Akademia WSB

WSB University

SDG 4
Tracker Report

2025

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Quality Education: WSB University's SDG 4 Report 2025

WSB University (Akademia WSB), Dąbrowa Górnicza · Reporting year 2025

Executive summary

Quality education is the core of WSB University's mission and its largest contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2025, the year of its thirtieth anniversary, WSB taught across ten campuses, from Dąbrowa Górnicza to the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw. It extended its programmes in medicine and health, and invested in practice-oriented, inclusive and digitally enabled teaching. Its educational activity reached children, secondary-school pupils, degree and doctoral students, working professionals and older adults.

Key results for the reporting year:

- **Graduates:** 2,877 students graduated in 2025, adding to more than 60,000 graduates since 1995.
- **National ranking:** Perspektywy 2025 ranked WSB second among non-public universities in Poland, first in Poland for internationalization and 23rd among all academic universities, nine places higher than in 2023.
- **Teaching awards:** WSBU received the CEEMAN Teacher of the Year 2025 award and recognition from ACCA as one of five Polish universities for achievement in ACCA postgraduate education.
- **Research evaluation:** in the national evaluation for 2022–2025, the University received ten scientific categories, the basis for awarding doctoral and habilitation degrees in ten disciplines.
- **Responsible management education:** 15 courses explicitly integrate responsible management and the SDGs, including seven postgraduate programmes in green competences and ESG.
- **Investment in teaching:** six externally funded projects worth PLN 40.5 million are modernizing curricula, developing teaching staff and reducing drop-out. One of them, EduConnect, was ranked among the top three of 69 universities in its national competition.
- **Lifelong learning:** the Children's University held its seventeenth edition for more than 1,500 children, and the Third Age University network served almost 3,500 older learners.

Context

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Its targets of particular relevance to universities are:

- equal access to affordable and quality tertiary education (4.3);
- relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship (4.4);
- the elimination of disparities in access for vulnerable groups (4.5);
- education for sustainable development and global citizenship (4.7).

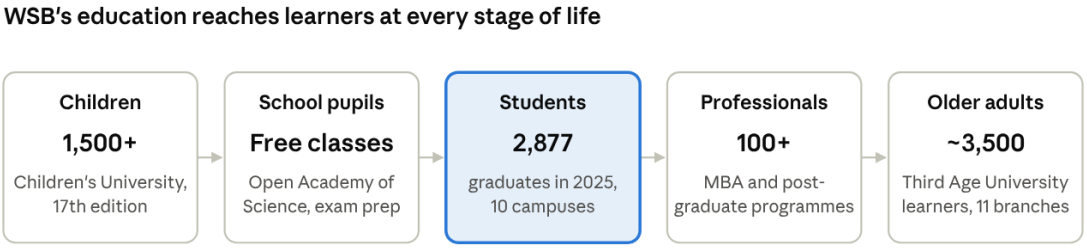
The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings assess the contribution of universities through research on education, the proportion of graduates qualified to teach, lifelong learning measures and the University's commitment to inclusive access.

Quality education is one of the seven priority goals of WSBU's Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030, adopted by the Senate on 8 July 2022. The Strategy sets three objectives under SDG 4:

- to equip learners with the skills needed for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship;
- to ensure equal access to education for people in vulnerable situations;
- to ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

As a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Management Education since 2017, WSBU also commits to integrating responsibility and sustainability into management education.

Learning across the lifespan



WSBU education by stage of life · 2024/25 academic year and 2025

WSB's educational activity extends well beyond degree programmes. The University runs one of the largest networks of Third Age Universities in Poland and a Children's University that has operated with the City of Dąbrowa Górnicza for seventeen years. Its offer for professionals comprises more than one hundred MBA and postgraduate programmes, delivered with partners such as EY Academy of Business and TÜV NORD Polska.

