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Introduction

This sustainability report for 2021-2023 reflects a significant focus on ongoing developments on campus, and a sharpening of the mindset on campus.

Acknowledging the gap in activities during 2021-2022 due to the COVID crisis, where the university experienced closures and suspended operations, subsequent challenges arose with the economic crisis impacting operations due to budget limitations. The university has continued to dedicate efforts towards fostering skills, cultivating innovation, and encouraging students to find solutions amidst the constraints of the economic crisis.

This report will showcase the university's resilience and commitment to sustainability, emphasizing the importance of empowering students to create a positive impact on their surroundings.



Tree Planting



Student Engagement | GAEA



Continuing Our Mission: Our Commitment to Environmental and Social Sustainability

At USEK we proudly reaffirm our commitment to environmental and social sustainability. As a Catholic institution, we firmly believe that caring for our planet and promoting social well-being are integral parts of our core mission. Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond mere rhetoric; it is deeply ingrained in the fabric of our university.

By embracing sustainability as a guiding principle, we strive to create a positive impact on our campus community. Through our comprehensive sustainability initiatives, we aim to inspire and empower our students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders to become change agents in building a more sustainable future.

Sustainability is not just an add-on or an afterthought for us—it permeates more and more of our academic and administrative practices. We integrate sustainability into our curriculum, ensuring that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate complex environmental and social issues. Our **research endeavors** are driven by a commitment to finding innovative solutions to global sustainability challenges, while our campus operations prioritize **robust mindset-building for our youth, resource conservation, waste reduction, and energy efficiency.**

By cultivating a culture of sustainability, we aim to foster a sense of responsibility, empathy, and global citizenship among our university community. Through these efforts, we are striving to create an inclusive and sustainable campus environment where everyone can thrive.

Since 2018 we have continued our mission and remain steadfast in our dedication to environmental and social sustainability. We recognize that our actions today will shape the world of tomorrow, and we are committed to leaving a positive legacy for future generations. Together, we can make a difference and create a brighter, more sustainable future for all.



Welcome to the Report

We have made significant logistical efforts across various internal levels to foster a sustainable mindset within our community. However, it is now essential for us to pause and assess our progress.

The establishment of the Office of Sustainability and academic and research centers in 2010 and Green USEK in 2016, has facilitated collaboration among on-campus partners who value the importance of incorporating community ideas into a comprehensive sustainability strategy. Together, these partners strive to enhance the institution's environmental management, improve its environmental and social performance, and involve the entire university community in sustainable development.

In 2018, we committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment has continued in subsequent years, aligning our efforts with the UN Global Compact Initiative to provide a framework and guidance for our activities. Sustainable practices lie at the core of USEK, influencing every decision and action we undertake.

Moving forward, in 2023 USEK remains dedicated to making a positive impact and driving change through a hearty effort in mindset building within the community.



Outline and Roadmap and Guiding Principles

The objective of this report is to present USEK's sustainability achievements, providing information and details regarding accomplishments to date and future plans. Its significance lies in showcasing USEK's initiatives and actions, as well as offering insights to enhance our long-term sustainability strategies. The report will cover the following:

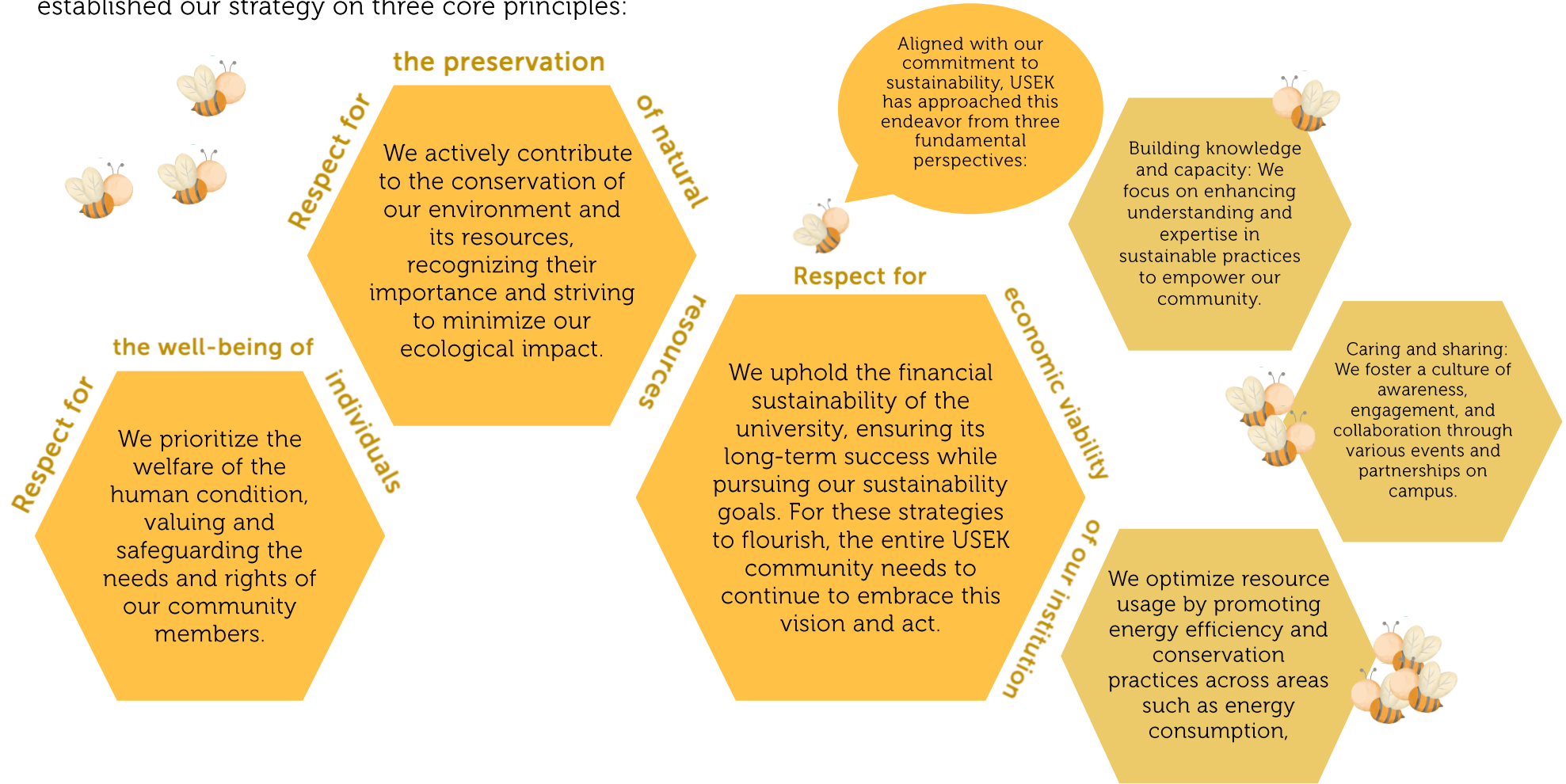
								
Our Sustainability Principles	The USEK Way	Commitment of On-Campus Units	Progress and Achievements: Building on Our Foundation	UN Sustainability Goals and Ranking, UN Global Impact, and IU GreenMetric Rankings	Mindset Growth	What's Next: Sustaining Momentum	Partnerships and grants	Future Project, Plans, and Prizes
								





Our Sustainability Principles

Our Guiding Principles: To ensure sustainability is ingrained in our operations and economic practices, we have established our strategy on three core principles:





The USEK Way

At USEK, we firmly believe that the key to success in increasing sustainability lies in community awareness and action. We recognize that without active involvement from the community, our efforts will yield limited results. Therefore, our approach emphasizes the importance of engaging not only our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, but also collaborating with all on-campus units. We understand that every department and unit within the university plays a vital role in achieving sustainability and fostering greater participation and outreach. By working together, we can create a collective impact that transcends individual efforts and builds a sustainable future for all. At USEK, our approach is rooted in the belief that when the entire community is united towards a common goal, remarkable achievements can be realized.



The Positive Commitment of On-Campus Unity: Strength in Collaboration

The positive commitment to on-campus unity at USEK is a testament to the strength of collaboration. We take pride in showcasing the collective efforts of our university community towards sustainability. Through successful collaborations and initiatives on campus, we have witnessed inspiring results. Departments and units across the university have actively engaged in sustainable practices, demonstrating their unwavering commitment. From the Department of Environmental Sciences implementing recycling programs to the Engineering Department spearheading renewable energy projects, each unit has made significant contributions. The Library Department has





Student Engagement |
Tree Planting



EARTH Day

championed paperless initiatives, while the Facilities Management team has implemented energy-efficient practices. These are just a few examples of how sustainability has become ingrained in our university's operations. With every department and unit highlighting their commitments in the table below, we can truly envision a hopeful and sustainable future for USEK and beyond.



Commitment to Sustainability on Campus (departments and Units)

Through the collaborative efforts of all these departments and units, USEK is paving the way for a sustainable future. The dedication and collective action displayed by our university community exemplifies our commitment to addressing environmental challenges and creating lasting change.

Table of department contributions, [here](#).





Progress and Achievements: Building on Our Foundation

The Green Master Plan, written in 2010 and continuously developed over the past decade, has been instrumental in driving the university's sustainability initiatives and projects. This comprehensive account showcases how the university incorporates sustainability principles into all aspects of campus life, fostering a green message within the wider community.

The following noteworthy accomplishments and milestones have been reached in our journey towards sustainability:

Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy



Waste Management
and Recycling



Sustainable
Transportation



Water Conservation
and Wastewater



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:

Completion of the implementation of energy-saving measures such as LED lighting, motion sensors, and efficient HVAC systems across campus, resulting in a significant reduction in energy consumption.

Completion of the Installation of solar panels on rooftops and the establishment of wind turbines, generating renewable energy and reducing the university's carbon footprint.

Development of innovative energy management systems to optimize energy usage and track consumption patterns, leading to more informed decision-making and increased efficiency.



Waste Management and Recycling:

Implementation of a comprehensive waste management system that includes recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy conversion.

Introduction of recycling bins throughout campus, accompanied by awareness campaigns to educate students, faculty, and staff about proper waste segregation and recycling practices.

Collaborations with local recycling facilities and organizations to ensure the proper disposal and recycling of electronic waste, plastics, paper, and other materials.



Sustainable Transportation:





Expansion of cycling infrastructure, including bike lanes, secure bike storage, and bike-sharing programs, encouraging the use of bicycles as a sustainable mode of transportation. ([Bike Cool Concept Note](#))

Introduction of electric vehicle charging stations on campus, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from traditional gasoline-powered cars.

Implementation of carpooling initiatives, incentivizing students and employees to share rides and reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles on campus.

Water Conservation & Wastewater:



Implementation of water-efficient fixtures and technologies, such as low-flow faucets, dual-flush toilets, and rainwater harvesting systems, reducing water consumption across campus.

Adoption of landscaping practices that prioritize native plants and drought-resistant species, minimizing the need for excessive irrigation.

