



ACTIVITY REPORT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2022-2023



Charting Our Course

In the face of today's societal challenges, new social projects are taking shape that combine an ecological contract, technological sobriety, social justice, solidarity, democratic consolidation and shared well-being. ULiège recognises the role it has to play in defining a desirable future and actively participating in its construction.

In order to make a real contribution to «restoring the planet's viability by implementing the objectives of sustainable development» (Jouzel & Abaddie, 2022), our university has been inspired to follow a path of transition that covers all its components.

The annual Sustainable Development Report is testimony to the extraordinary dynamism demonstrated once again by the members of our university over the past year. The initiatives and efforts highlighted in this report have been carried out by our faculties, researchers, teaching staff, students, administrations and bodies dedicated to sustainable development, transition or more specific issues (Sustainable Development Unit, Sustainable Development Council, Green Office, Equality and Gender Council, Responsible Digital working group).

ULiège is already in transition, and this is already everyone's business. We now need to mark out this path more clearly to ensure greater coherence and institutional effectiveness. Our Strategic Plan (2022-2026) sets out certain guidelines very clearly. Firstly, it explicitly states this ambition for

transition and sets out the trajectory for carrying out our missions (teaching, research, community service): support for transdisciplinary research, pursuit of an open science policy, transformation of our training programmes around transition issues, creation of a compulsory 'sustainability and transition' course for all our bachelor's degree programmes, development of service learning (learning through experience and action in the service of the community and transition actors), creation of places for sharing and co-production of knowledge with the City by mobilising the transmission pathways that link the University to its environment.

The Strategic Plan also expresses ULiège's desire to accelerate the transformation of its campuses into genuine transition laboratories. In harmony with its own research work, ULiège is committed to making organisational choices that promote the well-being of the members of its community, improve mechanisms for inclusion and strengthen measures to combat discrimination and violence, reduce our environmental footprint and enable us to experiment on our sites with new ways of travelling, eating, consuming, financing, using digital technology, working and studying that are more in tune with contemporary issues.

Finally, the Strategic Plan involves the entire University community in the dynamics of the expected transformations. By promoting participative and transparent governance, ULiège is betting on a double movement: on the one hand, it intends to respect and support autonomous initiatives (at faculty and group

level), and on the other, it is making sure that everything is visible, coordinated and integrated.

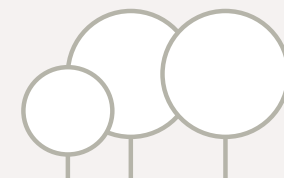
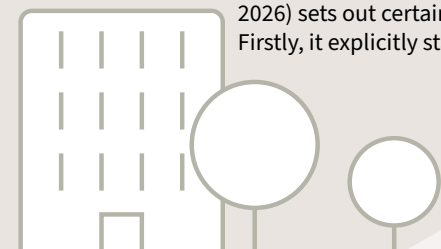
With the recent support of ARES, ULiège is now working to translate the guidelines in its Strategic Plan into a real 'roadmap' for the transition to greater sustainability. A sustainability officer was recruited this year and is working on - among other things - providing our institution with a tool to steer this transition, enabling us to internally monitor and refine our trajectory, as well as inform our community and external observers of our commitments and achievements.

Echoing the impetus initiated by our rectoral team over the past year, the international QS Sustainability Ranking, which evaluates the response of 1403 universities worldwide to environmental, social and governance issues, has just awarded ULiège first place in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, second place in Belgium and 148th place worldwide.

This ranking is an excellent sign. It reminds us - if we needed reminding - that the legitimacy of a university will henceforth also depend on its performance in terms of transition and its contribution to a desirable future. This international recognition of ULiège reinforces our approach and encourages us to continue in this way with conviction and determination.

Anne-Sophie Nyssen
Rector

Sybillé Mertens
Advisor in Social and
Environmental Transition



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1

Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GOAL 1.

Access to basic human needs of health, education, sanitation.



GOAL 2.

Providing food and humanitarian relief, establishing sustainable food production.



GOAL 3.

Better, more accessible health systems to increase life-expectancy.



GOAL 4.

Inclusive education to enable upward social mobility and end poverty.



GOAL 5.

Education regardless of gender, advancement of equality laws, fairer representation of women.



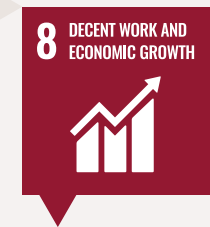
GOAL 6.

Improving access for billions of people who lack these basic facilities.



GOAL 7.

Access to renewable, safe and widely available energy sources for all.



GOAL 8.

Creating jobs for all to improve living standards, providing sustainable economic growth.

In 2015, the members of the United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda. This agenda defines **17 broad Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs, see below), broken down into 169 more specific targets. They aim to address urgent global social, environmental and economic challenges. This agenda is deeply rooted in the fight against inequality, the well-being of populations, and the protection of the environment in its broadest sense. Since the adoption of the agenda, states, institutions, communities, private and public organisations have

largely appropriated the 17 SDGs, which influence the analysis and orientation of their policies in favour of sustainable development.

Universities play a major role in achieving these major objectives, through research, teaching and community services. Many universities are taking on this responsibility and are committed to improving understanding of the challenges of sustainable development, developing the skills needed to implement concrete solutions, strengthening

research and innovation related to these societal challenges, reinforcing local and international collaborations in favour of the SDGs, and, above all, acting in favour of the transition towards sustainability in all internal operations.

This sustainable development report highlights ULiège's contribution to these global challenges. The report systematically references the 17 SDGs in presenting our actions.





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2.1

Operation Renovation



In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the European Union has put forward a recovery plan designed to stimulate the economy while combating global warming. As part of this plan, the University of Liège is benefiting from funds allocated by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation for the energy renovation of its buildings.

One of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is to reduce our energy consumption, and this naturally involves improving the insulation of buildings. Construction of the Sart Tilman campus began in the 1960s, «a time when little or no thought was given to insulation during construction», explains Rudi Cloots, the Rector's Adviser on Infrastructure. Five buildings have therefore been identified as being particularly energy-intensive and in need of renovation. If we look at the entire life cycle of a building, its energy renovation is preferable to its demolition, both from an energy and environmental point of view.

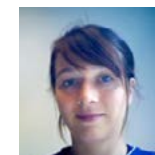
For the renovation of buildings, the criteria imposed by the EU are particularly strict. «The work must generate at least 30% primary energy savings and comply with draconian environmental standards,» explains Anne-Françoise Marique, Director of the Property Resources Department. These standards, known as DNSH (Do

Not Significantly Harm), are designed to cause as little damage to the environment as possible. «The work itself, as well as the building after renovation, must emit as few greenhouse gases as possible, whether from electricity or heating, and must not emit pollutants,» explains Rudi Cloots. «Biodiversity must be preserved, as must water resources. Wastewater must therefore be treated appropriately. Lastly, building materials must be part of the circular economy, and construction waste must therefore be integrated into recovery and recycling channels.»

For each renovation, the buildings will also be fitted with meters to measure consumption in real time. «ULiège has an Energy Unit that monitors consumption very closely, so we can intervene quickly if there are any deviations from the expected figures, and this has a very positive impact on our energy consumption,» says Anne-Françoise Marique.



Rudi Cloots
Advisor to the Rector
on Infrastructure



Anne-Françoise Marique
Director of the Human Resources
Administration

ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES

In addition to the objectives set by the EU, ULiège wants each renovation to maximise the re-use of materials. «The buildings selected are representative of the modernist architecture of the 1960s and 1970s, so certain renovation techniques will be common to the various structures,» adds Anne-Françoise Marique.

And as sustainable development is not just about using energy, the University also wants the renovations to be rooted in a local area that respects both people and the environment. «This involves two things,» explains Rudi Cloots. «Firstly, all contractors working with ULiège must comply with social anti-dumping criteria. Secondly, their specifications must include the use of sustainable materials, in short circuits whenever possible.»

Finally, ULiège has also set itself innovation targets, calling on the University's researchers. «These are self-imposed challenges that are not included in the EU criteria,» points out Rudi Cloots. «One example would be electrochromic glazing in buildings that are sensitive to overheating, i.e., glazing that filters infrared rays in summer and lets them through in winter. Of course, all this is complex, and will no doubt take the form of small prototypes, integrated into existing infrastructures, with a view to future development.»

THE BUILDINGS CONCERNED BY THE RENOVATION

The first building to be constructed on the campus, the bookshop designed by architect Vandenhove (B34 building) is finally set to benefit from a facelift. «The challenge of this renovation is to achieve ambitious energy performance without betraying the original architecture,» explains Anne-Françoise Marique. «Unfortunately, the building is very remote and cannot be connected to the heating network. We are therefore going to replace the oil-fired boiler with a wood pellet boiler, which should considerably improve its energy performance.»

Renovations of the Faculty of Sciences' library and Dean's Office (B6b building), as well as the offices of the Nuclear Physics building (B15 building), are also well under way. «One of the major challenges of the project will be to carry out the renovations while guaranteeing access for students and members of the University,» notes Anne-Françoise Marique. «This is a major challenge, because the plan is to change the way the building is organised in order to rationalise and optimise the spaces, particularly the meeting rooms, to improve energy efficiency.»

The amphitheatres on the 20-Août site are also part of the project: «As well as the energy renovations, the amphitheatres must be fitted with a ventilation system

that complies with the new standards of the General Regulation on Protection at Work, guaranteeing the students spaces with good air quality.»

Finally, the experimental farm at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is to be completely renovated to house an aquaculture centre. «Ultimately, the building will become an inter-university and interdisciplinary platform focusing on freshwater aquatic organisms,» explains Anne-Françoise Marique.

With a total budget of €27 million, the overall renovation project began with the first works in September 2023.



2.2

Ongoing, Committed Support for Active Mobility



To support the transition to more sustainable mobility, ULiège’s Urban Planning and Mobility Unit is leading a series of initiatives aimed at anticipating user needs and supporting sustainable mobility trends by developing numerous projects and contacts as part of the mobility policy adopted in February 2020.

CREATING A COMMUNITY

All the useful information regarding travel to, and around, ULiège campuses, on foot, by bike or by public transport (secure car parks, showers, itineraries, incentives, etc.), can be found on My Mobility, the intranet of the Urban Planning and Mobility Unit. The Unit has also set up a Facebook group, a place for the University community to exchange thoughts, tips and good ideas «by and for» them, and a Teams group «ULiège, j’y vais à vélo» (ULiège, I’m going by bike) where information can be shared and suggestions and reports can be made.

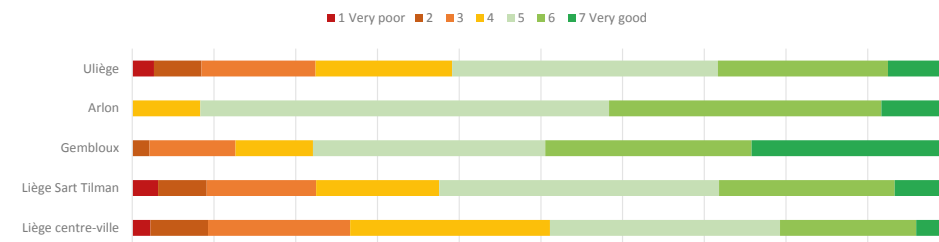
IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS: PEDESTRIAN BAROMETER AND EXPLORATORY WALK

For the first time in Belgium, a pedestrian barometer was organised in February 2023. It was instigated by ULiège, which wanted to assess the pedestrian potential of all its campuses. The high number of respondents to this survey (nearly 1,800) shows the interest of users on this issue. The initiative made it possible to gather information on pedestrian behaviour, confirm trends, assess needs and wishes, and identify the obstacles or difficulties facing walkability (lack of accessibility, unsafe lighting (particularly for women), inadequate signage, problematic paving, etc.) and to respond to the desire of the University authorities to reach out to pedestrians. The overall score from this satisfaction survey is equivalent to a B (on a scale from A+ to G) for ULiège sites, which can be translated as a favourable level of walkability. In addition to this survey,

exploratory walks were organised with test users in order to assess what solutions could be proposed to alleviate the black spots in terms of walkability (such as the absence of pavements on certain segments).

The promising results of this study attest to the effectiveness and relevance of the strong modal shift policy pursued by ULiège in recent years, and encourage us to continue along this path.

Rating of walking conditions



IMPROVING COMFORT FOR CYCLISTS TO ENCOURAGE MOBILITY BY BIKE

To support the development of cycling as a means of internal mobility for the University community, ULiège is working to deploy suitable infrastructure on its campuses. In accordance with the **ULiège Cycle Plan** adopted in 2020, the University authorities have decided to add new links to the existing cycle network. In 2023, a works contract was awarded for the development of 10 new sections located in the northern zone of the Sart Tilman campus, which will complete the connection with the current network and make it a continuous loop. In addition to the cycling facilities, in autumn 2023 the Sart Tilman campus will also be equipped with more than 200

new secure bicycle parking spaces (with badge access, cameras and appropriate lighting) for students and staff, divided between ten outdoor shelters and rooms within buildings. At the same time, new shower and changing facilities have been installed. The University has invested nearly €1.5 million of its own funds in these facilities on the Sart Tilman campus.

