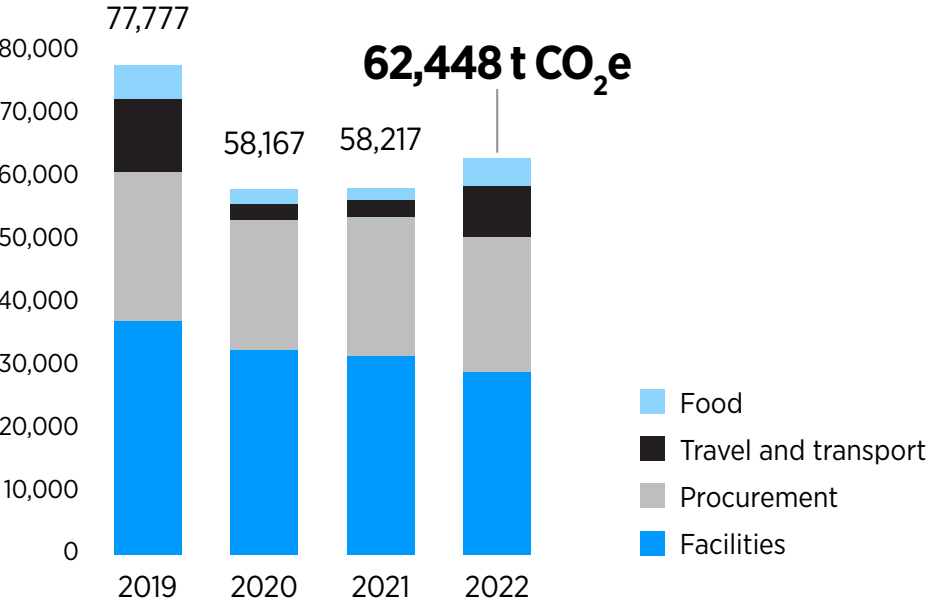


Figure 4. University's Carbon footprint in 2019-2022 (t CO₂e)

Table 5. The University's carbon footprint as presented in accordance with the GHG Protocol (t CO₂e)

		2019	2020	2021	2022
SCOPE 1 Direct emissions from University operations	Heating oil	713	602	644	754
	Natural gas	320	261	237	117
	Fuels and vehicles	560	393	425	440
	Total	1 593	1 256	1 306	1 311
SCOPE 2 Indirect emissions from University operations	Electrical energy	14 200	13235	9269	8828
	Heating energy	17 112	13750	16999	18033
	District cooling	57	0	0	0
	Total	31 369	26 985	26 268	26 861
SCOPE 3 Other indirect emissions	Travel and transport	11 172	2 333	2 382	7 358
	Procurement	23 468	20 372	21 901	19 825
	Food	5 429	2 491	1 927	2 557
	Property maintenance	4 746	4 730	4 433	4 536
	Total	44 815	29 926	30 643	34 276
Total		77 777	58 167	58 217	62 448



- ◆ **A project to reform travel management** was ongoing in 2022, in close collaboration with the project for a carbon neutral University of Helsinki by 2030, as one of the tasks of the project is to establish travel guidelines in accordance with sustainable development and responsibility.
- ◆ As of 7 November 2022, the **carbon footprint of all meals** sold by UniCafe has been displayed on UniCafe menus in both restaurants and online. The information can be found at the end of the list of ingredients for each meal. Instead of just the main course, the emissions have been calculated for the entire lunch tray. This information makes it easier to make smart choices in everyday life.
- ◆ The University of Helsinki Environmental Humanities Hub organised a **workshop for researchers on climate-friendly research methods**. In the Energy(and)Humanities: Low-Carbon Research Methods Workshop, participants were encouraged to discuss, among other topics, low-emission data storage methods.





