SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS Sustainability and responsibility at the University of Helsinki in 2023



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINK

CONTENT

Foreword

Sustainability highlights 2023

3

Sustainability and responsibility as part of governance and management 9

Research for the planet 14

Sustainability skills for all 29

Collaboration and distribution of sustainability knowledge **36**

Making a difference through everyday choices Towards the year 2024 **68**





FOREWORD

It was with a curious mind that I stepped into the shoes of the vice-rector for sustainability and responsibility at the University of Helsinki in August 2023. Even though I was aware of the great deal of effort already put into this area, I quickly realised that more was being to done promote sustainability and responsibility, and more broadly, than I had thought. Every day, the 11 faculties, several units and numerous individuals of the University of Helsinki are working towards our responsibility goals, for which a heartfelt thanks goes to all.

One of the highlights of the year was the publishing in spring of the roadmap for a carbon neutral University of Helsinki by 2030. This document has helped to set clear goals for climate action at the University, whose achievement will be observed on an annual basis. As Finland's oldest and largest university, we wish to lead on the basis of research-based knowledge.

Changes both within the University and in society at large require learning new things, as well as unlearning old ones. In 2023, we invested in developing our sustainability expertise. We published a sustainability course for staff and funded the development of discipline-specific sustainability courses. Our goal is to educate inquisitive drivers of change who can benefit the world through the power of knowledge. To achieve this goal, we must continue to consider how we can better meet the need to advance sustainability skills in society.

At the end of the year, the University's long-term sustainability and responsibility efforts gained international recognition, as we placed 60th in the QS World University Ranking in sustainability. This fine result is a cause of joy and pride, but not our final objective. More remains to be done, and our goals and measures will be continuously assessed so that we can genuinely be a leader in sustainability and responsibility in accordance with our strategic plan.

Vice-Rector Anne Portaankorva

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS 2023

In this report, we describe how we promoted sustainability and responsibility at the University of Helsinki in 2023. The report includes activities and measures related to the themes of research, teaching, societal interaction, daily operations as well as structures and management.

At the University, sustainability and responsibility are widely promoted by a number of organisations and individuals. The work is carried out at faculties, the units of University Services, as well as independent institutes. This report aims to present the action taken as comprehensively and broadly as possible.

The key content of the report is description, using colour coding and written statements, of how we progressed in putting into practice the measures of our sustainability and responsibility plan for the period 2022–2024. Some of the measures were already implemented in 2022, while others had goals extended to 2024. All in all, the measures mainly progressed as planned in 2023. By the end of the year, a total of 34 measures had been realised. In addition to reviewing the implementation of the plan, the report describes, by theme and through examples, the diverse sustainability and responsibility activities carried out in an organisation of 40,000 people.

We hope that readers of this report will have a slightly better understanding of how the University of Helsinki promotes sustainability and responsibility through its operations both within the organisation and more broadly in society. Progress of measures in the sustainability and responsibility plan 2022–2024





progressing as planned

not promoted for the time being

OPERATIONS FOUNDED ON JOINTLY AGREED PRINCIPLES

Our operations are based on a range of international and national principles that promote sustainable development and responsibility.

In our strategic plan, we are committed to advancing the international Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. In our operations, we consider all 17 SDGs. 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)

In addition to commitment to the SDGs, we have pledged to comply with UNIFI's theses on sustainable development and responsibility. By committing to these theses, drawn up collaboratively with other Finnish universities, we promote the sustainability transition as a united academic front.

We are continually developing ways to effectively highlight how the SDGs and jointly agreed principles are linked to our operations. For example, on the pages of this report, we use the SDG symbols to designate the goals that the measures described promote. In addition, we report on the link between measures and the SDGs on the webpage for leadership and monitoring of sustainability and responsibility efforts.

KEY ACTIONS IN 2023

We promoted the realisation of equality and diversity by introducing the principles of responsible interaction

 We designed professional specialisation education for climate experts

We initiated the drafting of a new sustainability and responsibility plan for the period 2025–2028

Together with Aalto University, we organised the Sustainability Science Days event with a scope larger than ever

> On a monthly basis, we organised morning coffee sessions under the theme of biodiversity

We published the roadmap for a carbon neutral University of Helsinki by 2030.

> We published the Sustainability Starts with Us online course for staff

> > We allocated funds for the development of discipline-specific sustainability courses

A new vice-rector in charge of sustainability and responsibility began their term of office

> We developed guidance and wellbeing services for students

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NUMBERS



60th place in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability ranking



£400,000 in scholarships and grants for students and researchers

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



1312060 Iunches sold at student rates in UniCafe cafeterias

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



Over **206,000** kilometres cycled in bike-a-thons

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



26,860 open university students

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



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

59%

new unisex toilet facilities Goal 6: Ensure availability and

sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



2,5% independently produced renewable energy

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





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



101 invention disclosures

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



Over **300** researchers promoting research on inequalities in the INEQ network

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Over **200** researchers at the Helsinki Institute of Urban and Regional Studies Urbaria

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



687 items or sets of furniture sold through Kiertonet

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



100% of purchased electricity carbon neutral

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



Over £219,000 in donations to Baltic Sea research

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



new meadows 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.



169 participants in events organised by the sustainability and responsibility network

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.



38

courses available in the Sustainability Studies Network

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

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AS PART OF GOVERNANC AND MANAGEMENT

Our goal is to integrate sustainability and responsibility into the University's governance and practices. This requires the examination of existing practices and structures, concrete goals, as well as the clarification of roles and responsibilities. We wish to offer all members of the University community the opportunity to influence our sustainability and responsibility efforts. We aim to achieve our goals through separately selected priority areas and related measures.



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GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

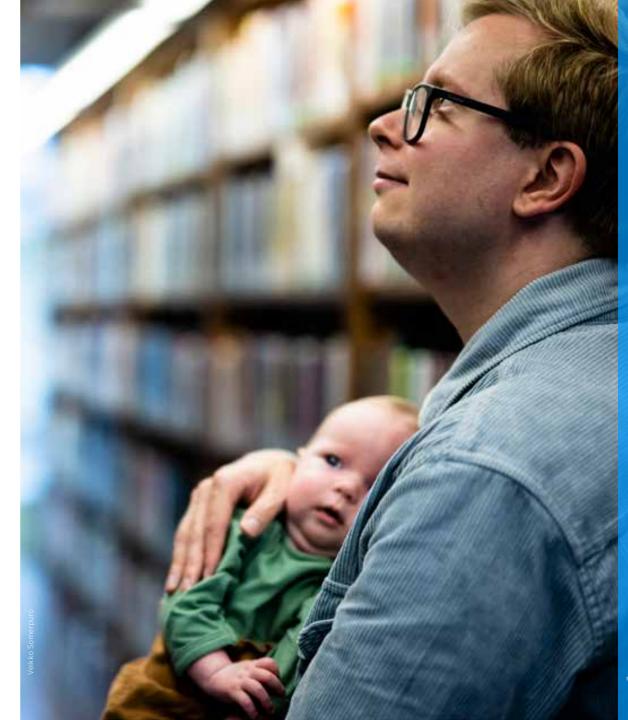
Goals and indicators

Operations management

Possibilities for sustainability action

In 2023, we made progress in line with our goals in the priority areas for governance and management. Among other things, we boosted the integration of the sustainability and responsibility perspective into the University's quality efforts and increased the opportunities – by , for example, organising meetings of the sustainability and responsibility network – for the community to contribute and make a difference. More than half of the governance and management measures had been implemented by the end of 2023.

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





- The drafting of the next **sustainability and responsibility plan** began towards the end of the year. To be published in early 2025, the new plan will cover the period 2025–2028.
- Rules of conduct were drawn up for the University. The Rules of Conduct supplement other regulations and guidelines issued by the University, such as the policy for safety and security, principles for facility use, terms of use for IT services, the substance abuse programme, the non-smoking workplace policy, unit-specific codes of conduct and the equality and diversity plan.
- The University's first safety and security policy was approved. The policy is a statement from the management for the University community on the organisation, promotion and development of safety and security. Confirmed by the rector, the policy sets out the University's goals for safety and security and the parties and responsibilities involved in their management.
- The facilities programme, drawn up for the period 2021–2030, was updated in the spring as part of updating the University's strategic plan. In the process, the goals associated with sustainability and responsibility were made an increasingly prominent part of the programme, including the promotion of inclusivity and the reduction of climate emissions from properties.
- A **strategy emphasising sustainability** and collaboration for the Lahti University Campus was released in November. The document is based on the university consortium agreement between the University of Helsinki, LUT University and the City of Lahti. The aim is to establish guidelines for the regional operations and cooperation of the universities. The strategy focuses on the circular economy and the green transition, sustainable food systems and planetary health.
- The University has endeavoured to **improve the status of grant-funded researchers**. For example, after 2020 the University has not charged fees for offices from grant-funded researchers. Based on a workplace wellbeing survey conducted in 2023, the wellbeing of grant-funded researchers has improved compared to the 2021 survey. In 2023, the University employed 870 individuals under a grant-funded researcher agreement.



