Akademia WSB
WSB University

WSB UNIVERSITY · AKADEMIA WSB · POLAND

Sustainability Report 2025



About this report

This report sets out what WSB University (Akademia WSB) did in 2025 to advance each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. For every goal it presents the University's commitment, key figures, the actions taken and the policies.

Strategic framework

- Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030, adopted by the Senate on 8 July 2022. It names seven priority goals: SDG 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 17.
- Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME): signatory since 2017, one of seven Polish universities.
- Polish Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities (2017), Magna Charta Universitatum, and the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research award.
- External assessment through THE Sustainability Impact Ratings and UI GreenMetric, and certification under Green Office and EFMD BSIS.

2025 at a glance

1st in Poland
for internationalisation (Perspektywy 2025)

10
scientific categories in the national evaluation 2022–2025, incl. A+ in family sciences

265 / 178
peer-reviewed articles / of which on responsible management and sustainability

7
Erasmus+ capacity-building projects active or launched with partners in Asia, Africa, the Western Balkans and Ukraine

~3,500 + 1,500
Third Age University learners and Children's University participants

401–600
THE Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026 overall (joint 2nd in Poland); 88th worldwide for SDG 10

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1

1 No Poverty

WSB University reduces the financial and social barriers that keep people from entering and completing higher education, and supports the transition of students and graduates into stable work in a region leaving coal mining.

30
Nursing and Emergency Medical Services students with non-repayable tuition support

PLN 2.5 m
EduConnect anti-drop-out project, ranked in the top 3 of 69 funded universities

Financial support for students

- Social scholarships for students from lower-income households, scholarships for students with disabilities, Rector's scholarships and one-off hardship grants of up to PLN 5,000, available twice per academic year (application within six months of the event). The system is defined in the University's internal quality procedure on student support and is open to international students.
- Ministry of Health development programme (National Recovery Plan, 2023/24–2025/26): 20 Nursing and 10 Emergency Medical Services students receive non-repayable support that offsets their tuition fees.

Retention and completion

- EduConnect (European Funds for Social Development, PLN 2.5 million, December 2025 – January 2029) scored 98.5 points and was ranked among the three highest-rated of 69 universities funded by the National Centre for Research and Development. It introduces early-warning monitoring of drop-out risk, a Hy-Flex teaching model and a mobile application for working students.
- "Student 4.0: preventing drop-out in the era of digital education" (WSB Student and Graduate Association, Ministry of Science funding): an e-learning course on the first stages of study completed by around 5,000 first-year students, supported by Design Thinking workshops.

Access for groups at risk of exclusion

- All services of the Centre for People with Special Needs (COSP) are free of charge: adjusted assessment, accessible materials, academic support persons and psychological support.
- Degree programmes taught in Ukrainian give students displaced by the war access to a recognised European qualification; a graduation ceremony for English- and Ukrainian-taught programmes was held in Kraków on 12 July 2025.

Pathways into decent work and community action

- "3 days study, 2 days work" model and the 16th Job and Internship Fair (31 March – 6 April 2025): 40 employers, more than 1,000 offers, 17 training sessions.
- Children's University (17th edition, more than 1,500 children) and the Third Age University network (11 branches, almost 3,500 learners in 2024/25) reduce educational and social exclusion of the youngest and oldest residents.
- European Solidarity Corps project "United in Action" (EUR 23,458, 2025) engaged international volunteers against social exclusion; the University community supported Dom Aniołów Stróżów in Katowice, a centre for children from socially excluded families.
- Authorised specialisation training in the organisation of social assistance; partnership with the Regional Social Policy Centre of the Silesian Voivodeship (2025/26).

Research and policy

- Category A+ in family sciences (2022–2025 evaluation), a discipline addressing family support and social policy; WSBU experts contribute to the White Paper on Transformation for coal regions.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Internal quality procedure on student support and scholarship regulations; Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030 (Senate, 8 July 2022); EduConnect funding decision (NCBR, 2025)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2

2 Zero Hunger

SDG 2 is an emerging area for WSB University. Its contribution draws on Collegium Medicum's expertise in nutrition-related disease, new partnerships with the agri-food sector and community action for food security.

1 of 8
EduLider applied research projects devoted to care for patients with overweight and obesity

Oct 2025
launch of the Master's in Nursing with nutritional therapy

1
cooperation agreement with the Silesian Chamber of Agriculture (2025/26)

Nutrition and health research

- European Congress on Obesity (EASO), Málaga, 11–14 May 2025: Prof. Monika Bąk-Sosnowska presented research on body mass index and medication adherence in chronically ill patients, challenging the stigmatisation of people living with obesity.
- EduLider (Just Transition Fund): a WSBU team developed care procedures for patients with overweight and obesity for regional healthcare providers.
- The Biochemistry Laboratory of Collegium Medicum researches oxidative stress and the metabolism of carbohydrates, lipids and proteins in relation to lifestyle and nutrition.