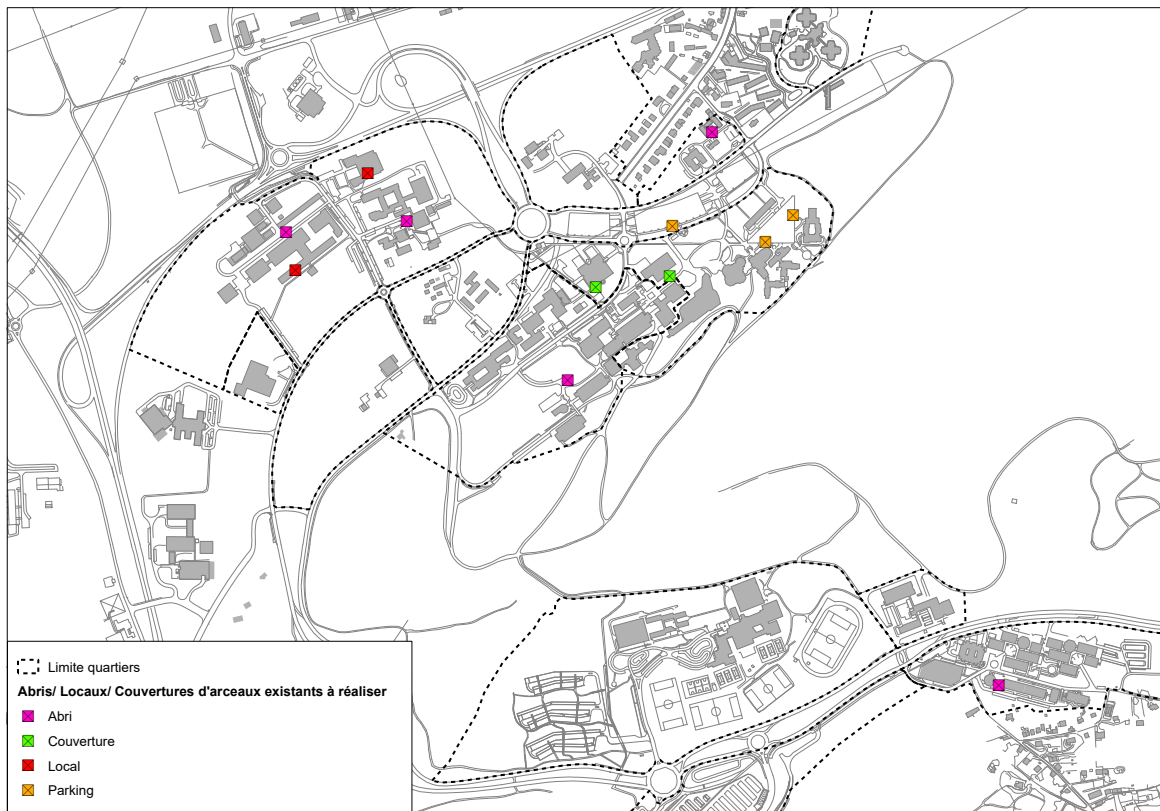


Pierre Duysinx

Vice-Rector for Mobility and International Affairs

OPTIMISING THE LOCATION OF CLASSROOMS

Another way of influencing mobility is to optimise the location of lecture theatres in order to reduce demand and thus avoid having to move large numbers of students from one site to another in order to attend a lecture. Following on from the mobility surveys, which highlighted the difficulty students had in travelling to different sites to attend their course on time, an exploratory simulation study was carried out to compare course attendance and room location. Thanks to the Room Management Service, it was possible to reallocate auditoriums from the start of the 2023 academic year for around twenty courses, thereby reducing weekly travel for several hundred students.



2.3

Responsible Choices for International Travel



At a time when its institutional policy aims to develop the internationalisation of its activities, the University, aware of the impact of air travel on greenhouse gas emissions, has strategically decided to pursue a policy of responsible international travel at the same time. An analysis of staff travel in recent years shows both a change in the habits of the University community and the effectiveness of the institutional measure.

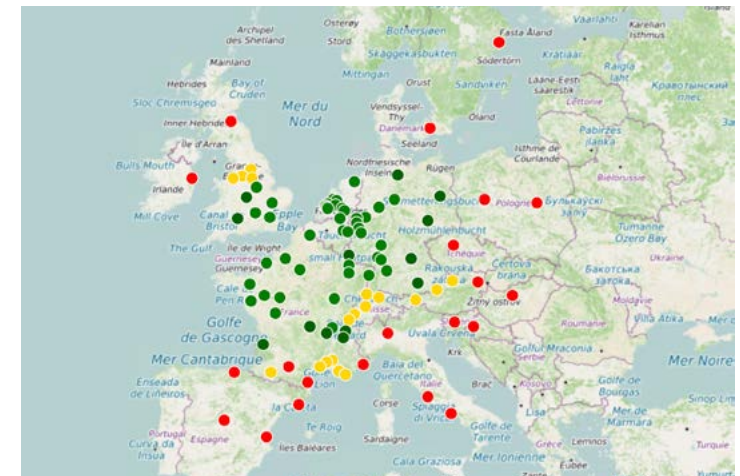
Inherent in university activities, international travel often involves the use of aircraft. Yet the aviation industry has high greenhouse gas emission factors and is growing structurally (with an expected global increase of 3.7% per year). Some of these emissions cannot be avoided, but the urgency of the ecological transition reinforces the need for sober and responsible mobility.

In a bid to reduce its carbon footprint, and move towards carbon neutrality by 2050, ULiège has adopted an **environmental policy for international travel**, which came into force on 1st April 2022. The policy aims to raise awareness among members of the University community, offer them digital alternatives to travel, and limit the use of air travel.

POLICY MEASURES

To make virtual participation in scientific events possible, and avoid unnecessary travel, ULiège has set up a network of rooms equipped with state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment.

Where travel is essential, train travel is now compulsory to green destinations (accessible in less than 6 hours¹) and strongly recommended for orange destinations (accessible in less than 8 hours²) or to airport hubs accessible in less than 6 hours (for flights with stopovers). This measure is supported by the possibility of travelling first class by train, for both domestic and international journeys.



- Destinations less than 6 hours by train
- Destinations less than 8 hours by train
- Destinations more than 8 hours by train

¹ This means that flights from Belgian and neighbouring towns to the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, the north and centre of France and the south of England are prohibited.
² To the south of France, central England, Switzerland and Austria.

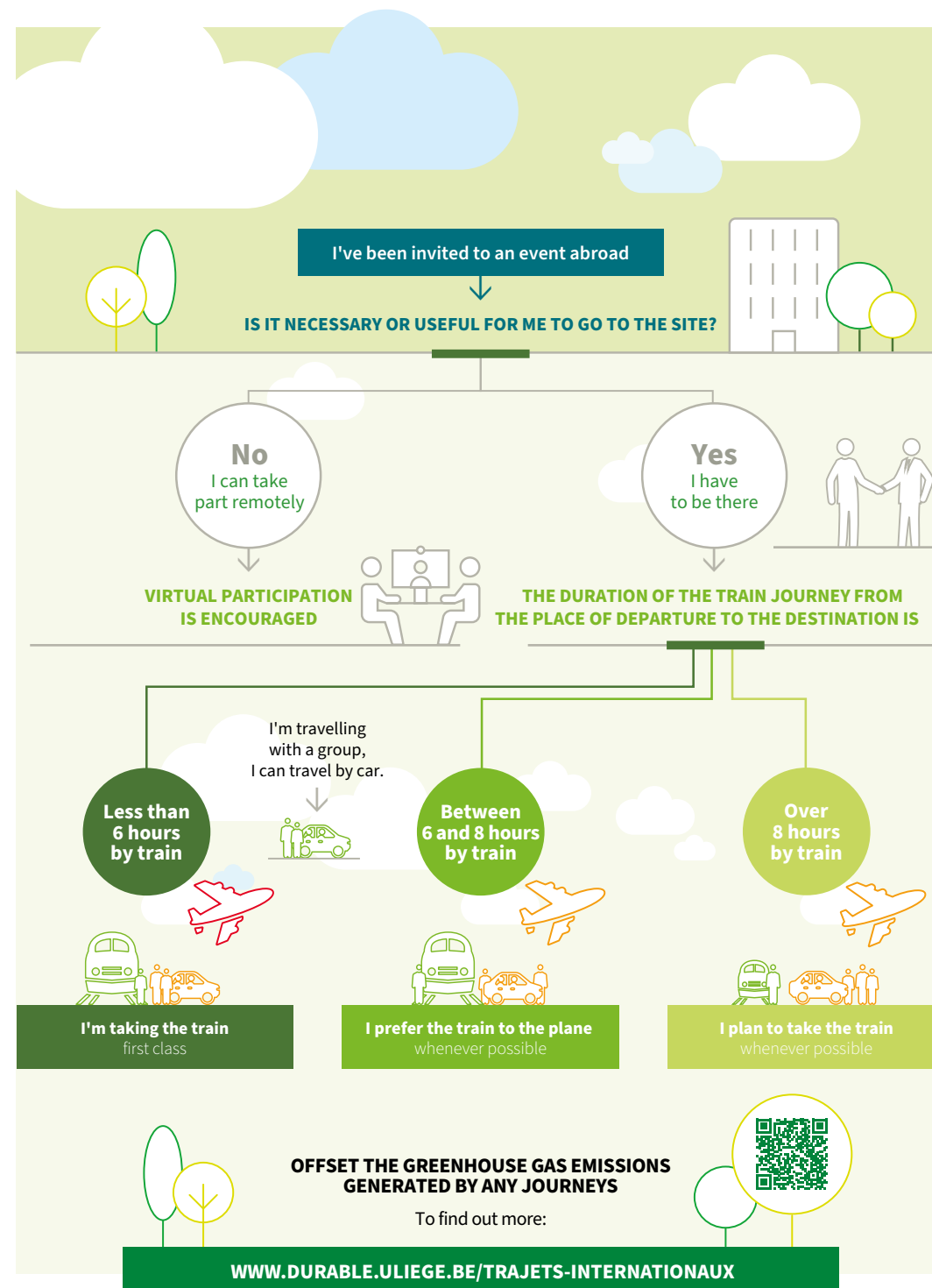
INCREASINGLY RESPONSIBLE MOBILITY

ULiège's Sustainable Development Unit (*Cellule institutionnelle du Développement Durable* (CiDD)) has analysed changes in staff mobility by comparing data for 2019 with that for 2022 and 2023. This study showed a very clear reduction (over 25%) in the total number of kilometres travelled by air. In addition, in 2022, Brussels-Berlin plane journeys had fallen by almost half, and Brussels-Lyon journeys by two thirds. As for Brussels-Munich journeys by plane, these have been virtually eliminated.

Of course, the reasons for this decline are multifactorial. At the beginning of 2022, few conferences were being organised because of the post-covid recovery. Rising transport costs linked to inflation have also probably contributed to the slowdown in travel. Finally, digitalisation, which allows meetings to be held virtually, may also explain the reduction in travel. Sophie Blain, ULiège's Sustainability Officer, adds: «Despite the internationalisation of the University's activities, the number of kilometres travelled by plane in connection with university activities is falling. Whether we're talking about the impact of the policy or changes in behaviour, the overall result is positive.»

These results are therefore very encouraging. An analysis of the results would suggest that ULiège staff are moving towards greater sobriety in their mobility in general and abroad in particular. The initial results of this analysis are undeniably a source of motivation to continue along this path.

→
Tool to help you decide
to travel and the most
suitable mode of transport.



2.4

Gender Equality: Taking Action



Giving things a name makes them happen. By publishing the position of the Gender and Equality Council, the University of Liège is moving towards an explicit policy of gender equality in the broadest sense, including LGBTQIA+ people. Gender equality is a fundamental right.

ULiège is committed to following the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the UN. Florence Caeymaex, the Rector's Adviser on Ethics and Equality Policies, points out that «development that is to the detriment of women and other gender minorities in the broad sense is not sustainable development.» So, together with all those who wanted to get involved in these issues, she suggested that the University Board set up a 'participatory' body. As such, the Gender and Equality Council was created in October 2022.

In May 2023, the Council published a very concrete Action Plan, a series of proposals made to the Institution with the aim of making ULiège more egalitarian. It is based on a number of observations, the first of which is that gender equality is, above all, a question of justice and that its absence has an impact on the production of knowledge. «Scientists work on the basis of models that highlight certain aspects of reality and neglect others. They may

therefore contain biases, i.e., unconscious choices linked to the researchers' specific social experiences. For example, the fact of being a man means that some aspects of reality are taken into account and not others, which may be important from the point of view of a woman or a person of a particular race, creating an imbalance. So it's very important to be aware of the limits of these models, and gender diversity is crucial to doing this.»

This position of the Gender and Equality Council therefore recommends, first and foremost, that statistics be gathered on these issues. «Figures are important because they allow us to objectify a reality. For example, despite a slightly higher number of girls entering university, men are over-represented as you move up the career ladder, especially at the highest academic level. The figures therefore show that there are many obstacles to the presence of women in these careers.»

A BALANCED LIFE

Although society is undergoing changes in this area, «family responsibilities are still mainly the responsibility of women.» The Action Plan therefore recommends a series of measures to ensure that maternity is no longer detrimental to their careers, such as automatically extending research contracts in the event of pregnancy, installing more breastfeeding facilities, and running information campaigns aimed at department heads on the rights and risks associated with maternity.

«This also involves organisational measures, such as avoiding late afternoon meetings so as not to penalise women who are still managing the family organisation.» We're also looking at the possibility of teleworking, as well as the creation of a crèche. «There are several avenues to explore on this subject, in order to take into account the diversity of the ULiège community and the challenge represented by having different campuses.»

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY

Decision-making structures and academic posts must achieve a reasonable gender mix that takes account of the reality on the ground. «To make the University more welcoming, we need to transform our environments by changing our attitudes. This also means that men need to stop behaving in ways that could be perceived as intimidating or harassing. Changes to mundane, everyday things, such as comments about hairstyle or clothing, also need to take place.»

But the institutions themselves have levers at their disposal. For example, the cascade model enables ULiège to support an ongoing transformation in the gendered distribution of the academic world. «For example, during a promotion campaign, the ratio of men to women at level N is taken into account so that the ratio is identical at level N+1. Once gender diversity has been achieved in an environment, its transformation is much quicker, because minorities carry more weight».