WE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The sustainability and responsibility network – open to the University community and alumni – met four times during the year, attracting 169 participants. The meeting themes were the University's climate and carbon neutrality efforts, responsible encounters in the University community, and the sustainability and responsibility actions of the University community. The meeting also included a Pecha Kucha event on sustainability.

Late in the year, we launched a funding call open to the entire community under the theme of sustainability and responsibility, known as **Sparkle**. This funding experiment makes it possible to put into practice ideas from within the community that promote the University's sustainability and responsibility goals in 2024.

In February, sustainability and responsibility were the topics of the **UniTalks community event**, organised four times per year. At the event, introductions were heard on strengthening sustainability expertise, the carbon-neutral University of Helsinki 2030 roadmap, and the University's sustainability and responsibility efforts in general. Following the introductions, the participants had time for discussion.

A total of 169

individuals took part in events of the sustainability and responsibility network



Our progress in the measures under the **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.			
We will incorporate sustainability and responsibility themes permanently into the target negotiations between the rector and the units.		Annually, from 2022	
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.		Ву 2025	
We will participate in the annual Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking.			
We will establish the University of Helsinki Sustainability Fund to support the University's sustainability research, teaching and public engagement activities.		2022	
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.		Бу 2024	
We will develop responsibility and sustainability risk assessment in units.		Ву 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.			MAN NO

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI IN 2023

13

Completed

Progressing as planned

Not promoted for the time being

RESEARCH FOR THE PLANET

Through responsible research, we are producing knowledge of opportunities in and solutions to local and global problems. With our global partners, we are promoting multidisciplinary sustainability research. We are investing in a safe research, teaching and learning environment.





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 as planned in the measures related to research. For example, we strengthened our responsible partnerships by publishing ethics guidelines for academic cooperation with operators in the Global South. We increased the support offered to academic staff regarding research ethics and examined methods of monitoring and analysing research on sustainable development. By the end of 2023, more than half of the measures outlined for the entire plan period had been implemented.

The progress of measures related to research is described in more detail in the table on page 28 of the report.



THE HELSINKI INSTITUTE OF SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE (HELSUS)

is a cross-faculty research unit at the University of Helsinki, established in 2018. The institute is a community composed of researchers from various faculties, whose goal is to understand and solve complex global problems through cooperation and education that promotes the sustainability transition.





4

new research projects



are doctoral researchers



HELSUS published its second policy brief in March: 'Immediate Political Actions Need to be Prioritized in The Sustainability Crises'

SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE IS INTER-DISCIPLINARY AND CROSS-DISCIPLINARY,

encompassing a broad range of themes that address the complex and dynamic interactions of socio-ecological systems as well as the mechanisms that affect their transformation. A co-word analysis based on publications demonstrates the strong systemic orientation of research conducted at HELSUS, with clusters of themes depicted in different colours intertwined in a complex manner without any clear boundaries. The institute promotes solutionoriented research and increases understanding of the preconditions, limits and processes of sustainability transitions, as well as producing information for national and international political decision-making, the private sector and civil society. The analysis can be examined in further detail on the institute's website.

Table 1. HELSUS publications during 2021-2023Source: Tuhat database, 22 March 2024

Type of publication	2021	2022	2023
Number of refereed scholarly publications (A, C)	900	861	866
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	328	232	228

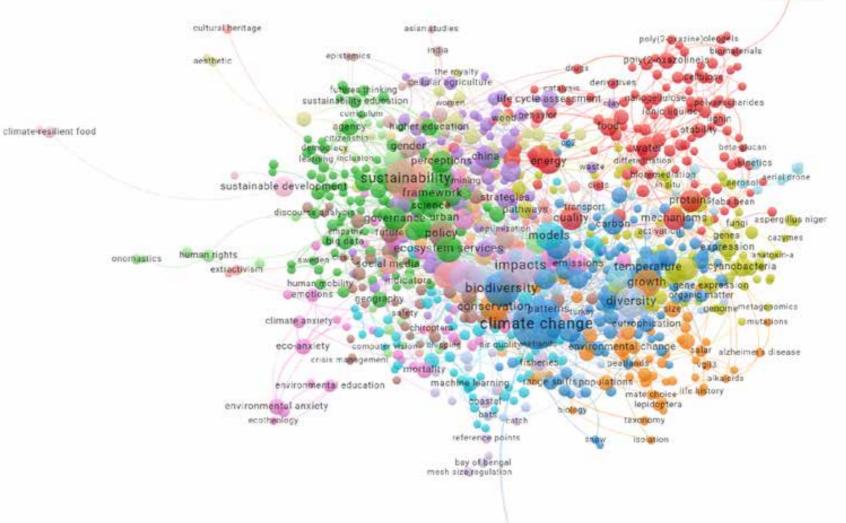


Figure 1. HELSUS publications during 2021–2023, co-word analysis, VOSviewer (data: Web of Science)

THE 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.

During the year, Urbaria took the following measures, among others:

- Launching a research project on social, ecological and economic sustainability indicators in Finland for district- and block-specific monitoring and application. The project is based on roundtable discussions between a multidisciplinary expert group aimed at steering urban development in an increasingly sustainable direction in practice.
- Relaunching the Urbaria Academics seminar series. In the four sessions held, new Postdoc Forum researchers presented their research projects and discussed burning questions in urban research.
- Shooting and producing videos on the research themes of people, places and politics. In the videos, urban researchers from the University of Helsinki describe their current and upcoming research projects and highlight important themes related to their field.
- Continuing collaboration and discussions with Finnish government ministries, the cities of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, other Finnish universities and research groups.





research projects

faculties

researchers from more than 20 disciplines

200

More than

research publications

18

INSTITUTE FOR ATMOSPHERIC AND EARTH SYSTEM RESEARCH (INAR)

is a multidisciplinary research centre under the auspices of the University of Helsinki. At INAR, top-level atmospheric and environmental research is conducted throughout the globe, producing research-based knowledge for the benefit of society. The institute conducts research ranging from the molecular level to global challenges.

INAR's 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 2021–2023Source: Tuhat database, 25 March 2024

Type of publication	2021	2022	2023
Number of refereed scholarly publications (A, C)	338	325	297
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	42	24	22



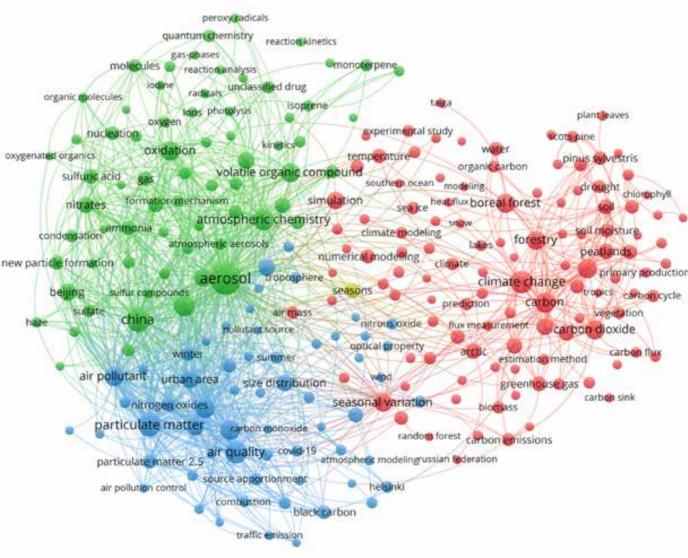


Figure 2. INAR publications during 2021–2023, co-word analysis, VOSviewer (data: Scopus)

INAR conducted significant research on climate and sustainability themes in 2023, as well evidenced in a co-word analysis based on publications, where three central, interconnected research themes stand out: ecosystem processes, climate change and carbon sequestration (red); aerosol formation, aerosol-ecosystem interaction and other atmospheric processes (green); as well as emissions caused by human activity, air quality and their interaction with the climate (blue).

The analysis can be examined in further detail on the institute's website.

The Atmosphere and Climate Competence Center (ACCC)

Flagship, coordinated by the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR), received an excellent rating in the interim assessment of the Research Council of Finland. ACCC will continue conducting research on the climate and climate change and their impact until 2028. The ACCC Impact Week and the ACCC-FASN Science Conference brought together hundreds of participants to discuss topical research and the impact of science. ACCC was also one of the official partners of the Finnish pavilion at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai.