WE URGED THE COMMUNITY TO CONSERVE ENERGY

The sharp rise in energy prices in 2022 made energy-saving measures increasingly important at the University of Helsinki, much like in the rest of society. In addition to the increased prices, a cause for concern was the sufficiency of energy in society as a whole. Besides conserving energy, we increased our everyday reductions, prepared for power outages and invested in solutions that support the green transition. In the autumn, we reduced indoor temperatures, prepared black-out tests for properties and communicated on energy-saving measures to the University community.

The total energy consumption decreased by roughly

4.9%

compared to 2021.

Heat consumption decreased by

12.7%

compared to 2021.

Compared to 2021, electricity consumption decreased by

2.3%

Water consumption increased by nearly

10%

which is explained by the return to the offices after the pandemic years.

A total of

3,635 MWh

of renewable electricity and thermal energy was produced, corresponding to nearly 2% of the total energy consumption of all University buildings. While no renewable energy projects were completed in 2022, plans to install solar panels on the roofs of Exactum and Physicum in Kumpula were initiated.

In 2022 measures taken to improve energy efficiency in University properties amounted to savings of

2,259 MWh

In 2022 the biggest savings were achieved through the following measures:

- Building automation and energy efficiency renovation at Latokartanonkaari 5 in Viikki
- Renovation of the glycol cooling system and ventilation adjustments at Haartmaninkatu 3 in Meilahti
- Heat consumption was reduced thanks to the Porthania facade renovation, while in several properties cooling systems were renovated and adjusted as well as the energy efficiency of lighting improved through redesigns.
- In the heating period 2022, the temperature of office facilities was reduced as part of the national Down by a degree campaign.

Elle Kikk





INCREASE IN WASTE FROM THE PANDEMIC YEARS

- In 2022, the total amount of waste generated at the University's properties and facilities was approximately 2,413 tonnes (1,822 tonnes in 2021). The share of facilities in the total was 1,498 tonnes.
- The **amount of waste** from University properties **grew by 13%** compared to 2021. In 2020 and 2021, the amount of waste generated at the University was clearly smaller because of telecommuting during the coronavirus pandemic. Since the year 2022 is also the first full reporting year with a new waste management partner, individual years are not entirely comparable due to the calculations.
- The **amount of waste** from facilities **grew by 37%** from 2021. Of the eight waste types, reductions were seen in paper waste and energy waste. The amount of other types of waste grew from 2021.
- Of the waste types collected from facilities, the largest was **mixed waste, accounting for 44%** of the total.
- Of the waste originating in facilities, 55% was sorted for recycling, 1% as energy waste and 44% as mixed waste.
- Mixed waste was incinerated at Vantaa Energy's waste-to-energy plant, where it was used to produce electricity and district heating. Nearly 100% of the waste generated by facilities is utilised either as material (55%) or energy (45%).
- **The recovery rate of waste from facilities is almost 100%.** This is mainly thanks to the waste-to-energy plant of the Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY, where mixed waste is incinerated to produce energy.
- A total of 44.4% of the waste from facilities was used for energy recovery, 55.3% for material recovery and 0.3% for reuse.
- **The recycling rate in 2022 was 55.3%.**