This measure implies a major change in the mentality of scientific culture at universities. «We need to give more weight to qualitative assessment, which runs counter to the massive use of quantitative criteria currently in use which assesses research solely in terms of bibliometric criteria. This is detrimental to the careers of people who may have career breaks, such as women - or, it should be noted, anyone, male or female, who may have to deal with a long-term illness or care for a dependent person.»



Florence Caeymaex
Advisor to the Rector
on Ethics and Equality

MORE ROOM FOR GENDER

As well as promoting career paths, it is also important to make more room for intersectional teaching and research. And in order for more dissertations and theses to be devoted to these issues, it is important that the teaching staff themselves are made aware of them. «We are touching on an important area, that of interdisciplinarity. We must, at all costs, encourage exchanges between the humanities and social sciences and the other so-called 'hard' sciences. This will help us to respond to the current transitions that we are facing. For example, this means integrating a social science dimension into a computer science dissertation, or vice versa. And by doing so, we will reduce the bias that can exist in scientific productions.»

Finally, the University must take action to eradicate gender-based violence, starting with a clear commitment to recognise that it exists and to declare that it is unacceptable. «Naming things, for example through a charter, has a powerful effect, because no one will be able to say that they don't know. It would consolidate, and make visible, the work of the services responsible for helping people and the measures adopted by the Institution, because they do exist. Ultimately, it would give greater legitimacy to the victims of such violence, who are often reluctant to talk about it and seek appropriate help. Acting against violence is a moral obligation for the University; refraining from doing so contributes to the perpetuation of such violence.»

<p>Le pire ce n'est pas les remarques les pressions le malaise l'humiliation c'est que personne ne réagit.</p>	<p>Il se sentait très fort tout puissant irréprochable dans son droit avant qu'un-e collègue lui demande d'arrêter.</p>	<p>It felt impossible to stop the intimidation humiliation homophobic jokes inappropriate remarks. But all it took was for a colleague to intervene.</p>
<p>Et si au lieu de commenter mes jambes ma robe mon décolleté ma démarche vous commentiez ma recherche ?</p>	<p>Vos blagues homophobes sont si bien trouvées si originales si drôles que je peux désormais les raconter au tribunal.</p>	<p>#RESPECT L'ULiège s'engage !</p>
<p>The worst thing is not the remarks the pressures the discomfort the humiliation is that no one reacts.</p>	<p>Vos blagues racistes sont insupportables dégradantes méprisantes humiliantes même si je souris.</p>	
<p>Il semblait impossible de faire cesser ses intimidations humiliations blagues homophobes remarques déplacées. Mais il a suffi qu'un-e collègue intervienne.</p>	<p>Parfois sourire être sympa porter une robe être une femme est un comportement à risque.</p>	<p>Une femme on lui parle de ses enfants. Un homme on lui parle de ses projets.</p>
<p>Si vos blagues sexistes sont trop lourdes pour prendre cet ascenseur prière d'emprunter l'escalier.</p>	<p>#RESPECT L'ULiège s'engage !</p>	
<p>How about not mentioning my legs my dress my chest my walk and talking about my research instead?</p>		

2.5

Digitally Responsible ULiège



In our post-industrial societies, digital advances are a source of hope for many. However, the digital ‘revolution’ - a complex, dazzling and pervasive phenomenon - also has undesirable effects. Faced with these challenges, ULiège is committed to transforming its practices and broadening the scope of its education and research missions.

Professor Felix Scholtes, Advisor to the Rector on Digital Sobriety, reminds us that digital use has undesirable effects: «typically imperceptible, these undesirable effects include, for example, the [over]consumption of energy and resources (with the production of greenhouse gases (see image below); counter-productive systemic effects, such as the rebound effect, i.e., the increase in digital consumption and its carbon footprint that follows technological optimisation; indirect impacts, such as the potential for unsustainable development through indiscriminate digital use; the impact of digital technology on health; and the digital divide.»



Felix Scholtes

Advisor to the Rector on Digital Sobriety

ULiège, which provides training for the players in our society, and is itself a major developer, provider and user of digital technology, has therefore committed itself to evaluating and optimising its digital uses. Since 2022, it has established responsible institutional governance of digital technology and, in addition to this ambition to set an example, is broadening its focus to include its training and research missions.

The University's digital governance and commitment have resulted in:

- the creation of the post of Digital Sobriety Advisor within the rectoral team;
- the signing of the Responsible Digital Charter in 2022 and membership of the Belgian ISIT (Institute for Sustainable Information Technology), which provides tools for assessing and adapting institutional digital operations;

- the creation of a steering group for responsible digital technologies in 2022 and its training by ISIT;
- the inclusion, in the Strategic Plan for Digital Education, of the principles of a reasoned, reasonable, «sober and inclusive» implementation of digital technology;
- the explicit inclusion of responsible digital ambitions in the institutional strategic plan;
- the planning of a new audit to subject our digital operations to critical scrutiny in order to optimise governance and IT infrastructure.



Laurent Debra

Deputy Director of the SEGI

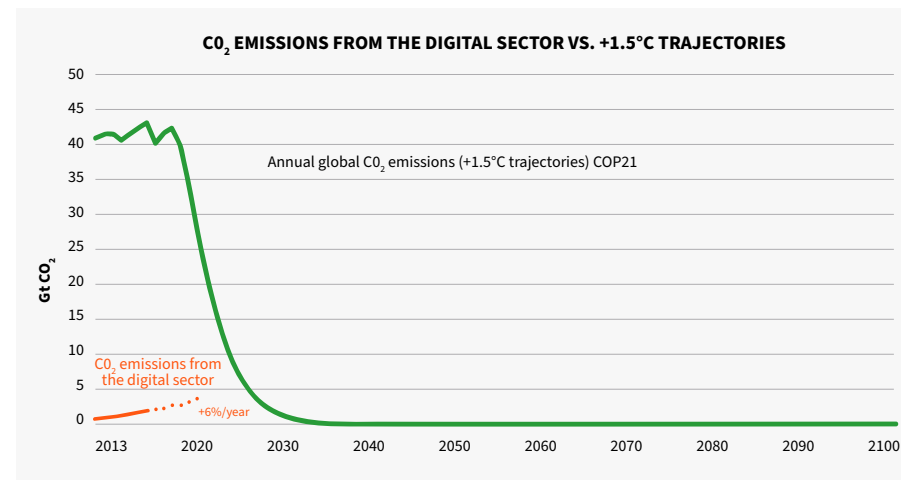
This governance can draw on extensive local expertise, which has long been involved in energy efficiency, as well as in-house IT management within the General IT Service (SEGI (*Service Général d'Informatique*)). According to Laurent Debra, Deputy Director of the SEGI, «several actions have already been implemented:

- rationalisation of equipment (for example, pooling the technical IT infrastructures of the University and the hospital (CHU), centralising data centres and network equipment);
- increasing the useful life of terminals by extending the support warranty and adapting public procurement contracts to make them even more repairable;
- targeted donations of computers in working order to schools in Africa, ensuring that they do not end up in unauthorised landfill sites;
- energy-efficient data centre cooling systems (using free cooling);
- data compression and deduplication systems;
- virtualisation systems to optimise hardware resources.»

From now on, the continued implementation of responsible digital technology at ULiège will have to be based both on institutional responsibility and exemplarity and on responsible individual autonomy. Felix Scholtes explains: «In addition to the institutional measures that will be stepped up, our policy will not only offer training, support and advice to users, but will also

welcome and coordinate initiatives in the field. We are also aiming to provide current and future citizens with a university education that will enable them to be critically and independently autonomous in this field, and we want to encourage research in this area and in relevant related fields».

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND CO₂



← Evolution of greenhouse gas production by digital means, on the one hand, compared with a «1.5° trajectory» (IPCC), on the other hand, which are likely to intersect around 2030. Based on Fighiera 2021



10%
of **annual electricity consumption** comes from digital uses



Per person,
this figure represents:

→ The equivalent electricity consumption of a 1000W radiator powered continuously for 30 days.



→ The same environmental impact as a 2,259 km car journey.



What is the breakdown of greenhouse **gas emissions** linked to digital technology?



63% of environmental impact
The manufacture of digital equipment: televisions, computers, smartphones, tablets, etc.

of environmental impact

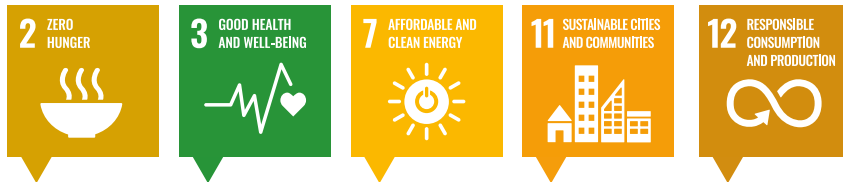
22%
Networks



15% of environmental impact
Data centres

2.6

An Administration Serving a Sustainable University



Sustainable development has been a reality at the University of Liège for several years. In 2019, it took concrete form with the creation of a unit dedicated to sustainable development. And in 2023, a working group was set up within the administration to support what already appears to be a profound and systemic change.

There are many positive actions for the environment and society, but it is sometimes difficult to draw up an inventory, given the complexity of the organisation of a university. That is why Anne Girin, ULiège's Administrator, set up a working group at the beginning of 2023, bringing together all the directors of administration, in order to make the administration more responsive to the transition, and to list existing actions and what remains to be done in this area. «We have been proactive in this area, and today this inventory is practically complete,» Anne Girin is delighted to report. «We can see that many actions are already being taken, and this inventory will enable us to step up our efforts in the right direction.»



Anne Girin

Administratrice de l'ULiège

ON THE PLATE

When it comes to sustainable development, food is obviously a central issue, as it touches on so many areas. The aim of Liège's university restaurants is to offer healthy dishes at lower prices. «We have set aside an additional budget to specifically subsidise foods such as fruit, salads and soups,» explains Anne Girin. «Our objective for 2024-2025 is to obtain official 'sustainable canteen' certification.»

As far as possible, the ingredients we use come from local sources, and all the meals are presented on «youmeal» sheets that include health and ecological criteria. And to avoid any waste, ULiège has created **Flash sales**, where everything is 50% off during the last half-hour of opening.

In addition, waste reporting and sorting tables have been set up in the various restaurants, and single-use crockery has been eliminated wherever possible. «We have also increased the number of water fountains on campus, and this effort must be continued,» says Anne Girin.

The fight against precariousness is also a priority for the Institution, which has lowered the criteria for financial aid, making 50% more students now eligible.

In addition, ULiège and the *Ceinture AlimenTerre de Liège* (CATL) are partners of the «*Nourrir les Campus*» festival (Feed the Campuses Festival), which took place from 17th to 21st April 2023. This event, linked to the «*Nourrir Liège*» festival (Feed Liège Festival), aimed to involve campuses in questioning our food production and consumption patterns.

PROPERTY AND TRAVEL

In a university, property is an important part of management, whether in terms of energy consumption, construction, or energy renovation. ULiège is therefore stepping up its efforts in this area, regularly increasing its photovoltaic electricity production capacity. «We have also set aside a substantial budget to replace conventional light bulbs with LEDs, and to install intelligent thermostatic valves on radiators,» explains Anne Girin.

The University has also set itself ambitious targets in terms of infrastructure. «Sustainable development is now an important criterion when awarding public contracts, both for construction and renovation, with a clear objective of achieving 30% energy savings for each building renovated,» explains Anne Girin.

The architectural firm responsible for developing the Faculty of Architecture's new Fonck campus was chosen for its expertise in this area: «We've even done away with the car parks completely, to encourage staff to come by bike or public transport!»

Mobility is also a major factor in the energy transition. Having drastically reduced international air travel in recent years, ULiège is now focusing its local initiatives on promoting working from home and soft mobility. «We have developed a very strong policy in favour of cyclists, with a very democratic bicycle workshop available to the community,» explains Anne Girin. «In the long term, we also want to make Sart Tilman a fossil fuel-free campus thanks to soft mobility and new autonomous electric shuttles.»

MACHINES AND HUMANS

This electrification of transport must not, of course, cause us to lose sight of the fact that the best energy is still that which is not consumed. In addition to a major #SaveEnergy communication campaign on energy sobriety, ULiège has taken a number of concrete measures. The IT servers have been reorganised for greater efficiency, in particular by sharing them with the CHU, and the lifespan of the equipment has been increased. An institutional repair café was inaugurated in October 2023, to increase the lifespan of all the University community's electronic equipment and domestic appliances,» adds Anne Girin.

The fact remains that, used properly, digital technology can considerably reduce our material footprint, and all parts of the University are moving towards a paperless environment, with invoices and contracts now signed electronically.

Finally, sustainable development also concerns a less visible but equally important aspect: health in the workplace and living together. In addition to the #Respect campaign, information about which was displayed wherever possible, ULiège has set up a committee dedicated to psychosocial risks, which includes problems of moral and sexual harassment «so that they are treated with all the seriousness they require.»

And in order to tackle these problems at the source, a staff training programme has been set up to give team leaders the keys to good management. «This training has even become compulsory within the central administration» Anne Girin points out.



2.7

Green Office Actions



Created in 2020, the Green Office has now become a key player in sustainable development at ULiège. Here's a look back at a year rich in projects and positive energy.

The 2022-2023 academic year got off to a flying start for the Green Office. Following a competition organised by the UN the previous year, this driving force behind sustainable development at ULiège won the *Coup de Coeur prize from the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie*. This prize enabled us to present the commitment strategy at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022. «There was a real energy there, which was extremely exhilarating,» remembers Cécile Van de Weerd, coordinator of the Green Office. «It enabled us to make a lot of contacts, and climate scientist and former IPCC vice-president Jean-Pascal van Ypersele even pledged to become an honorary patron of the UNI for Change programme. This clearly shows the importance of our work and the quality of the programme.» This importance was confirmed when the Green Office won the International Sustainable Campus Network's 2022 Award of Excellence in the «Culture Change for Sustainability» category. In the same year, Green Office coordinator Cécile Van de Weerd was also awarded the title of «Sustainability pioneer» by the Belgian Federation of Enterprises and Time4Society,

and in 2023 she received the distinction of Honoured Citizen of the City of Liège for her commitment to sustainable development.