Associate professors and data specialists have been recruited under the **InterEarth** profile-building area to develop integrative environmental research, focusing on the interactions and feedback between all Earth components.

Together with the Finnish Environment Institute, Natural Resources Institute Finland and a handful of Finnish municipalities, INAR started preparing a guide for utilising the climate measures of the land use sector in municipal climate and biodiversity efforts.

The Safer Climate network continued its work at the intersection of research, civil society and the arts. In 2023, the themes of the network's expert contributions and events included climate security, citizen participation, climate and death, as well as the relationship between the climate and mental health. In September, the first ever Climate Security Festival was organised to gather experts from a range of fields to consider the relationship between the climate and security.





THE HELSINKI INEQUALITY INITIATIVE (INEQ)

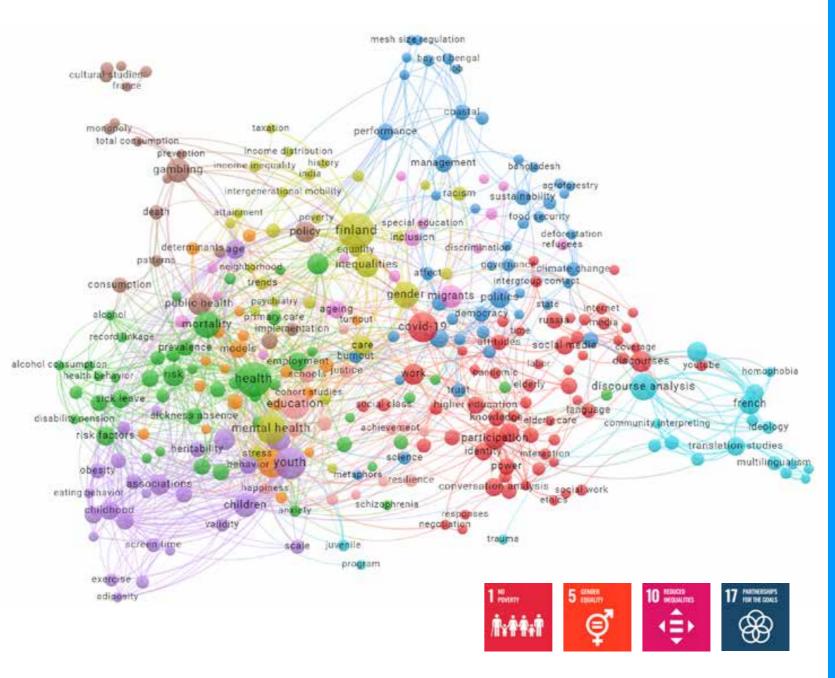
is a multidisciplinary research community whose researchers produce results that increase understanding of the causes and consequences of intersectional inequalities. Eight faculties and over 300 researchers are involved in the community.

Table 3. INEQ publications during 2021-2023Source: Tuhat database, 22 March 2024

Type of publication	2021	2022	2023
Number of refereed scholarly publications (A, C)	435	305	395
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	171	121	151

Figure 3. INEQ publications during 2021–2023, co-word analysis, VOSviewer (data: Tuhat database)

A bibliometric co-word analysis demonstrates how inequalities are investigated in INEQ through a range of factors and statuses as well as their intersections. Understanding the interconnections of these factors is important for understanding the scope and impact of inequality in society. The analysis illustrates the multidisciplinary nature of INEQ's inequality research. In addition to social research, research on inequalities is linked to the fields of health, demography, economics and education. Multidisciplinary fields, such as gender and migration studies, provide valuable insights into the multidimensional nature of inequality. The analysis can be examined in further detail on the INEQ website.



HOH HELSINKI ONE HEALTH

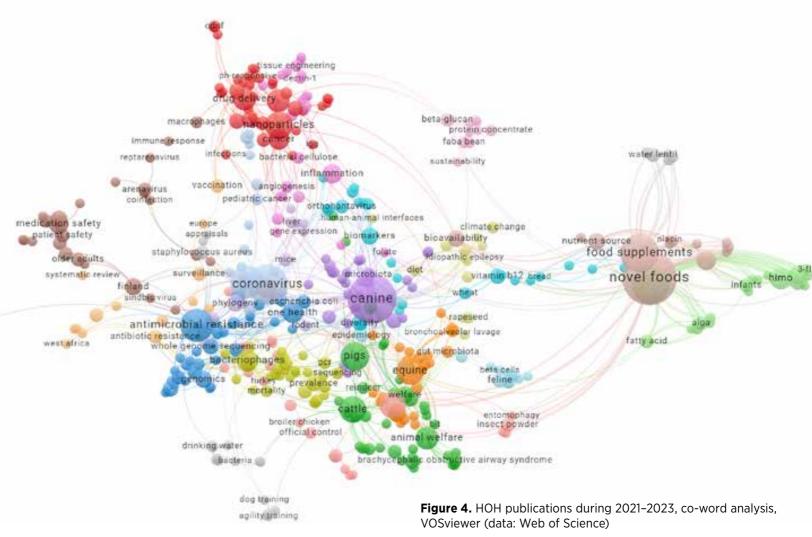
is a research network that was established to support and coordinate research at the University of Helsinki on the shared health issues of humans and animals. The network focuses on the interaction between the health of animal and human populations in a rapidly changing environment. Examples of research topics include methods of controlling antimicrobial resistance and contagion of resistant pathogens in the food production chain, further improvement of canine modelling of diseases affecting both humans and dogs, and hereditary diseases in selectively bred animals and their effect on animal welfare.

The network includes five faculties, with the Finnish Food Authority, Natural Resources Institute Finland and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare as partner institutes.

> qualitative research family life

Table 4. HOH publications during 2021-2023Source: Tuhat database, 22 March 2024

Type of publication	2021	2022	2023
Number of refereed scholarly publications (A, C)	305	277	248
Number of publications focused on public engagement (B, D, E)	44	26	21



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



WE ARE STRENGTHENING RESEARCH ON A SUSTAINABLE AND FAIR FUTURE

The forces of the HELSUS, HOH and INEQ research networks will be combined in a **new RESET project**. Resilient and Just Systems (RESET), a profile-building area based on strong interdisciplinary activities under the Profi 7 funding scheme, creates a transdisciplinary research environment that integrates the life sciences and social sciences, offering resilient and just solutions for strengthening systemic recovery. The RESET project is coordinated by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, with involvement from seven other faculties from three campuses as well as the independent Helsinki Institute of Life Science (HiLIFE).

Read more on the project website.

SOCIETALLY SIGNIFICANT KNOWLEDGE ON THE ROOT CAUSES OF INEQUALITY

Together with the **Max Planck Foundation** in Germany, we established a research centre focused on the study of health from the perspective of social inequalities. The Max Planck – University of Helsinki Center for Social Inequalities in Population Health (MaxHel) will enable the establishment of a hub of top-level demographic research with societal impact.

Among other things, the research centre provides policymakers with information on the processes that cause health inequalities and alternatives for reducing such inequalities. Scholarly knowledge on the root causes of health inequalities significantly promotes health and the establishment of an increasingly sustainable society.

Read more on the University website. (in Finnish and Swedish only)







SUPPORT FOR A PLANT-BASED DIET THROUGH COLLABORATION

Helsinki Planetary Health Hub (HPHH), a network that promotes ecological, social, cultural and economic sustainability in health systems through research and practical solutions, concluded a collaboration agreement aimed at increasing the prevalence of a plant-based diet with the help of Al-driven nutrition programmes. The collaboration enables investigating the effects of digital solutions targeted at the population in Finland and the United States.

Read more on the University website.

URBAN TOOLS FOR EXPETIDING THE SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

The goal of the **Transformative Cities project** is to produce information on everyday lives in cities in support of Finland's national Recovery and Resilience Plan and accelerate the sustainability transition. Through collaboration, the project aims to provide municipalities with the tools needed to tackle challenges associated with emissions and biodiversity. Involved in the project are several Finnish universities, municipalities and businesses, the NATURA network and a number of international partners. The project has secured funding from the Research Council of Finland for the period 2023–2025.

Read more on the University website.











RESEARCHER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Professor Anna-Liisa Laine is an evolutionary ecologist who has long studied plant-microbe interactions.

"I've investigated mechanisms that regulate these interactions both at the level of genes and in extensive epidemiological datasets. My prior research has produced breakthroughs on how human activity has transformed the dynamics between plants and their pathogens in the natural environment. Together with my research group, we have demonstrated how habitat fragmentation makes natural populations increasingly susceptible to diseases."

Anna-Liisa returned to the University to assume the professorship in plant biodiversity established at the beginning of the year. For the time being, she is the only person in Finland to receive a highly competitive ERC grant in each of the Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant and Advanced Grant categories. Laine heads the Research Centre for Ecological Change (REC) and is an active advocate of long-term environmental monitoring.