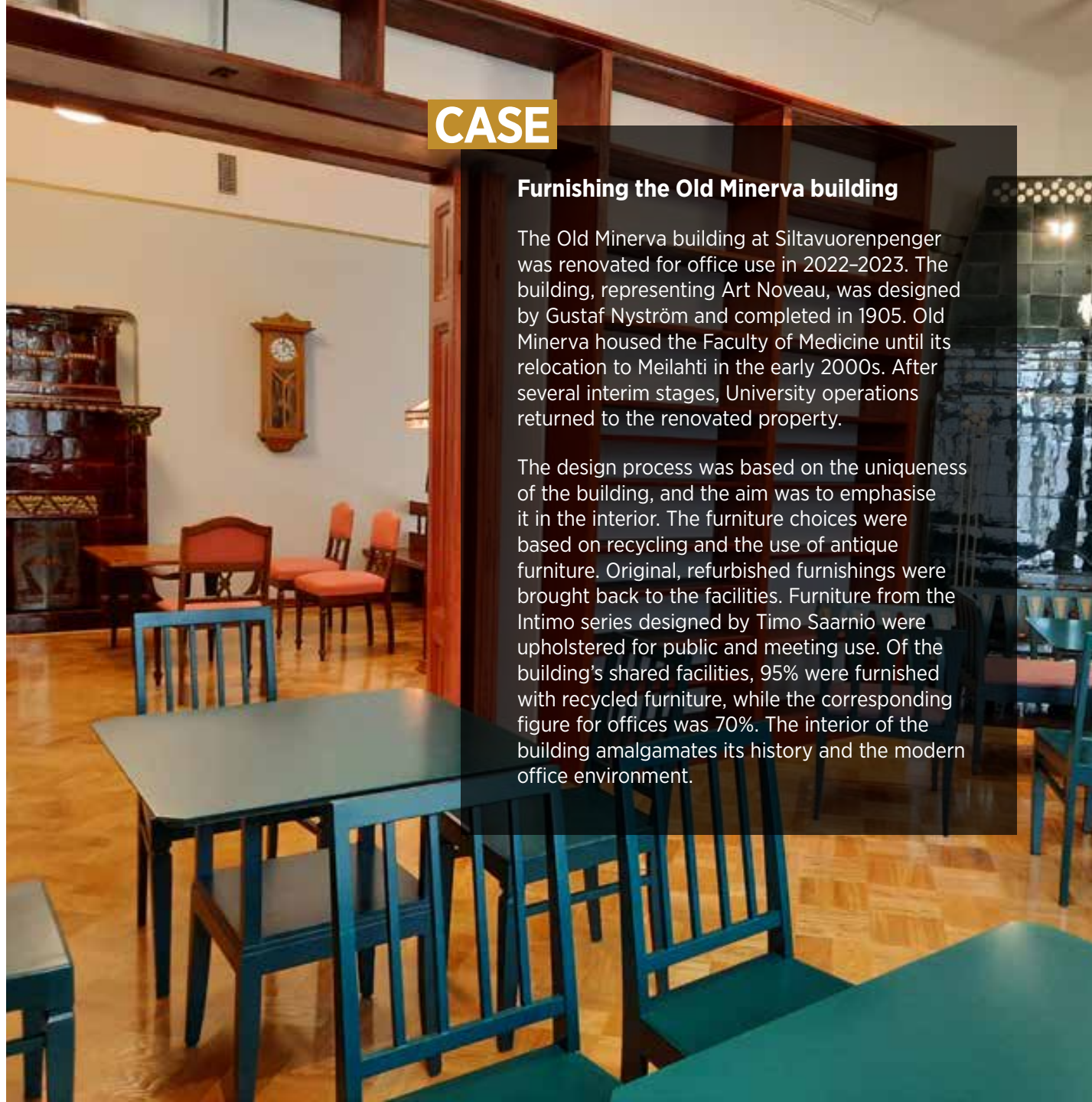


Total amount of waste from facilities by waste type (tonnes)

	2022	2021
Mixed waste	668	422
Biowaste	397	224
Paper	133	146
Carton and carboard	190	84
Glass	31	16
Metal	37	17
Waste-to-energy	14	16
Plastic	29	21
Total	1,499	946

➤ DEVELOPMENT OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WASTE SORTING AT THE UNIVERSITY

- ◆ Launched in 2021, the project to develop the sorting options in office, lobby and break facilities was continued, and sorting stations were specifically added to the lobby facilities of buildings. Sorting stations have been acquired for 28 sites in the project.
- ◆ Furniture to be phased out constitute a major individual waste type, and their efficient internal circulation and re-use sales have been actively developed. For example, the renovation of the Fabianinkatu 32 building was implemented in its entirety using recycled furniture.
- ◆ The irtaimistorekisteri.fi register was adopted as a tool for the HY247 furniture team and external designers. The register contains images and descriptions of unused furniture that can be relocated to new locations. From the register, designers can reserve furniture for their design sites. Products that do not find a new home can be transferred to the kiertonet.fi website for sale.
- ◆ As of August 2021, phased out furniture and equipment have been sold through the website for a total of €290,000. In 2022 sales amounted to €175,952 (1,109 items). Most of the items have been furniture. In addition to these figures, equipment and furniture have been sold through the City of Helsinki's circular economy cluster network.



