

UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023



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## INTRODUCTION

In 2023 the University of the Algarve continued contributing with education, research and hands on actions to the sustainable development of the region where it is located, but also continued to build bridges to the rest of the world through effective co-production of solutions for the populations and nature. This is the 3rd Sustainability Report of the University of the Algarve, presented in 2024 updating on some of the significant activities in 2023 (2nd Report) in terms of UAlg's contribution to each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030. It has been prepared within the UAlg Council + Sustainable and Healthier, with the valuable contribution of some of its members. This report also monitors our contribution to a fairer, greener and more prosperous society and to encourage a more sustainable and peaceful way of life, to promote joint efforts between people and organisations and to have a mission-oriented approach. These needs will be taken into account and action, individually and collectively are crucial, to enhance the protection of our societies, as well as terrestrial and marine ecosystems, based on the development of local capacity to address challenges and the use of scientific evidence to guide progress.

This report has been organised to reflect, although not exhaustively, UAlg's contribution to sustainability in the four central axes of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Teaching, Research, Community and Governance. Data and evidence were collected for teaching activities within the academic year 2023-24, research information concerning productivity through Scopus between the years 2019 and 2023 and projects in progress until the end 2023. It is the reflect UAlg's contribution to sustainability

during this period within our regional context, within Europe but also globally in cooperation especially with the associated partners from Asia, America and Africa through Erasmus + Strategic partnership in the European University of the Seas SEA-EU and the Horizon Europe consortium WIDERA Sustainable Horizons SHEs. We aim to transform the European Partnership into a Global Partnership, emphasizing its benefits for the whole planet and envisioning a future centred on a sustainable environment. Within our international consortia in 2023 the platform My Sustainable future was developed, and a carbon footprint calculator is available to our students and young researchers, with the aim of increase the literacy on sustainability and SDGs and also increase entrepreneurship to address challenges into opportunities.

By generating and disseminating science-based knowledge through formal and informal education in a wide range of scientific fields, we will become a more sustainable place to work and study, with less impact on nature. The well-being of societies, the protection of the environment, and the mitigation of and adaptation to global changes that threaten life on Earth are part of the 17 SDGs. These cover several interrelated areas, such as the eradication of poverty, equitable access to education and quality health services, the creation of decent jobs, energy and environmental sustainability, and the conservation and management of water and ocean quality. Given the relevant role that higher education institutions play in society, they must contribute to the achievement of these goals.

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GOAL

1

# NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.



Photo: Adobe Stock  
Uganda, Africa



## TEACHING & LEARNING

**2023/24**

**Number of students: 9726**

**Number and % of total of low-income students receiving financial aid: 2251**

**N° of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 1 and % of total: 98, 3%**

### Student financial support

At the University of Algarve, students are eligible to apply for *Scholarships from the Directorate-General for Higher Education*. In addition, UAlg provides a *Social Support Fund* that encompasses several financial assistance options:

**Emergency Grant:** A monetary contribution intended to address urgent, unexpected financial situations that may arise.

**Collaboration Scholarship:** This scholarship partially covers the costs of attending a study programme, requiring students to engage in activities within the Social Services and/or institutional projects' activities.

Also, there are several scholarships and awards (e.g. *Excellence, Merit, BPI award, CGD award*, ) that are attributed to students rewarding their exceptional academic performance or sports merit results.



### Programme for academic success

The University of Algarve (UAIG) offers a comprehensive *Programme to promote Academic Success*, which includes a Peer Mentoring Program designed to support students. This initiative bridges various services to assist those in need, aiming to reduce dropout rates and enhance student retention.

#### *Soft Skills for Life*

UAIG also runs the *Soft Skills for Life* and the *Interculturality and Mindfulness* programmes, which focus on developing students' soft skills. These initiatives promote

integration and support psychological well-being, helping students navigate their university experience more effectively.

### Mobility Programme within Portuguese-speaking Universities (AULP)

Through the Association of Portuguese-speaking Universities (AULP) Mobility Programme, UAIG supports two students annually for the 2023/2024 academic year. This initiative facilitates exchanges between HEIs that are members of the AULP. It particularly aims to benefit students from developing Portuguese-speaking countries, such as Cape Verde, Macau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, Timor-Leste, Angola, and Brazil, by providing opportunities for study in the Algarve, alongside free accommodation and dining services.

### SEA-EU 2.0

UAIG plays a leading or co-leading role in various activities of the *SEA-EU 2.0 project*, being the HEI responsible for WP5 – Bridging the gap with society.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output (No. paper): **11**  
Field-Weighted (Citation Impact): **0.62**  
Citation count: **70**

### Portugal 2020 +and Algarve 2030 Programmes

The University of Algarve (UAIG) is accredited under the *Portugal 2020* Programme for its services in Research and Technological Development (R&D), Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, and Innovation. Key projects such as the European Space Agency Business Innovation Centre, *Prototyping*, *AGROPYME-AVANZA*, and *DIGITEC* Transfer assist entrepreneurs and agrifood companies in developing more profitable, competitive, and sustainable business models. These initiatives are implemented directly or in collaboration with local, regional, national, and international partners.

### Collaboration

UAIG collaborates with members of *Algarve Active Aging* (A3) to promote creative and viable solutions that enhance the quality of life and health for older individuals, serving as a measure to prevent poverty. The UAIG project ALGACYCLE, funded under CRESC Algarve 2020, ongoing in 2023, actively develops new food preparations and functional ingredients from algae, enhancing and promoting a highly resilient endogenous Portuguese product. The *Diversify Algarve 2030* project, carried out by CCDR Algarve in partnership with the University of Algarve and NERA, aimed to boost the implementation of the Algarve 2030 Action Plan, accelerating the diversification of the regional economic base, training and qualifying regional SMEs, through the investment in Entrepreneurial Discovery Processes, which foster regional competitiveness.

GOAL

1

### Entrepreneurship and technology transfer

*CRIA*, the Division of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer at the University of Algarve, supports the entire academic community in areas of entrepreneurship and technology transfer. It provides assistance and innovation to regional stakeholders, either directly or through partnerships at local, regional, national, and international levels. This includes support to *start-ups and spin-offs* companies and for the establishment of sustainable businesses.

## COMMUNITY

### Social support in the local community

UAlg actively implements initiatives and activities to enhance access to basic services for everyone. These include *Volunteering* opportunities, the Re-Food project, and a range of educational offerings such as undergraduate and

postgraduate studies, language courses, seminars, conferences, lectures, and free courses. Additionally, the *Active and Health Ageing* (A3) programme adopts a comprehensive and innovative approach to promote active and healthy ageing in the Algarve.

### Inclusive School

The Office for Students with *Special Educational Needs (NEE)* supports students with Special Educational Needs by assessing needs, coordinating measures and activities with (teaching) staff, providing information resources and training, and promoting inclusivity to ensure equal, quality education and a smooth transition to independence.

## GOVERNANCE

### Representativity

UAlg actively participates in policy decision-making at both national



and global levels, engaging with organisations such as the *Associação das Universidades de Língua Portuguesa, Conselho de Reitores das Universidades Portuguesas*, Conselho Coordenador dos Institutos Superiores Politécnicos). At regional and local levels, UAlg collaborates with the *CCDR Algarve* to implement programmes and policies aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms.

### Local cooperation

The University of Algarve plays an important role in the *Algarve Social Development Plan (PDSA) 2023-2030*, contributing to its framework alongside key regional entities, e.g.



AMAL, the 16 municipalities of the region, and various social institutions (District Social Security Centre of Faro, Social Security Institute) as well as Regional Delegation of the IEFP, the Regional Health Administration, and the Algarve Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR). To enhance the coherence and effectiveness of social interventions, while addressing identified weaknesses and developing action programmes with specific objectives and resources for implementation. Additionally, the *UAlg V+* Volunteer Group has established partnerships with several institutions to help tackle poverty and social exclusion.

Furthermore, UAlg actively collaborated in the development and participates in the *Regional Smart Specialization Strategy* (EREI), within the Algarve 2030 programme. This addresses seven key areas, each aligned with specific policy objectives and designed to foster innovation and inclusivity to create resilient communities and enhance quality of life across the region. Ensuring equal opportunities and active participation in the workforce, particularly for vulnerable groups, thru lifelong learning, re-skilling, and improved access to quality education and services, while also strengthening the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development.

Photo: Bill wegner / Unsplash  
Kampala, Uganda

GOAL

2

## ZERO HUNGER

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



Photo: Adobe Stock

### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

Number and % of total of graduates in agriculture and aquaculture including sustainability subjects: **1977; 13%**

N° of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 2 and % of total: **148, 4%**

#### Study programs

UAlg offers *degrees at different academic levels* (graduation, masters, and PhD) and elective courses that focus on food security issues, with emphasis on food production and transformation, environmental sciences, and marine and rural resources. All UAlg degrees' courses syllabi identify the main contribution to the SDGs, namely SDG 2.

### RESEARCH

#### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(no. of papers): **115**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.24**  
Citation count: **1391**

#### Food waste assessment and awareness

The volume of food waste generated from meals served at the university is assessed annually as part of an ongoing



collaboration between the Food Engineering Department and Social Services (SAS). This total is calculated by evaluating the food products procured by UAlg, sampling waste from the Food Units, and considering the total number of meals served throughout the year. In 2023, this analysis was conducted separately for the canteens and grill restaurants. The average food waste during meal preparation (pre-consumption) is estimated at 9% , while post-consumption waste stands at 17% for canteens and 18% for grills . Compared to 2021 and 2022, the number of meals served has consistently risen, although waste per meal has shown a slight decline. Furthermore, the

*volunteering activities of UAlg V+ group* in collaboration with Re-food and the Food Bank allows UAlg to distribute food that is not served in the canteens to people and families in need.

Assessment	2021	2022	2023
Food Waste (Metric tonnes)	33	51	52
Population	9086	10116	10928

### From food by-products to compost

Collaboration between the Ecomposting Project and UAlg V+ for the creation and implementation of a composting station in the Gambelas Campus aims to valorise organic waste as high quality compost.

## COMMUNITY

### Empowering local producers with food security and sustainable production know-how

*CRIA* manages the University of the Algarve's incubator, named UALG TEC START, which provides local farmers and food producers with facilities (e.g. laboratories, technology, equipment, and plant stocks) to improve sustainable farming and production practices. As a result, many start-ups and spin-offs have been developed, such as *SPAROS*, *Carob World*, *Grand Carob*, *Pharmaplant*, *BEQ*, which are now reference companies in the national and international markets in which they operate. UAlg provides access on food security and sustainable agriculture and aquaculture knowledge, skills or technology to local farmers and food producers projects integrating a market approach to SME development in aquaculture (*S2AQUA CoLab*); *CRIA Start+* and *CRIA TT 2.0* to support the creation of new innovative companies and the transfer of Technology and Knowledge from UAlg researchers, labs and R&D centres to the Market in the RIS3 areas in the Algarve, including but not limited to tourism, sea and agri-food; *Sabor SUR* in which one of the activities

is the identification of the training needs of farmers and the development of an online platform for training and knowledge transfer; and *MD.net* that aims to empower the various stakeholders in the Mediterranean area to adopt innovative practices in developing new products and services associated with the Mediterranean Diet.

## GOVERNANCE

### 2023

Total (annual) food waste:  
**51649 kg tonnes**  
 Campus population:  
**10928 people**  
 Food waste per person:  
**4.73 kg/person/year**

### Supporting food security and healthy meals

In addition to food, accommodation and health services, there are scholarships for low-income students (social support scholarships) and, under the "+ Superior" programme. There is also an emergency fund to help students with financial difficulties. This fund covers an Emergency Grant, a financial contribution for occasional situations; a Collaboration Scholarship, and co-funding the costs of attending a study cycle through the collaboration of the student with UAlg activities. Those who are unable to pay can still access these services for free (here). Thousands of high-quality, varied, and affordable meals are served every day in the cafeterias, canteens, and restaurants of the SAS. The menus, planned under the supervision of a nutritionist, include a choice of meat, fish, or vegetarian dishes. A full meal includes soup, main course, bread, dessert (sweet or fruit) and a drink (water or juice).

GOAL

3

## GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure access to quality healthcare and promote well-being for all, at every stage of life.



Photo: Robert Collins / Unsplash  
Jakarta, Indonesia



### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**Number of graduates: 1725**

**Number and % of total of graduates in**

**health professions: 407, 24%**

**N° of Curricular Units taught**

**registered for SDG 3 and % of total:**

**716; 19%**

#### Study programs

UAlg offers several degrees (graduation, masters, and PhD) in health sciences and medicine.

#### Life skills development for all

UAlg develops *professional guidance courses/projects and successful transition* in higher education, with the aim of promoting the integration of students and supporting their well-being.

#### Improvement of pedagogical strategies

In 2023, UAlg became a member of a consortium comprising six higher education institutions (HEIs) offering training for the Masters degree in Nursing with seven specializations accredited by the Order of Nurses.