WE EXPLORED WAYS TO ANALYSE THE LINKAGE OF RESEARCH TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The bibliometrics group of Helsinki University Library examined the classification of the University of Helsinki's publications in key international article databases in terms of the SDGs of the UN. In the survey, considerable variance was identified in the SDG classifications for publications determined by the databases. The survey also demonstrated that while the database classifications do not allow the monitoring of the number of publications related to the SDGs, they can still provide interesting perspectives on research focused on sustainable development.



WE PROMOTED AFRICA-THEMED RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

The purpose of the University's Africa Programme for the period 2021–2030 is to increase collaboration in Africa and support new ambitious research and education collaboration. At the programme's core is sustainability, and all successful applications to the programme are connected to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN. The programme strengthens partnerships between the University of Helsinki and African universities.

In 2023, we selected a group of talented African junior scholars for the Africa Early Career Mobility Programme. Through their collaborative projects, these researchers are contributing to the UN SDGs. They are investigating, among other things, digital political participation in Africa, challenges and solutions related to antibiotic resistance, as well as the alleviation of poverty through the promotion of small-scale farming and trade.

Over the course of the year, Africa-themed research projects focused on antimicrobial resistance, insect pests and the importance of hygiene in healthcare, were ongoing at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. In addition, the fairness of forestry, climatesmart agricultural systems and sustainable food systems were investigated.





Our progress in the measures 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 trans- disciplinary 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	10 HEAD IS AND IN THE ADDRESS OF THE
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.			9 meter and the same
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.	research, outline objectives for open of open infrastructures and data. We will		

Completed

Progressing as planned

Not promoted for the time being

28

SUSTAINABILITY SKILLS FOR ALL

Our goal is to integrate sustainability skills into all education. By increasing the provision of continuous learning opportunities, we will improve the sustainability knowhow of society as a whole. We are investing in the sustainability and responsibility competencies of our staff. We are sharing and developing education and skills also through global partnerships.

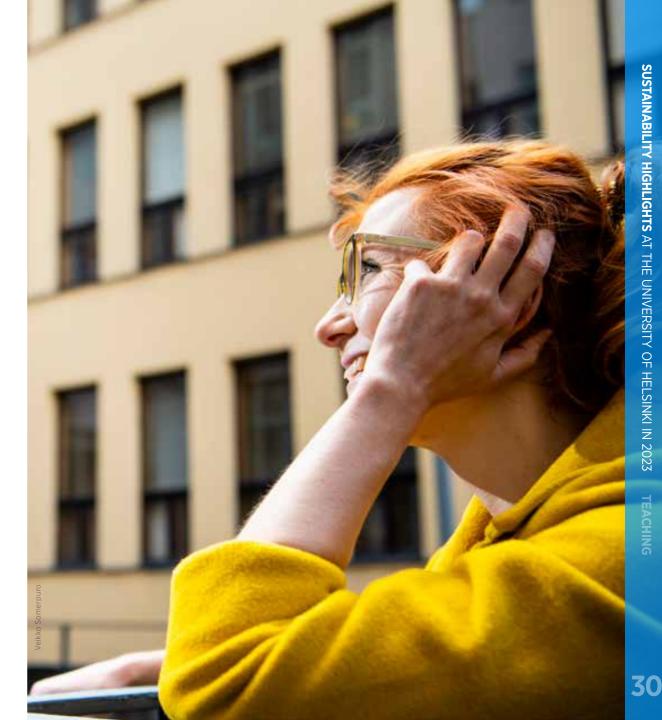
TEACHING PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

- Sustainability in education
- **Global partnerships**
- Continuous learning

Under the teaching element, we progressed steadily towards our goals over the course of the year: Among other things, we developed discipline-specific sustainability studies for several degree programmes, published a sustainability-themed online course for staff and expanded the provision of openly available education. By the end of the year, approximately a third of the measures related to teaching had been implemented.

The progress of measures related to teaching is described in more detail in the table on page 35 of the report.





KEY FIGURES FOR TEACHING

faculties

31462 undergraduate students

2572 international degree students



bachelor's and master's programmes

33 doctoral programmes 107 516

credits completed in continuous learning



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



4 distant

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



17 PARTNERSHIPS

*

DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY SKILLS

The University of Helsinki wishes to be an internationally recognised multidisciplinary hub of sustainability research and teaching by 2030, actively producing knowledge and skills for societal needs. Over the course of the year, we promoted this goal through, among others, the following measures:

- Seed funding was awarded to **13 development projects** to support the advancement of sustainability courses and teaching materials for the needs of both individual disciplines and several degree programmes. The successful applications came from eight faculties.
- A self-study version of the open and multidisciplinary **Sustainability Course** (3 cr) was introduced in the autumn, increasing the flexibility of its completion.
- We joined the **Sustainability Studies Network** of eight Finnish higher education institutions. The teaching collaboration network intensifies cooperation between the institutions and expands the provision of teaching focused on the environment, sustainability and responsibility.
- We designed a **professional specialisation programme in climate expertise**, with the Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR) coordinating its establishment. The programme brings together toplevel expertise in climate science, businesses and public sector operators, responding to the growing demand for climate expertise in various sectors of the labour market. The first 60-credit programme began in spring 2024.
- We developed an online training option for staff entitled Sustainability Starts with Us, providing basic information on various areas of sustainability. In spring 2024, the studies available to staff will be supplemented with a more extensive sustainability training module.

A total of



University employees completed the Sustainability Starts with Us course.

A total of



students completed the Sustainability Course.

13 actual

4 BALITY

17 INTRACEMENTS



- The University significantly expanded its provision of continuous learning opportunities for the academic year 2023–2024. Many faculties and units offered an increasingly extensive selection of their teaching openly to anyone interested. In all, roughly 1,500 courses were offered as open university education in the academic year 2023–2024.
- The Elements of Al online course has already attracted a million people to familiarise themselves with the basics of artificial intelligence. The open and free-of-charge course, translated into 26 languages, has attracted people from more than 170 countries.
- The Living with Changing Climate course, organised for the first time, is for anyone interested in the practical use of open climate and weather data. The course is part of the Climate University network, and it is open and free of charge to all students of partner institutions in the network. In addition, anyone can take the course as open education offered by the University of Helsinki, and the course material is freely available on the DigiCampus platform.
- In the autumn, a new continuing education course for teachers was organised entitled 'Yhteinen tulevaisuus – kestävää kehitystä ja rauhaa rakentamassa eri oppiaineissa' ('A shared future – Sustainable development and peacebuilding in various disciplines'). The course supports teachers in peace education, providing them with relevant tools for teaching in a range of school subjects.



Educational cooperation in atmospheric sciences with Nanjing University was

launched in autumn 2023. The scheme is the next step in the close collaboration between atmospheric scientists at the Faculty of Science and Nanjing University. The partnership will see the implementation of degree education for Chinese students in bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes jointly coordinated by the two institutions. This is the first time that the University of Helsinki has put into practice the opportunity provided by the Universities Act to offer commissioned education. The collaboration is a significant element in the global impact of atmospheric research conducted at the University of Helsinki.

In the next three years, the aim is to train 5,000 students from Europe and Africa in the themes of climate change and sustainability through virtual exchanges coordinated by INAR under the **UnaVEx project**. Virtual exchanges are a prime example of modern international cooperation that brings together universities from two continents to solve shared global sustainability challenges.

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17 PARTNERSHIPS

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Our progress in the measures 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.			
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.		2022-2024	
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	4 ment
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.			17 rational
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.		2021-2024	&
Continous 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	4 metri
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.			
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.		2022-2024	
We will offer staff the 'Equal University' training programme.			

Completed

Progressing as planned

Vot promoted for the time being

COLLABORATION AND JISTRIBUTION OF SUSTAINABILITY KNOWLEDGE

17 millionsers

We cannot achieve the sustainability transition on our own. We are investing in responsible partnerships and sustainable collaboration with various societal operators both in Finland and abroad. We disseminate researchbased knowledge from daycare centres and schools to society's echelons of decision-making. We are developing innovation operations based on research.

SOCIETAL INTERACTION PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

Research-based knowledge in decision-making

Responsible partnerships

National and international collaboration

In the case of societal interaction, we promoted the planned measures and continued to carry out those not implemented in 2022. We continued to promote measures related to societal interaction at The latter included the improvement of risk assessment and management, and the drafting of guidelines for organising sustainable events. We supported the integration of research-based knowledge into decision-making, for example, by further promoting cooperation with cities, organising the Sustainability Science Days conference together with Aalto University, and by highlighting the themes of sustainability and responsibility in all of our communications. We continued our active contribution to selected national and international networks. By the end of the year, nearly half of the measures taken in societal interaction had been implemented.