CASE

Furnishing the Old Minerva building

The Old Minerva building at Siltavuorenpenger was renovated for office use in 2022–2023. The building, representing Art Nouveau, was designed by Gustaf Nyström and completed in 1905. Old Minerva housed the Faculty of Medicine until its relocation to Meilahti in the early 2000s. After several interim stages, University operations returned to the renovated property.

The design process was based on the uniqueness of the building, and the aim was to emphasise it in the interior. The furniture choices were based on recycling and the use of antique furniture. Original, refurbished furnishings were brought back to the facilities. Furniture from the Intimo series designed by Timo Saarnio were upholstered for public and meeting use. Of the building's shared facilities, 95% were furnished with recycled furniture, while the corresponding figure for offices was 70%. The interior of the building amalgamates its history and the modern office environment.

- ◆ Since 2019, the University of Helsinki's **IT Centre** has operated a centralised recycling service for the responsible recycling and disposal of IT equipment and devices. We sort recyclable equipment into equipment to be sold on the aftermarket and recyclable raw material.
- ◆ The global circumstances continued to cause problems for the availability of new IT equipment, which made it necessary to extend the lifespan of devices. In spite of this, recycling was intensified in 2022. A total of 1,974 IT devices (roughly 1,300 in 2021) entered the aftermarket, while roughly 18 tonnes worth of equipment ended up as raw material (roughly 11.5 tonnes in 2021). In the case of after-sales equipment, carbon dioxide emissions were reduced by almost 500 tonnes (almost 300 tonnes in 2021).
- ◆ Expansion of the Laptop Lender concept was investigated. Laptop Lender is a laptop library available to degree students and staff of the University where they can borrow laptops.



➤ INITIATIVES FOR PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY

Flower meadows promote inclusivity, research and sustainability

At researchers' initiative, a meadow experiment was conducted on Viikki Campus to promote biodiversity, research and inclusivity. Six patches on the campus were selected for the experiment and excluded from mowing in the summer. The patches were chosen by the researchers and gardener of Viikki Campus. All of the patches hosted notable meadow plants, with their sloping topography making mowing difficult. In the summer, the plants growing on the meadows included viper's bugloss, lady's bedstraw, maiden pink, harebell, daisy, greater knapweed, common bird's-foot trefoil and common starwort. The experiment continued in the autumn, with a volunteer session organised on the meadows to sow the seeds of meadow plants in a new area. Late in the year, a working group composed of representatives from different campuses and units was established to promote and expand the meadow experiment in the future.

We initiated the planning of an ecosystem services and nature capital survey

The survey is part of the measures of the sustainability and responsibility plan for 2022-2024, and is expected to be implemented by January 2025. The aim of the survey is to draw up an action plan based on research knowledge to promote the biodiversity of our campuses and community wellbeing.





ADVENT CALENDAR OF THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS PROJECT INTRODUCED THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2022 the Learning Environments project celebrated the lead-up to Christmas with an advent calendar that shed light on the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN from the perspective of the project. The calendar took a look at each of the 17 goals, highlighting the sustainability and responsibility principles of learning facilities.

The project is aimed at developing University facilities and services to make them capable of responding to changes in the learning and work culture, promoting diverse pedagogy and engendering inclusivity on the campuses. Launched on 2 November 2021, the project will last three years.

[Explore the advent calendar](#) (in Finnish)

[Read more about the Learning Environments project](#) (in Finnish)

AS A FAIRTRADE UNIVERSITY

we promote, through a team composed of University community members, the use and availability of Fairtrade-certified products in our procurement, as well as increase the University community's awareness of Fairtrade and its significance to global production and consumption networks. As part of the activities, we held a Fairtrade coffee break in September.