### RESEARCH

#### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output

(No. paper): **493**

Field-Weighted

(Citation Impact): **1.37**

Citation count: **8638**



### Collaborative Initiatives for Ageing and Health

The University of Algarve (UALg) is an associate of the *International Centre on Ageing (CENIE)*. The partnership is a collaboration between the Universidad de Salamanca and the Fundación General del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas in Spain, the General Directorate of Health and UALg in Portugal. Its objective is to address the increasing life expectancy and declining birth rates in European (and global) populations, with the aim of enabling individuals to enjoy a longer, active and independent life. The *Algarve Biomedical Center (ABC)* is a consortium of CHUA and UALg, with the objective of creating, communicating and disseminating

research findings and providing services with the aim of improving the health and quality of life of the community.

## COMMUNITY

### Promoting Health and Well-being: University of Algarve's Campus Initiatives

The University of Algarve (UALg) actively improves and promotes health and well-being across its campus, fostering a healthy environment for students and the entire university community. Through various programmes, projects, and initiatives, UALg supports lifestyle practices that enhance physical and mental health. One notable initiative, the FISU Healthy Campus Programme, awarded UALg a Platinum Certification for two consecutive years, recognising its exceptional commitment to a healthier campus.

UALg has also been honoured with the "*Healthy Eating in Higher Education*" Seal of Excellence, awarded by Portugal's Directorate-General for Health (DGS). This distinction acknowledges the University's efforts to promote balanced, sustainable dietary practices within the university community.

Additionally, the *Clinical Simulation Centre* at UALg was inaugurated as part of the "Closer Government" initiative, alongside a Council of Ministers session held in Faro. This facility serves as a key resource in advancing hands-on clinical training for healthcare students.

### Volunteering

Some of the best practices were carried out in the context of the *volunteering* UALg V+ group - University of Algarve distinguished with "*Voluntary Academy Quality Seal 2023-2024*", awarded by CASES, Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social, to several Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for the work carried out within the scope of volunteering.

UALg collaborates with the Center for Counselling and Early detection of *UHIV*

*AIDS Infection (CAD)* the Association for Family Planning (APF), and the Students Union (AAUALg) to implement a comprehensive program focusing on Family Planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health.

## GOVERNANCE

### Representativity

The health and well-being of the academic community is one of *UALG's greatest commitments*, which is why it offers medical care in various specialties, psychology, sports and cultural services.

### Collaboration

UALG participates in improving health and well-being results, through collaborations with educational and health institutions in activities aimed at primary and secondary school students, in partnerships with the Faro Diabetology Unit of the Algarve Hospital and University Center (CHUA) and the Association for the Study of Diabetes Mellitus and Support for people with diabetes in the Algarve. Promoted nutritional advice consultations aimed at different target audiences. UALg and CCDR Algarve, in collaboration with other institutions, promote debates on health and the Mediterranean Diet, defending the Mediterranean Diet as a healthy eating pattern and an ally of environmental sustainability. ESS promoted clarification and encouragement actions regarding blood donation, with the academic community, in collaboration with the CHUA Blood Service; Promoted awareness and screening actions on stroke risk factors, in collaboration with the CHUA Stroke Unit; Developed *actions to promote health literacy* in partnership with the Municipal Library of Faro and a project with the main objective of raising awareness among elderly people about the importance of active and *healthy aging in partnership* with the Parish Council of São Brás de Alportel.

GOAL

4

## QUALITY EDUCATION

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



Photo: Adobe Stock



### TEACHING & LEARNING

**2023/24**

**Number and % of total of graduates in who gained a qualification that entitled them to teach at primary school level:**

**146; 7.3%**

**Number and % of total of first-generation students starting a degree:**

**677; 32%**

**N° of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 4 and % of total: 2171, 58%**

**UAlgoritmo magazine: publication of a special multilingual volume**

One relevant activity led by UAlg in 2023 was the reinforcement of the *UAlgoritmo magazine with the preparation of the first special volume multilingual* a

successful activity to increase teaching and learning quality linked to scientific outreach to convey scientific literacy to the public and may be considered as an educational tool that can be used across students' communities. This special volume multilingue was extended from Algarve region to other regions in Europe where HEIs from Sustainable Horizons consortia are located. These volumes are available to general society, available in open access in the *institutional Repository, Sapientia*

**Refugees: Support to Ukrainian Universities and students'**

UAlg has been open to the students fleeing from Ukraine since the beginning of the War. Among a total of 307



requests for study, research or work at UAIG between March 2022 and October 2023, 195 consisted of 25 different nationalities, including 70 (22.5%) Ukrainian citizens, followed by 39 Moroccan and 20 Nigerian citizens. The University simplified and adopted new procedures for the enrolment and study for individuals from Ukraine, including:

- Students who were enrolled in Ukrainian universities at the onset of the War;
- Individuals who completed their high school education in Ukraine and had not been enrolled on any higher education institution;
- Researchers and professors

who have been working at a higher education institution;

- Students interested in doing mobility to UAIG;
- People seeking Diploma Recognition.

During 2023 UAIG hosted 10 student refugees from Ukraine (7 of Ukrainian nationality) enrolled into the Integrated Master degree in Medicine (4 students), Economics (1 student), Design and Communications degree (1 student), Moving Image degree (1 student), Languages, Literatures and Cultures degree (1 student), Sports degree (1 student), and Dietetics and Nutrition (1 student). The first eight students were already enrolled in Ukrainian universities when the War broke out, and the last two finished school in Ukraine. UAIG also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University to promote cooperation in the fields of education and academic research. This includes the exchange of information and materials; facilitation of communication, networking and arrangements made by faculty, administration or student organization leaders; organization of joint training, summer programmes, language courses, conferences and academic programmes; facilitation of joint research activities and publications; mutual support in the field of international promotion. Within the European University of the Seas UAIG also contributed with (PDF) SEA-EU Alliance assistance to the academic community in Ukraine that summarize the joint contribution of our alliance concerning the contribution to the quality of education also in areas threatened by war.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2018–2022

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output

(No. paper): **88**

Field-Weighted

(Citation Impact): **1.98**

Citation count: **901**

### Online and hands-on activities with impact globally

In 2023, the University of the Algarve (UAIG) made significant progress in its internationalisation strategy through the implementation of the "*Alliance of European Universities of the Seas*" (SEA-EU 2.0) project. The general aim of this initiative is to consolidate the strategic aggregation of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that form the consortium, ultimately building a true European University. The ultimate goal is to establish a multi-campus university with recognised legal status. The consortium consists of nine European higher education institutions, all with a strong coastal focus.

This alliance enables the further development of joint educational programmes, fosters scientific research, and simplifies the mobility process for students seeking to advance their academic careers. UAIG plays a leading or co-leading role in various activities within the SEA-EU 2.0 project, including being responsible for WP5 – "Bridging the Gap with Society."

GOAL

4

**Research and Societal Impact**

Research at UAlg extends beyond the academic sphere, reaching various sectors of society. The university's impact is felt both nationally and internationally through numerous ongoing projects:

**ALGARVE-FSE+00326300 - CTeSP cycle 23-25:** This project aims to provide technical, practical, and specialised higher education training, preparing students for professional activities in specific areas of the labour market.

**APECHE** – Evaluation and Promotion of Environmental Culture in Higher Education: The main objective of the

APECHE project is to deepen the understanding of environmental literacy (LA) and environmental awareness (CA) in Portuguese higher education, contributing to their enhancement. The project includes the characterisation of LA levels and their evolution, analysis of the variables that most influence these outcomes—such as the degree of CA incorporation—and provides guidelines for better performance.

**UALgaritmo** – Educational Tool for All: An annually successful initiative that contributes to improving the quality of teaching and learning. This educational tool is available in open access for all

students in the Algarve region. In 2023, *volume 5.1 was published.*

**COMMUNITY**

**UAlg V+ Volunteering Activities:**

UAlg organizes and carries out various volunteering projects in cooperation with NGOs and social institutions as part of the UAlg V+ volunteering group. Among the *regular activities* is a project aimed at combating food waste and hunger in the community by collecting and distributing surplus food. The SPEAK FARO project is another impactful initiative for social inclusion, bringing together local residents and newcomers (migrants and refugees) in the same city.



The University of the Algarve was awarded the “*Academia Voluntária 2023-2024 Quality Seal*” for its work in the field of volunteering.

### Teaching and Learning Award

The UAlg *Teaching and Learning Award*, “Teacher of the Year Honored by Students,” is presented to teachers who stand out in students’ overall evaluation of their performance in surveys on the perception of teaching and learning.

### Pedagogical Innovation Support Office

The main objectives of this office are to promote initiatives and training

processes that stimulate pedagogical innovation, encourage practices that contribute to the motivation of teachers and the academic success of UAlg students, and develop initiatives and resources to promote school success and prevent dropout. *Several initiatives* have been promoted in new technologies, teaching activities, and training UAlg teachers to implement innovative pedagogical practices using these technologies.

The *Pedagogical Innovation Support Office (GAIP)* was established in 2018 with the primary objective of promoting initiatives and training processes that stimulate pedagogical innovation. In addition, the office is responsible for encouraging practices that contribute to the motivation of teachers and the academic success of UAlg students. Furthermore, GAIP is tasked with developing initiatives and resources to promote school success and prevent student dropout. In order to achieve these goals, a number of initiatives have been implemented with the objective of promoting the use of new (digital) technologies, enhancing innovative teaching pedagogical practices and providing training for UAlg teachers.

### Wellness Rooms

*Two open-air classrooms* were constructed, equipped with projection facilities, to be used for teaching activities associated with sustainable development in UAlg courses. These initiatives were funded by the European project SHEs–Sustainable Horizons.

### Participatory Budget

The UAlg has allocated €80,000 to

the *participatory budget*, which is intended to benefit the academic community by funding projects that enhance well-being. This participatory mechanism engages the various faculties and schools, students’ union, services, and research centres, recognising the value of their input and capacity for reflection. The initiative is designed to foster a sense of belonging, encourage dialogue and collective action for the common good, promote respect for diverse choices and enhance confidence in the institution’s management.

## GOVERNANCE

### Clinical Simulation Centre

The UAlg Clinical Simulation Centre was inaugurated on March 1st, 2023, as a *project* aimed at enhancing clinical education and training, as well as attracting investors and talent to the Algarve. It also seeks to improve healthcare provision, particularly for the Algarve population. The center will extend and modernize medical education and clinical and biomedical research at the University of the Algarve.

### New Programmes and Courses

As part of the *Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR)*, a new master’s degree and six postgraduate programmes were launched throughout 2023 in the fields of Arts, Communication and Heritage; Health; and Social Sciences and Education. These new courses, like the ones previously established, are part of the UAlg+Skills4all project, providing *incentive grants* for new students.



GOAL

5

# GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Photo: Betzy Arosemena / Unsplash  
Pride parade, Panama City, Panama

## TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**Number and % of first-generation women starting a degree: 1149,**  
**Number of female graduates by subject area (STEM, Medicine, Arts & Humanities/Social Sciences): Total- 1779**

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 5 and % of total: 388; 11%**

To attend Higher Education UAIG has the UAIG *Peer Mentoring Program*, which responds to the difficulties and challenges of the students in the first year. School dropout and academic failure are among the priorities of the

UAIG. *Peer Mentoring program award* was recognized in 2023 as good practice on the UAIG, promoting in 2023/2024 *measures and activities* for students that help in the integration.

For the twelfth consecutive year, students who entered the UAIG through the CNA, were distinguished with the award of excellence scholarships, totalling 117 students. The *scholarship* fully pays the tuition fee for the 1st year of the bachelor's or integrated master's degree.

Special rights for students' mother and father's statutes  
Student mothers and fathers with



children up to 5 years of age and especially young pregnant women, or women who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, enjoy special rights so they can easily reconcile their studies and participation in academic life with family life. Some of these special rights are extended until children are 12 years old, or if there are special care needs. Measures are underway to improve learning performance in general (all genders), including support programmes in mathematics, and life skills development courses and activities, time management, stress management and study methodologies.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output (No. paper): **17**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.53**  
Citation count: **177**

### Women TechEU program

The expressTEC, a spin-off incubated at the University of Algarve, was one of the seven Portuguese technology-based companies led by women selected for the *Women TechEU program*

To honour its researchers in the field of Chemistry, UAIG joined the global event promoted by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) the *Global Women's Breakfast 2023* (GWB 2023), a networking event between women chemists from all over the world (Link 2).

As a way to promote inclusion, UAG organized the 2nd edition of the "*UAIG Inclusive Run and Walk*", a solidarity initiative that arises within the scope of the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU), a consortium composed of nine European universities, which UAIG is also part of (Link 3).

## COMMUNITY

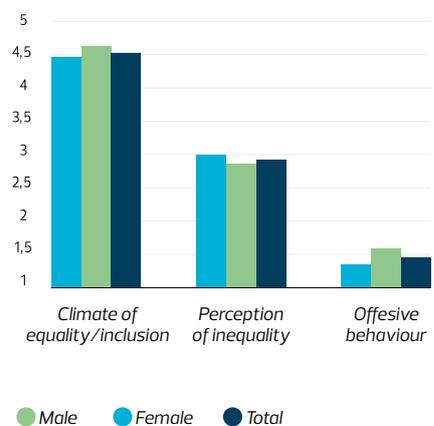
*Student mothers and fathers* with children up to 5 years of age and especially young pregnant women, or women who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, enjoy special rights so they can easily reconcile their studies and participation in academic life with family life (see article 29°, pages 5 and 6, in link 1- Regulations on the Statutes and Special Rights of Students of the University of Algarve). Some of these special rights are extended until children with 12 years old, or if there are special care needs.