The progress of measures related to societal interaction is described in more detail in the table on page 47 of the report.





In May, the Sustainability Science Days conference,

organised since 2017, was held as a four-day event for the first time. The theme of the conference was 'Pathways of Hope – Knowledge, Actions, Solutions!' The event was attended by 812 people.

OPEN EVENTS AND PODCASTS ON SUSTAINABILITY THEMES

- The Climate Change and Biodiversity Now event series at Think Corner took a multidisciplinary view to questions related to the sustainability transition. The series reached more than 2,200 people on site at Think Corner and over live streams.
- In the March programme series **Pinnalla** ('Current issues') at Think Corner, the topics included the environment and the climate as matters for the new parliamentary and government term in Finland.
- The **Studia Generalia** lecture series focused on, among other things, freedom in consumption, and the link between artificial intelligence and wellbeing.
- The **Utelias mieli** ('A curious mind') podcast explored several sustainability topics through researcher interviews.
- The Avoimella otteella ('An open approach') podcast of Helsinki University Library discussed, among other topics, habitat destruction and the possibilities of interdisciplinary approaches in tackling complex challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity.
- In the second season of **Untame**, a podcast funded by the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS), the focus was on the position of humans as producers of knowledge in the eco-crisis.



THEMES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY HIGHLIGHTED AT ALUMNI EVENTS

All graduates, exchange students as well as current and former employees of the University of Helsinki are considered University alumni. Together, we constitute the largest network of experts in Finland.

The themes of sustainability and responsibility were strongly highlighted in our alumni events. For example, a Faculty of Law event for alumni considered the role of lawyers and law in a world characterised by sustainability challenges. At the Helsinki Alumni Think & Lead event, the focus was on the role of social responsibility and values in strategic management. We also organised a wild herb excursion in Kumpula for our alumni.

During the year, the number of our registered alumni exceeded



rising to 53,000 by the end of the year.



SUPPORTING DECISION-MAKING WITH RESEARCH-BASED KNOWLEDGE AND TURNING IT INTO POLICY BRIEFS

The CO-CARBON research project published the 'Carbon-smart Urban Green Infrastructure as a Climate Solution' policy brief for cities as well as a set of carbon-oriented instructional cards for household gardening. They can be used also at housing companies and, for example, commercial properties. The project both measures and models the carbon sequestration capacity of urban green spaces and establishes practical methods for planning, implementing and maintaining carbonsmart urban green infrastructures.

The collaborative **Legumes for Sustainable Food System and Healthy Life (Leg4Life)** project of the University of Helsinki, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare and Natural Resources Institute Finland published a policy brief entitled 'Legumes contribute to a sustainable food system'. In addition, Leg4Life published, in cooperation with the Just Food project, a policy brief related to the reform of nutrition recommendations entitled 'Diets are part of solving health and environmental challenges: new nutrition recommendations support the sustainability transition'. Read more on policy briefs on the <u>project website</u>.

From 2018 to 2023, the **WISE** and **LONGRISK** projects investigated Finland's resilience and capacity to adapt to wicked environmental crises, and developed strategic environmental crisis management. The projects culminated in a public event held in November, attended by, among others, one of the deputy mayors of Helsinki, a senior climate specialist from the climate unit of ELY Centres, as well as experts from the banking, financial and insurance sectors. In addition to a panel discussion and speeches stemming from the policy statements based on the research conducted in the projects, a new tool for decision-making in crises developed in the projects, known as Policy Operations Room (POR), was introduced.

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OUR RESEARCHERS HAVE A BROAD IMPACT ON SOCIETY

Several of our researchers serve as experts in the multidisciplinary and independent **Finnish Nature Panel**, **Finnish Climate Change Panel**, **Expert Panel for Sustainable Development** and **Finnish Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel**. Over the course of the year, the panel members contributed to a range of public engagement and communication activities. For example, experts from the Finnish Nature Panel representing the University of Helsinki responded to listeners' questions on the Yle Radio programme Luonto-Suomi. In addition, the Finnish Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel, which began its term of office at the beginning of the year, launched operations by drafting recommendations for the government term 2023–2027.

Our researchers and experts from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry played a significant role in **updating the Nordic nutrition recommendations** published in June. This was the biggest update in the 40-year history of the guidelines. For the first time, they include scientific recommendations on diets that are environmentally as well as nutritionally healthy.

In October, the Research Centre for Ecological Change (REC) participated in organising **the Biodiversity Leadership Course** for 25 Finnish corporate leaders. Senior management from major companies (including the CEOs of Metso and Fortum) participated on the course, which was co-organised by the research space Puistokatu 4, the Climate Leadership Coalition and the Forum for Environmental Information. The event was aimed informing corporate leadership about biodiversity and inspiring them consider it in their corporate strategies.

Representatives of the Finnish Museum of Natural History participated in drafting **the new Nature Conservation Act** by providing specialist expertise in, for example, the study of ecological offsetting, environmental education, the mitigation of the effects of climate change and the management of environmental information to improve conservation.



WE DEVELOPED COLLABORATION MODELS FOR OUR PARTNERS

We published a **business collaboration guide** for researchers, which advises researchers in initiating business collaboration. Besides the guide, researchers were provided with tools and templates to support cooperation.

The collaboration partners in the third round of the **HELSUS Co-Creation Lab** in 2022–2023 were Helen, Valmet, Metsä Group, Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority HSY and the University of Helsinki. At the 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 thesis topics in 2022–2023 included a sustainable and fair energy transition, the machines of the future, and the role of higher education institutions in the sustainability transition.

We developed and piloted **Gradumakery**, our model for collaborative master's theses. The goal of Gradumakery is to expedite the commissioning of master's theses, smoothen collaboration between the parties (students, businesses and degree programmes) through a facilitated process, and increase students' contacts with employers through genuine challenges arising from professional life. SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI IN 2023

17 THE DE CON

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION GO HAND IN HAND

Attracting increasing interest, the **pre-incubators and incubators of the University's Helsinki Incubators programme** continued their operations. For example, the Circulator pre-incubator focused on the circular economy and sustainability received almost 40 applications, a significant improvement from the previous year. The teams participating in the incubators also fared better than before in securing partners, customers and investors. At the end of 2023, following 18 months of operations, Helsinki Incubators had given rise to nearly **60 businesses**, of which roughly onethird are sustainability-themed.

Viikki Campus aims to become a globally well-known innovation cluster, with solutions for, among other things, the sustainable use of natural resources and the circular economy currently being outlined on the campus. Read more about innovation operations on the campus on the University website.

Helsinki Think Company celebrated its 10th anniversary in the autumn. The celebrations kicked off with the Think Corner event Miten maailmaa muutetaan ('How to change the world'), with President Tarja Halonen among the speakers. Established in 2013, Helsinki Think Company has been championing the entrepreneurial spirit of University of Helsinki students and researchers through events and programmes. Over the years, Helsinki Think Company's 4UNI flagship programme has created solutions and business ideas for, for example, reducing food waste and hate speech as well as improving the condition of the Baltic Sea.

Sustainability-themed innovations

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The University of Helsinki Funds invested in two businesses that participated in the **HELSEED entrepreneurship programme**. Support was provided to **Mäsli Oy**, a company that produces seed crispbread from the surplus barley of Finnish microbreweries, and **Three Mushketeers Oy**, whose business idea is based on a mushroom powder that improves the flavour of vegetarian dishes. HELSEED is an entrepreneurship programme geared to students and inspiring them to develop their ideas into startups. Another goal is to support existing startups in developing their operations.

The Food Futures project, developed collaboratively by the University of Helsinki, Aalto University and TX Oy, joined forces with UniCafe to create a pilot application. Via the app, customers were rewarded for their responsible meal choices with free coffee at UniCafe. The app makes it possible, for example, to browse daily meal options, compare their environmental impact, and examine the sustainability of your food history.

At the major startup event **Slush**, we presented research-based solutions for, among other things, health and energy-economic challenges. Research-based innovations also featured in the Slush 100 Startup Competition, where among the top 20 competitors was Ample, a product of the University's incubators. The company is developing a new kind of public discussion platform and aims to, among other things, boost the appreciation of academic knowledge and root out the spread of misinformation in society.

SOCIETAL

INTERACTION

SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS OF HELSINKI IN 2023

SOCIETAL INTERACT

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

We actively contributed to the operations of the **Una Europa network**. As part of the Sustainability and Climate Protection Task Force, we published guidelines for higher education institutions related to sustainability management and community engagement. We also organised the annual Una Europa Student Congress, attended by 64 students from 11 European universities.

