

1222 • 2022
800
ANNI



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA

Sustainability Report

2021-2022



Executive summary



The University of Padua

Founded in 1222, the University of Padua is among the oldest and most prestigious universities in Europe. As a multidisciplinary institution, the University meets the higher educational needs of the Italian Northeast, a territory with over 7 million residents and more than 650,000 businesses. Leaders in terms of its quality of teaching, research, and student services the University makes freedom of thought, study, and research the basis of its motto: “Universa Universis Patavina Libertas.”

A community of over

70,000 people

in a city of 205,702 residents*

69,429

under-graduate students**

1,429

PhD students***

2,427

Post-doctoral
fellows****

899

research
assistants**

2,375

professors and
researchersi **

2,419

technical and
administrative staff**

*City of Padua Records (as of 31 December 2021)

**Source: the 2021 University General Report

*** Student enrolment for all degree courses. Source: The 2021 University General Report

****Student enrolment and registration for specialization schools in 2021 (medical area).

Source: The 2021 University General Report

The Organisation

32

Departments

29

Interdepartmental research centres

11

Organizational areas

40

Central administrative offices

8

Schools

1

Experimental farm

1

Service centres

Multifunctional Hubs

3

1

School of higher education

ANVUR rewards “Sustainable UniPadova”

As part of the Evaluation of Research Quality (VQR) for 2015–2019, the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University System and Research (ANVUR) invited Italian universities to present a limited number of case studies related to their Third Mission activities. In this context, the UniPadova Sostenibile project received an “excellent and extremely relevant” metric evaluation. Thus, ANVUR proposes it as a reference model for other Italian universities, stating, “The governance of the UniPadova Sostenibile project is highly innovative, effective, and proves to be the mark of best practices on a national level.



The University's
international
sustainability
rankings



World ranking
76
Italian ranking
2



World ranking
97
Italian ranking
8



World ranking
61
Italian ranking
1

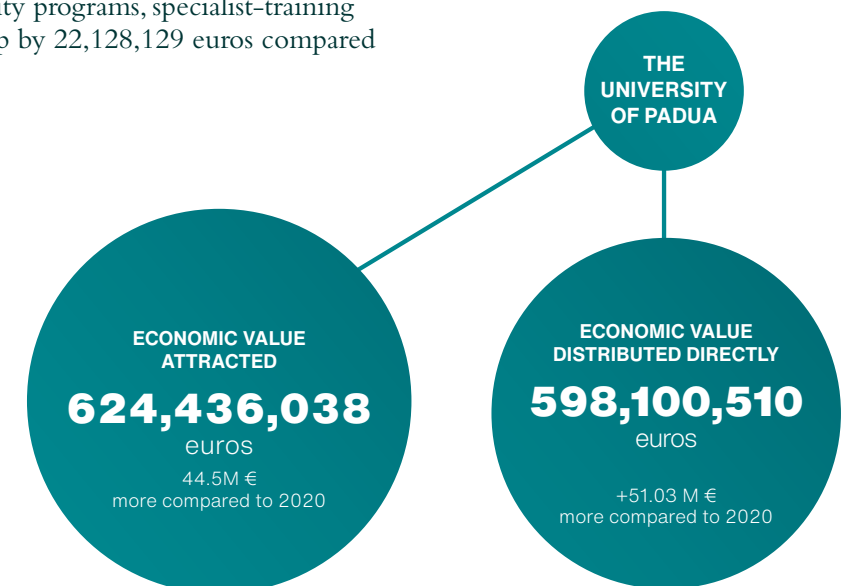
Economic Value

The University of Padua generates a significant impact on its stakeholders and local, national, and international economic systems by redistributing resources and wealth directly and indirectly. In 2021, the University's economic value increased by 7.7%, attracting 624,436,038 euros (44,559,113 euros more than in 2020). Highly represented by the transfers of the MUR and other central administrations for the overall functioning of the University and for teaching and research activities, ministerial transfers represent about 64% of total operating income, which has increased by 33,143,741 euros compared to 2020. The value distributed directly by the University is equal to 598,100,510 euros and has increased by 51,032,190 euros compared to 2020 (+ 9.3%). The most significant impact is within personnel costs, which are equal to 53.5% of the total (+ 14,691,910 euros compared to 2020). The amount of economic and other forms of support offered to students (scholarships, research doctorate positions, student mobility programs, specialist-training contracts) is up by 22,128,129 euros compared to 2020.

Spending on local
suppliers

39%
of the Veneto
region

of which
23%
are from the
province of Padua



Resources

The CompraVerde Veneto Award

For the second consecutive year, the Veneto Region bestowed the University of Padua the CompraVerde Veneto Award – Education Category in 2022, in recognition of “attention given to the recovery and redevelopment of urban spaces, soil consumption, and compliance with the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM in Italian), enriched by the requirements and incentives linked to the sector of international certifications.” The three projects proposed exemplify the University’s approach to its urban development strategy: the construction of the new multi-purpose building via Gradenigo, the recovery of the complex via Campagnola, and the construction of the Engineering Innovation Hub within a pavilion of Padova Fiera.

Memorandum of Understanding on Green Public Procurement (GPP)

Signed in 2019, the Memorandum of Understanding on Green Public Procurement (GPP) between the Veneto Region, the University of Padua, the Ca’ Foscari University of Venice, the University of Verona, IUAV University of Venice, Unioncamere del Veneto, and ARPAV came to its conclusion in May 2022 after three years of activity. The working group thus produced two guidelines: procedures to follow the new CAM “Cleaning and Sanitation Services” and the GPP document for a fair, healthy, and environmentally friendly food system.

93%

of the special waste produced in 2020 by the University was recycled

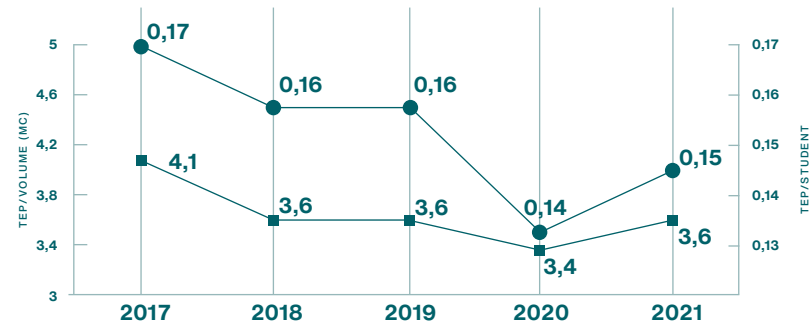
Environment and Energy

In 2021, the University recorded an increase in overall energy consumption of 8.7% compared to 2020, a result due to the measures to contain and combat the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency. Furthermore, in 2021 educational and academic activities resumed in person, cancelling the drop in energy consumption in 2020 during the introduction of remote learning. Compared to 2017, the reference year for monitoring energy consumption, the University’s consumption trend shows an overall reduction in the overall energy consumption of 2%, against an increase in the total volume of 11.5% and a 9.2% increase in the student body. The University continued the redevelopment of existing structures by replacing more refrigeration plants, such as the animal enclosures of the Physiology and Organic Chemistry, Pharmaceutical and Pharmacology Sciences Departments. The University renovated and modernized the energy systems of Palazzo Luzzato Dina, Palazzo Bo, and the New Complex of Agriculture via Gradenigo, along with the renovation of the entire water distribution line of the “Lucio Toniolo” experimental farm. Furthermore, the University co-financed departmental projects aimed at reducing water consumption, including replacing the climatic chambers that used drinking water to operate air conditioning systems with a sustainable recovery and reuse system.

-2%

reduction in overall energy carrier consumption compared to 2017 against an 11.5% increase in total volume and a 9.2% increase in the student body

Energy consumption per student and by volume 2017-2021



Energy consumption per student
(Tonne of oil equivalent – TOE/student 2017-2021)

■ TEP/VOLUME (MC)
● TEP/STUDENT

In 2021 there was a 10.2% drop in energy consumption per student compared to the baseline (2017), while energy consumption referred to the overall volume (TOE/m³) decreased by 12.1%.

Carbon Footprint

The reduction in overall emissions in 2021 compared to the reference baseline (2018) is 29%, comparing this to 2020, there was an increase of 21% as educational and academic activities resumed in person after the lockdown period during the COVID-19 emergency.

Greenhouse gas
emissions per
student in 2021



920 kgCO₂ eq

Greenhouse gas emissions by activity (ton CO₂eq)divided by activity (calculated according to ISO 14064-1:2019)

ACTIVITY	2018	2019	2020	2021	Variations Compared to 2018
	GHG Emissions (ton CO ₂ eq)	GHG Emissions (ton CO ₂ eq)	GHG Emissions (ton CO ₂ eq)	GHG Emissions (ton CO ₂ eq)	(%)
Student Commute	39,521	39,554	32,192	40,484	2%
University Energy Consumption	33,873	16,684	9,438	10,038	-70%
Staff Commute	9,702	10,092	7,296	8,182	-16%
Staff Travel	1,142	2,824	643	1,040	-9%
International Student Mobility	1,733	1,065	569	1,013	-42%
Waste Disposal	324	373	428	550	70%
Fugitive Refrigerant Gas Emissions	337	327	238	396	18%
TOTAL	86,632	70,919	50,804	61,704	-29%
TOTALE Adjusted based on the number of students in 2018	86,632	70,777	49,275	57,160	-34%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Employees	6,264	6,531	6,531	6,944	11%
Students	62,009	62,133	63,933	67,072	8%
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
GHG Emissions per student	1,397	1,141	795	920	-34%
GHG Emissions per student adjusted*	1,397	1,139	771	852	-39%

*Emission values adjusted based on the number of students in 2018

Energy Plan

With the adoption of measures at the national level (DM 383 of 6 October 2022 of the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition – MITE and the “National plan for the containment of natural gas consumption”), the University has adopted an Energy Plan to face the energy crisis. The University Energy Plan aligns itself with the European objectives set out in the European Green Deal by binding the objective of the European Union to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The University Energy Plan covers a period of six years (2022–2027). The short-term plan includes the adoption of organizational measures, setting energy containment measures, and enacting a level of responsibility and awareness across the university community. The long-term provides for the strengthening of the numerous actions currently in progress, such as redeveloping heating and cooling plants, replacing windows, installing thermal insulation on rooftops, replacing lighting fixtures, and installing a new uninterruptible power supply. In approving the Energy Plan, the Board of Directors also established that the savings achieved from its implementation be allocated, up to a maximum of 50%, to incentivize research funds and the employee welfare fund.

-1.418

(Tonne of Oil
Equivalent)
estimated savings

29 mln €

expected economic
investment

Mobility and Transportation

With almost 70,000 members, modes of transport and the mobility of the University community represent an important element of the viability within the municipalities in which the University is located. For many years, the University has implemented numerous initiatives that facilitate sustainable means of transportation for its community.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY INITIATIVES

300,000 €

per year for the sustainable mobility of personnel under the University supplementary welfare agreement 2021-2023

255

Requests from University employees for annual public transportation subscriptions in 2021

2

agreements for electric scooter services

Wellness

With numerous organizations, activities, and people dedicated to fighting discrimination, the University aims to ensure gender equality, equal opportunity, inclusion, health, and well-being for all. The University hosts a network of contacts to protect and guarantee a safe space for those in need of advice while offering initiatives and activities aimed at promoting healthy and well-oriented lifestyles.