A SERIES OF HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year, the Green Office has developed various activities to liven up campus life. At the start of the new academic year, the Green Office team organised a screening of the film «Animal» and attended a debate with Cyril Dion and ULiège students on the Arlon campus. As part of the Biodiversity of the Anthropocene course, the Green Office invited students studying for a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences to design projects related to the themes of the film. «We are continuing to support two of these projects today,» explains Cécile Van de Weerd.

The number of student trainees and volunteers is rising all the time, showing that the drive is proving more and more successful.

SUSTAINABLE WEEK

At the end of March 2023, the Green Office's Sustainable Development Week was a real highlight, providing the opportunity to carry out a wide range of activities. «Several national and international events take place at the same time, and we wanted to make it a real event on campus,» explains Laura Germain, Community Manager at the Green Office, «all through fun activities, with themes that make sense to everyone, so that we are not just preaching to the converted.»

At the initiative of the Green Office, this Sustainable Week began with an activity to calculate environmental footprints, offered on various campuses in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation on 24th March 2023, the day on which the Belgian environmental footprint was exceeded. «Participants were able to calculate their footprint and choose actions to reduce it, and were given a number of challenges to complete in order to improve their result,» explains Laura Germain.



It was during this week that the «Greeners» meetings took place, meetings organised by students to raise awareness of a specific theme among as many members of our community as possible. «Students working on sustainable food or digital technology wanted to provide training and pass on what they had learned,» explains Cécile Van de Weerd. These workshops also coincided with a successful collection of used mobile phones and batteries.

A fashion sale was also organised on campus, with 70 students taking part as exhibitors. «The event was a real success,» says Laura Germain with satisfaction. «Two student singers even played their own compositions, which created a warm atmosphere that made a real difference and appealed to everyone. It just goes to show how important entertainment can be in raising awareness of sustainable development and uniting a community around positive emotions.»

Also as part of Sustainable Week, the food-related events were a huge success, with a low-carbon breakfast made from local produce, and a fair trade snack. «The idea was to show that it is possible to eat well for a modest sum, using local produce,» comments Cécile Van de Weerd.

«As for the fairtrade snack, we really wanted to emphasise the link between sustainable food and the fight against poverty, thanks to fair remuneration for farmers,» adds Laura Germain. «The whole thing is a low-carbon diet, with vegan products that are full of flavour, allowing people to discover and want to cook them at home.»

Finally, Sustainable Week ended with the final of the Boulet Durable competition, which took place in the presence of a prestigious jury, including the Grand Chef from Restaurant Toma in Liège, the head of the university canteens, the ULiège authorities, Belgium's representative to the United Nations at the time of the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals, students, leaders of the Ceinture Alimen-Terre de Liège, members of the Liège magazine Boulette Magazine and members of the Confrérie du Gay Boulet, who provided a great atmosphere throughout the afternoon. «It's a project we've been thinking about for a long time,» reveals Cécile Van de Weerd, «because despite the ever-increasing number of healthy dishes on offer in university canteens, Boulet frites is still the most popular dish. So it was important to involve the students in a project aimed at making it more



Laura Germain

Project Manager and Communications Manager at the Green Office



Cécile Van de Weerd

Green Office Coordinator

sustainable through an innovative recipe created by our community.»

«We not only had sustainability criteria, but also nutritional quality and taste,» explains Laura Germain. «It also had to be transferable to university canteens, and the chefs also added criteria to be met in this respect.»

AWARENESS-RAISING GUIDES

Aware that the Internet is full of a plethora of often contradictory information, the Green Office has also set about writing clear and concise awareness-raising guides to help everyone adopt more sustainable consumption habits. «For food, digital technology and clothing, we have chosen 3 or 4 dimensions,» explains Cécile Van de Weerd. «The issues are set out in simple terms, with advice for action. These guides appeal to the intelligence of the reader, who is once again made a player in the face of the challenges of our transition to a sustainable society». Each of these guides is associated with challenges available on an engagement platform.

2.8

A Promising First Edition of the Sustainable Development Call for Projects



In order to support the members of its community who are involved in the sustainable transformation of the Institution, ULiège has set up a «*Coup de Pouce*» scheme to help sustainable development projects run by students and/or members of staff.

In May 2023, ULiège launched its first call for sustainable development projects to support members of the community with projects or ideas that contribute to the Institution's environmental and social transition on a local scale. The scheme, which will be organised twice a year (in May and October), offers financial support totalling €5,000 per edition. This amount may include labour costs (maximum 80% of the budget), equipment, services, etc.

Projects are assessed according to five criteria:

- 1. The relevance of the project** in terms of the various dimensions of sustainability, and its integration into the ULiège structure or existing initiatives.
- 2. The quality and mobilising nature of the project:** mobilisation of stakeholders or targets in the construction of the project or in its implementation, size of the target (number of people affected by the project, its inclusive nature, etc.), communication planned around the project, etc.
- 3. The proposed methodology and implementation methods:** consistency of phasing, technical feasibility and consideration of constraints.
- 4. Sustainability of the project:** integration of a post-project reflection and sustainability of the action.
- 5. Compliance with the budget:** amount and purpose of the subsidy; financial feasibility of the project.

For the first edition, five candidates were awarded a grant of almost €1,000 each. The winning projects were:

1/ The organisation of an event on the theme of «democracy and ecological crisis», which was held on 19th October at the *Maison de la Culture* in Arlon, by students from the Masters in Environmental Sciences and Management and the Masters in Risk and Disaster Management in the Anthropocene, in partnership with the *Alliance Transition écologique* association. The aim of the event was to make the link between the ecological crisis and governance, and to offer possible solutions to eco-anxiety by presenting local initiatives. Historian and essayist David Van Reybroeck took part in an interview and debate. The event organisers hoped to raise students' awareness of the interdisciplinary dimensions of transition, to show that the global ecological crisis is also a democratic issue, and to highlight experiences of citizen participation and democratic debate.



2/ The organisation of the first «EXPOT'Ingé» at Pot'Ingé, a collaborative kitchen garden located at Sart Tilman, which took place on 28th June. The event focused on the University's role in the food transition, the values it wishes to convey through its teaching and research, and the civic projects developed by its members. The event was organised around visits to Pot'ingé and a market of local producers and craftsmen, as well as poster presentations and seminars on projects linked to the University and the food transition. The aim was to highlight existing projects and raise awareness among members of the University community.

3/ The scheme also supports a project run by members of staff at the ULiege Library in Arlon, who wanted to set up a seed library (with a cabinet, seed collection and books on the subject) to enable library users to discover and exchange organic plant seeds. The aim of the project is to raise people's awareness, through practical experience, of the importance of what we grow, the life cycles of plants and the seasons, the conservation of local varieties and thus respect for the environment and the maintenance of biodiversity, by encouraging

them to set up a vegetable garden. The grain library was inaugurated on 10th October 2023 as part of the *Assiettons-nous!* festival.

4/ The Enactus HEC «Almadora» project aims to make candles from coffee grounds and cups collected at HEC Liège. The upcycled candles will be sold to benefit associations for disadvantaged students. The grant was used to help purchase raw materials (other than recycled materials) and production equipment.

5/ «Baie 11» is a project co-developed by the *Groupeement Amical des Géographes et Géomètres*, a geography student group (GAGG), and the *Laboratoire d'Hydrographie et de Géomorphologie Fluviale* (LHGF) of the Geography Department at Sart Tilman. The project aims to reconnect the student community with nature by creating a green space dedicated to the planting of small fruit trees (raspberry, blackberry, blackcurrant, redcurrant, strawberry, etc.) and to develop short circuit projects (producing and consuming locally) by processing the products harvested into wine and jam.

2.9

“Gembloux Campus Durable”, for a Committed and Sustainable Campus



The «*Gembloux Campus Durable*» Faculty Commission plays a key role in promoting sustainable development on the Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech campus by encouraging awareness-raising, education and the implementation of concrete projects to reduce environmental impact and promote a more sustainable and inclusive university community. With this in mind, it has carried out a number of actions in 2022-2023.

Created in 2018, the «*Gembloux Campus Durable*» (GCD) Faculty Commission is responsible for promoting and coordinating initiatives aimed at making the campus more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. It brings together members of staff and students wishing to become involved in the transition, as well as non-profit organisations and NGOs based on the campus, divided into different working groups. It works with the NGO Eclodio, which specialises in civic education and mobilisation.

In 2022, it drew up a *charter* outlining the campus's commitment to a series of measures to accelerate its transition. This charter is accompanied by a five-year action plan containing practical and precise objectives.

Compliance with the charter and monitoring of the action plan are ensured by a monitoring committee formed from the Sustainable Campus Commission.

PROMOTING INCLUSIVENESS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Commission helped to organise events encouraging inclusive behaviour, such as a conference raising awareness of the obstacles faced by people with disabilities. The *Zherot* collective, made up of students and members of staff, which campaigns against all forms of discrimination, organised an anti-harassment fortnight in November 2022 and was particularly active during *Pride Month* (May 2023), organising an

exhibition, an improvisation show, a queer aperitif, a garden pride, the installation of LGBTQIA+ flags and even the removal of signs from toilets for a few days.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The GCD Commission also supports the integration of education for sustainable development into study programmes and encourages students and researchers to get involved in research projects related to this theme. It supports and encourages one-off activities organised by students who have chosen to focus their portfolios on different aspects of sustainable development.

Bernard Longdoz
Professor at Gembloux
Agro-Bio Tech



Aliénor Pirlet
Public Education
Project Manager - Éclosio



RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

At its own level, the GCD Commission is implementing a whole series of measures to reduce the environmental impact of the campus in terms of energy consumption, waste management, water use, etc.: switching off computer rooms, using the Ecosia search engine, setting up a compost heap and providing training about it, installing water fountains, distributing water bottles, etc. To encourage active mobility, the Commission is pushing for the installation of infrastructure (bicycle repair workshop in collaboration with ProVélo) and is taking part in meetings with the Gembloux municipality concerning the implementation of self-service bicycles or bicycle parking facilities within the campus.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

Finally, in June 2023, the Dean's Office and the GCD Commission launched a call for projects to provide financial support for projects contributing to the transition to a sustainable campus. The projects, assessed by a panel of judges in September 2023, must benefit as many members of the community as possible and help to reduce environmental impact and/or promote community life. They are eligible for a budget of up to €50,000.



2.10

A Year of Acceleration for S'Lab at HEC Liège



Like the rest of the University, where many similar initiatives are underway, HEC Liège has been committed to the ecological and social transition for several years. This movement, timid at the outset, has gained momentum in recent years with the creation of S'LAB.

This platform of services was created to unite the specific initiatives and expertise of academic and scientific staff, as well as to accelerate the transition within the walls of the Faculty. S'LAB aims to work on the three pillars of teaching, research and community services by acting as an integrator and facilitator.

S'LAB is aimed at all members of the HEC Liège community: students, administrative staff, scientific and academic staff, alumni and external partners. Its aim is to bring them together and encourage them to position themselves as agents of change, and to stimulate exchanges and initiatives, both internally and externally, with a view to accelerating the ecological and social transition of HEC Liège and all its stakeholders.

The past academic year has been a **real boost** for S'LAB. Through a series of brainstorming sessions (research day, teaching day, staff brainstorming sessions), S'LAB has drawn up an action plan that will guide its development along 4 axes:

- The creation of an Impact Fund to encourage and promote teaching and research activities around sustainability (no less than 30% of research topics at HEC Liège already relate to these issues);
- The launch of an ambassador initiative to raise awareness and build internal momentum around sustainability;
- Work on sustainable reporting to be carried out internally, so that we can better measure and increase our impact (link to our [2023 reporting](#)) ;
- Actions aimed at students to enable them to experiment with transition initiatives.



Marianne Snakers

Project Leader - S'Lab - HEC Liège



Bruno Gemenne

Sustainability Manager
S'Lab - HEC Liège

In May 2023, S'LAB hired Bruno Gemenne as its **Sustainability Manager**. He works in tandem with Marianne Snakers, who has been at S'LAB's helm since its inception. «We are also in very close contact with the Green Office and ULiège's Sustainable Development Unit, which adds a great deal of richness and coherence,» explains Bruno Gemenne.

Since January 2023, HEC Liège has also been involved in the **STOP Waste! campaign**. S'LAB teamed up with the Faculty's communications department to run a year-long campaign, with a different theme each month, with the aim of raising awareness among its community of the need to behave more responsibly, with particular emphasis on waste reduction and better waste management. In concrete terms, each month a newsletter was sent out to present the theme of the month (e.g., PMC, second-hand products, mobility) and the activities organised throughout the month:

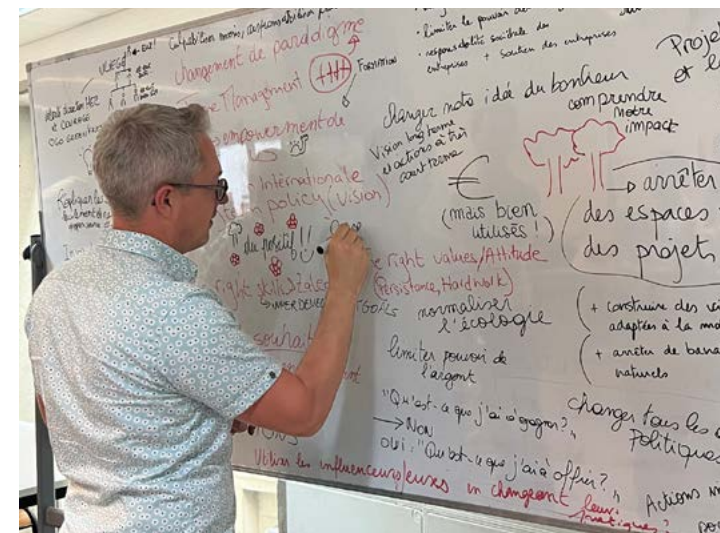
awareness-raising actions, workshops, conferences. There was no shortage of initiatives, including a second-hand clothes sale, training in more responsible use of digital technology (with the Belgian Institute for Responsible Digital Technology), an Intradel workshop on waste sorting, and the installation of organic waste bins.

