



**RIGA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY**

UN Global Compact

Communication on Engagement



2023

Statement of continued support



On 11th April 2023

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Riga Technical University (RTU) reaffirms 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 UN Global Compact and its principles into our strategy, culture and daily operations.

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

II Description of Actions from 2021 to 2023

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: April, 2021 To: April, 2023

Riga Technical University (RTU) has been part of United Nations Global Compact initiative since April 2017 and this is the third 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 the only modern, internationally known and prestigious multidisciplinary technical university in Latvia. It is purposefully developing to become a third-generation university, which provides not only high-quality education, but also excellent research and valorization – the transfer of innovation and technologies, thus bringing scientific advances into practice.

***RTU has defined its mission:
to shape a competitive, educated, innovative and creative future.***

The RTU's strategy for the new planning 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 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.



RTU Strategic Objectives 2021-2025

Outstanding science – promoting international competitiveness and raising the quality of our scientific work. We will improve the support system and promote investments in equipment, ensuring stronger scientific performance and higher international results.

Quality studies – greater focus on attracting well prepared students. A differentiated educational offer. A more flexible approach to the choice of study courses and opportunities for students to transfer from one study programme to another during their studies. Development of new perspectives – lifelong learning and digitalization.

Sustainable valorization – proactive, clear and engaging cooperation with industry. Involvement of academic staff and students in the development of high-tech start-ups. Improving the support model and mechanisms for involving students and staff in valorization. Enhancing the innovation skills of all RTU employees.

Institutional excellence - sustainable and modern governance. An efficient, clear and strategically sound financial system. A well-organized environment for studies and research. Six sub-objectives have been defined for institutional excellence:

- digitalization;
- sustainable development;
- effective development of financial and administrative work;
- internationalization;

- communication and cooperation;
- human resource development.

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 emphasizes 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](#) (In English).

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 behavior. The Code includes the basic principles and norms of ethical behavior 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.

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

RTU Green Campus Policy

To become the most advanced engineering study center 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 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 behavior 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).

Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy and Gender Equality Plan

RTU has developed a Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy, as well as a gender equality plan 2021-2025. Within the framework of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy, RTU encourages students, academic staff, employees, cooperation partners to be aware of and take advantage of the benefits and benefits of inclusion of different groups in society, as well as to address any form of discrimination. The plan aims to ensure integrated, targeted and effective action that promotes the implementation of equal rights and opportunities for women and men at the university. The plan defines the university's goals in the priority areas of gender mainstreaming, as well as the tasks to be performed to achieve these goals and the deadlines for their achievement.

More detailed information about [Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy](#) (In English).

More detailed information about [Gender Equality Plan 2021 – 2025](#) (In English).

Main activities

Studies about sustainability – contribution to society

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 2021 until 2023:

- «Role of Universities in Sustainable Development in Baltic Sea Region» (2021)
- «Time for Sustainable Development» (2021)
- International conference «Atvērto inovāciju koncepts: Sudraba ekonomikas veicināšana Baltijas jūras reģionā» (2021)
- International sustainability conference «Role of Universities in Sustainable Development in Baltic Sea Region» (2021)
- International Scientific Conference of Riga Technical University Architecture And Urban Planning (2021)
- Research conference «Ko mēs zinām par dabasgāzi kā energoresursu» (2022)
- Conference «Innovative Materials, Structures and Technologies» (IMST 2022)
- Conference «Viedo pilsētu konference» (2022)
- «EIT Awareness day» (2022)
- «Change makers program» (2022)
- Project «Sustainable Theaters» (2023)

Being part of UN PRME – Principles for Responsible Management Education

RTU Faculty of Engineering Economics and Management (FEEM) 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 \(2022\)](#)

III Measurement of Outcomes from 2021 to 2023

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, 2020, 2021 and 2022 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.



Forth 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 was 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:

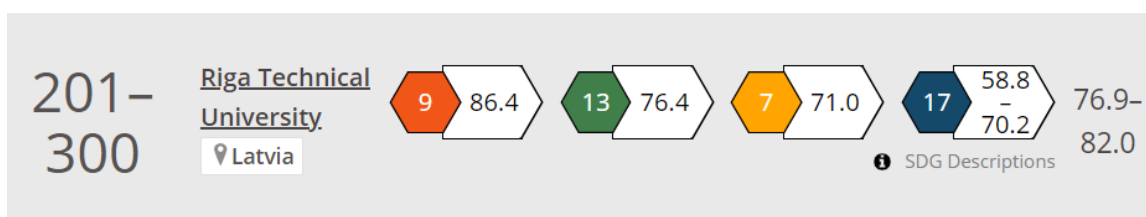


More detailed information about [University Impact Rankings 2019](#)

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022

Evaluating the performance of RTU in the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, RTU is ranked 201-300 in the highest-ranked group of universities in the ranking «The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022».

