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Sustainable Development Goals Report

2025 Comprehensive Edition

An Evidence-Based Report on USEK's Contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



Aligned with:
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
International Higher Education Sustainability Reporting Practices

Prepared by the Sustainability Office– Kaslik, Lebanon

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01

INTRODUCTION

Shaping a more sustainable campus and community.



Message From the Director of the Sustainability Office

> It is with great pride that I present the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) Sustainability Report 2025. This report reflects our continued commitment to integrating sustainability into the heart of our University's mission, reinforcing our responsibility to educate future leaders, advance knowledge, and contribute meaningfully to society.

Higher education institutions have a unique opportunity—and responsibility—to address the pressing environmental, social, and economic challenges of our time. At USEK, we believe that sustainability is not a standalone initiative, but a guiding principle that informs our teaching, research, campus operations, governance, and engagement with the wider community. Through this integrated approach, we continue to align our actions with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while creating long-term value for Lebanon and beyond.

The past year represented a defining milestone in our sustainability journey. The establishment of the Sustainability Office has strengthened our institutional capacity to coordinate and accelerate sustainability initiatives across the University. We are also proud to publish USEK's disclosures on carbon emissions, reflecting our commitment to transparency and evidence-based decision-making. Our progress in advancing the circular economy is reflected in the continued development of the Material Recovery Facility as a living laboratory that connects education, research, and sustainable campus operations while promoting responsible resource management and waste reduction across the University.

As one of USEK's senior leaders often reminds us, "aesthetics brings ethics". This philosophy is reflected across campus, where every space is designed not only to serve its purpose, but also to inspire responsibility and respect for the environment. By creating a campus that visibly cares for its resources, from gardens and green spaces to its sustainability infrastructure, we encourage our community to embrace sustainability as a shared value and a way of life.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners. Sustainability is a shared responsibility and the collective efforts of our University community continue to transform ambitious goals into measurable outcomes.

While this report celebrates important progress, it also serves as a reminder that sustainability is a continuous journey of learning, innovation, collaboration, and accountability. As we look ahead, USEK remains committed to strengthening its environmental performance, advancing social responsibility, fostering innovation, and embedding sustainability into every aspect of university life.

I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this shared vision. Together, we will continue to build a resilient and inclusive university that inspires positive change and contributes to a more sustainable future for Lebanon and the global community.



Dr. Samar El Azzi Achkouti
Director of the Sustainability Office
Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

About USEK

USEK at a Glance

Unique among universities in Lebanon, USEK was the first university to be established as a private non-profit institution by Lebanese citizens, this case by the Lebanese Maronite Order (OLM) monks, who have been placing their values in education since the 17th century. The educational programs and research development we offer all our students are in line with the official requirements of the Lebanese state, the Constitutions of the OLM and the social teaching of the Catholic Church on universities, and, more recently, with the American-style education system and international accreditations to give our students wider prospects abroad as well as in Lebanon.

From the onset, the University has kept its momentum, expanding while remaining true to its all-inclusive and non-elitist Christian humanism, which runs through the teaching we deliver. Our real-world university education is grounded in our commitment to strong governance and management, learning and teaching assessment, student well-being, and support of our workforce based on the principles of valuing community, intellectual curiosity, tradition and innovation, and high performance.

A degree from USEK prepares our students for the challenges of the contemporary world. Our robust educational core includes programs in all the major fields of study and incorporates new vocational specializations aligned with the present labor market.

Our community is made up of diverse and talented students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The USEK sense of belonging comes from the strength of individual and team connections within the community based on the spiritual, civic, and ethical values of respecting others and their beliefs.

USEK's motto: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the whole truth." (Jn 16:13)



Mission

Since its founding, USEK seeks, and in accordance with the Article 92 of the Constitutions of the OLM (ed. 2012) and the social teaching of the Catholic Church on universities, to contribute to the development of all its students through quality educational programs and research in various fields of study.

By providing a high quality American-style education to its students, USEK intends to prepare future leaders for innovation, professional growth and life-long learning, in Lebanon, within the Middle East and throughout the world. USEK is committed to a faith-based educational development of its students rooted in the Catholic tradition whereby spiritual values and ethics as well as respect for cultural and religious pluralism are promoted.

Vision

To be a transformative institution renowned for exceptional academic excellence, preparing the next generation of leaders in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Campus Setting

The Kaslik campus is designed as an integrated, student-centered environment combining academic, residential, cultural, athletic and recreational facilities within landscaped green spaces and pedestrian-friendly areas. Kaslik and Jounieh combine tradition with modernization: despite rapid urban development since the 1970s, the region has retained its cultural identity while evolving into a dynamic center for tourism, education and economic activity. The campus benefits from proximity to the Mediterranean, cultural and artistic venues, public-transportation accessibility and a vibrant student-friendly urban environment.

Campus infrastructure includes academic buildings and smart classrooms; advanced laboratories and research centers; libraries and digital learning facilities; innovation and entrepreneurship centers; student residences; sports and recreational facilities; auditoriums, theaters and cultural venues; green landscaped areas and vegetated zones; administrative offices and student service centers; and outdoor social spaces.

USEK's Participation in International University Rankings

USEK is committed to participating in internationally recognized university rankings as part of its continuous efforts to evaluate its performance, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen its position nationally, regionally, and internationally. These rankings provide valuable insights into the University's achievements and allow USEK to benchmark its progress against other leading universities worldwide.

Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ratings

One of the main rankings in which USEK participates is the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ratings, previously known as the THE Impact Rankings. This ranking evaluates how universities contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their teaching, research, operations, policies, and community engagement. It highlights the role of universities in addressing global challenges and creating a positive impact on society.

In the 2026 THE Sustainability Impact Ratings, USEK achieved strong results in Lebanon, **ranking 1st nationally in three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

- **SDG 9: Industry**, Innovation and Infrastructure: Recognizing USEK's contribution to innovation, research development, technological advancement, and sustainable infrastructure.
- **SDG 13: Climate Action:** Highlighting USEK's efforts in addressing climate change, raising environmental awareness, and implementing climate-related initiatives.
- **SDG 15: Life on Land:** Reflecting USEK's commitment to biodiversity protection, ecosystem preservation, and sustainable environmental practices.

Furthermore, USEK ranked 2nd in Lebanon in six additional SDGs:

- **SDG 2: Zero Hunger:** Reflecting initiatives related to food security, sustainable agriculture, and support for communities in need.
- **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy:** Recognizing efforts related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable energy practices.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Highlighting contributions to employability, entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development.
- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** Demonstrating efforts to promote inclusion, equal opportunities, and social responsibility.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Recognizing contributions to community engagement and sustainable development.
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production:** Reflecting initiatives promoting sustainability, resource efficiency, and responsible practices.

Overall, USEK achieved **3rd place in Lebanon in the 2026 THE Sustainability Impact Ratings,** demonstrating its continuous commitment to sustainability and its contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

QS World University Rankings

USEK is also ranked in the QS World University Rankings, reflecting its commitment to academic excellence, research development, international collaboration, and institutional improvement. Participation in the QS World University rankings allows the University to measure its performance against other institutions worldwide and strengthen its global visibility.

In the 2027 QS World University Rankings, USEK maintained its position as the 6th-ranked university in Lebanon, while improving its global ranking from 771–780 in 2026 to 761–770 in 2027. This improvement reflects the University's continuous progress and growing international recognition.

USEK achieved the **1st position in Lebanon in two important indicators**:

- **Faculty Student Ratio:** Ranking first in Lebanon reflects USEK's commitment to providing a supportive learning environment where students benefit from close interaction with faculty, personalized academic support, and quality teaching.
- **International Faculty Ratio:** Ranking first in Lebanon in this indicator highlights USEK's ability to attract international academic talent. A diverse faculty contributes to knowledge exchange, international perspectives, and a stronger global academic environment.

These achievements highlight USEK's commitment to quality education, academic excellence, and internationalization.



QS Sustainability Rankings

USEK is also recognized in the QS Sustainability Rankings, which assess universities based on their contribution to sustainable development, including environmental responsibility, social impact, and institutional practices.

In the QS Sustainability Rankings, USEK showed continuous improvement by increasing its Sustainability Score. This progress reflects the University's ongoing efforts to strengthen sustainability practices across its operations, teaching, research, and community initiatives.

The improvement in the Sustainability Score demonstrates USEK's commitment to integrating sustainable development principles.

UI GreenMetric World University Rankings

USEK participates annually in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, an internationally recognized sustainability benchmarking framework that evaluates universities based on the following six key categories: Setting and Infrastructure, Energy and Climate Change, Waste, Water, Transportation, and Education and Research.

In the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2025, USEK achieved significant recognition at both the national and international levels:

- 2nd place nationally among Lebanese universities in the overall UI GreenMetric ranking.
- 1st place nationally in the Waste Management category, recognizing USEK's leadership in waste reduction, recycling, circular economy practices, and resource recovery initiatives.
- 441st position internationally among participating universities worldwide, demonstrating USEK's growing presence in global sustainability benchmarking.





These achievements reflect the University's continued commitment to sustainable campus operations, particularly through its Material Recovery Facility (MRF), waste segregation programs, composting initiatives, awareness campaigns, and circular economy practices. The results also highlight USEK's ongoing efforts to integrate sustainability into institutional operations, education, research, and community engagement.

Through its dual role as both a participant and national coordinator, USEK contributes not only to improving its own sustainability performance, but also to advancing sustainability practices across the Lebanese higher education sector.

SCImago Institutions Rankings

USEK participates in international research benchmarking frameworks that evaluate institutional performance, scientific output, innovation capacity, and societal impact. The SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR) provide an international assessment of research institutions based on indicators related to research, innovation, and societal contribution.

In the SCImago Institutions Rankings, when compared exclusively with universities in Lebanon:

- USEK achieved the 7th position nationally among Lebanese universities.
- USEK ranked 3rd in Lebanon in the Research indicator, reflecting the University's growing research capacity, scientific production, and contribution to knowledge generation.

These results demonstrate USEK's commitment to strengthening research excellence, supporting interdisciplinary collaboration, and advancing solutions to societal and environmental challenges through academic research and innovation.

QS Arab Region Rankings

USEK actively participates in regional rankings that assess universities based on academic performance, research impact, reputation, and international engagement. These rankings help the University evaluate its position among peer institutions and identify opportunities for further development.

According to the latest available results of the 2026 QS Arab Region Rankings, USEK ranked 46th among universities in the Arab Region and 6th in Lebanon. This achievement reflects USEK's growing regional presence and its continuous efforts to enhance academic quality, research activities, international partnerships, and contribution to higher education.

Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings

USEK is also committed to strengthening its global visibility through participation in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. This ranking evaluates universities based on key areas, including teaching quality, research environment, research quality, industry collaboration, and international outlook.

In the 2026 THE World University Rankings, USEK ranked 3rd among universities in Lebanon. This achievement highlights the University's strong academic standing and reflects its continuous efforts to improve education quality, advance research and innovation, develop international partnerships, and increase its impact on society.

The Living-Laboratory Model

At USEK, sustainability extends beyond the classroom through a living laboratory approach, where campus infrastructure serves simultaneously as an operational system, a teaching environment, and a platform for research and innovation. This model enables students, faculty, and researchers to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world sustainability challenges while contributing directly to the University's environmental performance.

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) serves as a hub for waste management education, circular economy initiatives, student-led audits, and applied research. Renewable energy installations provide opportunities for hands-on learning in energy systems and resource efficiency, while the University's water treatment facilities support practical education and research in water management. The Hboub Experimental Field advances sustainable agriculture and environmental research, and USEK's Forest Field Zone Network extends experiential learning and scientific research across more than twenty sites throughout Lebanon.

By integrating sustainability into campus operations, education, and research, USEK transforms its campuses into living laboratories where students learn about sustainability and actively implement, evaluate, and improve sustainable solutions that generate measurable environmental and societal impact.





02

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Turning global goals into local impact.



Goal 1



NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) is committed to advancing United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 – No Poverty by ensuring equitable access to higher education, reducing financial barriers for students, faculty, and staff, and supporting vulnerable communities through comprehensive financial assistance, student welfare services, volunteerism, and community partnerships.

In the context of Lebanon's ongoing economic and financial crisis, USEK continues to prioritize social sustainability by investing in financial aid, scholarships, tuition support, affordable student services, and humanitarian initiatives. These efforts reflect the University's belief that higher education is a powerful catalyst for social mobility, economic resilience, and sustainable development.

Financial Access to Education

USEK has established a comprehensive financial support framework to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent qualified students from pursuing higher education. Through institutional funding, external partnerships, scholarships, tuition discounts, and flexible payment mechanisms, the University promotes equitable educational opportunities for students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

For Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025), 54% of the University's institutional budget was identified as sustainability-attributable, reflecting investments in education, research, infrastructure, operations, student services, and community engagement. This demonstrates that sustainability is integrated into institutional planning and financial decision-making.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR A FAIRER TOMORROW

54%

of the University's institutional budget was identified as sustainability-attributable in FY2025.

Greater access to education.
Stronger communities.
A more sustainable future.

Financial Support Categories

Type of Financial Support	Description
Need-based financial support	Financial assistance awarded according to students' socioeconomic circumstances to ensure equitable access to higher education.
Siblings' Allowance	Tuition reductions granted to families with multiple siblings enrolled at USEK.
In return services (Student Job Program)	Tuition support provided in exchange for approved on-campus work, allowing students to gain professional experience while financing part of their education.
Merit-Based Scholarship	Scholarships recognizing academic excellence and outstanding student achievement.
Third-party agreements – private sector	Tuition benefits provided through agreements with private companies and organizations.
Third-party agreements – public sector	Tuition assistance offered through agreements with public institutions and governmental organizations.
External donation	Scholarships and financial assistance funded by alumni, NGOs, charitable organizations, and international partners.
USEK staff and faculty	Tuition reductions granted to eligible staff, faculty, and their dependents.
OLM-related	Tuition benefits available to members of the Lebanese Maronite Order (OLM), affiliated institutions, and eligible relatives.
Doctoral discounts	Tuition incentives supporting doctoral candidates and advanced research.
USEK special discount	Special tuition reductions approved under institutional policies and exceptional circumstances.

Student Financial Support Services

In addition to tuition assistance, USEK provides dedicated services that help students manage financial challenges throughout their academic journey.

Service	Description
Financial Aid Office (FAO)	Confidential financial counseling, need assessments, financial aid administration, and emergency student support.
Student Loan Program	Flexible loan covering up to %30 of tuition fees per semester, with repayment beginning after graduation.
Interest-free loan agreements	Tuition payment arrangements allowing students to spread costs without additional interest.
Payment installment plans	Flexible installment schedules to reduce financial pressure on students and families.
Removal of registration holds	Individual support measures enabling students facing financial hardship to continue their studies.
French government / l'Œuvre d'Orient fund for Eastern schools	Partnership to provide tuition assistance for eligible students.
Solidarity Fund	Alumni- and donor-supported emergency financial assistance for students in exceptional financial need.

UP TO

30%

of tuition fees per semester may be covered through the Student Loan Program.

A TOTAL OF

7

support mechanisms designed to help students manage financial challenges.



Student/Staff Welfare and Basic Needs Support

Recognizing that poverty extends beyond tuition affordability, USEK provides a range of services that support our students' daily well-being, health, and academic success.

Service/Initiative	Description
Affordable meals	The University Restaurant offers community-priced meals and affordable food options to ensure access to nutritious meals throughout the academic year.
Free high-speed Wi-Fi	Campus-wide internet access enables our community to use digital learning platforms, online resources, and communication tools without additional cost.
Library and digital Resources	Students have free access to study spaces, computers, printers, books, e-books, scientific journals, multimedia resources, and online databases.
Medical services	The Medical Services Office provides free medical consultations, first aid, health advice, and emergency care for all our community members.
USEK Counseling and Accessibility Office	This office provides free and confidential psychological counseling, mental health support, individual consultations, workshops, and crisis intervention services.
Career services and employability support	The Career Center oversees career counseling, internship opportunities, job fairs, CV writing workshops, interview preparation, employer networking, and access to career opportunities that enhance our graduates' employability and long-term economic resilience.

Humanitarian and Community Engagement

USEK complements its financial support mechanisms with community engagement initiatives that promote social inclusion, solidarity, and poverty alleviation.

During the reporting period, the Sustainability Office organized the Wear and Share campaign, encouraging students, faculty, and staff to donate reusable clothing for redistribution to individuals and families in need. Donated items were collected, sorted by student volunteers, and transferred to partner organizations, promoting both social solidarity and circular economy principles.

Through the Hope Club, students prepared and distributed goodie bags for children and participated in outreach activities organized in collaboration with S'Aime NGO, fostering compassion, volunteerism, and community engagement.

USEK also maintains permanent textile collection points through its partnership with FabricAID, encouraging clothing reuse, reducing textile waste, and supporting vulnerable communities through responsible redistribution.

The AJYAL Lebanese Heritage Education Program further contributes to social inclusion by promoting Lebanese cultural identity among children of the Lebanese diaspora through interactive educational activities.





Impact

USEK addresses poverty through a comprehensive approach that combines financial assistance, student welfare, educational access, and community engagement. By investing in scholarships, tuition support, affordable student services, healthcare, counseling, employability, volunteerism, and partnerships with civil society organizations, the University contributes to reducing economic barriers, expanding educational opportunities, improving student, faculty, and staff well-being, and strengthening community resilience.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Student financial aid and tuition support	Comprehensive financial assistance programs reducing economic barriers to higher education.
Financial Aid Office (FAO)	Administration of need-based financial aid and emergency student assistance.
Student Loan Program	Deferred tuition loan scheme supporting students with financial needs.
Interest-free loan agreements	Flexible tuition payment arrangements without interest.
Payment installment plans	Flexible tuition payment schedules.
Removal of registration holds	Student support measures allowing continuation of studies during financial hardship.
Scholarships and donations	Merit-based, institutional, and donor-funded scholarships.
French government/ l'Œuvre d'Orient fund	International tuition support partnership.
Solidarity Fund	Emergency financial assistance funded by alumni and donors.
Student Job Program (In return services)	On-campus employment opportunities supporting students financially while developing professional skills.
Affordable meals	Student-priced meals are available through campus dining services.
Medical services	Free on-campus healthcare services.
USEK Counseling and Accessibilty Office	Free psychological counseling and mental health support.
Career services	Career development, internships, employability training, and job placement support.
Wear and Share	Clothing donation campaign supporting vulnerable communities.
FabricAID Partnership	Permanent textile collection and redistribution initiative.
Goodie bags preparation – Hope Club	Volunteer activity supporting disadvantaged children.

S'Aime NGO community outreach	Student volunteer activities benefiting children and families in need.
AJYAL educational outreach program	Educational outreach promoting Lebanese heritage among the diaspora youth.
Social tourism research	Research promoting inclusive economic development through sustainable tourism.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
Social tourism in Lebanon (in perspective)	Research exploring social tourism as a tool for improving accessibility, supporting local communities, and promoting inclusive economic development.

Academic Programs Contributing to SDG 1

Academic Program	Contribution
Business Administration	Entrepreneurship, economic development, and employment creation.
Law	Access to justice, legal rights, and social equity.
Psychology	Mental health and community well-being.
Education	Equitable access to quality education and lifelong learning.
International Relations	International development, humanitarian action, and public policy.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Student financial aid program	Comprehensive financial assistance supporting equitable access to higher education.
FabricAID Partnership	Textile collection program supporting clothing reuse, recycling, and charitable redistribution.
Wear and Share	Annual clothing donation campaign promoting social solidarity and circular economy principles.
Solidarity Fund	Alumni- and donor-funded emergency financial assistance for students facing financial hardship.
International Relations	International development, humanitarian action, and public policy.

Goal 2

ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) contributes to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – Zero Hunger by promoting food security, sustainable agriculture, responsible food consumption, and circular food systems through education, research, campus operations, and community engagement. The University recognizes that achieving food security extends beyond food availability to include nutrition, sustainable production, resource efficiency, and equitable access to safe and nutritious food.

Through interdisciplinary academic programs, applied research, sustainable campus initiatives, and partnerships with public institutions, NGOs, and industry, USEK advances innovative solutions that strengthen resilient food systems while addressing local and regional challenges related to agriculture, nutrition, and food insecurity.

By integrating sustainable food management into both its educational mission and daily campus operations, USEK transforms its campus into a living laboratory where students, faculty, and staff actively participate in advancing sustainable food systems and circular economy practices.

Sustainable Food Systems and Circular Food Management

USEK has adopted a comprehensive circular approach to food management that prioritizes waste prevention, resource recovery, composting, and environmental stewardship. Rather than viewing food waste as a disposal challenge, the University considers organic waste a valuable resource that can be reintegrated into natural cycles through composting, agriculture, and responsible resource management.

During the reporting period, approximately 16 tons of food waste were recovered through composting, reuse initiatives, and the campus chicken program instead of being sent to landfills. In addition, the clean organic waste collected through campus initiatives averages approximately 50 kilograms per day, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions while producing valuable compost for landscaping and agricultural applications.

The University's circular food system is supported by several complementary initiatives:

Bring Your Bucket to Campus, launched in 2021, encourages students, faculty, and staff to collect household organic waste and deliver it to campus, where it is transformed into compost or used as chicken feed. Participants receive fresh eggs or compost as an incentive, reinforcing community participation and circular economy principles.

The Campus Composting Center, established in partnership with Compost Baladi in 2017, converts food scraps, leaves, and other biodegradable materials into nutrient-rich compost used to improve soil quality across campus.

Ghandoura & Co., USEK's campus chicken coop, currently houses approximately 18 hens that consume food scraps collected through the composting initiative while producing fresh eggs distributed through the Bring Your Bucket program.

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) complements these initiatives by ensuring proper segregation of organic and recyclable materials, reducing landfill disposal and maximizing resource recovery.

Collaboration with campus food-service providers supports portion control, food waste monitoring, and awareness campaigns that encourage responsible food consumption and minimize unnecessary waste generation.

During the reporting period, approximately **39,620 kg** of organic waste was processed through the University's composting system, including:

33,120 kg
of organic waste was processed

33,120 kg
of food waste

6,000 kg
of leaves and green waste

500 kg
of miscellaneous biodegradable materials.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how circular economy principles can be successfully integrated into campus operations while simultaneously supporting environmental protection, soil health, biodiversity, and climate action.

Student Food Security and Nutrition

USEK recognizes that access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food is essential for student well-being, academic success, and overall quality of life. The University therefore promotes healthy eating habits while ensuring that nutritious food remains accessible to the campus community.

Campus dining services offer student-priced meals designed to remain affordable while providing balanced and nutritious food options. Menus include vegetarian, vegan, and plant-based alternatives, enabling students to make healthier and more sustainable dietary choices.

The University also encourages responsible food consumption through educational campaigns that promote:

- balanced nutrition;
- healthy lifestyles;
- food safety;
- portion control;
- reduction of food waste; and
- sustainable consumption practices.



During periods of increased need, student-led initiatives organize food collection and distribution campaigns to support vulnerable families and communities.

Among the most significant initiatives are:

- Hope Club food drives, organized during the annual Christmas Market, where food donations are collected and later distributed through SOS Children's Villages to families experiencing food insecurity.
- The Easter–Ramadan Foodathon, organized in partnership with Bassma Association, which mobilizes the University community to collect food and hygiene products for families facing economic hardship.

These initiatives not only contribute to alleviating food insecurity, but also strengthen students' sense of civic responsibility, volunteerism, and social solidarity.

Sustainable Food Services

USEK promotes responsible food consumption by integrating sustainability considerations into campus food services and procurement practices.

The University encourages:

- affordable and nutritious meal options;
- healthy dietary choices;
- vegetarian and plant-based menus;
- responsible food purchasing;
- reduction of food waste throughout food preparation and consumption; and
- awareness of sustainable food systems.

Whenever possible, food procurement emphasizes local and seasonal products, supporting regional producers while reducing transportation-related environmental impacts.

USEK also complements its sustainable food strategy through the Talaya Waterfull Initiative, which provides drinking fountains across campus, encouraging students and staff to refill reusable bottles and reducing dependence on single-use plastic bottles. While primarily contributing to SDG 6 and SDG 12, this initiative also supports healthier and more sustainable food and beverage consumption habits.

Sustainable Agriculture, Education, and Research

USEK advances sustainable agriculture and food security through interdisciplinary education, applied research, innovation, and experiential learning. By integrating sustainability principles into academic programs and research activities, the University prepares future professionals to address the complex challenges of food production, nutrition, resource management, and climate resilience.

A key component of this commitment is the 60,000 m^2 Hboub Experimental Field, which serves as a living laboratory supporting teaching, research, and practical training in sustainable agriculture. The field provides opportunities for students and researchers to conduct crop experimentation, evaluate agricultural practices, study soil quality, promote sustainable land management, and conserve plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering, besides the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, contribute significantly to SDG 2 by delivering academic programs that integrate sustainable agriculture, food engineering, nutrition, food safety, and environmental stewardship. Students gain both theoretical knowledge and practical experience through laboratory work, field applications, and interdisciplinary projects.

USEK further strengthens food-security education through its Minor in Sustainable Food Security, an interdisciplinary program designed to prepare students to address local and global food challenges through science, technology, and community engagement.

The program combines courses in:
- agriculture and sustainable development;
- community nutrition;
- food quality management;
- food toxicology;
- food legislation and standardization;
- waste management in the food industry; and
- counseling and ethics.

Students develop competencies in nutrition assessment, food safety, sustainable food production, contamination prevention, food legislation, and community nutrition while gaining a broader understanding of food systems and sustainable development.

The forthcoming Master of Science in Sustainable Engineering further reinforces USEK's contribution to SDG 2 through coursework focusing on sustainable food systems, circular economy principles, food safety, sustainable supply chains, and resource-efficient production systems.

Together, these academic programs train graduates capable of developing innovative solutions that strengthen food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agricultural development.



Research and Innovation

USEK contributes to national and international food-security efforts through multidisciplinary research addressing nutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems, food safety, and public health.

During the reporting period, researchers produced scientific publications examining food insecurity, nutrition literacy, dietary diversity, and maternal and child nutrition within the Lebanese context.

Key research topics included:
- progress of Eastern Mediterranean countries toward USDA dietary recommendations for pregnant women;
- food and nutrition literacy among Lebanese adolescents;
- household food insecurity and dietary diversity;
- childhood nutrition and anemia;
- parental influence on children's nutrition literacy;
- community nutrition and public health; and
- sustainable food systems and food safety.

These research activities generate evidence that supports improved nutrition policies, sustainable food production, and more resilient food systems in Lebanon and the region.



Innovation is further supported through the ACT Smart Agri-Food & Cleantech Innovation Hub, which promotes entrepreneurship, applied research, technology transfer, and innovative solutions addressing agriculture, food systems, clean technologies, and sustainability.

USEK also contributes to post-crisis economic recovery through the Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB) project, implemented under USAID ARE following the Beirut port explosion. The project assessed the needs of food-sector micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), provided business management training, strengthened food safety and hygiene practices, and supported the recovery of businesses affected by the crisis.

Community Engagement

USEK actively extends its expertise beyond campus by promoting sustainable food systems and supporting vulnerable communities through outreach activities, awareness campaigns, and collaborative partnerships.

Student organizations play an important role in advancing SDG 2 through volunteer initiatives that address food insecurity while strengthening community solidarity.

The Hope Club organized food collection campaigns during the annual Christmas Market, mobilizing the University community to donate food supplies that were later distributed through SOS Children's Villages to families experiencing food insecurity.

Similarly, the Easter–Ramadan Foodathon, implemented in partnership with Bassma Association, collected food and hygiene products for vulnerable households, demonstrating the University's commitment to social responsibility and community resilience.

USEK also promotes sustainable agriculture and food innovation through educational events, conferences, and public engagement activities.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 2 – Zero Hunger combines sustainable campus operations, interdisciplinary education, scientific research, and community engagement to address food security from multiple perspectives.

Through circular food management, composting, food waste recovery, sustainable agriculture education, nutrition research, and community food-support initiatives, the University demonstrates how higher education institutions can contribute to more resilient and sustainable food systems.

By integrating operational practices with academic excellence and societal engagement, USEK not only reduces its environmental footprint but also equips future professionals with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to advance sustainable agriculture, improve nutrition, reduce food waste, and strengthen food security locally and globally.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Minor in Sustainable Food Security	Interdisciplinary academic minor preparing students to address food security challenges through nutrition, food safety, sustainable agriculture, food legislation, and waste management.
Bring Your Bucket to Campus	Circular economy initiative encouraging students, faculty, and staff to bring household organic waste to campus for composting or chicken feed, with participants receiving compost or fresh eggs in return.
Campus composting program	Converts organic waste into nutrient-rich compost used for campus landscaping and educational purposes while reducing landfill disposal.
Compost Baladi Partnership	Partnership established in 2017 supporting the design, operation, and continuous improvement of USEK's composting facility.
Ghandoura & Co. Chicken Coop	Campus flock of approximately 28 hens that consumes food scraps collected through composting initiatives while producing fresh eggs, demonstrating circular food systems in practice.
Food waste monitoring and portion control	Continuous monitoring of food waste generated by campus dining services to improve resource efficiency and reduce unnecessary waste.
Biodiesel from used cooking oil	Circular economy initiative converting waste cooking oil into biodiesel, reducing environmental pollution, and promoting renewable energy and resource recovery.
Food drives – Student support offices	Collection and distribution of food supplies to students and vulnerable community members experiencing food insecurity.
Hope Club Christmas Food Drive	Student-led food collection campaign organized during the annual Christmas Market, with donations distributed through SOS Children's Villages.
Easter–Ramadan Foodathon	Community food and hygiene product collection campaign organized in partnership with Bassma Association to support vulnerable families.
From Farm to Table with Care (Agora)	Awareness initiative promoting sustainable food systems, healthy nutrition, responsible consumption, and food security.

Sustainable agriculture debate	Educational discussion promoting sustainable farming practices, agricultural innovation, and food system resilience.
Seeds of Innovation workshop and panel	Event encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration in sustainable agriculture and food systems.
Apple Conference	Conference highlighting sustainable agriculture, food value chains, innovation, and responsible production within Lebanon's apple sector.
Affordable campus dining	Student-priced meals providing nutritious, affordable, vegetarian, vegan, and healthy food options.
Healthy eating awareness campaigns	Educational campaigns promoting balanced nutrition, food safety, sustainable diets, and responsible food consumption.
Talaya Waterfull Initiative	Installation of drinking water fountains encouraging reusable bottle use while supporting healthy hydration and reducing single-use plastics.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
ACT Smart Agri-Food and Cleantech Innovation Hub	Innovation platform supporting research, entrepreneurship, and technological solutions in sustainable agriculture, food systems, circular economy, and clean technologies.
Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB – USAID ARE)	Post-Beirut port explosion recovery project supporting food-sector MSMEs through business development, food safety training, hygiene management, and operational resilience.
Progress of Eastern Mediterranean Countries Towards USDA Dietary Guidelines	Research evaluating maternal nutrition and dietary recommendations across Eastern Mediterranean countries.
Food and Nutrition Literacy Among Lebanese Adolescents	Research examining the relationship between nutrition literacy and food insecurity among adolescents in Lebanon.
Household Food Insecurity and Dietary Diversity	Research assessing food insecurity, nutrition, and dietary diversity among Lebanese households affected by socioeconomic crises.
Parental and Children's Nutrition Literacy	Research investigating the relationship between nutrition literacy, dietary diversity, anemia, and childhood nutrition outcomes.
Food Safety and Sustainable Food Systems Research	Applied research supporting food quality, food safety, sustainable production, and circular food systems.