The University of Helsinki's Rule of Law Centre is collaborating with a number of universities, the Centre for Legal and Judicial Training in Mozambique, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop the rule of law in the Southeast African country. The purpose of the collaboration is to promote democracy and human rights as well as eradicate corruption. Read more about the collaboration on the University <u>website</u>.

16 methods 17 methods

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WE INVEST IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

In our **LUMA science labs**, learning communities have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with research and studies in scientific and mathematical fields. The science labs also provide teachers with educational games, equipment and other tools to borrow, including GPS devices, a water analyser and an educational kit for illustrating the carbon cycle. In 2023, the science labs welcomed **380 groups** and **8,249 pupils**, of which 3,305 were from general upper secondary schools.

Ruoan jäljillä ('Tracking food'), **the first science camp for children** organised by the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, was a success. The camp was organised in cooperation with the Leg4Life legume project, with 20 children participating. At the camp, the children explored food and its production from a range of perspectives. Visits were made to, for example, greenhouses and the cowshed at the Viikki research farm.

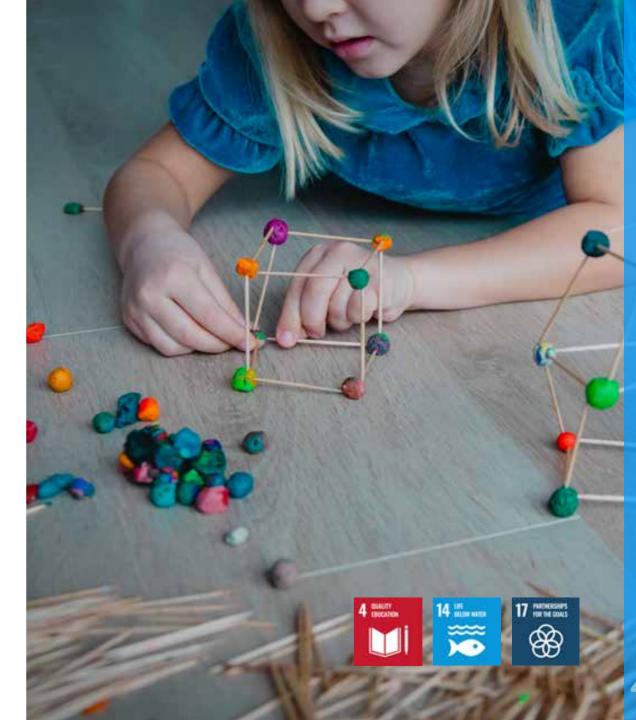
Organised for the whole family, Think Corner's **Päiväni lääkärinä** ('My day as a doctor') workshop event provided illustrative activities for examining the significance of the common health of animals, humans and the environment. Participants also carried out health examinations on plushies under the guidance of a teddy doctor.

Research stations as part of science education

The Kilpisjärvi Science Trails app, produced by the University for the municipality of Kilpisjärvi, was released in June. The free app offers tourists a view beyond the scenery via fascinating research-based content. The digital science trails offer multidisciplinary research-based content at 34 stops in Finnish, Swedish and English. The digital content of the trails provides a new way to share research knowledge with the public.



Tvärminne Zoological Station organised, for example, a children's research camp and marine research workshops for families. In addition, the station organised two adult-child art workshops under the theme the Unknown Baltic Sea in the summer in cooperation with the John Nurminen Foundation and the Helsinki Artists' Association.



CELEBRATING ITS CENTENARY, THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM DREW RECORD AUDIENCES

Environmental education and academic outreach by the Natural History Museum are aimed at increasing people's awareness of and enthusiasm for nature as well as inspiring them to take responsibility for the environment.

To celebrate its centenary, the Natural History Museum introduced a number of new initiatives in its operations. The highlight was the anniversary exhibition Festival in the Forest, specifically designed for children. Guided tours to the museum's underground facilities were a new offering, presenting extensive collections ranging from insects to stuffed animals. The first six grades of comprehensive schools constituted the largest group participating in the guided tours, with adults taking second place. 4 theorem 14 tiller water 15 the last 17 the theorem 17 theorem 17

Almost

280,000

visitors

More than

12,000 participants in guided tours

More than



observations in the Finnish Biodiversity Information Facility maintained by <u>Luomus</u> Our progress in the measures 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.			
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.			11 ADDRESS 100 TALE ADDRESS 17 FORMATION
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.		2022-2024	
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	9 meter menerer 16 met meter
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	17 Martineer

Completed

Progressing as planned

Not promoted for the time being

47

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH EVERYDAY CHOICES

As a community of 40,000 people, and a large property owner and lessor, we have the opportunity and power to make a difference through the choices we make in our daily operations. We wish to be a leader and set an example to others, promoting sustainability and responsibility broadly through our day-to-day choices in terms of the organisation, the community and individuals. We are promoting sustainable and responsible everyday actions through five separately selected priority areas.

DAILY OPERATIONS PRIORITY AREAS IN 2022–2024

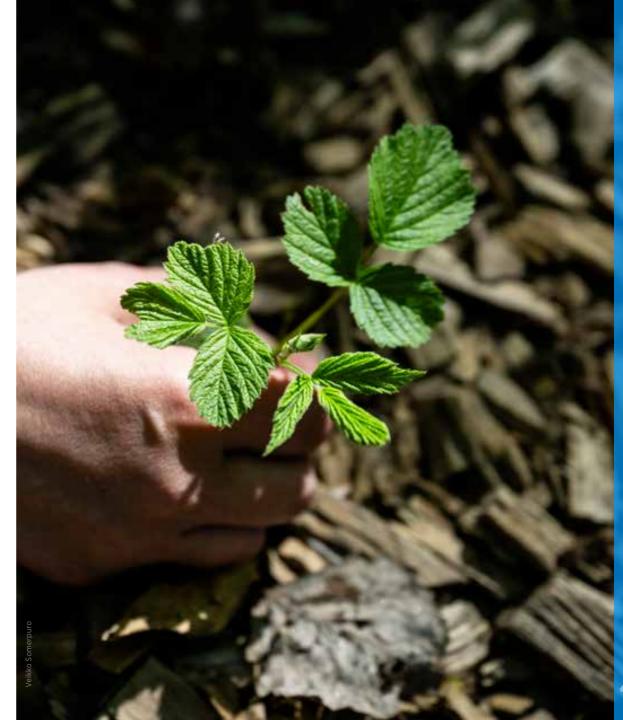
- > Carbon neutrality
- > Biodiversity and circular economy
- > Sustainable procurement
- > Responsible investment activities
- > Equality and diversity
- > Wellbeing and participation

We primarily promoted the sustainability and responsibility of our daily operations as planned, completing several measures by the end of the year. For example, we organised events and training as part of the year of responsible interaction at the University, also publishing guidelines relevant to the topic.

Carbon neutrality measures included in the sustainability and responsibility plan were further elaborated on in the carbon-neutral University of Helsinki 2030 roadmap, completed in the spring. The efforts to become carbon neutral are monitored as a separate entity, and in this report we highlight examples of the work carried out.

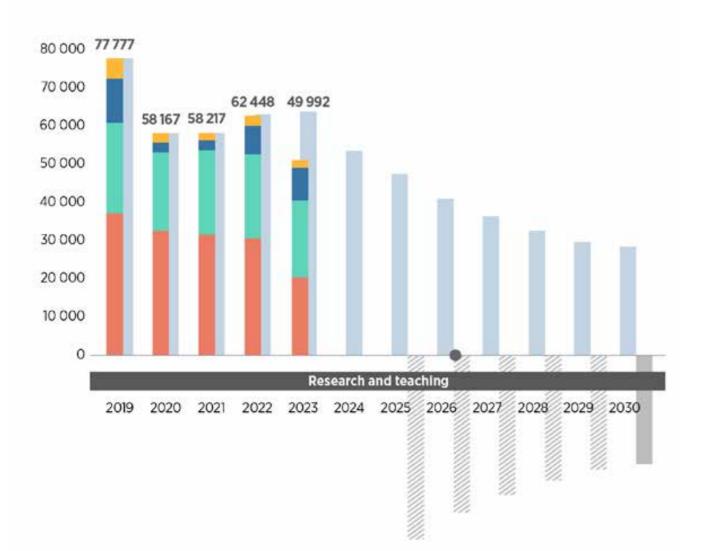
The survey on accessible routes was delayed, with the aim of advancing further in 2024. From a total of 39 measures, 15 were completed by the end of the year.

The progress of measures related to daily operations is described in more detail in the table on page 65 of the report.





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WE LAID DOWN GUIDELINES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In the spring, we published the <u>roadmap for a carbon neutral</u> <u>University of Helsinki by 2030</u>.