Education and awareness campaigns to promote responsible water usage among the university community, emphasizing the importance of conservation and sustainable water practices. ([WASIP-LEB Water and Sanitation Internship Program – Engineering Department](#))



Laboratory Operations on Campus

The implementation of certain sustainable initiatives have yielded the following positive practices:

Departmental Achievements	Description
Minimizing waste, including harmful outputs:	Solvent, organic, and inorganic solvents are filled in specific bottles and there is a supplier who is responsible for it.
Implement processes for water treatment, to reduce water, and wastewater:	Install water-saving devices, sensor-activated faucets, and efficient laboratory equipment that minimizes water usage.
Implementing recycling and waste management and best practices:	<p>Standard waste: Collaborate with the university's waste management department or external recycling services to ensure the proper collection, recycling, or disposal of recyclable and non-hazardous waste materials.</p> <p>Medical and biological waste: already have it with Arc en Ciel.</p> <p>EoW products: Product will be tested, and if validated, it will be used for laboratory basic courses. There is a procedure and operational policy for it.</p> <p>Sustainable Practices and Circularity Measures for a Green Laboratory Commitment</p>
Increased use of products made from	to be followed and discussed with suppliers/ Green Committee




recycled materials:	
Energy efficiency and consumption:	Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights. Install occupancy/motion sensors or timers to automatically turn off lights when the lab is not in use.



These achievements demonstrate how the university continues to move forward, and will continue to build upon these accomplishments, setting new goals and implementing innovative strategies to further enhance our sustainability initiatives and contribute positively to the broader community.

Activities that Continue to Target and Hit UN Sustainability Goals and Rankings: Global Alignment

Our institution has consistently demonstrated its commitment to sustainability. By aligning its efforts with specific SDGs, the university actively contributes to the global agenda of achieving sustainable development. Here is a table of examples of how our university's sustainability initiatives align with specific SDGs:

UN SDGs	Sustainable Initiatives
	<p>Education for all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial aid discount up to 50% on LBP and 15% on \$. • Loan agreements with zero interest • Payment settlements • Removing holds due to unpaid tuition fees



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donation: Amal Abou Zeid donation, Ajiyalouna-Tomoooh, onation medicine students, habib foundation, HSUF, Kmeid, lifelebanon, Oeuvre d'orient... • Merit/ excellence scholarship • Agreements discount • Sports scholarship
<p>02 ZERO HUNGER</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food drive in collaboration with Bassma Association: "Easter-Ramadan Foodathon" campaign. The objective was to collect the maximum of food and hygiene products to be distributed to families in desperate need of them.
<p>03 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of UCC : UCC offers a free-of-charge guidance space where a student can talk with a certified professional about his personal issues and private or social life in a confidential setting. • Collaborating with external psychiatrist by referring students in need of medical treatments. • Raising Suicide awareness in collaboration with the School of Architecture and Design and the School of Music. • Applying an information session on general mental health to USEK staff and instructors, by Dr. Georges Haddad and Emilia Chawa. • Supporting SESOBEL as an act of kindness towards the children at their center on the World Kindness Day. Conducting a wellness act workshop in collaboration with the actor Elias El Zayek, targeting mental, physical, and emotional well-being. • Promoting emotional well-being through social media videos, by providing tips, sharing awareness on mental health, highlighting the UCC office and how the office is there to help and support the struggling



people.

- Fitness, football and basketball training for USEK employees each week with a professional coach.
- Blood drive activity on campus : SAO organized a blood drive in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross
- Training for students on how to deal with panic attacks organized by the Access Office.
- Since regular physical activity plays a vital role in promoting overall well-being USEK organized many sports activities:
 - Hannibal Race
 - Streetball event
 - Football competition between students from different faculties.
 - Encouraging students to participate in Beirut Marathon to support an association.
- USEK got talent: Students show their talents in front of a jury.
- Spring Event: Before the Mother's Day, hosting women with small businesses to encourage them.
- Autism awareness month: During the Autism awareness month in April 2023, the National Autism Community posted a campaign (posters, flyers, informative videos, etc.) on social media in addition to several social activities to raise awareness about Autism. Moreover, the AO held an informative session about Autism for students to enhance inclusion and acceptance among students.
- Training for Faculty and Staff: Accommodation application: In April 27th, a training session was held by the AO talking the types and the modality of application of the accommodation in universities. At the end of the training, the instructors were able to identify and differentiate between the types of accommodation and how to apply them in different learning environments.



- By the end of Spring we have 13 new club concepts to be considered for next academic year.
- Student representatives(SR) to in order to transmit students' requests/needs to the administration: SR's towards the end of the year started their productivity effort, amongst challenges and unnecessary conflicts.
- USEK sports teams: During the academic year 2022-2023, we have relaunched only 3 sports: Basketball, Tennis and Table tennis. As for the upcoming academic year 2023-2024, we are thrilled to announce the launching of the rest of USEK sports teams (mentioned above). With this launch, we are excited to bring a new level of energy, sportsmanship, team spirit, excitement, and competition to our community. Our teams will compete in a variety of sports, and we are confident that they will quickly establish themselves as top contenders in their respective leagues.
- Sports club newly formed: USEK Club can contribute to the overall development of students, by providing them with opportunities to learn and develop new skills through the sports disciplines to be offered: Futsal, BasketBall, Tennis, Volley and Table Tennis. It teaches students valuable lessons in leadership, communication, and problem-solving, which are essential skills for success in both academic and professional settings.





- Switching to computerized entrance exams instead of on-paper tests for the new candidates.
- Upgrading the online application for prospective candidates.
- international tests to be eligible to apply at USEK:
Require English tests and specific scores to all types of applicants.
- “Pathways to Success” initiative offering up to 70% tuition eduction of specific programs such as (Bachelor



in education, Bachelor/ Master in English/ or French Language and literature, Masters in History, Masters in Social Science, Master of Science in environmental Technologies, Master in intervention and social work.

- Double Degree programs such as **1) the Master II in Business Law of the USEK Faculty of Law**, in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the Université de Poitiers, aims to offer its students an in-depth training, through a comparative approach, in French, European and Lebanese Business Law. The student will receive a degree from USEK and a degree from Université de Poitiers **2) The Executive MBA - digital management**: In collaboration with ESSCA School of Management, France. Students will be provided with a dual diploma: a specialized Master degree in Digital Management from ESSCA, and an Executive MBA from USEK.
- Exchange programs
- Participation of USEK students in worldwide competition such as **1) HULT prize**: Three of USEK students are qualified for The Hult Prize Lisbon 2023 Summits. USEK and as part of her commitment to supporting their participation cover their travel expenses Lebanon/Lisbon **2) Monroe e. price media law moot court competition** – oxford university, United Kingdom **3) The International Criminal Court (ICC) moot competition** – the Hague, the Netherlands **4) The annual Willem c. Vis middle east international commercial arbitration moot** – pre-vis moot middle east **5) The annual Willem c. Vis international commercial arbitration moot** – Vienna, Austria....
- Hearing the petition of our students concerning difficulties they face with an instructor/ course.
- USEK has adopted a student survey so that students can provide feedback regarding the course they have taken in order to improve education quality.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical engineering students have the opportunity to gain valuable skills and knowledge necessary to install all the components of PV systems. This training Is part of Vocational and Technical Education for all in Lebanon Project (VTE4all).
<div data-bbox="203 552 387 746"> <p>05 GENDER EQUALITY</p>  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality in Sports: The relaunch of sports (tennis, table tennis, and basketball) with separate male and female groups promotes inclusivity and equal opportunities for athletes of all genders. • Gender Equality in Facilities: Separate bathrooms for males and females ensures privacy, comfort, and safety for all individuals. • Gender Equality in the Workplace: Striving for a majority of female employees within the organization demonstrates a commitment to gender equality. Additionally, providing equal salaries for male and female employees ensures fairness and equal compensation for their contributions, helping to bridge the gender pay gap. • Gender Equality in Education: Acknowledging the higher representation of female students-providing equal access to education, support, and resources to students of all genders.
<div data-bbox="203 959 387 1153"> <p>07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers Office: Assisting USEK students in exploring their career options and enhancing their employability through the development of lifelong career management skills. • Providing equal salaries for male and female employees ensures fairness and equal compensation for their contributions, helping to bridge the gender pay gap. • Fitness, football and basketball training for USEK employees each week with a professional coach. • Creating employment opportunities for qualified USEK students in administrative roles or as instructors with the required degrees. <p>Supporting small businesses specially owned by USEK students/alumni by include them in USEK events (such</p>



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DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



as USEK Christmas Market, Spring event...).

- “Pathways to Success” initiative offering up to 70% tuition reduction of specific programs that fits the needs of the market.

Recognizing the vital role of nurses in healthcare and the growing need for qualified professionals in the field, USEK aimed to remove financial barriers and incentivize students to pursue nursing as a career. By offering a full discount on tuition fees, the university made the nursing program more accessible and attractive to prospective students. (100% discount).





09

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



- Industry: Agreement with Indevco group: students can benefit from 25% discount on tuition fees.
- Innovation: USEK Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship aims to serve innovators, aspiring and existing entrepreneurs within USEK community in order to contribute to the growth of the Lebanese economy and creation of jobs. It supports startups and existing SMEs through a mix of targeted initiatives.
- Workshop on Blockchain encourage students to participate in entrepreneurial competition.
- Business Strategies and Performance with Carlos Ghosn Program.
- She leads : is the product of a collaboration between USEK and the Women Leaders Association (WLA). This executive program that specifically targets women is designed to shed light on important business aspects that would facilitate women’s breakthrough and effective roles at the top level of organizations.
- Infrastructure: USEK has undertaken modifications on its KASLIK CAMPUS to ensure compliance with codes and requirements for handicap disability access, specifically focusing on ramps, bathrooms, elevators, and related facilities.



<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement with the municipality of Zgharta- Ehden to reserve the archives of the municipality from waste, pests, bacteria, and leaf litter
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote energy conservation and instill a culture of sustainability, USEK has implemented measures to reduce electricity consumption in all offices and encourages the limited use of air conditioning (AC) units. • In order to transmit this idea of energy conservation to the student community, USEK has taken steps to spread awareness about the energy consumption and use of AC units in the dorms. This serves as a reminder to students about the importance of responsible energy usage and encourages them to adopt sustainable habits in their daily lives. • To promote sustainability and eco-consciousness among new students, USEK has developed and distributed notebooks and pencils made from recyclable paper during the orientation session.
<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To emphasize the importance of environmental responsibility, the USEK community includes a clear message in all mail signatures, urging recipients to avoid printing on paper. “ Think about the environment, avoid printing unless necessary.” • To facilitate effective waste sorting, USEK has implemented a system with two types of bins: one for recyclable materials and another for organic waste. • USEK Carpooling • USEK Green



15
LIFE ON LAND



- To promote peace and contribute to conflict prevention, USEK has established an agreement with the Lebanese Army/ ISF/ General Security/State Security/ Lebanese Customs to provide discounts for military personnel. By offering these discounts, USEK seeks to make education more accessible and affordable for military personnel, enabling them to pursue their academic and professional goals while fulfilling their duties to the nation.

16
PEACE, JUSTICE AND
STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- Agreement with Indevco group: students can benefit from 25% discount on tuition fees.
- Lifelebanon scholarship: Available for USEK students pursuing a degree in STEM, Agriculture, Economics, Finance or Law. This scholarship can cover up to 40% of student tuition fees.
- Tomooh scholarship: PepsiCo International, in collaboration with Ajjalouna Organization, launched the Tomooh scholarship program which aims to provide support to students who possess an excellent academic background but are also facing financial constraints, enabling them to pursue their higher education studies.
- Intisar Foundation scholarship: scholarship of 65% of the tuition fees for 15 students Mater in Performing Arts with a specialization in drama therapy.
- Discount OLM employees
- Discount CCJ children of employees
- The "Amal Abou Zeid Scholarship" is a scholarship program specifically designed to support students from

17
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



the Jezin district.

- Partnership with international universities to install Double Degree programs (law, business...).
- Partnership with NAC to create the Access Office (for students with disabilities).
- MOU with private companies to create job opportunities for USEK students

The university's sustainable accomplishments have garnered recognition and accolades from ranking systems. It has consistently received high rankings from GreenMetrics for its efforts, reinforcing its dedication to making a positive impact on the environment and society. These rankings reflect the university's exemplary performance in areas such as carbon emissions reduction, waste management, resource conservation, and community engagement.

Since 2017, USEK has ranked 1st Green University in Lebanon and in the top 10 'Greenest' Universities in the MENA region 2017-2021, and 2nd Greenest University in Lebanon in 2022.

[Ranking by Country 2022 - Lebanon - UI GreenMetric](#)

By aligning its activities with the UN SDGs and receiving recognition for its sustainability efforts, our university demonstrates its global alignment.



Mindset Growth:

USEK aims to instill a sustainability mindset among students and faculty, empowering them to be change agents. By promoting interdisciplinary learning, students understand environmental, social, and economic concerns, and engage in sustainability



activities. Including sustainable practices in the curriculum and campus operations encourages creativity, environmental stewardship, and a more sustainable world.

Faculty Mindset:

A proactive faculty mindset that is open to cooperation, innovation, and constant learning is needed to scale up research on sustainable best practices and potential. Faculty members can promote the development and adoption of successful sustainable practices across numerous industries by embracing multidisciplinary methods and working with varied stakeholders. This Faculty Mindset highlights the value of developing knowledge exchange platforms, increasing community involvement, and incorporating research findings into workable policies.

		USD	LBP
TOTAL	Total Research Funds Dedicated to Sustainability Research (in US Dollars)	\$ 46,478.72	LBP 244,780,000.00
	Total Research Funds (in US Dollars)	\$ 278,094.9	LBP 639,780,000.00

		USD	LBP
TOTAL (2018-2020)	Total Research Funds Dedicated to Sustainability Research (in US Dollars)	\$ 515,861.72 + € 999,744	LBP 190,900,000.00
	Total Research Funds (in US Dollars)	\$ 256,616.18 + € 959,435 + £ 41,729	LBP 395,000,000.00



Number of scholarly publications on sustainability: 2019-2021.

Google Scholar publications on sustainability from 2019-2021 are 88 publications.

Scopus publications on Environmental Sciences from 2019-2021 are 41 publications.

[Most Recent Publications](#)

Student Mindset:

Student engagement and capacity building are integral aspects of the educational experience at USEK (Holy Spirit University of Kaslik). The university emphasizes various dimensions through which students can actively participate and contribute to their personal growth, academic development, and the betterment of society. Students at USEK are engaged in multiple capacities, including academics, volunteering, and participation in events and public awareness lectures.

[International Funded Projects](#) | [Publications](#)

“In a world doomed by flawed human principles of interaction, sustainability and its umbrella of strategies proved themselves to be game changers in the realm of society crafting and maintenance. In this context, going beyond operational improvements, we at USEK took it upon ourselves to provide the world with enlightened individuals able to be drivers of change in a loading future. Thus, following the logic of ‘involve me and I learn’ we crafted an unrivalled sustainability algorithm based on youth motivation and empowerment. We intervened in courses where students had to do community service and offered them conveniently organized work alternatives of measurable goals during which they act on campus, in chapters created and run by students while developing their soft skills. Consequently, we secured students in-flow, cultivating their mindsets on sustainability and empowering them to become eco-citizens actively



engaging in the development of societies by leading projects aligned with the UN-SDG's and based on the current situation" ...

Activities	Events	Description
Carpool		Promote Green commute
Bike-Cool		Promote Green Commute
	Bike to Campus Day	Promote Green Commute
Waterfull		Fountains all over campus to provide Fresh free water In exchange to reduce the Single use.
	world water Day	Promote water conservation
Re-Mug_It		Offering free hot beverage to whomever is carrying reusable Mug.
Bring your bucket to campus		We encourage the community (Faculties, staff, and students) to bring their organic waste to campus. Where we feed it to our hens and in return, we provide fresh organic eggs to the donor.
Compost		We got on premises our campus MRF (Material Recovery facility) where we sort our waste and we compost the organic food waste.
GAEA		Green and Environmental Art. Where we upcycled our items and encouraged our students to be creative. This pushes them towards circular lifestyle and consumption.
Book exchange		From the MRF, we salvage all books, and we offer them back to our



		community. By displaying them on campus and invite the community members to take two books and replacing it by two books from their own library.
I Hear you		“I hear You = I feel you” - It is a program, where we invite our community to maximize the collect of plastic bottles and instead of throwing it away; they can bring it to campus and in return we provide hearing aids for kids with hearing disabilities.
Recycling		We encourage good behavioral habits on campus, where all our waste in segregated from the source (single stream) and that all our waste at campus will be taken and sorted at the MRF on campus, where all materials will be treated and dispatched to local industries.
Cleanups		Plogging or plaking – cleaning trash while exercising.
Seedballs		To make Lebanon Greener and mitigate climate change. Students using native thyme, turn these seeds into clay balls where they can throw them while hiking.
Plant your food		A program to teach all students from all kind of field to learn how to plant and grow our own food. The garden is on campus and engineered by students.
	Birdwatching	We promote the love of birds and nature, by organizing birdwatching activities on campus. Students will get to study, monitor and identify



		the birds' species on campus.
Plant a tree		We organize events and activities to plant trees either on campus or anywhere in Lebanon. (Ehmej – our last two plots)
No Mow Day		We push for the no pesticide policy, no spring tree pruning and “no” to the mow during the month of May to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife, and us. We tend to highlighted by displaying signs and messages all over the garden on campus.
Agora		We invite the community to take part in important sustainable debates, outside the classes, in special setting, in the campus public areas.
	EARTH Day	We celebrate earth by organizing an event “Zero cost”, sustainable food, eco activities, songs and music.
Dream Box		We encourage students to find solutions for sustainable pressing matters, and by finding solutions and startups (uwyta, can talk, ...)
Partnering		To consolidate the ideas and the strength of our mission, we team up at USEK with different department and faculties and outside USEK with many NGO's like (UNEP, Ajjerni, Wave,)



Youth-ability: Algorithm for sustainability



Agora



EARTH Day



GAEA



Car Pooling

Programs and Initiatives

One significant aspect of student engagement in sustainability revolves around the establishment of programs and initiatives specifically designed to cultivate a sustainability mindset. These initiatives often integrate sustainability into the curriculum, encouraging students to think critically about environmental challenges and explore innovative solutions. By incorporating sustainability into a specific course, the civic engagement program, students develop a holistic understanding of the interconnectedness between their actions and the environment. These programs also provide opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning, connecting theoretical knowledge to practical applications.



Moreover, student-led sustainability projects, campaigns, and organizations have emerged as powerful drivers of change on campus. These initiatives demonstrate the passion, creativity, and commitment of students to address environmental issues. From organizing recycling motivations and reducing plastic waste to advocating for renewable energy and sustainable transportation, student-led projects are making a tangible impact.

In summary, student engagement in sustainability programs and initiatives has become a vital component of educational institutions' efforts to address pressing environmental challenges. By fostering a sustainability mindset, empowering student-led projects, and showcasing personal growth, educational institutions are nurturing a generation of environmentally conscious individuals poised to make a significant impact on our planet's future.



In the realm of academics, USEK continues to make efforts to integrate sustainability and practical applications into the curriculum. Since 2010, the university has been working diligently to promote sustainability by offering programs directly linked to this field.

The commitment to environmental education is reflected in the number of courses and modules related to the environment and sustainability. In the fall of 2019, USEK offered 625 sections across 304 unique subjects/courses, and in the fall of 2020, this increased to 2,819 sections across 1,407 (needs updating – and put these numbers into a table) unique subjects/courses. It is noteworthy that all architectural and engineering projects adhere to environmental and sustainability standards. Furthermore, USEK's



engineering programs are accredited by ABET, and the architecture program is engaged with the NAAB accreditation, demonstrating the university's commitment to high-quality education in these fields.

Volunteering, Civic Engagement & Citizenship course and the Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Undergraduate students at USEK are required to take the Civic Engagement & Citizenship course. This course serves as a platform for motivating and encouraging students to engage in projects related to the promotion of green initiatives, under the guidance of the Green USEK, which promotes green initiatives and equips students with knowledge and skills. This course also has also had some success in creating student startups, which are then supported by the Asher Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (ACIE). The center offers resources, training, and mentoring opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs, providing a supportive ecosystem for building upon ideas and volunteering experiences. Student startups receive valuable feedback, refine business models, and acquire necessary skills to transform their green initiatives into sustainable ventures. Overall, the Civic Engagement & Citizenship course, volunteering with Green USEK, and ACIE Entrepreneur and Innovation Center create a comprehensive ecosystem that nurtures student startups, enabling them with the potential to make a lasting difference in their communities.



Volunteering



Student Engagement |
Car Pooling

Volunteering is another essential component of student engagement at USEK. Through collaboration with the Department of Psychology & Social Sciences, the university has introduced the concept of volunteering with Green USEK. Students who participate in this initiative complete 10 hours of community service, where they assist in environmental work on campus or engage in research to develop practical solutions for environmental challenges. This hands-on experience allows students to apply their knowledge and contribute directly to sustainable initiatives.

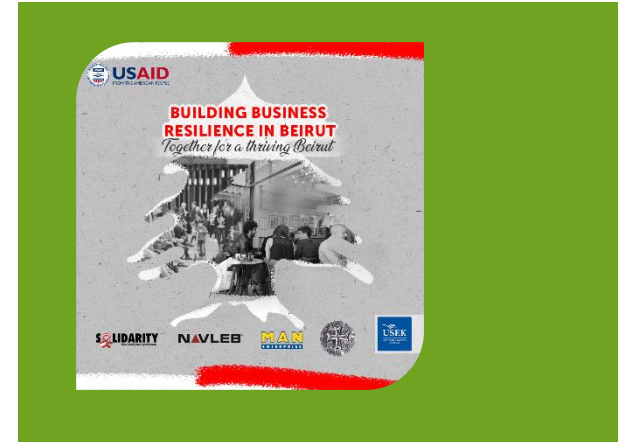
The dedication and resilience of USEK students were evident during the aftermath of the devastating Beirut blast on August 4, 2020. In the face of immense challenges, students actively participated in the cleanup efforts by taking to the streets armed with brooms and shovels to restore their city.



Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB) Intervention

The dedication and resilience of USEK students were evident during the aftermath of the devastating Beirut blast on August 4, 2020. In the face of immense challenges, students actively participated in the cleanup efforts by taking to the streets armed with brooms and shovels to restore their city.

As part of the Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB) intervention, implemented under the USAID-funded Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) Activity, USEK was proud to be an implementing partner of the Consortium conducted by Solidarity. The Consortium consists of OLM-USEK, MAN Enterprise, and NAVLEB.



Our faculty and students worked hand in hand with the consortium members to support MSMEs afflicted by the Beirut Blast and build resilience in these tough times. They scanned SME (around 200), and student volunteers conducted an assessment.

Region: Roum, Mar Mitr, Borj Hammoud

[Volunteering Projects](#)

Furthermore, USEK organizes various events to raise public awareness and engage students in environmental issues. Activities such as birdwatching, events focused on ecosystem sustainable design and birdlife habitat, and lectures on related topics are regularly organized on campus and at critical locations throughout Lebanon. These events aim to foster a deeper understanding of environmental challenges and inspire students to become proactive agents of change.



One notable project undertaken by USEK is the annual planting of cedars in the north of Lebanon. As approximately 1,000 students graduate from USEK each year, leaving behind a place where they have been nurtured and shaped, the university initiated the tradition of planting a tree to symbolize their connection to their roots—both national and institutional. Through partnerships with organizations like USAID, the Lebanese Reforestation Initiative, and the Municipality of Ehmej, USEK has successfully planted numerous cedar trees.

[MOU THE LEBANON REFORESTATION INITIATIVE NGO \(LRI\)](#)



What's Next: Sustaining Momentum

As we move forward, our university is committed to sustaining momentum in our journey toward a more sustainable future. Building upon our existing efforts, we have developed future plans and aspirations that will guide us in our pursuit of a greener and more environmentally conscious campus.

One of our key priorities is to create a comprehensive roadmap for upcoming projects, initiatives, and areas of focus. This roadmap will serve as a blueprint for our sustainability endeavors, outlining specific goals and milestones that we aim to achieve. By setting clear objectives, we can ensure that our actions are aligned with our long-term vision for sustainability.

Addressing challenges is an integral part of our strategy. We understand that there will be obstacles along the way, but we are committed to finding innovative solutions and adapting our practices accordingly. Through regular assessments and feedback mechanisms, we will identify areas that require improvement and implement strategies to overcome obstacles and promote continuous growth.

Collaboration will be at the heart of our sustainability efforts. We recognize that creating meaningful change requires the collective effort of our university community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. By fostering a culture of



collaboration and inclusivity, we will encourage the exchange of ideas, expertise, and resources, ultimately empowering everyone to contribute to our sustainability goals.

Prioritizing Education and awareness will remain a cornerstone of our sustainability strategy. We believe in the power of knowledge and its ability to drive behavioral change. Through educational programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns, we will equip our university community with the tools and understanding needed to make sustainable choices in their daily lives.

It gives us immense pleasure to announce to our whole community that USEK has scored a new global achievement. In recognition of our continuous commitment to sustainability and green initiatives, USEK has made it among the 2023 finalists for the International Green Gown Awards, granted by the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC).

Endorsed by the UN Environment Programme, these awards recognize the exceptional sustainability initiatives undertaken by universities and colleges. Chosen on April 27 among the 93 finalists spanning 25 countries, USEK is competing under the category “Sustainability Institution of the Year”, with its project titled: Youth-ability: Algorithm for Sustainability.

Winners will be announced on July 17, 2023, at the International Green Gown Awards Virtual Ceremony, in association with Allianz Global Investors, as part of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The award ceremony is co-hosted by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), the International Association of Universities (IAU), and the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI).





Partnerships with External Organizations and Industry Leaders to leverage additional expertise and resources. By forging strong alliances, we can access innovative technologies, funding opportunities, and best practices that will propel our sustainability initiatives forward.

In order to promote sustainability measures at USEK (Holy Spirit University of Kaslik), projects with international funding and grants are extremely important. National and International funded projects support USEK's sustainability initiatives by providing financial resources for innovative programs like renewable energy installations and waste management systems. These projects foster knowledge exchange, capacity building, and exposure to global best practices. International funding also attracts attention and recognition, positioning USEK as a leader in sustainable practices and creating a greener, more resilient campus environment.



Saint-Gobain's competition – Reflect Project

This project is part of the ongoing Saint-Gobain's competition which will take place in Lisbon from the 26th to the 28th of June.

The Architecture Student Contest is an international competition based on Saint-Gobain's vision of sustainable buildings. It was first organized in 2004 by Saint-Gobain Isover in Serbia, and became an international event in 2005. Today, it attracts more than 1,300 students in 30 countries.



Future opportunities with the Institut français opportunities

During the discussion on Green USEK's work and the priorities of the French Institute, several future opportunities for collaboration emerged. The department of Institutional Cooperation and Civil Society explored potential joint ventures, including responding to a call for proposal related to biodiversity for USEK's alumni forest. Additionally, there was interest in Green USEK getting involved with "La Fresque du Climat" and being implicated with "Agora," a platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing. The possibility of collaboration with LEM (Laboratoire d'Économie et de Management) and IECD (Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement) was also discussed, highlighting the potential for mutually beneficial projects. Moreover, Green USEK expressed readiness to welcome international volunteers, further strengthening their commitment to sustainable practices.

To conclude, we will embrace a holistic approach to sustainability that encompasses not only environmental considerations but also social and economic aspects. By incorporating principles of social equity, diversity, and economic viability, we can create a sustainable model that benefits both our campus and the broader community.

By diligently following this path, we are confident that we can sustain our momentum and make significant strides towards a greener and more sustainable future for our university and beyond.

By presenting this report, we aim to communicate the university's unwavering commitment to sustainability and our ongoing commitment to future generations. Together, we embrace the responsibility to create positive change and shape a sustainable existence for all.



Appendices

I. Table of Department Contribution:

	Action	SDG
Office of Deputy President for Students	Financial aid discount up to 50% on LBP and 15% on \$.	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Loan agreements with zero interest	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Payment settlements	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Removing holds due to unpaid tuition fees	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Donation: Amal Abou Zeid donation, Ajiyalouna-Tomooh, donation medicine students, habib foundation, HSUF, Kmeid, lifelebanon, Oeuvre d'orient...	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Merit/ excellence scholarship	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Agreements discount	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Sports scholarship	SDG 1 & 4
Office of Deputy		



President for Students		
Office of Deputy President for Students	Food drive in collaboration with Bassma Association: Easter-Ramadan Foodathon" campaign. The objective was to collect the maximum of food and hygiene products to be distributed to families in desperate need of them.	SDG 2
Office of Deputy President for Students	The creation of UCC : UCC offers a free-of-charge guidance space where a student can talk with a certified professional about his personal issues and private or social life in a confidential setting.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Collaborating with external psychiatrist by referring students in need of medical treatments.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Raising Suicide awareness in collaboration with the School of Architecture and Design and the School of Music.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Applying an information session on general mental health to USEK staff and instructors, by Dr. Georges Haddad and Emilia Chawa.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Supporting SESOBEL as an act of kindness towards the children at their center on the occasion of the World Kindness Day.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Conducting a wellness act workshop in collaboration with the actor Elias El Zayek, targeting mental, physical, and emotional well-being.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Promoting emotional well-being through social media videos, by providing tips, sharing awareness on mental health, highlighting the UCC office and how the office is there to help and support the struggling people.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Fitness, football and basketball training for USEK employees each week with a professional coach.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Blood drive activity on campus : SAO organized a blood drive in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross	SDG 3



Students		
Office of Deputy President for Students	Training for students on how to deal with panic attacks organized by the Access Office.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Since regular physical activity plays a vital role in promoting overall well-being USEK organized many sports activities:	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Hannibal Race	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Streetball event	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Football competition between students from different faculties	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Encouraging students to participate in Beirut Marathon to support an association.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students		SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	USEK got talent: Students show their talents in front of a jury.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Spring Event: Before the Mother's Day, hosting women with small businesses to encourage them.	SDG 3



Office of Deputy President for Students	Autism awareness month: During the Autism awareness month in April 2023, the National Autism Community posted a campaign (posters, flyers, informative videos, etc.) on social media in addition to several social activities to raise awareness about Autism. Moreover, the AO held an informative session about Autism for students to enhance inclusion and acceptance among students.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Training for Faculty and Staff: Accommodation application: In April 27th, a training session was held by the AO talking the types and the modality of application of the accommodation in universities. At the end of the training, the instructors were able to identify and differentiate between the types of accommodation and how to apply them in different learning environments.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	By the end of Spring we have 13 new club concepts to be considered for next academic year	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Student representatives(SR) to in order to transmit students' requests/needs to the administration: SR's towards the end of the year started their productivity effort, amongst challenges and unnecessary conflicts.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	USEK sports teams: During the academic year 2022-2023, we have relaunched only 3 sports: Basketball, Tennis and Table tennis. As for the upcoming academic year 2023-2024, we are thrilled to announce the launching of the rest of USEK sports teams (mentioned above). With this launch, we are excited to bring a new level of energy, sportsmanship, team spirit, excitement, and competition to our community. Our teams will compete in a variety of sports, and we are confident that they will quickly establish themselves as top contenders in their respective leagues.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for Students	Sports club newly formed: USEK Club can contribute to the overall development of students, by providing them with opportunities to learn and develop new skills through the sports disciplines to be offered: Futsal, BasketBall, Tennis, Volley and Table Tennis. It teaches students valuable lessons in leadership, communication, and problem-solving, which are essential skills for success in both academic and professional settings.	SDG 3
Office of Deputy President for	Switching to computerized entrance exams instead of on-paper tests for the new candidates.	SDG 4



Students		
Office of Deputy President for Students	Upgrading the online application for prospective candidates.	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Require international tests to be eligible to apply at USEK:	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Require English tests and specific scores to all types of applicants.	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	“Pathways to Success” initiative offering up to 70% tuition reduction of specific programs such as (Bachelor in education, Bachelor/ Master in English/ or French Language and literature, Masters in History, Masters in Social Science, Master of Science in environmental Technologies, Master in intervention and social work.	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Double Degree programs such as 1) the Master II in Business Law of the USEK Faculty of Law, in partnership with the Faculty of Law of the Université de Poitiers, aims to offer its students an in-depth training, through a comparative approach, in French, European and Lebanese Business Law. The student will receive a degree from USEK and a degree from Université de Poitiers 2) The Executive MBA - digital management: In collaboration with ESSCA School of Management, France. Students will be provided with a dual diploma: a specialized Master degree in Digital Management from ESSCA, and an Executive MBA from USEK.	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Exchange programs	SDG 4



Office of Deputy President for Students	Participation of USEK students in worldwide competition such as 1) HULT prize: Three of USEK students are qualified for The Hult Prize Lisbon 2023 Summits. USEK and as part of her commitment to supporting their participation cover their travel expenses Lebanon/Lisbon 2) Monroe e. price media law moot court competition – oxford university, United Kingdom 3) The International Criminal Court (ICC) moot competition – the Hague, the Netherlands 4) The annual Willem c. Vis middle east international commercial arbitration moot – pre-vis moot middle east 5) The annual Willem c. Vis international commercial arbitration moot – Vienna, Austria....	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Hearing the petition of our students concerning difficulties they face with an instructor/course.	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	USEK has adopted a student survey so that students can provide feedback regarding the course they have taken in order to improve education quality.	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Electrical engineering students have the opportunity to gain valuable skills and knowledge necessary to install all the components of PV systems. This training Is part of Vocational and Technical Education for all in Lebanon Project (VTE4all).	SDG 4
Office of Deputy President for Students	Gender Equality in Sports: The relaunch of sports (tennis, table tennis, and basketball) with separate male and female groups promotes inclusivity and equal opportunities for athletes of all genders.	SDG 5
Office of Deputy President for Students	Gender Equality in Facilities: Separate bathrooms for males and females ensures privacy, comfort, and safety for all individuals.	SDG 5
Office of Deputy President for Students	Gender Equality in the Workplace: Striving for a majority of female employees within the organization demonstrates a commitment to gender equality. Additionally, providing equal salaries for male and female employees ensures fairness and equal compensation for their contributions, helping to bridge the gender pay gap.	SDG 5
Office of Deputy President for Students	Gender Equality in Education: Acknowledging the higher representation of female students-providing equal access to education, support, and resources to students of all genders.	SDG 5