Academic Programs Contributing to SDG 2

Academic Program	Contribution
Agricultural Engineering	Develops expertise in sustainable agriculture, irrigation, soil conservation, crop production, agricultural engineering, and natural resource management.
Agri-Food Sciences	Focuses on food processing, food quality, food technology, sustainable production, and agri-food value chains.
Nutrition and Dietetics	Prepares graduates in human nutrition, community nutrition, public health, food security, and healthy dietary practices.
Minor in Sustainable Food Security	Interdisciplinary program integrating agriculture, nutrition, food safety, food legislation, waste management, and sustainable development.
MSc in Sustainable Engineering (Upcoming)	Includes sustainable food systems, circular economy, sustainable supply chains, food security, and resource-efficient engineering.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Bring Your Bucket to Campus	Community composting initiative diverting household organic waste from landfill while promoting circular economy principles.
Campus Composting Program	Converts campus organic waste into compost used for landscaping and educational purposes.
Compost Baladi Partnership	Technical collaboration supporting the University's composting infrastructure and sustainable waste management.
Ghandoura & Co. Chicken Coop	Demonstrates organic waste valorization by transforming food scraps into valuable agricultural resources.
Grow Your Own Food	Educational initiative promoting sustainable food production, gardening, and environmental stewardship through hands-on learning.
Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil	Supports renewable energy production by recovering and recycling waste cooking oil.
Talaya Waterfull Initiative	Promotes healthy hydration and sustainable consumption through campus drinking water stations and reusable bottles.



Goal 3

GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) is committed to advancing United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – Good Health and Well-Being by promoting a healthy, safe, inclusive, and supportive university environment. The University recognizes that physical health, mental well-being, accessibility, preventive care, and healthy lifestyles are essential foundations for academic success, personal development, and sustainable communities.

Through integrated healthcare services, psychological support, accessibility initiatives, health education, sports activities, research, and community outreach, USEK adopts a comprehensive approach to advancing health and well-being among students, faculty, staff, and the wider community.

In line with its commitment to social sustainability, USEK continuously strengthens systems that support preventive healthcare, early intervention, inclusion, and health promotion while fostering a campus culture that values wellness, resilience, and quality of life.

Campus Health Services and Preventive Care

USEK provides accessible on-campus healthcare services to ensure timely medical support, emergency preparedness, and health protection for students, staff, and campus visitors.

The University operates an on-campus first-aid and primary healthcare facility supported by:

- A full-time family/general medicine physician.
- A certified nurse equipped with a mobile emergency kit.
- An emergency hotline (extension 1911).
- A referral protocol with the Lebanese Red Cross and nearby hospitals located approximately three minutes from campus.



During the 2024–2025 reporting period, the Medical Services Office provided:

950
Doctor'sclinicconsultations
(Approximately)

1,150
Nursing visits, consultations, and emergency interventions
(Approximately)

These services included medical consultations, first aid interventions, emergency response, hospital transfers, and continuous health support, contributing to a safer and healthier campus environment.

Additional preventive health services include:

Service/ Initiative	Description
Nutrition support	On-campus nutritionist providing guidance on healthy dietary practices and lifestyle choices.
Health insurance coverage	Health insurance support available for students and staff.
Safe drinking water	Two on-campus water treatment stations ensuring safe drinking water through multi-stage filtration, reverse osmosis, UV treatment, and controlled chlorination processes.

Mental Health and Psychological Support

USEK considers mental health an essential component of student success and overall well-being. Through the Counseling and Accessibility Office (CAO), the University provides confidential psychological support, preventive mental health services, and accessibility assistance.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Counseling Services Unit provided individual counseling services to 70 students, offering confidential one-on-one sessions addressing:

- personal and emotional challenges;
- academic difficulties;
- stress management; and
- coping strategies and resilience development.

When clinically appropriate, students are referred to external psychotherapy services or psychiatrists, including access to free psychiatric referrals.

Additional mental health initiatives include:

Service/Initiative	Description
Short-term counseling services	Confidential psychological support helping students navigate personal, emotional, and academic challenges.
Mental health awareness campaigns	Awareness initiatives promoting mental health literacy and reducing stigma.
"Let's Talk Mental Health" series	Monthly awareness sessions addressing different mental health topics.
World Suicide Prevention Day	Activities promoting awareness, prevention, and access to support services.
Mental Wellness Wonderland	Campaign promoting emotional well-being and self-care.
TalkCampus Platform	Free online peer-support platform providing students with safe spaces for connection and support.









Accessibility and Inclusive Support Services

USEK is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment where students with disabilities and health-related needs can fully participate in academic and campus life.

Through the Accessibility Services Unit (ASU), students receive individualized support based on documented physical, sensory, mental health, neurodevelopmental, or medical conditions.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, accessibility services supported 76 students, including:

39
Neurodevelopmental conditions

21
Mental health conditions

16
Medical conditions

Support measures include:
- extended examination time;
- reduced-distraction examination environments;
- assistive technologies;
- academic accommodations;
- learning advisory sessions;
- follow-up meetings and semester progress monitoring.

Promoting Physical Activity and Student Well-Being

USEK promotes healthy lifestyles through comprehensive sports programs that encourage physical activity, teamwork, leadership, and personal development.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University supported:

Indicator	Achievement
Student-athletes	Approximately 230
Varsity sports teams	16 teams
Qualified coaches	13 coaches
Athletic scholarships (Fall Semester)	115 students
Athletic scholarships (Spring Semester)	147 students
TalkCampus Platform	Free online peer-support platform providing students with safe spaces for connection and support.

Through competitive and recreational sports, USEK promotes physical fitness, mental resilience, inclusion, and community engagement.

Sports Achievements

USEK athletes achieved outstanding results in national and international competitions, including:

- Championship titles in Lebanese Mini-League and Lebanese University Sports Federation (FSUL) competitions.
- First-place achievements in men's basketball, men's volleyball, women's handball, track and field (women), and other disciplines.
- Second overall ranking in the Challenge Cup at EuroMilano Championship 2025 among more than 40 international universities.
- Selection of five USEK student-athletes to represent Lebanon at the FISU World University Championship in Germany.

Health Awareness and Promotion Activities

USEK promotes preventive healthcare and health literacy through awareness campaigns and community activities.

Activity/Initiative	Description
World Mental Health Day – "Destination: Mental Health"	Awareness activities promoting psychological well-being and available support services.
World Suicide Prevention Day	Campaign promoting suicide prevention awareness and mental health support.
Stress Relief Day	Activities promoting stress management and emotional balance.
Unified Sports Day	Inclusive sports activities encouraging participation and accessibility.
Epilepsy Awareness Month	Awareness activities promoting understanding and inclusion.
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign	Promoting prevention, early detection, and health awareness.
Prostate Health Campaign	Raising awareness about men's health and preventive screening.
Autism Awareness Month	Activities promoting inclusion and understanding of autism spectrum conditions.
Annual Blood Drive	Blood donation campaign supporting patients requiring regular transfusions through Lebanese Red Cross and MSF Thalassemia Project.



Health and Well-Being Research

USEK contributes to health-related knowledge through interdisciplinary research addressing medical, psychological, nutritional, and social health challenges.

Research/Project	Description
Management of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in Lebanon	Research addressing chronic disease management and healthcare challenges.
Body Image, Well-Being, and Eating Behaviors Among Young Adults	Research examining relationships between lifestyle, nutrition, and psychological well-being.
Nutrition and Physical Activity Studies	Research promoting healthier lifestyles and preventive health approaches.
Autism Spectrum Disorder Research	Research contributing to understanding, inclusion, and support strategies for individuals with autism.
Familial Separation During Lebanese Crisis	Research examining psychological and social impacts of family separation.
IDEES Familial Separation Project	Research exploring resilience mechanisms and support systems.
Pilot City Friendly to People With Special Needs	Initiative developing inclusive environments improving accessibility and participation.
Community-Based Health Outreach	Activities promoting inclusion and understanding of autism spectrum conditions.
Annual Blood Drive	Blood donation campaign supporting patients requiring regular transfusions through Lebanese Red Cross and MSF Thalassemia Project.

Community-Based Health Outreach

USEK extends its health mission beyond campus through community engagement initiatives supporting vulnerable populations and promoting health equity.

Examples include:

Initiative	Description
Annual Blood Drive	Campus blood donation campaign organized with the Lebanese Red Cross and MSF Thalassemia Project to support patients requiring regular transfusions.
Health awareness campaigns	Educational activities promoting prevention, healthy lifestyles, and public health awareness.
Accessibility awareness activities	Initiatives promoting inclusion and equal participation for people with disabilities.

Smoke-Free and Healthy Campus Environment

USEK is committed to maintaining a healthy campus environment through its smoke-free campus policy, which prohibits smoking in indoor and outdoor university areas.

The policy supports:
- The protection of students, staff, and visitors from second-hand smoke;
- the promotion of healthier lifestyles; and
- alignment with national and international public health recommendations.

Staff Well-Being Initiatives

Building on its student-centered health services, USEK expanded its institutional well-being approach in 2025 [JB2.1][JR2.2]through staff-focused initiatives.

The Move@Work initiative promotes:
- workplace physical activity;
- staff wellness;
- healthy lifestyle practices; and
- community engagement among University staff.

This initiative reinforce [JB3.1][JR3.2]USEK's commitment to extending health and well-being support across the entire University community.



Impact

USEK advances SDG 3 through an integrated approach combining healthcare services, mental health support, accessibility measures, preventive awareness campaigns, sports programs, research, and community engagement.

Through these initiatives, the University contributes to:
- improving access to healthcare services;
- supporting mental and emotional well-being;
- promoting healthy lifestyles;
- creating an inclusive campus environment;
- strengthening health awareness and prevention; and
- developing future health professionals and researchers.

USEK continues to enhance health and well-being monitoring systems to measure service utilization, community impact, and long-term outcomes while expanding initiatives that support students, faculty, staff, and society.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Medical Services Office	On-campus healthcare services, consultations, first aid, and emergency support.
Counseling and Accessibility Office	Psychological counseling and accessibility support services.
Mental health awareness campaigns	Initiatives promoting psychological well-being and resilience.
"Let's Talk Mental Health" series	Monthly mental health awareness sessions.
World Suicide Prevention Day	Awareness and prevention activities.
Unified Sports Day	Inclusive physical activity initiative.
Autism Awareness Month	Inclusion and awareness activities.
Annual Blood Drive	Blood donation campaign supporting national healthcare needs.
Sports program	Varsity teams, recreational activities, and athletic scholarships.
Move@Work	Staff wellness and physical activity initiative.



Academic Programs Contributing to SDG 3

Academic Unit/Department	Contribution
School of Medicine and Medical Sciences	Medical education and healthcare workforce development.
Higher Institute of Nursing Sciences	Nursing education supporting regional healthcare systems.
Department of Psychology and Social Sciences	Mental health education, counseling, and behavioral research.
Department of Biomedical Engineering	Medical technologies and healthcare innovation.
Department of Biology/Chemistry and Biochemistry	Biomedical sciences and health-related research.
Department of Education	Inclusive education and student development.
Doctoral College	Advanced research capacity development across disciplines.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
Management of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases in Lebanon	Research addressing chronic disease management and healthcare challenges.
Body Image, Well-Being, and Eating Behaviors Among Young Adults	Research examining relationships between lifestyle, nutrition, and psychological well-being.
Nutrition and Physical Activity Studies	Research promoting healthier lifestyles and preventive health approaches.
Autism Spectrum Disorder Research	Research contributing to understanding, inclusion, and support strategies for individuals with autism.
Familial Separation During Lebanese Crisis	Research examining psychological and social impacts of family separation.
IDEES Familial Separation Project	Research exploring resilience mechanisms and support systems.
Pilot City Friendly to People With Special Needs	Initiative developing inclusive environments improving accessibility and participation.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Initiative	Description
Medical waste management	Safe segregation, storage, and disposal of hazardous medical waste.
E-waste recycling	Responsible electronic waste collection and recycling.
Grow Your Own Food	Educational gardens promoting nutrition and sustainable food practices.
Walks	Promotion of walking as a healthy and low-carbon mobility option.
Bike-Cool	Encouraging cycling for health and sustainable transportation.
Waterfull	Water refill stations promoting hydration and reducing plastic waste.

Goal 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) is committed to advancing United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – Quality Education by providing inclusive, innovative, and transformative learning opportunities that empower students to develop the knowledge, skills, and values needed to address complex environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Quality education represents a fundamental pillar of USEK's sustainability strategy. Through interdisciplinary learning, research-based education, pedagogical innovation, digital transformation, international collaboration, and community engagement, the University promotes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and prepares graduates to become responsible professionals and active contributors to sustainable development.

USEK's commitment extends beyond traditional academic programs by supporting lifelong learning, teacher preparation, accessibility, student success, research excellence, and equitable access to education for diverse communities.

Sustainability Integration in the Curriculum

USEK recognizes Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an essential component of its academic mission and continues to integrate sustainability principles across its curricula.

Rather than limiting sustainability education to environmental disciplines, USEK promotes an interdisciplinary approach where students from different academic backgrounds explore sustainability challenges through their respective fields.

During Fall 2025, USEK demonstrated significant sustainability integration within its academic portfolio:

Indicator	Achievement
Sustainability-related courses/modules available	290
Unique sustainability-related courses offered	171
Sustainability-related course sections	357
Total courses/subjects offered	1,611
Sustainability-related courses proportion	10.61%
Total course sections opened	3,565
Sustainability-related sections proportion	10.01%

These indicators demonstrate USEK's commitment to SDG 4.7: Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, by ensuring that sustainability knowledge is accessible across academic disciplines.

Sustainability Education Across Academic Disciplines

Sustainability-related education is integrated across 27 academic programs covering diverse fields, including:

- Business Administration
- Architecture and Design
- Engineering
- Agriculture and Food Sciences
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Biology and Biochemistry
- Nursing and Health Sciences
- Education
- Law
- Social Sciences
- Theology
- Arts and Communication
- General Education

Through this interdisciplinary model, students explore sustainability challenges related to:

- climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- sustainable architecture and urban development;
- water management and environmental technologies;
- sustainable agriculture and food systems;
- responsible consumption and production;
- biodiversity conservation;and
- social responsibility, ethics, and civic engagement.

Sustainability Education Through General Education

The USEK General Education Program plays a key role in ensuring that all undergraduate students develop sustainability awareness, ethical reasoning, critical thinking, and civic responsibility.

Sustainability-related General Education courses include:

Course	Description
GESH230 – Sustainability in Everyday Life	Introduces sustainability concepts, including ecological footprints, energy and water conservation, waste management, sustainable food systems, ethical consumption, climate change, and sustainable communities.
GEPS205 – Civic Engagement Journey	Develops civic responsibility through volunteering, community engagement, and social responsibility activities.
GEPS200 – Youth and Society	Explores youth participation, social values, and the role of young people in societal transformation.
GEHS205 / GEHS210 – History and Heritage of Lebanon	Develops understanding of cultural heritage, societies, and their relationship with environments.

Through these courses, sustainability education reaches students beyond specialized environmental programs.







Interdisciplinary Sustainability Programs

USEK continues to expand advanced sustainability education through the development of the MSc in Sustainable Engineering, an interdisciplinary professional program designed for graduates with a degree in:

- agricultural engineering.
- biomedical engineering.
- chemical engineering.
- civil engineering.
- electrical engineering.
- mechanical engineering.

The program addresses key sustainability themes, including:



Area	Topics Covered
Climate action	Mitigation, adaptation, and climate strategies.
Sustainability assessment	Metrics, reporting, and performance evaluation.
Carbon management	Carbon pricing and greenhouse gas management.
Renewable energy	Energy efficiency and renewable technologies.
Circular economy	Waste management and resource efficiency.
Water sustainability	Water efficiency and treatment technologies.
Environmental assessment	Life cycle assessment and impact assessment.
Digital sustainability	GIS, IoT, and AI applications.
Sustainable infrastructure	Green building technologies.
Sustainable food systems	Agroecology and sustainable agriculture.



Pedagogical Innovation and Experiential Learning

USEK promotes innovative educational approaches that connect academic knowledge with real-world sustainability challenges.

Key initiatives include:

Initiative	Description
UI GreenMetric online course on sustainability	Co-delivered with universities from Indonesia, Colombia, Hungary, Brazil, the UAE, Ecuador, and Tunisia, promoting international sustainability education collaboration.
Sustainability learning activities	Integration of sustainability and climate concepts through General Education and academic courses.
Community service requirement	Planned mandatory community service requirement starting Fall 2027, requiring students to complete 100 hours throughout their degree cycle.
General Education e-passport	Digital documentation framework structured around People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace and Partnership.
Community Service Pilot	Spring 2026 pilot involving 109 General Education students.

Lifelong Learning and Professional Development

USEK promotes lifelong learning opportunities that extend beyond traditional degree programs through the School of Continuing Education.

School of Continuing Education supports professional development, reskilling, and community learning through:

Service/Initiative	Description
ExecutivetTraining	Professional programs addressing evolving workforce needs.
Vocational courses	Practical learning opportunities supporting career advancement.
Open lectures and workshops	Public educational activities promoting knowledge sharing.
Credit and non-credit courses	Flexible learning opportunities responding to community and market needs.
Cultural and sustainability programs	Initiatives promoting Lebanese heritage, inclusion, and sustainable development.

Examples of continuing education programs include:
- the USEK Diplomacy Academy;
- digital marketing training;
- food safety programs;
- AI in Healthcare training;
- language development courses;
- architectural design training; and
- professional beauty and aesthetic programs.

Training Future Educators

USEK contributes to SDG 4 by preparing qualified teachers capable of strengthening Lebanon's education system.

Through education programs, students develop:
- pedagogical knowledge;
- classroom management skills;
- ethical teaching practices;
- scientific reasoning abilities; and
- practical teaching experience through school internships.

Academic programs prepare graduates to contribute to primary education and lifelong learning across Lebanon.

Equity, Accessibility, and Student Success Support

USEK is committed to ensuring that all learners have equal opportunities to access and succeed in higher education.

The University supports students through:

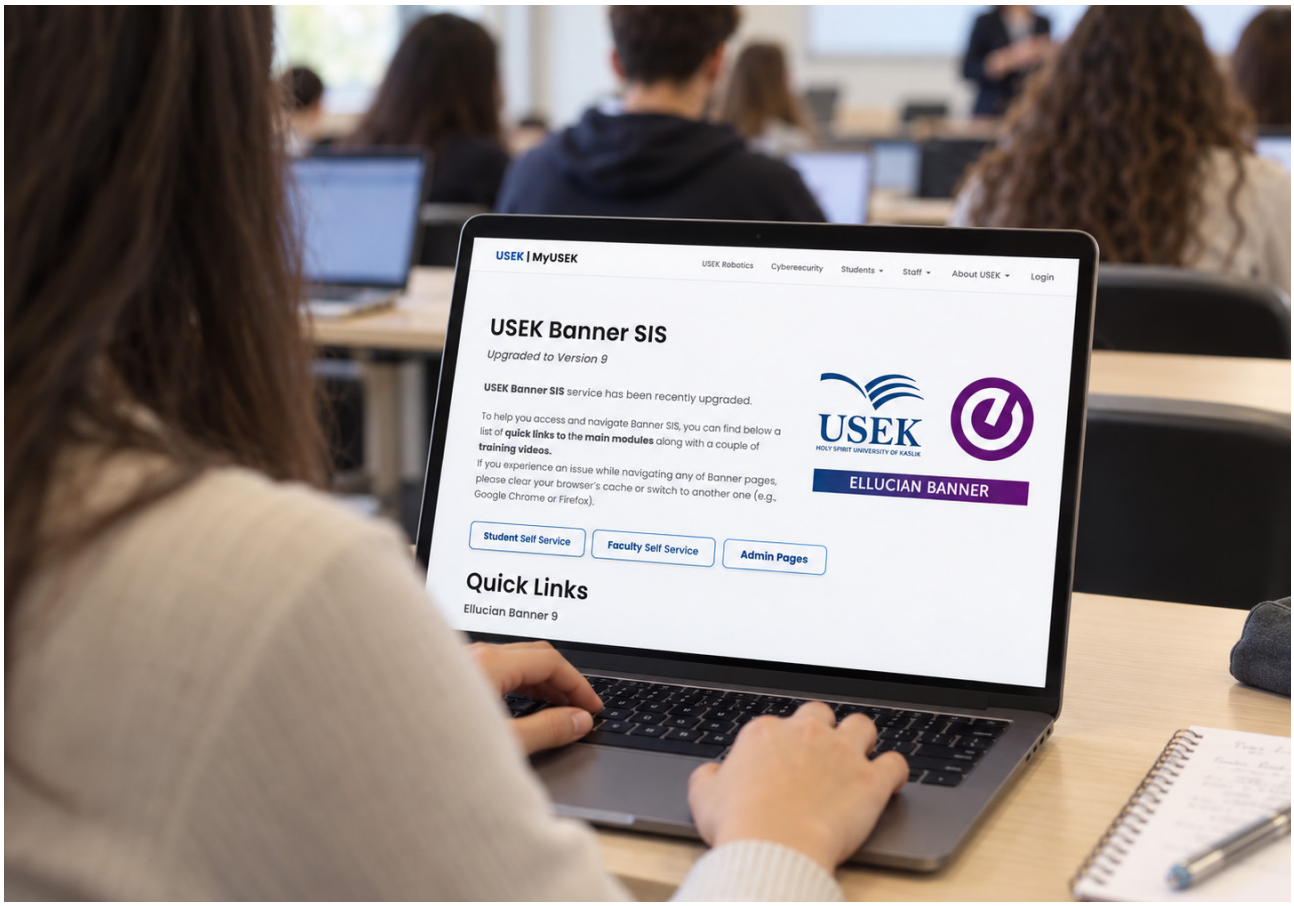
Service	Description
Admissions Office	Provides guidance and support throughout the admission process.
Career Services Office	Supports employability, internships, career development, and professional growth.
Counseling and Accessibility Office	Provides psychological support and accessibility accommodations.
Financial Aid Office	Assists students with financial support opportunities.
Student Affairs Office	Supports student engagement and campus experience.
Student Affairs Office	Promotes academic achievement and student belonging.
Office of the Registrar	Provides academic records and administrative services.
IT User Support	Ensures access to digital learning tools and technologies.

Since 2015, USEK has maintained accreditation of its student support services through the UK Matrix Standard, demonstrating institutional commitment to quality student guidance and support.

Digital Transformation and Innovative Learning

USEK continues to enhance educational accessibility through digital solutions, including:

Initiative	Description
Blended learning	Combination of classroom teaching and online learning through Microsoft Teams.
eLearning platform	Digital platform for course materials, assessments, and student learning support.
MyUSEK portal	Online platform enabling students to manage registration and academic information.
USEK mobile application	Provides students with access to University services and updates.
Digital admission tools	Online applications and computerized entrance examinations improving efficiency and accessibility.
Student Affairs Office	Promotes academic achievement and student belonging.
Office of the Registrar	Provides academic records and administrative services.
IT User Support	Ensures access to digital learning tools and technologies.



Student Voice, Feedback, and Continuous Improvement

USEK recognizes students as active partners in improving academic quality and enhancing their overall learning experience. Through structured feedback mechanisms, students contribute to curriculum development, teaching improvement, and institutional decision-making.

Student participation is supported through:



Mechanism	Description
Student councils	Each academic unit has a dedicated student council providing feedback on courses, teaching methods, academic resources, and student experience.
Course feedback surveys	Regular student evaluations of courses and teaching effectiveness used for continuous improvement.
Student petitions	Formal mechanisms allowing students to raise concerns related to academic and university matters.
Program experience surveys	Feedback collected from graduating students regarding their academic journey.
Alumni feedback	Continuous engagement with graduates to evaluate program relevance and career outcomes.
First destination survey	Tracking of graduate outcomes and employment pathways after graduation.



Quality Assurance and Accreditation



USEK maintains a strong culture of academic excellence through institutional and program-level accreditation processes aligned with international standards.

The University participates in international quality networks and accreditation frameworks, including:

NECHE
Institutional quality assurance and continuous improvement framework.

ABET
Quality assurance for engineering programs.

AACSB
International recognition of business education excellence.

NAAB
Accreditation standards for architecture education.

TEPDAD
International evaluation of selected academic programs.

evalag
Institutional and academic quality evaluation.

eua
Participation in European higher education quality networks.

INQAAHE
Engagement with international quality assurance practices.

CIQG
Participation in global higher education quality initiatives.

MENA-AIR
Regional institutional research collaboration.

Association of Arab Universities – Quality Assurance Administrations
Regional quality assurance cooperation.

These frameworks support continuous enhancement of teaching quality, learning outcomes, governance, and institutional effectiveness.

Research-Based Education and Innovation

USEK strengthens quality education through research-driven learning, enabling students and faculty to engage with current societal, environmental, and technological challenges.

Research-based education includes:
- faculty publications and academic research projects;
- student participation in research activities;
- laboratory-based learning;
- field studies and applied projects;
- interdisciplinary research collaborations; and
- knowledge transfer between academia and society.

Research areas contributing to SDG 4 include:

Research/Project	Description
Citizenship Education research	Research exploring approaches to strengthen civic awareness, participation, and social responsibility.
Cultural heritage competition	Educational initiative encouraging heritage preservation and cultural learning.
Life Stories and War Memories	Research documenting personal narratives and collective memories related to social history.
Women-related master theses	Academic research addressing gender, social development, and women's experiences.
Social tourism research	Research exploring inclusive tourism models and their educational and social impacts.
First destination survey	Tracking of graduate outcomes and employment pathways after graduation.

Community Outreach and Educational Engagement

USEK extends its educational mission beyond campus through outreach initiatives that promote knowledge sharing, community development, and social inclusion.

Initiative	Description
Outreach and Engagement	Coordination of partnerships, community projects, stakeholder engagement, and initiatives expanding USEK's social impact.
School outreach activities	Educational activities, STEM workshops, awareness sessions, and learning initiatives supporting schools and communities.
Student volunteer initiatives	Tutoring, mentoring, awareness campaigns, and community service activities led by students.
Public lectures and events	Open educational activities addressing academic, cultural, social, and professional topics.
Museum educational activities	Learning experiences connecting students and visitors with culture, heritage, and knowledge.

International Education and Global Learning Opportunities

USEK promotes international exposure and global citizenship through academic partnerships, mobility programs, and international competitions.

Initiative	Description
International exchange programs	Opportunities allowing students to study abroad and experience diverse academic environments.
Dual degree programs	International academic pathways, including partnerships with Université de Poitiers (France) and ESSCA (France).
Erasmus+ opportunities	Promotion of student and academic mobility within international networks.
Campus France sessions	Information about study opportunities in France.
Fulbright sessions	Introduction of students to international scholarship opportunities.
International competitions	Participation in events, such as HULT Prize, Oxford Media Law Moot, ICC Moot – The Hague, and Willem C. Vis International Arbitration Moot.

These opportunities strengthen students' intercultural competencies, professional skills, and global perspectives.

Impact

USEK advances SDG 4 through a comprehensive educational model that combines academic excellence, sustainability integration, lifelong learning, research, digital innovation, student support, and community engagement.

The University's contribution is demonstrated through:

- 290 sustainability-related courses/modules integrated into the academic portfolio.
- 171 sustainability-related courses offered during Fall 2025.
- sustainability integration across 27 academic programs.
- development of interdisciplinary sustainability education pathways.
- expansion of lifelong learning opportunities through School of Continuing Education.
- strengthening of student support and accessibility services.
- promotion of international mobility and global citizenship.
- continuous improvement through accreditation and assessment systems.



Through inclusive education, innovative teaching practices, research engagement, and community partnerships, USEK continues to advance SDG 4 – Quality Education and contribute to the development of responsible, knowledgeable, and socially engaged graduates.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Agora series	Interdisciplinary platform promoting dialogue on sustainability, ethics, environmental challenges, and social issues.
Dress Up for the Environment	Awareness campaign promoting sustainable lifestyles and environmental responsibility.
Our Water Footprint	Educational initiative raising awareness about water conservation and responsible resource use.
Air pollution awareness activities	Educational activities addressing environmental health and sustainability challenges.
Nature Healer	Learning activity exploring biodiversity, ecosystems, and human well-being.
Wildlife and well-being	Initiative connecting biodiversity conservation with environmental responsibility.
Sustainable agriculture activities	Awareness activities promoting sustainable food systems.
Environmental law debate	Educational discussions addressing environmental governance and legal frameworks.
Plastic Crisis Awareness	Campaign promoting waste reduction and circular economy principles.
Book Exchange	Initiative encouraging knowledge sharing and resource reuse.
AJYAL Lebanese Heritage Program	Educational initiative introducing Lebanese culture and heritage to children of the Lebanese diaspora through interactive learning activities.
International mobility sessions	Information sessions promoting exchange and international learning opportunities.
Museum exhibitions and guided tours	Educational activities connecting students and visitors with heritage and culture.
Children's Art Exhibition	Learning activity encouraging creativity and artistic expression.
Frank Capra screenings	Educational film activities promoting reflection on social values and citizenship.
Grant writing training	Capacity-building workshops supporting research development.
Universal Design for Learning workshop	Training promoting inclusive teaching practices.
Research publication training	Workshops strengthening academic writing and dissemination skills.
Citizenship education activities	Initiatives promoting civic responsibility and engagement.
Volunteer orientation	Preparing students for community service and engagement activities.
Cultivating Sustainable Minds	Educational initiative promoting sustainability awareness and responsible decision-making.

Ecoserv workshops	Practical training on recycling, waste management, and environmental practices.
Biodiversity awareness activities	Educational sessions on migratory birds, habitats, and conservation.
SeaWorld exhibition	Educational exhibition promoting marine biodiversity awareness.
Close the Tap on Plastic	Campaign promoting plastic reduction and sustainable alternatives.
USEK Diplomacy Academy	Specialized education in diplomacy, geopolitics, and global governance.
USEK School of Continuing Education	Professional and vocational learning opportunities supporting lifelong education.

Academic Programs Contributing to SDG 4

Academic Unit/Department	Contribution
Department of Education	Teacher preparation, pedagogy, curriculum development, and educational research.
Learning and Teaching Excellence Center / MA in Learning and Teaching for Higher Education	Faculty development and improvement of teaching practices.
USEK School of Continuing Education	Lifelong learning, professional development, and workforce upskilling.
Doctoral College	Advanced research training and development of future academics.
Department of Psychology and Social Sciences	Research and education related to inclusion, social development, and human behavior.
Higher Institute of Nursing Sciences	Professional education supporting healthcare workforce development.
Faculty of Arts and Sciences	Interdisciplinary education supporting critical thinking and innovation.
School of Engineering	Technical education supporting innovation and sustainable development.
Business School	Entrepreneurship, leadership, and employability development.
School of Architecture and Design	Design education addressing sustainable built environments.
School of Law and Political Sciences	Education related to governance, rights, and social responsibility.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
GAEA	Student environmental organization promoting sustainability awareness, volunteering, and environmental action.
Book Exchange	Encourages access to educational resources while reducing paper consumption.
Bird Watching	Promotes biodiversity education, ecological monitoring, and environmental awareness.
Agora	Platform for sustainability discussions, workshops, exhibitions, and community engagement.
Civic GEPS205	Integrates civic responsibility and sustainability through community-based learning projects.
UI GreenMetric sustainability course	International sustainability education collaboration with universities worldwide.