Wellness promoting actions

1,333

People involved in wellness projects in 2021 (1116 in 2020)

425

Flexible contracts (part-time or remote working) authorised in 2021 (394 in 2020)

+8%

Budget increase dedicated to wellness and sports compared to 2020

700,000

Towards the annual premium for the UniSaulte supplementary healthcare policies

1,377,327

Euros towards the *Conto Welfare di Ateneo* (2021-2023 Integrative Welfare Agreement)



Inclusion

As an innovative strategy for building an inclusive environment, the Inclusive University Project is one of the 15 University of Padua case studies marked with “Excellence” as per the Research Quality Evaluation (VQR) conducted by the National Agency for the Evaluation of the University and Research System (ANVUR) for 2015-2019. Commitment to spreading a culture of diversity by upholding human rights, equity, and social justice, this recognition is a result of the University’s fight against discrimination by going beyond introducing and integrating actions to ensure an inclusive environment.

Scope of international reception and inclusion (International Humanitarian Reception)

6

Refugee students to study during the 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 academic years as part of the University Corridors for Refugees (UNICORE)

**More than
550K €**

Raised from the UniPD4Afghanistan fundraising campaign aimed at supporting Afghan students in dangerous situations and forced to abandon their university studies

910K €

Of funds allocated for initiatives that support Ukrainian students and scholars

3

Scholars welcomed in 2020 thanks to research grants as part of the Scholars at Risk network

46

University inclusion and disability representatives

22

Participants in the Advanced Training Course “*Raccontare la verità*” (organised with the Italian National Press Federation, the Veneto Journalists’ Union and the Article 21 Association)

1,197

Students with disabilities and learning difficulties who chose to study at the University of Padua in 2020-2021 compared to 1085 in 2019-2020

739

Requests for personalised admission tests compared to 537 in 2020

Equal Opportunity

The 2022-2024 Gender Equality Plan

In February 2022, the Board of Directors approved the 2022-2024 Gender Equality Plan, which follows the guidelines of the European Commission and the Gender Equality Plan of the CRUI Commission. The Plan is the result of the analysis and planning conducted by a group representing various components of the academic community that monitors indicators of equality that the University has been carrying out for several years through the publication of the Gender Report (published every three years) and annual updates.

The 2021-2023 Positive Action Plan

In December 2021, the Guarantee Committee approved the 2021-2023 Positive Action Plan (PAP), ratified by the Board of Directors in February 2022. The new Plan, in continuity with the previous PAP and close dialogue with the Gender Equality Plan, continues and consolidates the actions taken by the Guarantee Committee on equality, inclusion, and workplace well-being.

New Guidelines for Career Aliases

In line with the objectives of the Gender Equality Plan and the Positive Action Plan, the new Alias Careers guidelines, approved in May 2022, offer a fresh view that simplifies procedures to protect the privacy of the transgender community. A Career Aliases profile is accessible to those enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate courses and provides for the release of an alternative identity that replaces the personal information with an “elective” name chosen by those in the process and change of gender assignment.

128

Staff members who attended the “*Generi e linguaggi*” online course

6

Staff members who participated in the second edition of the “*Generi, saperi e giustizia sociale*” General Course

9

training, study, and debate activities on gender-related issues organised by the Elena Cornaro University Centre

Education

TEACHING SUSTAINABILITY

58,5%

of University courses related to at least one of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals

RIGHT TO STUDY

9,590

scholarships provided for 2021-2022 valued at 31.1M euros

46,896

students who benefited from partial or total exemptions from tuition fees in 2021-2022 compared to 41,678 in 2020-2021

STUDY SUPPORT*

25,078

registered requests for a University tutor

1,631

students involved in the Drop-out project

2,795

students involved in the Buddy project that supports the integration of international students

559

students involved in the Operazione Risveglio project that supports those who decide to resume their studies after a prolonged interruption

INDIVIDUAL STUDY SPACES

3,543

individual spaces for students to study, including new study areas at CUS and ESU

5

Quiet Rooms for individuals to study alone or with the support of a tutor, dedicated to students with disabilities or other difficulties

EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

69

correctional facility detainees enrolled in the University in 2020/2021

* Data refers to the 2020/2021 A.Y.