## GOVERNANCE

### UAIG monitors yearly the Inclusive Gender Equality Plan UAIG

Within the scope of the *2023 Inclusive Equality report*, the perception study conducted with students aimed to explore their views regarding the institution's concern and involvement in addressing gender (in)equality, as well as to understand students' experiences with insults or verbal provocations directed at them. The sample consisted of 148 participants who responded to an online questionnaire between October 6 and November 22, 2023.

The results show overall very positive perceptions of an inclusive climate within the institution, with participants indicating that they feel welcomed and respected. In contrast, perceptions of inequality, whether related to gender or other forms of discrimination, were reported as relatively low. Additionally, offensive behaviours, such as insults or provocations, were perceived as occurring infrequently, reflected in averages significantly below the midpoint of the scale used to measure these behaviours. These findings suggest that, in the students' perception, the university environment predominantly promotes a climate of respect and equality, with low occurrences of discriminatory conduct.



Averages of student perceptions, by gender Note: Response levels, from 1 to 7

GOAL

6

## CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

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



Photo: Adobe Stock

### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 6 and % of total: 94; 3%**

#### Study programmes

The university offers study programmes contributing to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, namely the bachelors in: Food Engineering; Marine and Coastal Management. At master level: *Marine and Coastal Systems*; the Erasmus Mundus in Applied Ecohydrology; Erasmus Mundus in Coastal Hazards – Risks, Climate Change Impacts and Adaption; Sustainable Management

of Rural Areas; and Urban Water Cycle. At doctorate level: Agricultural and Environmental Science; Biotechnological Sciences; Marine, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

### RESEARCH

#### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **182**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.32**  
Citation count: **3106**



**UAlg is actively engaged in advancing research and innovation in alignment with SDG 6, providing meaningful contributions to address the outlined challenges**

UAlg's UNESCO Chair in Ecohydrology: water for ecosystems and societies (*UAlg honored with UNESCO Chair / University of Algarve*) aims to cooperate with universities, institutes, and other stakeholders, all over the world, to develop education and research solutions that tackle the increasing worldwide degradation of aquatic ecosystems in the topic of aquatic ecosystems management, with particular emphasis on ecohydrology.

Research unit CENSE-UAlg is dedicated to the development of innovative solutions that address the complexities of drinking water quality, water sustainable management, wastewater treatment and sanitation, and the broader water cycle, engaged in groundbreaking projects covering a large spectrum of water-related issues. Headquartered at UAlg, the *Portuguese Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists*, a scientific and educational charitable organisation aims to connect scientists, engineers, water managers and other water professionals, regarding to improve the groundwater knowledge, aiming for sustainable management to addressed populations needs worldwide, as well as protecting water resources and hydrological equilibrium. The *research projects*, in which UAlg is currently involved related to clean water and sanitation amounts to a total investment of over eight million euros. It is also a consultant to regional and local authorities in matters related to water and wastewater management and to adaptation to climate change.

## COMMUNITY

UAlg has actively been collaborating in the preparation, follow-up, and scientific council of international, national, and regional bodies. As an example, UAlg join in 2023 the Association of municipalities *ODSLOCAL* proposed by the *Loulé Adapta initiative (Municipality of Loulé)* in the context of the Circular Water Economy another environmental measures (Rede de Municípios para a Adaptação Local às Alterações Climáticas (RMpALAC), which currently includes 31 Portuguese municipalities with Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and/or Plans. UAlg also cooperates with national and regional agencies, including the Environmental Portuguese Agency, supporting some of its initiatives as the *Volunteering for water*. At international level, UAlg directly cooperates with Angola through a research project regarding *Luanda Bay water quality* and with Morocco, Algeria and Spain through *egroundwater* research project. Examples of activities are *H2O sustainable summit 2023* aimed to

GOAL

6

accelerate and innovate in the areas of water, sustainability, and circular economy, involving Municipalities, Institutions, Companies, STARTUPS, Universities, and Research Centers in a collaborative ecosystem, and the *International Colloquium* "O património da água no Mediterrâneo Ocidental: Sistemas de captação, distribuição e gestão da água" organized by UAIG.



## GOVERNANCE

Volume of water used in the university 2023: Inbound (treated/ extracted water):

**35874 m<sup>3</sup>**

Campus population:

**10928 people**

Water consumption per person: **3.3 m<sup>3</sup>**

### Managing water and wastewater

All the academic community has free access to drinking water at bars

and canteens, as also in the exterior water fountains. UAIG also promotes a campaign to *reduce plastic* that encourages the academic community to bring their own cup or reusable bottle. The potable water at UAIG comes from a centralized water treatment plant under the responsibility of the public company *Águas do Algarve*. *Fagar* is the municipal company tasked with water distribution, as well as urban wastewater collection and transportation to wastewater treatment plants also operated by *Águas do Algarve*. Therefore, all wastewater

produced at UAIG is collected by the municipal system and treated (tertiary treatment level) before being discharged into the environment.

UAIG has established laboratory procedures to proactively prevent the contamination of wastewater with substances that could pose potential risks to the environment or public health. Measures for controlling water waste have been put into place as part of the UAIG's unwavering commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as stated in the *Plano Estratégico*



**2022-2025.** Buildings are equipped with water-savings sensors and drip irrigation is installed in the green areas. Rainwater is collected and used at green areas irrigation and maintenance. Most of the plants present at UAlg exteriors are native and drought-tolerant plants. As part of the “*Together We Protect*” project UAlg with ZOOMARINE, nearly 5000 native plants were planted in bare spots on the Gambelas campus in 2021, 2022 and **2023** as recompense for those that were taken out during infrastructure building. Through R&D initiatives

and events, Working Group *UAlg+ Sustainable and Healthy* encourages mindful water usage on campus and in the surrounding community.

*Photo: Adobe Stock  
Uganda, Africa*

GOAL

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# AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

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



Photo: Karsten Würth / Unsplash  
Biedesheim, Germany



## TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 7 and % of total: 70; 2%**

### Study programmes

Our training offer includes bachelors in *Electrical and Computer Engineering*, and in *Mechanical Engineering*; the masters in *Mechanical Engineering – Energy, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration*; the post-graduate courses in *Adaptation to Climate Change and Mitigation*, in *Advances in Urban Water Cycle*, in *Design and Rapid Prototyping*; in *New Technologies for the Urban Water Cycle*; in *Sustainable Cities*; and in several open courses.

Our students are motivated to

participate in the research projects, either through research grants (for undergraduates) or through Research Integration Internships (for students).

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **125**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.432**  
Citation count: **1506**

### Sustainable energy use

UAlg is dedicated to the advancement



of energy-efficient technology and policies, as well as sustainable energy. The **T2UES** project aimed to address the issue of summertime traffic congestion in the Huelva and Algarve by designing and testing a network of recharging stations powered by renewable energy sources and light electric vehicles. The goal of the **LOCAL4GREEN** project was to identify energy- and carbon-efficient solutions for cities, islands, and remote locations. In order to facilitate the sharing of technological expertise, project **PELAGOS** established a permanent cluster of national HUBs in the blue energy industry. As a partner in the **AGERAR** project, UAlg aims to increase the use and administration of renewable energy through the

use of storage systems and information and communication technologies, as well as energy efficiency and sustainability in commercial and residential microgrids.

## COMMUNITY

The Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer division (**CRIA**) encourages entrepreneurship and technology transfer, particularly **start-ups** that foster and support a low-carbon economy / technology and extends this support to all regional agents wherever innovation is recognized.

UAlg promotes the communication of clean energy and energy-efficient technology policies by hosting workshops such as the **PERIN 2019** "Science, + Europe" days; the 1st Winter Seminar in "Energy Systems in Housing and Hotels"; and the public Presentation Sessions of the **Carbon Neutrality Roadmap 2050** and the National Energy and Climate Plan (2030). Project **Culatra2030** – non-intrusive water desalination proposed, in collaboration with the Association of Residents of the Island of Culatra, the development of a non-intrusive desalination prototype, using surplus of local photovoltaic production.

## GOVERNANCE

### **UAlg as a body has a policy in place for ensuring all renovations / new builds are following energy efficiency standards**

In 2022 UAlg has taken numerous measures in this field to improve the energy efficiency of its buildings, monitor energy consumption, and produce

energy. Every new building or renovation is implemented with a photovoltaic power station at the top. See "Iniciativa Estratégica 4.4: Instalações e equipamentos", See "Ação: Promover e acompanhar a construção das novas infraestruturas" in the **Activities plan 2022**.

### **Sustainable energy production and consumption**

The University's Activity Plans include the goal of efficient energy use and the generation of electricity from renewable sources.

A commission is in charge of conducting energy audits for the Campi and recommending measures to reduce consumption and increase energy production.

Every new building or building renovation considers the installation of rooftop photovoltaic power stations. Common lamps are being **replaced by LEDs**, and the vehicle fleet is being replaced by electric vehicles.

GOAL



## DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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



Photo: Adobe Stock

### TEACHING & LEARNING

**2023/24**

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 8 and % of total: 1277, 34%**

#### Study programmes

The university offers a large number of courses addressing the domains of decent work and economic growth, particularly in the fields of economics, management, and sociology. These courses include bachelor's degrees in: *Business Administration; Economics; Management; and Sociology.*

The offer at master level is vast, including: *Accounting; Business Management; Finance; Health Care*

*Services Management; Hospitality Management and Administration; Human Resources Management; Management and Evaluation in Healthcare Technologies; Management, Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Marketing Management; Quality Management and Agro-food Marketing; School Management and Administration; Sociology; Sustainable Management of Rural Areas; Tax Management; Tourism Economics and Regional Development; and Tourism Organizations Management. PhD studies include those in: Economic and Management Sciences; Quantitative Methods Applied to Economics and Management; Sociology; and Tourism.* Some of these degrees are taught in



English and recruit a considerable number of international students.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **221**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.30**  
Citation count: **2532**

UAlg is committed to sustainable development, including social wellbeing and socially responsible economic development. Examples of projects along these lines include:

**CABFishMAN (Conserving Atlantic Biodiversity by Supporting Innovative Small-scale Fisheries Co-management)**, contributing to the preservation of the marine environment and resources, through the promotion and management of small-scale fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic.

**MONITUR (Observation and monitoring of the Algarve tourist destination)**, building an integrated and holistic evaluation model to measure and monitor the development of sustainable tourism in the Algarve.

## COMMUNITY

UAlg upholds democratic principles, encourages freedom of expression and participation, and maintains close ties with its community. It recognizes labour unions and labour rights, including freedom of association and

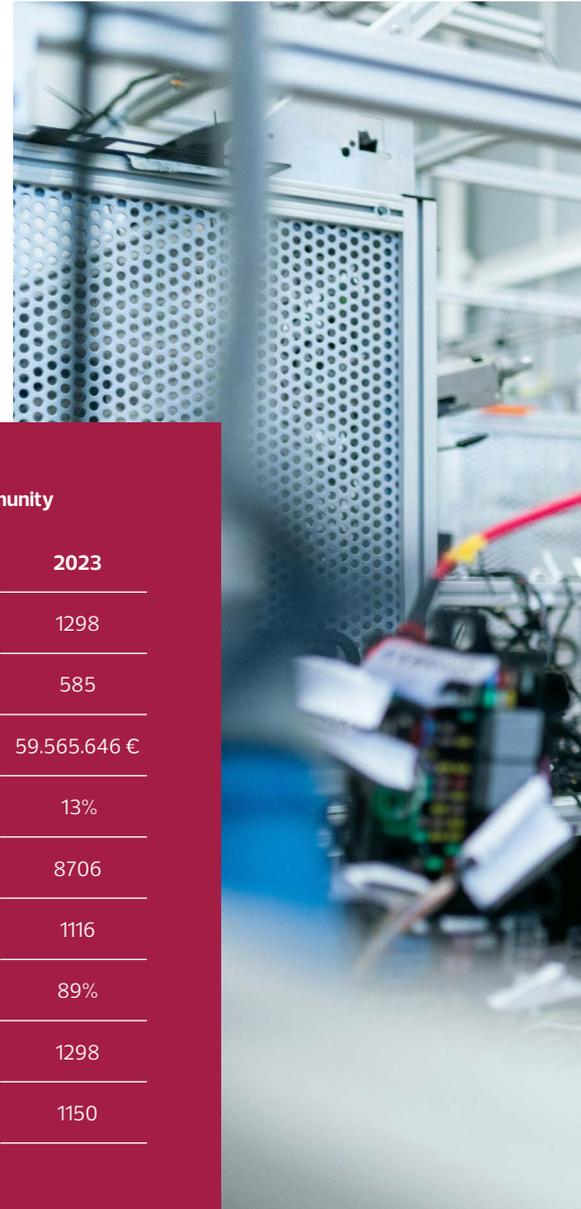
collective bargaining, for all, including women and international staff. The Economic and Social Council, with 12 external representatives, fosters UAlg's relationship with regional environments, including labour associations. UAlg staff is also participating actively in *Unions of workers*

UAlg's commitment to gender equality is evident in its *balanced gender ratio among teaching staff which is annual monitored in detailed reports*. Additionally, the university's Quality Manual ensures the quality of human resources, materials, and support services.