Goal 5

GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) is committed to advancing gender equality by fostering an inclusive academic, professional, and social environment where women have equal opportunities to participate, lead, and contribute to institutional development. The University recognizes gender equality as a fundamental component of sustainable development and integrates principles of inclusion, equity, dignity, and equal opportunity across its governance structures, academic programs, institutional policies, research activities, and community engagement initiatives.

Through continuous monitoring of gender representation indicators and the implementation of supportive policies and empowerment initiatives, USEK works toward strengthening women's participation in decision-making processes, expanding leadership opportunities, and creating an environment where all members of the University community can thrive.

These efforts contribute directly to Sustainable Development Goal 5 — Gender Equality, particularly Target 5.5, which promotes women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making.

Women's Representation in Leadership and Decision-Making

USEK demonstrates measurable progress in advancing women's participation in institutional governance and leadership structures. During the 2025 reporting period, women occupied 48 out of 98 institutional leadership and deputy leadership positions, representing 48.98% of total leadership roles.

This representation reflects USEK's commitment to inclusive governance and recognizes the essential role of women in shaping institutional strategies, academic development, operational management, and community initiatives.

Leadership Category	Total Positions	Female Representatives	Female Representation
Full-time staff leadership (M1–M4 Levels)	71	40	57%
Full-time faculty/advisors leadership	27	8	30%
Total institutional leaders and deputy leaders	**98**	**48**	**48.98%**

The strong representation of women within leadership positions demonstrates USEK's ongoing commitment to gender-balanced governance. The University continues to monitor leadership indicators and promote transparent pathways that enable qualified women to access academic and administrative leadership roles.

Gender Representation Across the University Community

USEK's commitment to gender equality extends beyond leadership structures to the broader University community. The institution promotes equal opportunities for students, faculty, and staff while continuously strengthening gender-disaggregated data collection to support evidence-based decision-making.

During the reporting period, the University community consisted of:



386
Full-time administrative staff



219
Full-time faculty/advisors



609
Part-time faculty

Future reporting cycles will continue expanding gender-related monitoring across student enrollment, academic progression, graduation outcomes, employment pathways, and leadership participation to further evaluate progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, and Capacity Building

USEK contributes to SDG 5 through targeted initiatives that promote women's leadership, professional development, confidence building, and participation in social transformation.

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program



The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program represents one of USEK's flagship initiatives supporting women's empowerment. The program focuses on developing future agents of change by:

- strengthening leadership and decision-making skills;
- encouraging women's participation in peacebuilding and social development;
- raising awareness of women's contributions to inclusive and resilient communities; and
- creating spaces for dialogue and knowledge exchange around women's rights, leadership, and societal impact.

Through workshops, discussions, and capacity-building activities, the WPS Program supports women in developing the skills required to contribute effectively within professional, academic, and community environments.

She Leads – Executive Certificate Program for Women

In collaboration with the Women Leaders Association (WLA), USEK launched "She Leads", an executive education program designed to empower high-potential women and strengthen their leadership capabilities.



The two-day program provided participants with practical tools and knowledge related to leadership, governance, negotiation, communication, and professional advancement.

Program Highlights:

- Five expert-led modules covering leadership, governance, personal branding, investment, and negotiation.
- Practical workshops and real-world case studies.
- Networking opportunities with experienced professionals and business leaders.
- The participation of 18 selected women leaders and entrepreneurs.
- Official certification upon completion.

The program supports women seeking advancement into senior management, executive positions, and entrepreneurial leadership roles.

Aspire Roundtable on International Women's Day

Organized by the USEK Business School, the Aspire: Accelerate Action roundtable celebrated women's achievements and contributions to leadership, innovation, and societal development.

Held on March 5, 2025, the event brought together professionals, academics, and community leaders to discuss women's leadership journeys, opportunities, and challenges while promoting dialogue on gender equality and empowerment.



Women in Diplomacy

USEK promotes women's participation in diplomacy, international relations, and global governance through educational sessions and leadership-focused activities.

These initiatives highlight women's contributions to diplomacy and encourage students to explore pathways in international affairs, policymaking, and peacebuilding.



Encouraging Women in Underrepresented Fields

USEK actively promotes women's participation in fields where gender gaps traditionally exist, including science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), business, and leadership.

Through academic programs, outreach activities, mentoring, and professional development opportunities, the University encourages women students to pursue diverse career pathways.

Examples include:

- STEM awareness and educational activities;
- women leadership discussions and speaker sessions;
- career development workshops;
- academic mentoring and professional guidance; and
- exposure to women role models in different sectors.

These efforts contribute to creating stronger pathways for women's participation in innovation, research, entrepreneurship, and professional leadership.



Supportive and Inclusive Campus Environment

USEK promotes a campus culture based on respect, inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunity. The University recognizes that gender equality requires not only representation but also an environment where all members of the community feel safe, valued, and empowered.

Institutional Policies Supporting Gender Equality

USEK maintains policies and mechanisms that promote fairness and protect members of the University community, including:

- non-discrimination principles covering gender, identity, and personal background;
- protection mechanisms related to harassment and misconduct;
- reporting procedures ensuring confidentiality and institutional response; and
- continuous review of policies to strengthen inclusion and equity.

These measures support a respectful learning and working environment aligned with international principles of equality and human dignity.

Family-Friendly Policies

USEK supports a balanced academic and professional environment through family-oriented measures that help students and staff manage personal and professional responsibilities.

Supportive measures include:

- maternity and paternity leave provisions;
- on-campus childcare services;
- flexible work and study arrangements when applicable; and
- support services addressing individual needs.

These initiatives contribute to creating an environment where women can successfully pursue academic, professional, and leadership opportunities.

Mentoring, Career Development, and Student Support

USEK provides comprehensive student support services that contribute to women's academic success and professional development.

These services include:

- academic advising and counseling;
- career guidance and employability support;
- mentoring opportunities;
- accessibility and inclusion services; and
- financial aid support.

Since 2015, USEK's student support offices have been accredited through the UK Matrix Standard, reflecting the University's commitment to quality student services and holistic support.

Gender Equality in Campus Life

USEK promotes gender equality across daily campus experiences, ensuring fair participation and access to opportunities.

Gender Equality in Sports

The University supports equal access to athletic opportunities by providing sports activities for both male and female students and encouraging participation across different disciplines.





Gender Equality in Facilities

Campus facilities are designed to promote safety, comfort, and privacy for all members of the University community, including dedicated male and female facilities.

Gender Equality in Education

Women represent a significant proportion of the USEK student population and are supported through equal access to:

- academic programs;
- leadership opportunities;
- student organizations;
- research activities; and
- professional development initiatives.



Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 5 – Gender Equality is demonstrated through measurable progress in women's representation, institutional policies supporting inclusion, and targeted programs that strengthen women's empowerment and leadership development.

With 48.98% female representation among institutional leaders and deputy leaders, including 57% representation within full-time staff leadership positions, USEK demonstrates meaningful progress toward balanced governance and inclusive decision-making.

Through education, research, leadership development, supportive policies, and community engagement, USEK continues to advance women's participation and empowerment across the University community.

Future reporting cycles will continue strengthening gender-disaggregated data collection, monitoring progress, and expanding initiatives that support equal opportunities in alignment with SDG 5 – Gender Equality and the broader United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Research and Academic Contributions Related to Gender Equality

USEK contributes to gender equality through academic research and knowledge production addressing women's roles, social participation, inclusion, and empowerment.

Research areas include:

Research/Project	Description
Synod on Women	Research and dialogue initiative examining women's roles, contributions, and challenges within society and institutions.
Women in Church and Society	Research exploring women's participation and influence within religious and social contexts.
Women as Promoters of Christian Vocation	Research examining women's roles and contributions within spiritual and community environments.
Beyond Stereotypes	Research addressing gender perceptions, social expectations, and pathways toward equality.
Exploring Life Projects of Maronite Women	Research documenting women's experiences, aspirations, and contributions within Lebanese society.
Women as Agents of Peace	Research examining women's contributions to peacebuilding, dialogue, and social cohesion.

Academic Programs Supporting Gender Equality

Academic Unit/ Department	Contribution to SDG 5
Department of Psychology and Social Sciences	Research and coursework addressing social development, inclusion, and human behavior.
Business School	Programs supporting entrepreneurship, leadership, management, and professional advancement.
Higher Institute of Nursing Sciences	Supports women's participation in healthcare professions and career development.
School of Law and Political Sciences	Addresses legal frameworks, rights, governance, and social justice.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Synod on Women	Dialogue platform addressing women's roles, contributions, challenges, and opportunities.
Museum Female Artist Empowerment	Cultural initiative recognizing women artists and promoting women's contributions to arts and heritage.
Women student engagement	Activities encouraging women students' participation and leadership development.
Women leadership activities	Initiatives promoting leadership skills and professional empowerment.
She Leads Executive Certificate Program	Executive education program developing women's leadership and negotiation skills.
Aspire Roundtable on International Women's Day	Event celebrating women leaders and discussing gender equality.
Women in Diplomacy	Activities highlighting women's participation in diplomacy and international affairs.
Recovery and Healing: A Response to Sexual Violence (WPS)	Awareness activity addressing gender-based violence prevention and survivor support.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
Synod on Women	Research and dialogue initiative examining women's roles, contributions, and challenges within society and institutions.
Women in Church and Society	Research exploring women's participation and influence within religious and social contexts.
Women as Promoters of Christian Vocation	Research examining women's roles and contributions within spiritual and community environments.
Beyond Stereotypes	Research addressing gender perceptions, social expectations, and pathways toward equality.
Exploring Life Projects of Maronite Women	Research documenting women's experiences, aspirations, and contributions within Lebanese society.
Women as Agents of Peace	Research examining women's contributions to peacebuilding, dialogue, and social cohesion.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
She Leads Executive Certificate Program	Standing executive-education program developing women's leadership, management, and negotiation skills.
Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program	Ongoing program addressing gender-based violence prevention, survivor support, and women's role in peace and security.
Aspire Roundtable on International Women's Day	Recurring annual event celebrating women leaders and advancing dialogue on gender equality.
Synod on Women	Standing dialogue and research platform examining women's roles, contributions, and challenges within society and institutions.

Goal 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Sustainable Water Management, Conservation, Reuse, and Water Security at USEK

Institutional Commitment

USEK recognizes access to clean water and sustainable water management as essential foundations for public health, environmental protection, and long-term institutional resilience. In response to increasing water scarcity challenges in Lebanon and the Mediterranean region, the University is committed to responsible water governance through efficient consumption management, advanced treatment infrastructure, water conservation practices, research, education, and community engagement.

Through the integration of smart technologies, sustainable infrastructure, academic expertise, and awareness initiatives, USEK works to reduce water consumption, ensure safe water availability, protect water resources, and contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation.

Measuring and Managing Water Consumption

USEK has established a systematic approach to monitoring campus water consumption to improve efficiency and support evidence-based resource management.

During 2025, USEK established its water consumption baseline through continuous monitoring of inbound treated and extracted water across campus facilities.

Key indicators include:

Water Indicator	2025 Value
Inbound treated/extracted water	7,702 m^3
Water intensity	Approximately 0.10 m^3/m^2 of floor space
Campus water treatment stations	2 multi-stage treatment stations

Water consumption data supports:
- identification of efficiency opportunities
- infrastructure improvement planning
- monitoring of conservation measures
- development of future water reduction targets

By establishing measurable water performance indicators, USEK continues transitioning from qualitative water stewardship toward data-driven sustainable water management.

Water Treatment Infrastructure and Safe Water Access

USEK ensures the availability of safe and treated water throughout campus through two on-campus multi-stage water treatment stations.

The treatment infrastructure includes:
- high-efficiency circulation pumps (5 m^3/h);
- sand filtration systems with automatic valves;
- activated carbon filtration;
- water softening systems;
- reverse osmosis units with high-pressure pumps;
- UV disinfection systems (12 gpm);
- controlled chlorination and dosing systems;
- Big Blue cartridge and granular carbon filtration;
- distribution pumps; and
- fully sealed water distribution network.

These systems provide safe drinking water for students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors while reducing reliance on single-use plastic bottles through campus refill stations.



Water Conservation, Reuse, and Circular Water Management

USEK implements multiple initiatives to reduce freshwater consumption and promote circular water practices.

Key initiatives include:

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater is collected, treated, and reused for:
- irrigation purposes;
- non-potable applications; and
- supporting campus climate resilience.

Smart Water Monitoring

USEK uses advanced monitoring systems, including:
- SCADA-based water management;
- smart utility meters;
- digital consumption monitoring; and
- leak detection technologies.

Water-Efficient Infrastructure

Water conservation measures include:
- water-efficient appliances and fixtures;
- irrigation optimization;
- drought-resistant landscaping; and
- improved operational management of water systems.

These initiatives contribute to reducing water demand and improving resource efficiency across campus.



Water Quality Protection and Pollution Prevention

USEK maintains strict measures to protect water quality and prevent contamination of natural water systems.

The University implements a structured Water Quality Control Program that includes regular monitoring of:
- pH levels.
- turbidity;
- chlorine concentration;
- total dissolved solids (TDS); and
- microbiological parameters.

Pollution prevention measures include:
- controlled laboratory wastewater management;
- the proper handling of cleaning agents;
- hazardous material collection procedures;
- the prevention of untreated wastewater discharge; and
- the protection of groundwater resources through controlled infrastructure.

These practices ensure that water management operations comply with environmental protection principles.

Smart Water Management and Digital Innovation

USEK advances sustainable water management through the WISDOM-USEK Smart Water Initiative, which integrates technology and data-driven solutions.

The initiative supports:
- real-time water monitoring;
- smart metering;
- IoT-based data collection;
- consumption analysis;
- leak detection; and
- improved decision-making.

By combining engineering expertise with digital technologies, USEK promotes innovative solutions for sustainable water governance.

Water Education and Community Engagement

Beyond campus operations, USEK promotes water awareness through educational activities, workshops, and community initiatives.

The University encourages:
- responsible water consumption behaviors;
- awareness of water scarcity challenges;
- student participation in sustainability activities; and
- knowledge sharing with communities and stakeholders.

Through education and outreach, USEK contributes to developing a culture of water stewardship among students and the wider community.

Research and Academic Leadership in Water Sustainability

USEK contributes to regional water sustainability challenges through academic research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Research areas include:
- water quality assessment;
- wastewater treatment;
- smart water management;
- climate-resilient water systems;
- environmental technologies; and
- sustainable infrastructure solutions.

The University supports research-based learning opportunities allowing students and researchers to contribute to innovative solutions for water security.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 6 is demonstrated through measurable progress in water monitoring, treatment infrastructure, conservation practices, and research innovation.

The establishment of the 2025 water consumption baseline (7,702 m^3), combined with advanced treatment systems, smart monitoring technologies, rainwater harvesting practices, and educational initiatives, strengthens the University's ability to manage water resources responsibly.

Through infrastructure development, digital innovation, academic engagement, and community awareness, USEK continues advancing sustainable water management and contributing to SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Our Water Footprint	Awareness initiative educating students and staff about water consumption, conservation, and responsible water management.
Smart water awareness	Educational activities promoting efficient water use through technology, monitoring, and behavioral change.
Water workshops	Training and awareness sessions addressing water conservation and protection of water resources.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/Department	Relevance to this SDG
School of Engineering (Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical & Electronics, Mechanical, Telecommunications Engineering)	Develops engineering solutions related to water infrastructure, environmental technologies, and sustainable systems.
Department of Computer Science and IT	Supports digital technologies, data management, and smart monitoring solutions applicable to water systems.
Department of Architecture	Contributes to sustainable building design and resilient infrastructure development.
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Supports sustainable irrigation, soil-water management, and agricultural resource conservation.
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry	Provides expertise in water quality analysis and environmental monitoring.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
SWYPE	Water sustainability research initiative supporting improved water practices and innovation.
WASIP-LEB	Project focused on sustainable water management, resilience, and improved water systems in Lebanon.
Smart Water Management	Research exploring digital solutions for water monitoring, efficiency, and optimization.
WISDOM-USEK	Smart water platform integrating sensors, monitoring technologies, and data management.
Ibrahim River Water Quality Research	Spatio-temporal analysis of surface-water quality contributing to water resource protection.
Reed-Bed Water Purification Unit	Conceptual design of a nature-based water purification solution.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Energy and Water workshop	Raised awareness on responsible water use, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate action practices.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Waterfull	Provides free drinking water refill stations to reduce single-use plastic bottles and promote sustainable hydration.
Propositions for Water	Encourages innovative ideas and practical solutions to improve water conservation and responsible water management.

Goal 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Advancing Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainable Campus Operations at USEK

Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) recognizes access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy as a fundamental component of sustainable development. The University is committed to reducing energy consumption, increasing renewable energy generation, improving operational efficiency, and promoting energy awareness through infrastructure development, research, education, and community engagement.

Within the Lebanese energy context, where limitations in national grid availability require significant reliance on backup power generation, USEK continues to implement solutions that enhance energy resilience while reducing environmental impacts. Through renewable energy investments, smart building technologies, energy monitoring systems, and efficiency measures, USEK contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 13 – Climate Action.

Energy Performance and Management

USEK continuously monitors its energy consumption across campus facilities to improve efficiency and identify opportunities for reduction. Energy management practices integrate data-driven monitoring, renewable energy generation, and operational improvements.

During the 2025 reporting period, USEK recorded energy consumption from multiple sources, including grid electricity, diesel-based generation, and renewable energy production.

Energy Indicator (2025)	Value
Grid electricity purchased	Monitored annually
Diesel-generator electricity	Main energy source due to grid limitations
Total energy consumption	4,514,124.6 kWh
Renewable energy generation	Increasing renewable contribution
Carbon footprint associated with energy use	Monitored through greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory
Energy intensity	Normalized according to campus floor area



The Lebanese energy context significantly influences USEK's energy profile. The University continues to reduce dependence on conventional energy sources through solar expansion, energy efficiency measures, and improved monitoring systems.

Renewable Energy Integration

USEK has progressively expanded its renewable energy portfolio to strengthen energy resilience and support the transition toward cleaner energy sources.

Key renewable energy initiatives include:

- a rooftop solar photovoltaic system installed on Building H, commissioned in July 2017, providing renewable electricity generation and continuous performance monitoring.
- the USEK solar park expansion, including approximately 7,000 m^2 of solar canopy installed above student parking and main-exit areas, as well as additional rooftop photovoltaic installations on the John Paul II Amphitheater and Building E.
- a solar water-heating system with an -800liter capacity supporting renewable thermal energy applications.
- \biodiesel production from used cooking oil, promoting circular resource management and alternative fuel solutions.

USEK's renewable energy commitment was recognized through the National Energy Ambassador Award received in 2018.

Smart Buildings and Energy-Efficient Infrastructure

USEK applies smart technologies and sustainable building practices to optimize energy performance across campus facilities.

The Building Management System (BMS), implemented initially in Building H and progressively expanded across campus facilities, supports:

- Automated HVAC management
- Intelligent lighting control
- Energy consumption monitoring
- Operational optimization
- Improved resource management

During the 2024–2025 academic year, accessibility services supported 76 students, including:

24,785 m²
Smart building area

77,220 m²
Total building area

≈32.1%
Smart building coverage

Energy-efficient infrastructure measures include:

- LED lighting transition;
- energy-efficient HVAC systems, including VRV and inverter technologies;
- automated air-conditioning schedules; and
- energy-efficient appliances and equipment;
- preventive maintenance programs; and
- energy monitoring and optimization systems.





Energy Efficiency and Demand Management

USEK implements a comprehensive approach to reduce energy consumption and improve operational efficiency through:

- campus-wide LED replacement initiatives;
- energy-efficient cooling and heating systems;
- Building Management Systems and Energy Management Systems;
- regular infrastructure maintenance;
- responsible energy-use awareness campaigns;
- efficient IT practices and digital solutions; and
- optimization of operational schedules.

These measures contribute to reducing energy demand, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and improving campus sustainability performance.

Carbon and Emission Reduction Strategy

Energy management is integrated into USEK's broader climate action strategy through:

- annual greenhouse gas emissions monitoring;
- energy source assessment;
- carbon footprint calculation;
- renewable energy expansion; and
- efficiency improvement projects.

The University continues to evaluate opportunities to reduce emissions associated with electricity consumption and diesel dependence while increasing renewable energy contributions.

Energy Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building

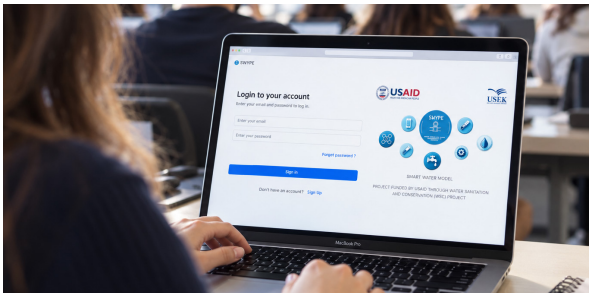
USEK supports sustainable energy transition through research, innovation, and education.

Research and academic activities include:

- artificial intelligence applications for energy consumption forecasting;
- renewable energy technologies;
- energy efficiency solutions; and
- sustainable engineering approaches.

USEK also collaborates with international partners to strengthen renewable energy skills and knowledge development, including:

- the Solar Installer Training Program, implemented in collaboration with the European Union and GIZ;
- the participation of faculty members in renewable energy and microgrid forums.; and
- capacity-building activities supporting clean energy development.



Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 7 is demonstrated through renewable energy investments, energy efficiency measures, smart infrastructure, research activities, and community engagement initiatives.

Through solar energy expansion, improved energy monitoring, sustainable building practices, and capacity-building programs, USEK continues to strengthen campus energy resilience and contribute to the transition toward affordable and clean energy.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Biodiesel Initiative	Circular economy initiative converting used cooking oil into renewable fuel while reducing waste.
Nuclear Energy Discussion (Agora)	Knowledge-sharing activity exploring energy diversification, energy technologies, and sustainable energy options.
Energy and Water Workshop	Awareness activity promoting responsible energy and water management practices.
Energy Innovation Lab Info Session	Session presenting opportunities in renewable energy innovation, research, and sustainable technology development.

Academic Programs

Academic Unit/Department	Relevance to this SDG
School of Engineering	Engineering education supporting renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, and sustainable technologies.
Department of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computer Engineering	Training related to electrical systems, renewable energy integration, and smart technologies.
Department of Mechanical Engineering	Coursework related to energy efficiency, thermal systems, and sustainable engineering solutions.
Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering	Process engineering approaches supporting cleaner production and energy optimization.
School of Architecture and Design	Sustainable building design and energy-efficient architecture.
Department of Civil Engineering	Sustainable infrastructure planning and energy-efficient construction approaches.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
CleanTech Innovation Hub	Innovation platform supporting clean technologies and sustainable energy solutions.
NEX-LABS	Research initiative supporting sustainable technologies, energy efficiency, and green innovation.
AI-Based Energy Forecasting Research	Research applying artificial intelligence to optimize energy consumption and management.
Renewable Energy Research Projects	Academic research supporting clean energy technologies and applications.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Biodiesel	Encourages renewable fuel production through used cooking oil recovery.
Reduce Energy	Promotes energy conservation through awareness campaigns and responsible energy-use practices.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Energy and Water Workshop	Raised awareness on responsible energy use, renewable energy, water conservation, and climate action.
Energy Innovation Lab Info Session	Introduced opportunities in clean energy innovation and sustainable technologies.

Goal 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth by promoting inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship, innovation, employability, and lifelong skills development. As an academic institution, employer, and community partner, USEK recognizes its responsibility to prepare students for successful careers, support entrepreneurial initiatives, and contribute to sustainable economic growth locally and regionally.

The University's approach to SDG 8 extends beyond traditional employment preparation by integrating entrepreneurship education, innovation support, industry collaboration, career development, and research-driven solutions. Through the Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACIE), the Career Center, the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), and academic programs, USEK supports students, graduates, researchers, and entrepreneurs throughout their professional and innovation journeys.

These efforts contribute to SDG 8 targets related to productive employment, decent work opportunities, entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable economic development.

Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Innovation

USEK promotes entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth, innovation, and societal impact. Through structured entrepreneurship programs, students and aspiring entrepreneurs receive training, mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to innovation ecosystems that support the transformation of ideas into viable solutions.

During 2025, USEK supported the development of 15 sustainability-related student startups through IdeaLab Batch 5, addressing challenges related to waste-to-value solutions, clean energy, sustainable food systems, circular economy, environmental technologies, and sustainable mobility.

Entrepreneurship development at USEK is supported through:

- entrepreneurship training and mindset development;
- idea validation and market-testing activities;
- incubation and acceleration programs;
- mentorship and expert guidance;
- startup competitions and pitching opportunities; and
- networking with industry partners and entrepreneurship ecosystems.



Through initiatives such as IdeaLab, PowerUp Incubation Program, and entrepreneurship challenges, USEK provides students and innovators with opportunities to develop solutions, access mentors, and connect with potential investors and partners.

During 2025, the entrepreneurship ecosystem achieved:

Indicator	2025 Achievement
Supported startups	51
Entrepreneurship activities	61
Participants engaged	1,535
Student sustainability-related startups	15
Programs implemented	IdeaLab, PowerUp Incubation Program, workshops, mentoring, competitions
Department of Civil Engineering	Sustainable infrastructure planning and energy-efficient construction approaches.

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) further strengthens innovation development by supporting intellectual property protection, commercialization pathways, and the transition of research outcomes into practical applications, including patented innovations such as the LSA landscape-assessment tool.

Employability and Career Development

USEK supports students' transition from education to employment through comprehensive career development services that enhance professional skills, employer engagement, and workforce readiness.

The Career Center provides:
- career counseling and guidance;
- internship and employment opportunities;
- CV writing and interview preparation workshops;
- personal branding sessions;
- networking activities;
- employer engagement events; and
- career fairs and professional development programs.

Key initiatives include:
- Career Open Days.
- Kickstart Your Career sessions.
- Industry Advisory Gathering 2025.
- Talent Talks.
- Career panels and alumni engagement activities.

These initiatives strengthen connections between students, graduates, and employers while improving access to professional opportunities and labor-market information.

Graduate Green Employment and Sustainable Careers

USEK monitors graduate outcomes related to sustainability-oriented employment to evaluate the contribution of sustainability education to workforce development.

Estimated green-job graduates during the past three academic years:

Academic Year	Total Graduates	Estimated Green Job Graduates
2022–2023	1,362	90–130
2023–2024	1,304	100–140
2024–2025	1,573	120–180
Three-Year Total	**4,239**	**310–450 (7.3%–10.6%)**

These estimates are based on tracer-study information and Career Center assessments and provide an initial understanding of graduates' contribution to sustainability-related sectors.

Through sustainability education, entrepreneurship support, and industry partnerships, USEK continues to strengthen pathways toward green employment and future-oriented careers.

Partnerships and Economic Ecosystem Engagement

USEK actively collaborates with national and international organizations to strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable economic development.

Key engagements include:
- participation in the Babson Collaborative for Entrepreneurship Education;
- collaboration with entrepreneurship ecosystem partners;
- participation in innovation and sustainability initiatives; and
- engagement in green entrepreneurship, energy innovation, agrifood innovation, and circular economy projects.

The UNIDO twinning partnership for sustainable SME development in Lebanon further contributes to knowledge exchange, entrepreneurship capacity building, and sustainable business development.

Fair Employment and Inclusive Workplace Practices

As an employer, USEK promotes decent work through responsible employment practices that support fairness, inclusion, and staff well-being.

The University is committed to:
- equal employment opportunities;
- non-discrimination practices;
- workplace dignity and respect;
- fair employment conditions;
- staff development and professional growth; and
- supportive workplace environments.

USEK also supports staff well-being through professional development opportunities and community-building activities.

Economic Contribution and Workforce Development

Through its role as an educational institution and employer, USEK contributes to regional economic resilience by:
- creating employment opportunities;
- investing in human capital;
- preparing graduates for labor-market needs;
- supporting entrepreneurship and innovation; and
- collaborating with industry and economic stakeholders.

Programs, such as Pathways to Success Initiative, offering tuition discounts of up to 70% for programs aligned with labor-market needs, and full nursing scholarships, providing full tuition coverage for nursing education, support access to high-demand professional fields.

Research and Academic Contribution to SDG 8

USEK contributes to economic development and decent work through research, innovation, and academic programs addressing entrepreneurship, sustainability, technology transfer, and inclusive economic growth.

Research and innovation activities include:
- entrepreneurship and innovation studies;
- sustainable business models;
- SME development;
- economic resilience;
- sustainable infrastructure solutions; and
- technology commercialization.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 8 is demonstrated through measurable entrepreneurship outcomes, employability initiatives, workforce preparation programs, and partnerships supporting sustainable economic development.

The creation of 15 sustainability-related startups in 2025, support provided to 51 startups, engagement of 1,535 participants in entrepreneurship activities, and the estimated contribution of 310–450 graduates entering green employment pathways over three years demonstrate USEK's commitment to connecting education with economic opportunity.

Through entrepreneurship support, career development, industry collaboration, and innovation initiatives, USEK continues to promote inclusive economic growth and decent work opportunities aligned with SDG 8.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Career Center	Provides career guidance, employability support, and professional development opportunities.
Symplicity Career Platform	Digital platform connecting students with internships, employment opportunities, and career resources.
Internship programs	Provides practical workplace experience and professional skill development.
Entrepreneurship training	Develops innovation, entrepreneurship, and business creation skills.
Career panels and Job Fair preparation	Supports students through resume clinics, mock interviews, and career preparation activities.
USEK Christmas Market and Spring Festival	Supports alumni and student-owned businesses through campus entrepreneurship activities.
Pathways to Success Initiative	Provides tuition discounts for programs aligned with labor-market needs.
Full nursing scholarships	Supports access to healthcare education and workforce development.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 8
MSc in Sustainable Engineering (in development)	Covers climate mitigation, carbon management, adaptation, and green financing.
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Supports sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient production systems.
Department of Biology	Provides research and education related to ecosystems and environmental challenges.
Business School	Develops entrepreneurship, management, finance, and business skills.
Hospitality and Tourism Management	Supports sustainable tourism and service-sector employment.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
ACT Smart	Innovation initiative supporting entrepreneurship and sustainable economic development.
NEX-LABS	Research and innovation platform strengthening academia-industry collaboration.
ODEFI	Supports economic development, innovation, and institutional capacity building.
Twinning SMEs	Strengthens SME cooperation, innovation capacity, and knowledge exchange.
WASIP	Supports sustainable infrastructure and economic resilience through water innovation.
Social tourism	Explores inclusive tourism models supporting local economies.
Technology Transfer Office initiatives	Support commercialization and innovation development.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
IdeaLab Batch 5	Supported student entrepreneurship through mentoring and startup development.
Career Center Open Day	Connected students with career opportunities and professional services.
Kickstart Your Career	Developed employability and career planning skills.
Industry Advisory Gathering 2025	Strengthened university-industry collaboration.
Pitch Perfect – UBS Hackathon	Encouraged entrepreneurial thinking and innovative solutions.
Demo Day – IdeaLab Batch 5	Allowed startups to present projects to mentors and partners.
Talent Talks: Real Stories	Connected students with professionals and career experiences.
Career Fun Day	Combined career preparation and professional networking.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
IdeaLab	Supports innovative student ideas and startup creation.
PowerUp Incubation Program	Provides incubation support for entrepreneurial projects.
ACIE entrepreneurship programs	Develop entrepreneurship skills and innovation capacity.