Education of health professionals and the public

- The second-cycle Nursing programme (from October 2025) includes nutritional therapy and the therapeutic education of patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- Free blood glucose and blood pressure screening at the 1st Silesian Conference of Pharmaceutical Technicians; health-promotion lectures in the Third Age University Patient Club.
- JUDO (Erasmus+, EUR 250,000, 2024–2026) promotes healthy lifestyles among young athletes in smaller communities.

Agriculture and food systems

- Partner of the Agriverde Start-up conference on urban agriculture and green innovation (KSSENON accelerator, Żory, 27 March 2025).
- Cooperation agreement with the Silesian Chamber of Agriculture (2025/26) on education, postgraduate training and research for the regional agricultural sector; Tashkent State Agrarian University joint research and education.
- Logistics Manager and Sustainable Development Manager postgraduate programmes teach reverse logistics and waste reduction in supply chains.

Food security in the community

- The AWSB Running Team supported Dom Aniołów Stróżów in Katowice, which provides warm meals to children from excluded families; the University and its Student Government took part in the "Szlachetna Paczka" programme with a food parcel for a family in need.
- Students in temporary financial difficulty can apply for social scholarships and hardship grants to meet basic living needs.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

EduLider project documentation (FE Śląskie / Just Transition Fund); Cooperation agreement with the Silesian Chamber of Agriculture; Nursing second-cycle programme description

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3

3 Good Health and Well-being

Collegium Medicum – Faculty of Medicine educates doctors, nurses, paramedics, physiotherapists and psychologists for a region with a shortage of health professionals, and links that education with research and community health.

Max. score
on all mandatory criteria: Nursing accredited for 4 years (6 Aug 2025)

PLN 33.6 m
invested in medical teaching facilities in 2025

20
high-fidelity simulators in the Medical Simulation Centre

Education of the health workforce

- The Minister of Health accredited the first-cycle Nursing programme for four years (Decision No. 60/VI/2025); on 4 September 2025 the Polish Accreditation Committee issued a positive assessment of the Medicine programme.
- The first cohort of Nursing graduates finished in June 2025. In October 2025 the University launched Master's programmes in Nursing and in Emergency Medical Services (the latter offered by only three universities in Poland).
- EduMed (National Recovery Plan, PLN 17.4 million, from November 2025) modernises anatomy, histology, molecular-biology and clinical-skills laboratories and OSCE rooms; EduTrend (PLN 18.9 million) modernises five health curricula.
- Clinical partnerships with the Zagłębie Oncology Centre, the Megrez hospital in Tychy and Provincial Specialist Hospital No. 3 in Rybnik, where three clinical departments were established.

Health research

- EASO 2025 (Málaga): obesity and treatment adherence. EBCOG 2025 (Frankfurt): microRNA targets in breast cancer and EMT-related genes in endometrial cancer.
- GZM Metropolitan Science Fund (PLN 34,200, 2025): a pressure-measurement system to make peripheral nerve blocks safer.
- Honorary doctorate for Prof. David E. Fisher of Harvard Medical School (27 October 2025), a leading melanoma researcher. Category A in medical sciences in the 2022–2025 evaluation.

Community health and prevention

- Patronage of the Provincial Ambulance Service campaign "Your Courage – Their Professionalism": paramedic students run first-aid workshops for residents.
- Free preventive screening at public conferences, including "Quality of life conditioned by disability" (5 December 2025).

- Third Age University: fitness, swimming, yoga and Nordic walking for almost 3,500 older learners; RESCUER (Erasmus+) VR safety training for older people and people with disabilities, tested in Slovakia in April and July 2025.

Mental health and well-being

- Free psychological crisis support, Social Skills Training and learning support for students and staff through COSP.
- mentUwell toolkit for the mental well-being of young war migrants (eight languages); Children's University conference "The Power of the Mind" (March 2025).
- University Sports Association: more than 20 disciplines; 1st in sport among non-public universities in the Silesian Voivodeship in 2024/25. Smoking is prohibited on all University premises.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Minister of Health Decision No. 60/VI/2025; Polish Accreditation Committee resolution on Medicine (4 Sept 2025); COSP rules of psychological support

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4 STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY

Quality Education

Quality education is the core of the University's mission. In 2025 WSBU taught across ten campuses and reached learners from the age of six to over eighty.

PLN 40.5 m
six externally funded projects improving teaching quality

1,500+ / 3,500
Children's University participants / Third Age University learners

Quality and recognition

- Perspektywy 2025: 2nd among non-public universities, 23rd among all academic universities (nine places higher than in 2023) and 1st in Poland for internationalisation.
- Ten scientific categories in the 2022–2025 national evaluation (A+ family sciences; A in six disciplines). Positive evaluation of the Doctoral School (2019–2025). International labels: EUR-ACE, ACCA, EFMD BSIS.
- CEEMAN Teacher of the Year 2025 (Paweł Urgacz) and ACCA recognition as one of five Polish universities for ACCA postgraduate education.