The university has a strong focus on entrepreneurship to foster economic development, through *CRIA* (Division of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer of the University of Algarve). In terms of the relationship with companies, the UAlg participates in two collaborative laboratories (CoLabs): The *S2AQUA* dedicated to sustainable and intelligent aquaculture, and the *KIPT* addressing knowledge and innovation in tourism. Between 2022 and 2023, UAlg experienced notable changes concerning

GOAL

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Metric / Indicator	Community	
	2022	2023
Number of employees	1228	1298
Number of academic staff	602	585
University expenditure	54.620.804 €	59.565.646 €
Proportion of students taking work placements	12%	13%
Number of students	8069	8706
Number of students with work placements for more than a month	942	1116
Proportion of employees on secure contracts	83%	89%
Number of employees	1228	1298
Number of employees on contracts of over 24 months	1016	1150

community members, including students and staff members. One of the most significant areas of expansion was in the number of employees. In 2022, the University had a total of 1,228 employees, which increased to 1,298 in 2023, marking a 5.7% growth. However, in contrast to the increase in overall employees, the number of academic staff slightly declined, changing from 602 in 2022 to 585 in 2023. The University's financial expenditure also saw a considerable increase during this period. In 2022, the total expenditure was €54.6 million, which

rose to €59.6 million in 2023, an increase of around 9%. In 2022, there were 8,069 students, and by 2023, this number had risen to 8,706, reflecting a 7.9% increase in the student body. This growth aligns with the broader trend of increasing institutional capacity, as seen in the rise in total employees and expenditure. Furthermore, the number of students participating in work placements lasting more than one month saw a substantial jump, from 942 in 2022 to 1,116 in 2023, an 18.5% increase. This is based on the effort of UAIG to enhance practical learning opportunities for students,

integrating more experiential education through work placements. In terms of employment stability, the number of employees with secure contracts—those lasting more than 24 months—also increased, from 1,016 in 2022 to 1,150 in 2023, representing a 13.2% rise, thus, actively improving job security for its staff.

In summary, from 2022 to 2023, the University saw growth in its community, including workforce, student body, and financial expenditure, while also placing a greater emphasis on student work placements and securing long-term employment for its staff.



## GOVERNANCE

UAlg complies with the current legislation regarding equal pay for work of equal value and equal opportunities for all, as established in its *Plan for Gender Equality*. As shown in *Statutes*, the administration and governance is based on respect for identity, encouraging the free expression of ideas and opinions, and guaranteeing freedom of scientific, and technological creation. It stimulates the participation of all university bodies in common academic life and promotes a close connection between its activities and the community in which it is integrated.

The university has an *Ethics Committee* open to appeals from any member of the academic community. The Economic and Social Council is an external consultation body to promote relations between UAlg and regional environments.

Photo: ThisisEngineering / Unsplash

GOAL

9

# INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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



Photo: Adobe Stock



## TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught  
registered for SDG 9 and %  
of total: 784, 21%**

### Study programmes

UAlg offers a consolidated portfolio of courses in the scope of basic exact sciences (*mathematics, chemistry, and biology*), *engineering, biomedicine, information technologies, education sciences*, social sciences, economy, and tourism which prepare students to work and contribute to industrial activities, challenge them to think outside of the box and promote innovation within the scope of their future professional activities. UAlg provides offers ranging from open courses, professional Higher Technical Courses, undergraduate

(1st cycle degrees), to master (2nd cycle degrees), to doctorates (3rd cycle degrees). The classes in these programs are mostly practical and problem-solving focused, and they all have linkages to the industry.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data  
retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **173**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.39**  
Citation count: **2787**



**Number of university spin-offs established at least 3 years ago that are still active: 92**

The following analysis (Table 1) presents a breakdown of research income from industry and commerce activities by subject area for the University of Algarve (UAIG) in the years 2022 and 2023. Both in the STEM and Arts & Humanities/Social Sciences fields, there was a decrease in income. Conversely, the medical sciences demonstrated a positive trend, with income increasing from €95,972 in 2022 to €131,742.81 in 2023. This represents a notable growth in income and a strong performance in this field.

**Table 1**  
UAIG research income from industry and commerce by subject area

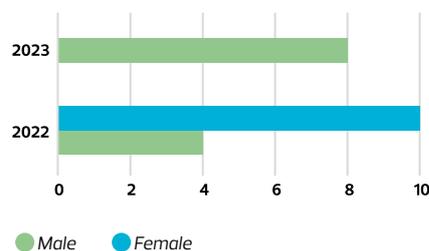
Number of academic staff by subject area	2022	2023
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	597584 €	290637,33€
Medicine	95972 €	131742,81€
Arts & Humanities/ Social Sciences	583042 €	233427,16 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>1026582 €</b>	<b>655807,30 €</b>

Table 2 illustrates the number of academic staff by subject area at the University of Algarve (UAIG) in 2023, with a comparison to the figures from 2022. While there were slight decreases in the number of academic staff in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subject area, down by 7.79%, and in the Arts & Humanities/Social Sciences area, which decreased by 1.20%, the number of academic staff in the Medicine subject area increased by 7.69%. This reflects a noteworthy expansion in this area.

**Table 2**  
Numbers of academic staff by subject area.

Number of academic staff by subject area	2023	Relative to 2022
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	<b>225</b>	-7.79%
Medicine	<b>112</b>	+7.69%
Arts & Humanities/ Social Sciences	<b>246</b>	-1.20%

**Figure 1**  
Numbers of patents



UAIG’s research units focus on subjects with significant industrial applications, focusing on innovative approaches, standing out for using cutting-edge methods to advance science and benefit society

The University of Algarve (UAIG) plays a key role in cutting-edge research in areas such as rare diseases, neurodegenerative disorders, and cancer, contributing significantly to scientific advancement.

- Secured €1 million to develop gene therapy for a rare disease.
- Published research *identifying a new protein as a therapeutic target* for two rare neurodegenerative diseases.
- Research on DNA methylation patterns providing *new insights into breast cancer* pathology.
- Study on protein alterations that help *preserve muscle function during aging*, published in Nature Communications.
- Nature Cancer study revealing genomic *instability in transmissible bivalve cancers*.

**COMMUNITY**

**Contribution to Innovation and Sustainability**

The University of Algarve (UAIG) is engaged in various projects that contribute directly to sustainability and innovation. One highlight is the “Culatra 2030 – Sustainable Energy Community” project, which won the “Green Energy” category of the VISÃO + Águas de Portugal Green Awards. This initiative aims to transform Culatra Island into a sustainable energy community, promoting the energy transition and reducing the region’s carbon footprint. UAIG also made strides in rare disease research, with Clévio Nóbrega, from the

GOAL

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Algarve Biomedical Center Research Institute (ABC-RI), securing €1 million to develop gene therapy for rare childhood diseases.

### Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer

UAlg reinforces its commitment to knowledge transfer and innovation through its CRIA – Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer Division. A recent success includes *expressTEC, a UAlg-incubated startup, which won the "Altice International Innovation Award 2023" with the "expressPIK" project*. This project offers diagnostic solutions for personalized breast cancer treatments, demonstrating the impact of technological innovation in healthcare. Moreover, the 2nd Edition of the *Algarve Tech Hub Summit*, held at UAlg's Penha Campus in 2023, showcased UAlg's role in promoting technological innovation in the region, attracting investors, digital nomads, and companies interested in joining the Algarve's tech ecosystem.

### Education and International Collaboration

UAlg also fosters international collaboration and knowledge transfer. The *UP BLUE BRITE* project, funded by FLAD, enabled activities in the United States to explore innovative

approaches to sustainable blue growth. Additionally, the SHEs project, supported by Horizon Europe, welcomed researchers from the University of Seville to collaborate on innovative solutions focusing on circular economy practices and resource optimization.

### Contribution to Sustainable Growth and Competitiveness

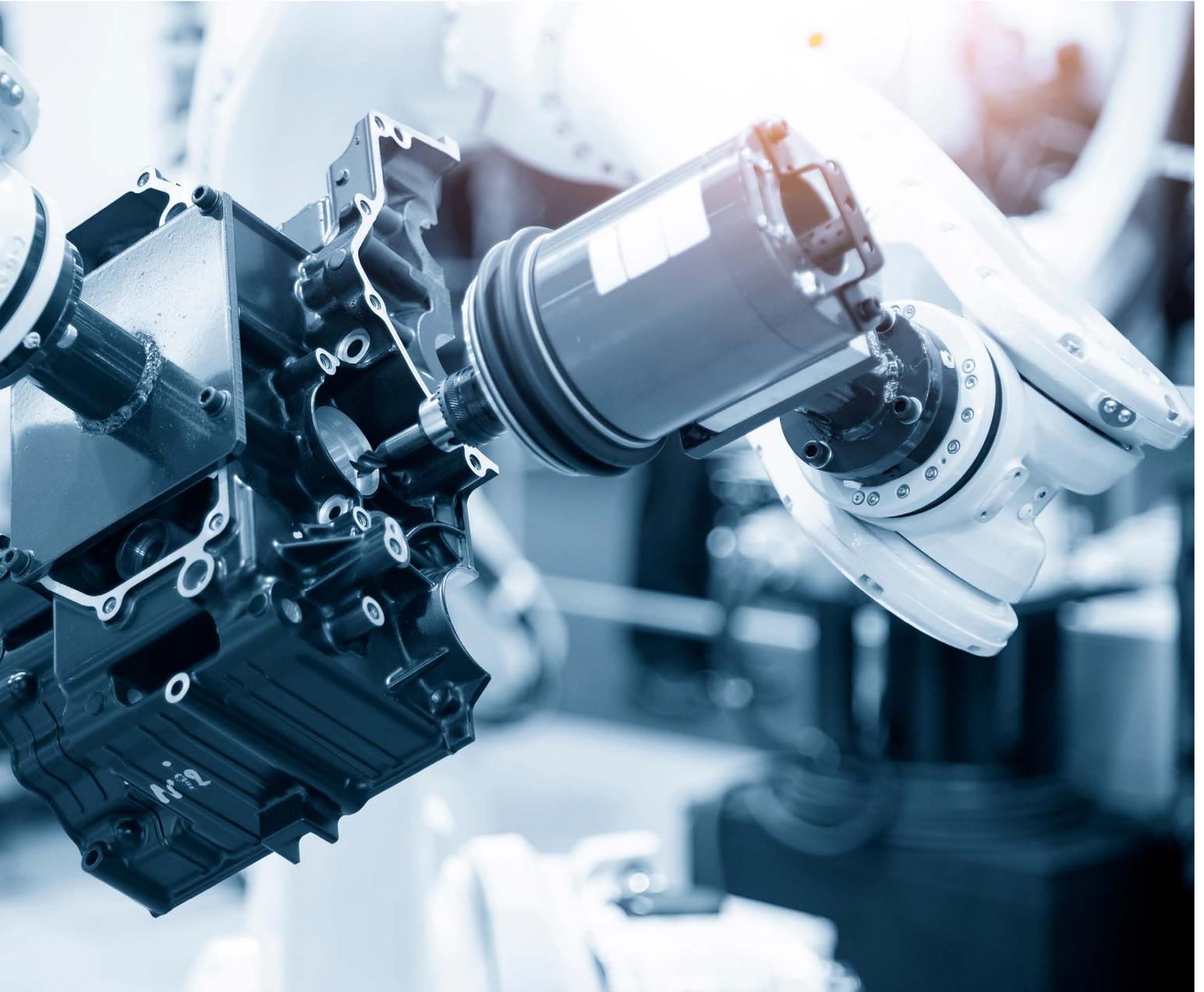
UAlg is playing a key role in fostering sustainable growth and competitiveness in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through the *AGROPYME AVANZA AAA project*. Launched in January 2023 and co-financed by the Interreg Spain–Portugal Program, this cross-border initiative aims to strengthen the innovation ecosystem by promoting cooperation between Spain and Portugal. The project focuses on digitalization, enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs, and driving productive investments, especially for micro and small enterprises. Its ultimate goal is to boost sustainable job creation and economic development in the region.

### Promoting Digital Transformation and Innovation

The *DIGITEC Transfer project* is



another initiative that underscores UAlg's commitment to regional innovation. Through this project, UAlg is advancing the digitalization of companies in the Algarve, aligned with the strategy of the Digital Innovation Hub. The project stimulates the transfer of technology and knowledge from regional research institutions to businesses, enhancing their capacity for innovation and competitiveness. This initiative is crucial in modernizing the regional economy and fostering technological growth among local enterprises.