Quality and recognition

National rankings

In the Perspektywy 2025 rankings WSBU was placed:

- 2nd among non-public universities in Poland;
- 23rd among all academic universities, one place higher than in 2024 and nine places higher than in 2023;
- 1st among all Polish universities for internationalization.

In the ranking of study programmes:

- National Security ranked 3rd in Poland;
- the Master's programme in Computer Science ranked 5th, jointly with the University of Gdańsk;
- Cosmetology was listed among the best programmes in the country.

The Perspektywy MBA ranking 2025 placed WSBU's Executive MBA (with Politecnico di Milano and EY) and MBA programmes in the "Golden Fifteen", and first in the participants category. Assessors noted the quality of recruitment, the professional experience of participants, their diversity by nationality and gender, and gender balance among faculty.

Programme accreditation

- **Nursing:** accredited by the Minister of Health for four years on 6 August 2025, with the maximum score on all mandatory criteria in the preceding inspection.
- **Medicine:** received a positive programme assessment from the Polish Accreditation Committee on 4 September 2025.
- **Doctoral School:** received a positive evaluation for the period from October 2019 to May 2025. The evaluation committee noted the quality of the implementation doctorates defended.
- **International accreditations:** WSB's programmes hold international quality labels, including EUR-ACE for the IT programme, ACCA accreditation and the EFMD BSIS Impact certificate.

Research evaluation

In the national evaluation of research for 2022–2025, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education awarded WSB ten scientific categories. This entitles the University to confer doctoral and habilitation degrees in ten disciplines, one of the broadest ranges among non-public universities in Poland:

- **A+:** family sciences;
- **A:** management and quality studies, security studies, medical sciences, pedagogy, international relations, and civil engineering, geodesy and transport;
- **B+:** further disciplines including economics and finance and safety engineering.

Recognition of teaching excellence

- **CEEMAN Teacher of the Year 2025:** awarded by CEEMAN, the international management development association, to Paweł Urgacz, Vice-Dean for Internationalization, for innovative teaching.
- **ACCA:** WSB was one of five Polish universities recognized for outstanding achievement in ACCA postgraduate education. The award was presented at ACCA's 120th anniversary gala.
- **Green Project Management:** GPM Global named WSB a Responsible Management Education Partner. WSB is the second university in Poland, and the only one in Silesia, with a Green Project Management agreement.
- **Student achievement:** a WSB diploma thesis on the safety culture of rail traffic controllers won the diploma-thesis category of the 8th Safety Culture Competition of the Office of Rail Transport. A Computer Science student won second place in the Huawei Tech Arena Poland hackathon.

Education for sustainable development

In 2025, 15 courses at WSB explicitly integrated responsible management and the Sustainable Development Goals. They include core courses in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development, and a portfolio of postgraduate programmes in the Green Competences series.

Programme	Focus
ESG Manager	ESG strategy, CSRD and ESRS reporting, climate risk, carbon footprint

Programme	Focus
Sustainable Development Manager in Practice – ESG and VSME	Sustainability reporting for small and medium-sized enterprises
Sustainable Development and ESG (with TÜV NORD Polska)	Sustainability management and auditing
Logistics Manager – Green Competences	Reverse logistics, circular economy, low-emission transport
Project Manager – Green Competences	Green Project Management and the PRiSM methodology
Quality Manager – Green Competences	Integration of quality and environmental management
Occupational Health and Safety Management – Green Competences	Safe and sustainable workplaces

The Management degree also offers a specialization in Sustainable Organization Management and ESG Reporting. It prepares graduates for roles as sustainability managers, non-financial reporting specialists and members of ESG transformation teams.