Veikko Somerpuro



WE ENCOURAGED OUR STAFF TO BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE

University on the Move is a joint project of four universities led by UniSport. The participating universities are the University of Helsinki, Aalto University, Hanken School of Economics and the University of the Arts Helsinki, and funding is provided by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The aim of the project, carried out during 2022–2023, is to promote the mobility of personnel and the formation of a physically active workday and operating culture as part of the new hybrid everyday life. The project encourages, for example, increased physical exercise in connection with commuting.



In the **kilometre challenges** in the winter and summer, a total of nearly

150,000 km

were cycled, reducing carbon emissions by a little over

26,000 kg

In May, some

100

University staff members took part in a **plogging run**.



➤ PROMOTING DISABILITY INCLUSION UNDER EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY EFFORTS

For years now, we have been committed to promoting equality and non-discrimination and creating an atmosphere respectful of diversity in all our operations. In 2022 the focus was on promoting disability inclusion, in connection with which we organised, among other things, several events related to the theme and provided training on the topic.

Our staff received training under the theme **‘How to increase information on disability inclusion in study materials and education?’**

We organised a seminar on the United Nations’ International Day of Persons with Disabilities together with the Finnish Society for Disability Research and the Finnish Disability Forum.

Together with the Disability Forum, we launched an **employment programme for people with disabilities**. In the spirit of positive action, the purpose of the programme is to recruit people with disabilities to roles in the University’s units from the beginning of 2023.

- ◆ The University of Helsinki is home to Finland’s only **professorship in disability studies**.
- ◆ The **Rampaopiskelijat ry** (Crip Student Organisation) is a student association for all who wish to create radical disability policy and promote full accessibility both at the University of Helsinki and in society overall.





WE CONTINUED ON THE PATH OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

Our investment activities are guided by the principles for responsible investment activities approved in 2019 by the University Board.

In 2022 we continued our long-term investment activities by following an investment strategy based on financial economics and the promotion of sustainable development, regardless of short-term fluctuations of the securities market. For example, excluding fossil fuel-producing businesses helped to reduce the TCFD (Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures) carbon footprint of equity investments to roughly half of that of the benchmark index. Despite an unstable year, our investment performance continued to exceed goals in 2022.

[Read our investment report for 2022.](#)





STAFF TRAINING ON THEMES OF SUSTAINABILITY, WELLBEING AND EQUALITY

During the year, staff had the opportunity to complete **free-of-charge open university courses** as part of staff training. In addition to courses focused on sustainability and responsibility skills, on offer were courses related to wellbeing, engagement, inclusivity and equality.

We provided staff with training offered by **wellbeing organisations** on topics including mental health, substance abuse, loneliness and problematic digital gaming behaviour. We continued to provide **training on unconscious bias**, giving the participants the opportunity to examine their unconscious attitudes arising in their professional life.



TARGETED SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The project to develop student guidance, supervision and wellbeing (2021–2023) piloted an approach that could be used to identify and reach students at risk of dropping out or falling behind as well as to provide targeted support. During the pilot, a text message was sent to separately determined student groups, offering opportunities for a meeting and discussion. In all, 12 degree programmes from seven faculties took part in the pilot. In the pilot, 21% of the students contacted were reached.

We improved the accessibility of the Sisu student information system by providing a solution for course and examination registration accessible to all, using a separate service connected to the system.





MEASURES TAKEN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

- ◆ We continued to promote anti-racism efforts through training and events. More than 600 members of the University community signed an antiracist petition and submitted it to the University leadership.
- ◆ We took part in the EU-funded UniSAFE project that surveys sexual harassment and gender-based violence in its various forms at European universities as well as examines related national and university-specific measures.
- ◆ We presented the annual work community award and the Maikki Friberg Equality Award.
- ◆ The dress code for conferment ceremonies was changed: In the future, participants can choose from two options.
- ◆ We added guidelines for using gender-neutral language in Swedish and English to the University's quick language guide.
- ◆ We organised a Pride café at Guidance Corner in Kaisa House. The event was open to both University of Helsinki students and staff.
- ◆ The European Metropolitan Cultures course explored the concept of safer space and examined how museums could be made increasingly open and safer spaces for everyone. At the end of the course, the students submitted recommendations on safer spaces to the Lahti City Museums.