Goal 8



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Institutional Commitment

USEK contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure by advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, research commercialization, technology transfer, and sustainable infrastructure development. The University recognizes that resilient infrastructure and innovation-driven ecosystems are essential for economic development, environmental sustainability, and societal progress.

Through the integration of academic excellence, research activities, entrepreneurship programs, industry partnerships, and smart campus solutions, USEK supports the development and implementation of innovative solutions addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges.

USEK's contribution to SDG 9 is demonstrated through:

- student and researcher entrepreneurship initiatives;
- sustainability-focused startup development;
- technology transfer and intellectual property support;
- industry-academic collaborations;
- smart and resilient campus infrastructure; and
- digital transformation and innovation capacity building.



Sustainability Startups and Innovation Ecosystem

USEK promotes innovation through structured entrepreneurship programs that support innovators from idea generation to validation, incubation, and market readiness.

Through the Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACIE) and initiatives, such as IdeaLab Batch 5, students, researchers, alumni, and entrepreneurs develop solutions addressing sustainability challenges across different sectors.

In 2025, 15 sustainability-related startups were incubated through IdeaLab Batch 5, focusing on:

- circular economy and waste valorization;
- clean energy and climate technologies;
- sustainable food systems;
- smart agriculture;
- sustainable materials;
- environmental monitoring; and
- sustainable mobility solutions.

The sustainability startup ecosystem includes four main innovation areas:

Waste-to-Value and Circular Economy Innovation

Startups addressing resource recovery, waste reduction, and circular production models include:

- Pawfuel and ForestFolks: sustainable protein solutions using black soldier fly larvae and waste conversion approaches.
- ReSource: plastic waste conversion into fuel and gas through pyrolysis technologies.
- Karobon: transformation of carob-waste residues into high-value activated carbon.
- DuraPave: development of sustainable road materials using recycled polymers.

Clean Energy and Climate Technology Innovation

Startups supporting energy transition, climate resilience, and environmental monitoring include:

- Battelife: thermal energy storage solutions using sand-based battery concepts.
- HeaTape: waste-heat recovery through thermoelectric technologies.
- AlgaFilter: carbon capture solutions using microalgae systems.
- EcoSense: AI-powered wildfire monitoring and early detection.
- EVX and ElectRide: solutions supporting electric mobility and sustainable transportation.

Sustainable Food Systems and Agrifood Innovation

Startups addressing sustainable agriculture and food innovation include:

- AYKI and AgriSmart: digital solutions supporting regenerative agriculture and smart farming.
- Wiggles: alternative protein solutions using sustainable production approaches.
- MushCo and De Casa: sustainable food products and innovative food systems.

Circular Materials and Sustainable Consumer Products

Startups developing low-impact products and circular materials include:

- Byssus: circular textile innovation.
- Nazar: low-waste 3D-printed eyewear solutions.
- Sapore Del Sud: zero-waste products using upcycled olive oil.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Performance Indicators

USEK's innovation ecosystem supports entrepreneurs through training, mentoring, incubation, competitions, and ecosystem engagement.

Innovation Indicator (2025)	Achievement
Sustainability-related startups developed through IdeaLab Batch 5	15
Total startups supported by ACIE	51
Innovation and entrepreneurship activities	61
Participants engaged	1,535
Startup grants distributed	Grants distributed

Through entrepreneurship programs and innovation activities, USEK strengthens the ability of students and researchers to transform ideas into practical solutions with economic and societal value.





Research, Technology Transfer, and Innovation Capacity

USEK supports innovation through research development, intellectual property protection, and technology transfer mechanisms.

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) supports researchers and innovators throughout the innovation pathway, including:

- research valorization;
- intellectual property protection;
- commercialization opportunities;
- industry connections; and
- societal impact development.

An example of research commercialization is the patented LSA landscape-assessment tool, demonstrating USEK's ability to transform academic research into practical solutions supporting sustainable planning and environmental management.

Through research activities, innovation programs, and knowledge-transfer initiatives, USEK strengthens the connection between academic expertise, entrepreneurship, and industry applications.

Smart and Innovative Infrastructure

USEK applies digital technologies and sustainable engineering solutions to enhance campus resilience and operational efficiency.

Key smart infrastructure initiatives include:

Energy Management System (EMS) and Building Management System (BMS)

Supporting:

- energy monitoring;
- operational optimization;
- improved resource efficiency; and
- data-driven decision-making.

WISDOM-USEK Smart Water Management Initiative

Integrating:

- SCADA monitoring systems;
- IoT sensors;
- smart meters; and
- digital water management tools.

These technologies support efficient water consumption and leak detection.

Environmental Monitoring Systems

USEK operates real-time monitoring technologies supporting:

- environmental data collection;
- sustainability assessment; and
- evidence-based campus management.

Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Hybrid solar energy systems contribute to:

- renewable energy integration;
- reduced fossil fuel dependency; and
- improved energy resilience.

Sustainable Mobility Infrastructure

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure supports:
- clean transportation solutions;
- sustainable mobility practices; and
- campus emission reduction.

Student-Led Innovation Activities

Student initiatives, including energy audits and sustainability assessments, provide opportunities for applied learning and innovation development.

Industry Collaboration and Innovation Partnerships

USEK strengthens innovation through collaboration with industry partners, entrepreneurship networks, and sustainability-focused organizations.

These partnerships support:
- applied research;
- knowledge exchange;
- technology validation;
- innovation development; and
- entrepreneurship opportunities.

Examples include:
- collaboration with INDEVCO Group through industry-academic partnership initiatives;
- engagement with entrepreneurship ecosystem partners; and
- collaboration supporting sustainable construction materials and resource efficiency.

Through these collaborations, USEK connects academic innovation with industry needs and contributes to sustainable industrial development.

Inclusive and Sustainable Infrastructure Development

USEK invests in infrastructure that promotes accessibility, inclusion, and sustainability.

Campus infrastructure improvements include:
- accessibility ramps;
- elevators;
- adapted facilities;
- inclusive mobility pathways; and
- digital and technological infrastructure supporting education and research.

These initiatives contribute to:
- inclusive education;
- equal access to campus facilities; and
- sustainable infrastructure development.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 9 demonstrates the integration of entrepreneurship, research, technology transfer, and sustainable infrastructure to advance innovation-driven development.

Key achievements include:
- 15 sustainability-related startups developed through IdeaLab Batch 5;
- 51 startups supported through ACIE programs;
- 61 innovation and entrepreneurship activities organized;
- 1,535 participants engaged in innovation initiatives;
- The development of smart campus systems supporting sustainable infrastructure management.

By combining innovation education, research commercialization, digital transformation, and resilient infrastructure, USEK continues to strengthen its role as an innovation hub contributing to SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACIE)	Provides incubation, mentoring, and scaling support for students, alumni, and entrepreneurs.
Biodiesel collection infrastructure	Supports circular economy practices and renewable fuel production through waste recovery.
Carlos Ghosn Business Strategies and Performance program	Develops leadership and strategic management skills connecting theory and practice.
Blockchain Innovation workshop	Introduces emerging technologies and innovation opportunities.
INDEVCO Group partnership	Strengthens industry-academic collaboration and provides student support opportunities.
Campus accessibility infrastructure upgrades	Improve physical infrastructure inclusion through ramps, elevators, and accessible facilities.



Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 9
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Supports sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, soil health, and resource management.
Department of Biology	Research and teaching related to ecosystems, conservation, and environmental innovation.
Engineering programs	Support infrastructure development, technology innovation, and sustainable engineering solutions.
Business School	Develops entrepreneurship, innovation management, and business development skills.
Computer Science and IT programs	Support digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and technological innovation.



Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
iHeritage	Applies digital innovation to preserve and enhance cultural heritage.
ODEFI	Supports innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship, and institutional development.
Twinning SMEs	Enhances SME innovation capacity and knowledge transfer.
Pilot Inclusive City	Develops accessible and inclusive urban environments.
NEX-LABS	Supports research collaboration and innovation development.
LSA Landscape Assessment Tool	Patented innovation supporting sustainable landscape planning.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
IdeaLab Batch 5	Supported student entrepreneurship through innovation mentoring and startup development.
Doctoral College gathering	Strengthened research collaboration and interdisciplinary innovation.
Energy Innovation Lab info session	Presented opportunities in renewable energy innovation.
Seeds of Innovation workshop and panel	Encouraged sustainable innovation in agriculture and food systems.
Pitch Perfect – UBS Hackathon	Challenged students to develop entrepreneurial solutions.
Voice of Change Talk	Promoted innovation, leadership, and social impact solutions.
AI Governance in Education	Explored artificial intelligence applications and ethical considerations.
Research in Action for Social Impact	Showcased research addressing societal challenges.
Demo Day – IdeaLab Batch 5	Presented startup solutions to mentors and partners.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Dream Box	Collects innovative ideas from the university community to improve sustainability practices.
Propositions for Water	Encourages innovative solutions for water conservation and responsible management.
IdeaLab	Supports student innovation and startup development.
PowerUp Incubation Program	Provides incubation and entrepreneurship support.

Goal 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) is committed to reducing inequalities by ensuring equitable access to higher education, promoting inclusion, and creating an academic environment where all members of the University community can participate fully and succeed. Guided by Sustainable Development Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities, USEK addresses economic, social, and accessibility barriers through financial assistance programs, inclusive educational practices, accessible infrastructure, and community engagement initiatives.

Through institutional policies, student-support services, accessibility measures, and diversity-focused programs, USEK works to ensure that opportunities for education, personal development, and participation are available to all students, regardless of socioeconomic background, ability, or personal circumstances.

Equal Access to Higher Education and Financial Support

USEK recognizes financial barriers as a major challenge affecting access to higher education. Through comprehensive financial aid mechanisms, scholarships, discounts, and support programs, the University works to ensure that students from diverse economic backgrounds can pursue and complete their studies.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, 6,923 students benefited from one or more financial support mechanisms, including need-based assistance, scholarships, institutional discounts, and external support agreements.



Type of Financial Support	Number of Benefiting Students
Need-based financial support	3,845
Siblings' Allowance	1,353
In-return services	324
Merit-Based Scholarship	1,471
Third party agreements — Private sector	140
Third party agreements — Public sector	580
External donation	359
USEK staff and faculty support	99
OLM-related support	886
Doctoral discounts	5
USEK special discount	855
Total students benefiting from one or more discounts	**6,923**

These support mechanisms contribute to widening participation in higher education, supporting student retention, and reducing financial inequalities affecting students and their families.



Accessibility Services and Inclusive Education

USEK promotes an inclusive learning environment through dedicated accessibility services that support students with diverse educational needs and ensure equitable participation in academic life.

During the reporting period, the Accessibility Services Unit (ASU) provided academic accommodations to 76 students, including:

Student Support Category	Number of Students
Students with neurodevelopmental conditions	39
Students with mental health conditions	21
Students with medical conditions	16
Total students supported by ASU	**76**

Support provided through ASU includes:
- extended examination time;
- reduced-distraction examination environments;
- assistive technologies;
- individualized academic accommodations;
- academic advising and study-skills support; and
- semester-based follow-up and progress monitoring.

Through individualized assessment and continuous follow-up, USEK ensures that students with diverse needs receive appropriate support to participate successfully in university life.

Accessible Campus Infrastructure

USEK continues to improve campus accessibility through infrastructure development and inclusive design measures that support mobility, safety, and independence.

Accessibility features include:
- accessible ramps and pathways;
- indoor and outdoor elevators;
- accessible sanitary facilities;
- wheelchair-accessible campus transportation;
- maternity-care accommodations; and
- accessibility improvements within campus facilities, including the Jean El Hawa Auditorium.

These measures contribute to creating a campus environment where students, staff, and visitors with different needs can access facilities and services equally.



Inclusive Campus Culture and Student Support

USEK recognizes that reducing inequalities requires addressing academic, social, and personal barriers alongside financial challenges.

Through counseling services, student-support programs, inclusion initiatives, and community activities, USEK promotes belonging, respect, and equal participation.

Key initiatives include:
- Unified Sports Day, promoting inclusion and equal participation through adaptive sports activities;
- Beirut International Summit on Diversity, Faith and Sustainability, encouraging dialogue, intercultural understanding, and social cohesion;
- I Hear You Initiative, raising awareness about hearing accessibility and inclusive communication;
- Hope Club community activities, supporting vulnerable groups through volunteering and community engagement; and
- Wear and Share, promoting social solidarity through clothing redistribution and reuse.

Diversity, Equity, and Institutional Policies

USEK supports an inclusive institutional culture through governance structures and policies promoting equality, respect, and non-discrimination.

The University implements:
- accessibility and inclusion policies;
- anti-discrimination and anti-harassment mechanisms;
- student protection and support procedures; and

diversity-focused initiatives and awareness activities.Relevant University offices and academic and administrative units contribute to strengthening inclusive practices through mentoring initiatives, campus-climate monitoring, and institutional support mechanisms.

Research and Academic Contributions to Reducing InequalitiesPoliciesSupport

USEK contributes to knowledge development related to equality, inclusion, and social justice through interdisciplinary research and academic initiatives.

Research areas contributing to SDG 10 include:
- gender equality and women's empowerment;
- disability inclusion and participation;
- social tourism and inclusive communities;
- citizenship education;
- social cohesion and dialogue; and
- accessible urban environments.

Through research, teaching, and community engagement, USEK contributes to understanding and addressing inequalities at local and international levels.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities is demonstrated through measurable financial support, accessibility services, inclusive infrastructure, and community engagement initiatives.

During the 2024–2025 academic year:

- 6,923 students benefited from financial support mechanisms, reducing economic barriers to higher education.
- 76 students received individualized accessibility support, ensuring equitable academic participation.
- Inclusive infrastructure improvements enhanced accessibility across campus facilities.
- Diversity and inclusion initiatives strengthened awareness, dialogue, and participation among members of the University community.

Through these combined efforts, USEK continues to advance equal opportunities and build a more inclusive and equitable academic environment aligned with SDG 10.



Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
I Hear You Initiative	Accessibility initiative promoting hearing accessibility awareness and inclusive solutions.
Student financial support	Financial assistance programs reducing barriers to higher education access.
Museum accessibility	Initiatives improving accessibility to cultural and educational spaces.
Civic engagement activities	Programs encouraging social participation, inclusion, and community responsibility.
Wear and Share – Social inclusion component	Clothing redistribution initiative supporting vulnerable groups and promoting dignity and reuse.
Hope Club community activities	Volunteer activities supporting vulnerable children and strengthening inclusion.
Accessibility Services Unit (ASU)	Provides academic accommodation and support services for students with disabilities.
Continuing the Academic Journey instructor training	Faculty training supporting neurodivergent and struggling students.
Community Association Booths at Campus Events	Provides visibility and engagement opportunities for inclusion-focused organizations.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 10
Department of International Relations	Promotes understanding of global cooperation, diplomacy, and social equity.
Doctoral College	Supports advanced research through international academic collaboration.
Business School international dual degree and exchange programs	Encourages international mobility and inclusive educational opportunities.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
Synod on Women	Research exploring women's participation, equality, and inclusion in society.
Cerebral Palsy Participation	Research addressing disability inclusion and participation.
Social tourism	Research examining inclusive access to tourism and community development.
Life Stories	Research documenting diverse experiences and social understanding.
SAWA	Initiative supporting dialogue, inclusion, and social cohesion.
Women's studies	Research addressing gender equality and empowerment.
Citizenship education	Research and educational activities promoting inclusive citizenship.
Pilot Inclusive City	Initiative developing accessible and inclusive urban environments.

Research/Projects

Event/Activity	Description
Welcome Day – Kaslik Campus	Promoted student integration, inclusion, and equal opportunities.
Welcome Day – Jbeil Campus	Supported student belonging and campus integration.
Unified Sports Day	Encouraged inclusion through adaptive sports participation.
Beirut International Summit on Diversity, Faith, and Sustainability	Promoted dialogue, diversity, peacebuilding, and sustainability.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Clothes Fabric Aid	Collects clothing and textiles for donation, reuse, and recycling while supporting social initiatives.

Goal 11



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) recognizes the essential role of universities in creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities. Through sustainable campus planning, low-carbon mobility solutions, environmental resource management, accessibility improvements, heritage preservation, and community engagement, USEK applies sustainable development principles within its operations and extends its impact beyond campus boundaries.

Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, USEK focuses on developing a campus environment that supports sustainable mobility, resource efficiency, resilience, social inclusion, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Through integrated approaches combining infrastructure development, research, education, and partnerships, USEK contributes to building communities that are environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and culturally connected.

Sustainable Mobility and Accessible Transportation

USEK promotes sustainable mobility solutions that reduce transportation-related environmental impacts while improving accessibility and safety across campus.

The University operates six zero-emission electric shuttles providing internal transportation services for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. These electric vehicles contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving sustainable mobility options within the campus environment.

The Kaslik campus prioritizes pedestrian movement by restricting private vehicles, motorcycles, and unauthorized buses inside campus areas. This approach reduces internal traffic, improves safety, and supports a more sustainable campus experience.

USEK also implemented a Carpooling Program to encourage shared transportation among students and reduce individual vehicle use. During the reporting period, the initiative attracted more than 250 registered users and was supported through incentives, including VIP parking privileges and awareness activities promoting sustainable commuting behaviors.

Additional mobility initiatives include:
- electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Bike-Cool sustainable mobility initiative;
- bicycle facilities and bike racks;
- walking promotion initiatives; and
- sustainable commuting awareness campaigns.

These actions contribute to SDG 11.2 by promoting safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems.

Sustainable Campus Planning and Resilient Infrastructure

USEK integrates sustainability principles into campus development through its Campus Master Plan, incorporating environmental responsibility, accessibility, resource efficiency, and resilience.

Sustainable infrastructure initiatives include:
- photovoltaic renewable energy systems;
- energy efficiency improvements;
- sustainable landscaping and green campus development;
- water monitoring and conservation practices;
- waste reduction and circular economy systems through the Material Recovery Facility (MRF); and
- accessibility infrastructure supporting inclusive mobility.

USEK's green and open spaces contribute to biodiversity conservation, environmental quality, and the creation of healthier learning and working environments.

Through sustainable planning and infrastructure improvements, USEK supports resilient communities and contributes to SDG 11.3 and SDG 11.6.

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Cultural Heritage Preservation and Sustainable Communities

USEK recognizes cultural heritage as an essential component of sustainable communities and contributes to safeguarding Lebanon's historical and cultural assets.

Through heritage preservation initiatives, USEK supports the conservation, documentation, and accessibility of cultural resources, including:
- the ALIPH/Hungary Helps-supported monastery renovation project in Hadchit, contributing to the preservation of a significant heritage site;
- the British Library-funded project safeguarding Lebanon's early printed books (1939–1610) and supporting preservation, documentation, and access to historical collections;
- municipal partnership for archival protection with the Zgharta–Ehden Municipality.

These initiatives contribute to SDG 11.4 by protecting cultural heritage and ensuring the continuity of historical knowledge for future generations.



Community Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

USEK extends its contribution to sustainable communities through awareness activities, public engagement, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

The University supports:
- heritage conservation activities and professional masterclasses;
- environmental awareness campaigns;
- sustainability workshops and discussions;
- student-led community engagement projects; and
- public forums addressing environmental and societal challenges.

Through these activities, USEK strengthens responsible citizenship, collaboration, and community participation.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities is demonstrated through an integrated approach combining sustainable mobility, resilient infrastructure, smart resource management, biodiversity protection, and cultural heritage preservation.

Key achievements include:
- the operation of six zero-emission electric shuttles supporting low-carbon transportation;
- the implementation of a carpooling system encouraging shared mobility;
- the development of sustainable commuting infrastructure;
- the deployment of smart water-management systems;
- the preservation of cultural heritage through local and international projects; and
- the promotion of biodiversity and environmental stewardship through campus initiatives.

Through these actions, USEK contributes to creating a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient campus community while supporting broader sustainable development objectives.



Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Plant a Tree Campaign	Environmental initiative promoting reforestation, biodiversity protection, and community participation in climate action.
Earth Day habitat restoration	Activities supporting habitat restoration and ecosystem protection awareness.
Birdwatching activities	Educational activities promoting biodiversity observation and wildlife protection.
USEK International Day – Biodiversity awareness (Birds Talk)	Awareness activities addressing migratory birds, habitat loss, and biodiversity conservation.
Protecting Birds at All Coasts	Initiative promoting protection of migratory birds and coastal ecosystems.
Museum heritage preservation	Cultural initiatives supporting preservation and promotion of local heritage.
Carpooling Program	Sustainable transportation initiative reducing traffic congestion and emissions.
Book Exchange	Circular initiative promoting reuse and sustainable consumption.
Volunteer programs and community engagement	Activities strengthening social responsibility and community participation.
Municipal partnership for archival protection (Zgharta–Ehden)	Collaboration supporting preservation of municipal archives and historical records.
Sustainable commuting infrastructure	shuttle services, and mobility solutions supporting low-carbon transportation.



Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 11
Department of Architecture	Sustainable design approaches supporting resilient and inclusive built environments.
Department of Civil Engineering	Infrastructure planning and sustainable urban development expertise.
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry	Environmental management, conservation, and sustainability education.
Institute of History and Archaeology	Heritage preservation, cultural studies, and historical research.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
iHeritage	Digital innovation project supporting cultural heritage preservation and promotion.
Social tourism	Research exploring sustainable and inclusive tourism models supporting local communities.
Life stories	Research documenting collective memories and strengthening cultural understanding.
SAWA	Initiative supporting dialogue, inclusion, and community engagement.
Inclusive City Model	Research developing accessible and resilient urban environments.
Cultural heritage competition	Educational initiative encouraging heritage awareness among students.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Meet a Restorer: Dr. Veronica Tronconi	Highlighted cultural heritage conservation and restoration practices.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Central waste sorting and recovery facility serving as a recycling center and sustainability learning laboratory.
Recycling	Promotes segregation and recovery of recyclable materials.
Swap-a-Palooza	Encourages reuse through exchange of clothing, books, and reusable items.
Wild Gardens	Creates natural habitats supporting biodiversity and wildlife.
Walks	Promotes walking as a healthy and low-carbon mobility option.
Carpooling	Encourages ride-sharing and reduced transportation emissions.
Bike-Cool	Promotes cycling as sustainable transportation.
Agora	Platform for sustainability discussions, exhibitions, and awareness activities.
Dream Box	Collects innovative sustainability ideas from the university community.
Civic GEPS205	Integrates civic engagement and sustainability into academic learning.

Goal 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) recognizes responsible consumption and production as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and institutional responsibility. Through waste prevention, circular economy practices, sustainable procurement, resource efficiency measures, and sustainability education, the University works to minimize environmental impacts and promote responsible resource management across campus operations.

Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 12, USEK has developed a circular campus approach based on the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3R). This approach transforms traditional consumption patterns into a resource-efficient model where materials are prevented from becoming waste, reused whenever possible, and recovered through advanced recycling and recovery systems.

Through operational initiatives, research activities, student engagement, and community partnerships, USEK continues to strengthen sustainable consumption behaviors and contribute to the transition toward a circular economy.

Circular Economy and the 3R Program (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)

USEK implements a comprehensive 3R program to reduce resource consumption, extend material lifecycles, and maximize recovery of recyclable and organic materials.

Reduce: Waste Prevention and Resource Efficiency

USEK prioritizes waste prevention at the source through operational improvements, digital transformation, sustainable purchasing practices, and awareness campaigns.

During the reporting period, the University achieved measurable reductions in resource consumption, including:

23%
reduction in plastic consumption through awareness campaigns and sustainable alternatives.

40%
reduction in paper consumption through digitalization and responsible printing practices.

Additional reduction measures include:
- digital administrative workflows reducing dependence on paper documents;
- recto-verso printing practices across University offices;
- The reuse of one-sided paper for drafts and internal documents;
- sustainable orientation materials using recycled paper products; and
- the reduction of unnecessary packaging through responsible purchasing practices.

These measures contribute to reducing resource extraction, minimizing waste generation, and improving operational efficiency.

Reuse Initiatives and Resource Lifecycle Extension

USEK promotes reuse practices to extend the useful life of materials and encourage responsible consumption habits within the University community.

Key reuse initiatives include:

ReMug It!

The ReMug It! initiative promotes reusable alternatives to single-use cups by encouraging students and staff to adopt reusable mugs and reduce disposable waste.

Book Exchange Program

The Book Exchange initiative extends the lifecycle of educational materials by allowing students and staff to exchange books, reducing paper consumption and promoting access to shared resources.

Swap-a-Palooza

A campus exchange initiative encouraging the reuse of clothing, books, and other reusable items while promoting sustainable consumption behaviors.

Wear and Share/Clothes Fabric Aid

Textile collection initiatives support clothing reuse and redistribution through partnerships with charitable organizations, reducing textile waste while supporting social inclusion.

Through these initiatives, USEK encourages a culture of sharing, reuse, and responsible consumption.

Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Recycling Performance

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) represents the operational foundation of USEK's circular waste management system.

The facility supports:
- waste segregation at source;
- the collection and sorting of recyclable materials;
- the recovery of valuable resources; and
- environmental education and research activities.

During 2025, USEK achieved significant waste recovery performance:

Waste Indicator (2025)	Value
Total waste generated	Approximately 53 tons
Materials recycled through the MRF	31 tons
Food waste recovered	16 tons
Waste sent to landfill	Approximately 6 tons
Waste diversion rate	88.7%

Recovered waste streams include:
- paper and cardboard;
- plastics;
- glass;
- metals and aluminum;
- cables;
- electronic waste; and
- other recyclable materials.

The MRF also functions as a living laboratory, supporting student learning, sustainability awareness, and research on circular economy practices.



Organic Waste Management and Composting

USEK applies circular solutions for organic waste management by transforming food waste into valuable resources.

During the reporting period:
- Approximately 16 tons of food waste were recovered through organic waste initiatives.
- Organic materials were processed through composting activities.
- Compost produced was reused in campus landscaping applications.

Key initiatives include:

Bring Your Bucket Initiative

This initiative encourages the collection and recovery of food waste through community participation.

Ghandoura Composting Initiative

This initiative supports organic waste transformation into useful compost resources while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

These practices reduce landfill dependency and demonstrate the potential of organic waste recovery within a circular campus model.



Sustainable Procurement and Responsible Operations

USEK integrates sustainability principles into purchasing decisions through responsible procurement practices.

The University promotes:
- environmentally preferable products;
- the reduction of unnecessary materials;
- sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics; and
- the consideration of environmental impacts throughout product lifecycles.

Sustainable procurement contributes to reducing upstream environmental impacts related to production, transportation, packaging, and resource consumption.

The University continues to strengthen procurement practices by encouraging suppliers and operational partners to adopt environmentally responsible approaches.



Plastic Reduction and Sustainable Consumption Awareness

USEK actively works to reduce dependence on single-use plastics through institutional campaigns and behavioral-change initiatives.

Key programs include:

Close the Tap on Plastic

Awareness campaign promoting plastic reduction and encouraging sustainable alternatives.

Waterfull

Campus drinking-water refill initiative reducing dependence on disposable plastic bottles while promoting responsible water consumption.

Sustainable Procurement – No to Plastic

Encourages environmentally responsible purchasing choices and reduced use of disposable plastic materials.

RSVP Sorting System

Supports improved waste segregation and encourages community participation in recycling practices.

Through these initiatives, USEK promotes long-term behavioral change and environmental responsibility among students, faculty, and staff.

Sustainability Education, Research, and Innovation

USEK integrates responsible consumption and production concepts into academic programs, research activities, and innovation initiatives.

The University promotes sustainability education through:
- courses addressing circular economy principles;
- sustainable waste management education;
- life cycle assessment concepts;
- resource efficiency approaches; and
- sustainable production systems.

The MSc in Sustainable Engineering incorporates sustainability themes, including:
- sustainable waste management;
- circular economy;
- life cycle assessment; and
- sustainable resource management.

Student innovation projects also demonstrate practical applications of circular economy principles, including:
- Byssus: circular textile innovation.
- Nazar: low-waste 3D printed eyewear solutions.
- DuraPave: sustainable materials using recycled polymers.
- Sapore Del Sud: upcycled products using olive oil residues.

These initiatives demonstrate USEK's role in preparing future professionals and entrepreneurs for sustainable production models.

Waste Management and Environmental Protection Policies

USEK maintains structured waste management practices covering general, recyclable, organic, electronic, and hazardous waste streams.

The University implements:

- medical waste segregation and safe disposal procedures;
- electronic waste collection and recycling;
- hazardous material management protocols;
- recycling and recovery monitoring; and
- pollution prevention practices.

These systems ensure responsible handling of materials throughout their lifecycle while protecting environmental and public health.



Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 12 demonstrates a comprehensive circular economy approach combining waste prevention, reuse, recycling, sustainable procurement, resource efficiency, and sustainability education.

The University's 88.7% waste diversion rate, supported by the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), composting initiatives, and recycling programs, reflects a strong commitment to minimizing landfill dependency and maximizing resource recovery.

Through initiatives such as ReMug It!, Wear and Share, Book Exchange, Bring Your Bucket, and sustainable procurement practices, USEK continues to transform campus consumption patterns and promote responsible resource management.

By integrating operations, education, research, and innovation, USEK contributes to building a more sustainable and circular society aligned with SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Central waste sorting and recovery facility supporting recycling, education, research, and circular economy practices.
ReMug It!	Reusable mug campaign reducing single-use cup consumption.
Wear and Share	Textile reuse initiative promoting donation, redistribution, and waste reduction.
Clothes Fabric Aid	Clothing collection and redistribution supporting reuse and social impact.
Book Exchange	Initiative extending book lifecycles through sharing and reuse.
Swap-a-Palooza	Exchange event promoting reuse of clothing, books, and reusable items.
Bring Your Bucket	Initiative reducing single-use containers through refill practices.
Biodiesel initiative	Initiative converting used cooking oil into renewable fuel through waste valorization.
Composting program	Organic waste recovery initiative producing compost for campus landscaping.
Close the Tap on Plastic	Campaign promoting reduction of single-use plastics.
Waterfull	Drinking-water refill program reducing plastic bottle consumption.
Waste sorting program	Campus segregation initiative improving recycling performance.
Upcycling activities	Creative reuse initiatives transforming waste materials into useful products.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 12
MSc in Sustainable Engineering	Covers circular economy, sustainable waste management, life cycle assessment, and resource efficiency.
Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering	Supports cleaner production and sustainable industrial processes.
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Addresses sustainable food systems and resource management.
School of Engineering	Provides technical solutions related to environmental efficiency and sustainable systems.
Department of Architecture	Promotes sustainable design and resource-efficient built environments.