There is no doubt that the HEC Liège community will be enthusiastic about seizing new opportunities to accelerate our transition.



STOP
Waste

HEC LIÈGE
Management School - Liège Université





3

Teaching, Research and Faculty Initiatives

At ULiège, the courses and research projects that address the issues of social and environmental transition, as well as the initiatives taken by members of the faculties in this field, are rich and varied. Some of the many interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to change recently developed at the University are presented in the following pages.

3.1. Teaching

3.2. Research

3.3. Faculty Initiatives

3.1

Teaching

ULiège aims to inform tomorrow's citizens about the challenges of social and environmental transition and to train them to build a sustainable world.

A COMPULSORY INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITION

ULiège wishes to respond to the challenges of social and environmental transition by developing its teaching and training programmes. To do this, it has first carried out an inventory of existing general and specialised training courses and is now identifying and promoting courses linked to the environmental and social transition.

At the same time, the Institution intends to specifically develop interdisciplinary teaching, which is essential if we are to grasp the challenges of transitions in a complementary way.

From the start of the 2024-2025 academic year, the University of Liège will include a compulsory 2 ECTS course on 'Sustainability and Transition' in all its Bachelor's programmes. «Designed to develop a foundation of cross-disciplinary knowledge, the course will be delivered mainly in the form of a MOOC involving a number of experts from our university,» explains Sybille Mertens, Advisor to the Rector on Social and Environmental Transition. «The first part will deal mainly with the facts and causes, and will introduce the solutions, all from a systemic perspective. The second part, organised within the faculties, will deal with concrete solutions and propose concrete actions to students, possibly in conjunction with the Green Office or the university NGO Ecloso. It will provide an (inter)disciplinary perspective.»

Florianne Fassotte, a specialist in sustainable development, was hired to coordinate the design of the content. «Working with in-house experts, we are developing the teaching objectives and the

course outline on the basis of a broad consultation of materials, such as scientific articles, books, foreign reports on SD teaching, existing MOOCs at ULiège and external SD MOOCs», explains Florianne Fassotte.

Following validation by the Scientific Council for Sustainable Development, the CUEF and the CURE, a working group was set up within the Council to continue implementing this ambitious project, in particular by selecting future speakers.

Florianne Fassotte announces: «Bilateral meetings with the faculties are planned from the start of the 2023-2024 academic year, as well as an inter-faculty meeting day. We think that it will be very useful to meet, exchange ideas and establish collaborations around Part 2 of the course: putting students into action in a disciplinary or interdisciplinary way.» There is no doubt that this event will motivate and inspire the various stakeholders and facilitate the sharing of information and even teaching resources.

The 2023-2024 academic year is off to a flying start for the Sustainability and Transition course team!

Any questions?
Contact: durabilite.transition@uliege.be



CLIMACTES: A SUMMER UNIVERSITY FOR A REGENERATIVE AND REDISTRIBUTIVE ECONOMY

Since 2021, the non-profit organisation ACTES has been organising a Summer University at ULiège specifically for the creation of social entrepreneurship projects in connection with the ecological and solidarity-based transition. The 2023 edition opened on 8th July with a lecture by Professor Christian Arnsperger entitled: «De-growth and post-growth: the new resources of citizen entrepreneurship» (*Décroissance et post-croissance : Les nouvelles ressources d'un entrepreneuriat citoyen*). Over the following two weeks, the 45 participants benefited from the expertise of renowned professors through 18 courses divided into 10 themes. These covered renewable energies, building renovation, greening, sustainable agriculture, sustainable food, health, mobility, low tech, culture and sustainable finance. Social justice, the social economy, the circular economy and project financing were common themes to all the projects. The course programme encouraged exchanges with seasoned professionals who are experts in the taught themes. With the aim of helping the participants turn ideas into action, coaches specialising in sustainable entrepreneurship supported the students in developing projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting social justice.

 FIND OUT MORE

THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS REWARDS FOUR ULIÈGE STUDENTS

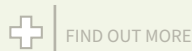
As a Belgian foundation dedicated to the transition of society towards a sustainable mode of development, the Foundation for Future Generations supports, through the HERA awards (Higher Education & Research Awards for Future Generations), young graduates who have presented high-quality dissertations and thesis on «transforming the world.» This programme of prizes for excellence is designed to reward students and researchers who include an inspiring cross-disciplinary approach in their Master's dissertations or Doctoral theses.

The awards ceremony was held on 25th April 2023 at ULiège, and opened with a lecture by Sybille Mertens, Advisor to the Rector on Environmental and Social Transition, on the theme: «Which university for which social project? Aspirations, blockages and transitions.» In a forward-looking exercise, she stated that «supporting a sustainable world through knowledge and training has become the University's *raison d'être*, and sustainability and transition are becoming issues common to all research and teaching institutions, an inclusive and unifying project.»

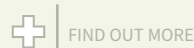
Of the seven young ULiège graduates nominated at this year's event, four were rewarded in the Sustainable & Responsible Finance, Sustainable Health, Sustainable Engineering and Sustainable Law categories

The awards went to:

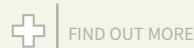
- Cécilia Labiouse who won the Master's Thesis Award - Sustainable & Responsible Finance. Her Master's dissertation in Management Sciences at HEC Liège was entitled «The link between shareholding and companies' ESG scores» (*«Le lien entre l'actionnariat et le score ESG des entreprises»*) (2022, supervisor: Georges Hübner).



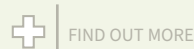
- Éléa Piccard who won the «Master's Thesis Award - Sustainable Health» for her Master's dissertation in Public Health Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine entitled «Study of the integration of a green and sustainable component into asthma patient education in pharmacies» (*«Étude de l'intégration d'une composante verte et durable dans l'éducation du patient asthmatique à l'officine»*) (2022; supervisors: Sylvie Streel and Geneviève Philippe).



- Yannis Govaerts who was the winner of the «Master's Thesis HERA Award - Sustainable Engineering» for his Master's dissertation in Environmental Sciences and Technologies at the Faculty of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech. The dissertation dealt with «Transition prospects for the individual sanitation sector in Wallonia» (2022; supervisors: Angélique Léonard and Luc Minne).



- Romain Defrang who won the «Master's Thesis HERA Award - Sustainable Law» for his Master's dissertation in Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture: «Could the development of residents' cooperatives become a strategy for the future of urban housing in the face of current challenges? Switzerland as a model for cooperative housing» (2021; supervisor: Mariette Dorthu).



The three other nominees from ULiège were:

- Marie Collard, in the category: Master's Thesis Award - Sustainable & Responsible Finance;
- Lorren Mernier, in the category: Master's Thesis Award - Sustainable & Responsible Finance;
- Anissa Lkhamrichi, in the category: Master's Thesis HERA Award - Sustainable Behaviour



Medical Humanities: Ethics, Policy and Pedagogy for the Social Sciences and Biomedicine

The «Medical Humanities: Ethics, Politics and Pedagogy for Social Sciences and Biomedicine» (MedHEPP) course aims to develop a curriculum in ethics and medical humanities within the Faculty of Medicine. Among other things, it focuses on the implementation of the OneHealth paradigm in relation to the issue of antibiotic resistance. New courses are being developed and delivered to enable healthcare staff to understand how healthcare can contribute to the goals of reducing inequalities and building resilience, from a health promotion perspective. The aim of this course is to enable students to perceive ethically problematic situations and to take a reasoned stance on them.



Specialised Master's Degree in Gender Studies

This specialised Master's degree, coordinated by the Faculty of Social Sciences, and based on the expertise of six FWB universities, offers multi- and interdisciplinary training in the field of gender studies, based on an intersectional perspective. It focuses on understanding the processes that determine how social relations of gender and sexuality are integrated and constructed at different levels of society and affect social, political and cultural practices and relations.



Introductory and Interdisciplinary Bachelor's Course in Gender Studies

The main aim of this new minor course for all undergraduates in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, entitled 'Interdisciplinary Introduction to Gender Studies: Philosophy, Literature and Media,' is to introduce the concepts, theories and methods of gender studies. The first part of the course looks at the various forms of feminism, while the second deals with the concept of gender and its link with sexuality. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on philosophy, history and literary and media studies, and offers a broad overview of the issues and debates that have shaped and continue to shape gender studies.



The FoodSTEM Project, for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Processing

With the support of three European higher education institutions, the FoodSTEM project aims to build the capacity of four leading public universities in Cambodia to create a new generation of food chain entrepreneurs, with a strong focus on safety, quality and sustainability. This project by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, which has just ended, was co-financed via Erasmus + Capacity Building in the field of higher education designed to establish a partnership between Cambodian and European universities.



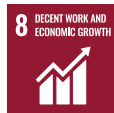
Management of Social and Sustainable Enterprises for the Master's Degree in Management Sciences

The aim of this HEC Liège programme is to teach management skills (strategy, financial management, project management, reporting, etc.) adapted to the creation and management of companies that seek first and foremost to have a social or environmental impact. It also aims to provide training in the support and transformation of all companies towards sustainable business models.



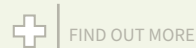
Transdisciplinary Seminar on the Environment

The aim of this Master's seminar in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Veterinary Medicine is to develop a sociological approach to a concrete environmental crisis. It uses tools developed by the human and social sciences to understand the environmental phenomena we are facing (floods, droughts, fires, climate displacement, zoonoses and heatwaves).



Master Erasmus Mundus EMMIE – Impact Entrepreneurship

At HEC Liège, the Erasmus Mundus Master in Impact Entrepreneurship (EMMIE) is a Master's programme specially dedicated to those who want to contribute to our society's transition to a more sustainable and inclusive world by implementing entrepreneurial projects.





Liège Human Rights Clinic

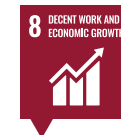
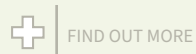
This experiment, set up by the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology, aims to give students a first practical insight into the realities and issues involved in the international legal protection of individuals. It also aims to help build capacity and collective efforts to protect fundamental rights, particularly for the benefit of associations, individuals or law firms working to defend fundamental rights in pro bono cases.

In 2022, a student worked with the **Federal Institute of Human Rights** to draft a preliminary intervention in the execution procedure, before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, of a judgment handed down by the European Court of Human Rights against Belgium concerning judicial backlogs. And in 2023, four students worked alongside a Brussels law firm representing a journalist deprived of his liberty in a North African country, carrying out research into psychological torture and the admissibility of successive individual applications to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.



Anthropology of Nature and Animals

Rooted in the social sciences (anthropology and, secondarily, sociology), this Master's course in the Faculty of Social Sciences aims to question cultural models of the relationship with nature and animals, both in our own societies and in societies abroad. It invites us to renew our ways of thinking about humans and non-humans and to rethink our relationship with living things.



Specialised Masters in Financial Risk Management - Sustainable and Climate Finance Module

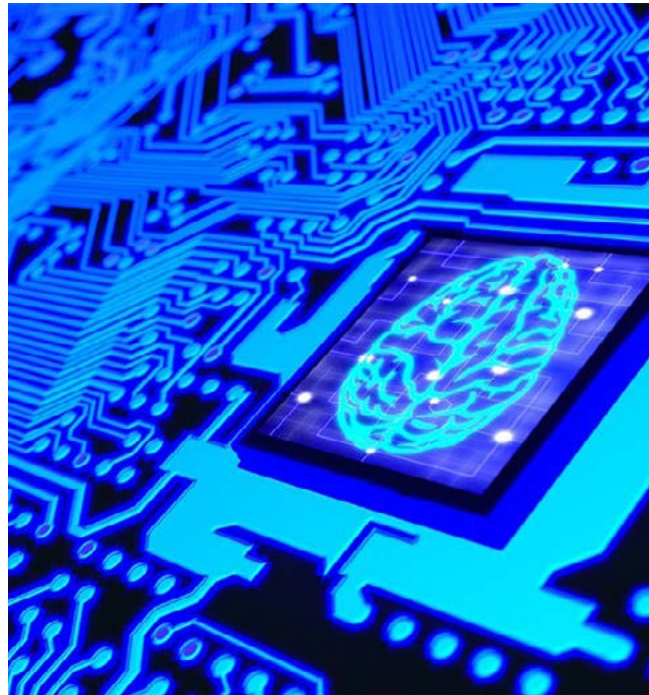
In September 2022, HEC Liège launched a new module entitled Sustainable and Climate Finance as part of its Specialised Masters in Financial Risk Management. This programme, which is unique in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, prepares participants to meet the new challenges of the financial world. Faced with major environmental and societal issues, and motivated by a desire for transparency, it is time to integrate climate-related criteria, as well as ethics, sustainability and governance (ESG), into investment and management processes. Responsible investment must encourage companies and management companies to take account of extra-financial criteria and the various risks that may arise from them.



3.2

Research

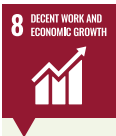
Several interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects related to transition and sustainability are being carried out at ULiège. A non-exhaustive list of these projects is presented below.