## GOVERNANCE

### Creating conditions to innovate

UAAlg continues to strengthen its infrastructure for innovation with two key initiatives. First, the *Clinical Simulation Center* at the University of Algarve was officially inaugurated on March 1st, 2023, in the presence of the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Territorial Cohesion. This facility, part of the "Closer Government" initiative, will provide cutting-edge simulation training for

healthcare professionals, supporting advancements in clinical education and healthcare delivery in the Algarve region.

Additionally, on July 13th, 2023, the first stone was laid for the *new technological center at the Algarve International Autodrome*. This €3.4 million project aims to boost research and innovation in mobility, energy, and sustainability. It represents a strategic investment in enhancing the Algarve's capabilities in high-tech sectors and further positioning the region as a hub for technological development.

Photo: Adobe Stock

GOAL

10

# REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and between countries.



Photo: Adobe Stock  
Favela da Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro



## TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 10 and % of total 672, 18%**

**Proportion of first-generation students: 32%**

**Proportion of international students from developing countries: 4%**

**Proportion of students with disabilities: 1%**

The University of Algarve (UAlg) adopts an inclusive, efficient teaching model aligned with global humanitarian assistance and sustainable development needs. In this academic year, the data reflects the university's continuous efforts to promote equity and inclusion.

## Inclusive Admission Policy for Higher Education

The University of Algarve (UAlg) is committed to promoting inclusion in higher education through a comprehensive admissions policy. This policy embraces a diverse range of applicants, including vocational students, adults over 23, working students, and individuals with special needs. UAlg recognizes education as a lifelong journey, encouraging personal and professional growth for individuals of all ages. This commitment addresses the unique challenges faced by working students and guarantees accessible, barrier-free education for those with special needs. Supported by specific regulations and operating within a legally established framework, this policy promotes equity and equal opportunities in access to education, contributing



to a more inclusive and enriching learning community.

### Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee at UAlg is dedicated to maintaining ethical, bioethical, and deontological principles within the University. Its core values include the protection of human dignity, safeguarding fundamental rights, integrity, and trust in institutional procedures, ensuring a safe and ethically respectful environment in all university activities.

### Support Office for Students with Special Educational Needs (GAENEE)

Aligned with the philosophy of Inclusive Education, UAlg has established specific conditions

to recognize the right to diversity, particularly for students with disabilities. GAENEE plays a central role in this commitment, ensuring that high standards of teaching and learning are supported by appropriate resources. Annually, the office organizes initiatives to raise awareness, provides information, and promotes training for teachers, staff, and students, ensuring the needs of students with disabilities are fully met.

### Continuing Hosting refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners set a goal to raise global enrolment of refugees to 15% by the year 2030. In 2023, only 7% of refugees are enrolled in higher education worldwide. This is in stark contrast to the average 40% enrolment among their non-refugee peers. The majority of refugees live in protracted situations, are displaced for multiple cycles of their education and have limited opportunities to transition from dependence on humanitarian aid to self-reliance. UAlg is concerned about and develops effective actions for the inclusion of people from under-represented groups. In this regard, it has become a partner of the *Platform for Refugee Support*. In order to respond directly to the refugee crisis arising from the war in Ukraine, UAlg during 2023 hosted 10 Ukrainian students who are then finishing *study programmes* and complete their training in Portugal.

### UAlg Inclusive Gender Equality Plan – PI2

The University of Algarve presented its second report on the Inclusive Gender Equality Plan, reinforcing its commitment to providing equal opportunities for men and women. This plan aims to consolidate the university as an institution of tolerance, respect for diversity, and inclusion, without barriers, promoting an equitable environment for all.

### University Volunteer Group

The University Volunteer Group promotes inclusion through the creation of Language Groups, led by members of the academy, which organize cultural exchange events to facilitate integration and dialogue between different cultures.

### Academic Success Program

UAlg implemented a Program for Academic Success, which included a Peer Mentoring Program and the coordination of various services to provide individual support to students in need, contributing to a reduction in dropout rates.

#### Life Skills Program

UAlg also offered a Life Skills Program and a Mindfulness and Intercultural Program, which aimed to develop students' personal skills and promote their integration, supporting their psychological well-being.

### Soft Skills for Life programme

At UAlg, the (GAIP) also promotes the *Soft Skills for Life* and the *Interculturality and Mindfulness* programmes to develop students' soft skills to promote the integration of students and support psychological well-being.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **50**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.14**  
Citation count: **50**

### Open access institutional repository

UAlg has the institutional repository (<https://sapientia.ualg.pt>) in free access that aggregates and disseminates all of UAlg's scientific production. In 2023, 18,679 documents were available in free access and received 875,756 downloads.

### Open Access publishing

UAlg, as a member of B-on (national online Knowledge Library that aims to guarantee access to a vast number of publications of a scientific nature and electronic services to the national academic and scientific community) for the 2022–2024 triennium, negotiated agreements with the majority of its publishers to provide authors from

## GOAL

## 10

member institutions with advantageous conditions for open access publication. Open access corresponds to the online availability of peer-validated scientific/academic literature.

It allows you to make search results freely accessible to the entire community. It allows improving scientific education and literacy within and outside the academic context and the rapid dissemination of scientific results and information, important for the construction and application of knowledge.

### Open access of Data – Open Science Framework– OSF

In 2023, UAAlg offered, through the Sustainable Horizons project, to our Researchers and general communities this platform—Open Science Framework—OSF—that can support your open science practices and solve common problems many researchers face throughout the research data lifecycle offered e also providing a guided tour through key workflows and features.

The University of Algarve (UAAlg) is deeply committed to the Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10), focused on reducing inequalities. Through innovative research projects and inclusive policies, UAAlg promotes gender equality, social inclusion, and equity in access to education. Below are examples of projects that demonstrate the university's dedication to fulfilling this global objective:

### GEMINI – Gender Equality through Media Investigation and New Training Insights

The GEMINI project aims to combat gender stereotypes that contribute to gender inequality, aligning with the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025 and adopting an intersectional perspective. The project seeks to empower young adults to create media

products that convey positive gender equality messages. Focusing on the representation of gender identities in TV series, GEMINI engages students and teachers from various European sociocultural regions (Mediterranean, Northern, Eastern, and Anglo-Saxon). Through a diverse set of activities, the project investigates the production and narrative strategies that shape the representation of gender identities and analyzes their impact on promoting gender equality.

### EQUINI – Equality in Higher Education Institutions

The EQUINI project aims to promote an inclusive academic environment by integrating Emotional Intelligence (EI) into training within higher education institutions. The objective is to combat discrimination by teaching students, faculty, and staff to better understand and manage their emotions, as well as the emotions of others. This aims to foster empathy, respect, and collaboration, reducing biases and resolving conflicts, so that campuses become spaces of equity and inclusion.

### Sustainable Horizons

The SHEs – Sustainable Horizon in European HEIs project aims to promote an inclusive society by supporting researchers and academics to adapt to new challenges, respect nature, and solve practical problems sustainably. Focused on inclusive institutional transformation, the project involves six higher education institutions located in the EU periphery, collaborating with regional ecosystems to promote sustainability, open science, and gender balance. The project also seeks to expand its impact outside Europe through initiatives such as distance learning PhDs, supporting global sustainability, a healthy planet, and the reduction of inequalities.

### SEA-EU – European University of the Seas

The SEA-EU project unites nine coastal universities across Europe (Cádiz, Western Brittany, Kiel, Gdańsk, Split, Malta, Algarve, Naples, and NORD), creating a pioneering network under the European Commission's initiative.



Its main objective is to offer a wide range of opportunities, such as joint courses, academic mobility, language teaching, and joint degrees, promoting career development and improving the lives of its members. With an inclusive, flexible, and exploratory spirit, SEA-EU connects individuals across borders, promoting the exchange of students and researchers, focusing on areas with less access to educational opportunities.

### CRIA

CRIA is a unit of UAAlg that has supported the academic community in the areas of entrepreneurship and technology transfer, providing support and innovation to regional actors, both directly and through partnerships at local, regional, national, and international levels. This activity includes assistance in the creation of sustainable businesses.

## COMMUNITY

### Improving Access to Essential Services and Educational Opportunities

The University of Algarve (UAAlg) has led several initiatives and programs aimed



Photo: Adobe Stock  
Wiang Haeng District, Thailand

at strengthening the local community, focusing on access to essential services. Among these actions, the university's participation in volunteer activities such as the Re-Food project, which aims to combat food waste and support vulnerable populations, stands out. Additionally, UAIG offers a wide range of educational opportunities, including undergraduate and postgraduate courses, language courses, seminars, conferences, lectures, free courses, and other educational events accessible to the community. Through the Active and Healthy Aging initiative, promoted by the Algarve Biomedical Center, UAIG has adopted a comprehensive and innovative approach to improving the well-being of the elderly in the region, ensuring this population has access to tailored healthcare services and support.

#### **Promoting Inclusion in Education**

UAIG is deeply committed to promoting inclusive education, especially through the Support Office for Students with Special Educational Needs (NEE). This office has been actively working to ensure that students with special needs

have access to high-quality education. Through specialized training programs, the office facilitates the transition of students into society, promoting their autonomy and ensuring an inclusive and accessible educational environment.

#### **Access to Scientific Information and Science Communication**

UAIG also excels in providing access to scientific information through science communication activities, organized in public sessions held both at the university and across the region. These sessions aim to bring science closer to the community, promoting knowledge and inclusion of different social groups in the scientific debate.

#### **Intercultural Activities and Portuguese Language Teaching for Foreigners**

To promote integration, UAIG organizes intercultural activities, including the teaching of Portuguese as a Foreign Language (PLE), which facilitates the adaptation of students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. These actions are fundamental

in creating a more inclusive and multicultural academic environment.

#### **Access to Professional Higher Education**

As part of its commitment to inclusion and regional development, UAIG has promoted access to professional higher education in alternating regimes, through a pilot project in collaboration with Moroccan universities. This initiative aims to strengthen international partnerships and create opportunities for the professional development of students from less favored regions, contributing to the reduction of inequalities in access to higher education.

## **GOVERNANCE**

#### **Representation**

UAIG has participated in the formulation of policies at the national/global level (Portuguese Language Universities Association, Portuguese Rectors' Council, Coordinating Council of Portuguese Polytechnic Institutes) and at the regional and local level (CCDR Algarve) to implement programs and policies aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms.

#### **Local Cooperation**

UAIG has joined the Supramunicipal Platform of the Algarve, cooperating with local social action councils, and the UAIG Volunteer Group, establishing partnerships with several institutions to combat poverty and social exclusion. The Algarve TECH HUB SUMMIT 2023, co-organized by UAIG and CCDR, was a key component of the Regional Smart Specialization Strategy and played a crucial role in increasing the percentage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) specialists. This strategic initiative aimed to raise the percentage from 3.6% to 4%, bringing it closer to the European average. Notably, this advance in ICT expertise is essential to address poverty and social exclusion, with a focus on critical areas.

GOAL

11

# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Photo: Adobe Stock

## TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 11 and % of total: 379, 10%**

In addition to the curricula addressing SDG 11, the *libraries at UAlg* offer year-round public access to both the academic community and the broader local community, including online resources. External users are afforded access to lending services as also to a wide range of events, exhibitions, book presentations, workshops, conferences, and seminars. UAlg's aim is to foster an inclusive, dynamic academic and cultural community that transcends the confines of enrolled student body.

### Study Programmes

UAlg offers study programmes encompassing modules designed to consolidate expertise in fostering inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities. For instance, the post-graduate *Sustainable Cities* course is tailored to address the emerging challenges of urbanism and sustainability. Similarly, the *Inclusive and Smart Sustainable Cities Free Course* is dedicated to promoting awareness on sustainability science and its specific relevance to cities and urban spaces. Additionally, the post-graduate *Urbanism* course aims to bridge educational gaps in the region by focusing on sustainable practices to navigate the intricate processes of contemporary urbanization.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **176**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **0.99**  
Citation count: **1973**

UALg is actively committed to advancing research in accordance with SDG 11, making significant contributions to tackle the specified challenges related to sustainable cities and communities. Under this framework, UALg currently oversees *projects* with a collective financial backing of over 1.7 million euros. UALg students are actively encouraged to engage in research projects, facilitated either through research grants for undergraduates or initiatives like the CinTurs *Research Integration Internships* for students. This active involvement allows them to make meaningful contributions to the realm of sustainability. Parte superior do formulário

### UALg Sustainable Cities and Communities Projects

*Culatra 2030* – Sustainable Energy Community is a pilot initiative aimed at facilitating the energy transition on Culatra, the barrier island within Ria Formosa in the Algarve region of Southern Portugal. This comprehensive project, under the coordination of UALg, encompasses various facets of the green transition. Culatra Island, with the goal of achieving self-sustainability by 2030, has been chosen as one of six European islands designated by the EU to serve as a pilot community for renewable energy. Another project, BIODES, seeks to showcase innovative

and replicable nature-based solutions within “pioneering” cities, functioning as dynamic “living laboratories”. Following successful testing, these solutions will be incorporated into planning proposals for implementation in other urban areas.