Research/Projects

Research /Project	Description
Social tourism	Research exploring sustainable consumption models within tourism systems.
CleanTech Innovation Hub	Initiative supporting innovation in sustainable technologies and resource efficiency.
NEX-LABS	Research and innovation platform supporting sustainable solutions.
ACT Smart	Innovation initiative supporting sustainable entrepreneurship and circular solutions.
WASIP	Program supporting sustainable resource management and resilience.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Apple conference	Addressed sustainable agriculture, value chains, innovation, and responsible production.
Energy and Water workshop	Promoted responsible resource consumption and sustainability practices.
Workshops at Ecoserv	Provided practical sustainability training on waste management and recycling.
Sustainability awareness activities	Engaged students and staff in responsible consumption practices.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Recycling	Promotes segregation and recovery of recyclable materials.
E-Waste	Supports responsible electronic waste collection and recycling.
Compost	Converts organic waste into useful compost resources.
Medical Waste	Ensures safe management of healthcare-related waste.
Reduce Energy	Encourages responsible energy consumption.
Waterfull	Reduces plastic waste through refill stations.
Propositions for Water	Encourages innovative resource conservation solutions.
Grow Your Own Food	Promotes sustainable food production practices.



Goal 13

CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Institutional Commitment

Climate action is a strategic priority at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), reflecting the University's commitment to addressing climate change through operational improvements, renewable energy development, sustainable mobility, environmental education, research innovation, and community engagement.

Recognizing the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate resilience, USEK integrates climate considerations into its campus operations, academic programs, research activities, and sustainability planning. The University follows a comprehensive approach combining emissions measurement, renewable energy transition, resource efficiency, circular economy practices, and climate awareness initiatives.

In 2025, USEK established its first institutional campus carbon footprint baseline, providing a measurable foundation for future emissions reduction strategies. The assessment follows the greenhouse gas accounting principles of the United Nations Global Compact and covers operational emissions associated with University activities.

The carbon footprint assessment includes:

- **Scope 1 emissions**: Direct emissions from diesel generators and cooking gas consumption.
- **Scope 2 emissions**: Indirect emissions associated with purchased electricity from the national grid.
- **Boundary limitation**: The initial assessment focuses on operational emissions (Scopes 1 and 2). Scope 3 emissions, including commuting, procurement, business travel, and other indirect value-chain activities, will be progressively integrated into future assessments.

Through this approach, USEK has established a structured pathway toward reducing emissions, improving energy performance, and strengthening climate resilience.

Climate Governance and Carbon Footprint Assessment

Establishing a Measurable Climate Baseline

The development of USEK's 2025 carbon footprint represents an important milestone in institutional climate management. By quantifying operational greenhouse gas emissions, the University can identify major emission sources, prioritize reduction measures, and monitor progress over time.

The assessment identified electricity generation through diesel generators as the dominant contributor to operational emissions. This reflects the Lebanese energy context, where electricity shortages require continued reliance on backup diesel generation.

Campus Carbon Footprint Components (2025)

Carbon Footprint Source	Contribution
Diesel generator consumption	Largest contributor
Grid electricity consumption	Moderate contributor
Cooking gas consumption	Minor contributor
Total operational emissions	Scope 1 and Scope 2 footprint

The results highlight renewable energy expansion and energy efficiency improvements as the University's main climate priorities.



Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Program

USEK's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Program is aligned with the University Sustainability Master Plan, which is approximately 80% implemented. The program focuses on four complementary action areas:

Sustainable Campus Infrastructure

USEK integrates climate-responsive principles into campus planning and infrastructure development through:

- energy-efficient building improvements;
- passive design strategies;
- improved indoor environmental quality;
- optimization of building operations; and
- sustainable landscaping and green campus development.

These measures reduce energy demand, improve operational efficiency, and support long-term emissions reduction.



Renewable Energy Transition and Energy Efficiency

Renewable energy development is a central pillar of USEK's climate strategy.

Key initiatives include:

- expansion of photovoltaic solar energy systems;
- development of the Solar Park project;
- optimization of lighting and HVAC systems;
- energy monitoring and management systems; and
- improved operational control through smart technologies.

USEK installed photovoltaic systems on campus buildings and continues expanding renewable energy capacity to reduce dependence on diesel-generated electricity.

The Solar Park project represents a major step toward increasing renewable electricity production and reducing carbon emissions associated with campus operations.

Energy Monitoring and Smart Management

USEK applies digital technologies to improve energy efficiency and support evidence-based climate action.

Key systems include:

- Energy Management System (EMS): Monitoring and optimizing energy consumption.
- Building Management System (BMS): Improving operational efficiency of campus facilities.
- IoT monitoring systems: Supporting real-time environmental and resource management.

These technologies enable improved decision-making and contribute to reducing unnecessary energy consumption.



Circular Resource Management for Climate Mitigation

USEK addresses climate impacts through responsible resource management and circular economy practices.

Climate-related resource initiatives include:
- waste segregation and recycling through the Material Recovery Facility (MRF);
- food waste recovery and composting;
- reduction of single-use materials;
- sustainable procurement practices; and
- awareness campaigns promoting responsible consumption.

By reducing landfill disposal and encouraging resource recovery, these initiatives contribute to reducing indirect greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable Mobility and Low-Carbon Transportation

Transportation represents an important component of climate action. USEK promotes cleaner mobility solutions that reduce emissions and encourage sustainable commuting behavior.

Key initiatives include:

Electric Campus Transportation

USEK operates six zero-emission electric shuttles providing internal transportation services for students, faculty, and staff.

The electric shuttle system helps:
- reduce transportation-related emissions;
- improve accessibility across campus; and
- support cleaner mobility alternatives.

Carpooling Program

USEK encourages shared transportation through its Carpooling Program, which reduces individual vehicle use and associated emissions.

The initiative attracts more than 300 participants per semester and promotes sustainable commuting through awareness activities and incentives.

Additional Mobility Actions

USEK continues to develop sustainable transportation infrastructure through:
- electric vehicle charging stations;
- the Bike-Cool sustainable mobility initiative;
- pedestrian-friendly campus planning; and
- restrictions on unnecessary internal vehicle circulation.

These actions support low-carbon mobility and contribute to SDG 11 and SDG 13 objectives.

Climate Education and Environmental Capacity Building

USEK recognizes education as a fundamental driver of climate action. The University integrates climate-related knowledge into academic programs, student activities, and sustainability awareness initiatives.

Academic Programs Supporting Climate Action

Master of Science in Environmental Technologies

The program provides advanced knowledge related to:
- air pollution monitoring;
- environmental assessment;
- emission analysis;
- pollution control technologies; and
- sustainable environmental management.

Through this program, USEK prepares professionals capable of addressing environmental challenges and supporting climate mitigation strategies.

Sustainability and Climate Courses

Climate-related topics are also integrated through:
- GEP 205 – Climate Change and Sustainability Education;
- civic engagement courses addressing environmental responsibility; and
- sustainability-focused academic activities.

Climate Research and Innovation

USEK supports interdisciplinary research addressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable technological solutions.

Examples of climate-related research contributions include:
- biodiesel production from spent coffee grounds and animal fats;
- olive pomace gasification for hydrogen production;
- renewable energy systems;
- carbon market analysis;
- machine-learning models for household energy consumption prediction;
- thermal management strategies for future 5G/6G infrastructure; and
- climate change impact and adaptation studies.

Through research and innovation, USEK contributes scientific knowledge and practical solutions supporting climate resilience.



Climate Awareness and Community Engagement

USEK extends climate action beyond campus operations through awareness activities, environmental campaigns, and community engagement.

Key initiatives include:

- Earth Day activities;
- Plant a Tree campaign;
- bird conservation activities;
- Protecting Birds at All Coasts initiative;
- Connect with Nature activities; and
- environmental workshops and awareness sessions.

These initiatives strengthen environmental responsibility and encourage students and community members to actively participate in climate action.







Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 13 – Climate Action demonstrates an integrated institutional approach combining emissions measurement, renewable energy transition, sustainable mobility, circular resource management, climate education, and research innovation.

The establishment of the 2025 campus carbon footprint created a measurable foundation for future climate strategies. Through renewable energy expansion, energy efficiency measures, electric transportation, waste reduction programs, and climate-focused education, USEK continues progressing toward a lower-carbon and more resilient university model.

By embedding climate responsibility into operations, research, education, and community engagement, USEK contributes to global climate action efforts and supports the transition toward a sustainable future.

Activities & Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Earth Day activities	Climate awareness activities addressing environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and climate change challenges.
Plant a Tree campaign	Climate action initiative supporting carbon sequestration, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity enhancement, and environmental awareness.
Bird conservation activities	Biodiversity initiatives highlighting climate change impacts on ecosystems and species migration patterns.
Protecting Birds at All Coasts	Environmental education initiative promoting ecosystem resilience and biodiversity protection.
Carpooling Program	Sustainable transportation initiative reducing greenhouse gas emissions from individual commuting.
Sustainable agriculture activities	Awareness activities promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices and sustainable food systems.
Air pollution awareness	Educational activities connecting emissions, climate change, and public health.
Our Water Footprint	Awareness initiative linking water conservation with climate resilience.
Close the Tap on Plastic	Campaign reducing plastic consumption and associated environmental impacts.
Eco-Friendly email signatures	Digital awareness practice encouraging reduced paper consumption.
Two-bin campus waste sorting system	Waste separation system improving recycling participation and reducing landfill impacts.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 13
Master of Science in Environmental Technologies	Provides expertise in environmental monitoring, pollution control, emissions analysis, and sustainable environmental management.
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Supports climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable food systems, and environmental resource management.
Department of Biology	Supports research and teaching related to ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and environmental change.
Sustainable Engineering programs	Address energy efficiency, renewable technologies, and sustainable resource management.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
ASMeC climate change research	Research activities addressing climate change impacts, environmental challenges, and adaptation strategies.
Climate migration research	Research examining relationships between environmental changes, migration patterns, and social resilience.
Biodiesel research	Development of renewable fuel solutions from waste-based resources.
Renewable energy research	Studies supporting clean energy transition and sustainable technologies.
Carbon market analysis	Research supporting climate policy and emissions reduction mechanisms.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Energy and Water Workshop	Raised awareness on energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and climate action.
Energy Innovation Lab Info Session	Presented opportunities in renewable energy innovation and sustainable technology development.
Connect With Nature – Hiking Trip	Promoted environmental awareness and appreciation of biodiversity.
Cedars of the Holy Spirit	Supported conservation awareness and protection of Lebanon's cedar ecosystems.
Coastal and Maritime Public Policies	Addressed sustainable coastal governance and environmental protection.



Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Circular economy facility supporting recycling, resource recovery, education, and climate mitigation.
GAEA	Student environmental organization promoting sustainability awareness and environmental action.
E-Waste	Responsible collection and recycling of electronic waste to prevent pollution and recover materials.
Compost	Converts organic waste into compost used for campus landscaping.
Recycling	Supports resource recovery and circular economy practices.
Re-Mug It	Reduces single-use cup consumption through reusable alternatives.
Bring Your Bucket	Encourages refill systems and reduction of single-use plastics.
Sustainable Procurement – No to Plastic	Promotes responsible purchasing and plastic reduction.
Seedballs	Supports biodiversity restoration and ecosystem resilience.
Plant a Tree	Enhances biodiversity and contributes to climate resilience.
Walks	Encourages low-carbon mobility through walking.
Carpooling	Reduces transportation emissions through shared mobility.
Biodiesel	Promotes renewable fuel alternatives from recovered resources.
Bike-Cool	Encourages sustainable cycling practices.
Reduce Energy	Promotes energy conservation and responsible consumption behaviors.

Goal 14

LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



Institutional Commitment

Located near the Mediterranean coastline, the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) recognizes the importance of protecting marine and freshwater ecosystems and acknowledges the responsibility of universities in advancing aquatic conservation through education, research, responsible resource management, and community engagement.

Although marine conservation remains an emerging area within USEK's sustainability strategy, the University contributes to SDG 14 – Life Below Water through initiatives addressing water protection, pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation, environmental awareness, and scientific research.

USEK's contribution to SDG 14 is closely connected with other sustainability priorities, including:

- SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, through responsible water management and monitoring;
- SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, through waste reduction and circular economy practices;
- SDG 13 – Climate Action, through ecosystem resilience and environmental awareness;

- SDG 15 – Life on Land, through biodiversity protection and habitat conservation.

Through these interconnected actions, USEK supports the protection of aquatic environments and contributes to Lebanon's broader efforts toward sustainable management of freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Awareness

USEK promotes awareness of marine biodiversity and the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems through educational initiatives, exhibitions, and environmental engagement activities.

The University organizes activities that encourage students and the wider community to understand the importance of oceans, coastal habitats, and aquatic biodiversity.

Key initiatives include:
- SeaWorld Exhibition: An awareness exhibition highlighting marine biodiversity, ocean conservation challenges, and the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems.
- Protecting Birds at All Coasts initiative: A biodiversity awareness program emphasizing the protection of migratory birds, coastal habitats, and the relationship between healthy ecosystems and aquatic environments.
- Sustainable fisheries discussions through Agora: Knowledge-sharing activities addressing sustainable fisheries, marine resource management, and responsible use of aquatic resources.

Through these initiatives, USEK encourages environmental responsibility and strengthens awareness of the importance of preserving Lebanon's marine heritage.

Water Pollution Prevention and Aquatic Ecosystem Protection

USEK implements responsible water management practices designed to reduce pollution risks and protect freshwater resources connected to the Mediterranean environment.

The University operates water management and treatment infrastructure that supports responsible water use, monitoring, and pollution prevention.

Key actions include:
- water monitoring systems supporting efficient resource management;
- wastewater and sewage management practices preventing uncontrolled discharge;
- water conservation measures reducing pressure on freshwater resources; and
- awareness campaigns promoting responsible water consumption.

The WISDOM-USEK Smart Water Management Initiative, developed with USAID support, strengthens the University's ability to monitor water consumption and improve efficiency through:
- smart sensors;
- flow meters;
- digital monitoring systems; and
- data-driven water management practices.

These measures contribute to protecting freshwater resources and reducing potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems.

Preventing Marine Pollution Through Circular Resource Management

Land-based pollution represents a major threat to aquatic environments. USEK addresses this challenge through comprehensive waste management and circular economy practices that reduce the possibility of waste entering natural waterways.

The University's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) supports:

- waste segregation at source;
- The recycling of paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, and other materials;
- The recovery of valuable resources; and
- the reduction of landfill disposal.



Additional initiatives contributing to aquatic protection include:

- food waste recovery and composting;
- plastic reduction campaigns;
- reusable alternatives initiatives; and
- sustainable procurement practices.

By minimizing waste generation and improving resource recovery, USEK contributes to reducing pollution pathways affecting rivers, coastal areas, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Research Supporting Aquatic Ecosystems

USEK contributes to scientific understanding of aquatic systems through environmental research addressing freshwater quality, ecosystem monitoring, and sustainable resource management.

A key example is the research conducted on:

Nahr Ibrahim Watershed Water Quality Assessment

In 2025, USEK researchers conducted a spatio-temporal assessment of surface water quality in the Nahr Ibrahim watershed, generating scientific data that helps:

- understand freshwater ecosystem conditions;
- identify environmental pressures;
- support watershed management approaches;
- improve knowledge of freshwater systems connected to coastal environments.

This research contributes to evidence-based environmental management and strengthens the scientific foundation needed to protect aquatic ecosystems.



Sustainable Water Management Practices

USEK recognizes that protecting aquatic ecosystems begins with responsible water management on campus.

The University implements several initiatives supporting water conservation and aquatic protection, including:
- smart water monitoring through WISDOM-USEK;
- water consumption tracking;
- rainwater collection practices;
- water conservation awareness campaigns; and
- resource-efficiency initiatives.

Programs, such as Our Water Footprint, encourage students and staff to understand the relationship between responsible water use, pollution prevention, and ecosystem protection.

These actions contribute to reducing pressure on freshwater resources and supporting sustainable water stewardship.

Biodiversity Protection and Ecosystem Awareness

Aquatic ecosystems are closely connected with surrounding terrestrial habitats. USEK promotes biodiversity awareness through initiatives that highlight ecosystem interconnections.

Examples include:
- bird conservation activities;
- Protecting Birds at All Coasts initiative;
- biodiversity awareness events; and
- environmental education activities.

By promoting biodiversity protection, USEK strengthens understanding of the relationship between healthy habitats, climate resilience, and aquatic ecosystem protection.

Community Engagement and Environmental Collaboration

USEK extends its contribution to SDG 14 beyond campus through partnerships, awareness activities, and environmental collaboration.

The University engages with environmental organizations and community initiatives that promote responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Examples include:
- collaboration and engagement with environmental initiatives, such as Live Love Lebanon;
- participation in sustainability awareness activities;
- student involvement in environmental campaigns; and
- knowledge-sharing events addressing marine and environmental challenges.

Through these activities, USEK encourages collective responsibility toward protecting Lebanon's natural ecosystems.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 14 – Life Below Water demonstrates an integrated approach combining environmental education, water stewardship, pollution prevention, scientific research, and community engagement.

While marine conservation remains a developing area within the University's sustainability framework, USEK has established meaningful foundations through:

- marine and coastal awareness activities;
- smart water management systems;
- freshwater ecosystem research;
- circular waste management practices; and
- biodiversity conservation initiatives.

Through these actions, USEK contributes to protecting aquatic ecosystems, reducing pollution risks, strengthening environmental awareness, and supporting sustainable management of Lebanon's freshwater and coastal resources.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
SeaWorld Exhibition	Awareness exhibition highlighting marine biodiversity, ocean conservation challenges, and aquatic ecosystem protection.
Protecting Birds at All Coasts	Coastal biodiversity initiative promoting protection of migratory birds and coastal habitats.
Sustainable fisheries discussions (Agora)	Knowledge-sharing activities addressing sustainable fisheries, marine resource management, and ocean conservation.
Our Water Footprint	Educational initiative connecting responsible water consumption with pollution prevention and aquatic ecosystem protection.
30×30 marine conservation objective awareness	Awareness activities supporting global marine conservation goals and ecosystem protection.
WISDOM-USEK smart water management	Digital water monitoring initiative supporting efficient water use and conservation.
Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Waste recovery system reducing pollution risks through recycling and resource recovery.
Close the Tap on Plastic	Awareness campaign reducing plastic consumption and preventing pollution.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 14
Master of Science in Environmental Technologies	Provides knowledge in environmental monitoring, pollution assessment, and sustainable resource management.
Department of Biology	Supports biodiversity research, ecosystem understanding, and environmental conservation.
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Addresses sustainable resource management, soil-water relationships, and ecosystem protection.
Sustainable Engineering programs	Support technological solutions for resource efficiency and environmental protection.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
Nahr Ibrahim Watershed water quality assessment	Research evaluating surface water quality through spatial and temporal analysis to support watershed management.
Marine conservation awareness	Educational and engagement activities promoting marine ecosystem protection.
Environmental monitoring research	Research activities supporting understanding of environmental quality and ecosystem conditions.
Water management research	Research and innovation related to sustainable water use and conservation.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Coastal and Maritime Public Policies	Discussed sustainable coastal governance, marine protection, and environmental policy development.
Energy and Water workshop	Raised awareness on responsible water use, conservation, and environmental sustainability.
SeaWorld exhibition	Promoted awareness of marine biodiversity and ocean conservation.
Connect With Nature activities	Encouraged appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem protection.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
WISDOM-USEK Smart Water Management	Smart monitoring platform improving water efficiency through sensors, meters, and data analysis.
Waterfull	Provides drinking water refill stations to reduce single-use plastic bottles and promote sustainable water consumption.
Our Water Footprint	Raises awareness about water conservation and responsible resource use.
Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Reduces pollution through recycling, waste recovery, and circular economy practices.
Recycling	Supports responsible resource management and reduces waste entering natural environments.
Compost	Converts organic waste into useful compost, reducing pollution risks.
Close the Tap on Plastic	Encourages reduction of plastic consumption and associated environmental impacts.
Bring Your Bucket	Promotes refill practices and reduction of single-use materials.
Protecting Birds at All Coasts	Supports biodiversity conservation and awareness of coastal ecosystems.
GAEA	Student environmental organization promoting sustainability awareness and environmental action.

Goal 15



LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) recognizes the protection of terrestrial ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management as essential components of its sustainability strategy. Through environmental research, biodiversity conservation initiatives, ecological restoration activities, sustainable landscaping practices, and community engagement, the University contributes to the preservation of Lebanon's natural ecosystems and the responsible management of land resources.

As a university located within a biodiversity-rich Mediterranean region, USEK adopts a living laboratory approach that connects academic learning, scientific research, and operational practices. The University uses its campus and field sites across Lebanon as platforms for biodiversity monitoring, forest research, climate-resilience studies, ecological restoration, and environmental education.

USEK's contribution to SDG 15 focuses on:
- protecting terrestrial biodiversity and habitats;
- restoring degraded ecosystems through native species planting;
- supporting forest conservation and climate resilience;
- integrating biodiversity considerations into campus planning and landscaping; and
- advancing research on sustainable land management and ecological systems.

Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Research Network

USEK has developed a national forest research and restoration network that supports teaching, research, and biodiversity monitoring across multiple Lebanese ecosystems.

The network functions as a living laboratory for terrestrial ecosystem studies, supporting:
- forest health assessment;
- biodiversity monitoring;
- climate resilience research;
- carbon sequestration studies;
- soil and water interaction analysis; and
- ecological restoration practices.

The field network includes:

Field Zone	Description
Bcharre Core Research Zone	Research activities focused on the Cedars of Lebanon region and forest ecosystem conservation.
Extended monitoring zones	Fourteen field locations supporting biodiversity and environmental monitoring.
National study areas	Eight additional research areas covering diverse Lebanese ecosystems.
Hboub Experimental Field	60,000-m^2 field area supporting agricultural, ecological, and sustainability research.

The complete field-site inventory, biodiversity observations, and species records are provided in the Campus and Field Biodiversity Appendix.



Forest Restoration and Native Species Planting

USEK contributes to ecosystem restoration through long-term reforestation initiatives conducted in collaboration with environmental organizations and local partners.

Since 2018, students, alumni, faculty, and staff have planted more than 1,500 native seedlings in:



Ehmej



Sannine



Mtein

The restoration activities prioritize native Lebanese species, including:



Cedrus libani (Lebanese Cedar)



Juniperus excelsa (Juniper)

These initiatives contribute to:
- habitat restoration;
- biodiversity enhancement;
- carbon sequestration;
- climate adaptation; and
- environmental awareness among students and communities.

Through direct participation in restoration activities, the University strengthens environmental responsibility and encourages active stewardship of Lebanon's natural heritage.

Campus Biodiversity and Ecological Management

USEK applies biodiversity principles within campus planning and landscape management to create a healthier and more resilient educational environment.

The Kaslik campus includes approximately:
- 15,000 m^2 of planted vegetation, representing around %31 of campus area;
- heritage trees exceeding 50 years old;
- native and ornamental plant species supporting ecological diversity.

Campus biodiversity initiatives include:



Habitat Creation and Wildlife Support

USEK supports biodiversity through:
- beehives supporting pollinator populations;
- student-developed insect hotels;
- birdhouses and habitat enhancement structures;
- wildlife rescue and release activities;
- humane campus cat welfare initiatives; and
- chicken coop systems contributing to circular organic waste management.

Sustainable Landscaping Practices

The University applies environmentally responsible landscaping approaches through:
- reduced pesticide use;
- ecological planting strategies;
- controlled irrigation practices; and
- monitoring technologies supporting efficient resource use.

These actions contribute to maintaining functional ecosystems and supporting biodiversity within an urbanized campus environment.



Biodiversity Awareness and Environmental Education

USEK promotes biodiversity awareness through educational initiatives that connect students and the wider community with natural ecosystems.

Key initiatives include:

Cedars of the Holy Spirit

A biodiversity conservation initiative promoting awareness of Lebanon's cedar forests and their ecological importance.

USEK International Day – Biodiversity Awareness (2025)

The event included:
- interactive biodiversity activities;
- educational discussions on migratory birds; and
- awareness sessions on habitat loss and ecosystem protection.

Bird Conservation Activities

Through birdwatching activities and awareness campaigns, USEK encourages understanding of:
- species diversity;
- migration patterns;
- ecological roles of birds; and
- threats affecting natural habitats.

These initiatives strengthen environmental literacy and encourage community participation in biodiversity conservation.

Research and Innovation Supporting Sustainable Land Management

USEK advances research related to terrestrial ecosystems, landscape sustainability, and ecological management.

A significant innovation contribution is the development of the:

Landscape Sustainability Assessment (LSA) Tool

The LSA tool is a patented USEK-developed innovation designed to support sustainable landscape assessment and planning.

The tool contributes to:
- climate-responsive landscape management;
- sustainable territorial planning;
- environmental decision-making; and
- assessment of landscape sustainability indicators.

The tool was applied in Lebanon through case studies, including the Zahle region, demonstrating the University's capacity to transform research into practical solutions.

Additional academic contributions include:
- agroecology education;
- soil remediation studies; and
- sustainable land management research integrated into graduate programs.

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Production Education

USEK promotes sustainable relationships between land resources, food systems, and environmental protection.

Through educational initiatives, such as Grow Your Own Food, students gain practical experience related to:
- sustainable food production;
- ecological gardening;
- responsible resource use; and
- biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices.

The Hboub Experimental Field further supports applied learning and research related to sustainable agriculture and environmental management.



Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 15 – Life on Land demonstrates a comprehensive approach combining biodiversity conservation, forest restoration, research innovation, and environmental education.

The establishment of a 20-plus-site national forest research network, the planting of more than 1,500 native seedlings, and the integration of biodiversity practices across approximately 15,000 m^2 of campus vegetation demonstrate USEK's commitment to protecting terrestrial ecosystems.

By combining scientific research, ecological restoration, student engagement, and sustainable campus management, USEK contributes to preserving Lebanon's natural heritage and advancing resilient ecosystems for future generations.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Birdwatching activities	Biodiversity education initiative promoting species observation, wildlife conservation awareness, and ecological monitoring.
Earth Day habitat restoration	Environmental activities supporting ecosystem restoration and protection of terrestrial habitats.
Plant a Tree Campaign	Reforestation initiative contributing to biodiversity enhancement, habitat restoration, and climate resilience.
Nature Healer – Myths or Facts	Awareness activity exploring relationships between biodiversity, ecosystems, and human well-being.
Wildlife and Well-Being	Educational initiative highlighting ecosystem services and wildlife conservation.
Seedballs Initiative	Biodiversity restoration activity supporting native plant regeneration and habitat recovery.
Protecting Birds at All Coasts	Conservation initiative promoting migratory bird protection and coastal habitat awareness.
USEK International Day – Biodiversity Awareness	Educational activities promoting biodiversity protection and environmental responsibility.
Habitat restoration activities	Restoration actions improving ecosystem health and supporting local biodiversity.
Bird Conservation Partnership (ABCL)	Collaboration supporting bird conservation, awareness, and biodiversity protection.
LSBD collaboration	Partnership supporting biodiversity and environmental initiatives.
International Tree Decoration Initiative	Environmental and cultural initiative promoting sustainability awareness.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 15
Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering	Education and research related to sustainable agriculture, soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem management.
Department of Biology	Research and teaching related to ecology, conservation biology, biodiversity, and terrestrial ecosystems.
MSc in Environmental Technologies	Advanced environmental analysis, ecosystem management, and sustainable environmental solutions.
MSc in Sustainable Engineering	Includes topics related to sustainability, resource efficiency, and environmental management.

Research/Projects

Research / Project	Description
ASMeC	Research activities addressing environmental challenges, biodiversity, and sustainability topics.
Landscape Sustainability Assessment (LSA) Tool	Patented innovation supporting sustainable landscape assessment and planning.
Biodiversity awareness research	Research and educational activities promoting understanding and protection of terrestrial ecosystems.
Agroecology research activities	Studies supporting sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem protection.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Connect with Nature – Hiking Trip	Promoted environmental appreciation, biodiversity awareness, and outdoor learning.
Cedars of the Holy Spirit	Raised awareness about cedar forest conservation and environmental stewardship.
USEK International Day – Biodiversity Awareness	Highlighted biodiversity protection, migratory birds, and ecosystem conservation.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Compost	Converts organic waste into nutrient-rich compost used in landscaping, improving soil quality and reducing landfill waste.
Cats	Supports humane care, sterilization, and responsible management of campus cat populations.
Insects	Protects beneficial insects and pollinators through habitat creation and awareness activities.
Seedballs	Produces native plant seedballs supporting habitat restoration and biodiversity enhancement.
Plant a Tree	Engages the community in tree planting for biodiversity and climate resilience.
Wild gardens	Creates natural habitats supporting birds, pollinators, and wildlife.
Birdwatching	Promotes ecological observation, biodiversity monitoring, and environmental education.
Animal Welfare	Encourages the ethical treatment and protection of animals.
Grow Your Own Food	Provides practical education on sustainable food production and ecological gardening.

Expanded SDG 15 Commitment Areas

Research Excellence on Terrestrial Ecosystems

USEK advances research addressing biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and ecosystem resilience.

Research areas include:
- forest ecology;
- biodiversity monitoring;
- sustainable agriculture;
- landscape assessment; and
- ecological restoration.

Through scientific publications, field research, and applied innovation, USEK contributes to knowledge generation supporting terrestrial ecosystem protection.

Education for Ecosystem Protection

USEK integrates biodiversity and environmental sustainability into academic programs and community learning opportunities.

Educational activities include:
- biodiversity awareness events;
- forest conservation activities;

- ecological field experiences; and
- sustainable agriculture education.

These initiatives prepare students to become environmental professionals and responsible citizens.

Action for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health

USEK implements direct biodiversity protection measures through:
- native tree planting;
- habitat restoration;
- wildlife support initiatives;
- pollinator protection; and
- sustainable landscaping.

The University continues to strengthen biodiversity integration within campus development and operations.

Responsible Land and Resource Management

USEK minimizes environmental pressures on terrestrial ecosystems through:
- reduced pesticide use;
- sustainable waste management;
- composting and organic resource recovery;
- responsible landscaping practices; and
- biodiversity-sensitive campus planning.

Goal 16



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Institutional Commitment

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) recognizes that strong institutions, access to justice, ethical governance, and inclusive societies are fundamental pillars of sustainable development. Through education, research, institutional governance, public dialogue, and community engagement, the University contributes to advancing peaceful societies, strengthening the rule of law, and promoting accountable institutions.

The University's commitment to SDG 16 is reflected through its governance framework, academic integrity standards, legal and political education, transparency mechanisms, crisis preparedness, and initiatives promoting dialogue, social cohesion, and civic responsibility.

USEK promotes:

- ethical and accountable governance;
- transparency and institutional integrity;
- access to justice and legal awareness;

- inclusive decision-making;
- peaceful dialogue and intercultural understanding; and
- responsible citizenship and community engagement.

Through these efforts, USEK contributes to building institutions that are resilient, inclusive, and responsive to societal challenges.