Office of Deputy President for Students	Careers Office: Assisting USEK students in exploring their career options and enhancing their employability through the development of lifelong career management skills.	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	Providing equal salaries for male and female employees ensures fairness and equal compensation for their contributions, helping to bridge the gender pay gap.	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	Fitness, football and basketball training for USEK employees each week with a professional coach.	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	Creating employment opportunities for qualified USEK students in administrative roles or as instructors with the required degrees.	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	Supporting small businesses specially owned by USEK students/alumni by include them in USEK events (such as USEK Christmas Market, Spring event...).	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	'Pathways to Success'' initiative offering up to 70% tuition reduction of specific programs that fits the needs of the market.	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	Recognizing the vital role of nurses in healthcare and the growing need for qualified professionals in the field, USEK aimed to remove financial barriers and incentivize students to pursue nursing as a career. By offering a full discount on tuition fees, the university made the nursing program more accessible and attractive to prospective students. (100% discount).	SDG 8
Office of Deputy President for Students	Industry: Agreement with Indevco group: students can benefit from 25% discount on tuition fees.	SDG 9
Office of Deputy President for Students	Innovation: USEK Asher Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship aims to serve innovators, aspiring and existing entrepreneurs within USEK community in order to contribute to the growth of the Lebanese economy and creation of jobs. It supports startups and existing SMEs through a mix of targeted initiatives.	SDG 10



Office of Deputy President for Students	Workshop on Blockchain encourage students to participate in entrepreneurial competition.	SDG 11
Office of Deputy President for Students	Business Strategies and Performance with Carlos Ghosn Program.	SDG 12
Office of Deputy President for Students	She leads: is the product of a collaboration between USEK and the Women Leaders Association (WLA). This executive program that specifically targets women is designed to shed light on important business aspects that would facilitate women's breakthrough and effective roles at the top level of organizations.	SDG 13
Office of Deputy President for Students	Infrastructure: USEK has undertaken modifications on its KASLIK CAMPUS to ensure compliance with codes and requirements for handicap disability access, specifically focusing on ramps, bathrooms, elevators, and related facilities.	SDG 11
Office of Deputy President for Students		
Office of Deputy President for Students	Access Office: In 2021 the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Autism Community (NAC) to understand how to assist students with special needs by working closely with USEK academic and professional services staff.	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	Training for instructors: Panic and worries- the different flavors of anxiety disorders.	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	Training for instructors: Accommodation to support struggling students	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	Awareness session for students: Seizures and Epilepsy	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for	Awareness session for students: First step toward Autism World	SDG 10



Students		
Office of Deputy President for Students	In line with its goal of promoting inclusivity and community engagement, USEK provided Associations stands free of charge at the Christmas market.	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	Financial aid for need based students and scholarships	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	USEK has undertaken modifications on its KASLIK CAMPUS to ensure compliance with codes and requirements for handicap disability access, specifically focusing on ramps, bathrooms, elevators, and related facilities.	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	To ensure accessibility for speakers and presenters with disabilities, USEK took measures to make its auditorium fully accessible (ex: Jean El Hawa auditorium).	SDG 10
Office of Deputy President for Students	Agreement with the municipality of Zgharta- Ehden to reserve the archives of the municipality from waste, pests, bacteria, and leaf litter	SDG 11
Office of Deputy President for Students	To promote energy conservation and instill a culture of sustainability, USEK has implemented measures to reduce electricity consumption in all offices and encourages the limited use of air conditioning (AC) units.	SDG 12
Office of Deputy President for Students	In order to transmit this idea of energy conservation to the student community, USEK has taken steps to spread awareness about the energy consumption and use of AC units in the dorms. This serves as a reminder to students about the importance of responsible energy usage and encourages them to adopt sustainable habits in their daily lives.	SDG 12
Office of Deputy President for Students	To promote sustainability and eco-consciousness among new students, USEK has developed and distributed notebooks and pencils made from recyclable paper during the orientation session.	SDG 12
Office of Deputy President for Students	To emphasize the importance of environmental responsibility, the USEK community includes a clear message in all mail signatures, urging recipients to avoid printing on paper.	SDG 13



Office of Deputy President for Students	" P Think about the environment, avoid printing unless necessary. "	SDG 13
Office of Deputy President for Students	To facilitate effective waste sorting, USEK has implemented a system with two types of bins: one for recyclable materials and another for organic waste.	SDG 13
Office of Deputy President for Students	To promote peace and contribute to conflict prevention, USEK has established an agreement with the Lebanese Army/ ISF/ General Security/State Security/ Lebanese Customs to provide discounts for military personnel. By offering these discounts, USEK seeks to make education more accessible and affordable for military personnel, enabling them to pursue their academic and professional goals while fulfilling their duties to the nation.	SDG 16
Office of Deputy President for Students	Agreement with Indevco group: students can benefit from 25% discount on tuition fees.	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Lifelebanon scholarship: Available for USEK students pursuing a degree in STEM, Agriculture, Economics, Finance or Law. This scholarship can cover up to 40% of student tuition fees.	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Tomoooh scholarship: PepsiCo International, in collaboration with Ajialouna Organization, launched the Tomoooh scholarship program which aims to provide support to students who possess an excellent academic background but are also facing financial constraints, enabling them to pursue their higher education studies.	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Intisar Foundation scholarship: scholarship of 65% of the tuition fees for 15 students Mater in Performing Arts with a specialization in drama therapy.	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Discount OLM employees	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Discount CCJ children of employees	SDG 17



Office of Deputy President for Students	The "Amal Abou Zeid Scholarship" is a scholarship program specifically designed to support students from the Jezion district.	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Partnership with international universities to install Double Degree programs (law, business...).	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	Partnership with NAC to create the Access Office (for students with disabilities).	SDG 17
Office of Deputy President for Students	MOU with private companies to create job opportunities for USEK students	SDG 17
USEK Laboratories	Minimizing waste, including harmful outputs:	SDG 11
	Solvent, organic, and inorganic solvents are filled in specific bottles and there is a supplier who is responsible for it.	
USEK Laboratories	Implement processes for water treatment, to reduce water, and wastewater:	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	Install water-saving devices, sensor-activated faucets, and efficient laboratory equipment that minimizes water usage.	
USEK Laboratories	Implementing recycling and waste management:	SDG 11
USEK Laboratories	Standard waste: Collaborate with the university's waste management department or external recycling services to ensure the proper collection, recycling, or disposal of recyclable and non-hazardous waste materials.	
USEK Laboratories	Medical and biological waste: already have it with Arc en Ciel.	SDG 11
USEK Laboratories	EoW products: Product will be tested, and if validated, it will be used for laboratory basic courses. There is a procedure and operational policy for it.	



USEK Laboratories	Increased use of products made from recycled materials: to be followed and discussed with suppliers/ Green Committee	SDG 9
USEK Laboratories	Energy efficiency and consumption: Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights. Install occupancy/motion sensors or timers to automatically turn off lights when the lab is not in use.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories		
USEK Laboratories	1. When possible, turn off the room lights and the air conditioner.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories	2. Turn off and/or unplug equipment, machines, and electrical devices when not in use.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories	3. Shut off your computer's monitor when not in use.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories	4. Share equipment among labs and turn off or unplug duplicated equipment.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories	5. Keep the sash closed on your fume hood. This promotes both energy conservation and safety.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories	6. Report drips of water from sink taps, chilled water connections or Reverse Osmosis (RO) faucets.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	7. Keep freezers full and fill empty spots with ice packs or empty boxes. Clean out and consolidate freezers and refrigerators at least once per year.	SDG 7
USEK Laboratories	8. Procurement and Chemical Management:	SDG 11
USEK Laboratories	a. Emphasize the selection of environmentally friendly products and materials.	SDG 11
USEK Laboratories	b. Encourage the use of non-toxic or less hazardous alternatives whenever possible.	SDG 11
USEK Laboratories	c. Promote responsible chemical inventory management to minimize waste and reduce the risk of spills or accidents.	SDG 11
USEK	9. Reducing plastic consumption in both personal and laboratory use:	SDG 12



Laboratories		
USEK Laboratories	a. Personal Plastic Reduction:	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	i. Encourage laboratory staff to bring their own reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, and food containers.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	ii. Discourage the use of single-use plastic items such as straws, cutlery, and disposable cups.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	iii. Provide reusable alternatives and promote their use in laboratory.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	b. Laboratory Supplies and Packaging:	
USEK Laboratories	i. Prioritize the procurement of laboratory supplies with minimal plastic packaging.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	ii. Explore options for suppliers that offer plastic-free or reduced plastic packaging alternatives.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	iii. Consider bulk purchasing to reduce individual packaging waste.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	c. Chemical and sample Containers:	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	i. Opt for glass or reusable plastic containers for storing chemicals and samples whenever possible.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	ii. Encourage staff to properly label and reuse containers to minimize waste.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	iii. Implement a system for returning and sterilizing containers for repeated use.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	d. Microplastic Awareness:	
USEK Laboratories	i. Educate laboratory staff about the potential hazards of microplastics.	SDG 12



USEK Laboratories	ii. Encourage the use of microplastic-free alternatives, such as non-synthetic filters and materials, when conducting experiments.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	10. Proper disposal of chemical or contaminated water is crucial for maintaining environmental sustainability in laboratories:	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	a. Minimize Chemical Water waste:	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	i. Encourage staff to use water efficiently during experiments, ensuring only necessary amounts are used.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	ii. Promote the use of closed-loop systems or recirculation techniques when applicable to minimize water waste.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	b. Chemical water Treatment and Neutralization:	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	i. Train Laboratory staff on proper procedures for neutralizing and treating chemical waste water.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	ii. Provide guidelines on appropriate neutralization agents and techniques specific to the chemicals used in the laboratory.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	iii. Ensure that neutralization is conducted in designated areas or facilities equipped to handle chemical waste.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	c. Separate and label chemical waste water:	
USEK Laboratories	i. Clearly label containers specifically designated for collecting chemical water waste.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	i. Use separate containers for different types of chemical waste to avoid cross-contamination.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	ii. Clearly communicate and educate staff about the proper disposal process and which containers to use for specific chemicals.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	d. Follow local Regulations and Guidelines:	
USEK Laboratories	i. Stay up-to-date with local regulations, permits, and guidelines for handling and disposing of chemical water waste.	SDG 6



