



## UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

**Period covered by this Communication on Engagement**  
**From: April, 2019**                      **To: March, 2021**

Statement of continued support by the Vice-Rector for Strategic Development

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Riga Technical University (RTU) continues to reaffirm its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact and, as a higher education institution, RTU shares and values the principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

In this annual Communication on Progress, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our strategy, culture and daily operations.

Riga Technical University  
Vice-Rector for Strategic Development  
Dr. oec., MBA Artūrs Zeps

## II Description of Actions from 2019 to 2021

Riga Technical University (RTU) has been part of United Nations Global Compact initiative since April 2017 and this is the second period for communicating university's engagement to fulfil the UN Global Compact initiatives. In addition, RTU has already been a part of United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network since 2015. RTU is a modern and prestigious University, internationally recognised as the leading university of science and innovation in the Baltic States – a cornerstone of the development of Latvia. RTU mission is to ensure internationally competitive high quality scientific research, tertiary education, technology transfer and innovation for Latvian national economy and the society.

The RTU's strategy for the new programming period is a consecutive continuation is the previous strategy of the university for 2014-2020. It has been developed in compliance with the objectives and priorities defined in Latvian development planning documents, including:

- Latvian Sustainable Development Strategy up to 2030 (Latvia 2030);
- National Development Plan of Latvia 2021-2027 (NDP2027);
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda).

The RTU sets 4 main objectives for the next planning period, three of which are related to the implementation of basic university functions: excellent science, quality studies and sustainable valorisation. Meanwhile, the fourth – institutional excellence – is related to the university support function and the development of internal governance. The RTU sets 4 main objectives for the next programming period, three of which are related to the implementation of basic university functions: excellent science, quality studies and sustainable valorisation. Meanwhile, the fourth – institutional excellence – is related to the university support function and the development of internal governance.



*RTU Strategic Objectives 2021-2025*

Pursuing sustainable development and excellence, special attention is devoted to management and leadership, strategic planning, process approach, product and service development, improvement of cash flow and financial performance indicators, efficiency improvement in all activity areas, promotion of the level of satisfaction of the students, cooperation partners and employees, and increased market coverage. Also in this matter, RTU has incorporated the UN Global Compact principles in variety of internal documentations and operations.

### Sustainable Development Goals at RTU



## Main policies:

### RTU Constitution

RTU Constitution emphasises on the well-being of RTU employees, students, partners and society in general. It supports and respects the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights as well as eliminates the discrimination in respect of employment and occupation at the university. RTU Constitution also includes general rules, operational objectives, main university directions, academic freedom, fair and transparent finance management.

More detailed information about [RTU Constitution](#) (Only in Latvian).

### RTU Code of Ethics

RTU has designed a Code of Ethics of students, academic staff and employees in order to stimulate the spirit of togetherness, an open, friendly and responsible RTU family. The aim of the Code is to encourage students, academic staff and employees to be loyal and fair; honestly and responsibly perform their duties, follow ethical guidelines at work, in mutual communication and personal behaviour. The Code includes the basic principles and norms of ethical behaviour that students, academic staff and employees are to follow in their attitude towards RTU, in their work, in relationships with other RTU representatives, as well as in private life. RTU Code of Ethics is based on universal values, moral norms and principles that are in line with UN Global Compact principles.

More detailed information about [RTU Code of Ethics](#) (Only in Latvian).

### RTU Excellence Approach

To encourage development of Riga Technical University, Excellence approach was adopted in RTU Senate in 2017. It is a blend of RTU Constitution, Strategy and Quality Policy. It is based on the ESG (Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area) developed by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and fundamental principles of EFQM (The European Foundation for Quality Management) Excellence Model.

*“RTU Approach to Pursuing Excellence facilitates reaching the set objectives, improving the quality of education, ensuring excellent research results and good working conditions for RTU team, and that, in its turn, helps the University achieve even better ranking in the international university ratings,” says the RTU rector Academician Leonīds Ribickis.*

More detailed information about [RTU Excellence Approach](#). (In English).