➤ OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The operations of the National Library of Finland support many sustainable development goals already in principle, particularly from the perspective of cultural and social sustainability. **The core duty of the library is to strengthen cultural and linguistic diversity as well as to promote free research, democracy and freedom of speech.** Furthermore, the provision of open and centrally funded digital services for organisations active in the library, archive and museum sector is financially sustainable and reduces inequality.

In the autumn of 2022, library staff had the opportunity to brainstorm **climate action in workshops under the Green Handprint programme.** Some of the ideas will be tested in practice in 2023. The workshops were based on a model developed by the National Gallery of Finland. At the end of 2022, a **carbon footprint survey** launched in the previous year was completed at the National Library of Finland. A report on the survey was published in spring 2023.

In 2022 the National Library promoted linguistic diversity: **Swedish-language communication was enhanced** by recruiting a specialist in the field. In addition, the **Support for Sámi languages in digital services project** was launched in April 2022, under which support in Northern Sámi will be provided for Finna, Finto and Kotoistus, the major digital services maintained by the library.

Further information on sustainable development at the National Library of Finland.



Sami Perttälä



UNIVERSITY MUSEUM – SPOTLIGHTING EARLY ACADEMIC WOMEN THROUGH ART

The University commissioned from the contemporary Norwegian artist **Anne-Karin Furunes** a work of art on the first women to have an impact at the University. Previously, women have scarcely featured in the art displayed at the University. Furunes's work of art portrays **Tekla Hultin**, **Emma Irene Åström** and **Karolina Eskelin**.

Eskelin was Finland's first female doctoral graduate. She defended her doctoral thesis in medicine in 1896. She also represented a sexual minority. Eskelin had an impressive career as a doctor.




Tekla Hultin was the next female doctoral graduate, with history as her field. She defended her doctoral thesis a little after Eskelin, establishing a career as a feminist and politician.

Emma Irene Åström was the first woman in Finland to receive a master's degree, in 1882. Her field was philosophy. At the time, all women had to apply for special dispensation on account of their gender just to obtain the right to study.



Anne-Karin Furunes

Our progress in the measures recorded under the **daily operations** element of the sustainability and responsibility plan:

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS		STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE
Carbon neutrality			
We will draw up a carbon neutrality roadmap for the University. In this roadmap, we will define sub-targets and proposed actions for reducing and compensating for climate emissions from different operations, enabling us to achieve our objective of carbon neutrality in 2030.	▲	January 2023	  
We will begin to track CO ₂ emissions extensively. We will develop CO ₂ emissions reporting concerning the University's acquisitions by procurement category and will continuously monitor supplier reporting. We will use CO ₂ emissions, recycling, energy consumption and other indicators for the reporting produced by contract suppliers.	▶	By the end of 2022	
We will increase the percentage of carbon-neutral district heating.	▼ *	2022-2024	
We will increase the production of renewable energy in University properties. In 2025 at least 5% of the energy used in University buildings will be produced renewably on site (starting level: 1.5%).	▶		
We will take concrete energy-saving actions. Our target is that energy and water consumption in the buildings used by the University will have been reduced by 10% in 2025 from the level in 2014.	▶		
We will carry out thermal imaging in our properties to detect heat leakages, fix them and analyse the impact on heat consumption. The target is to draw up a campus-specific programme for such imaging.	▶		
We will review the principles for tracking consumption and strive to offer users real-time information on consumption.	▶		
We will examine temperatures in properties and reduce the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures.	▶		
We will begin to use energy-saving features in audiovisual equipment (automatic shutdown) and will extend the lifecycle of equipment with technical solutions (laser light sources in projectors).	▶		
We will support carbon-neutral commuting by enhancing the preconditions for cycling and adding charging points for electric cars. We will consider alternative fuels (gas and electricity) in the acquisition of means of transport and strive for the lowest possible environmental impact, taking the size and efficient use of the means of transport into account.	▶		
We will implement guidelines for hybrid work to make more efficient use of work facilities and reduce staff commuting. We will reduce recruitment-related travel, for example, by conducting job interviews, teaching demonstrations and site visits remotely with the help of digital tools.	▲	2022	
We will create a roadmap for low-carbon construction.	▶		