Education for sustainable development

- Core courses in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development; Management specialisation in Sustainable Organisation Management and ESG Reporting.
- Green Competences postgraduate series: ESG Manager; Sustainable Development Manager – ESG and VSME; Sustainable Development and ESG (with TÜV NORD Polska); and Logistics, Project, Quality and OHS Manager – Green Competences.
- Green Project Management: PRiSM methodology in project-management courses, GPM-b certification for students and 18 staff trained; GPM Global Responsible Management Education Partner.
- Teaching Excellence (PLN 3.4 million, 2024–2027): every participating lecturer is trained in learning design and green and digital competences, with the explicit aim of integrating the SDGs into teaching.

Pedagogical innovation

- ENTER-CBL (Erasmus+, completed February 2025): NextGen Entrepreneurship Course Framework, open Moodle platform and a challenge-based bootcamp on SDG challenges.
- SPARK-COIL: five-day COIL training hosted by WSBU (28 July – 1 August 2025) that grew into a network of 155 trained faculty in the Philippines.

- Rector's Order No. 140/2024/2025 on the use of artificial intelligence in teaching; SmartStart Erasmus+ Teacher Academy (EUR 1.87 million, 2025–2028), where WSBU co-leads the research work package.

Schools, teachers and lifelong learning

- Open Academy of Science (free lectures and workshops for schools), matura preparation courses and partner-school agreements.
- Teacher networks and resources: AKCENT KOMP (Interreg PL–CZ, EUR 327,317), inductive science and mathematics teaching (Erasmus+, EUR 120,000), Bringing RESEARCH to schools (Erasmus+, EUR 250,000), and 3D Smartbox, which donated six 3D printers to three schools.
- Lifelong Academy: more than 100 MBA and postgraduate programmes; Third Age University; LEuLiv (Erasmus+) on biographical learning with people over sixty.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030, SDG 4 objectives; Rector's Order No. 140/2024/2025 (AI in teaching); Syllabi of courses integrating the SDGs; PRME signatory since 2017

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5 STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY

Gender Equality

Women form the majority of WSBU's staff and leadership, and the University has been led by a woman Rector since 2008. In 2025 it also shaped gender-equality standards for business-school accreditation in Europe.

~64%
of employees are women

~64%
of vice-deans and unit coordinators are women

3 of 5
members of the Rector's Office are women, including the Rector

Policy framework

- Gender Equality Plan: gender balance in management, decision-making bodies and recruitment committees; work-life balance; gender-sensitive language. It meets the Horizon Europe eligibility requirement.
- Diversity Policy: an independent Rector's Plenipotentiary for Equality and anonymous reporting of violence, including sexual violence. Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination Policy (Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018) with a standing Anti-Mobbing and Anti-Discrimination Committee.
- Maternity, paternity and parental leave, care support for staff with dependants, flexible working hours and structured onboarding after long absences. HR Excellence in Research commits WSBU to gender balance in recruitment and careers.

EQUATION: gender equality through accreditation

- Erasmus+ project led by CEEMAN with IEDC-Bled, WSB University, Vistula University and Riga Technical University. Final results presented in Bled on 3–4 March 2025: model Gender Equality Plans for business schools, guidelines for accreditation bodies and training for quality evaluators.
- WSBU prepared the Poland chapter of the Report on Gender Equality in Business Schools and Accreditation.

Young women, STEM and leadership

- Girls4Economy (Erasmus+, led by WSBU, EUR 120,000, December 2024 – November 2026): digital and networking competences for young women from small towns and post-industrial areas; the methodology was piloted with about 130 young people in Poland, Czechia, Romania and Lithuania.
- 3D Smartbox (Erasmus+, EUR 250,000) brings 3D printing into schools with the explicit aim of narrowing the gender gap in STEM.
- Three of the six WSBU researchers on the 2025 list of the world's top 2% most-cited scientists are women, including the Rector and the Vice-Rector for Science and Education.

- Women students' achievements in 2025: 2nd place in Huawei Tech Arena Poland (Computer Science) and the diploma-thesis award of the Office of Rail Transport's Safety Culture Competition.

Women's health

- Research on breast and endometrial cancer presented at EBCOG 2025; a Clinical Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Gynaecological Oncology established in Rybnik (2025/26).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Gender Equality Plan; Diversity Policy; Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018; EQUATION final outputs (March 2025)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6

6 Clean Water and Sanitation

WSBU's contribution to SDG 6 is developing. It combines freshwater literacy in schools, research on flood-protection and blue-green infrastructure, education for the water sector and monitoring of water use on campus.

"Three Rivers – One Sea"
SHORE workshops on the Vistula, Olza and Biała Przemsza catchments

PLN 34,773
GZM-funded AI research on flood-protection infrastructure (2025)

Only in Poland
Executive MBA for managers of water and sewerage utilities

Freshwater literacy

- SHORE (Horizon Europe, 2023–2026): WSBU coordinates the Polish Blue HUB, linking marine protection with the river catchments that drain into the Baltic Sea. Workshops in Kraków, Dąbrowa Górnicza and Cieszyn address pollution, microplastics and water stewardship.
- Mission Ocean & Waters Night, 4 June 2025, held in Poland, Romania, Türkiye, Italy and online.