The Neuromorphic Engineering Laboratory


The research carried out in this new laboratory at the School of Engineering involves the development of electronic components that can reproduce the activities of a biological brain, while reducing their energy impact. These technologies could not only help human beings, but also substantially reduce our energy consumption.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



Emerging Economic Dynamics and New Territorial Challenges

By studying the spatial behaviour of three emerging dynamics - the creative, digital and circular economies - we can assess their contribution to the regeneration and revitalisation of cities and central areas. The 'Emerging Economic Dynamics' research carried out by LEPUR at the Faculty of Sciences highlights the dynamic nature of these sectors, which are the result of local, endogenous initiatives. This study sheds light on the diversity of concepts and locations that have come to be known as «innovation platforms» or «third places» and includes a guide for project developers.

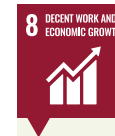
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Curbing Urban Sprawl and Car Dependency


The «Intensification and Requalification of Central Areas» project by LEPUR, the Research Centre on Territorial, Urban and Rural Sciences (*Centre de Recherche en Sciences de la Ville, du Grand Territoire et du Milieu rural*) of the Faculty of Sciences, is part of the drive to curb urban sprawl and car dependency. It proposes methods for assessing the phenomenon of urban sprawl in Wallonia, as well as operational avenues for limiting the urbanisation of new land, optimising the use of residential stock and urbanised land, ensuring access to housing despite the limited supply of land, better directing the location of shops towards urban and rural centres, and encouraging a mix of economic and residential functions in these centres.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



Prosperity and Post-Growth Chair

The aim of the 'Prosperity and Post-Growth' Chair at HEC Liège - Management School is to develop interdisciplinary research into socio-economic and justice issues in a 'post-growth' world. The Chair's team is looking at desirable and prosperous futures in a constrained world, in which issues of social and ecological justice are central.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



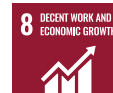
The Financial Importance of Environmental, Social and Governance Ratings

ESGfinalytics is an HEC Liège - Management School project that addresses issues related to the impact of companies on the environment. How does non-financial or ESG information influence financial theory, in particular the risk-return balance on financial markets? What is the quality of ESG data and ratings in decision-making? What are investors' preferences for sustainable investment products and their level of understanding of the information currently available? These are just some of the issues addressed by this project.



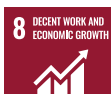
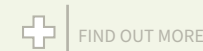
Climate Change Risk and Ambiguity: An Analysis of the Reaction of Financial Markets to Central Bank Communications

The main objective of this HEC Liège - Management School project is to measure the information on the risk and ambiguity of climate change contained in the speeches of central bankers around the world. The second objective is to study the reaction to this information of the share prices of companies located in several countries. Finally, this project will analyse the effect of the European Central Bank's communications on climate change on the credit spreads of corporate bonds located in several countries around the world.



Piedboeuf Chair in Extrafinancial Performance of SMEs

In Belgium, SMEs make up 99% of companies. The Piedboeuf Chair at HEC Liège has been set up to address the extra-financial performance of SMEs. The research programme aims to develop a sustainability management tool for SMEs, built around the framework offered by the 17 SDGs. This Chair marks a strong and necessary commitment both to our society and to the companies themselves.



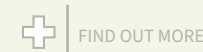
Practical Guides from the Smart City Institute

Every year since its inception, the Smart City Institute (SCI) at HEC Liège - Management School has published a practical guide on governance and the importance of collaboration between stakeholders in sustainable and intelligent transition processes. The SCI's collection of Practical Guides is intended to provide food for thought for those working in the field on key subjects identified by target audiences as central to their approach to sustainable and intelligent transition (in particular via barometers).



Development and Optimisation of a Method for Producing Nanoparticles on an Industrial Scale using Supercritical Fluid Technology

The pharmaceutical industry is looking to develop new, more environmentally-friendly production methods that save time and money, while reducing waste. The Faculty of Medicine's Pharmaceutical and Biopharmaceutical Technology Laboratory is innovating and optimising new eco-responsible manufacturing methods for pharmaceutical products, including hot extrusion, additive manufacturing techniques (3D printing) and the use of CO2 in the supercritical phase (intermediate behaviour between the liquid and gaseous states).





Report on the Impact of the Climate Transition on Employment in Belgium

The *Laboratoire d'Études sur les Nouvelles formes de Travail, l'Innovation et le Changement* (LENTIC) of HEC Liège - Management School has participated, in collaboration with ClimACT and HIVA-KULeuven, in the drafting of a report that aims to examine the impact of the 2050 climate neutrality objective on the Belgian labour market, in the context of the ecological transition in Belgium. The aim of the report is to identify mechanisms to ensure that the labour market supports the transition and that the necessary skills are available to make it a success. It also aims to protect the most vulnerable individuals by ensuring their access to quality jobs through training and retraining.



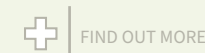
Development of Vibrational Spectroscopy and Hyperspectral Imaging in the Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Fields

Vibrational spectroscopy and hyperspectral imaging are analysis techniques that are rapidly gaining ground, including in the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors. These techniques enable rapid, non-destructive and versatile analysis while avoiding the use of organic solvents or sample preparation steps. These techniques are said to be «green, sustainable and low-cost.»



A CO₂ Technology Platform

The FRITCO₂T platform (Federation of Researchers in Innovative Technologies for CO₂ Transformation) brings together the activities of four ULiège laboratories (in engineering, science and medicine) studying technologies and materials for the capture and reuse of CO₂ emissions for the benefit of society.



SMEs and the Environment

The objectives of this HEC Liège - Management School project are twofold. Firstly, the project aims to fill the data gap on the environmental activities of SMEs by producing a new and unique dataset. Secondly, the project hopes to provide evidence of the link between SMEs' environmental characteristics and their performance, cost of debt and financial constraints. The matched dataset will be used to carry out the analysis, and the results will have implications for SME managers, investors and policy makers.



Leveraging Synergies to Improve Food Safety

The Fagaru (Senegal) and KiBuLiHa (Democratic Republic of Congo) projects of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, supported by WBI, aim to create a network of players in agriculture and public health to exploit synergies for the benefit of food and nutritional security.

Algorithmic Detection of Corruption and Bid-rigging in Public Contracts

This project by the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology analyses the promises and perils of using algorithmic behaviour detection methods and tools to award public contracts. The project proposes technical and non-technical solutions for deploying corruption-reducing tools while maintaining efficient, transparent administrative authorities that respect fundamental rights.




Improving the Resilience of the Silicon Industry

The RESiLEX project aims to improve the resilience of the silicon industry by developing technological solutions for the reuse of silicon, the recycling of photovoltaic (PV) modules and the design of new products. The GeMMe laboratory at the School of Engineering is involved in the process of recycling silicon and silver from solar panels. The Faculty of Sciences' GREENMat aims to use high-quality silicon from recycled PV modules to manufacture silicon-carbon (Si/C) composite powders as anode materials in Li-ion batteries ('Pouch' single-layer cell).

 FIND OUT MORE

Developing Sustainable Aquaculture Value Chains in Cambodia

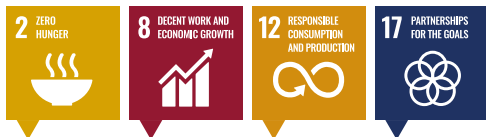
The Cambfish project of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine aims to improve the health and nutritional quality of aquaculture and fishery products. Cambfish is based on two types of innovation: the development of fish species with high nutritional value and improved product processing techniques (smoked and fermented fish). One of its aims is to contribute to the development of sustainable aquaculture value chains in Cambodia.

 FIND OUT MORE



Processed Fodder as an Alternative Source of Nutrients for Poultry

This project by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is financing, via a Rwandan fund, a research grant aimed at determining whether fresh or processed fodder is likely to be a source of nutrients, in particular protein, for poultry. Depending on the results, the sector could see its need for soya meal (imports of which are a burden for importing countries and their farmers) reduced, which also has a major ecological impact at global level.



Developing the Peanut Value Chain in Benin

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's Peanut Quality project aims to improve storage practices and the processing and preservation of peanuts, and their by-products, to ensure satisfactory health quality. The project will also improve the incomes of women and producers through the promotion and development of peanut value chains in Benin.



Improving Wax Quality in the Walloon Beekeeping Sector

Following on from the QualiWax project, which - with the BeeToxWax tool - enabled beekeepers to work with waxes that were less or not at all contaminated and to improve the health of bees, the QualiWax + project of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine will increase the availability of local waxes (through recycling) and their quality through a process of decontamination.



Gendered Inheritance in the Event of Legal Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce and Death in Belgium

From a legal perspective, and using an empirical approach, the aim of this study by the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology is to analyse whether the various legal tools for passing on assets have a differentiated effect on men and women and, as a result, whether they are likely to contribute to a wealth gap between men and women.



A Socio-technical Study of Digital Twins in Urban Governance

One of the latest innovations in urban governance is the development and use of 'Digital Twins', virtual and dynamic replicas of a city. This project by the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology aims to understand how virtual experiments are both configured and used in urban governance by describing and explaining how cities are represented through their digital twins. The study also aims to understand how virtual experiments are organised and how they can transform governance practices.



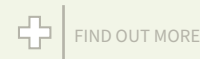
The Limits of Seagrass Transplantation

The Faculty of Sciences' UNSEAL project aims to study the limiting mechanisms responsible for the success or failure of seagrass transplantation as part of the restoration of anthropogenic patches created by large ships in Posidonia oceanica meadows.



Restoring Anthropogenic Patches in Posidonia Meadows

The Faculty of Sciences' REPAIR thesis project aims to test different environmentally-friendly substrates for stabilising and restoring anthropogenic intermats (sandy gaps) created by large yachts anchoring in Posidonia meadows. This study is crucial to finding cost-effective, efficient stabilisation and restoration techniques and to determining the appropriate areas in the Mediterranean Sea where restoration actions could be launched. It is all the more important as seagrass beds are also some of the most effective natural carbon sinks in the world.



Optimising Pest Control Tools

As part of the agro-ecological transition and the protection of biodiversity, the EU-funded ADOPT IPM project at Gembloux Agro Bio Tech is optimising existing integrated pest management (IPM) tools and software packages and creating new ones with a view to controlling harmful organisms.



A Study on the Controlled Recharge of Aquifers

The MARWAL (Managed Aquifer Recharge for the aquifers of WALLonia) project at the School of Engineering is looking at the issue of temporary storage of water in aquifers for later use, with a view to combating droughts. In order to anticipate the medium- and long-term consequences of climate change, this project aims to assess the feasibility of controlled groundwater recharge.



Artificial Intelligence to Detect Discriminatory Bias

The Neutr-IA project of the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology proposes a legal interpretation of the discriminatory biases that emerge when artificial intelligence-based tools are used in recruitment, from a gender perspective. The aim is to analyse whether existing legislation, or legislation currently being drafted, can be used to thwart and correct the pitfalls of these new practices.

3.3


Some Faculty Initiatives

In 2022-23, many members of the ULiège community, including students and/or staff, initiated and implemented projects related to the social and environmental transition.

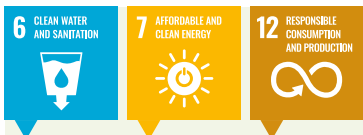


The Expot'Ingé

In 2019, students from the School of Engineering created the «Pot'Ingé,» which consists of regular maintenance of a plot dedicated to permaculture located next to building B52. The aim of this collective project is to raise awareness among the University community of biodiversity, short supply chains and sustainable development. On 28th June 2023, Pot'Ingé organised its very first EXPOT'Ingé on the food transition. The event had three main themes: learning, meeting people and collective construction.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)





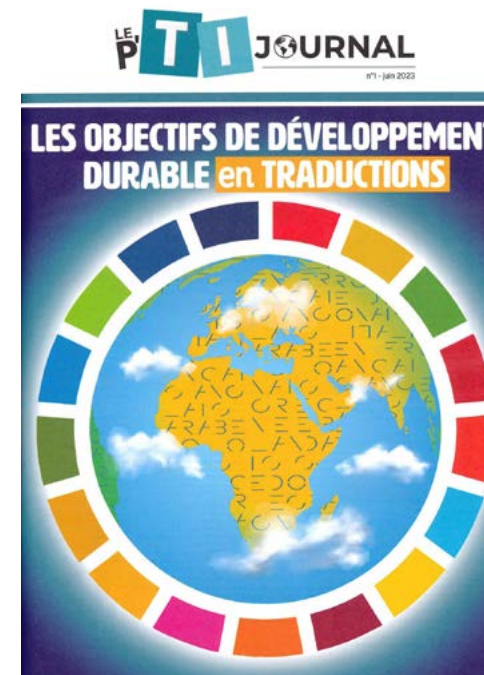
Climate Change and Sustainable Development - C2D2

This group at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is working with the Property Administration to identify and resolve 'domestic' problems relating to energy management at the Faculty. It is also planning to install water fountains on the network in all the Faculty's buildings in order to reduce the use of plastic water bottles and refill tank water fountains.



Publication of the First Edition of the 'p'TI Journal' Focusing on the SDGs

Around fifteen teachers from the Translation and Interpretation programme in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters formed an editorial committee and worked on a cross-disciplinary teaching project to create a magazine similar to the 'Courier international'. This compilation of articles from various international newspapers and magazines was translated by students (from Bachelor's block 2 to Master's block 2) and revised by Master's peers or teachers. Published in June 2023, the first edition of this magazine, called the 'p'TI journal' (the abbreviation 'TI' referring to Translation-Interpretation), focuses exclusively on the theme of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Let's Make Sart Tilman Cleaner!