Good Governance, Ethics, and Institutional Accountability

USEK maintains a governance framework built on integrity, transparency, accountability, and responsible leadership.

The University's Staff Bylaws establish standards related to:
- professional ethics;
- code of Conduct
- responsible behavior;
- conflict of interest management;
- institutional responsibility; and
- anti-corruption principles.

To strengthen accountability, USEK provides confidential reporting mechanisms that allow members of the University community to raise concerns regarding misconduct while ensuring appropriate review procedures and protection against retaliation.

Institutional governance is further supported through:
- transparent procurement procedures;
- internal audit mechanisms;
- financial control systems;
- risk management practices; and
- institutional policy development and review.

These structures promote trust, responsible management, and continuous institutional improvement.

Academic Integrity and Responsible Research

Academic integrity is a core value at USEK. The University promotes honesty, fairness, and ethical responsibility across teaching, learning, and research activities.

Institutional mechanisms address:
- plagiarism prevention;
- responsible research practices;
- ethical research conduct;
- fair assessment procedures; and
- research ethics review.

Research involving human participants or regulated activities follows ethical oversight procedures to ensure compliance with professional standards and responsible knowledge creation.

Through these practices, USEK prepares students and researchers to contribute responsibly to society.

Justice, Law, and Civic Education

USEK contributes to SDG 16 through academic programs and initiatives that strengthen understanding of justice, governance, human rights, and public responsibility.

Through the School of Law and Political Sciences and related academic programs, the University prepares graduates capable of contributing to:

- legal systems;
- justice institutions;
- public administration;
- international relations; and
- governance structures.

Law and civic education provide students with strong ethical foundations and professional competencies that support justice, responsible citizenship, and institutional development.

Dialogue, Peacebuilding, and Social Cohesion

USEK promotes peaceful societies by creating platforms for dialogue, critical thinking, and intercultural understanding.

Through conferences, debates, and public discussions, the University addresses topics, including:

- governance;
- human rights;
- ethics;
- international relations;
- sustainability;
- social justice; and
- peacebuilding.

Initiatives, such as the Agora debates, Dean's Forum: Law, Politics, and Beyond, and international dialogue activities provide spaces where students, academics, experts, and community members exchange perspectives on complex societal challenges.

The University also supports initiatives promoting diversity, coexistence, and social harmony through research and community engagement.



Participatory Governance and Inclusive Decision-Making

USEK encourages participation from students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders in institutional life.

Inclusive governance mechanisms include:
- student representation through elected bodies;
- faculty representation through the Faculty Senate;
- staff representation through the Staff Representative Committee;
- participation in University committees;
- student organizations and engagement platforms; and
- stakeholder consultations.

These practices strengthen a collaborative University culture where members of the community contribute to institutional development and decision-making processes.

The University also promotes:
- equal opportunities;
- non-discrimination;
- accessibility; and
- respectful dialogue.

Data Protection and Digital Governance

USEK recognizes responsible digital governance as an essential component of strong institutions.

The University implements measures to protect personal information and ensure responsible information management through:
- secure digital systems;
- access control mechanisms;
- information security practices;
- cybersecurity measures; and
- responsible data handling procedures.

These practices strengthen institutional resilience and protect stakeholder trust in an increasingly digital environment.

Institutional Resilience and Crisis Management

USEK strengthens institutional preparedness through structured crisis management and risk mitigation mechanisms.

A dedicated Crisis Management Committee supports:
- emergency preparedness;
- coordinated response procedures;
- business continuity planning; and
- institutional risk management.

These systems ensure that academic and administrative activities can continue effectively during challenging circumstances while protecting the safety and well-being of the University community.

Sustainability Governance and Institutional Responsibility

USEK integrates sustainability into institutional governance through dedicated structures, including:
- the Sustainability Office;
- the Green Committee; and
- the University Sustainability Master Plan.

These structures coordinate sustainability initiatives, monitor performance indicators, and support evidence-based decision-making aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Through sustainability governance, USEK strengthens institutional accountability and ensures that sustainability principles are embedded across operations, education, and research.

Supporting National Institutions Through Education Access

USEK contributes to inclusive access to education through formal agreements with national security institutions.

The University provides tuition discounts for active-duty personnel from:
- Lebanese Army;
- Internal Security Forces;
- General Security;
- State Security;
- Lebanese Customs.

This initiative supports professional development, lifelong learning, and inclusive access to higher education for servicemen and women serving in national institutions.

Impact

USEK's contribution to SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions demonstrates its commitment to ethical governance, justice education, institutional accountability, and inclusive dialogue.

Through transparent governance mechanisms, academic integrity frameworks, responsible research practices, and participatory decision-making structures, USEK has established an institutional environment based on trust, responsibility, and continuous improvement.

The University strengthens peace and justice through legal education, civic engagement initiatives, public discussions, and research addressing social cohesion, governance, human rights, and inclusion.

Through initiatives supporting national institutions, including educational access agreements with security organizations, USEK contributes to professional development and institutional capacity building.

By embedding principles of integrity, accountability, dialogue, and inclusion throughout its operations, USEK continues to advance SDG 16 and contribute to the development of peaceful, just, and resilient societies.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
Environmental law debate	Academic discussions promoting awareness of environmental governance, legislation, and environmental justice.
Frank Capra screenings	Cultural activities encouraging reflection on ethics, citizenship, social values, and human experiences.
Civic engagement activities	Initiatives promoting active citizenship, participation, and social responsibility.
Volunteer programs	Student engagement opportunities supporting community service and social responsibility.
International dialogue activities	Platforms promoting intercultural understanding, dialogue, and peaceful cooperation.
Agora debates	Discussions addressing ethical, environmental, and social challenges through constructive dialogue.
Military tuition discounts	Educational support agreements with national security institutions providing tuition discounts to active-duty personnel.

Academic Programs

Academic Program/ Department	Relevance to SDG 16
School of Law and Political Sciences	Provides education in law, governance, international relations, political sciences, and justice systems.
Law program	Prepares graduates for legal careers based on ethics, justice, and rule of law principles.
Criminology program	Develops understanding of crime prevention, justice systems, and social responsibility.
Forensic science program	Provides scientific approaches supporting justice and investigation processes.
International relations program	Develops knowledge related to diplomacy, cooperation, and global governance.
Department of Communication Arts	Supports ethical communication, public awareness, and responsible media practices.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
Religious and cultural pluralism	Research examining diversity, coexistence, dialogue, and social harmony.
Familial separation research	Studies social impacts, resilience, and human experiences during crises.
Citizenship education	Research and educational initiatives promoting civic values and responsible citizenship.
Life stories	Research documenting experiences related to identity, memory, conflict, and reconciliation.
Women as Agents of Peace	Research highlighting women's contributions to peacebuilding and social stability.
Legal Clinic	Community initiative providing legal awareness and support.
SAWA	Initiative supporting dialogue, inclusion, and social cohesion.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
Coastal and Maritime Public Policies	Discussed governance, environmental policy, and sustainable public decision-making.
Recovery & Healing: A Response to Sexual Violence (WPS)	Promoted awareness of gender-based violence prevention and women's peace and security initiatives.
Inauguration Day	Reinforced institutional values, community belonging, and civic responsibility.
The EU and its Role in Lebanon	Explored diplomacy, international cooperation, and development partnerships.
Beirut International Summit on Diversity, Faith, and Sustainability	Promoted intercultural dialogue, diversity, peacebuilding, and sustainability.
Women in Diplomacy	Highlighted women's leadership and participation in international affairs.
AI Governance in Education	Addressed ethical and regulatory dimensions of artificial intelligence.
Empowering the Future Agents of Change (WPS)	Supported youth engagement in gender equality and peacebuilding.
Dean's Forum: Law, Politics, and Beyond	Discussed contemporary legal and political challenges.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program/Initiative	Description
Civic GEPS205	Integrates civic responsibility and sustainability through student-led community projects.
Agora	Provides a platform for discussions, debates, exhibitions, and knowledge exchange.
Diversity and equality initiatives	Support inclusion, dialogue, and respectful campus environments.
Volunteer programs	Encourage community service and social responsibility.

Expanded SDG 16 Commitment Areas

Research for Peace and Justice

USEK supports research addressing:
- governance;
- law and justice;
- human rights;
- social cohesion;
- institutional development; and
- peacebuilding.

Through interdisciplinary research, the University contributes knowledge supporting stronger institutions and equitable societies.

Transparent and Inclusive Governance

USEK promotes:
- accountable leadership;
- stakeholder participation;
- ethical governance;
- academic freedom; and
- institutional transparency.

Governance structures ensure that members of the University community have opportunities to participate in institutional development.

Government Engagement and Policy Support

USEK contributes expertise to societal development through:
- academic forums;
- policy discussions;
- legal expertise; and
- public dialogue platforms.

The University provides spaces for evidence-based discussions addressing national and regional challenges.

Graduates Supporting Justice Systems

Through law, USEK prepares graduates who contribute to:
- justice institutions;
- legal professions;
- public administration; and
- security and governance sectors.

Supporting National Institutions Through Education

Through agreements with national security organizations, USEK promotes access to higher education and professional development for active-duty personnel.

This initiative reflects the University's commitment to inclusive education and institutional capacity building.

Goal 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



Institutional Commitment

Partnerships are the cornerstone of the sustainability strategy at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) and the driving force behind the University's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Through an extensive network of collaboration with governments, international organizations, higher education institutions, research centers, industry leaders, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, USEK strengthens its capacity to deliver excellence in education, research, innovation, community engagement, and sustainable campus operations.

Rather than functioning as isolated initiatives, these partnerships create an integrated ecosystem that supports interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange, mobility, technology transfer, external funding, policy dialogue, and capacity building. They enable USEK to translate academic expertise into practical solutions that address environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

The University's partnership strategy is built upon long-term collaboration, mutual benefit, shared responsibility, and measurable societal impact. By combining international academic cooperation with community engagement, research collaboration, institutional development, and public-private partnerships, USEK continues to expand its contribution to sustainable development while strengthening its role as a globally connected institution.

USEK Partnership Profile (2025)

Partnership Indicator	2025
Sustainability-focused international academic programs	8
International university partnerships	+100 institutions
Countries represented through academic partnerships	+20
Externally funded collaborative projects	15
Sustainability research funding (2025–2023)	Substantial funding secured
Active participant in the United Nations Global Compact	✓
Government, NGO, municipal and industry partnerships	Extensive national and international network

These partnerships collectively support research excellence, academic mobility, institutional development, innovation, community service, and sustainable campus operations while advancing the University's contribution to all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

Multilateral and Global Engagement

USEK actively participates in international sustainability initiatives that promote responsible institutional governance, environmental stewardship, academic collaboration, and global knowledge exchange. Through multilateral engagement, the University contributes to international dialogue on sustainable development while benchmarking its institutional performance against globally recognized frameworks.

Key initiatives include:

- United Nations Global Compact: USEK is an active participant and publishes a Communication on Engagement (COE), demonstrating transparency and continuous commitment to the Compact's Ten Principles covering human rights, labor standards, environmental responsibility, and anti-corruption.
- UI GreenMetric Online Course on Sustainability: This course is co-developed with seven universities representing seven countries, including Universitas Indonesia, El Bosque University, the University of Szeged, the University of São Paulo, the University of Sharjah, ESPOCH, and the University of Sousse. The initiative extends USEK's sustainability expertise to an international audience while promoting collaborative teaching and intercultural learning.
- Interdisciplinary Summer School on Sustainable Rebuilding and Good Governance (Bali): This project, organized in collaboration with Universitas Airlangga, Maastricht University, and international partners, provides students with problem-based learning experiences focused on sustainable reconstruction, resilience, governance, and post-crisis recovery.

Through these global initiatives, USEK strengthens international cooperation, shares best practices, promotes sustainability education beyond national borders, and reinforces its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through collective action.

International Sustainability Networks and Benchmarking

Beyond project-based collaboration, USEK actively engages in international sustainability networks and benchmarking initiatives that foster institutional learning, peer exchange, and continuous improvement. Participation in global platforms enables the University to compare its sustainability performance with leading higher education institutions worldwide while contributing to the development of innovative solutions addressing environmental, social, and governance challenges.

These international engagements reinforce USEK's position as an active contributor to the global higher education community and demonstrate the University's commitment to transparency, accountability, and international collaboration.

International Academic Sustainability Programs

USEK has established a portfolio of international academic partnerships that place sustainability at the heart of education, research, and innovation. Eight strategic collaborations specifically focus on environmental technologies, sustainable agriculture, food systems, renewable energy, environmental engineering, and sustainable construction, providing students and researchers with opportunities to engage in internationally recognized academic programs while addressing global sustainability challenges.

These partnerships promote academic excellence through dual degrees, joint supervision, student and faculty mobility, collaborative research, curriculum development, and interdisciplinary learning, strengthening USEK's contribution to sustainable development across multiple disciplines.

Partner	Program/Focus	Primary SDGs
Aix-Marseille Université (France)	Dual MSc in Environmental Technologies – Air Quality and Analysis (36 credits)	SDGs 11 ,13
INP Toulouse – ENSAT / INP Agrotoulouse	Master's in Agronomy – Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems	SDGs 12 ,2
ISARA-Lyon (France)	Agroecology and Sustainable Food Production	SDGs 15 ,2
Oniris (France)	Food Sustainability and Veterinary Public Health	SDGs 12 ,3
IMT Atlantique (France)	Environment, Energy and Digital Transition Engineering	SDGs 13 ,7
UniLaSalle Beauvais (France)	Environmental Sciences, Agriculture and Earth Systems	SDGs 15 ,13
University of Sassari (Italy)	Environmental and Agricultural Research	SDGs 13 ,15
Saint-Gobain Middle East	Sustainable Construction Materials and Resource Efficiency	SDGs 12 ,9

Among these collaborations, the flagship partnership is the Dual Master of Science in Environmental Technologies (Air Quality and Analysis) with Aix-Marseille Université, enabling eligible students to obtain degrees from both institutions. The program combines advanced coursework in Analytical Chemistry of the Environment, Physicochemistry of the Atmosphere, Meteorology and Indoor Air Quality, and field-based environmental assessment, preparing graduates to address complex environmental challenges through scientific analysis, applied research, and sustainable environmental management.

International Mobility and Academic Cooperation

Beyond sustainability-focused programs, USEK maintains an extensive network of more than 100 international academic agreements spanning Europe, North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. These partnerships facilitate student and faculty mobility, joint research, dual-degree opportunities, doctoral collaboration, curriculum development, professional training, and intercultural exchange.

By promoting international mobility and collaborative learning, USEK provides students and staff with access to diverse academic environments while strengthening the University's global engagement and international reputation.

Broader International Agreement Portfolio

Beyond its sustainability-focused academic programs, USEK maintains an extensive international partnership network comprising more than 100 cooperation agreements with universities and higher education institutions across Europe, North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. These collaborations provide a strong foundation for academic excellence, internationalization, interdisciplinary research, innovation, and institutional development.

The University's international agreements support:

- student and faculty mobility;
- joint research and scientific publications;
- dual-degree and joint-degree programs;
- doctoral cooperation and co-supervision;
- curriculum development and academic innovation;
- professional development and capacity building; and
- knowledge transfer and intercultural exchange.

This global network enables USEK students and faculty to engage with internationally recognized institutions while strengthening the University's contribution to research, education, innovation, and sustainable development.

Representative partner institutions include:

Institution	Cooperation Type
Hamad Bin Khalifa University (Qatar)	Education programs, exchange of expertise/personnel, and student exchange
Babson College (USA)	Student/staff exchange and joint research
Stellenbosch University (South Africa)	Student/staff exchange and joint research
HEC Montréal (Canada)	Dual degree
Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas (France)	Doctoral development, Master's collaboration
Sorbonne Université (France)	Student exchange
Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (France)	Exchange, joint research, and academic cooperation
World Maritime University	Student/staff exchange and joint research
University of Urbino Carlo Bo (Italy)	Exchange, joint research, and conservation programs
Le Cordon Bleu International	Dual degree

USEK's broader international partnership portfolio extends to institutions, including Aix-Marseille Université, Université Catholique de Louvain, Concordia University, University of Nicosia, Université Grenoble Alpes, IMT Atlantique, INP Toulouse, Oniris, UniLaSalle Beauvais, University of Heidelberg, University of Sassari, Sapienza University of Rome, Roma Tre University, University of Jordan, Zarqa University, University of Basel, University of Fribourg, Abu Dhabi University, Ajman University, Florida International University, Stockholm University, University of Leiden, Vytautas Magnus University, Sabanci University, and many others across more than twenty countries.

Together, these partnerships reinforce USEK's internationalization strategy and create opportunities for collaborative teaching, research excellence, innovation, and sustainable development.

Institutional Capacity Building Through Partnerships

International cooperation at USEK extends beyond student mobility and research collaboration to strengthen institutional capacity, administrative excellence, and continuous professional development.

Through partnerships with universities, professional organizations, technology providers, and specialized training institutions, USEK continuously enhances institutional competencies in digital transformation, educational innovation, leadership development, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and organizational effectiveness.

These collaborations contribute to the continuous improvement of teaching methodologies, research capabilities, administrative services, and institutional governance while supporting the University's long-term strategic objectives.

Digital Transformation and Professional Development

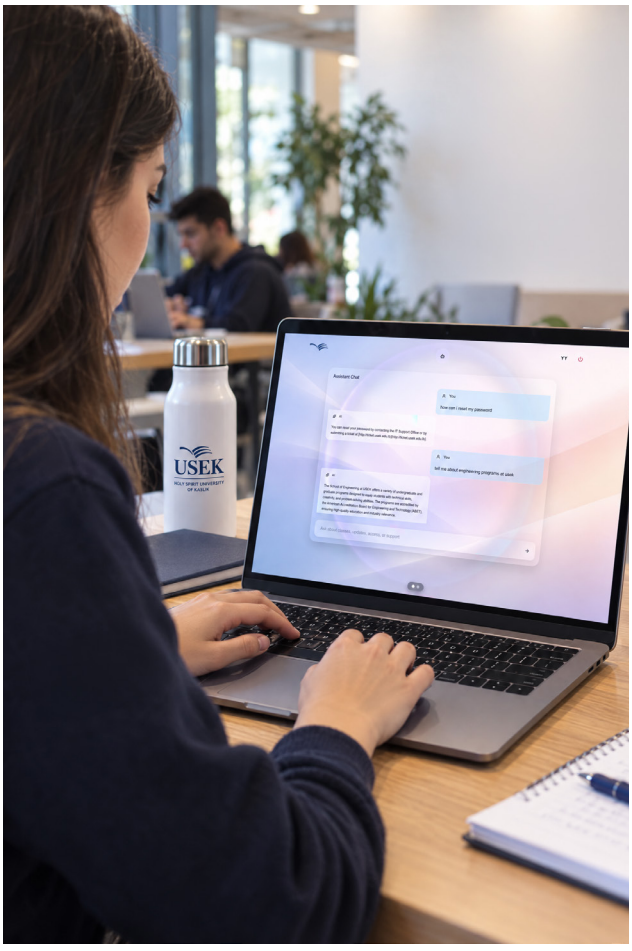
USEK's learning and development framework integrates international collaboration into staff capacity building through annual training needs assessments and continuous professional development programs.

Partnerships with specialized organizations support training in:

- Artificial Intelligence;
- figital literacy;
- Microsoft Office applications;
- Power BI and business intelligence;
- data analytics;
- emerging digital technologies;
- educational technologies; and
- knowledge management and internal capacity building.

Training requirements are identified annually through institutional planning processes that consider strategic priorities, technological developments, and future workforce needs. Internal knowledge-sharing, mentoring, and work-shadowing initiatives complement external professional development opportunities, creating a culture of continuous learning throughout the University.

These initiatives strengthen institutional resilience while ensuring that academic and administrative staff remain equipped with the skills required to support innovation and digital transformation.



Funded Collaborative Projects (Active or Completed, 2025–2023)

USEK's sustainability agenda is reinforced through competitive external funding obtained from international organizations, governments, development agencies, research institutions, foundations, and industry partners.

Between 2023 and 2025, the University successfully implemented fifteen externally funded collaborative projects, demonstrating both the international competitiveness of its researchers and the confidence placed in USEK by external funding organizations.

These projects span a wide range of disciplines, including climate action, sustainable development, innovation, entrepreneurship, agriculture, cultural heritage, digital transformation, community resilience, women's empowerment, environmental protection, and economic development.

Grantor/ Partner	Project	Description	Funding Status
Berytech Foundation	ACT Smart	Support entrepreneurship, innovation, and capacity building through technology-driven solutions and startup development.	Externally funded
ALIPH / Hungary Helps	Renovation of Monasteries – Hadchit	Restore and preserve cultural and religious heritage sites to safeguard Lebanon's historical identity.	Externally funded
DAI	SWYPE (completed 2024)	Strengthen youth employability and entrepreneurship through skills development, innovation, and workforce readiness initiatives.	Externally funded
Institute of Missiology (Missio)	Postgraduate Research Group	Support postgraduate research in theology, missiology, and interdisciplinary studies through collaborative academic research.	Externally funded
U.S. Embassy	Women, Peace & Security – Future Agents of Empowerment	Empower women and youth through leadership training, peacebuilding, civic engagement, and gender equality initiatives.	Externally funded
Growth Technology	Developing New Academic Offerings	Support the design and implementation of innovative academic programs aligned with emerging market and technological needs.	Externally funded
British Library	EAP1748 – Safeguarding Lebanon's Early Printed Books (1939–1610)	Preserve, digitize, and provide access to Lebanon's rare printed heritage and historical archives.	Externally funded
Industrial Research Institute	Lebanon Innovate	Promote research, innovation, and technology transfer to strengthen industrial competitiveness and sustainable development.	Externally funded
CIHEAM	Start-up 10 (completed 2025)	Support agrifood entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup development through training, mentoring, and business incubation.	Externally funded

AUF	Franco-Lebanese Business Law Master (Master 2)	Develop a joint academic program enhancing expertise in international and business law through French-Lebanese cooperation.	Externally funded
AUF	Secondary Metabolites of Two Fungal Strains	Conduct scientific research on fungal metabolites with potential applications in biotechnology, medicine, and pharmaceuticals.	Externally funded
Italian Cultural Institute of Beirut	SOAB	Promote cultural cooperation, academic exchange, and heritage preservation through collaborative educational initiatives.	Externally funded
UNIDO	Twinning for Sustainable SME Development in Lebanon	Strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises by fostering sustainable business practices, innovation, and international partnerships.	Externally funded
University of Fribourg	Youth in Crisis (RPG44-2023-)	Investigate the social, psychological, and educational challenges faced by youth during periods of crisis to inform evidence-based interventions.	Externally funded
American Psychological Association (APA)	Life Stories; Interpersonal Separations Research	Examine life narratives and interpersonal separation experiences to advance psychological research on well-being and human relationships.	Externally funded

These projects demonstrate the breadth of USEK's research collaborations and illustrate the University's ability to address national and global challenges through interdisciplinary partnerships and externally funded initiatives.

Sustainability Research Funding

Dedicated sustainability research funding grew steadily over the reporting period:
- a baseline level in 2023;
- a reduced level in 2024; and
- a recovered and increased level in 2025.

This represents a substantial cumulative investment over the three-year reporting period.

The sustained growth of competitive external funding reflects the increasing recognition of USEK's research excellence while enabling the University to expand interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthen laboratory capacity, support graduate research, and develop innovative solutions addressing environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges.

External Funding Impact

Beyond financial investment, externally funded collaborative projects create lasting institutional value by strengthening research capacity, expanding international scientific collaboration, supporting student and faculty development, enhancing innovation, and generating practical solutions for communities.

These partnerships enable USEK to translate academic research into tangible societal impact through technology transfer, policy support, entrepreneurship, cultural heritage preservation, environmental management, sustainable agriculture, and community resilience.

The diversity of funding partners further demonstrates the University's credibility as a trusted academic institution capable of delivering high-quality research and implementing complex multidisciplinary projects that contribute directly to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Community, Government, NGO, and Industry Alliances

USEK believes that sustainable development can only be achieved through meaningful collaboration with local communities, public institutions, civil society organizations, municipalities, industry, and international development partners. These long-standing partnerships enable the University to extend the impact of its education and research beyond campus boundaries while contributing directly to national and regional sustainable development priorities.

Through community engagement, environmental stewardship, social responsibility, innovation, and knowledge transfer, USEK works alongside partners to develop practical solutions addressing environmental protection, circular economy, biodiversity conservation, social inclusion, cultural heritage, entrepreneurship, and community resilience.

Community and NGO Partnerships

USEK has established long-term collaborations with non-governmental organizations that support environmental sustainability, social development, biodiversity conservation, and circular economy initiatives.

Key partnerships include:

- Compost Baladi: This strategic partnership, established in 2017, led to the creation of USEK's on-campus composting center and continues to support organic waste recovery, compost production, and environmental awareness.
- Lebanese Reforestation Initiative (LRI): This collaboration has supported native species reforestation and ecosystem restoration through the planting of more than 1,500 native trees since 2018.
- FabricAID: This partnership promotes textile circularity through the collection, reuse, and recycling of clothing while encouraging responsible consumption within the University community.
- S'AIME NGO: The partnership with this NGO supports social solidarity initiatives and community engagement.
- Hope Club: This collaboration promotes volunteerism and community service.
- GIZ: The partnership with this German development agency supports sustainability initiatives, capacity building, and environmental development.

These collaborations demonstrate USEK's commitment to integrating environmental stewardship with social responsibility while strengthening local communities through shared action.

Government and Municipal Partnerships

USEK actively collaborates with ministries, municipalities, public institutions, and governmental agencies to support education, environmental protection, public health, innovation, research, and sustainable development.

These partnerships facilitate:

- policy dialogue;
- technical expertise;
- scientific research;
- environmental monitoring;
- capacity building;
- community outreach; and
- sustainable development planning.

Collaboration with municipalities and governmental authorities strengthens the University's contribution to local environmental management, biodiversity conservation, circular economy initiatives, and public awareness while reinforcing the University's civic engagement mission.

Industry Partnerships

Strategic partnerships with industry enable USEK to bridge academic knowledge with professional practice while supporting innovation and sustainable economic development.

The University collaborates with companies and professional organizations in areas including:
- sustainable construction;
- renewable energy;
- environmental technologies;
- agriculture and food systems;
- engineering;
- entrepreneurship;
- digital transformation; and
- applied research.

Among these collaborations, the partnership with Saint-Gobain Middle East contributes to sustainable construction materials, resource efficiency, and innovation in the built environment.

Industry collaborations also provide valuable opportunities for internships, applied research, technology transfer, curriculum enhancement, and graduate employability while supporting the transition toward more sustainable industries.

Circular Economy Partnerships

USEK's circular economy model relies on strong partnerships throughout the waste value chain.



Beyond on-campus waste sorting and processing, the University collaborates with downstream recycling industries to ensure that the recyclable materials collected through the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) are properly recovered and transformed into new products.

Supplier monitoring visits verify material traceability from collection through final recycling, ensuring transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement throughout the recycling process.

These partnerships reinforce USEK's commitment to responsible resource management and circular economy principles.

Sustainability Partnerships Across Campus

The Sustainability Office works closely with academic and administrative units, student organizations, municipalities, NGOs, governmental institutions, international organizations, and private-sector partners to implement sustainability initiatives across the University.

These collaborations support:
- climate action;
- renewable energy;
- biodiversity conservation;
- sustainable mobility;
- waste management;
- water conservation;
- environmental education;
- student engagement;
- research; and
- community outreach.

By integrating sustainability into teaching, research, operations, and community engagement, these partnerships contribute directly to the implementation of multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

Partnership Pipeline (Subsequent Developments)

Following the 2025 reporting period, USEK continued expanding its international partnership ecosystem through new academic and research collaborations aligned with its strategic sustainability priorities.



Among the most significant developments are:

- partnership discussions with Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Porto) through the ReCROP Network, strengthening cooperation in sustainability education and research;
- confirmation of Al Zarqa University (Jordan) as a partner in the OLIVECLIMATE-LEVANT proposal under the AFD AdaptAction Facility, supporting climate adaptation strategies for olive production across the Levant region.

These initiatives reflect USEK's continued commitment to expanding international collaboration while addressing emerging environmental and societal challenges through joint research, innovation, and knowledge exchange.

As additional agreements are finalized, they will further strengthen the University's international partnership portfolio and contribute to future sustainability reporting.

Impact

Partnerships are the enabling force behind USEK's sustainability achievements and represent one of the University's greatest institutional strengths. Through an extensive network of collaborations with international universities, governments, multilateral organizations, municipalities, industry leaders, civil society organizations, research institutes, and local communities, USEK has established a dynamic partnership ecosystem that supports education, research, innovation, institutional development, and community engagement.

The University's partnerships generate value far beyond individual projects. They provide access to international expertise, competitive research funding, advanced technologies, academic mobility, professional development, policy dialogue, interdisciplinary collaboration, and opportunities for students and researchers to address real-world sustainability challenges.

During the reporting period, USEK maintained more than 100 international academic partnerships, implemented 15 externally funded collaborative projects, secured substantial sustainability research funding over three years, strengthened its engagement with the United Nations Global Compact, expanded community partnerships, and continued developing strategic collaborations with governments, municipalities, international organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations.

These collaborations reinforce USEK's capacity to deliver measurable contributions across environmental protection, education, research excellence, innovation, cultural heritage, social development, entrepreneurship, climate action, biodiversity conservation, and responsible institutional governance.

By embedding collaboration into every dimension of its mission, USEK demonstrates that sustainable development is achieved through shared knowledge, mutual trust, and collective action. The University's partnership ecosystem not only advances SDG 17, but also serves as the catalyst that accelerates progress across all other Sustainable Development Goals, making partnerships one of the defining pillars of USEK's institutional strategy and long-term vision for sustainability.

Activities and Initiatives

Activity/Initiative	Description
International agreements	Strategic partnerships supporting academic cooperation, research collaboration, and knowledge exchange.
Ambassador visits	Institutional and diplomatic engagements strengthening international cooperation.
International mobility programs	Exchange opportunities promoting global learning and academic collaboration.
Fulbright sessions	Activities promoting international scholarships and academic opportunities.
Campus France sessions	Sessions supporting international education pathways and mobility opportunities.
Green USEK campus activities	Green Committee / Office of Sustainability programming advancing environmental initiatives and campus community engagement.
Lebanese Army collaboration	Institutional partnership supporting community initiatives and engagement activities.
FabricAID partnership	Collaboration supporting textile reuse, social inclusion, and circular economy practices.
Private sector collaborations	Partnerships connecting academia and industry for innovation, research, and sustainable development.
NGO community partnerships (Hope Club and others)	Collaboration with NGOs supporting community engagement, social inclusion, and volunteer activities.
Corporate and Foundation scholarship partnerships	Named scholarship programs funded through corporate and foundation partners, including LifeLebanon, the Tomooh Scholarship (PepsiCo International and Ajialouna), the Intisar Foundation, and the Amal Abou Zeid Scholarship.
USEK Business School international network	Membership and partnership network spanning PRME, EFMD, AACSB, AUF, Eduniversal and BEPS, and partner business schools across Europe, North America and the region.