▲ Completed

▶ Progressing as planned

▼ Not promoted for the time being

* Particular attention will be paid to promoting the measure in 2023 and 2024

- ▲ Completed
- ▶ Progressing as planned
- ▼ Not promoted for the time being
- * Particular attention will be paid to promoting the measure in 2023 and 2024.

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS		STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE	
Biodiversity and circular economy				
We will implement a natural capital and ecosystem survey on the University’s four campuses. At the same time, we will compile proposed actions to promote biodiversity in campus green areas and minimise harm to nature.	▶	January 2025	  	
We will draw up guidelines/model criteria for sustainable construction. We will set recycling goals for each construction project.	▶	By January 2025		
We will promote the circulation of equipment by introducing a system in which units can recycle old equipment (e.g., laboratory equipment). The same system can be used to notify if a unit has an underused device that other units could also use.	▶	By the end of 2023		
We will create guidelines for both external designers and internal users on the longevity and maintenance of furniture as well as preferred furniture materials, and will recommend the use of equipment and furniture currently in storage. We will maximise the efficient circulation and reuse of audiovisual equipment and furniture, and will search for new sales channels.	▶	2024		
We will draw up new guidelines on environmental responsibility for properties, to be introduced as the minimum level in all properties.	▶	2023		
We will reduce the amount of mixed waste by increasing efficient sorting. We will further develop sorting opportunities, update sorting instructions and create instructions related to container dimensions. We will provide training in waste sorting. We will improve the comparability of reporting on waste management.	▶	2022–2024		
We will promote the integration of sustainable development principles into the day-to-day operations of research laboratories. We will promote the higher utilisation rate of laboratory equipment and will establish indicators to track the use of such equipment. We will increase the efficient lifecycle management of research equipment. We will promote the deployment of sustainable technologies. We will offer training for laboratory staff on the flows of goods, circular economy and responsibility in laboratories.	▶	By the end of 2024		
Procurement				
We will revise the University’s procurement and tendering guidelines, emphasising the principles of moderation, sustainability and responsibility. We will draw up guidelines that set out an alternative approach to replacing a new purchase with more responsible procurement, emphasising the principle of moderation.	▲	By the end of 2022	  	
In tendering, the University will select as partners those suppliers who commit to responsible operations in all areas of responsibility. In tendering, CO ₂ reporting and a programme for reducing and reporting CO ₂ emissions will be required. We will primarily select carbon-neutral partners whose activities are carbon neutral or who compensate for their emissions.	▶	2021–2024		
We will require that goods and equipment procured are delivered either carbon neutrally or using carbon-compensated delivery methods. Energy consumption will be used as a selection criterion in equipment procurements in which lower energy consumption indicates higher product quality. We will procure goods and equipment that are recyclable and have a long lifespan.	▶			
We will pledge to maintain our status as a Fairtrade University.	▲	2022–2024		