### RTU Green Campus Policy

To become the most advanced engineering study centre in the Baltic region, the development of the campus of RTU in Kipsala is based on sustainable, smart and environmentally friendly initiatives. Developing RTU Green Concept 2018–2023, the goal of the University is to raise



**RIGA TECHNICAL  
UNIVERSITY**

awareness of students, employees and the general public about the need to reduce the ecological footprint and to encourage the creation and use of environmentally-friendly technologies. These principles have already been taken into account in the creation of RTU study and research infrastructure – by constructing and reconstructing buildings, furnishing and equipping them – and in the promotion of behaviour change based on the green concept. Carbon intensive technologies in various sectors of the economy and innovative solutions for more efficient and smart use of resources are also a significant research field of RTU scientists.

More detailed information about [RTU Green Campus Policy](#) (In English).

## Main activities

### Studies about sustainability - available for everyone

RTU Institute of Energy Systems and Environment (IESE) has become the leader of environmental science and engineering in Europe. The secret of the sustainable development of IESE is to stay up to date: to develop innovations and implement them. RTU IESE is not only excellent at research, but also provides excellence in studies. Each year RTU IESE is offering a free course on sustainable development that reflects on the principles of UN Global Compact. Courses can be attended by anyone interested in raising awareness of environmental sustainability opportunities. In previous years the representatives of municipalities and state institutions, employees of various industrial enterprises, students and other interested parties participated in this study course. This one of activities how RTU ensures the promotion of UN Global Compact principles to society.

### Conferences

In this reference period, RTU has organized and participated in many conferences including the topics of the implementation of SDGs, achieving sustainability in organization, education and research. With these activities, RTU ensures the promotion of UN Global Compact Ten Principles and UN Sustainable Development Goals locally and internationally. Here are listed some of the conferences and workshops organized from 2019 until 2021:

- «Changes for Sustainable Higher Education» [\(2019\)](#)
- «Scientific conference: RTU Conect» [\(2019\)](#)
- «Discussion: The impact of environmental change on society and economic development» [\(2020\)](#)
- «Hackathon: RTU Green Campus» [\(2020\)](#)
- «Scientific conference: RTU Conect» [\(2020\)](#)
- «UI GreenMetric: Teaching, Learning and Working in Sustainable University during Covid-19 Pandemic» (2020)
- «Time for Sustainable Development» [\(2021\)](#)

### Being part of UN PRME – Principles for Responsible Management Education

RTU Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management (FEEM) and RTU Business School (RBS) has joined the PRME. In 2008 the RTU FEEM and in 2012 RBS became members of PRME which means that we are constantly improving the academic environment to meet the global challenges. The Faculties put forward the mission of PRME to inspire and champion responsible management education, research and thought leadership globally.

For more information:

[The last report for FEEM](#) (2019) and [the last report of RBS](#) (2017/2018)

### III Measurement of Outcomes from 2019 to 2021

RTU follows the perception of sustainability in Latvian society and by showing example engages with local and national community. We measure our output by Latvian “Sustainability Index” and its frameworks methodological measurement. In International level, RTU is participating in two rankings that are directly related to SDGs and sustainable development.

#### Sustainability Index

“Sustainability Index” is a strategic management tool, which is based on internationally recognized methodology. It assesses the organization’s performance according to the current economic, social and environmental issues in Latvia, at the same time representing internationally recognized understanding of corporate responsibility and sustainability criteria. It offers objective criteria to society, state institutions and non-governmental organizations in order to praise and support organizations that help to enhance the national economy of Latvia in the long term.

In 2018, 2019 and 2020 RTU was awarded with the highest category and receiving the Platinum award. RTU has achieved such a high level, because it has set the sustainability as a priority in its development strategy and is purposefully implementing it on a daily basis, encouraging green lifestyle and providing scientific contribution to the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

The Sustainability Index methodology explains that companies that have received the platinum category have fully integrated corporate responsibility into their activities, and they have appointed responsible persons on both the board and executive level. Companies undergo systematic data collection and impact assessment, they report on their activities with high level of transparency and by involving the target audience, and an external auditor confirms their published data.



Year 2018



Year 2019



Year 2020

Third year in a row – RTU sustains Platinum category in [Sustainability Index](#)

**Family-friendly Workplace award (previously Family-friendly Organization)**



In 2019 Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia granted RTU the status of a family-friendly organization, confirming the university's ability to implement a family-friendly policy, for example, by providing services and providing an appropriate environment. The main criterion for granting status was the suitability of the premises and equipment for the child. Employees' health protection at the workplace, provision of customer-oriented services, support for activities for children and families, engagement in charitable activities, as well as the orientation of the university's policy towards effective reconciliation of work and family life, such as remote work, flexible or short-term work and many more.