Networking

The University adheres to and participates in numerous associations, consortiums, foundations, and national alliances engaged in promoting sustainable development goals.

The Network of Universities for Sustainable Development - RUS

In 2021, the University continued to engage in the activities of the Universities for Sustainable Development Network with a particular focus on coordinating the “Inclusion and Social Justice” Working Group, constituted at the end of 2019.

ARQUS European University Alliance

The commitment of the University of Padua continued in 2021 with its participation in the ARQUS European University Alliance. Created in 2018 and financed by the European Commission, the alliance is part of the “European Universities” project. In addition to coordinating the “Widening Access, Inclusion and Diversity” action line, the University organized numerous events during 2021 and in the first half of 2022.

RuniPace – The University Network for Peace

The University of Padua co-coordinated, alongside the University of Pisa, the RuniPace Network in 2022, which began uniting Italian Universities for Peace in 2020 as promoted by the Conference of Italian University Rectors. The network welcomes public and private universities that inspire their action on the fundamental principles of the Italian Constitution, the Charter of the United Nations, the European Union Treaty, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Council of Europe

15

University representatives active in seven RUS working groups

26

events organized by the University as part of the ARQUS University Alliance in 2021/2022

10

working groups on behalf of the RuniPace network

Research

As a multidisciplinary research institution in pursuit of excellence, the ability to attract competitive funding and talent to the University of Padua continues to be a strategic objective. Even in 2021, despite the persistence of the negative effects of the pandemic, the University allocated a considerable amount of resources to support research activities, with an overall budget of approximately 30.9M euros.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Following an evaluation process, the University of Padua was included in the list of profiled universities of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, placing third in Italy after Bocconi and Pavia.

+98%

budget increase dedicated to research related to the UN 2030 Agenda in 2021 (equal to over 31 million euros) compared to 2020*

729

publications related to sustainability in 2021*

4

Centers established in 2021 (Jean Monnet Center of Excellence on Climate Justice, CEWMS – Center for Circular Economy Studies, OSES – Observatory on Sustainability, Equality and Social Justice, CIRCULAR – Interuniversity Research Center on AgRoecosystems)

* GreenMetric Data

Cultural heritage, knowledge and best practices

CULTURAL HERITAGE

133,333 participants in guided tours of historical and monumental sites: Palazzo Bo, Botanical Garden and Villa Bolasco in 2021

434 University museums open days in 2021

6,812 University Museums visitors in 2021

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER

27 new patent applications filed in 2021

1 new trademark registered in 2021, for a total of 38 registered trademarks

PROFESSIONAL WORKPLACE CONNECTIONS

22,492 undergraduate and graduate student internships in Italy, plus 542 with internships abroad

250 Individual job-counselling sessions, 21 career placement meetings and seminars, 2 online workshops

3.486 CVs sent within Italy and 232 abroad for job placement

4 career days, 17 business presentations

52 Civil Service workers in 2021

Communication

At the end of 2021, the University launched a new website dedicated to the UniPadova Sostenibile project and all the actions carried out by the University in the seven areas of the Charter of Sustainability Commitments. Since the spring of 2022, the *unipadovasostenibile* Instagram profile began sharing initiatives to participate in events organized by University structures, calls for dissertations, and other opportunities related to sustainability open to the academic and local community.

The 2022 Sustainable and Resilient PA Award

In 2022, the “The climate we want” column of the University’s online magazine, *Il Bo Live*, was awarded the 2022 Sustainable and Resilient PA Award in the “Communicating sustainability” category thanks to the cross-media approach and scientific rigour to its content.

696

articles published on “Il Bo Live” related to sustainable development

627

events organized by the University related to the 17 sustainable development goals*

18,656

unique views of the UniPadova Sustainable website from 1 December 2021 to 30 June 2022

13,238

accounts reached by the unipadovasostenibile Instagram page, with 585 followers

* GreenMetric Data

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