RTU efforts to achieve the goal of «Climate Action» are highly valued - RTU is recognized as the 29th (shared place) best in the world in this field. RTU has shared 58th place reaching the goal «Affordable and Clean Energy», 101-200 place in implementing activities of goal «Decent Work and Economic Growth», and shared 94th place in fulfilling the intentions of goal «Industry Innovations and Infrastructure».



RTU results in THE Impact Ranking 2022 – top 4 SDGs

The 2022 Impact Rankings is the fourth edition and the overall ranking includes 1,406 universities from 106 countries/regions.

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 2022».

More detailed information about [THE Impact rankings 2022](#)



UI GreenMetric Rankings 2022

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 2022 RTU ranked 55th. 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.

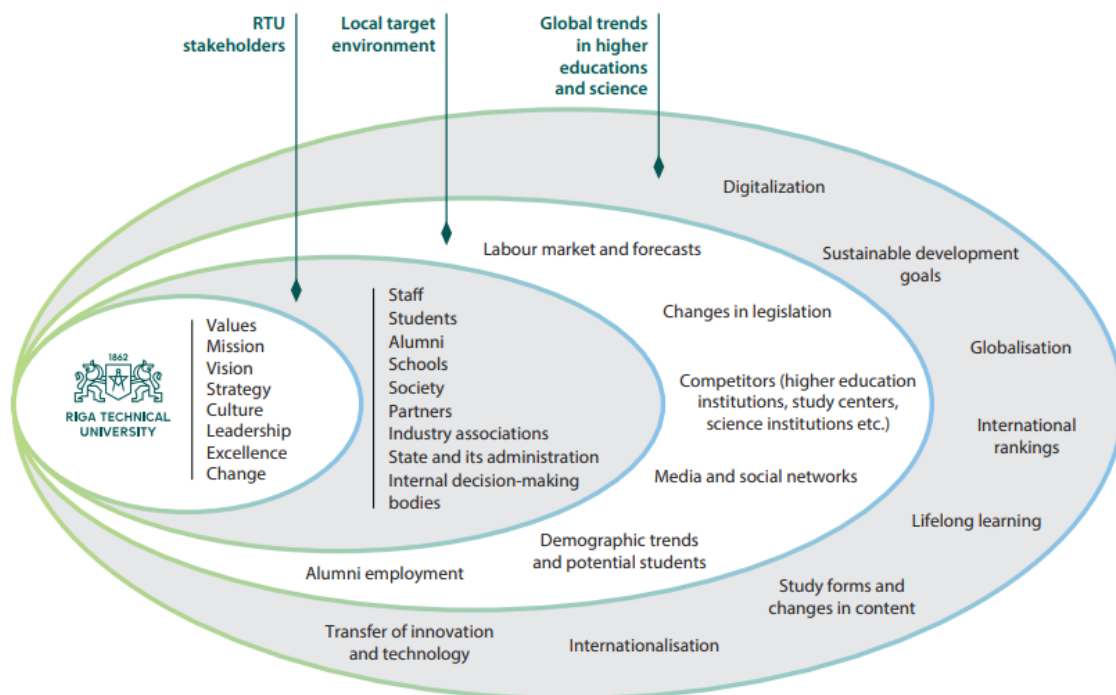
In the Green Metric Rankings, world universities are ranked according to their commitment to reducing environmental impact. Higher education institutions' compliance with the green principles is assessed by six criteria: common infrastructure, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation activities, 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 2022](#)

Partnerships

In 2020, RTU established the Cooperation Coordination Center to promote cooperation between RTU structural units and cooperation with external partners in achieving strategic goals. RTU has developed ecosystem map that outlines the key stakeholders and influencing factors. It is a crucial step to understand and improve different kind and level partnerships RTU has.



RTU ecosystem map

For example, at the international level, RTU has joined the EUT+ network to jointly develop European universities of technology. At the national level, RTU actively participates in the activities of the Association of Latvian Universities, and RTU employees widely represent RTU in various industry associations. RTU's key stakeholders are represented and involved in determining RTU's strategic direction.

RTU evaluates cooperation opportunities and participates in local and international cooperation networks and organizations. RTU has a register of partners, guidelines for international cooperation and its evaluation. RTU monitors stakeholder representation in important decision-making, such as strategy development. At the management level, cooperation is regularly evaluated and its contribution to the achievement of the university's objectives is assessed.

When organizing procurements, compliance with the principles laid down in the Public

Procurement Law is ensured. RTU has defined its procurement policy and general procurement principles.

In order to reduce the environmental impact of goods, services and construction works purchased in public procurements, promote social improvements and ensure sustainability in procurements, the principles of green public procurement are applied as regularly as possible in accordance with the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.

RTU has formalized partnership with **RTU Trade Union** to ensure RTU employees and their interests are represented within and outside the university. This partnership includes 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 includes 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](#).