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Digitally Empowered: The Role of University Students in Advancing the SDGs in Malta

This paper explores the dynamic role of university students in Malta as active contributors to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the past decade, with an emphasis on the influence of digital transformation. While much existing research focuses on government and institutional initiatives, this study shifts attention to the critical impact of student-led actions, digital advocacy, and innovation in promoting sustainability.

By examining examples from Maltese higher education institutions, the paper highlights how students engage with the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development through various digitally driven activities. These include the use of online platforms for awareness campaigns, participation in curriculum development, climate activism, and collaboration with local communities. The research reveals that digital tools have significantly enhanced students' ability to mobilize, advocate, and influence institutional policies and local sustainability practices.

As Malta progresses with its digital transformation agenda, the paper emphasizes the need to foster inclusive, interdisciplinary, and technology-enabled student participation. Such engagement is essential for addressing the complex and interconnected challenges presented by the SDGs and for building resilient, sustainable societies.

Keywords: digital transformation, Sustainable Development Goals, students, higher education