In conjunction with drawing up the roadmap, the methods for calculating the University's carbon footprint and achieving the desired footprint were determined, and the carbon footprints for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were calculated. In addition, the path towards the University's carbon neutrality by 2030 was outlined. The roadmap divides the measures into four categories, including an emission reduction plan for each category. Going forward, the University's carbon footprint will be calculated annually and the measures will be monitored by the University's internal coordination group for climate action.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Food	5 429	2 491	1 927	2 557	2 252
Travel	11 530	2 572	2 627	7 358	8 386
Procurement	23 670	20 526	22 081	22 173	20 085
Facilities	37 148	32 578	31 582	30 360	19 269

Target

- Review of compensations
- Compensation
- Review point for progress towards the emission reduction target

The reduction of emissions from 2022 was largely due to the purchase of carbon-neutral electricity, for which we bought guarantees of origin for nuclear power. In procurement, we primarily used suppliers committed to low-carbon operations. Over the course of the year, new travel guidelines and catering recommendations were drawn up, with the aim of reducing the carbon footprint of travel and food in the coming years. The cafeteria operators also made efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of lunches and catering and to offer sustainable options. At UniCafe cafeterias, for example, vegan and vegetarian options accounted for **48%** of all lunches sold.

The University's carbon footprint is calculated in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG), taking into account not just direct emissions (Scope 1) and emissions from bought energy (Scope 2), but also indirect emissions (Scope 3), such as travel and procurement.

In 2023, the carbon footprint of the University of Helsinki was









Facilities 38,5 %
Procurement 40 %
Travel and transport 17 %
Food 4,5 %

Scope 1 1599 tonnes of CO₂e Direct emissions by the University, such as emissions from Universityowned vehicles and energy production.

Scope 2 13 613 tonnes of CO₂e Emissions from purchased electricity. In this category, the biggest factors are production emissions from electricity and district heating.

Scope 3 34 780 tonnes of CO₂e Emissions generated in the value chain other than those related to energy, including travel, procurement, food and facility maintenance.

Figure 6. Carbon footprint in 2023 by emission category **Figure 7.** Carbon footprint in 2023 presented in accordance with the GHG protocol

REDUCTION IN OVERALL ENERGY CONSUMPTION WHILE WATER CONSUMPTION ROSE CONSIDERABLY

Every year, projects to improve energy efficiency are carried out at the University's properties. In the 2023 heating period, temperatures in office facilities were kept lower than before as a continuation of the national Down by a degree campaign in 2022. Cooling in the summertime was also reduced in offices.

A total of 4,470.5 MWh of renewable electricity and thermal energy was produced, corresponding to **2.5%** of the total energy consumption of all University buildings. The goal is to increase this figure to 10%. In 2023, solar and geothermal heating systems were completed for the accommodation facilities for researchers at Tvärminne and the new building in Hyytiälä. Measures taken to improve energy efficiency in University properties implemented during the year amounted to a savings of 45 MWh.

- The total energy consumption decreased by roughly 0.5% compared to 2022.
- Water consumption increased by 11.9% compared to 2022, which is explained by the University community's return to the campuses after the pandemic years.
- Heat consumption increased by 5.4% compared to 2022, which is explained by the colder winter of that year.
- Compared to 2022, electricity consumption decreased by 1.8%.

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TREND IN THE AMOUNT OF WASTE

- To the extent possible, University staff and students recycle and sort their own waste. Every year, the amount of waste generated is monitored in eight categories.
- In 2023, the total waste generated at the University's properties and facilities was approximately 2,384 tonnes. Most of the waste originated in facilities, which accounted for 1,576 tonnes of the total.
- Most of the waste from facilities is mixed waste. In 2023, the amount of paper waste decreased, but that of plastic waste and biowaste increased. Overall, the waste generated in facilities increased by 5% from 2022. With the University's properties included, the total waste decreased by 1.2% from 2022.
- We strive to recycle waste as comprehensively as possible. In fact, the recovery rate of waste from facilities is almost 100%. Of the waste, 56% is utilised as material and 44% as energy. The recycling rate in 2023 was 56%.

Total waste from faciliti			
K.	2023	2022	2021
Mixed waste	685	668	422
Biowaste	479	397	224
Paper	102	133	146
Carton and cardboard	194	190	84
Glass	32	31	16
Metal	38	37	17
Energy waste	8	14	16
Plastic	38	29	21
Total	1,576	1,499	946



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) Biojäte Biowaste

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Hodelmin, vinannesten ja marsen kuoret Tatuuspaperi, loutasliinat ja biohajoovet aetiat Valuta nesteet ja liomet viemiiriin

Food

 Coffee grounds and line bidgs
Fruit and vegatable peets and eggshells
Paper towets, napkins and biologradable cup and plates. Drain excess liquids

> HELSINGH TLIOPISTO ELSINGFORE UNIVERTITY UNIVERSITY OF HELSING



Klernitykseen keljasmaton jäte Muonit (myös PVC), styroksi, tekstillit, posilini, kalmigekkautaat, kasenoutta kestilvit tesi, imur põhysuselt

Ei vaarallisia jätteitä

Waste that cannot be reused as material Plastics (including PVC), styrofloam, textiles, percelain, coffee package wraps, heat-resistan glass, vacuum cleaner bage

HELENGING

DEVELOPING CIRCULAR ECONOMY SOLUTIONS

We continued the project launched in 2021 to develop the sorting options in office, lobby and break facilities, and sorting stations were specifically added to the lobby facilities of buildings.

As part of the project, sorting stations have been acquired for more than 40 locations and plans drawn up to further increase their number in 2024.

We have actively developed the efficient internal circulation and re-use sales of furniture to be phased out, as these constitute a major single waste type.

We introduced the irtaimistorekisteri.fi service as a tool for external designers and the HY247 furniture team. The register contains images and descriptions of unused furniture that can be relocated. From the register, designers can reserve furniture for their design sites.

Products that do not find a new home are transferred to the Kiertonet.fi website for sale.

Through the Kiertonet service, we sold a total of **687** pieces or sets of furniture in 2023, with sales totalling €99,171. Since 2017, a total of **2,886** items have been sold through Kiertonet for **€442,463**. 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.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Items or sets of furniture sold (pcs)	154	101	68	14	669	1,193	687
Sales (€)	5,128	12,875	3,503	595	126,812	19,369	99,171



54

IT CENTRE INVESTS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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 accessories. The centre collects and sorts recyclable devices into equipment for the aftermarket and those to be used as raw materials.

- In total, 2,596 devices entered the aftermarket while 1,333 devices ended up as raw material.
- The centre offers the University community the opportunity to obtain laptops for short-term loan from the Laptop Lender facility.
- In IT procurement tendering, environmental, social and financial aspects related to responsibility and sustainable development are taken into consideration as comprehensively as possible by employing the services of the central governmental procurement body Hansel.

THE IT CENTRE is an independent institute of the University of Helsinki, which provides the majority of the general IT services at the University in a centralised manner. The unit, which has been serving members of the University community for more than 60 years, employs approximately 200 people in a range of support and specialist positions.



SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY GOALS AS PART OF PROPERTY PROJECTS

- With sustainability as a central starting point for its design, a completely modern timber-framed building was completed at Hyytiälä Forestry Field Station. The building has been designed to last for at least the next 150 years. The new building serves as what is known as a living lab, enabling multidisciplinary research and teaching related to the effects of the built environment on sustainability, the climate and wellbeing.
 - The demolition of the University buildings in Ruskeasuo, which had reached the end of their lifespan, began in April. We set the goal of recycling **90%** of all construction materials. The University is involved in the Circular Economy Cluster Program of the City of Helsinki, which aims to promote innovation, business operations and climate goals in line with the circular economy.
- The renovation of the Main Building of the University was completed. In the renovation, particular attention was paid to improving accessibility, indoor air conditions and safety.
- A new building for the Helsinki Upper Secondary School of Natural Sciences was completed on Kumpula Campus, paying heed to the circular economy and carbon neutrality goals. In the planning of the school building, the goal was to achieve the smallest possible carbon footprint. The recycling of materials was taken into consideration, for example, by transferring the granite plates in front of the entrance from the courtyard of the University's renovated Main Building.



WE CONTINUED TO PROMOTE EFFORTS FOR **BIODIVERSITY BY ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY**

We established two new meadow plots on Viikki Campus. We also organised meadow walks for those interested.

Over the course of the year, nine morning coffee sessions open to the entire community were organised on the theme of biodiversity. Presentations from the University's own researchers and students as well as invited experts were heard at the events.

We organised a planning workshop for a survey on ecosystem services and natural capital open to the entire community. The workshop was attended by teaching and research staff, and specialists from University Services and students. The survey will be carried out in a researcher-led manner in 2024 using methods that engage the community.