### Valuing the Mediterranean Identity

UALg is dedicated to assuming a pivotal role in advancing the promotion of the *Mediterranean Diet*. As a founding member of the Network of Higher Education Institutions for the Safeguarding of the Mediterranean Diet (RIESDM), UALg takes the lead in coordinating the *Action Plan and Safeguarding the Mediterranean Diet for Algarve*. Our commitment is fortified through a strategic emphasis on research, innovation, and collaboration with various regional and national stakeholders.

## COMMUNITY

Team UALg, which offers a series of lectures and other activities, free, accessible, and informal to schools, has a specific topic regarding *Sustainable Cities* to engage young students in SDG 11 framework.

UALg actively engages in collaborative initiatives with the local community, exemplified by its participation in the Joint Coordination Commission alongside six government ministries, 16 local municipalities, and an environmental NGO.

The university further collaborates with local authorities, including the Algarve Tourism Board and the Commission for Coordination and Development of the Algarve Region (CCDR Algarve), in the *Algarve Sustainable Observatory*. UALg actively facilitates volunteering experiences aimed at fostering fairness and inclusivity in cities. The *UALg V+* volunteering group actively engages in local and national projects dedicated to combating hunger and reducing food waste.

The amount of waste generated and recycled in the University is measured

by estimating the number and volume of waste containers (solid urban waste and selective collection: paper, glass and plastic) collected by FAGAR, a municipal company responsible for the collection and transport of (solid urban waste) and Algar, the regional company responsible for the selective collection of packaging in the recycling bins stations, named “ecopontos”. UALg partnered with several institutions to develop the *Sustainability Observatory of the Algarve Region*

## GOVERNANCE

UALg’s policy for the transition to more sustainable cities and communities has also focusing on academia commute. Several initiatives have been successfully carried out, as the *UALg Eco Bike programme*, awarded the National “Mobility on Bicycle” Award from the Portuguese Federation of Cycle Tourism and Bicycle Users continues to support light, sustainable mobility of students. In 2023, under the *Sustainable Horizons* project, 15 bikes were added to the previous 100. Within the same project, the walking trail *Seahorse Itinerary*, between Gambelas Campus and the Ria Formosa, aims to be a meeting point for students, staff, locals and tourists combining physical activity and outdoor activities and the observation of the beauty and sustainable in two works by Bordalo II, belonging to an array of around 200 pieces called “*Big Trash Animal Collection*” built several meters in height, through the 4 continents. As welcome activity for the new cohort of students every year the communities of students and researchers are invited to do this walk together .

GOAL

12

# RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Photo: James Baltz / Unsplash  
Maize cultivation, Illinois, USA



## TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**N° of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 12 and % of total: 402, 11%**

### Study programmes

Our educational programmes help students become more aware of their consumption choices and increase their knowledge of sustainable production methods. This is the case, for example, with the bachelor's degrees in *Agronomy, Dietetics and Nutrition*, and Food Engineering. At master's and PhD level, courses include *Aquaculture and Fisheries; Food Technology; Horticulture*. In addition, as part of our commitment to lifelong learning, UAlg offers various open courses in the area of *responsible consumption and production*.

## RESEARCH

**Publications 2019–2023**

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **226**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.24**  
Citation count: **3392**

Several ongoing research projects at UAlg aim to enhance regional sustainability, cultural heritage, and technological advancements in various industries, from agriculture to food production, and reduce the impacts of human activities in different ecosystems.



Projects such as: *The Algarve in the Mediterranean Diet*, promoting and safeguarding the Mediterranean Diet as part of the Algarve's cultural heritage, engaging local communities and promoting its benefits to regional and international audiences; *ATTENTIA* – Sustainable Citrus Farming with Artificial Intelligence, enhancing sustainability in citrus farming by applying AI and robotics to agricultural practices in southern Spain and Portugal; *INTEGRATE* – Integrate aquaculture, promoting eco-innovative aquaculture solutions to improve environmental sustainability in the Atlantic Area; *NOVAFOODIES* – Demonstrating innovative food production systems using sustainable aquatic and marine resources to cater to eco-conscious consumers;

*REVITALGARVE* – Revitalising rural areas in the Algarve through sustainable agricultural practices; *XtremeGourmet 2.0* – Promoting the consumption of halophyte plants as salt substitutes in culinary practices; and *Green fish oil from blue industry* – Implementing new technologies to produce fish oil from tuna processing by-products in a sustainable and innovative way.

## COMMUNITY

The University is actively involved in developing a sustainable mindset within the academic community, under, among others, the framework of the: *"EcoCampus" flag*, awarded by the European Blue Flag Association (ABAE); Sustainable Universities; UAlg signed the *Charter of Commitment of Portuguese Universities to Sustainable Development*, and has since been committed to match teaching with institutional practice in terms of commitment to sustainability principles and practices in higher education. The University has developed an action plan to reduce plastic waste on campus through the UAlg+Healthy-Plastic programme. UAlg is also a signatory of the *Portuguese Plastic Pact*. This is a group of companies committed to changing practices and working with academia to protect the planet from plastic pollution.

Several activities highlight the University of Algarve's commitment to fostering discussions on sustainability, environmental protection, and the responsible management of chemical substances, e.g. UAlg hosted the *ChIR International Symposium on Chemical Innovation and Regulation*, facilitating discussions on safety and sustainability in chemical management, the *Greening Our Future* event, promoting knowledge-sharing and action for the EU's green transition through discussions, workshops, and sustainable art exhibitions at the University of Algarve's Campus de Gambelas, and the *Marine Pollution Dialogues*, wherein marine pollution caused by emerging chemical contaminants were discussed, engaging scientists, policymakers, and environmental agencies from Portugal, Mexico, and Brazil.

## GOVERNANCE

UAlg meets all requirements in the public procurement of services and goods, is guided by a policy of transparency, efficiency and effectiveness, and is oriented towards sustainability aspects. For example, when procuring services for the treatment of hazardous waste, the company is required to train its employees in the handling, storage and processing of such waste to avoid risks to health and the environment. UAlg has a policy to minimise the use of disposable items by students and staff. Moreover, in all public events organized/ hosted by UAlg recurring to disposable, single-use items are discouraged. The majority of UAlg waste is recycled. In particular, the canteen's organic waste is collected, not the unserved meals and good quality foods that are given to the social NGO REFOOD and transported to experimental agricultural fields in Campus de Gambelas to be transformed into compost in the composting units. The university is in compliance with national regulations with regard to the discharge of its wastewater. All chemical and biological potentially harmful substances are separated and sent in special containers to a specialised company for treatment.

Waste metric tonnes (mt)	2021	2022	2023
Amount of waste generated	139	144	140
Amount of waste recycled	44	50	105
Amount of waste sent to landfill	90	92	35

The amount of waste generated, recycled and sent to landfill has remained relatively stable during the last few years although the academic community has increased. There has also been an increase in recycled waste and a reduction in waste sent to landfill. However, there is still room for improvement in the coming years.

GOAL

# 13

## CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

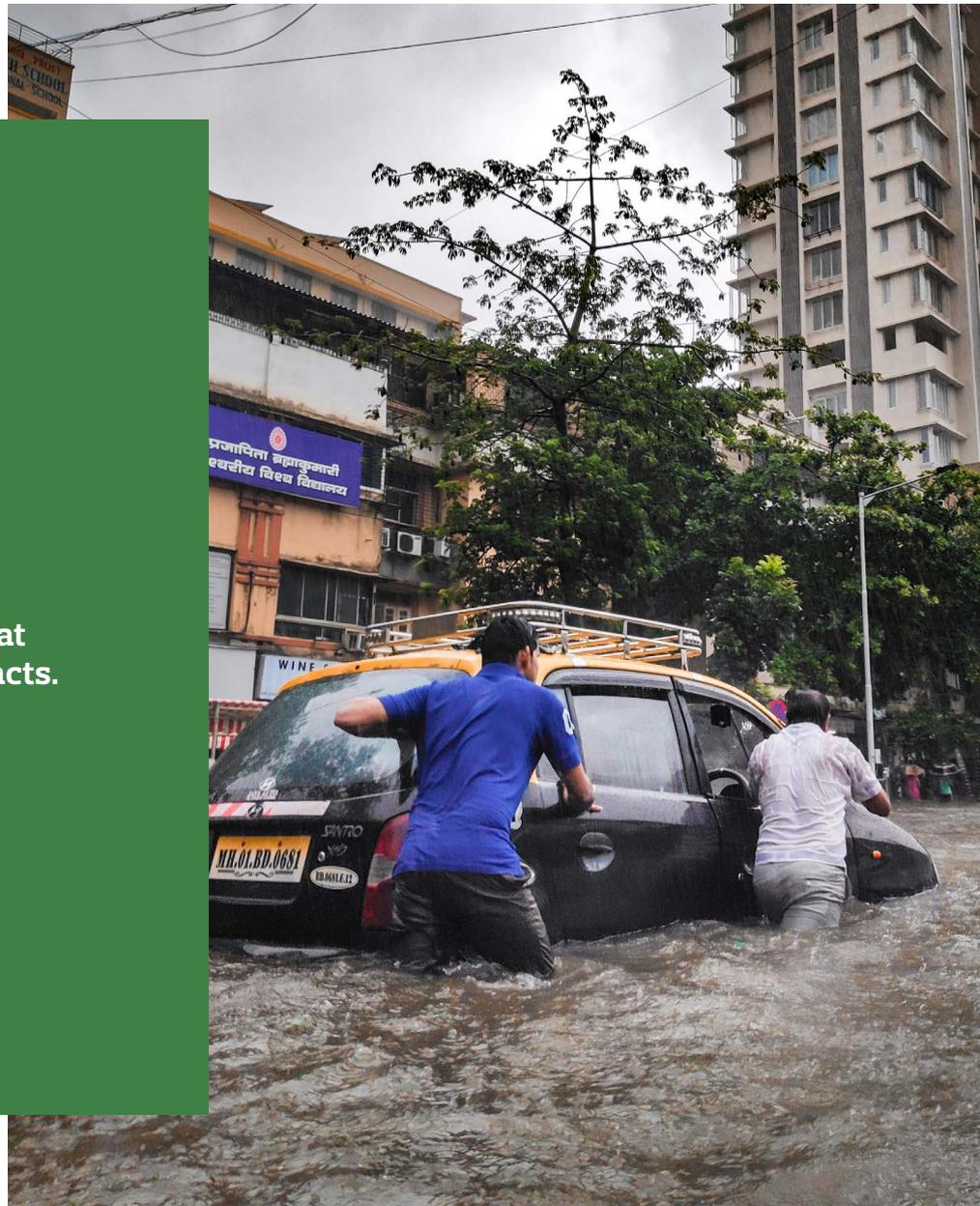


Photo: Saikiran Kesari / Unsplash  
Mumbai, India

### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 13 and % of total: 355; 10%**

#### Study programmes

The University of Algarve (UAlg) places a strong focus on climate action as a core element of its education and training programs. Through its participation in the Erasmus Mundus Master in *Coastal Hazards, Risks, Climate Change Impacts, and Adaptation*, UAlg equips students with the necessary skills to tackle climate challenges. In collaboration with the University of Cantabria (Spain) and the Delft Institute for Water Education (The Netherlands), the

program prepares graduates to design and implement adaptation strategies in vulnerable coastal areas, fostering careers that contribute to building climate resilience.

### RESEARCH

#### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **217**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.53**  
Citation count: **4158**



## Research events and initiatives

### Creating a Green Innovation Ecosystem

UAlg is part of the pioneering *H2Talent project*, which aims to create an innovation ecosystem focused on green hydrogen in the Alentejo region. Led by Campus Sul – an inter-university association involving the University NOVA of Lisbon, the University of Évora, and the University of Algarve – and in partnership with GALP and the HYLAB Collaborative Laboratory, this initiative represents the first Green Hydrogen Valley in Portugal. Recognized and financed by the European Union and the Global Network of Green Hydrogen Valleys, H2Talent is funded by the European

Commission's Horizon program, with a total budget of €13.5 million, €9 million of which is provided by the EU. The project, set to run for five years, is a cornerstone in establishing a sustainable, innovation-driven energy future in the region. Climate change is a transversal and multisectoral problem and solving it implies understanding it in a multidisciplinary way. UAlg has a pole of a research centre exclusively dedicated to this theme: *CENSE - Centre for Research on the Environment and Sustainability*. Nevertheless several others research centres coordinated/ hosted by UAlg address this research especially CCMAR and CIMA by the relation with ocean studies, primarily to support and foster efforts to greatly to understand and expand and improve ocean observations worldwide to provide a basis for understanding ongoing natural and anthropogenic change and for planning mitigation and adaptation strategies, with a particular emphasis on building capacity in developing nations and on expanding coverage of under-observed regions.

The Campus Sul consortium, which includes the University of Algarve (UAlg), the University NOVA of Lisbon, and the University of Évora, *signed a cooperation agreement* with the Brazilian state of Piauí on April 6th in Lisbon. This partnership aims to promote collaboration in research and innovation focused on clean energy solutions. Through this agreement, the universities and the state of Piauí will work together to advance sustainable energy technologies, fostering innovation and addressing global challenges related to renewable energy and climate change. An international team of experts from the *Climate Working Group of the Deep Ocean Stewardship Initiative* recently convened to analyze the environmental impacts of climate interventions on deep-sea ecosystems and biodiversity. The University of Algarve's (UAlg) Marine and Environmental Research Center (CIMA) played a key role in these discussions. This effort highlights UAlg's involvement in global initiatives aimed at

understanding and mitigating the effects of climate actions on sensitive marine environments, helping to protect deep-sea biodiversity in response to climate change.