Research/Projects

Research/Project	Description
ACT Smart	Collaborative innovation project supporting sustainable agriculture, food systems, and clean technologies.
ASMeC	Research collaboration addressing environmental challenges and sustainability issues.
iHeritage	International research collaboration applying innovation to cultural heritage preservation.
SWYPE	Partnership-based water sustainability research initiative.
WASIP	Collaborative project improving water management and sustainability practices.
Twinning SMEs	International cooperation supporting SME development and knowledge transfer.
ODEFI	Capacity-building and innovation project strengthening institutional and economic development.
IDEES Projects	Collaborative research initiatives addressing social challenges and community resilience.
Social tourism	Research collaboration exploring inclusive and sustainable tourism models.
Women as Agents of Peace	Collaborative research promoting gender equality and peacebuilding.
Cultural pluralism	Research and engagement activities promoting intercultural dialogue and coexistence.
International institutional accreditations	Recurring reviews by evalag, the EUA Institutional Evaluation Programme, the UK Matrix Standard, ABET, and NAAB underpin USEK's international quality partnerships. During the reporting period, USEK was a candidate for NECHE accreditation; NECHE accreditation was subsequently granted after the reporting period.

Related Events and Community Engagement (2025)

Event/Activity	Description
IdeaLab Batch 5	Supported student entrepreneurship through innovation mentoring, startup development, and collaborative partnerships.
Doctoral College gathering	Brought together doctoral students and researchers to strengthen collaboration and interdisciplinary research.
Seeds of Innovation workshop and panel	Encouraged innovation in agriculture, food systems, and sustainable entrepreneurship through expert discussions.
Sunset Stories series – Mr. Fady Debbane	Featured an accomplished professional sharing leadership experiences and career insights.
AARU Strategic Planning workshop	Strengthened regional academic collaboration and institutional strategic planning.
Voice of Change talk	Inspired innovation, leadership, and collaborative solutions for societal challenges.
The EU and its Role in Lebanon	Explored European Union cooperation, diplomacy, and development partnerships in Lebanon.
Beirut International Summit on Diversity, Faith, and Sustainability	Brought together international experts to discuss diversity, intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding, and sustainability.
Women in Diplomacy	Highlighted women's leadership and participation in diplomacy and international affairs.
Sunset Stories series – Mr. Philippe Jabre	Shared entrepreneurial experiences and career development insights with students.
Erasmus+ Day	Promoted international academic mobility and collaborative educational opportunities.
Industry Advisory Gathering 2025	Strengthened collaboration between academia and industry to enhance graduate employability.
Research in Action for Social Impact	Showcased research projects addressing societal challenges through innovation and partnerships.
Sunset Stories series – Mr. Ludovic Dirand	Inspired students through professional success stories and entrepreneurial experiences.
UBS Alumni Impact – Marketing Competition	Challenged students to develop innovative marketing solutions while engaging alumni expertise.
Demo Day – IdeaLab Batch 5	Allowed student entrepreneurs to present innovative projects to mentors, partners, and investors.

Related Sustainability Programs

Program / Initiative	Description
GAEA	Student environmental organization that promotes sustainability awareness, volunteering, and environmental action through campus and community initiatives.
Agora	Interactive platform for sustainability workshops, exhibitions, discussions, and awareness campaigns that foster community engagement.
Dream Box	Collects innovative ideas and suggestions from the university community to improve campus sustainability.
Civic GEPS205	Integrates civic engagement and sustainability into academic learning through student-led community projects addressing environmental and social challenges.

03

APPENDICES

Supporting data, methodology, and reference material.

Note: The activities, initiatives, research, academic programs, and related events and programs formerly listed in this appendix have been integrated directly into each SDG chapter above (SDG 1 through SDG 17) for ease of reference.



Appendix I

SDG-Aligned University Activities, Events, and Community Engagement Initiatives (2025)

Event/Activity	SDG(s)	Brief Description
Orientation Session	SDG 4	Introduced new students to University life, academic resources, student services, and campus sustainability initiatives.
Energy and Water Workshop	SDGs 7 ,6, and 13	Raised awareness on responsible water use, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate action practices.
Certification Award Ceremony Les Misérables with Dr. Georges Khabbaz	SDG4	Celebrated artistic excellence and recognized participants through a cultural and educational theatrical event.
Welcome Day – Kaslik Campus	SDGs 4 and 10	Welcomed incoming students while promoting inclusion, equal opportunities, and student engagement.
World Suicide Prevention Day	SDG 3	Increased awareness of mental health, suicide prevention, and available psychological support services.
IdeaLab Batch 5	SDGs 9 ,8, and 17	Supported student entrepreneurship through innovation mentoring, startup development, and collaborative partnerships.
Exaltation of the Holy Cross	SDG4	Celebrated Lebanese religious and cultural heritage through a traditional community gathering.
Doctoral College Gathering	SDGs 9 ,4, and 17	Brought together doctoral students and researchers to strengthen collaboration and interdisciplinary research.
Coastal and Maritime Public Policies	SDGs ,13 14, and 16	Discussed sustainable coastal governance, marine protection, and environmental policy development.
Energy Innovation Lab Info Session	SDGs 9 ,7, and 13	Presented opportunities in renewable energy innovation, research, and sustainable technology development.
Career Center Open Day	SDGs 4 and 8	Connected students with career services, internships, and employability resources.
Welcome Day – Jbeil Campus	SDGs 4 and 10	Fostered inclusion and student integration at the Jbeil campus.

Recovery and Healing: A Response to Sexual Violence (WPS)	SDGs 5 ,3, and 16	Promoted awareness of gender-based violence, survivor support, and women's peace and security initiatives.
Seeds of Innovation Workshop and Panel	SDGs 9 ,2, and 17	Encouraged innovation in agriculture, food systems, and sustainable entrepreneurship through expert discussions.
Kickstart Your Career	SDGs 4 and 8	Equipped students with practical employability skills and career planning strategies.
Connect with Nature – Hiking Trip	SDGs ,3 13, and 15	Promoted physical well-being while fostering appreciation of biodiversity and environmental conservation.
Sunset Stories Series – Mr. Fady Debbane	SDGs 8 ,4, and 17	Featured an accomplished professional sharing leadership experiences and career insights.
From Then to Now: The Lebanese Journey in Latin America	SDG4	Explored the history and contributions of the Lebanese diaspora in Latin America.
Apple Conference	SDGs 8 ,2, and 12	Examined sustainable agriculture, value chains, innovation, and responsible production in the apple sector.
AARU Strategic Planning Workshop	SDGs 4 and 17	Strengthened regional academic collaboration and institutional strategic planning.
Law in the Movies	SDG4	Explored legal concepts and ethics through cinematic analysis and discussion.
Stand Out with a Winning CV & Cover Letter	SDGs 4 and 8	Trained students in developing effective job application documents.
Middle Eastern Diaspora in South America	SDG4	Discussed migration history, identity, and cultural exchange between the Middle East and South America.
Homecoming	SDG 3	Strengthened alumni engagement and community well-being through campus reunions.
Pitch Perfect – UBS Hackathon	SDGs 8 ,4, and 9	Challenged students to develop innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial solutions.
International Educational Days	SDG 4	Introduced students to international education opportunities, exchanges, and scholarships.
Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign	SDG 3	Promoted early detection, prevention, and public awareness of breast cancer.
Dean's Corner: CEO Stories	Cultural	Hosted industry leaders to share professional experiences and leadership journeys.
Stress Relief Day	SDG 3	Promoted mental well-being through recreational and stress-management activities.
Exhibition: Movements of Abstraction	Cultural	Showcased contemporary artistic expression and encouraged cultural appreciation.
Inauguration Day	SDGs 4 and 16	Celebrated the start of the academic year while reinforcing institutional values and civic responsibility.
Voice of Change Talk	SDGs 9 ,8, and 17	Inspired innovation, leadership, and collaborative solutions for societal challenges.
Unified Sports Day	SDGs 3 and 10	Promoted inclusion, physical activity, and equal participation through adaptive sports.

Master and Practice Your Interview Skills	SDGs 4 and 8	Improved students' confidence and interview techniques for employment opportunities.
Talk with Carlos Ghosn	Cultural	Hosted a discussion on leadership, innovation, and global business perspectives.
The EU and its Role in Lebanon	SDGs 16 and 17	Explored European Union cooperation, diplomacy, and development partnerships in Lebanon.
Battle of the Brains	SDG 4	Encouraged teamwork, critical thinking, and academic excellence through intellectual competition.
Beirut International Summit on Diversity, Faith, and Sustainability	SDGs ,10 16, and 17	Brought together international experts to discuss diversity, intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding, and sustainability.
Women in Diplomacy	SDGs ,5 16, and 17	Highlighted women's leadership and participation in diplomacy and international affairs.
Sunset Stories Series – Philippe Jabre	SDGs 8 ,4, and 17	Shared entrepreneurial experiences and career development insights with students.
Grow Your Network and Use It Like a Pro	SDGs 4 and 8	Developed students' professional networking and relationship-building skills.
World Mental Health Day: Destination Mental Health	SDG 3	Promoted awareness of mental health services and psychological well-being.
AI Governance in Education	SDGs 9 ,4, and 16	Examined the ethical, regulatory, and educational implications of artificial intelligence.
Talent Talks: Real Stories	SDGs 4 and 8	Connected students with professionals sharing authentic career experiences and advice.
ACIE Personal Branding Workshop	SDGs 4 and 8	Helped participants develop professional identity and communication skills.
Open Day	SDG 4	Introduced prospective students to academic programs, facilities, and campus life.
Cedars of the Holy Spirit	SDGs 13 and 15	Promoted the conservation of Lebanon's cedar forests and environmental stewardship.
Meet a Restorer: Dr. Veronica Tronconi	SDGs 4 and 11	Highlighted cultural heritage conservation and restoration practices.
Empowering the Future Agents of Change (WPS)	SDGs 5 ,3, and 16	Empowered youth to advocate for gender equality, peacebuilding, and social resilience.
Moussa Zgheib Tribute Ceremony	SDG 4	Honored the literary and cultural legacy of the renowned Lebanese poet.
Erasmus+ Day	SDGs 4 and 17	Promoted international academic mobility and collaborative educational opportunities.
Philosophy and Astronomy: Interactions and Implications	SDGs 4 and 9	Explored interdisciplinary connections between philosophy, science, and innovation.
Industry Advisory Gathering 2025	SDGs 8 ,4, and 17	Strengthened collaboration between academia and industry to enhance graduate employability.
Research in Action for Social Impact	SDGs 9 ,4, and 17	Showcased research projects addressing societal challenges through innovation and partnerships.

The Evolution of the Lebanese Flag	SDG 4	Examined the historical significance and symbolism of Lebanon's national flag.
Epilepsy Awareness Month	SDG 3	Raised awareness about epilepsy, inclusion, and public health education.
Independence Day Gathering and Debate	SDG 4	Celebrated Lebanon's independence through civic dialogue and historical reflection.
Screening of Feature Film Follower	SDG 4	Encouraged cultural dialogue through cinema and post-screening discussions.
Sunset Stories Series – Mr. Ludovic Dirand	SDGs 8 ,4, and 17	Inspired students through professional success stories and entrepreneurial experiences.
Two-Piano Concert	SDG 4	Promoted artistic expression through a classical musical performance.
UBS Alumni Impact – Marketing Competition	SDGs 8 ,4, and 17	Challenged students to develop innovative marketing solutions while engaging alumni expertise.
Archidialogue – Antoine Chaaya	Cultural	Explored architecture, design, and creative thinking through expert dialogue.
Dean's Forum: Law, Politics, and Beyond	SDGs 4 and 16	Examined contemporary legal and political issues through discussions with public leaders.
Prostate Awareness Campaign	SDG 3	Promoted men's health awareness, prevention, and early screening.
General Education Festival	SDG 4	Celebrated interdisciplinary learning, student creativity, and academic engagement.
Career Fun Day	SDGs 4 and 8	Combined career preparation with interactive activities to enhance employability skills.
Demo Day – IdeaLab Batch 5	SDGs 9 ,8, and 17	Allowed student entrepreneurs to present innovative projects to mentors, partners, and investors.
Holly Jolly Campus	SDG 4	Fostered community spirit and cultural celebration during the holiday season.
Conference: Hope – A Light in the Night	SDG 4	Explored themes of hope, resilience, and social solidarity through expert discussions.
Christmas Concert	SDG 4	Celebrated the festive season through music and community engagement.
L'Enfant et l'orchestre: une magie de Noël partagée	SDG 4	Introduced children and families to orchestral music through an inclusive holiday performance.

Appendix II

USEK Sustainability Programs and Initiatives and Their Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Theme	Program/ Initiative	Description	Related SDGs
Waste	Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	Central waste sorting and recovery facility that serves as both an operational recycling center and a living laboratory for education, research, and circular economy practices.	SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13
	GAEA	Student environmental organization that promotes sustainability awareness, volunteering, and environmental action through campus and community initiatives.	SDG 4, SDG 13, SDG 17
	E-Waste	Collects and recycles electronic waste in an environmentally responsible way to prevent pollution and recover valuable materials.	SDG 3, SDG 12, SDG 13
	Compost	Converts organic waste into nutrient-rich compost used in campus landscaping, reducing landfill waste and improving soil quality.	SDG 2, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 15
	Recycling	Promotes the segregation and recycling of paper, plastic, glass, and metal to support responsible resource management and the circular economy.	SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13
	Re-Mug-it	Encourages the use of reusable mugs and cups to reduce single-use waste and promote sustainable daily habits.	SDG 12, SDG 13
	I Hear You	Promotes the reuse of functional items through donations, extending product life cycles and reducing waste.	SDG 12
	Book Exchange	Encourages students and staff to exchange books, increasing access to educational resources while minimizing paper waste.	SDG 4, SDG 12

	Medical Waste	Ensures the safe segregation, storage, and disposal of hazardous medical waste in compliance with health and environmental standards.	SDG 3, SDG 12
	Swap-a-Palooza	Encourages the exchange of clothing, books, and reusable items to promote reuse and sustainable consumption.	SDG 11, SDG 12
	Bring Your Bucket	Promotes refillable containers for cleaning products and other materials, reducing single-use plastic consumption.	SDG 12, SDG 13
	Clothes Fabric Aid	Collects clothing and textiles for donation, reuse, and recycling while supporting charitable organizations.	SDG 1, SDG 10, SDG 12
	Sustainable Procurement – No to Plastic	Encourages environmentally responsible purchasing by reducing single-use plastics and prioritizing sustainable alternatives.	SDG 12, SDG 13
Biodiversity	Cats	Supports the humane care, sterilization, and welfare of the campus cat population while promoting coexistence and responsible animal care.	SDG 15
	Insects	Protects pollinators and beneficial insects through habitat conservation and awareness activities.	SDG 15
	Seedballs	Produces and distributes seedballs containing native plant species to restore habitats and enhance biodiversity.	SDG 13, SDG 15
	Plant a Tree	Engages the University community in tree planting to enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and support climate resilience.	SDG 13, SDG 15
	Wild Gardens	Establishes natural habitats using native vegetation to support birds, pollinators, and other wildlife on campus.	SDG 11, SDG 15
	Birdwatching	Promotes biodiversity conservation through bird observation, ecological monitoring, and environmental education.	SDG 4, SDG 15
	Animal Welfare	Raises awareness of responsible animal care and promotes the ethical treatment and protection of campus animals.	SDG 15
	Grow Your Own Food	Provides hands-on learning in sustainable food production through educational gardens that promote healthy nutrition and environmental stewardship.	SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 12, SDG 15
Energy and mobility	Walks	Encourages walking as a healthy, low-carbon mode of transportation across campus.	SDG 3, SDG 11, SDG 13
	Carpooling	Promotes ridesharing to reduce fuel consumption, traffic congestion, parking demand, and greenhouse gas emissions.	SDG 11, SDG 13
	Biodiesel	Encourages the use of renewable biofuels as cleaner alternatives to conventional fossil fuels.	SDG 7, SDG 13

	Bike-Cool	Promotes cycling as a sustainable and healthy transportation option for the university community.	SDG 3, SDG 11, SDG 13
	Reduce Energy	Encourages energy conservation through awareness campaigns, efficient technologies, and responsible energy-use practices.	SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13
Awareness and education	Agora	Holds interactive sustainability workshops, exhibitions, discussions, and awareness campaigns to foster community engagement.	SDG 4, SDG 11, SDG 17
	Dream Box	Collects innovative ideas and suggestions from the university community to improve campus sustainability.	SDG 9, SDG 11, SDG 17
	Civic GEPS205	Integrates civic engagement and sustainability into academic learning through student-led community projects addressing environmental and social challenges.	SDG 4, SDG 11, SDG 16, SDG 17
Water	Waterfull	Provides free drinking water refill stations to reduce single-use plastic bottles while promoting healthy hydration and sustainable water consumption.	SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 12
	Propositions for Water	Encourages innovative ideas and practical solutions to improve water conservation and responsible water management across campus.	SDG 6, SDG 9, SDG 12

Appendix III

USEK Academic Programs to the SDGs — Summary Index

SDG	Representative USEK Academic Programs
SDG 1 — No Poverty	Business administration, law, psychology, education, international relations.
SDG 2 — Zero Hunger	Food engineering, human nutrition and dietetics, agricultural engineering, and enology.
SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-Being	Medicine, nursing sciences, human nutrition and dietetics, biomedical engineering, biology, biochemistry, psychology.
SDG 4 — Quality Education	Education, educational sciences, languages and literatures, philosophy, theology, communication.
SDG 5 – Gender Equality	Law, psychology, education, international relations, communication.
SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	Civil engineering, chemical engineering, food engineering, agricultural engineering.
SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	Electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering.
SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth	Business administration, MBA, finance, accounting, marketing, hospitality and tourism management, law.
SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, chemical engineering, biomedical engineering, architecture.
SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities	Law, psychology, education, international relations, social sciences.
SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	Architecture, interior architecture, civil engineering, heritage conservation, archaeology, history.
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	Food engineering, human nutrition and dietetics, agricultural engineering and chemical engineering

SDG 13 – Climate Action	Civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, agricultural engineering, food engineering, biology.
SDG 14 – Life Below Water	Biology, chemistry, biochemistry, food engineering.
SDG 15 – Life on Land	Biology, agricultural engineering, food engineering, chemistry, heritage conservation.
SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Law, international relations, philosophy, theology.
SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	International relations, business administration, law, MBA, doctoral programs, interdisciplinary research programs.

Appendix IV

Publications by SDG

This appendix presents USEK's research output mapped to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, based on the Elsevier SciVal SDG classification. SciVal's SDG classification model covers SDG 1 through SDG 16 and does not currently classify publications against SDG 17.

SDG 1 – No Poverty (2 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Financial Literacy as a Catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment in the MENA Region: Evidence from a Structural Equation Model	Mawad, J.L. et al. (2025), Journal of Risk and Financial Management
Elderly people in institutions in Lebanon: The benefits of a support program	Khoury, F. et al. (2025), NPG Neurologie - Psychiatrie - Geriatrie

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger (17 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Challenges and opportunities for tech entrepreneurs in agriculture	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Precision and Intelligence in Agriculture: Advanced Technologies for Sustainable Farming
The relationship between household food insecurity and quality of life among children aged 13–7 years: effects of parent-reported disordered eating, anxiety and depression	Ghadban, E. et al. (2025), BMC Public Health
Exploring the genetic diversity of Lebanon's underexploited grapevine resources	Merheb, J. et al. (2025), Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution
Validating the Arabic Adolescent Nutrition Literacy Scale (ANLS): A Reliable Tool for Measuring Nutrition Literacy	Obeid, S. et al. (2025), Nutrients

Anemia and food insecurity: the nutritional struggles of pregnant women in Lebanon amid unprecedented crises	Mahfouz, R. et al. (2025), BMC Nutrition
Dying of starvation if not from bombs: assessing measurement properties of the Food Insecurity Experiences Scale (FIES) in Gaza's civilian population experiencing the world's worst hunger crisis	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), International Journal for Equity in Health
Capacity building and skill development in rural manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Rural Social Entrepreneurship Development: Network-Based Manufacturing System Model
Cultural adaptation and validation of the short food literacy questionnaire (SFLQ) for adults in Lebanon	Obeid, S. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE
Progress of Eastern Mediterranean Countries towards Meeting USDA Dietary Guidelines for Pregnant Women: A Focused Review	Mahfouz, R. et al. (2025), Current Nutrition Reports
Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Lebanese licensed dietitians regarding hyperphosphatemia management in patients undergoing hemodialysis in a Lebanese Governorate	Mannan, H. et al. (2025), BMC Nephrology
Polyphenolic Compounds from Indigenous Malus Species: A Novel Approach to Improve Ice Cream's Thermodynamic Properties	Nehme, L. et al. (2025), Processes
Genetic profiling of a hidden grapevine germplasm from the ancient terraces of Hadchit village, North Lebanon	Merheb, J. et al. (2025), Acta Horticulturae
Correction to: Gundelia tournefortii L. (Akkoub): a review of a valuable wild vegetable from Eastern Mediterranean (Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution, (,(3995-3987) ,8 ,71 ,(2024 10.1007/s2-01927-024-10722)	Hani, N. et al. (2025), Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution
A study of the link between food-water insecurities and self-reported psychotic experiences among young adults in Gaza Strip: What role does social support play under conditions of war and extreme suffering?	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), International Journal for Equity in Health
Breaking the Cycle of Malnutrition: The Role of Food and Nutrition Literacy in Addressing Food Insecurity Among Lebanese Adolescents	Ghadban, E. et al. (2025), Nutrients
Emerging Co-infection of avian adenovirus and astrovirus in Lebanese poultry	Abi-Rizk, A. et al. (2025), Microbial Pathogenesis
Association between food insecurity and mental health outcomes among a convenient sample of Lebanese pregnant women	Rizk, R. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being (54 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Exploring the role of artificial intelligence in chemotherapy development, cancer diagnosis, and treatment: present achievements and future outlook	Abdul Rasool Hassan, B. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Oncology
Prevalence and risk factors of burnout symptoms among nurses during the COVID19- pandemic: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), Human Resources for Health
Enhancing antibiotic detection via an aptasensor: the case of ciprofloxacin	Hobeika, E. et al. (2025), BMC Chemistry
A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Subermaniam, L. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
Do Environmental Taxes and Green Electricity Matter for Environmental Quality? Fresh Evidence in France Based on Fourier Methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Energies
Leveraging AI and ML for Enhanced Efficiency and Innovation in Manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), AI's role in enhanced automotive safety
Exploring healthcare in the 6G and AI era: Opportunities and challenges	Taleb, H. et al. (2025), Internet of Things (The Netherlands)
Syndecan1-: a key player in health and disease	Diab, L. et al. (2025), Immunogenetics
Preconceptional paternal obesity may increase the risk of congenital urogenital anomalies in offspring: A case–control study	Achkar, M.E. et al. (2025), Andrology
Mediating effect of intolerance of uncertainty between fear of war and mental health in adults during the Israel-Palestine war of 2023	Najem, Y. et al. (2025), Discover Mental Health
The Effect of Non-Nutritive Sweeteners' Consumption on Body Weight: A Randomized-Controlled Trial	Daher, M. et al. (2025), Food Science and Nutrition
Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor–Myocarditis: Diagnostic and Prognostic Evidence and Limitations	Salem, J.-E. et al. (2025), Current Heart Failure Reports
Information Diffusion in Modular Robots and Drone Networks	Mattar, C. et al. (5 ,(2025th IEEE Middle East and North Africa Communications Conference: Breaking Boundaries: Pioneering the Next Era of Communication, MENACOMM 2025
Cytotoxic Activity of Essential Oils from Middle Eastern Medicinal Plants on Malignant Keratinocytes	Othman, R. et al. (2025), Molecules
AI chatbots as 'pocket doctors': intimate health support for young women in Lebanon	Mina, A. et al. (2025), BMC Public Health
Diagnostic and prognostic potential of left atrial strain in cardiovascular disease: a narrative review	Tantawi, S. et al. (2025), Journal of Echocardiography

Paternal peri-conceptional physical activity and the risk of congenital heart disease in offspring: A case–control study	Atieh, O. et al. (2025), Andrology
Network Diffusion Algorithms and Simulators in IoT and Space IoT: A Systematic Review	Mattar, C. et al. (2025), Journal of Sensor and Actuator Networks
Patient and staff perception of aggression and its management in a Lebanese psychiatric hospital: a cross-sectional study	Zeid, L.A. et al. (2025), Discover Mental Health
Cultural adaptation and validation of the short food literacy questionnaire (SFLQ) for adults in Lebanon	Obeid, S. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE
Beliefs about voices and correlates in long-stay patients with persistent auditory hallucinations, diagnosed with schizophrenia	Ghadban, C. et al. (2025), Psychosis
Is it about substituting an addiction with another? development and initial psychometric properties of the first heated tobacco products addiction questionnaire (HeaTPAQ)	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), Addiction Science and Clinical Practice
Exploring risk factors and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns associated with bacteriuria among Syrian refugees in makeshift camps	Kilani, M. et al. (2025), Journal of Hospital Infection
Assessment of supervised machine learning methods for predicting COVID19- likelihood	Rammal, A. et al. (5 ,(2025th IEEE Middle East and North Africa Communications Conference: Breaking Boundaries: Pioneering the Next Era of Communication, MENACOMM 2025
The role of AI in crisis management and disaster response	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Citizen-Centric Artificial Intelligence for Smart Cities
Association of high lipoprotein (a) level with carotid atherosclerosis and all-cause mortality	Matta, A. et al. (2025), American Journal of Preventive Cardiology
Progress of Eastern Mediterranean Countries towards Meeting USDA Dietary Guidelines for Pregnant Women: A Focused Review	Mahfouz, R. et al. (2025), Current Nutrition Reports
Food addiction and associated factors in newly diagnosed patients with schizophrenia: a cross-sectional comparison with siblings and healthy controls	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), Journal of Eating Disorders
Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Lebanese licensed dietitians regarding hyperphosphatemia management in patients undergoing hemodialysis in a Lebanese Governorate	Mannan, H. et al. (2025), BMC Nephrology
Assessment of obstructive sleep apnea rate and associated factors among Lebanese adults: a cross-sectional study	Kaddoura, T. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Public Health
Malignant Vs Benign Skin Cancer Classification Using Topological Data Analysis and Machine Learning	Mourad, O. et al. (2025 ,(2025 IEEE 9th International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry, RTSI 2025 - Conference Proceedings

Level of Empathy Among Physicians, Medical Interns and Nurses During War Conflicts in Lebanon: A Cross-Sectional Study	El Jakal, C. et al. (2025), Ethics, Medicine and Public Health
Cancer Risk and Genetic Associations in Individuals With Cleft Lip and Palate and Their Families: A Narrative Review	Ghadbane, C. et al. (2025), Birth Defects Research
Supervised learning applied to electrocardiogram statistical features for the detection of premature ventricular contraction	Issa, K. et al. (2025), Research on Biomedical Engineering
Validation of the Arabic versions of the long (15 items) and short (4 items) forms of the distress tolerance scale (DTS)	Noureddine, A. et al. (2025), Middle East Current Psychiatry
Gastric pneumatosis and hepatoportal venous gas in superior mesenteric artery syndrome: a case report	Ghadban, E. et al. (2025), Journal of Medical Case Reports
Huge mucinous ovarian borderline tumor: a case report	Milan, J. et al. (2025), Journal of Surgical Case Reports
Evaluation of the anti-C-C chemokine receptor type 4 monoclonal antibody mogamulizumab in patients with advanced cutaneous T-cell lymphomas and with large cell transformation	Faltot, L. et al. (2025), British Journal of Dermatology
A Cross-Sectional Look at HPV Vaccine Acceptance and Associated Factors Among Male University Students in Lebanon	Koberssy, Z. et al. (2025), Advances in Urology
Validation of the shortest version of the eating attitude test (EAT7-) as a screening tool for disordered eating in patients with first-episode schizophrenia	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), Journal of Eating Disorders
Assessment of Atherosclerotic risk among United Arab EmiratePopulation: A Cross-Sectional Study	Haddad, I.I. et al. (2025), Pharmacy Practice
Insights into Asthma Understanding and Medication Compliance: A Study of Knowledge and Adherence among the Lebanese Population	Nadia, A.M. et al. (2025), Pharmacy Practice
The -11Item Weight-Related Behaviours Questionnaire-Short Form (WRB-Q-SF): New Psychometric Evidence for the Arabic Version in Pregnant Women	Al Hage, N. et al. (2025), International Journal of Women's Health
Feature-Based Fundus Image Processing for Diabetic Retinopathy Diagnosis	Bahy, R.M. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025
Measles	Ibrahim, K.F. et al. (2025), Distribution and Treatment of Infectious Diseases: Challenges for Developed and Developing Nations
Brain Cancer Classification Using Topological Data Analysis and Machine Learning	Mohammad, K. et al. (2025 ,(2025 IEEE International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Computing, ETECOM 2025
Breaking the Cycle of Malnutrition: The Role of Food and Nutrition Literacy in Addressing Food Insecurity Among Lebanese Adolescents	Ghadban, E. et al. (2025), Nutrients

Scoping review about pathogenesis, risk factors, and treatment of venous and arterial thrombosis in coronavirus infection	Malaeb, D. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine
Editorial: Nutrition counseling for non-communicable disease management	Andrade, J.M. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Nutrition
Efficacy of 10 days high-dose and double-dose rabeprazole-based concomitant therapy for Helicobacter pylori eradication among Lebanese population: a pilot randomized controlled trial	Elias, M. et al. (2025), BMC Gastroenterology
Emerging Co-infection of avian adenovirus and astrovirus in Lebanese poultry	Abi-Rizk, A. et al. (2025), Microbial Pathogenesis
Validation of a novel semi-automated ECG quantification tool, applied to a cardio-oncology: Semi-automated ECG Tool applied to cardio-oncology	Cohen, S.D. et al. (2025), Cardio-Oncology
The efficacy of DPP IV inhibitors as adjunct therapy for patients with auto-immune Diabetes: A systematic review and meta-analysis	Nakhoul, L. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE
Association between food insecurity and mental health outcomes among a convenient sample of Lebanese pregnant women	Rizk, R. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE

SDG 4 – Quality Education (20 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
The rise and drop of online learning: adaptability and future prospects	Najjar, N. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Education
Developing green skills for sustainable careers	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Integrating AI and Sustainability in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
Employee skillsets in the digital age	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Organizational Sociology in the Digital Age
Integrating AI and AR Into Teaching and Scholarly Communication	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Revolutionizing Academic Research With AI and Augmented Reality
Aspects influencing teacher's motivation in private schools amid the challenging environment in Lebanon	Kontar, H. et al. (2025), Quality Education for All
Sleep quality among university students in Lebanon during war conflicts: a cross-sectional study	El Haddad, H. et al. (2025), BMC Public Health
Preparing doctoral students for future global research landscapes	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Improving Doctoral Education and Research Development for Sustainability
Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing Platforms for the SDGs	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Geographical Approaches to Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Attitudes toward older adults among Arab healthcare professionals and students: A systematic review and recommendations for geriatric care	Younes, R.S. et al. (2025), NPG Neurologie - Psychiatrie - Geriatrie
Evaluating the Impact of Diversity on Learning Environments	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Advancing Diversity, Sustainability, and Reform in Global Higher Education
Capacity building and skill development in rural manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Rural Social Entrepreneurship Development: Network-Based Manufacturing System Model
Belief to action: the role of norms and resource perceptions in green entrepreneurship intentions	Freiha, S.S. et al. (2025), Discover Sustainability
Distance-Learning EEG Understanding via Imbalance-Aware Stacked Trees and Subject-Wise Generalization Analysis Across Students	Rezaee, K. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025
Psychometric properties of the Arabic spence children's anxiety scale parent in a sample of Arabic speaking adults	Milane, M.-J. et al. (2025), Scientific Reports
Advanced TRL Method for Differential Devices	Kassem, H. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025
Bridging the Gap Between Education and Employment for Migrants	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Barriers and Opportunities in Education for Immigrants and Refugees
Financial Literacy as a Catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment in the MENA Region: Evidence from a Structural Equation Model	Mawad, J.L. et al. (2025), Journal of Risk and Financial Management
Navigating the Future: Emerging Trends in Soft Skills for Industry 4.0 Manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Developing Soft Skills for Manufacturing in Industry 4.0
Time Management and Wellbeing for Educators and Students	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Adaptation and Challenges of Remote Teaching and Digital Tools
Feature clustering for enhanced student dropout prediction	Itani, M. et al. (2025), Proceedings of SPIE - The International Society for Optical Engineering

SDG 5 – Gender Equality (10 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Impact of physician, family and society on the choice of Cesarean-section delivery mode among Lebanese females	Ouainaty, E. et al. (2025), European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology: X
Patient and staff perception of aggression and its management in a Lebanese psychiatric hospital: a cross-sectional study	Zeid, L.A. et al. (2025), Discover Mental Health

Psychometric properties of the Arabic version of the McMaster family assessment device–general functioning subscale (FAD-GF) among a sample of Lebanese adults	Assaf, M. et al. (2025), Cogent Psychology
The Declining Sense of Belonging to the Church and Vocation Among Young Catholic Women in Lebanon: A Qualitative Study	Younes, R.S. et al. (2025), Religions
Psychometric properties of the Arabic versions of the perceived social competence scale and the prosociality scale	Gerges, S. et al. (2025), Health and Quality of Life Outcomes
Psychometric properties of an Arabic translation of the Child–Adolescent Perfectionism Scale–short form (CAPS9-)	Merdad, N. et al. (2025), International Journal of Adolescence and Youth
Psychometric properties of the Arabic version of the -11item ostracism experience scale for adolescents (OES-A) in community adolescents	Merdad, N. et al. (2025), Children's Health Care
Financial Literacy as a Catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment in the MENA Region: Evidence from a Structural Equation Model	Mawad, J.L. et al. (2025), Journal of Risk and Financial Management
Mediating effect of body dysmorphic concerns between child abuse and social anxiety among adolescents	Hemade, A. et al. (2025), Discover public health
Women in High-Growth and Tech Ventures	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), The Entrepreneurial Narratives of Women Driving Economic and Social Transformation in Latin America

SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation (4 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Subermaniam, L. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
AI for sustainable development: MENA strategies	Pasumarti, S.S.R. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Assessment of the Surface Water Quality of Ibrahim River (Lebanon): A Spatio-Temporal Analysis	Chidiac, S. et al. (2025), Water (Switzerland)
Forecasting Urban Water Demand Using Multi-Scale Artificial Neural Networks with Temporal Lag Optimization	Farah, E. et al. (2025), Water (Switzerland)

SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy (22 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
How do climate policy uncertainty and renewable energy and clean technology stock prices co-move? evidence from Canada	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Empirical Economics
An Overview of Biodiesel Production via Heterogeneous Catalysts: Synthesis, Current Advances, and Challenges	Yaghi, M. et al. (2025), Clean Technologies
Beyond fossil fuels: How Iceland's oil efficiency, hydro energy, and fiscal decentralization propel a cleaner environment: Evidence from wavelet quantile methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Environmental and Sustainability Indicators
Do Environmental Taxes and Green Electricity Matter for Environmental Quality? Fresh Evidence in France Based on Fourier Methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Energies
Exploring healthcare in the 6G and AI era: Opportunities and challenges	Taleb, H. et al. (2025), Internet of Things (The Netherlands)
AI for sustainable development: MENA strategies	Pasumarti, S.S.R. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Development of an Intelligent Energy Management System to Improve BESS State of Health	Khoury, D. et al. (2025), Battery Energy
China's Low-Carbon Energy: Relations with Emerging Markets A Multi-Level Perspective	McLean, R. (2025), China's Low-Carbon Energy: Relations with Emerging Markets A Multi-Level Perspective
Emerging Technologies and Shift in Employment in the Transportation Sector	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Integrating Sustainability and Autonomous Transportation for Enhanced Urban Mobility
Ambient Backscattering Communication for IoT: Challenges and Future Perspectives	Ismail, S. et al. (2025), IEEE International Conference on Communications
A Comprehensive Survey on Intelligent Reflecting Surfaces and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Integration for Enhanced Communication in Massive Networks	Attar, H. et al. (11 2025 ,(2025th International Conference on Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering, ICMRE 2025
Oil Extraction from the Spent Coffee Grounds and Its Conversion into Biodiesel	Harb, R. et al. (2025), Energies
Design, Development, and Performance Evaluation of an Oxyhydrogen (HHO) Generator for Enhanced Fuel Efficiency	Akl, C. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Energy consumption predictions using a neural network	Nehme, B. et al. (2025), Energy Informatics
LoRa-SPaaS: Spectrum sensing as a service using LoRaWAN: Resources management and practical considerations	Nasser, A. et al. (2025), Internet of Things (The Netherlands)
Adaptive Mode Switching for Energy and Performance Optimization in NB-IoT	El Dine, M.K. et al. (2025 ,(2025 IEEE International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Computing, ETECOM 2025

Study of PV Systems Integration on the Lebanese Grid	Nehme, B. et al. (2025 ,(2025 International Conference on Control, Automation, and Instrumentation, IC2AI 2025
Development of a Micro-grid Physical Model	Khoury, D. et al. (2025), Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering
Federated Sampling for Privacy-Preserving and Efficient Data Sharing in IoT Networks	Azar, J. et al. (5 ,(2025th IEEE Middle East and North Africa Communications Conference: Breaking Boundaries: Pioneering the Next Era of Communication, MENACOMM 2025
The effects of foreign Investment, resource utilization, and energy sources on ecological sustainability: evidence from BRICS-T nations	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Discover Sustainability
Autonomous Optimization and Configuration of Communication Systems for IoT: A Comparative Study	Boughannam, N. et al. (2025), IEEE International Conference on Communications
Energy harvesting and storage in an optical Micro-Electro-Mechanical System based on a wireless actuation	Georgina, A.S. et al. (2025), Micro and Nano Systems Letters

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth (25 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Beyond fossil fuels: How Iceland's oil efficiency, hydro energy, and fiscal decentralization propel a cleaner environment: Evidence from wavelet quantile methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Environmental and Sustainability Indicators
Developing green skills for sustainable careers	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Integrating AI and Sustainability in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
Do Environmental Taxes and Green Electricity Matter for Environmental Quality? Fresh Evidence in France Based on Fourier Methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Energies
Sustainability and AI	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Transforming Business Through Digital Sustainability Models
Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Global Marketing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Cultural Sensitivity, Cross-Border Logistics, and E-Commerce in Global Marketing
Bridging Sustainable Development: The Nexus of Business Safety, Health Management, and Corporate Social Sustainability—Do Affective Commitment and Emotional Intelligence Mediate?	Farmanesh, P. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Business, Digital Transformation, and Entrepreneurship	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Shaping Green and Inclusive Economies Through Innovative Entrepreneurship

Sustainable public green finance under domestic and global policy uncertainties: Does environmental policy stringency matter? Evidence from OECD nations using method of moments quantile-based analysis	Athari, S.A. (2025), Journal of Cleaner Production
Talent management in startups and SMEs	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Aligning Talent Management and Organizational Innovation Goals
AI for sustainable development: MENA strategies	Pasumarti, S.S.R. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
China's Low-Carbon Energy: Relations with Emerging Markets A Multi-Level Perspective	McLean, R. (2025), China's Low-Carbon Energy: Relations with Emerging Markets A Multi-Level Perspective
Emerging Technologies and Shift in Employment in the Transportation Sector	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Integrating Sustainability and Autonomous Transportation for Enhanced Urban Mobility
The impact of corporate social responsibility on student engagement in sports activities in universities	Jabbour Al Maalouf, N. et al. (2025), Society and Business Review
Machine learning-based localized predictive modeling of household energy consumption in the Netherlands	Jafarigorzin, S. et al. (2025), Energy and Buildings
Foundations of rural social entrepreneurship	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Rural Social Entrepreneurship Development: Network-Based Manufacturing System Model
Polyphenolic Compounds from Indigenous Malus Species: A Novel Approach to Improve Ice Cream's Thermodynamic Properties	Nehme, L. et al. (2025), Processes
Conclusion	Azoury, N. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Adulteration and quality assessment of tomato paste: a study of the Lebanese market	Habib, F. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Nutrition
Innovation and AI adoption: Middle East's path to economic growth	Azoury, N. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Administrative Regulation of the Right to Strike	Sakr, H. (2025), USEK Law Journal
Bridging the Gap Between Education and Employment for Migrants	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Barriers and Opportunities in Education for Immigrants and Refugees
Financial Literacy as a Catalyst for Women's Economic Empowerment in the MENA Region: Evidence from a Structural Equation Model	Mawad, J.L. et al. (2025), Journal of Risk and Financial Management
The effects of foreign Investment, resource utilization, and energy sources on ecological sustainability: evidence from BRICS-T nations	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Discover Sustainability

Women in High-Growth and Tech Ventures	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), The Entrepreneurial Narratives of Women Driving Economic and Social Transformation in Latin America
The Role of Digitalization and Remote Work in Shaping Expatriate Labor Markets	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Challenges and Opportunities of International Expatriate Blue Collar Workers

SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (37 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
An Overview of Biodiesel Production via Heterogeneous Catalysts: Synthesis, Current Advances, and Challenges	Yaghi, M. et al. (2025), Clean Technologies
Transformational leadership, innovation, and performance of SMEs in Europe	Jabbour Al Maalouf, N. et al. (2025), Cogent Business and Management
EFFECTS OF GREEN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND FIRM SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE	Maurya, S. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
Strategic Collaboration and Partnerships in R&D for Innovation	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Research and Development Practices in Innovation
AI-Driven Leadership in the Modern Era for Revolutionizing Next-Generation Strategies: Organizational Impacts and Future Development	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Leadership Paradigms and the Impact of Technology
The Paradigm Shift in Leadership Owing to Technological Development	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Leadership Paradigms and the Impact of Technology
A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Subermaniam, L. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
The Power of Digital Engagement: Unveiling How Social Media Shapes Customer Responsiveness in the Food and Beverage Industry	Sarkis, N. et al. (2025), Administrative Sciences
Do Environmental Taxes and Green Electricity Matter for Environmental Quality? Fresh Evidence in France Based on Fourier Methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Energies
Sustainability and AI	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Transforming Business Through Digital Sustainability Models
Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Global Marketing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Cultural Sensitivity, Cross-Border Logistics, and E-Commerce in Global Marketing

Bridging Sustainable Development: The Nexus of Business Safety, Health Management, and Corporate Social Sustainability—Do Affective Commitment and Emotional Intelligence Mediate?	Farmanesh, P. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Leveraging AI and ML for Enhanced Efficiency and Innovation in Manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), AI's role in enhanced automotive safety
Assessing the impact of the Beirut port explosion on supply chain management and seaport infrastructure in Lebanon: A pathway to resilience and reform	Jabbour Al Maalouf, N. et al. (2025), Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives
Future of rural social entrepreneurship	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Rural Social Entrepreneurship Development: Network-Based Manufacturing System Model
Corporate Sustainability Leadership in a Technology-Driven Educational Environment	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Navigating Complexity, AI, and Legal Challenges in Organizations
Experimental and simulation-based research: Designing controlled experiments for maritime training and safety	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Research Methods for Advancing the Maritime Industry
Thermal and Expansion Analysis of the Lebanese Flatbread Baking Process Using a High-Temperature Tunnel Oven	Mansour, Y. et al. (2025), Applied Sciences (Switzerland)
Capacity building and skill development in rural manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Rural Social Entrepreneurship Development: Network-Based Manufacturing System Model
Machine learning-based localized predictive modeling of household energy consumption in the Netherlands	Jafarigorzin, S. et al. (2025), Energy and Buildings
Oil Extraction from the Spent Coffee Grounds and Its Conversion into Biodiesel	Harb, R. et al. (2025), Energies
Design, Development, and Performance Evaluation of an Oxyhydrogen (HHO) Generator for Enhanced Fuel Efficiency	Akl, C. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Role of AI in E-commerce and retail in the MENA	Daou, L. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Cultural adaptation and validation of the short food literacy questionnaire (SFLQ) for adults in Lebanon	Obeid, S. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE
Mindfulness and sustainability leadership: Integrating awareness and action for a resilient future	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Strategic Approaches to Mindful Leadership and Change Management
Impact of Corporate Governance on Non-financial Performance and Sustainability Reporting	Mouawad, J. et al. (2025), Sustainable Economic Development: Utilizing Non-Financial Performance, Sustainability Reporting, and Corporate Governance
Cultural Shifts Through Shared Inquiry: Participatory Research in the Age of Communication	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Cultural Transformation and Disruption Through Media and Communication

AI integration in corporate leadership: Navigating the MENA landscape	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
The Importance of Qualitative Research in the Aviation Industry	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Qualitative Research Methods in Air Transport Management
AI and smart cities: Transforming urban living in the MENA	Moukarzel, A. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Conclusion	Azoury, N. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Innovation and AI adoption: Middle East's path to economic growth	Azoury, N. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
AI6-G Convergence: Architectures, Key Use Cases, and Challenges for Intelligent and Sustainable Networks	Rachini, A. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025
Navigating the Future: Emerging Trends in Soft Skills for Industry 4.0 Manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Developing Soft Skills for Manufacturing in Industry 4.0
Strategic Management and Business Models Enabling Non-Financial Performance	Freiha, S. et al. (2025), Sustainable Economic Development: Utilizing Non-Financial Performance, Sustainability Reporting, and Corporate Governance
Towards 6G AI-RAN: Vision and Foundational Attributes	Boumalkha, M. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025
The Role of Digitalization and Remote Work in Shaping Expatriate Labor Markets	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Challenges and Opportunities of International Expatriate Blue Collar Workers

SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities (19 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
The rise and drop of online learning: adaptability and future prospects	Najjar, N. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Education
A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT IN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	Subermaniam, L. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
Financial risk and investment in artificial intelligence in the USA: a fresh evidence from quantile wavelet regression and quantile wavelet correlation tests	Kirikkaleli, D. et al. (2025), Journal of Risk Finance
Organizational leadership in the 21st Century	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Organizational Sociology in the Digital Age
Business, Digital Transformation, and Entrepreneurship	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Shaping Green and Inclusive Economies Through Innovative Entrepreneurship

Exploring healthcare in the 6G and AI era: Opportunities and challenges	Taleb, H. et al. (2025), Internet of Things (The Netherlands)
Impact of Financial Market uncertainty and Financial Crises on Dynamic Stock—Foreign Exchange Market Correlations: A New Perspective	Irani, F. et al. (2025), SAGE Open
Emerging Technologies and Shift in Employment in the Transportation Sector	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Integrating Sustainability and Autonomous Transportation for Enhanced Urban Mobility
The mediating role of depression in the association between perceived financial wellbeing and somatization: a study in the context of Lebanon's financial crisis	Nehme, A. et al. (2025), International Journal of Environmental Health Research
Evaluating the Impact of Diversity on Learning Environments	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Advancing Diversity, Sustainability, and Reform in Global Higher Education
Ethical implications of AI in MENA business	Azzi, G. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Pathways for effective engagement of the youth in climate and migration advocacy	Salhi, A. et al. (2025), Environmental Development
The Collapse of Monetary Norms in Lebanon in Light of International Monetary Evolution1	Karam, B. (2025), USEK Law Journal
Bridging the Gap Between Education and Employment for Migrants	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Barriers and Opportunities in Education for Immigrants and Refugees
Psychological distress and wellbeing as mediators between anti-mattering (feelings of insignificance) and irritability among Lebanese adolescents: A cross-sectional study	Karam, M.A. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE
Leadership Expectations: Generation Alpha's Participative Leadership Approach and Cultural Alignment	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), The Role of Generation Alpha in Building a Strong Organizational Culture
Fighting a Red Exodus: British Anti-Communism and Fears of a Soviet Israel 1949-1946	Gerth, M. (2025), International History Review
Racial disparities in systemic inflammation: The mediating role of diet and physical activity in α-1-acid glycoprotein levels in the U.S. population	Hemade, A. et al. (2025), Medicine (United States)
The Involvement of Religious Communities in State Affairs	Sakr, H. (2025), USEK Law Journal

SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities (14 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Business, Digital Transformation, and Entrepreneurship	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Shaping Green and Inclusive Economies Through Innovative Entrepreneurship
Leveraging AI and ML for Enhanced Efficiency and Innovation in Manufacturing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), AI's role in enhanced automotive safety
Data governance and privacy in smart cities	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Citizen-Centric Artificial Intelligence for Smart Cities
Future trends and research directions	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Neural Networks and Graph Models for Traffic and Energy Systems
Machine learning-based localized predictive modeling of household energy consumption in the Netherlands	Jafarigorzin, S. et al. (2025), Energy and Buildings
Smart Cities and E-Government: How Startups Are Transforming Urban Life	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Startup-Driven E-Government: Digital Innovation for Sustainable Ecosystems
The role of AI in crisis management and disaster response	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Citizen-Centric Artificial Intelligence for Smart Cities
Multi-Modal Last-Mile Delivery Optimization with Smart Micro-Hubs: A Branch-and-Price Approach with Valid Inequalities	Danach, K. et al. (2025), IEEE Open Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems
Forecasting Urban Water Demand Using Multi-Scale Artificial Neural Networks with Temporal Lag Optimization	Farah, E. et al. (2025), Water (Switzerland)
AI and smart cities: Transforming urban living in the MENA	Moukarzel, A. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Landscape Sustainability: From Assessment to Policy—Case of Baabda Forest, Lebanon	Aad, R. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
AI6-G Convergence: Architectures, Key Use Cases, and Challenges for Intelligent and Sustainable Networks	Rachini, A. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025
Self-Organizing Edge Computing Framework for Smart Cities using SUMO	Boughannam, N. et al. (2025 ,(2025 IEEE International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Computing, ETECOM 2025
The Application of Landscape Indicators for Landscape Quality Assessment; Case of Zahleh, Lebanon	Aad, R. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)

SDG 12 — Responsible Consumption and Production (17 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Effects of green supply chain management practices on environmental and firm sustainability performance	Maurya, S. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
Sustainability and AI	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Transforming Business Through Digital Sustainability Models
Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Global Marketing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Cultural Sensitivity, Cross-Border Logistics, and E-Commerce in Global Marketing
Greenwashing as a Barrier to Sustainable Marketing: Expectation Disconfirmation, Confusion, and Brand-Consumer Relationships	Daou, L. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Bridging Sustainable Development: The Nexus of Business Safety, Health Management, and Corporate Social Sustainability—Do Affective Commitment and Emotional Intelligence Mediate?	Farmanesh, P. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Sustainable public green finance under domestic and global policy uncertainties: Does environmental policy stringency matter? Evidence from OECD nations using method of moments quantile-based analysis	Athari, S.A. (2025), Journal of Cleaner Production
Corporate Sustainability Leadership in a Technology-Driven Educational Environment	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Navigating Complexity, AI, and Legal Challenges in Organizations
Leveraging Data for Climate Action: Smart Governance in the Digital Age.	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Designing Effective Public Policies to Address Global Warming
The impact of corporate social responsibility on student engagement in sports activities in universities	Jabbour Al Maalouf, N. et al. (2025), Society and Business Review
Mindfulness and sustainability leadership: Integrating awareness and action for a resilient future	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Strategic Approaches to Mindful Leadership and Change Management
Impact of Corporate Governance on Non-Financial Performance and Sustainability Reporting	Mouawad, J. et al. (2025), Sustainable Economic Development: Utilizing Non-Financial Performance, Sustainability Reporting, and Corporate Governance
Pathways for effective engagement of the youth in climate and migration advocacy	Salhi, A. et al. (2025), Environmental Development
Polyphenolic Compounds from Indigenous Malus Species: A Novel Approach to Improve Ice Cream's Thermodynamic Properties	Nehme, L. et al. (2025), Processes
Adulteration and quality assessment of tomato paste: a study of the Lebanese market	Habib, F. et al. (2025), Frontiers in Nutrition

Landscape Sustainability: From Assessment to Policy—Case of Baabda Forest, Lebanon	Aad, R. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Leadership for Strategic Reinvention	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Reinventing Corporate Strategy for Competitive Advantage
Strategic Management and Business Models Enabling Non-Financial Performance	Freiha, S. et al. (2025), Sustainable Economic Development: Utilizing Non-Financial Performance, Sustainability Reporting, and Corporate Governance

SDG 13 – Climate Action (18 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
How do climate policy uncertainty and renewable energy and clean technology stock prices co-move? evidence from Canada	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Empirical Economics
An Overview of Biodiesel Production via Heterogeneous Catalysts: Synthesis, Current Advances, and Challenges	Yaghi, M. et al. (2025), Clean Technologies
Beyond fossil fuels: How Iceland's oil efficiency, hydro energy, and fiscal decentralization propel a cleaner environment: Evidence from wavelet quantile methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Environmental and Sustainability Indicators
Developing green skills for sustainable careers	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Integrating AI and Sustainability in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
Challenges and opportunities for tech entrepreneurs in agriculture	Subrahmanyam, S. et al. (2025), Precision and Intelligence in Agriculture: Advanced Technologies for Sustainable Farming
Do Environmental Taxes and Green Electricity Matter for Environmental Quality? Fresh Evidence in France Based on Fourier Methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Energies
Sustainability and AI	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Transforming Business Through Digital Sustainability Models
Sustainable Development and Climate Change in Global Marketing	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Cultural Sensitivity, Cross-Border Logistics, and E-Commerce in Global Marketing
Sustainable public green finance under domestic and global policy uncertainties: Does environmental policy stringency matter? Evidence from OECD nations using method of moments quantile-based analysis	Athari, S.A. (2025), Journal of Cleaner Production
AI for sustainable development: MENA strategies	Pasumarti, S.S.R. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
China's Low-Carbon Energy: Relations with Emerging Markets A Multi-Level Perspective	McLean, R. (2025), China's Low-Carbon Energy: Relations with Emerging Markets A Multi-Level Perspective

Leveraging Data for Climate Action: Smart Governance in the Digital Age.	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Designing Effective Public Policies to Address Global Warming
Machine learning-based localized predictive modeling of household energy consumption in the Netherlands	Jafarigorzin, S. et al. (2025), Energy and Buildings
Oil Extraction from the Spent Coffee Grounds and Its Conversion into Biodiesel	Harb, R. et al. (2025), Energies
A systematic research review and meta-analysis of environmental sciences and management models	Praveenraj, D.D.W. et al. (2025), Acta Innovations
Pathways for effective engagement of the youth in climate and migration advocacy	Salhi, A. et al. (2025), Environmental Development
The effects of foreign Investment, resource utilization, and energy sources on ecological sustainability: evidence from BRICS-T nations	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Discover Sustainability
Green Leadership and Cultural Transformation	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Promoting Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Strategies Through Human Resource Management

SDG 15 – Life on Land (5 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
A Scalable AI Approach to Bird Species Identification for Conservation and Ecological Planning	Hassanie, S. et al. (2025), IEEE Access
Sustainability and AI	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Transforming Business Through Digital Sustainability Models
Exploring the genetic diversity of Lebanon's underexploited grapevine resources	Merheb, J. et al. (2025), Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution
Bridging Sustainable Development: The Nexus of Business Safety, Health Management, and Corporate Social Sustainability—Do Affective Commitment and Emotional Intelligence Mediate?	Farmanesh, P. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Landscape Sustainability: From Assessment to Policy—Case of Baabda Forest, Lebanon	Aad, R. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)

SDG 16 — Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (24 publications)

Publication Title	Authors, Year, Source
Toxic work environment: the impact of toxic leadership and workplace bullying on employees' innovative work behavior and affective commitment	Bou Reslan, F. et al. (2025), Cogent Business and Management
Beyond fossil fuels: How Iceland's oil efficiency, hydro energy, and fiscal decentralization propel a cleaner environment: Evidence from wavelet quantile methods	Athari, S.A. et al. (2025), Environmental and Sustainability Indicators
Finding Strength in Times of War: A Systematic Review of Resilience and Adaptation Among Arabs Exposed to War	Younes, R.S. et al. (2025), Social Sciences
AI in the middle east for growth and business: A transformative force	Azoury, N. et al. (2025), AI in the Middle East for Growth and Business: A Transformative Force
Patient and staff perception of aggression and its management in a Lebanese psychiatric hospital: a cross-sectional study	Zeid, L.A. et al. (2025), Discover Mental Health
Leveraging Data for Climate Action: Smart Governance in the Digital Age.	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Designing Effective Public Policies to Address Global Warming
Cultural Shifts Through Shared Inquiry: Participatory Research in the Age of Communication	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Cultural Transformation and Disruption Through Media and Communication
Smart Cities and E-Government: How Startups Are Transforming Urban Life	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Startup-Driven E-Government: Digital Innovation for Sustainable Ecosystems
The mediating role of anxiety between child abuse and pain among a sample of Lebanese adults	Kesrewani, E. et al. (2025), Scientific Reports
The mediating role of distress tolerance in the relationship between childhood maltreatment and anxiety in a sample of Lebanese adults	Mattar, E. et al. (2025), Scientific Reports
Validation of the Arabic versions of the long (15 items) and short (4 items) forms of the distress tolerance scale (DTS)	Noureddine, A. et al. (2025), Middle East Current Psychiatry
Psychometric properties of an Arabic translation of the Child–Adolescent Perfectionism Scale–short form (CAPS9-)	Merdad, N. et al. (2025), International Journal of Adolescence and Youth
Administrative Regulation of the Right to Strike	Sakr, H. (2025), USEK Law Journal
Psychometric properties of the Arabic version of the -11item ostracism experience scale for adolescents (OES-A) in community adolescents	Merdad, N. et al. (2025), Children's Health Care
Landscape Sustainability: From Assessment to Policy—Case of Baabda Forest, Lebanon	Aad, R. et al. (2025), Sustainability (Switzerland)
Leadership for Strategic Reinvention	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Reinventing Corporate Strategy for Competitive Advantage

Mediating effect of body dysmorphic concerns between child abuse and social anxiety among adolescents	Hemade, A. et al. (2025), Discover public health
The International Legal Framework for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Context of Armed Conflicts	Hanna, M. (2025), USEK Law Journal
Violence victimization and perpetration within the caregiver-patient relationship in schizophrenia: A cross-sectional study in Tunisia	Fekih-Romdhane, F. et al. (2025), PLOS ONE
Assessment of workplace sexual harassment in an Arab setting: Reliability and Validity of the Lund Sexual Harassment Inventory among Arabic-speaking workers	Moubarak, V. et al. (2025), Sexuality Research and Social Policy
Preparing for the Next Generation of AI Impacts on Belief Systems	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Intersections of AI and the Freedom of Religion or Belief
Connecting With Conscious Consumers	Subrahmanyam, S. (2025), Sustainable and Inclusive Practices for Building Authentic Brands
The Involvement of Religious Communities in State Affairs	Sakr, H. (2025), USEK Law Journal
Leveraging Text Sentiment Analysis for Cyberbullying Prevention	Kassem, H. et al. (2025 ,(2025 Asian Conference on Communication and Networks, ASIANComNet 2025

Source: Elsevier SciVal, data source Scopus, up to 22 July 2026. © 2026 Elsevier B.V. SciVal, RELX Group and the RE symbol are trade marks of RELX Intellectual Properties SA, used under license.

Appendix V

USEK Sports Achievements and Athletic Performance (2025–2024)

USEK promotes health, well-being, teamwork, leadership, and student engagement through a comprehensive sports program that encourages participation in both competitive and recreational athletics. During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University supported approximately 230 student-athletes across 16 varsity sports teams, supervised by 13 qualified coaches. To recognize athletic excellence and encourage student participation, USEK awarded athletic scholarships to 115 student-athletes during the Fall Semester and 147 student-athletes during the Spring Semester.

University Sports Teams

USEK fields varsity teams in the following sports:

- Basketball (men and women)
- Volleyball (men and women)
- Futsal (men and women)
- Handball (men and women)
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Track and field
- Swimming
- Badminton
- Padel
- Cheerleading
- Chess
- Frisbee

Mini-League – Fall 2024

Sport	Achievement
Men's Basketball	1st place
Women's Basketball	3rd place
Men's Volleyball	2nd place
Women's Volleyball	2nd place
Women's Handball	1st place
Men's Handball	3rd place

Men's Futsal	1st place
Women's Table Tennis	1st place
Chess	1st place
Badminton	3rd place
Swimming	2nd place – Men and 2nd place – Women

Lebanese University Sports Federation (FSUL) League (2024–2025)

Sport	Achievement
Men's Volleyball	1st pPlace
Women's Volleyball	5th place
Men's Basketball	1st place
Women's Basketball	3rd place
Women's Handball	1st place
Men's Handball	5th place
Men's Futsal	3rd place
Women's Futsal	5th place
Track and Field	1st place – Women; 3rd place – Men
Badminton	3rd place – Women; 4th place – Men
Table Tennis	2nd place – Women; 5th place – Men
Swimming	6th place – Women; 8th place – Men

EuroMilano Championship – Milan, Italy (2025)

USEK represented Lebanon in the EuroMilano Championship, competing against more than 40 international universities and demonstrating outstanding athletic performance.

Sport	Achievement
Men's Basketball	2nd place
Women's Basketball	4th place
Women's Futsal	4th place
Men's Beach Volleyball	3rd place
Women's Beach Volleyball	4th place
Cheerleading	4th place

Overall University Achievement

USEK ranked second overall in the EuroMilano Challenge Cup among more than 40 participating international universities, highlighting the University's strong commitment to sporting excellence and international competitiveness.

FISU World University Championship (2025)

Five USEK student-athletes were selected to represent Lebanon at the FISU World University Championship, held in Rhine, Germany, from 15–28 July 2025.

National Team	Number of Selected Student-Athletes
Basketball	3
Table Tennis	2
Total	**5**

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	2025–2024
University sports teams	16
Student-athletes	Approximately 230
Coaches	13
Athletic scholarships (Fall semester)	115
Athletic scholarships (Spring semester)	147
Students selected for the FISU World University Championship	5
EuroMilano Challenge Cup Ranking	**2nd among +40 international universities**

These achievements demonstrate USEK's commitment to promoting physical activity, student well-being, teamwork, leadership, and sporting excellence. Through sustained investment in athletics and student development, the University contributes to a healthy and inclusive campus environment while advancing SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being.