Museum

open to the community



SUSTAINABILITY HIGHLIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY **OF HELSINKI IN 2023**

WE ORGANISED

a great deal of events and training sessions in the context of the year of responsible interaction in the University community. The theme was approached, for example, by means of drama under the direction of Theatre Works and as a topic in supervisory training. In cooperation with the University community, our library also drew up <u>principles for</u> <u>a safer space</u>.

WE ESTABLISHED

under the Equality and Diversity Committee three thematic groups in the following areas: equality, physical and digital accessibility, and operating culture and diversity.

WE FUNDED

joint events supporting inclusivity for the entire University community. With this funding, a series of events took place which were inspired by community feedback on the need for practical training and tools that foster inclusive conditions supporting day-to-day working and learning at the University. The events, for example addressed issues of positionality, identity and power, disability inclusion at the University, and antiracist dialogue as a pedagogical method.

WE PRESENTED AWARDS

for the promotion of collaboration, wellbeing, equality and diversity. The annual Maikki Friberg Equality Award was given to the AfriStadi network specialised in research related to Africa. The Work Community Award was granted to the Equine Hospital and veterinarians of the emergency and intensive care unit of the Small Animal Hospital.

WE PARTICIPATED

in Pride Week with a programme including an event on LGBTQI+ rights, a Pride café in the Kaisa House library, participation in the Pride parade and rainbow flags flown on the campuses.

WE PRODUCED

in the University Culture and Engagement Development Project that concluded at the end of the year, we produced, among other things, a University community glossary, guidelines for language awareness at the University, and concise training material to support the development of the operating culture and communality by supervisors in their teams.





MEASURES TO IMPROVE STUDENT WELLBEING

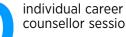
Launched in 2021, the development project for student guidance and wellbeing concluded. In the project, guidance and supervision were clarified, support for student wellbeing was increased, and forms of low-threshold support were developed. The project outcomes include a self-access course for teachers providing guidance for the development of guidance skills as well as service descriptions for student guidance, counselling and advice.

In 2023, we organised wellbeing events, increased training and support for teachers providing guidance, and organised courses in support of wellbeing and study engagement. We also launched advice services for international degree students.

Key figures for Teaching and Learning Services in 2023:







counsellor sessions

WE WISH TO BE A RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYER

The University is participating in the employer pool of the Romako project, which promotes the employment of the Romani population. We joined the pool, as we believe in equality for all job-seekers. We joined the pool, as we believe in equality for all job-seekers.

In the autumn, 23 trainees, a new record, began serving in various positions through the traineeship programme for international master's students. The programme was organised for the sixth time. The traineeship programme is one way of promoting equality and diversity in professional life, as well as helping international students gain access to the Finnish labour market.

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8 DECENT WORK AND ICONOMIC GROWTH

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STAFF WELLBEING

 In the winter and summer bike-a-thons, members of the University community cycled a total of more than 206,000 kilometres. This reduced carbon emissions by 36,064 kg.

Bike-a-thon (winter + summer)

Year	Total kilometres	CO ₂ reduction (kg)
2021	170,058.8	29,757
2022	149,964.5	26,242
2023	206,101.4	36,064

- The office dog experiment carried out at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was aimed at promoting staff wellbeing. In the spirit of the One Health concept, the experiment was carefully designed, taking into consideration various parties and opinions.
- We celebrated the **anniversary of the University** at the Together to the University event, with the staff, as well as their friends and families, enjoying a wide selection of programming organised by the University community.
- The IT Centre agreed on **new operational models for facility use** and the principles of hybrid work through collaborative self-management and discussion. Among other things, the aim of this experiment was to increase the meaningfulness of work and job satisfaction by giving the employees broader decision-making powers related to facility use.
- We provided our researchers with **support in social media harassment situations**. The University has separate guidelines for harassment and targeting on social media.





RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT GENERATED RETURNS

Our investment activities are guided by the <u>principles for responsible investment activities</u> approved by the University Board. The cornerstones of the investment strategy, founded on academic research, are diversification, low costs and the mitigation of climate change. By responsibility, we mean responsibility for the University's finances, as well as for society and the environment as a whole.

In 2023, the return on the University's investment was **13.5%.** From the beginning of 2019, the average annual return on investment has been 11.6%. We divested all of our investments in fossil fuel producers in 2020 and are aiming for a carbon neutral investment portfolio by 2030. At the end of 2023, the carbon footprint of our investments was roughly half that of our peers.



Read more in the investments report for 2023.



For the summer, a pop-up space called the Gallery Greenhouse was set up in the Porthania courtyard, combining a greenhouse open to all Helsinki residents and a centre of experimental urban art. The greenhouse was implemented as part of an urban art project coordinated by Lauri Jäntti, a doctoral researcher in geography, and Maarit Myllynen, an eco-artist and art educator. The project provides spaces for experimentation in urban culture. The central artistic content of Gallery Greenhouse was a chat hut for bringing people together, designed and implemented in cooperation with eighthgrade pupils of the Comprehensive School in Käpylä.







OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At the National Library of Finland, 2023 was a year of sustainability thinking and skills development. The library organised a workshop series on sustainable development, which significantly increased the participants' understanding of the promotion of sustainability and responsibility in their work. In addition, efforts were initiated to boost competencies related to the climate impact of digital solutions through informal meetings where various perspectives on green information and communication technology are discussed.

In the autumn the Kirjastoverkkopäivät event, organised by the National Library, was used to survey the views of the Finnish library sector on collaboration opportunities and needs in promoting sustainability. The event brings together library professionals from all over Finland. In 2023, the National Library also contributed to the European Commission's Voices of Culture dialogue, which looked for ways to make the voice of the cultural sector better heard in European climate and environmental policy.

From among ongoing projects, the Support for Sámi languages in digital services project promotes linguistic equality.



Our progress in the measures 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.			T attends of
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%).			-O-
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.			1975
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.			12 EURODATION
We will review the principles for tracking consumption and strive to offer users real-time information on consumption.		2022–2024	3
We will examine temperatures in properties and reduce the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures.			13 climate
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.		1	
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.		January 2024	

Completed

Progressing as planned

Not promoted for the time being

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	12 represent
We will promote the circulation of equipment by introducing a system in which units can recycle old equipment (e.g., labora- tory 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	00
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	14 min senses
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	15 m
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	Î		
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	1 Ř:††:†
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.			8 attain work and a transmission sectors
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.		2021-2024	12 romania international
We will pledge to maintain our status as a Fairtrade University.		2022-2024	00

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			Q DESCRIPTION AND C MARRIER AND AND
We will increase startup- and spinout-investments. Volume and number of new investments.		2024	
Responsibility reporting of listed investments. Generate new report for listed investments together with external service provider.		2022	13 mm
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			I
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.			
We will introduce a new recruitment system with greater consideration of accessibility.		2022	
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.	5	2022	5 desets 10 sectors
We will carry out a survey on gender-based violence at the University and use the results to further develop our activities (UniSAFE-project).		2022-2023	@ " (€)
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.			
We will increase the number of gender-neutral toilets.		2022-2024	
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.			-7 000 KUS 0 200 100 A
We will provide training in responsible leadership and supervisory work by offering supervisors a training programme tha 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.		2022-2024	
As an employer, we will take responsibility for those in a vulnerable position in the job market. We will implement an employ- ment programme for minorities. We will employ those liable for non-military service as well as unemployed job seekers.		1	10 MINUTERS 16 MINUTERS
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	P 🔀
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

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TOWARDS THE YEAR 2024

In this review, we have presented, through the monitoring of the measures taken under the University of Helsinki's sustainability and responsibility plan, the relevant action taken by the University in 2023. Based on the abundance and variety of examples, as well as the number of completed measures, it can be said that work to integrate sustainability and responsibility throughout University operations has progressed well.

However, more remains to be done. To reach the strategic sustainability goals we have set for 2030, we must continuously work towards them. The year 2024 is the last year of implementation for the current sustainability and responsibility plan. Since the completion of more than half of its measures is still underway, there is plenty to do in the final year.

While advancing the measures of the current programme to completion, we have already initiated preparations for the next plan. Covering the period 2025–2028, the next plan will be drawn up in close cooperation with the University's various units and faculties. It will be based on the measures taken under the current one, and it will be increasingly integrated into the University's implementation planning.

READ MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY EFFORTS:

Sustainability and responsibility at the University of Helsinki HY247, sustainability and responsibility reports (only in Finnish) Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS), University of Helsinki Investments report

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS AND FEEDBACK

Would you like to provide feedback or development proposals related to this report or more generally to the sustainability and responsibility efforts of the University of Helsinki? Share your thoughts using an electronic form.

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You can also contact us directly: Contact persons for sustainability and responsibility

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