Sustainability is also integrated into teaching development and international programmes:

- **Green Project Management:** under its agreement with GPM Global, WSB integrates the PRiSM methodology into project management courses. Students can obtain the GPM-b certification, and 18 staff have completed GPM training.
- **Teaching Excellence:** every participating lecturer completes training in learning design and in green and digital competences. The project explicitly aims to integrate the SDGs into the University's teaching.
- **Blended Intensive Programme:** the Erasmus+ programme "Fostering Sustainable Business Practices" teaches international students about greenwashing, Green Project Management and SDG-aligned engagement projects.
- **Green-economy curricula:** the Just Transition Fund project "Comprehensive support for the development of WSB in line with the needs of the green and digital economy" (PLN 9.1 million, 2024–2026) aligns curricula with the skills required by the green economy in Silesia.
- **Dialogue with business:** on 3 April 2025 WSB hosted the 4th national conference "Sustainable Development of Enterprises", with sessions on ESG risk, green investment financing and the AI Act, open to students.

The University's research reinforces this teaching. In 2025, 178 of the 265 peer-reviewed articles published by WSB researchers addressed responsible management and sustainability.

Pedagogical innovation

Challenge-based learning

ENTER-CBL (Erasmus+, 2023–2025), coordinated by WSB, developed a challenge-based model of entrepreneurship education. Its outputs were the NextGen Entrepreneurship Course Framework, an open Moodle platform and an international bootcamp in which student teams addressed real social and environmental challenges linked to the SDGs. After the project closed in February 2025, its results were presented internationally:

- at the EURIE Eurasia Higher Education Summit in Istanbul (9–10 April 2025);
- at the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings Forum in December 2025.

Challenge-based and project-based approaches are central to the University's teaching and inform its Teaching and Learning Policy, adopted by the Senate in September 2026.

Collaborative Online International Learning

Within the Erasmus+ project SPARK-COIL, WSB hosted a five-day training in Collaborative Online International Learning (28 July – 1 August 2025) for the five Ateneo universities of the Philippines and the University of Alicante. The Philippine partners subsequently replicated the training, building a network of 155 faculty members trained in COIL.

Artificial intelligence in education

- **Rules for AI use:** Rector's Order No. 140/2024/2025 established principles for the use of artificial intelligence in teaching and learning.
- **SmartStart Erasmus+ Teacher Academy:** the project (EUR 1.87 million, 12 partners in 7 countries, April 2025 – March 2028) is developing an international training programme for teachers and pedagogy students on integrating AI-based digital media into everyday classroom practice. It includes an AI translation tool for multilingual classrooms. WSB co-leads the research work package together with the University of the National Education Commission in Kraków.
- **AI congress:** WSB hosted the congress "AI: Business and Medicine of the Future" on 27 November 2025.

Practice-based and simulation learning

WSB invests in laboratories that allow students to practice in realistic conditions:

- the Multiprofile Medical Simulation Centre, with 20 high-fidelity simulators;
- through EduLider, an emergency-medicine simulation laboratory, a virtual problem-based learning and gamification laboratory, a laboratory simulating warehouse logistics and road traffic management, and a cybersecurity laboratory.

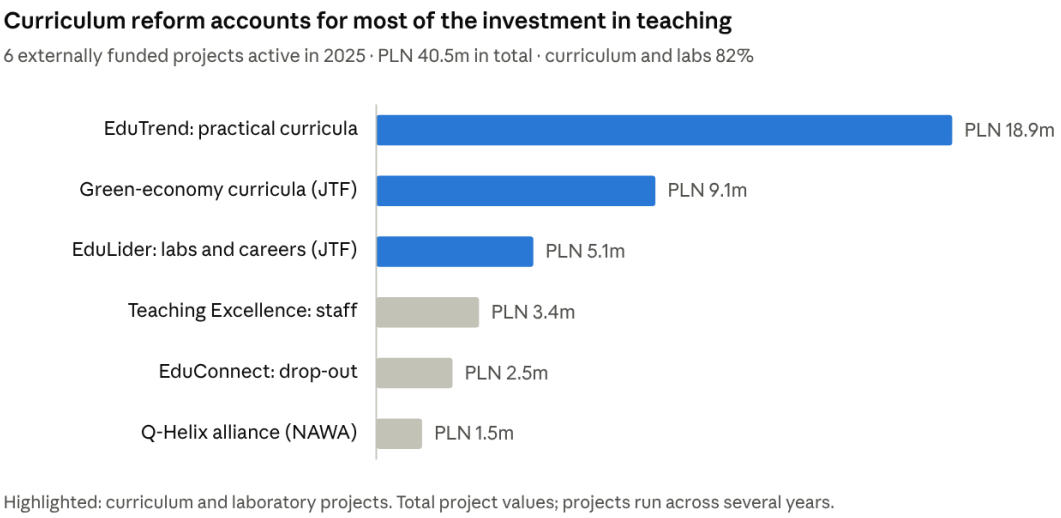
The "3 days study, 2 days work" model combines academic study with paid professional placements.