USEK Laboratories	ii. Comply with any specific requirements related to treating, neutralizing, or disposing of chemical waste in your area.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	e. Collaboration with Environmental Services:	
USEK Laboratories	i. Establish a collaboration with the environmental services department or external waste management services.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	ii. Seek their guidance and expertise in ensuring proper disposal of chemical water waste.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	iii. Coordinate with them to schedule regular pickups or arrange for appropriate disposal methods.	SDG 12
USEK Laboratories	f. Record Keeping and documentation:	
USEK Laboratories	i. Maintain accurate records of the types and quantities of chemical water waste generated.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	ii. Document the disposal process, including dates, disposal methods used, and any required documentation or permits.	SDG 6
USEK Laboratories	Standardized recycling and trash signage: refer to USEK Labs Team to make sure that recycling or trash bins are clearly labeled and ensure proper disposal of waste machinery, waste processing machines, electronic waste, lumber, wire, sheetrock, broken brick, shingles, glass, pipes, concrete, metal, empty containers, hazardous material, bio-chemicals, organic and aqueous waste solutions.	SDG 12
Faculty of Business	Mediation: an effective method to dispute resolution	SDG 16
Faculty of Business	Be Your Own Boss	SDG 9
Faculty of Business	Practical Insights into Management and Leadership Strategies	SDG 8
Faculty of Business	Time Management	SDG 4



Faculty of Business	The importance of Emotional Resilience for achieving entrepreneurial success	SDG 9
Faculty of Business	Roundtable: Embracing Equity for All	SDG 5
Faculty of Business	How to Lead	SDG 9
Faculty of Business	Social and Economic Impact by Social Entrepreneurs	SDG 9
Faculty of Business	"The Future of Print Advertising in Lebanon".	SDG 11
Faculty of Business	Transforming Lebanon a Road map to recovery by Mr. Nicolas Chikhani.	SDG 8
Faculty of Business	Teaching Entrepreneurial Mindset	SDG 4
Faculty of Business	The school has taken a range of actions to support micro and all small business, including providing assistance in the local community, consultancy services, internships, and training programs. The school has also added a major course in family business management, organized conferences and initiatives, and oriented learners towards MSMEs in their theses and business plans.	SDG 8 + SDG 9
Faculty of Business	In addition to supporting micro and small business, the school has also demonstrated a strong commitment towards gender equality by organizing conferences, offering executive programs, and increasing intellectual contributions related to women. The school has also organized a training program for women at the Lebanese army	SDG 5
Faculty of Business	The school has also contributed to economic growth by ensuring employability and internship opportunities for learners, building a youth entrepreneurial mindset and publishing research on managerial and financial literacy. Furthermore, the school has taken climate action by providing local education courses and campaigns on climate change risks and impacts.	SDG 11 + SDG 13



Faculty of Business	The school has also shown a commitment towards responsible consumption and production of goods by initiating and participating in several internal and external activities that have had a positive societal impact. These activities include encouraging learners to save water in their everyday life , taking into consideration the highest standards of energy efficiency , and providing local education courses on climate change risks and impacts.	SDG 12 + SDG 14 + SDG 17
Green USEK	Carpool: : to encourage students to commute in a sustainable way and to reduce emissions, we invite them to carpool to campus and in return we secure for them VIP parking's and rewarding gifts. We got for this semester more than 251 car-poolers.	7 + 11+ 13
Green USEK	Bike_cool	7 + 11+ 13
Green USEK	Re_Mug_it!: to encourage students to bring their own reusables, so the stand which is taking place every Tuesday offers free coffee for people having their reusable mug on them. We have salvaged more than 1200 cups (we do the count of every cup of coffee served per semester)	
Green USEK	Waterfull	6 + 12 + 14
Green USEK	Bucket: • Bring your bucket to campus: to encourage our community to sort waste from source, we invite staff, faculties, and students to bring their organic food waste to campus, so we can feed them to the chicken on campus or to compost it and in return, we give them fresh organic eggs or compost. Every day we get minimum of 4 donors, and sometimes we reach 10 per day.	11 + 12 + 14
Green USEK	GAEA: where we upcycle waste, by giving the items an artistic added value.	1 + 9 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14
Green USEK	Cleanups: in an aim to engage students in activities towards waste, communities, littering and their active roles in their communities. Students are asked to organize groups to do some clean-ups in their own regions.	3+ 6+11+12+ 13+14+15
Green USEK	Book exchange: all the books that had been thrown to waste, are salvaged by our own MRF (staff) sorted by students and put back on shelves on campus to facilitate book exchange and reading on campus	11 + 12 + 14
Green USEK	I hear you: to maximize the sorting from source, communities are called to bring their plastic bottles from home to the selected bins and in return we provide hearing aids to kids with hearing disabilities - The Blind and deaf school in Baabda - Lebanon	1 + 3 + 14 + 15 + 12



Green USEK	Compost: • Bring your bucket to campus: to encourage our community to sort waste from source, we invite staff, faculties, and students to bring their organic food waste to campus, so we can feed them to the chicken on campus or to compost it and in return, we give them fresh organic eggs or compost. Every day we get minimum of 4 donors, and sometimes we reach 10 per day.	1 + 3 + 14 + 15 + 12
Green USEK	Recycling: we have been ranked number one Green University for five years in a row and mainly in waste management. The students audit the well-established program, by going round the campus and auditing the process, who is sorting well and who is not and finding ways to study, analyse and push for better performance and awareness.	1 + 3 + 14 + 15 + 12
Green USEK	Seedballs: to combat climate change and to make Lebanon Greener, students work with endemic seeds; these seeds will be distributed during Earth Day event, inviting visitors to throw them wherever they hike. We gave last Earth Day more than 1000' seedballs.	14 + 13 + 15
Green USEK	Birdwatching	14 + 13 + 15
Green USEK	Birdwatching: conservation, rescuing and observing the species on campus and go beyond by promoting awareness towards migrating birds, especially that Lebanon is considered a bottleneck spot, essential and crucial towards migration. We do organize two events yearly on WMBD.	15
Green USEK	Plant a tree:	13 + 15
Green USEK	Civic Engagement	16 + 17
Green USEK	Agora: To help shed light on sustainable key issues, in the public spaces of the campus. We tend to create a free debate between students and experts, in a very relaxed and chill mood. Every two weeks, we raise a topic which is important to students, and they take the lead to debate it. Even the UN had collaborated with us on our last Agora's session, as it was taking a huge success	1 + 2 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14 + 16

II. Bike Cool Concept note:

"Cycling is a vital and easy way to improve air quality, reduce pollution and create vibrant towns and cities."



“It’s More Than A Bike Ride,”

It is a Green Commute Initiative; it is one of the newest “**cycle on campus schemes**”. It is partly set up to allow students to use electric bikes, for now on campus and at a later stage in their communities or to cycle to work.

Commuters will have more opportunities to boost their health, benefit the environment and speed up their journey to campus, could also make daily commutes cheaper; thanks to updated Bike_Cool (bike on campus) guidance and to turn to a greener journey using e-bikes and to drive down emissions across all modes of transport.

E-bikes have an integrated motor that helps a cyclist pedal, allowing them to reach speeds of up to 15.5 mph . They are seen as a game changer for their potential to make it easier for older or less fit people to make cycling a part of their commute.

Reverend Father Talal: “I want everyone to feel empowered to make cycling a part of their everyday lives, and our refreshed guidance provides many incentives to help students do this.”

We will be partnering with “**WAVE**” the first Deutsche company for Ebikes. They will be providing the consultation, training, and setting the system with USEK

The project will be divided to Eight Phases:

1. Preparing the lanes and the bikes stations on campus.
2. Set a guidance book and rules: that will make it easier for Green USEK to provide bicycles and equipment including e-bikes.



3. Set up an application to trace the users and to track reliability.
4. Training the trainers (students) to train other students.
5. Training the maintenance team to maintain the durability of the bikes.
6. Training students not only to pedal, but also to commute in a safe way.
7. Once they get their **bike proficiency**, they can bike to campus and on campus.
8. Partner with the municipalities around USEK to make a safe commute.

Preparing the lanes and the bikes stations.

Setting the students' parking, second floor (half of it) to be lane marked according to the international standard. Campus will be lane marked too, adding that in crowded area portable fences will be added, for more safety.

Making sure that bikes are easily available is crucial to helping more people make the switch to greener modes of transport. Ensuring people of all abilities and fitness levels can cycle together is a key part of this.

Setting up a station to park bicycles and electrically charging it.

- At the training spot.
- At the entrance of the campus (gate B)
- At the main entrance.
- Building D
- Building C
- Building AB.



Set a guidance book and rules

Where speed (on campus and off campus), usage and how to handle guidance will be publicly clear to use and assimilate.

Set up an application to trace the users and to track reliability.

In order to trace users, usage for data tracking and liability, an application will be set up to monitor the flow.

Scan to unlock program, to allow only students to use it.

We need to sit the IT team to customize it for USEK's use.

Training the trainers (students) to train other students.

Bike-wave will train the students to be trainers.

We need one trainer for 6 students.

Training students not only to pedal, but also to commute in a safe way.

There will be guidelines on how to bike, in a safe and of an international standard.

To hand out a bike proficiency.

Maximizing income

This bike station can be used to drive income to USEK by renting these bikes outside campus, since it will be tracked by the application

Safety suggestions:



To secure the passage to USEK from the student's parking by installing two ramps and to install a flashing light signaling the passage of students,

If the biking program is sustained, we will install an upper bridge between the parking lot and the campus.

III. WASIP-LEB Water and Sanitation Internship Program – Engineering Department

WASIP-LEB "Water and Sanitation Internship Program" is a USAID-funded project through the Water Sanitation and Conservation project aiming to implement an internship program.

The project is expected to benefit students from different majors and introduce them to the available job opportunities in the water, sanitation, and conservation sector.

During the internships, they will develop their skills in water and sanitation and apply the knowledge they are learning in their coursework. They will also gain professional experiences to remain competitive when seeking employment after graduation and they can bring fresh ideas and energy into the organization.

USEK students from all majors and fresh graduates from January 2022 are eligible to apply to this program.

Undergraduate students can benefit from a one-month paid internship, while fresh graduates can apply for a two-month paid internship.

The internships will focus on the following topics:

- Technical internships in water/wastewater facilities.
- Development of Water/Wastewater management tools (software, application, risk assessment, ...).



- Treated water reuse.
- Studies to reduce non-revenue water/Social Science.
- Awareness-raising campaigns for water and wastewater.

More specifically, WASIP-LEB project will give the interns the opportunity to identify the challenges that the Lebanese water and sanitation sector is suffering from to find the optimal solution.

It is expected that the beneficiaries of this internship program will work on:

- Wastewater treatment standards and the effluent standards.
- Hydraulic modeling of potable water networks to predict the actual and the future behavior of the network.
- Design of potable and sewer networks using software packages.
- Water balance to find the rate of Non-Revenue Water (NRW).
- Leak detection using data-driven methods to decrease the NRW.
- Water quality tests.
- Analysis of water consumption data to propose a new tariff based on the demand.
- Smart water networks for an efficient monitoring process of drinking water and wastewater through maximum transparency.

Expand and deepen the awareness of the value of water by explaining that water is a precious and limited resource that needs to be recycled and reused.