As part of their «Practical Applications of Intervention in Physical Activities and Sport» course, students in Motor Skills Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with the Green Office, organised a Plogging event on the Sart Tilman campus on 30th March 2023, an activity designed to promote physical activity and respect for the environment. The student organisers had to show initiative and creativity in order to come up with an event that met the various constraints linked to the varied profiles of the participants and the particularities of the environment. The event was a success and will be repeated yearly.



Organisation of a Conference-Workshop on «Medicines, Health and Sustainability»

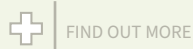
From September to December 2022, students enrolled on an elective course in pharmacy practice during block 2 of the Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine prepared a workshop on sustainability aspects of the pharmaceutical circuit. The aim of the workshop was firstly to pass on to the public the observations made by the trainees of problematic practices in the industrial production of medicines, their prescription, dispensing and use, not forgetting the problems associated with the supply chain, and secondly to share possible solutions for a more sustainable use of medicines with their audience.



Nudge Challenge

The final of the Nudge Challenge organised at HEC Liège took place in December 2022. Thirteen teams of block 2 Master's students presented their nudge to stimulate more sustainable behaviour. Two groups of HEC Liège students were rewarded for their work. They were:

- for the **best project** : A nudge to encourage the consumption of water rather than soft drinks within the University's student community;
- for **best video** : A nudge to encourage students using the University cafeteria to pack their leftovers in doggy bags.



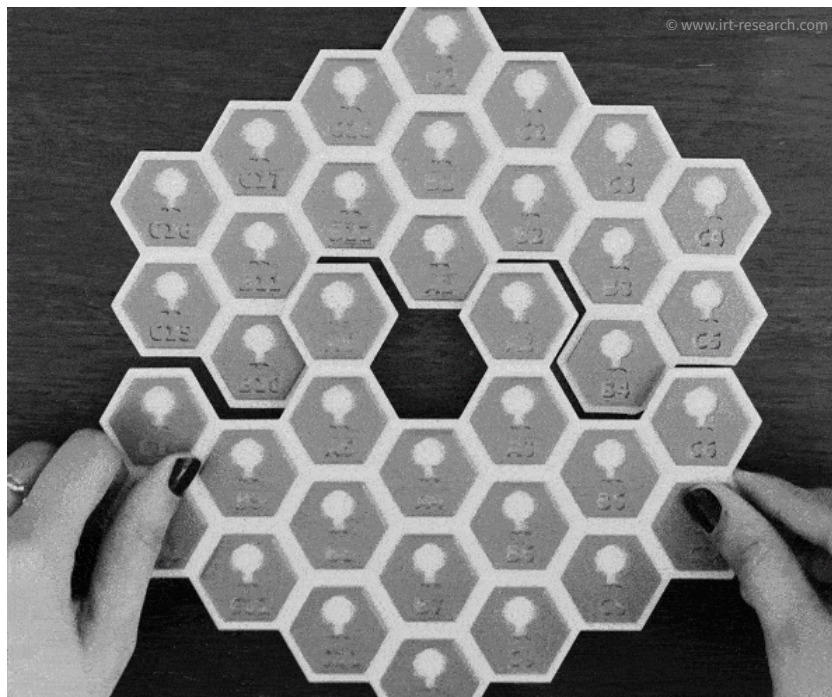
A Serious Game about Radioactive Waste

Created and tested by European nuclear regulators (as part of the SITEX project), the «Pathway Evolution Process (PEP) serious game» is a «serious game» designed specifically to discuss the management and control of long-lived high-level radioactive waste. Players are invited to collaboratively explore, evaluate and critique different management options for a particular problem. The game was tested at ULiège. To help the players, a dozen members of the School of Engineering and the Spiral Research Centre and UR Cité of the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology facilitated the discussions. Several representatives from the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control and Bel V were also present and answered the many questions asked by players during the game session.



Recycling & Upcycling Challenge

In June 2023, students in Bachelor's block 3 at HEC Liège took part in the Recycling & Upcycling Challenge final, organised as part of the Marketing and Innovation course. Their task was to develop innovative projects by recycling or upcycling unused or even unusable objects. It was a meaningful activity for the 14 teams of 6 students, who distinguished themselves by coming up with innovative concepts using books, cardboard, glass bottles, broken umbrellas, tyres, etc. to help reduce our environmental impact.



Creation of the «Tipping Point» Game

The game created by Thomas-Julian Irabor, Nicolas Antoine-Moussiaux and Simon Rüegg, called 'Tipping Point', is being implemented in the veterinary curriculum with the support of VetMediSim care. It is being applied and developed in Switzerland and Nigeria. The game lasts six rounds (representing 6 years), during which players have to build houses while efficiently managing the waste they produce. The player who manages to survive the six rounds and build the most houses wins the game.

[+](#) FIND OUT MORE

Agroecology Summer School

This Summer School, organised by the Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech Faculty and open to secondary and higher education students, is part of the European AGreenSmart project. Its aim is to explore the possible links between technology and agroecology. A lecture on the outlines of agroecology is followed by a visit to the experimental plots of the EcoFoodSystem, highlighting crop rotation and the different food choices available in terms of respect for the environment.




[+](#) FIND OUT MORE










4






2022-2023 Sustainability Dashboard

Since 2020, ULiège has had a sustainability dashboard, the objective of which is to draw up an inventory of progress in the field of sustainable development within the Institution. This dashboard, built around the 17 SDGs and based on the available indicators, is the first step in a more comprehensive monitoring exercise, where targets for certain objectives can be identified.

Indicator	Year 2018-2019 2018 Data	Year 2019-2020 2019 Data	Year 2020-2021 2020 Data	Year 2021-2022 2021 Data	Year 2022-2023 2022 Data
1 NO POVERTY 					
Number of students who receive a study grant or have reduced study fees	3,329	3,697	4,474	4,776	4,777
Budget allocated to integration measures (in thousands of euros)	303	326	576	564	598
Number of registered students from developing countries	1,385	2,065	2,352	2,619	2,761
2 ZERO HUNGER 					
Social budget allocated to food aid for students (in thousands of euros)	No data	No data	No data	123	839
Percentage of food waste in our canteens	/	5%	5%	5%	5%
Number of “short circuit” meals offered per week	/	1	1	1	1
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 					
Number of members of staff that have received informal psycho-social assistance	89	110	90	90	90
Number of members of staff that have received formal psycho-social assistance (harassment, workplace violence)	0	2	3	3	1
Absenteeism rate (on sick leave for more than 6 months)	No data	No data	No data	1%	1%
Number of students who graduated with a Master’s degree or higher in the medical domain	803	800	821	870	470
Number of water fountains on the network	/	/	/	59	46
Number of “healthy” snack machines	/	/	29	No data	14
Number of non “healthy” snack machines (drinks + snacks)	/	/	30	No data	41
Percentage of the budget dedicated to student housing	5%	5.6%	4.9%	5.3%	5.1%

Indicator		Year 2018-2019 2018 Data	Year 2019-2020 2019 Data	Year 2020-2021 2020 Data	Year 2021-2022 2021 Data	Year 2022-2023 2022 Data
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Number of students in continued education	1,071	1,229	1,520	1,301	1,265
	Number of students who were admitted onto their study programme thanks to APEL	143	148	334	190	188
	Percentage of Bachelor's and Master's students who completed their degree "on time"	22%	22%	24%	20%	No data
	Number of students on bridge programmes	1,769	1,976	2,129	2,251	2,103
	Number of courses with the words "durable/sustainable" in their title	26	35	34	34	49
	Number of students who followed one of these courses	800	752	866	847	778
	Number of published "peer-reviewed" references	4,564	4,480	4,035	4,552	5,098
	Percentage of the budget allocated to teaching	39%	38%	39%	38%	37%
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Proportion of women registered for the first time for a doctoral degree	45%	49%	47%	51%	47%
	Proportion of women promoted to "professor" (professeur)	No data	30%	No data	27%	21%
	Proportion of women promoted to "full professor" (professeur ordinaire)	No data	11%	No data	14%	32%
	Proportion of women in top management positions: Board of Directors	/	/	23%	25%	27%
	Proportion of women in top management positions: Rectoral Team	/	/	20%	22%	38%
	Proportion of women in top management positions: Deans	/	/	33%	36%	27%
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	Network water consumption / person (m ³ /year)	8	10	7.1	6.9	5.9
	Groundwater water consumption / person (m ³ /year)	77,833	83,452	70,038	82,887	67,392
	Rainwater water consumption / person (m ³ /year)	No data	342	344	309	92
	Mixed industrial and domestic wastewater discharge (m ³ /year)	150,972	139,160	102,197	137,383	151,407
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	Emissions of CO ₂ /m ² due to electricity consumption (in kg)	28	27	24	25	29
	Emissions of CO ₂ /m ² due to heat consumption (in kg)	21	17	14	15	16
	Percentage of self-generated electricity from renewable sources	20%	23%	23%	21%	18%
	Percentage of self-generated heat from renewable sources	41%	48%	52%	43%	62%

Indicator	Year 2018-2019 2018 Data	Year 2019-2020 2019 Data	Year 2020-2021 2020 Data	Year 2021-2022 2021 Data	Year 2022-2023 2022 Data
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Ratio of staff on fixed-term /permanent contracts	45%	46%	46%	46%
	Number of new hires on a permanent contract	/	71	83	109
	Number of resignations - fixed term + permanent contracts	/	80	94	130
	Number of redundancies - fixed term + permanent contracts	/	13	15	2
	Number of staff retiring - fixed term + permanent contracts	/	49	49	49
	Number of new hires - fixed term + permanent contracts	/	639	617	645
	Number of staff leaving (resignations, redundancies, pensions, end of fixed-term contracts)	/	600	565	610
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	Cumulative number of spin-offs created	144	147	148	152
	Cumulative number of patents	1,087	1,124	1,274	1,415
	Cumulative number of signed technology transfers (licences)	441	495	526	551
	Five-year average property investment (in thousands of euros)	16,799	20,732	22,773	25,328
	Industry revenue (from third parties) (in thousands of euros)	56,947	50,549	78,474	69,597
	Number of researchers	2,938	3,018	3,013	3,068
	Share of budget dedicated to research	60%	59%	57%	55%
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Number of students with a disability who receive support from ULiège support services	240	267	270	311
	Number of students from developing countries who receive a student grant	147	160	199	214
	Number of computer rooms	52	52	49	47
	Number of computers available to students	1,012	1,010	1,096	1,034
	Full-time median gross salary - academic staff	No data	7,125.28	7,402.40	7,550.37
	Full-time median gross salary - scientific staff	No data	3,993.22	4,073.00	4,154.41
	Full-time median gross salary - administrative and support staff	No data	3,292.08	3,350.01	3,427.52

	Indicator	Year 2018-2019 2018 Data	Year 2019-2020 2019 Data	Year 2020-2021 2020 Data	Year 2021-2022 2021 Data	Year 2022-2023 2022 Data
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	Number of MOOCs organised by ULiège	7	20	21	24	26
	Percentage of journeys by car (students + staff)	/	/	/	30.3%	/
	Percentage of journeys by car-sharing (students + staff)	/	/	/	8.6%	/
	Percentage of journeys by public transport (students + staff)	/	/	/	46%	/
	Percentage of journeys by bike (students + staff)	/	/	/	3.4%	/
	Number of students living at the family home within the reference zone	16,100	16,730	17,982	18,643	18,155
	Number of students living in student accommodation within the reference zone	3,935	3,832	3,766	4,223	4,301
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	Proportion of calls for offers >140K€ including a sustainable development clause (environmental, ethical or social)	41%	44%	40%	35%	
	Tonnes of residual waste (excl. GxABT and Arlon) (tonnes/year)	524	576	363	415	482
	Tonnes of cardboard/paper waste (excl. GxABT and Arlon) (tonnes/year)	206	270	251	301	188
	Tonnes of wood waste (excl. GxABT and Arlon) (tonnes/year)	13	11	9	24	18
	Tonnes of inert and construction waste (excl. GxABT and Arlon) (tonnes/year)	31	11	16	18	11
	Number of PMC bags collected (excl. GxABT, Arlon and City of Liège) (120l bags/year)	3,513	4,198	2,441	3,591	3,059
14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	Quality rating of waterways	/	/	/	good	acceptable
15 LIFE ON LAND 	Area of green spaces (forests, parks, agricultural land, built land) (in hectares)	/	/	/	642.8	/
	Extension of artificialised land or fragmentation index (in hectares)	/	/	/	63	/
	Wooded areas available to the public (in hectares)	/	/	/	544.6	/
	Survey on life on the Sart Tilman site	/	/	/	/	good
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	Number of conventions with a link with development cooperation	163	171	153	151	136
	Number of foreign countries in development cooperation partnerships	41	50	46	43	42



5

Sustainable Development Bodies at ULiège

For a number of years now, ULiège has been moving in the direction of sustainable development: numerous initiatives in favour of environmental and social transition have been launched and implemented, such as the energy renovation of our buildings, the installation of a pellet-fired cogeneration plant, support for soft mobility, the promotion of more sustainable travel abroad, gender equality, sustainable public procurement, etc.

In order to strengthen these actions in favour of sustainable development on an institutional level and bring together the many players involved, in December 2019, ULiège set up a **Sustainable Development Council** (*Conseil du développement durable* (CDD)), a support and expertise structure for environmental and social transition. It is responsible for advising the academic authorities on drawing up a sustainable development strategy for the University of Liège. The Council is chaired by Sybille Mertens, **Advisor to the Rector** on Environmental and Social Transition, and is made up of almost 50 members who are experts in one or more areas of sustainable development, providing a cross-disciplinary perspective on the actions envisaged.