Open online learning

SkillsUP (European Funds for Social Development, December 2025 – November 2029) is building open Moodle courses that develop digital and transversal skills for students and external learners.

Investment in teaching

In 2025 WSBU implemented six externally funded projects dedicated to the quality of education, financed from the European Funds for Social Development (FERS), the European Funds for Silesia programme under the Just Transition Fund, and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.



Nauka i Biznes 2025 and 2026 · six projects active in 2025 (FERS, FE Śląskie/JTF, NAWA)

The largest share of the investment supports the modernisation of curricula and teaching infrastructure:

- **EduTrend** (PLN 18.9 million, 2024–2029) redesigns six programmes in Medicine, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Nursing, Emergency Medical Services and National Security around practical, green and digital competences. It adds courses, study visits and classes led by practitioners.
- **Teaching Excellence** (PLN 3.4 million, 2024–2027) develops the competences of academic staff through obligatory training in learning design and green and digital skills. It also funds optional study visits to Nottingham Trent University, Politecnico di Milano and CERN, and training in problem-based learning, design thinking and WebQuest.
- **EduConnect** (PLN 2.5 million, 2025–2029) received 98.5 points and ranked among the top three of 69 universities funded in the NCBR competition. It introduces early-warning monitoring of drop-out risk, a Hy-Flex teaching model and a mobile application for students.
- **Q-Helix** (NAWA, PLN 1.5 million, from October 2025) supports the European university alliance led by WSB. It is establishing an International Centre for Quality of Education and Research to prepare a joint European degree.

Inclusive and flexible learning

Students with special needs

The Centre for People with Special Needs provides all of its services free of charge. They include:

- individual adjustment of examination conditions;
- materials in accessible formats;

- an academic support person;
- psychological and advisory support.

Since January 2025 the project "Development, Education, Learning Without Barriers" (European Funds for Social Development, PLN 8.3 million, 2025–2028) has been building a permanent accessibility model across eight areas, including architectural, digital and communication accessibility. The model serves students, staff, doctoral candidates, postgraduate participants and learners of the Children's and Third Age Universities.

International and multilingual education

WSBU was ranked first in Poland for internationalization by Perspektywy 2025. The University offers degree programmes in Polish, English and Ukrainian. On 12 July 2025 it held a graduation ceremony in Kraków for graduates of programmes taught in English and Ukrainian. Intercultural learning is built into the curriculum:

- the Diversity Hub teams Polish and international students for eight months on a multicultural project;
- the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme "Diversity & Inclusion" is open to students of all majors.

Flexible study for working students

Many WSB students combine study with employment. The University responds with:

- the "3 days study, 2 days work" model;
- part-time study options;
- the Hy-Flex model developed within EduConnect, which combines on-campus, online and hybrid learning.

Virtual computer laboratories and electronic learning resources allow students to study synchronously and asynchronously from any location.

Gender equality in STEM and leadership

- **3D Smartbox** (Erasmus+, EUR 250,000) integrates 3D printing into school education and aims to narrow the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. WSB donated 3D printers to partner schools within the project.
- **Network competences for young women:** an Erasmus+ youth project (EUR 120,000, 2024–2026) develops the digital and networking competences of young women from small towns and post-industrial areas.