**Rankings**



**Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2019**

The Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This is the first year the ranking has been launched and RTU is one of the inaugural participants being ranked from 200 to 300 range. This year RTU participated and was ranked in five SDGs:



More detailed information about [University Impact Rankings 2019](#)



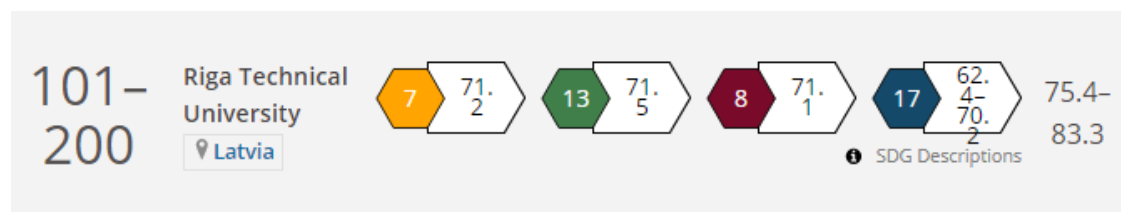
**Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020**

Evaluating the performance of RTU in the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (CNG) 17, RTU is ranked 101-200 in the highest-ranked group



of universities and thus becoming also the most highly rated of the four Latvian universities in the ranking «The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020».

RTU efforts to achieve the goal of «Climate Action» are highly valued - RTU is recognized as the 14th best in the world in this field. RTU has shared 34th place reaching the goal «Affordable and Clean Energy», shared 45th place in implementing activities of goal «Decent Work and Economic Growth», and 70th place in fulfilling the intentions of goal «Industry Innovations and Infrastructure». In comparison with the previous year when this ranking was organized for the first time, RTU has improved its results, thus moving from group of higher education institutions ranked 201-300 to group of higher education institutions ranked 101-200.



*RTU results in THE Impact Ranking 2020 – top 4 SDGs*

A year ago, in implementation of 17 SDG goals 450 universities from 76 countries were evaluated in this ranking, but this year 767 universities from 85 countries.

Sustainable development is one of RTU priorities, which is transformed into a variety of actions, such as the creation of the concept of Green Ķīpsala in 2018, with a strong focus on sustainable, smart and environmentally friendly development. The aim of the university is to raise awareness among students, employees and the public about the need to reduce the ecological footprint and to promote the creation and use of environmentally friendly technologies. Efforts to bring these goals to life are reflected in RTU assessment in «The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020».

More detailed information about [THE Impact rankings 2020](#)



### UI GreenMetric Rankings 2020

RTU has significantly improved its position in the green policy and sustainability rating UI Green Metric World University Ranking, ranking among the 60 greenest universities in the world. In 2020 RTU ranked 56th. It is a significant achievement compared to 2019, when RTU was ranked 93–95. Moreover, RTU remains the only higher education institution in Latvia that has been ranked so high, as no other Latvian university has been able to rank even among 500 greenest universities.

In the Green Metric Rankings, world universities are ranked according to their commitment to reducing environmental impact. Higher education institutions' compliance with the green principles is assessed by six criteria: common infrastructure, energy efficiency and climate

change mitigation activities, waste management, efficient use of water resources, transport infrastructure and environmental education and research.

Compared to the previous year, RTU has improved its performance in all six indicators, achieving the best results in rating of transport infrastructure, environmental education and research and waste management.

More detailed information about [UI GreenMetric 2020](#)

### Partnerships

RTU has formalized partnership with **RTU Trade Union** to ensure RTU employees and their interests are represented within and outside the university. This partnership include mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles regarding human rights, labour, anti-corruption and work environment.

RTU has formalized partnership with **UI GreenMetric** regarding sustainable development and environmental responsibility. This partnership include mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles regarding human rights, labour, anti-corruption and sustainable development for the organization, education and research. Also in 2018, RTU became a member of UI GreenMetric Steering Committee and became the National Coordinator.

More detailed information about [UI GreenMetric Steering Committee](#)



Full list of Riga Technical University international partnerships can be found [here](#).