## COMMUNITY

### Empowering Students for Climate Action

Through the *Climate U 2023* project, UAlg empowers its students with practical knowledge on climate science, environmental justice, and sustainability. This initiative is aimed at providing students from diverse academic backgrounds with the tools to understand climate risks and integrate climate mitigation and adaptation strategies into their future careers. By fostering critical thinking and action on climate issues, Climate U 2023 ensures that UAlg's graduates are well-prepared to become climate leaders in their respective fields, contributing to broader societal efforts to tackle climate change.

### Fostering Collaboration on Water and Sustainability

The *H2O & Sustainability Summit 2023*, hosted by UAlg, was an international event that brought together stakeholders from academia, business, and government to address pressing challenges in water management, climate adaptation, and the circular economy. By promoting collaboration among universities, research centres, municipalities, and companies, the summit showcased UAlg's commitment to driving innovative solutions to regional and global climate issues. This event emphasized the importance of partnership in developing sustainable practices and technologies, particularly in addressing water scarcity and climate resilience.

### Building Bridges Between Universities and Communities for Sustainable Education

The *ESDEUS project* at the University of Algarve (UAlg) is designed to strengthen collaboration between universities and

GOAL  
13

Photo: Mikhail Serdyukov / Unsplash  
Chelyabinsk, Russia

local communities in the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This project seeks to engage external stakeholders by creating platforms for open dialogue, sharing resources, and fostering innovative teaching methods. By working closely with local communities, ESDEUS aligns with UAlg's broader role in supporting regional and local governments in addressing climate change risks. The project emphasizes the importance of leveraging both local expertise and international best practices to enhance community resilience through education, particularly in disaster risk management, early warning systems, and climate monitoring.

**Raising Environmental Awareness through Global Collaboration**

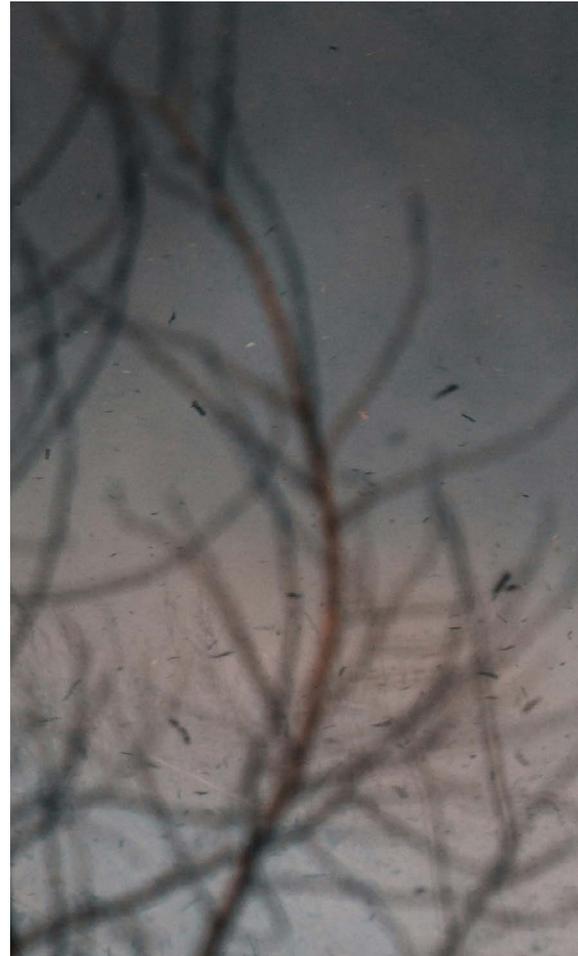
The University of Algarve (UAlg) actively collaborates with environmental organizations to promote climate awareness and adaptation through initiatives like the "Loving the Planet" project. This global platform is dedicated to raising awareness about the environmental impact of human actions and advocating for sustainable practices. During NEBUA week, organized by the university's Biology Students' Association, UAlg engages with NGOs and environmental advocates to foster dialogue on climate adaptation and conservation efforts. This initiative highlights UAlg's commitment to working alongside global and local organizations to inspire climate-conscious actions and support environmental sustainability.

**Restoring Natural Balance through Reforestation Efforts**

The University of Algarve (UAlg) hosted 2023 in the Gambelas campus *Operação Montanha Verde*, an ecological initiative led by Zoomarine that focuses on reforestation to restore the Algarve's natural balance. Since 2021 until 2023, this project has successfully planted over 10,000 native trees and other plants and with the support of volunteers, including UAlg students and local community members. The initiative fosters civic engagement and environmental protection, working in partnership with organizations like ALGAR SA and Faro municipality. UAlg's involvement in this project highlights its dedication to environmental education and climate adaptation by actively contributing to reforestation efforts, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing the region's resilience to climate change.

**Culatra 2030: A Model for Sustainable Energy**

The "Culatra 2030 – Sustainable Energy Community" initiative, coordinated by the University of Algarve (UAlg) in partnership with the Culatra Island Residents Association, *was awarded the "Green Energy" category at the VISÃO + Águas de Portugal Green Awards*. This recognition, presented on June 5th, World Environment Day, at the Water Factory in Alcântara, Lisbon, reflects the project's success in promoting renewable energy and sustainable living. The initiative, supported by the



President of the Republic, showcases UAlg's leadership in advancing energy transition and sustainability in local communities.

**GOVERNANCE**

Total energy used:  
**23544 GJ** with a  
**reduction of -7.80%**  
compared to 2022

Total energy used from  
low-carbon sources:  
**14597,28 GJ (62%)**

**Commitment to Carbon Neutrality by 2035**

The University of Algarve (UAlg) is committed to achieving *carbon neutrality by 2035*, aligning with the Greenhouse Gas Protocols. This goal reflects the university's focus on sustainability



through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and renewable energy initiatives. UAlg's governance strategy is centered on three areas: energy, water, and resource management. To reduce energy consumption, UAlg has automated HVAC systems, encourages efficient use of appliances, and promotes turning off equipment when not in use. In water management, the university optimizes irrigation and promotes responsible consumption, including the use of tap water. UAlg also works to reduce single-use materials, particularly plastics, and minimizes paper waste, while promoting the fight against food waste and planting native species on campus as part of its environmental efforts.

#### **Collaborating with Local Governments for Climate Resilience**

The University of Algarve (UAlg) plays a crucial role in addressing climate change

through its strong partnerships with local governments and organizations. A key collaboration is the Intermunicipal Climate Change Adaptation Plan (PIAAC-AMAL), where UAlg's research centers, including CIMA and CCMAR, provide scientific expertise to support climate risk monitoring, early warning systems, and the development of adaptation strategies. This partnership highlights UAlg's ongoing commitment to helping local governments confront climate challenges.

In addition, UAlg supports the PIAAC-AMAL initiative through its involvement in campaigns like "*Não feches os olhos ao clima. Algarve. Tempo de Cuidar.*" launched by AMAL and funded by EEA Grants. This campaign aims to raise awareness about climate change impacts among Algarve residents and enhance the region's resilience to climate risks, further reinforcing UAlg's leadership in regional climate adaptation efforts.

#### **Supporting Local Authorities in Managing Climate Risks**

The *Clima-Pesca* project, led by the University of Algarve (UAlg) in collaboration with CCMAR and fishermen across Portugal, exemplifies UAlg's commitment to assisting local and regional authorities in addressing climate risks. The project focused on assessing the vulnerability of the fishing sector to climate change, providing essential data to local governments and stakeholders. By evaluating the impact of climate change on various fishing methods, *Clima-Pesca* contributes to early warning systems and enhances regional climate risk monitoring, reinforcing UAlg's role in sustainable resource management and climate adaptation efforts.

GOAL

14

## LIFE BELOW WATER

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

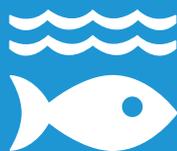


Photo: ao João Encarnação, Freediving Open CoursesGuine Gulf – São Tomé e Príncipe

### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

**No. of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 14 and % of total: 309, 8%**

#### Study programmes in Marine sciences in 2022

UAlg has several programmes targeting protection of life under sea at bachelor /1st cycle level, such as *Marine Biology*; at master /2nd cycle level, such in *Applied Ecohydrology* (Erasmus Mundus); *Coastal Hazards – Risks, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation*; *Marine and Coastal Systems*; Aquaculture and Fisheries; *Marine Biological Resources* (Erasmus Mundus);

Marine Biology; Water and Coastal Management (Erasmus Mundus). At PhD level, programmes include eg. Marine, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Biotechnology. In 2023 UAlg offer the second edition of the educational programme the Master Marine, Biodiversity, Fisheries and Conservation targeting students in Europe and special in Africa – *Mar Africa Master* . Mar Africa received only active professionals with 5 year experience in companies or institutes, involved on management of fisheries, aquacultures and marine biodiversity conservation to upskill and better answer the future challenges of marine ecosystem conservation and sustainable exploitable in Africa



oceanográficos disponíveis online –), GIS application to marine science( Aplicações SIG em Ciências do Mar: Introdução) and Science communication (Comunicação de Ciencia)

**Protecting the Ocean globally starts Locally From Tropical to Arctic**

The ocean is the largest living space on Earth and a fundamental part of our planetary climate system. But human activity, namely poor management of coastal and catchment areas that adversely impact water quality, causing eutrophication of water bodies, increase turbidity, produce anoxia, "plastification" of marine ecosystems, interferes with the ocean's ability to support marine and terrestrial life, and hinders sustainable

development worldwide. UAIG offers educational programmes that develop in situ capacity to healthy manage marine ecosystem and to protected life underwater. In early 2023 open courses of Scientific Freediving were organized in Africa Guine Gulf – Sao Tome e Principe, a Small Island Development State (SIDS) to develop the local capacity of freely and safely observe and study the marine biodiversity within the frame of the LittleFishSTP Project.

*UAIG and USTP students hold 1st scientific free diving course | University of the Algarve Free diving course for our marine technicians.*



UAIG freely organizes events and has available an open training platform for the community in Blue Route project with small open online courses within [Moodle Tutoria electronica 2022/2023](#) (access as guest) to fostering for blue growth involving PhD Students in the field of marine science and blue economy. During the academic year of 23/24 three open courses were offered to 12 African PhD students of the CMARA Doctorate programme Agostinho Neto University – Angola (promoting UAIG cotutelles), in fields such as: Ocean data online (Exploring online Ocean Data and Resources/ Exploração de recursos e dados



GOAL

14

The official closing of the Blue Route Project took place at Norway's Arctic University / University of Algarve



By the end of 2023, UAIG offered together with University of Tromsø (Arctic University) of Norway an Ocean School was organized as hand on residential module, including Research cruise R/V Helmar Hanssen; Lecture Cruise planning and fishery acoustics; Robotics; Lecture Bio-technology; Excursion biotechnology; Fishery acoustics lab; Digital technology; Futures and technology; CRAFT cultural activities Law and governance of the seas; Excursion fisheries and aquaculture management; CRAFT cultural activities Excursion to an industrial aquaculture facility; Final essay on a given inter-disciplinary topic (Biology-Technology-Governance)



RESEARCH

Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output (No. paper): **652**  
Field-Weighted (Citation Impact): **1.39**  
Citation count: **10896**

The ocean is both the largest living space on Earth and a fundamental part of our planetary climate system. But human activity, particularly in the form of greenhouse gas emissions that adversely impact the heat content, sea level, and acidity of the oceans, interferes with the ocean's ability to support marine and terrestrial life, and hinders sustainable development worldwide. UAIG through its researcher centres, researchers and the science produced contributed to the last years, as in 2023, to practical solutions and

with it to society may better understand and more fully mitigate the risks being posed by climate and anthropogenic change to the ocean on which the whole planet depends. Specific efforts of our research centres (*CIMA* and *CCMAR*) were contributions to:

- Implement robust, cooperative monitoring, reporting, and verification of new and emerging ocean-based carbon dioxide removal strategies to ensure measurable progress towards net-negative emissions while also protecting critical ocean ecosystems.
- Expand observing capabilities to measure the widest possible suite of essential climate and biological variables to better understand and address the impacts of climate change on the distribution of ocean life, marine ecosystem health, biomass, and biodiversity.

Develop capacity among island nations and developing countries and refine methodologies to account for contributions by the ocean's natural functions and the blue economy to

climate stabilization through nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans.

**Marine conservation and monitoring in UAIG**

UAIG supports actions to promote the conservation of threatened marine species, such as turtle, sharks, and UAIG organizes open to the public national and international scientific meetings on the conservation of below water biodiversity and sustainable water management and utilization of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and marine resources. The project *Blue Route* is fostering blue growth involving PhD Students in the field of marine science and blue economy. The *CCMAR-Ramalhete* marine station, which offers wet lab facilities with tanks of various sizes and controlled environment enabling the carrying out of a variety of experiments by the community. *CIMA R&D Unit* conducts a number of research projects to reduce water pollution and discharges in order to protect aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and

human health. CENSE-UAlg pole also contributes to research in several water related environmental threats.