Research

- AI and satellite imagery for monitoring dikes, dams and retention reservoirs (GZM Metropolitan Science Fund, February–December 2025), supporting early warning and flood-risk management.
- Research on awareness and management of blue-green infrastructure in the cities of the GZM Metropolis.

Water sector and campus

- Executive MBA for water and sewerage managers; partnership with Veolia, a heat and water utility; agreement with the Olkusz water utility (2025/26).
- Smart meters track water consumption in University buildings; the Green Office audit covers water use.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES
SHORE grant agreement (Horizon Europe); GZM Metropolitan Science Fund decision (2025); Green Office certificate

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7

7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Silesia's move away from coal is the largest energy transition in the EU. WSBU contributes research, local-government capacity, vocational training for renewables and investment in its own buildings.

PLN 11.7 m
solar-energy Industry Skills Centre in Żywiec, completed November 2025

PLN 4.2 m
thermo-modernisation with rooftop PV and storage, from April 2026

Research and policy

- Institute of Energy Transformation, directed by Prof. Krzysztof Zamasz (Commercial Director of Veolia Poland): renewable energy, low-carbon heating and transport, energy efficiency.
- Content partner of the national conference "Energy challenges of cities" (Tychy, 11 April 2025) on municipal energy self-sufficiency, energy communities and clusters.
- Publications in 2025 on green finance, green investment and AI in green growth by the WSBU team with Sumy State University and EKA University of Applied Sciences.

Skills for renewable energy

- With the City of Żywiec, WSBU established an Industry Skills Centre for solar energy at the local technical school (National Recovery Plan). Its closing conference gathered more than 250 participants from science, education, local government and the renewable-energy sector.
- EduLider (Just Transition Fund) included applied research on energy management in enterprises.

Campus energy

- Building management systems, smart energy metering and monitoring of solar-panel output.
- Thermo-modernisation of the historic building at ul. Konopnickiej 36 (FEnIKS, April 2026 – March 2027): new windows, heating, hot-water and ventilation systems, LED lighting and the University's first rooftop PV installation with energy storage.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES
Żywiec Industry Skills Centre partnership agreement; UI GreenMetric results 2023 and 2024; FEnIKS funding agreement (thermo-modernisation)

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY

Decent Work and Economic Growth

WSBU prepares graduates for employment, supports entrepreneurship and the commercialisation of research, develops skills for a region in transition, and applies fair employment practice as an employer.

40 / 1,000+
employers / job, traineeship and internship offers at the 2025 Job Fair

PLN 14.3 m
two Just Transition Fund projects for green and digital skills

4th in Poland
university to hold the EFMD BSIS Impact certificate

Employability

- "3 days study, 2 days work" model combining study with paid placements; EduTrend (PLN 18.9 million) adds practitioner-led classes to six programmes.
- 16th Job and Internship Fair (31 March – 6 April 2025); EduLider extends the Academic Career Office to branch faculties with career counselling and mentoring.
- Employer agreements in 2025 with DB Cargo Polska, Ficomirrors Polska, Sped Partner, ALBA, Noble Cert and Huawei; in 2025/26 with Johnson Matthey, ASTOR, the Silesian Logistics Centre, Fundusz Górnośląski and the Olkusz water utility.
- MBA programmes with EY Academy of Business and Politecnico di Milano placed in the Perspektywy "Golden Fifteen" and 1st in the participants category.

Entrepreneurship and innovation

- WSBU leads an "Inkubator Rozwoju" consortium in Science4Business, a PLN 296.7 million national programme for the commercialisation of research, with Jan Długosz University and the KOMAG Institute.
- ENTER-CBL and Game4Change (Erasmus+) developed challenge- and game-based entrepreneurship education; the G4C Wars bootcamp at WSBU gathered 60 students and 10 teachers from more than seven countries.
- Partner of the Agriverde Start-up conference (27 March 2025) and of the 10th Karol Adamiecki Economic Award for responsible SMEs (12 June 2025); host of the 10th conference "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" (29 September 2025).
- The Tychy Chamber of Industry and Commerce named WSBU "Integrator Roku 2025".

WSBU as an employer

- HR Excellence in Research: open, transparent, merit-based recruitment and fair working conditions.

- Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination Policy (Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018), codes of ethics and a register-based complaints procedure supervised by the Rector.
- Work-life balance measures and staff development through Teaching Excellence and simulation-instructor training (28–29 April 2025).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

HR Excellence in Research award; Work regulations and Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018; EFMD BSIS Impact certificate; Employer cooperation agreements

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9 STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

WSBU links research capacity with a national mandate in commercialisation, applied projects for the region, modern laboratories and its own digital transformation.