The Council maintains dialogue with the **Sustainable Development Unit** (*Cellule institutionnelle du Développement Durable* (CiDD)). This operational body was also created in 2019 and has been

coordinated since June 2023 by a **Sustainability Officer**: Sophie Blain. The Unit has a cross-functional role within ULiège in developing and implementing the Institution's transition strategy. It participates in the identification, design, implementation and monitoring of initiatives in favour of sustainable development, in close collaboration with the academic authorities, faculties, administrations and members of the University community. It acts as an internal link between the authorities, faculties and administrations, and as an external link between the Institution and its partners.

The CiDD was strengthened in 2020 with the creation of the **Green Office**, a platform for raising awareness among the University community and providing support for the implementation of concrete projects initiated by its members. Initially run by and for students, its scope was extended in 2023 to the Institution's staff.

An **executive committee** monitors the strategy by overseeing the coordination of the administrations in the implementation of the Institution's transition. It is made up of members of the rectoral team, the Administrator, the Director of Communications and a student representing AG Fédéré, as well as members of the CiDD and the Green Office.

For more information, contact durable@uliege.be



Sybille Mertens
Advisor to the Rector on
Environmental and Social Transition



Sophie Blain
ULiège Sustainability Officer

6

Partners

17 PARTENARIATS POUR
LA RÉALISATION
DES OBJECTIFS



To support this transition towards a more sustainable world, the University of Liège has entered into several partnerships. These networks allow the University to benefit from the expertise and experience of other institutions which have adopted a similar approach, and to be part of a collective approach favouring the coordination of actions and the sharing of resources.

Each membership is subject to prior evaluation and a decision by the academic authorities.



ULiège is a permanent member of the *Commission du Développement durable* (CDD) Commission for Sustainable Development) of the *Académie de Recherche et d'Enseignement supérieur* (ARES) Academy of Research and Higher Education) of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. The Commission promotes the exchange of experiences between higher education actors, develops collaborative tools in order to create a community of resources, and elaborates recommendations on institutional sustainable development policies for the academic and political authorities of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.



FIND OUT MORE



The Belgian platform 'The Shift' brings together more than 580 organisations, public institutions, companies, associations and universities, which are committed to working together to achieve the goals of sustainable development. The network organises sustainable initiatives and the sharing of experiences between members. ULiège has been a member of 'The Shift' since October 2020 and has signed its charter, committing us to working in partnership with local and international actors in favour of sustainable development.



FIND OUT MORE



In 2022, the University of Liège was the first Belgian university to join the Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment. GRASFI brings together 26 internationally renowned universities, including Cambridge, Oxford and Yale, which promote academic research in the fields of sustainable finance and investment.

It is through its Management School (HEC-Liège), and more particularly the Financial Management for the Future (FM4F) research group, that ULiège is joining this alliance, which testifies to a solid expertise in multidisciplinary academic research in these fields.



FIND OUT MORE



ULiège joined the International Sustainable Campus Network in March 2022. ULiège won the first prize in the field of cultural change for sustainability thanks to the Green Office engagement programme, which aims to reduce the carbon footprint of our community.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



ULiège joined the International Association of Universities, a network of no less than 640 members in 120 countries, which counts sustainability as one of its four pillars. Thanks to this network, the University of Liège will be able to benefit from a strong echo chamber to spread its climate awareness efforts.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



ULiège has joined the Green Office movement, a network of 100 other similar structures, whose aim is to provide institutional support, improve teamwork and increase collective impact by organising events on a larger scale.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



In 2022, ULiège signed the charter of the Belgian Institute for Sustainable IT, committing the whole University to making an effort towards digital sobriety. The aim is to rethink the allocation of digital resources in a reasoned and responsible manner.

An ULiège working group dedicated to this topic attended a training course organised by ISIT in June 2023.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)



ULiège is a member of Enactus, an international platform for learning through entrepreneurial experience that brings together universities and major companies. Enactus is a network of leaders committed to using business as a catalyst for positive social and environmental impact. Its mission is to educate, inspire and support young people to use innovation and entrepreneurship to solve the world's biggest problems.

 [FIND OUT MORE](#)

6.1

Rêvons Liège - Dream Together



To give the future a chance to exist, we must first allow it to be imagined. This is the message of the «*Rêvons Liège 2030*» initiative, a unique collaboration between the University and the *Théâtre de Liège*. It invites researchers, artists and ordinary citizens to imagine their city in 2030, and then turn the dream into reality.

«*Rêvons Liège 2030*» is the fruit of a society seeking to invent new futures for itself, when the future seems so uncertain. «At the *Nourrir Liège* festival, I attended a talk by Rob Hopkins,» recalls Cécile Van de Weerd, Green Office coordinator. «According to this ecologist, the key to the ecological transition lies in imagination, because to want to build a positive future, you first have to be able to project yourself into it.»



And Cécile Van de Weerd is not the only one dreaming of the future. In November 2022, the *Théâtre de Liège* organised the «*Forum sans Transition* ! ». This collection of shows, readings and installations on the theme of «Cultivating our futures» was accompanied by a Think Tank made up of artists and scientists from ULiège, brought together to develop solutions for a sustainable and desirable future. «During the many preparatory discussions between the Theatre and the University prior to the forum, we decided to build a longer-term project,» says Serge Rangoni, Director of the *Théâtre de Liège*. «For us, it was the perfect opportunity to bring together all the forces likely to think about and commit to changing things.»

Following in the footsteps of the *Forum Sans Transition*!, «*Rêvons Liège 2030*» aims to establish a close collaboration between the scientific and artistic worlds at the heart of the process. «In all the experiments that exist on the aspects of sustainable development,

and as long as the conditions for dialogue and mutual understanding are created, the combination of these two dimensions considerably unlocks the imagination,» reveals Serge Rangoni.

And while this initiative can count on the *Théâtre de Liège*'s artistic network to put on relevant performances, it also relies on the expertise of *Liège Créative*, which is heavily involved in the project: «*Liège Créative* is a forum for meetings and conferences that aims to promote ULiège research within civil society,» explains Aurore Falla, Project Manager at *Liège Créative*. «Our mission is really to break down the barriers between academic, entrepreneurial and even socio-cultural circles to enrich the issues addressed, by bringing together worlds that don't necessarily talk to each other. And in just over 10 years of activity, we have really created a substantial network of researchers, and many projects have emerged from the organisation of these meetings.»



7 ASSEMBLIES

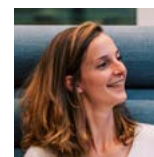
Begun in March 2023 and scheduled to run until December 2024, «*Rêvons Liège 2030*» is built around a succession of assemblies addressing sustainable development themes: biodiversity, food, mobility, energy, finance, culture, education, buildings and industry. In addition to these 7 events, there will be a progress report and a closing session. Conceived as moments of exchange, rather than conferences where participants are placed in the position of learners, the assemblies begin with a talk by a scientist from ULiège (and sometimes from elsewhere). «For each theme, we try to find experts who are capable of presenting the situation realistically, without being overly optimistic and outlining the utopias that we are all likely to explore,» explains Aurore Falla. «Many people tell us that they feel powerless in the face of the current situation, and we really wanted to give them a concrete illustration of the means of action available to them.»

These scientific presentations are followed by artistic performances, such as the interpretation of a text by Liège author Nicolas Ancion. «Many of the artists we work with are already very committed to the issue of ecological transition,» says Serge Rangoni. «We give them the opportunity to meet the guest scientists beforehand, so that they can draw on their subjects to develop their performance.»

A MORE RESILIENT REGION

Following these two events, working groups will be set up with the public so that everyone can share their utopia, and look at how it can concretely give rise to a project or link it to an existing initiative. To guide these discussions, the organisers are using the **Ecological Renaissance** fresco, designed by Julien Dossier. «This tool illustrates the city and its various projects,» explains Aurore Falla. «It presents the state of play and allows participants to work out their utopias in concrete terms.»

This innovative approach enables participants to play an active role in the ecological transition, by opening them up to initiatives that they were not previously aware of, while at the same time ensuring that new ideas become real projects. «We've set our-selves the target of having 10 projects up and running by the end of 2024,» says Aurore Falla. «Our big idea is to make the region more resilient, by opening people up to a host of opportunities and showing them that they're not alone in their corner in wor-rying about the climate crisis. «*Rêvons Liège 2030*» has generated real enthusiasm, which we have already seen in the first two meetings, even from people who were initially rather sceptical! It really helps participants to find meaning in their daily lives.»



Aurore Falla

Project Manager at *Liège Créative*



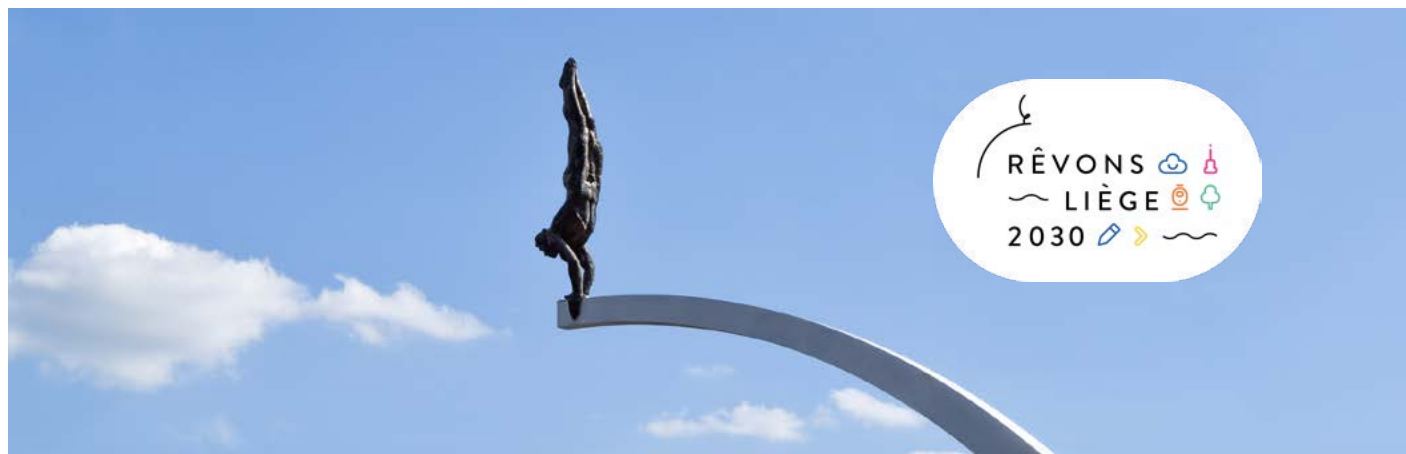
Cécile Van de Weerd

Green Office Coordinator



Serge Rangoni

Director of the *Théâtre de Liège*



6.2

UNIC: Green and Inclusive Internationalisation of University Activities



The aim of UNIC, a consortium of 10 universities in post-industrial, multicultural European cities, is to create a united, urban and inclusive European University. To this end, the project encourages collaboration between the partner universities, develops inclusive university training and stimulates cultural exchanges. Through this inter-university cooperation, ULiège is committed to encouraging the internationalisation of its activities.

THE CONSORTIUM

The UNIC (University of post-industrial cities) project aims to create a strategic alliance between 10 European universities located in post-industrial cities: the University of Deusto, Ruhr University Bochum, University College Cork, KOÇ University (Istanbul), University of Oulu, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Zagreb and the University of Liège. What the cities of these universities have in common is that they are facing a transition from an economy initially based on manufacturing to one based on services. They are therefore facing similar challenges, such as

youth employment, the impact of new technologies, the transition to renewable energy sources and the evolution of health-related challenges.

«With the aim of collectively meeting these challenges and transforming them into opportunities for the positive and sustainable redevelopment of these cities and their territories, the consortium of 10 universities is seeking to establish an impactful model for the transition of European cities,» explains Pierre Duysinx, Vice-Rector for Mobility and International Affairs.



Pierre Duysinx
Vice-Rector for Mobility and International Affairs

ENGAGED RESEARCH, URBAN INNOVATION AND PARTICIPATORY LEARNING

UNIC's partner universities aim to position themselves as players in the social, technological and economic transition. The universities are working hand in hand with their city's institutions to ensure that urban and public interest issues feed into teaching and research, and offer students the means to co-create the university with the city's staff and stakeholders. In line with this desire to strengthen the City-civil society-University link, a partnership agreement was signed in June 2023 between ULiège and the City of Liège. UNIC is also rethinking the role of students within the university, enabling them to step out of their academic bubble and into the everyday life of the city, by becoming agents of change for the future. This gives them the opportunity to play an active part in transforming society by developing an understanding of local urban environments.

INCLUSIVE TEACHING

UNIC also aims to promote inclusive societies. For example, in 2022-2023, as part of the Wiki Women and Science project, actions to promote access to higher education in secondary schools were carried out and mentoring activities were promoted. As part of the peer review of inclusion practices, meetings, reports and publications were produced on the experience of international students. In April 2023, the Superdiversity School seminar was held, addressing the issues and challenges of diversity in higher education.

GREEN AND INCLUSIVE EUROPEAN MOBILITY

The consortium aims to make mobility accessible to all members of the university community, regardless of their socio-economic background, disability or any other potential barrier. The project promotes social, economic and cultural diversity by facilitating access to mobility programmes, offering scholarships and providing tailored support to students during their stay abroad, such as support services and adjustments for people with disabilities. UNIC also encourages green

mobility in order to reduce its ecological footprint as much as possible. Through its **Train Instead Plane (TIP)** programme, it offers around 15 grants a year to students who commit to travelling by train when they start their studies abroad as part of an exchange with one of UNIC's universities. Part of the UNIC team from Liège travelled without a plane from Liège to Bilbao for the UNIC CityLabs Festival Bilbao (April 2023). In September 2023, a summer school on the theme of «Ageing well» was organised in Liège. The event saw the introduction of the Institution's first BIP (Blended Intensive Programme), which consists of a hybrid course format, with this virtual component designed to enable students to travel less.





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