Completed



Progressing as planned



Not promoted for the time being

EXAMPLES OF KEY ACTIONS	STATUS	TARGET SCHEDULE	
Responsible investing			
We will increase crease impact investments. Joint investments with e.g. Finnfund	▶	2024	  
We will increase startup- and spinout-investments. Volume and number of new investments.	▶		
Responsibility reporting of listed investments. Generate new report for listed investments together with external service provider.	▶	2022	
We will improve responsibility reporting of unlisted investments. Gather information and generate new responsibility report for unlisted investments.	▶	2023	
We will decrease CO ₂ footprint of investments. We engage with fund managers and reallocate investments	▶	2024	
Equality and diversity			
We will review the University's language policy and guidelines concerning inappropriate behaviour and harassment, and will enhance the accessibility of our operations.	▶	2022-2023	 
We will develop the accessibility and inclusiveness of our recruitment.	▲	2022	
We will introduce a new recruitment system with greater consideration of accessibility.			
We will start using the Recognizing International Talent badge. In this framework, we will invest in identifying unconscious bias and examine language requirements in recruitment.	▶	2022-2023	
We will carry out a survey on gender-based violence at the University and use the results to further develop our activities (UniSAFE-project).			
In 2022 we will focus on disability inclusion by raising awareness of the issue, organising training and further developing the University's activities from the perspective of inclusion.	▲	2022	
We will increase information on accessible routes and examine the possibility to join the city's service map.	▼ *	2022-2024	
We will increase the number of gender-neutral toilets.	▶		
Wellbeing and participation			
We will systematically monitor and develop wellbeing by conducting a University-wide workplace wellbeing survey at two-year intervals, drawing up workplace wellbeing development plans for units and monitoring their implementation. We will use the results of the workplace wellbeing survey to enhance leadership and supervisory work.	▶	2022-2024	   
We will provide training in responsible leadership and supervisory work by offering supervisors a training programme that strengthens their skills in a coaching and interactive leadership style. We will assess leadership and supervisory work and use the results to outline future development areas in leadership.	▶		
As an employer, we will take responsibility for those in a vulnerable position in the job market. We will implement an employment programme for minorities. We will employ those liable for non-military service as well as unemployed job seekers.	▶		
We will help the University's international master's students find employment through a targeted traineeship programme. All our traineeships will include a salary.	▶	2023-2024	
We will support the integration of the spouses of international researchers through the new services provided by the HEILIFE project: networks, support material, career cooperation.	▲	2022	

- ▲ Completed
- ▶ Progressing as planned
- ▼ Not promoted for the time being

* Particular attention will be paid to promoting the measure in 2023 and 2024.

OUR PURSUIT OF A LEADERSHIP POSITION IN SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUES

In this report, we have presented our key sustainability and responsibility efforts from 2022. Constituting a significant part of this report is a description of our progress in carrying out the measures included in the first sustainability and responsibility plan of the University of Helsinki in the first year of its implementation.

On the basis of monitoring focused on the plan and the examples presented in this report, we can say that many of the measures listed in the sustainability and responsibility plan were already progressing as planned in 2022 – thanks to the dedicated University community!

While we are pleased with the progress of our efforts, we are also aware of the amount of work that remains to be done. Over the course of the year, we recognised that we could do more as a university, for example, to promote biodiversity. By utilising research-based knowledge, we intend to examine the impact of our operations on the environment and, at the same time, explore opportunities for promoting biodiversity, for example, through everyday operations and stakeholder collaboration. In addition, we are continuously considering new and different ways of improving the community's participation opportunities, as efforts for sustainability and responsibility are the most effective when carried out together. Measuring the effects and progress of sustainability and responsibility efforts are also challenges that demand our attention and investment going forward.

Of course, change and results do not come about overnight, making perseverance and patience, alongside collaboration, an integral part of sustainability and responsibility as a whole.

Our pursuit for a leadership position in sustainability and responsibility will continue.



Elle Kikkil



READ MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY EFFORTS:

[University of Helsinki website](#)

[Sustainability and responsibility website](#)

[Development and monitoring of sustainability and
responsibility efforts](#)

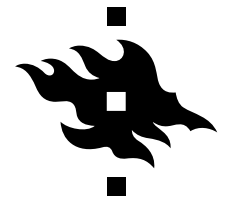
[Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science HELSUS](#)

[HY247, sustainability and responsibility reports
\(in Finnish\)](#)

[Investment report 2022](#)

GIVE FEEDBACK ON THE REPORT!

Do you have something in mind that you would like to see highlighted in the next report? Let us know by filling out an [electronic form](#).



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI