

PLENARY LECTURE

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Contribution of the University of Split to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The University of Split (UNIST) has refined its approach to integrating UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) into its institutional framework, considering THE Impact Ranking as a structured, globally comparable method for measuring higher education institution SDG performance and as an opportunity for HEIs from small countries to promote their higher education internationally. Initially, UNIST showed signs of low institutional commitment, focusing mainly on compliance with SDG-related metrics. Over time, UNIST developed a deeper institutional commitment by incorporating sustainability into strategic planning, governance, and teaching. UNIST policies now reflect a systematic approach to aligning institutional practices with SDG principles. Additionally, active engagement of academic and administrative staff in SDG-related teams indicates a shift towards fostering collaboration and innovation [1].

The vital role of UNIST in promoting the SDGs through teaching (study programs), research (multidisciplinary research topics in six key areas [2], where UNIST addresses promoting well-being, organizing sustainable cities, managing natural resources, enhancing digital technologies, developing innovative energy solutions, and protecting cultural heritage), and institutional management has resulted in an overall position of 201-300 at THE Impact Ranking, making it the leading Croatian university. The best UNIST ranking is in SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth (66th position), with positions 101-200 achieved for SDG 14 Life Below Water, SDG 15 Life on Land, and SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

Literature:

[1] Škokić, V., Jelić, P., Jerković, I., World, 2025, 6, 22.

[2] Jerković, I., Jelić, P., Marušić, A., ST-OPEN, 2024, 5, e2024.2419.17.