IV. Sustainable Practices and Circularity Measures for a Green Laboratory Commitment:

SD Goals to stay true to the universal USEK values and promise

“Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are root causes of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution” (United Nations UN-SD G12):

“Laboratories are energy intensive facilities, consuming many times the energy use of the average non-lab academic buildings. Laboratories use large quantities of air for ventilation and fume hoods; electricity to operate fans, lighting, and specialized lab equipment; and large quantities of water and process chilled water”:

- USEK Labs Personnel shall **stay true** to their promise to **reduce the overall consumption of energy**:
 1. When possible, turn off the room lights and the air conditioner.
 2. Turn off and/or unplug equipment, machines, and electrical devices when not in use.
 3. Shut off your computer's monitor when not in use.
 4. Share equipment among labs and turn off or unplug duplicate equipment.
 5. Keep the sash closed on your fume hood. This promotes both energy conservation and safety.
 6. Report drips of water from sink taps, chilled water connections or Reverse Osmosis (RO) faucets.
 7. Keep freezers full and fill empty spots with ice packs or empty boxes. Clean out and consolidate freezers and refrigerators at least once per year.
- Standardized recycling and trash signage: refer to USEK Labs Team to **make sure that recycling or trash bins are clearly labeled and ensure proper disposal of waste machinery, waste processing machines, electronic waste, lumber, wire,**



sheetrock, broken brick, shingles, glass, pipes, concrete, metal, empty containers, hazardous material, bio-chemicals, organic and aqueous waste solutions.

Communication is based on mutual respect and continues to be the quickest way to establish the critical atmosphere that is required for development and advancement. **Share your sustainability efforts** with others in your labs, buildings, and departments.

Encourage others to change their behavior for a Green Laboratory Commitment!

V. Most Recent Publications

1. Nair R., Viswanathan P.K., Bastian B.L., Reprioritising sustainable development goals in the post-covid-19 global context: Will a mandatory corporatesocial responsibility regime help? 2021
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3. Jalkh N., Bouri E., Vo X.V., Dutta A., Hedging the risk of travel and leisure stocks: The role of crude oil, 2021
4. Possik J., Yaacoub C., Gorecki S., Zacharewicz G., Dambrogio A., A Model Based Systems Engineering Approach to Automated Music Arrangement, 2021
5. Kady C., Chedid A.M., Kortbawi I., Yaacoub C., Akl A., Daclin N., Troussset F., Pfister F., Zacharewicz G., Iot-driven workflows for risk management and control of beehives, 2021
6. Abi Assaad R.D., Abi Saab M.T., Sellami M.H., Nemer N., Kale (Brassica oleracea L. var acephala) production in soilless systems in the Mediterranean region, 2021
7. Possik J., Yaacoub C., Gorecki S., Zacharewicz G., D'Ambrogio A., A model based systems engineering approach to automated music arrangement, 2021
8. Wood B.P., Ng P.Y., Bastian B.L., Hegemonic conceptualizations of empowerment in entrepreneurship and their suitability for collective contexts, 2021



9. Venugopalan M., Bastian B.L., Viswanathan P.K., The role of multi-actor engagement for women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in Kerala, India, 2021
10. Harb W., Zaydan R., Vieira M., Improving environmental performance in wine production by life cycle assessment: case of Lebanese wine, 2021
11. El Hajj J.S., Julien S.G., Factors Associated with Adherence to the Mediterranean Diet and Dietary Habits among University Students in Lebanon, 2021
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Projects:

2023

- Sustainable Architecture Workshop 800\$+ 3,000,000 L.L.
- Association between food insecurity, food quality, and level of physical activity among Lebanese adolescents. 1200\$
- Impact of consecutive crises on malnutrition, anemia, food insecurity and adherence to Mediterranean diet among pregnant women. 3357\$
- Biodiesel Production from Animal Fat and Plant Oils: Process Synthesis and Design 3000\$
- Study of the prevalence of overweight and obesity among the Lebanese population and its relationship with non-communicable diseases. 3000\$
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Sustainable Nutrition Guidelines and Sustainable Institutional Food Systems: Implementation of AI Tools for School Nutrition Education Management (SNEM) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region 3000\$

2022

- Macronutrients and Micronutrients intake amid emergencies: A Stepping Stone to Sustainable Healthy Diet in Lebanon 22 000 000 LBP
- The native herpeto-fauna of the semi-desert northern Bequaa region: from data collection to conservation 1300\$

Conferences 2023

- International Conference on Renewable Energy for Developing countries. Title of Presentation: Adaptive Control of a Microgrid – Application to the Lebanese Case 300\$



- 6th International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism- Title of Presentation: Experiencing spaces and places through human senses with the presence of nature. 125Euros.
Colloquium 2022
- Troubles du Spectre Autistique : Recherche, Collaboration et Innovation entre la France et le Liban

VI. International Funded Projects

Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB)

Description: On August 4th, 2020 an explosion at the Port of Beirut claimed the lives of more than 218 people and injured over 7000. Over two years after this tragedy, Lebanon continues to face political, social, and economic strife. Given these dire circumstances, businesses across all sectors have struggled to remain operational, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) operating in the food service and supply sectors.

The majority of MSMEs impacted by the blast were not able to resume operations, for a variety of reasons, many of which can be resolved now. Some experienced major structural damages requiring heavy construction and renovation work. Some faced critical conditions in their building or adjoining buildings, putting employees and customers at risk or making their business inaccessible. Legal conflict or objections from landlords have limited some MSMEs from completing repairs or re-occupying space. For most, lack of financial resources, increase in operations costs and the gap between revenues and expenses, and the shortage of working capital have restricted or hampered operations. The lack of talent and resources to resume operations due to emigration, transportation costs, food hygiene and food safety risks, also present challenges to many food and beverage MSMEs.

Solidarity, OLM-USEK, MAN, and NAVLEB seek to help alleviate the devastating impact this tragedy has had on MSMEs by working within the framework of USAID/Lebanon Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) Activity's Objective 3 to



implement phase one of the Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB) intervention. Phase one consists of an operational and resilience survey and needs assessment for at least 300 businesses in the Beirut blast affected communities. Upon survey completion, an intervention list of at least 200 MSMEs is reported while also designing and conducting business management, food safety, and hygiene trainings to businesses cope better with increased loss of electrical power. A second phase of the project has been approved for the implementation; the equipment and items that were approved will be now delivered to the concerned MSMEs.

Fund Program/ Customer: USAID | **Main Applicant:** Solidarity

Partners: Solidarity/USEK-OLM/MAN Enterprise/NAVLEB

Role Of USEK/SOE: As part of the Building Business Resilience in Beirut (BBRB) intervention, implemented under the USAID-funded Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) activity, USEK is proud to be an implementing partner of the consortium conducted by Solidarity. The consortium consists of OLM-USEK, MAN Enterprise, and NAVLEB. USEK Faculty and students worked hand in hand with the consortium members to support MSMEs afflicted by the Beirut blast and build resilience in these tough times. For the second phase of the project, USEK role is to verify the BOQ and to do a Quality Control of the implementation. A general Contractor is selected by ARE. USEK experts and technicians will overview the implementation and will be responsible of the QC part.

Status: Phase 1: Completed - Phase 2: In progress

Start Date: 4/1/2022 (Beginning of first phase). 1 February 2023 (Beginning of second phase)

End Date: 11/15/2022 (end of first phase). 17 July 2023 (end of second phase).

Promoting Sustainable Livelihood (PSL)



Description: Promoting sustainable livelihood – PSL is a project funded by USAID and implemented by René Moawad Foundation. The RMF is leading a consortium of partners to implement PSL activity among which is the Lebanese Maronite Order (OLM)/Holy Spirit University of Kaslik. The PSL activity will be implemented over the course of 5 years, ending September 16, 2025 and aims to improve the livelihoods of residents of target municipalities through training, technical assistance, infrastructure rehabilitation, and marketing, and improve and upgrade existing assets in their municipalities. The PSL goal is to sustain the livelihoods of 31,500 households across 7 clusters joining 105 municipalities in the North, Bekaa, South and Mount Lebanon areas.

Fund Program/ Customer: USAID | **Main Applicant:** RMF

Partners: RMF, Maronite Worldwide Foundation, USEK, Rural Delights cooperative, AFDC, No Garlic no Onions (NGNO) and Daher Foundation.

Role Of USEK/SOE: Consultancy: As part of the Promoting Sustainable Livelihood (PSL) project funded by USAID, USEK is proud to be an implementing partner of the consortium conducted by RMF.

USEK Faculty presented sustainable solutions for agriculture and tourism in the different covered clusters to promote livelihood of farmers. They are working now hand by hand with our students to implement the suggested interventions in the different clusters.

Status: In progress | **Start Date:** 11/1/2022 | **End Date:** 11/1/2024

Support Farmers for Economic Recovery



Description: The objective of this project is to develop Online Short Agriculture Training Courses . The curriculum development is modular based with knowledge transfer oriented toward practice & demonstration, allowing beneficiaries to meet their needs in the development of their practical and technical competencies. A total of 20 video were developed for this purpose.

Fund Program/ Customer: AVSI | **Main Applicant:** USEK, Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPCU)

Role Of USEK/SOE: Consultancy and implementation **Status:** In progress

Start Date: Oct-20 | **End Date:** Nov-20

Lebanese Historical Church Restoration Project (LHCRP)

Description: Behind every church lies a rich record of history, events and miracles.

During the 1st and 2nd phases of the Lebanese Historical Church Restoration Project, 33 churches all over Lebanon have been totally renovated. The 3rd phase of the project covers the restoration of another 30 churches.

Customer: Hungary Helps | **Main Applicant:** USEK | **Role Of USEK/SOE:** Consultancy.

Status: Completed | **Start Date:** Phase1:31 March 2018 / Phase2:01 June2018 / Phase3:01 January 2021

End Date: Phase1:30 April 2019 / Phase2:31 August 2021 / Phase3:31 December 2023



WAter and Sanitation Internship Program (WASIP LEB)

Description: The aim of WASIP-LEB project is to develop an internship program in water and sanitation sectors for students and fresh graduates from Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK).

During the internships, students will develop their skills in water and sanitation and apply the knowledge they are learning in their coursework. They will also gain professional experiences to remain competitive when seeking employment after graduation and they can bring fresh ideas and energy into the organization.

Customer: USAID-WSC | **Main Applicant:** USEK | **Status:** In progress

Start Date: 2/22/2023 | **End Date:** 6/30/2024

Vocational and Technical Education for all in Lebanon (VTE4all)

Description : EU-financed project “Vocational and Technical Education for all in Lebanon” (VTE4all), in collaboration with the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), offers a series of 2 week-long training courses in the construction sector, at its Boarding Training Center in Zouk Mosbeh. People from different nationalities living in Lebanon can apply to learn in-demand skills that can help them find a job and build their future. Participants can choose from multiple specializations, such as repairing indoor walls, floor screeding, tiling, installing sanitary fixtures, steel fixing, etc. At the end of the training course, the international certification organization APAVE assesses participants’ skills and issues recognized certificates to the successful trainees.

Customer: GIZ | **Main Applicant:** USEK, GIZ

Role of USEK/SOE: Capacity Building. The SOE supported the design of SDC building, i.e. renovation of "Marché du Pont". Experts from SOE are delivering 2-hour Life Skills sessions on topics like safety and support, effective time management, conflict resolution, non-verbal communication, etc.



Status: In progress | Start Date: 1-Sep-21 | End Date: 31-Oct-23

Campus des métiers et des qualifications d'excellence BTP et usage du numérique Région Occitanie Domaine du BTP, volet BIM (CMQ FRANCO-LIBANAIS)

Description: The aim of this project is to train instructors and employees from engineering firms to master Building Information Modelling BIM. The trainers will be in charge of disseminating BIM knowledge to the Lebanese professional education system.

Fund Program/ Customer: France Education | **Main Applicant:** USEK | **Partners:** Saint-Gobain, TECMAN, MANENTERPRISE | **Role of USEK/SOE:** Capacity Building - TTO

Status: In progress | Start Date: 1-Jun-23 | End Date: 1-Jun-26

Smart Water for Young Professionals & Experts (SWYPE)

Description: The aim of this project is to: raise public awareness about water conservation and practices, empower young people as promoters, professionals and experts for smart water management, and improve the knowledge of Lebanese population in water management.

Fund Program/ Customer: USAID-WSC | **Main Applicant:** USEK | **Role of USEK/SOE:** SOE will design and implement all phases of the project | **Status:** Under review | **Start Date:** 1-May-23
End Date: 30-Jun-24



TEMPUS 2013 - Hit4Med Highway and Traffic Engineering: Curricular Reform for Mediterranean Area (www.hit4med.eu/)

Description: The project objective is to design, develop and implement a new curriculum programme in Highway and Traffic Engineering in a joint effort between European Union (EU) and Mediterranean Universities in line with Bologna requirements. The former will transfer EU best practices, experiences and methodologies according to the Bologna process to support the development and diffusion of an innovative experience in technical higher education in Mediterranean institutions supporting the capacity and knowledge building in highway and traffic engineering. The realization of a Master programme will follow a scenario assessment, taking into account of Mediterranean institutions and sector needs and requirements, and EU.

Fund Program/ Customer: French Embassy | **Main Applicant:** USEK

Partners: SCHNEIDER, TECMAN, MANENTERPRISE

Role of USEK/SEO: Experts from SoE will be trained to become trainers. USEK will offer the location

Status: In progress | **Start Date:** 2023

TIF-0009 CLUSTERING ENTERPRISES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MARKETS

Description: Through this project, PFC and partners are proposing to aggregate three different sectors of Lebanese SMEs under three different clusters to provide them with facilitations and linkages to foreign markets in order to strengthen and enable the export of their products and services within a framework designed to provide a competitive edge for the clusters' members. The project will be done over a period of two years and five months.

The three clusters are: 1-Mecaphore: Lebanese Engineering and Architecture Cluster 2-Beauty HOBB: Lebanese Cosmetics Cluster 3- -From I to I: Lebanese Digital Marketing Cluster



Fund Program/ Customer: Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II – UniNa, Italy | **Main Applicant:** PFC

Partners: 1-FORMIT Foundation 2-RMEI – Réseau Méditerranéen des Ecoles d'Ingénieurs 3-NTUA – National Technical University of Athens 4-UniCT – University of Catania 5-UPV – Universitat Politècnica de València 6-KTH – The Royal Institute of Technology 7-CU - Cairo University 8-ZU – Zagazig University 9-ASU – Ain Shams University 10-AASTMT - Arab Academy for Science and Technology 11-LU – Lebanese University 12-UCA – Cadi Ayyad University 13-AIAC – Académie Internationale de Mohammed VI de l'Aviation Civile 14-ISTLS – Sousse University, Higher Institute of Transportation 15-ENISo – Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Sousse

Status: Completed | **Start Date:** 2013 | **End Date:** 2016

Sécurité électrique Installations photovoltaïques

Description:

1. Connaissances des appareillages constituant les installations électriques, les schémas de mise à la terre et l'indice de protection
2. Mise en service – vérification matérielle et mesures électriques
3. Habilitation électrique - rôle des intervenant et règles de consignation
4. Installations photovoltaïques

Fund Program/ Customer: French Embassy | **Main Applicant:** USEK

Partners: SCHNEIDER, TECMAN, MANENTERPRISE

Role of USEK/SEO: Experts from SoE will be trained to become trainers. USEK will offer the location

Status: In progress | **Start Date:** 2023

Twinning partnership for sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises development in Lebanon



Description: This project aims to forge a new twinning partnership for sustainable industrial development that will support Lebanese SMEs in the Bekaa Valley to boost their productivity while becoming more knowledgeable of sustainable and successful business practices strengthened and bolstered by universities transferring knowledge and networking activities on the enology sector and wine-making processes. By engaging in technology and best practices exchange partnerships, UNIDO ITPO Italy, the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, the University of Udine (Italy), and the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (Lebanon) will enable Lebanese SMEs to adopt new technologies and successful business practices for sustainable industrial development enhanced by transferring knowledge and sharing best practices on enology and wine process.

Fund Program/ Customer: This project derives from the longstanding collaboration established between UNIDO ITPO Italy and the Italian Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (FVG) since the joint declaration signed together on 8th May 2015

Main Applicant: Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Leader Partner)

Partners: Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Leader Partner)

Role of USEK/SOE: USEK will contribute to the project with the facilities to be used for events and activities

- It will share information, knowledge and skills on the innovative solutions identified within the project at the international level and in order to benefit strategically SMEs business
- It will strengthen the twinning partnership with Udine University in term of trainings and seminars organization focused on wine process and enology technology with SMEs development approach
- It will also be responsible for encouraging the involvement of its network in the events, in order to make sure that the activities undertaken in this framework provide a solid basis for the creation of networks between innovators in the regional, national and international, industries, technology producers and research centers.

Status: In progress | **Start Date:** 1/1/2023 | **End Date:** 12/30/2024



VII. Youth-ability: algorithm for sustainability

In a world doomed by flawed human principles of interaction, sustainability and its umbrella of strategies proved themselves to be game changers in the realm of society crafting and maintenance. In this context, going beyond operational improvements, we at USEK took it upon ourselves to provide the world with enlightened individuals able to be drivers of change in a loading future. Thus, following the logic of ‘involve me and I learn’ we crafted an unrivalled sustainability algorithm based on youth motivation and empowerment. We intervened in courses where students had to do community service and offered them conveniently organized work alternatives of measurable goals during which they act on campus, in chapters created and run by students while developing their soft skills. Consequently, we secured students in-flow, cultivating their mindsets on sustainability and empowering them to become eco-citizens actively engaging in the development of societies by leading projects aligned with the UN-SDG’s and based on the current situation.

USEK has acted since its beginning, to inspire and encourage environmental sustainability, both academically and administratively. Our attitude towards sustainability and the significance we place on it are an integral part of the mission of our Catholic institution.

We are on our way to becoming a university which can achieve significant sustainability through knowledge, proactivity, collaboration, and creativity. Our community, staff, students, and alumni are learning to understand the principles of sustainability – it is becoming rooted in our operations and gives hope for a positive sustainable existence. Great things happen when we work together, and we are steadfast in remaining faithful and strong to our commitment for succeeding generations.

“The small choices we make each day will have the largest impact on our community and our environment” - USEK President, Rev. Father, Talal Hashem.



Vision:

To cultivate the mindset of our community for sustainability.

To embed sustainability on economical and operational levels, we base our strategy on three foundational principles: respect for the human condition, respect for the conservation of natural resources, and respect for the economic viability of the university, all to ensure USEK can continue on its sustainability journey. These strategies can succeed only if the USEK community embraces this vision and takes action.

To set a roadmap to localize the SDG's, to deliver the 2030 agenda. This roadmap covers a range of strategies that can be adapted to the specific contexts, needs and potentials of our campus

Mission:

1. To Raise awareness and advocate for the active role of our students in the localization of the SDGs
2. To support our students to make decisions that contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs
3. To empower students to lead projects aligned with the UN- SDG's, reachable and feasible based on the current situation and potential.
4. To build capacities by implementing the education framework. Students are very motivated and encouraged to work on projects related to Green initiatives promotion. the General Education framework has been restructured covering the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG) while enabling students to become eco-citizens of the future, actively engaged in the development of societies, empowered with a sound culture, possessing know-how as well as humanism, and contributing to the establishment of a better world.



5. To promote important sustainable matters by a positive and fun approach, targeting different aspect of the SDG's (Re-Mug_it, I hear you, Agora,...)
6. To be effective and get tangible results in whatever action or system...
7. To promote eco mindset and encourage students to cultivate innovation and startups facing many current challenges.
8. To enforce a campus community life, where students can live on campus and experience youth community life on campus.
9. To develop artistic and communication skills between students.

The algorithm used:

- We tackle Energy, transportation, water, waste, biodiversity, and awareness by setting events and activities which can convey messages, nudge or boost behavioral changes.
- These events and activities aim as well to mitigate the effect of climate change either by awareness or by impactful actions.
- All these actions are set for, with and via students.

We strive to build student capacities by pitching at all classes of Civic engagement and GEPS205 for Green concept (around 600 students per semester), on why they need to care for the environment and how they can volunteer with Green USEK.

- We work closely with students so they can engineer these programs, run and execute. (we got around 60 volunteers).
- We recruit every semester around 150 students, where they serve 10 hours of community service.



VIII. Volunteering Projects

		EVENT	Date	Month	SDG
Transportation Energy &	RO	S Carpool			7 + 11+ 13
	E	Bike_cool			7 + 11+ 13
Water	P	world water Day	Wednesday, March 22, 2023		
	RO	Fountains			6 + 12 + 14
Waste	RO	Bucket			11 + 12 + 14
	RO	S GAEA			1 + 9 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14
		Waste liquid			1 + 9 + 11 + 12 + 13 + 14
	RO	S Cleanups			3+ 6+11+12+ 13+14+15
	RO	Book exchange	Tuesday 11 till 2		
	RO	S I hear you			
		Compost			
	RO	S Recycling			
Biodiversity	RO	S Seedballs			14 + 13 + 15
	E	Birdwatching	Thursday, May 11, 2023		14 + 13 + 15
	P	Bee Day	Saturday, May 20, 2023		
	E	No Mow Day	Saturday, April 29, 2023		
	E	Plant a tree			13 + 15



IX. SUMMARY OF MOU FOR THE LEBANON REFORESTATION INITIATIVE NGO (LRI)

Memorandum of Understanding

Between: THE LEBANON REFORESTATION INITIATIVE NGO (LRI),
a Lebanese NGO registered at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities under no. 1186 on 18 June 2014 and that started as a project launched in 2010 by the United States Forest Service (USFS) Office of International Programs (IP) through the support and funding of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Defining the terms of collaboration between LRI and USEK - June 23, 2023

Since both, USEK and LRI, recognize the importance of instilling a commitment to national reforestation and forest conservation with Lebanese communities, especially the new generations, and value the significance of expanding the Lebanese forests, as well as improving overall reforestation techniques and protocols; and desiring to work through the persistent challenges and the associated risks to be able to invest more into sustainable, productive, resilient landscapes that can take up more carbon, produce more food, have more biodiversity, and produce more jobs and livelihoods;

And since LRI possesses the technical expertise and know-how to plant the trees and to ensure seedling survival; and since LRI has in its strategy to engage universities, schools, private sector entities and individuals in reforestation to leverage funds for further reconnection of potential corridors.

Both LRI and USEK have reached an understanding that the following objectives should guide their partnership, as appropriate, subject to the laws and regulations of the Parties and liable upon the availability of appropriated funds.



Annex 1. List of Species

Species
<i>Juniperus excelsa</i>
<i>Cedrus libani</i>
<i>Quercus kotschyana and cedrorum</i>
<i>Acer hermoneum and tauricum</i>
<i>Crataegus monogyna and azarolus</i>
<i>Sorbus torminalis and umbellata</i>
<i>Prunus mahaleb and ursina</i>
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i>
<i>Rosa canina</i>
<i>Rhus coraria</i>
<i>Lonicera nummularifolia</i>
<i>Cotonaester numularis</i>
<i>Rhamnus sp</i>

The above is the list of species suitable for the site. Actual species to be planted is based on agreement with USEK and on availability of seedlings in nurseries at the time of planting.