Schools, teachers and lifelong learning

Children and school pupils

- **Dąbrowa Children's University:** run jointly with the City of Dąbrowa Górnicza, it completed its seventeenth edition in 2024/25. Lectures and workshops ranged from biology and astronomy to new technologies and artificial intelligence, and more than 1,500 children took part.

- **Open Academy of Science:** free lectures and workshops for schools, on campus or online.
- **Matura preparation:** through "Pogotowie Maturalne" and EduLider, secondary-school pupils attend preparatory courses for the matura examination.
- **Partner schools:** in the 2025/26 academic year WSB signed further agreements with secondary schools in Katowice and Gliwice. With the Silesian Voivodeship and the Regional Teacher Training Centre Metis, it began work on a systemic model for identifying and developing pupils gifted in STEM.

Teacher education and professional development

WSB contributes to the quality of school education through several international and regional projects:

- **SmartStart Erasmus+ Teacher Academy** (EUR 1.87 million, 2025–2028): AI-supported teaching in European classrooms.
- **Inductive approaches to teaching science and mathematics** (Erasmus+, EUR 120,000, 2023–2026): lesson scenarios, experiment guides and training for primary-school teachers and pedagogy students, piloted in schools.
- **AKCENT KOMP** (Interreg Poland–Czechia, EUR 327,317, 2024–2027): a cross-border network of teachers. At a meeting in Jankowice on 15–16 May 2025, dozens of Polish and Czech teachers exchanged experience of cross-border cooperation.
- **Bringing RESEARCH to schools** (Erasmus+, EUR 250,000, from October 2025): a toolkit that brings research methods into humanities subjects for pupils aged 13 to 18 and prepares them for responsible participation in a democratic society.
- **Teachers' digital competences in the GZM Metropolis** (Metropolitan Science Fund, 2025): an assessment of secondary-school teachers in Bytom, Zabrze, Sosnowiec and Świętochłowice. Its report sets out recommendations for training.
- **SHORE** (Horizon Europe): environmental education about oceans and inland waters reached more than 100 schools in Europe. In the 2025/26 academic year WSB carried out more than 18 activities with over 2,500 participants, supporting 11 schools and involving 191 children and young people from Ukraine.

Lifelong learning

Lifelong learning is one of WSB's strategic priorities, pursued under the name "Lifelong Academy":

- **Postgraduate and MBA programmes:** more than one hundred, delivered with partners including EY Academy of Business, Politecnico di Milano, TÜV NORD Polska and ACCA. They include a unique Executive MBA for managers in the water and sewerage sector.
- **Third Age University:** with eleven branches and almost 3,500 learners in 2024/25, one of the largest networks in Poland. It offers lectures, workshops, physical activity and community projects.
- **LEuLiv** (Erasmus+, EUR 42,500, 2024–2027): new forms of biographical learning for people over sixty, to be integrated into courses in gerontology, social work and nursing.

At national level, Vice-Rector Prof. Marcin Lis was appointed by the Minister of Education to the Interregional Coordination Team for the Integrated Skills Strategy 2030, which shapes Poland's lifelong learning policy.

Continuing activities in 2026

- **Teaching and Learning Policy:** adopted by the Senate in September 2026, it establishes challenge-based, inclusive and digitally supported learning as the University's standard.
- **Retention:** EduConnect enters its first full year, deploying early-warning monitoring, the Hy-Flex model and a mobile application for students.
- **Open online courses:** SkillsUP develops open Moodle courses in digital and transversal skills.
- **Q-Helix:** the alliance establishes its International Centre for Quality of Education and Research and prepares a joint European degree.
- **New Master's programmes:** the second-cycle programmes in Nursing and Emergency Medical Services complete their first full year.
- **Lifelong learning:** in the 2025/26 academic year the Third Age University network grew to 16 branches and about 4,500 learners, and the Children's University held its eighteenth edition.