265 / 178
peer-reviewed articles in 2025 / of which on responsible management and sustainability

6
researchers on the world's top 2% most-cited list

Q1
SJR quartile of the University journal Forum Scientiae Oeconomia

Research and commercialisation

- Ten scientific categories in the 2022–2025 evaluation, including A in civil engineering, geodesy and transport and B+ in safety engineering.
- Science4Business "Inkubator Rozwoju" consortium led by WSBU: mapping research potential, selecting results with commercial prospects and developing them through industrial research, supported by the Technology Transfer Center.

Applied research for the region

- EduLider (Just Transition Fund): eight applied projects for Silesian companies and healthcare, including energy management, mobility of people with special needs and AI-generated simulation scenarios.
- GZM Metropolitan Science Fund (2025): AI analysis of satellite images for flood defences (PLN 34,773); deepfake patterns and detection (PLN 33,431); nerve-block safety (PLN 34,200); teachers' digital competences in post-industrial cities (PLN 39,933).
- Universal CBRNE Protection System (Internal Security Fund, EUR 3.33 million, 2025–2028) for open university campuses, including VR training and the educational game THOR.

Infrastructure and digital transformation

- New laboratories funded by EduLider: emergency medicine, problem-based learning and gamification, warehouse logistics and traffic simulation, cybersecurity.
- Smart campus: building management systems, BIM, smart metering and environmental sensors.
- Digital WSBU programme: AI-based decision support, proactive cybersecurity, virtual computer laboratories and "Uczelnia VR".
- Co-organiser of the conference on the development of Katowice International Airport (Silesian Parliament, 3 March 2025).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Ministry of Science evaluation results 2022–2025; Science4Business consortium agreement; GZM Metropolitan Science Fund decisions (2025)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10

10 Reduced Inequalities

WSBU serves one of the most diverse academic communities in Poland: international students, working adults, people with disabilities, children and older learners. Reduced inequalities is its strongest goal in international assessments.

1st
in Poland for internationalisation (Perspektywy 2025)

PLN 8.3 m
"Development, Education, Learning Without Barriers" (2025–2028)

Accessibility

- In January 2025 the Office for Persons with Disabilities became the Centre for People with Special Needs (COSP), serving students, staff, doctoral candidates, postgraduates and learners of the Children's and Third Age Universities.
- "Learning Without Barriers" builds a permanent accessibility model in eight areas: architectural, digital, information and communication, technology, procedures and training.
- Accessibility Gala with the City of Dąbrowa Górnicza; 4th conference "Quality of life conditioned by disability" (5 December 2025).

International students and people affected by war

- Programmes taught in Polish, English and Ukrainian; International Office support with admission, legalisation of stay and settling in; cooperation with AIESEC and the Erasmus Student Network.
- SHORE activities involved 191 children and young people from Ukraine under temporary protection (2025/26); BIG-U (Erasmus+ CBHE, from November 2025) supports internationalisation of three Ukrainian universities.
- Capacity building widens access to quality higher education in Kenya, Albania, Kosovo and the Philippines (AGILE, DUALKO, SPARK-COIL).

Social, regional and generational inequality

- Hardship grants, social and disability scholarships and EduConnect support for students who combine study with work.
- Third Age University branches in small municipalities such as Ożarowice, Psary, Rogoźnik and Siemonia; 2nd conference "Quality of Life of Older Adults"; "Senior-Friendly University" certificate (MANKO).

- EKSPonad (European Solidarity Corps, EUR 9,554, from July 2025) supports AWeSomeBand, an intergenerational band including people with disabilities; LEuLiv develops biographical learning with people over sixty.

Anti-discrimination framework and intercultural learning

- Diversity Policy with a Rector's Plenipotentiary for Equality; Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination Policy (Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018); Anti-Mobbing and Anti-Discrimination Committee; Gender Equality Plan; Magna Charta Universitatum.
- Diversity Hub (eight-month Polish–international student projects ending with Cultural Diversity Day), Erasmus+ BIP "Diversity & Inclusion" and Awareness Days on human rights and the prevention of modern slavery.
- 1st Silesian Symposium "Human Rights in Public Service" (14 May 2025).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Diversity Policy; Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018; COSP regulations; Admission rules for international candidates

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11 STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY

Sustainable Cities and Communities

WSBU is an urban institution in the Upper Silesian–Zagłębie Metropolis (41 municipalities, about 2.3 million residents). It serves residents across the region, strengthens local authorities and supports the energy and cultural life of its cities.

10
campuses; the 10th opened in 2025 in the Palace of Culture and Science, Warsaw

11 towns
with Third Age University branches (almost 3,500 learners)

Partnership with cities and the metropolis

- On 14 April 2025 the Mayor of Dąbrowa Górnicza presented the Rector with the Golden Oak Leaf for transforming an industrial town into an academic city.
- Joint activity with the city: Children's University (since 2008), Third Age University ("Senior-Friendly Place" certificate), Accessibility Gala and the Karol Adamiecki Economic Award.
- Four GZM-funded research projects in 2025 on flood defences, disinformation, patient safety and schools in post-industrial cities.
- Tychy: content partner of "Energy challenges of cities" and "Integrator Roku 2025". Żywiec: solar-energy Industry Skills Centre.

Safe and resilient communities

- Crisis-management training for local authorities; co-organiser of the national civil-protection training at TAURON Arena Kraków (27 November 2025).
- Security Day for secondary schools (31 January 2025) and the 13th National Tournament of Uniformed Classes (more than 30 school teams).
- HEIsCITI (Erasmus+, led by WSBU, completed November 2025): participatory methods for inclusive urban development, piloted with residents and the city of Cieszyn.
- ReBuild study visit (September 2025) on post-earthquake reconstruction combining structural safety, heritage protection and energy efficiency.

Campus, mobility and the urban environment

- City-centre campuses served by public transport; the E-Shuttle ride-sharing scheme between campuses. UI GreenMetric transport score rose from 800 to 850 (2023 → 2024).
- Waste segregation supported from July 2025 by cooperation with ALBA; Green Office certification; thermo-modernisation of the historic building at ul. Konopnickiej 36 from 2026.

Culture, heritage and public space

- Anniversary concerts at the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra hall and at WSBU; AWeSomeBand performances.
- Design Observatory with Zamek Cieszyn in the Silesian network of Regional Innovation Observatories.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030, SDG 11 objectives; UI GreenMetric results; Agreements with the City of Dąbrowa Górnicza and the GZM Metropolis

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12 **STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY**

Responsible Consumption and Production

WSBU manages its own operations under an audited environmental system, educates the managers who prepare corporate sustainability reports, and brings companies and auditors together on ESG.

Green Office
certified by the Foundation for Environmental Education Poland

7
postgraduate programmes in Green Competences and ESG

18
staff trained in Green Project Management

Campus operations

- Green Office certification after an audit of paper, water and energy use and waste management.
- Waste segregation and recycling, supported from July 2025 by cooperation with the municipal services company ALBA.
- Smart metering of energy and water; electronic student files, digital scholarship applications and electronic document circulation reduce paper use.

Education for responsible production

- ESG Manager (CSRD/ESRS reporting, carbon footprint); Sustainable Development Manager – ESG and VSME (reporting for SMEs); Sustainable Development and ESG with TÜV NORD Polska (auditing); Logistics Manager – Green Competences (reverse logistics, circular economy).
- PRiSM methodology and GPM-b certification; teaching on greenwashing so that graduates distinguish substantive action from presentation.

Enabling companies to act and report

- 4th national conference "Sustainable Development of Enterprises" (3 April 2025): ESG risk, BGK green loans and the AI Act.
- Content partner of the European SME Congress (27–28 October 2025); partner of the Karol Adamiecki Award for ethical SMEs.
- Research on green entrepreneurship, green finance and ESG performance (2025).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES
Green Office certificate; Programme descriptions of the Green Competences series; GPM Global partnership agreement

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13

13 Climate Action

WSBU works on climate action in Poland's coal heartland through energy-transition research, climate indicators, climate competences in its programmes and the management of its own buildings. The University publishes a Climate Action Plan.

6
institutions in the WSBU-led Visegrad project on forecasting climate-change factors

250+
participants at the Żywiec renewable-energy skills conference

Policy and regional transition

- WSBU experts contribute to the White Paper on Transformation for coal regions; Vice-Rector Prof. Marcin Lis was appointed to the Scientific Council of the Central Mining Institute (GIG-PIB) for 2025–2029.
- Two Just Transition Fund projects (PLN 14.3 million) align teaching with the green economy.

Climate research

- Visegrad Fund project "Forecasting factors influencing climatic changes as a part of SDGs 2030", led by WSBU with Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, University of Žilina, VŠB-TU Ostrava, Pan-European University and Corvinus University: a new method for estimating SDG indicators, two articles and an online guide for local governments and NGOs.
- A system of 40 environmental-security indicators in seven domains, including climate adaptation (Sustainable Development, 2025, with the National Institute for Strategic Studies, Kyiv).
- Comparative climate policy in cross-border regions (Regional Science Policy and Practice, 2025).

Climate education and awareness

- ESG and Green Competences programmes teach mitigation and adaptation, the EU ETS, CBAM and carbon-footprint calculation; Teaching Excellence trains all participating lecturers in green competences.
- Student initiatives #climateofchange and UN Club WSBU; ENTER-CBL results presented at the UI GreenMetric Forum (December 2025).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES
Climate Action Plan; Energy Efficiency and Climate Action page; Visegrad Fund project outputs

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

14 Life Below Water

WSBU's contribution to SDG 14 is concentrated in ocean literacy and the blue economy through SHORE, a Horizon Europe project under the EU Mission to Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030.

100+
European schools reached by SHORE ocean and water education

18+ / 2,500+
WSBU activities / participants in 2025/26, supporting 11 schools

200+
stakeholders at the Mission Arena on the South Baltic blue economy

Polish Blue HUB

- WSBU coordinates the Polish Blue HUB of SHORE (consortium budget EUR 3.0 million, August 2023 – July 2026), which covers the Baltic, Black and Mediterranean Seas and the Danube and Rhine basins.
- With Estonian partners, WSBU runs a Baltic Sea knowledge cluster that reviews school ocean-literacy materials and engages pupils, teachers and seniors through fieldwork, exhibitions and webinars.
- Schools could apply for grants of up to EUR 10,000 for ecological activities; 30 schools were funded in the first call.

Public engagement

- Second Mission Ocean & Waters Night, 4 June 2025, in Poland, Romania, Türkiye, Italy and online.
- Mission Arena in Sopot on a climate-neutral and sustainable South Baltic blue economy: more than 200 stakeholders and 17 workshops.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES
SHORE grant agreement (Horizon Europe); SHORE activity reports

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15

15 Life on Land

SDG 15 is the least developed area of WSBU's activity. Current contributions come from environmental-security research, the Q-Helix pillar on environmental conservation and restoration, and environmental education.

40
environmental-security indicators in 7 domains, incl. biodiversity and land use

1 of 4
Q-Helix pillars devoted to environmental conservation and restoration

Research

- "System of Indicators for the Environmental Component of Sustainable Development in the Security Dimension" (Sustainable Development, 2025): 40 indicators in seven domains, including biodiversity and land use, with threshold values identified through statistics and AI-assisted clustering.
- Research on blue-green infrastructure in the GZM Metropolis.

Partnerships and education

- Q-Helix European University alliance (led by WSBU, 11 universities, 10 countries): conservation and restoration of the environment is one of four thematic pillars.
- "EkoŚcieżka" (Eco-Path) for environmental education of visitors and school groups; SHORE biodiversity education in schools.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES
Article in Sustainable Development (2025); Q-Helix alliance proposal (Seal of Excellence)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

WSBU contributes to SDG 16 through the integrity of its own governance and as a partner of the institutions that administer justice and security in Poland.

3rd
National Security programme in Poland (Perspektywy 2025)

A
research category in security studies (2022–2025)

EUR 348,681
SINCERE academic-integrity project, from October 2025

Human rights and access to justice

- 1st Silesian Symposium "Human Rights in Public Service" (14 May 2025) with the Prison Service, the regional Ombudsman's office and the Silesian Police.
- Conference on hate speech and aggression towards public-service officers (25 November 2025); 1st conference "Law and Medicine" on medical liability and patient safety (11 December 2025).
- Partnerships with the Katowice Detention Center and the Regional Youth Educational Center in Pszczyna-Łąka; in 2025/26 with the District Court and Court of Appeal in Katowice and the Prison Service Central Training Centre.

Governance, ethics and integrity

- Elected representatives of students, academic staff and non-academic staff in the Senate; an independent Student Government.
- Anti-corruption policy (Rector's Order No. 34/2019/2020), codes of ethics for employees and students (Student Code of Ethics adopted 20 December 2024), a complaints register supervised by the Rector, and the Magna Charta Universitatum.
- SINCERE (Erasmus+ CBHE, 2025–2028): WSBU co-leads institutional integrity assessments and an Academic Integrity Framework for universities in Albania and Kosovo.
- Rector's Order No. 140/2024/2025 on AI; the MAIA assistant is designed for transparency under Article 50 of the EU AI Act.

Expert advice and resilience

- WSBU experts serve on the Science Evaluation Committee, the Interregional Coordination Team for the Integrated Skills Strategy 2030 and the Ministry of Science advisory team for "Science for Society".
- Host of the 11th Open Day of the Personal Data Protection Office (6 February 2025); Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Public Diplomacy 2024–2025" project on countering disinformation; Polish–Lithuanian youth exchange on fake news (FRSE).

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

University Statute (Senate composition); Rector's Order No. 34/2019/2020 (anti-corruption); Codes of ethics; Magna Charta Universitatum

17

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17 STRATEGY 2030 PRIORITY

Partnerships for the Goals

Partnerships are the principal way WSBU implements its other goals. SDG 17 is one of the seven priorities of the Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030, and the University has been a PRME signatory since 2017.

7
Erasmus+ capacity-building projects active or launched in 2025

11 / 11
universities / countries in the WSBU-led Q-Helix alliance

155
faculty trained in COIL in the Philippines (SPARK-COIL)

Local, business and national partners

- City of Dąbrowa Górnicza (Children's and Third Age Universities, accessibility), the GZM Metropolis (four research grants in 2025) and the Silesian Voivodeship (Just Transition Fund).
- Strategic business partners: Veolia (Institute of Energy Transformation), EY Academy of Business (MBA, ACCA), TÜV NORD Polska (ESG programme).
- Science4Business: WSBU leads an "Inkubator Rozwoju" consortium in a 79-organisation national network.
- Policy roles: Integrated Skills Strategy 2030, Scientific Council of GIG-PIB (2025–2029), Science Evaluation Committee.

International consortia

- Q-Helix European University alliance led by WSBU: European Commission Seal of Excellence; NAWA grant of PLN 1.5 million (October 2025) for an International Centre for Quality of Education and Research.
- Capacity building: SPARK-COIL (Philippines), ReBuild (Eastern Neighbourhood), GITEKA and SINCERE (Albania, Kosovo, from October 2025), AGILE (Kenya, Albania, Kosovo), BIG-U (Ukraine) and DUALKO (Albania, Kosovo), from November 2025.
- Other consortia: HEIsCITI (led by WSBU), SHORE, EQUATION, SmartStart Teacher Academy, Universal CBRNE Protection System, RESCUER, AKCENT KOMP, mentUwell, Girls4Economy (led by WSBU).
- Visegrad Fund: "CBC in Ukraine and V4" (with Uzhhorod National University, University of Prešov, TU Liberec and CESCI) and the WSBU-led project on climate-change factors.

Research collaboration and SDG data

- Six WSBU researchers among the world's top 2% most-cited scientists, largely through long-term collaboration with Sumy State University and EKA University of Applied Sciences.

- The Visegrad climate project developed a method for estimating SDG indicators, shared with local governments and NGOs through an online guide.
- Forum Scientiae Oeconomia (Q1, SJR) publishes partner research in open access.

People and mobility

- Erasmus+ mobility grants of EUR 356,120 (programme countries) and EUR 291,639 (partner countries), both running to 2027; cooperation opened with Namibia University of Science and Technology.
- European Solidarity Corps volunteers from France, Romania, Egypt, Spain, Colombia and Türkiye; cooperation with AIESEC and ESN; Diversity Hub.

EVIDENCE AND POLICIES

Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030 (Senate, 8 July 2022); PRME signatory status (2017); Polish Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities; Annex B: international project portfolio

International project portfolio 2025

Projects in which WSB University took part during 2025, with the goals they support.

Project	Programme	WSBU role	SDGs
Q-Helix	European Universities / NAWA	Lead	3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17
HEIsCITI	Erasmus+	Lead (completed Nov 2025)	4, 10, 11, 16, 17
Girls4Economy	Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership	Lead	4, 5, 8, 10
mentUwell	Erasmus+	Coordinator (completed Dec 2025)	3, 4, 10, 16, 17
Climate-change factors (V4)	Visegrad Fund	Lead	9, 13, 17
SPARK-COIL	Erasmus+ CBHE	Partner	4, 10, 17
ReBuild	Erasmus+ CB-VET	Partner	4, 9, 11, 13, 17
GITEKA	Erasmus+ CBHE	Partner	4, 8, 9, 12, 17
SINCERE	Erasmus+ CBHE	Partner	4, 16, 17
AGILE	Erasmus+ CBHE	Partner	4, 8, 9, 13, 17
BIG-U	Erasmus+ CBHE	Partner	4, 16, 17
DUALKO	Erasmus+ CBHE	Partner	4, 8, 9, 17
SHORE	Horizon Europe	Partner (Polish Blue HUB)	4, 6, 13, 14, 17
EQUATION	Erasmus+	Partner	4, 5, 10, 16, 17
SmartStart Teacher Academy	Erasmus+	Partner	4, 10, 17
3D Smartbox	Erasmus+	Partner	4, 5, 9, 10
Universal CBRNE Protection	Internal Security Fund	Partner	4, 9, 11, 16, 17
RESCUER	Erasmus+	Partner	3, 9, 10, 11, 17
AKCENT KOMP	Interreg PL–CZ	Partner	4, 10, 17
CBC in Ukraine and V4	Visegrad Fund	Partner	11, 16, 17

ANNEX B

Policies and documents

Document	Reference	SDGs
Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030	Senate resolution, 8 July 2022	All
Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination Policy	Rector's Order No. 61/2017/2018	5, 8, 10, 16
Anti-corruption policy and ethics	Rector's Order No. 34/2019/2020; Senate Resolution No. 2/2019/2020	16
Teaching and Learning Policy	Senate Resolution No. 148/2025/2026 (21 September 2026)	4
Principles for the use of artificial intelligence in teaching and learning	Rector's Order No. 140/2024/2025	4, 9, 16
Gender Equality Plan	University policy	5, 8, 10
Diversity Policy (Rector's Plenipotentiary for Equality)	University policy	5, 10, 16
Climate Action Plan	Published on the Energy Efficiency and Climate Action page	7, 13
Codes of ethics for employees and students	Student Code of Ethics adopted 20 December 2024	16
Internal quality procedure on student support	Quality assurance system	1, 4, 10
HR Excellence in Research	European Commission award	5, 8
Green Office certificate	Foundation for Environmental Education Poland	6, 7, 12, 13
Magna Charta Universitatum	Signatory	16
Principles for Responsible Management Education	Signatory since 2017	4, 12, 17
Polish Declaration of Social Responsibility of Universities	Signatory since 2017	17

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