The University oversees monitoring aquatic ecosystems in the context of research projects at a global scale. Young researchers developed during 2023 *several research projects with measures of aquatic ecosystem health*, ranging from omics to individual, population, and community indicators, including contributing to Global Declaration Gateway declaration of the European University of the Seas in the *1° Future Leadership Forum in Napoles 2023*

## COMMUNITY

### A Blue Citizen Science

Outreach programs and actions directed at SDG 14 include, for example, within the *Sustainable Horizon* research projects the *Oceanic After Lunch talks* and with the promotion of the *itinerary*

*for Sea Horse conservation* aiming to reinvent ways to meet and share science and knowledge with citizens.

### All may get involved in our science

At CCMAR the important role that citizen science plays in understanding marine science is crucial. By engaging the general public in citizen science, the collection of data and information CCMAR increases its research capacity, both in time and space. By working together, we can explore more biodiversity and reach more places, responding more broadly to the emerging issues that threaten our marine ecosystems.

The citizen science projects relied on the collaboration of the public helping to:

find species that are not native to the Algarve –The New Marine Species in the Algarve (NEMA project) calls on the community to actively participate in the identification of non-native

marine species in the Algarve region. The knowledge and identification of these species is crucial to protecting the balance of local marine ecosystems.

Join us in the effort to increase our understanding of the Algarve's marine species and contribute to the conservation of marine life.

alert to animal sightings on the coast –The Algarve Stranding Network (RAAlg) –allowed to record and study strandings of dead cetaceans (dolphins and whales), sea turtles and seabirds that occur along the Algarve coast.

record large accumulations of seaweed on the beach – Algae on the beach– the abundant presence of algae, whether in the sea or on sandy beaches, can indicate disturbances in marine ecosystems and in our beach experience.

Collaborate with our researchers in detecting these occurrences so that we can monitor what is happening.

share observations of marine forests –Marine Forests project aims to create a global database of benthic species, including algae, seagrasses and animal forests.

## GOVERNANCE

### UAlg coordinated consortium CEMAR

The CEMAR *Consortium of Marine Science Schools* coordinated by UAlg selected and recruited in 2023 20 new PhD students from the PALOP countries (Africa and Timor-Leste – Portuguese speaking countries) to develop their dissertation projects that address environmental and governance issues of the blue economy and coastal areas of their countries under the supervision of professors and researchers from Portuguese Universities (UAlg coordinator, UAveiro, UAçores, UMadeira, UNOVA, UEvora, PLeiria). The Consortia of Schools are aimed at stimulating Centro Ciência LP activities in their respective fields.

**WANTED**

**Blue crab**  
*Callinectes sapidus*

**Weakfish**  
*Cynoscion regalis*

**Mediterranean parrotfish**  
*Sparisoma cretense*

**Ornate wrasse**  
*Thalassoma pavo*

**Bearded fireworm**  
*Hemodina carunculata*

**Drums**  
*Umbra, Sciaenops, Pomadasys*

**Painted comber**  
*Serranus scriba*

**Puffer fishes**  
*Tetraodonidae*

**Blacktail comber**  
*Serranus atricauda*

**Barracudas**  
*Sphyraena sp.*

**African striped grunt**  
*Parapristigaster octolineatus*

**Monrovia doctorfish**  
*Acanthurus monroviae*

**Madeira rockfish**  
*Scorpaena maderensis*

**Mantis shrimp**  
*Stomatopoda*

With your help we want to better understand the distribution of these species, still poorly known in Algarve. If you see or catch one of these, or any other uncommon or "odd" for the Algarve, send us a photograph, the location, date and capture method.

Contact us by e-mail to [NEMAalgarve@gmail.com](mailto:NEMAalgarve@gmail.com) or by our social media pages.  
Find out more at [www.NEMAalgarve.com](http://www.NEMAalgarve.com)

**NEMA**  
Novas Espécies Marinhas do Algarve

**CCMAR**  
Centro de Ciências do Mar

**UAlg**  
UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

GOAL

# 15

## LIFE ON LAND

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



Photo: Janko Ferlič / Unsplash  
Grizzly Bear, Lake Clark National Park, Alaska



### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

No of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 15 and % of total: **252, 7%**

#### Study programmes

Our university offers several educational programs on terrestrial ecosystems, targeting native flora and fauna, namely the bachelor's in environmental sciences and *Agronomy* and *Biology*. At master level the offer includes *Geographic Information Systems*; *Horticulture*; *Landscape Architecture*; *Sustainable Management of Rural Areas*; and *Urban Water Cycle*. PhD courses include *Agricultural and Environmental Science*; and *Marine, Earth and Environmental Sciences*.

The university organizes several

educational programs, open do the community such as thematic nature walks to raise awareness for preserving nature, regarding wild flora in Algarve and the ecosystem services.

### RESEARCH

#### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **191**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.35**  
Citation count: **2607**

## Sustainability

UAIG is dedicated to the advancement of sustainable development, which contributes to the preservation of life on Earth. Examples of projects along these lines included *Biotrans*, which implemented coordinated actions between Portugal and Spain to protect and conserve ecosystems and threatened species through scientific studies, direct habitat improvements, and information, training, and awareness-raising activities for specific sectors and the general public; and *Sustainolive*, which studied novel approaches to promoting the sustainability of olive groves in the Mediterranean; the *TerraNova* develops an unprecedented digital atlas of Europe that combine human population patterns in the past, plants and disturbances, animal development, and climate change; the *Relict* improves the conservation status of Arborescent matorral with *Laurus nobilis*, listed as a priority habitat for conservation of the Habitats Directive, in Natura 2000 sites; and *BigSeed* investigates the value of carob byproducts in new hydrogels for sustainable agriculture. The *CCDesert* promotes the development and sustainability of the fight against desertification by strengthening research, training, capacity building, promoting innovation and transferring and disseminating knowledge. The *Attentia* (Sustainable Citrus Farming with Artificial Intelligence) transfers knowledge for more sustainable agriculture, based on the application of technology, in particular Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, to citrus crops in the cross-border area of southern Spain and Portugal: Andalusia and Algarve-Alentejo, where this crop is abundant. *Agropyne* promotes the competitiveness of agri-food SMEs based on business improvement, allowing them to fix population and, in turn, create more and better quality employment. *The Algarve in*

*the Mediterranean Diet* implements actions to enhance the cultural heritage associated with the Mediterranean Diet and the network of cultural products in the region, to publicize/make known the Mediterranean identity of the Algarve's traditional landscapes and lifestyle, to involve local actors in safeguarding the heritage of the diet, to promote the diet among the regional stakeholders and the public. *Revitalgarve* promotes the revitalization of rural areas in the Algarve, through the implementation of methodologies that focus on integrated approaches aimed at strengthening a territorial food system, based on a sustainable and inclusive growth model, in line with the "Prado ao Prato" strategy and, on the other hand, contributing to the diversification of economic activity in this region. *Citrus*, is developing an early detection kit for the diagnosis of the citrus greening disease (HLB disease). *LIFE Ilhas Barreirais* actively promoting actions in the barrier islands in Algarve to protect priority species and habitats. Territorial Program "+SOLO + VIDA" is promoting adaptation and mitigation actions for climate change and fight against desertification in the Guadiana Valley Natural Area. *Geocarbon* is establishing processes and data mining methods when dealing with carbon balance from agriculture. *MARSoluT* is demonstrating that managed aquifer recharge is a sound, safe and sustainable strategy that can be applied with great confidence and therefore offering a key approach for tackling water scarcity in Southern Europe. *eGroundwater* supports sustainable participatory groundwater management in the Mediterranean regions through the design, testing and assessment of enhanced information systems. *Prade* promotes the recovery of burnt and abandoned traditional forest systems, social consequences, and preparation for an ecological, digital and resilient recovery of the economy.

## COMMUNITY

UAIG works directly to protect wild land and forest through research and collaboration with local and international authorities. We have several projects in related issues, such as protecting wildlife in wild land, mitigating anthropogenic action in forests, such as fires, through participation and promotion in re-forestation of areas in Algarve through volunteering, or capacity building in wild land protection, including dunes. We support the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, particularly those under threat, such as the barrier islands threatened by rising sea levels. UAIG is a member of several Competency Centres coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development. These centres aim to promote research and development (R&D), namely *MEDUAIG* and technology transfer on conservation and sustainable land use, including forests and wild land.

## GOVERNANCE

UAIG promotes the conservation, restoration, and long-term use of terrestrial ecosystems. The universities unambiguously commit to the UN's sustainable development goals with regional organizations, namely through partnerships with ADAPT.LOCAL - "Rede de Municípios para a Adaptação Local às Alterações Climáticas", where the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems and native biodiversity is one goal. The university organizes educational and volunteer programmes that are open to the public, such as thematic nature walks with specialists who raise awareness of the importance of preserving nature; the preservation of autochthonous species through the planting of hundreds of *new plants in the campi* in 2022/2023

GOAL

# 16

## PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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



Photo: Salah Darwish / Unsplash  
UN refugee camp, Syria



### TEACHING & LEARNING

2023/24

N° of Curricular Units taught registered for SDG 16 and % of total: **213, 6%**

#### Study programmes, Outreach, Upskilling and Capacity-building

UAlg has a *diverse educational offer* that prepares students to foster fair and robust institutions through enhanced professional skills, ethical values, and a commitment to justice. Examples of this include all courses (bachelor /1st cycle, master /2nd cycle and doctoral level) in the areas of Management, Business

Administration, Human Resource Management, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Marketing and Social, Occupational and Organisational Psychology.

Since 2021, the *Skills4All* institutional project has been developing several programmes to support the professional conversion and upskilling, reskilling, and capacity building of adults through lifelong learning (*Impulso Adultos PRR Programme*).

#### UAlg Promotes Inclusive Education

A *support office for students with special educational needs* (GAENEE) is established at UAlg since early-2010s.



Its aim is to welcome and support students with specific educational needs. UAlg has implemented several specific conditions, based on the institution's recognition of the right to difference, to meet the principles of an inclusive school where no one is left out. We strive to provide all students with an equal, high-quality education that respects their needs and characteristics, assisting in their transition into active life as members of the society to which they are legally entitled, with the greatest degree of autonomy and independence possible.

## RESEARCH

### Publications 2019–2023

(Data source: Scopus, data retrieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Scholarly output  
(No. paper): **56**  
Field-Weighted  
(Citation Impact): **1.02**  
Citation count: **687**

UAlg has a *statutory policy* on supporting academic freedom, founded on principles of democracy and participation, based upon respect for the identity. The institution encourages the free expression of ideas and opinions and promotes the freedom of scientific, cultural, and technological creation. UAlg supports open access to science and knowledge and has signed the *DORA agreement* in 2018 and in 2023 the implementation Sustainable Horizon EU Project with, among others, aiming to promote open science policy to make research results available to all. We conduct a variety of focused research projects in collaboration with national and regional government agencies, primarily through UAlg's *research centres*. UAlg also plays an important role in the *Competencies Centres*, under the coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development).

## COMMUNITY

UAlg V+ Volunteering Group was founded to promote social justice and peace. This group establishes partnerships with organizations and services to carry out volunteering initiatives in the social, educational, scientific, sporting, cultural, environmental and leisure contexts. Furthermore, it encourages specific cooperation activities with groups, associations, and local entities in order to provide positive and stimulating experiences, especially to vulnerable groups.

Both our Strategic Plan and *Quality Manual* stress the significance of external stakeholders to the University's mission. UAlg is committed to promoting sustainability by innovating and engaging in education and research in close collaboration with the community. In 2023, UAlg kept the work carried out with communities and with the main national, regional and local organisations, as well as some international ones, to support entrepreneurship and job creation, inclusion, non-discrimination and the fight against poverty, the promotion of health and well-being, and, in general, the response to current societal challenges, contributing to a fairer and more cohesive society.

## GOVERNANCE

UAlg has several bodies that ensure the institution is efficient and transparent, namely the *General Council*, the and the *Academic Senate*. These bodies play crucial roles in developing the institution and monitoring its activities. Since 2010, UAlg has a *Risk Management Plan for Corruption and Related Offences*. In the preparation of this Plan and in the identification of prevention measures, the Services most susceptible to the risks of committing related offences have been involved, namely the Human Resources, Financial and Asset Services, Technical Services, Academic Services and Property Support Office Intellectual. UAlg has also a *Code of Ethics* and a *Code of Conduct*.

The first Workers' Committee of the University of the Algarve was elected on November 28, 2023. Developing permanent organizational work in order to achieve the just demands of the workers, democratically expressed by the collective will; promoting the socio-professional training of workers, contributing to the awareness of their rights and duties; and demanding that the UAlg scrupulously comply with the legislation concerning the workers and the institution  
<https://www.ualg.pt/en/workers-committee>.

GOAL

17

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.



Photo: UN/Eskinder Debebe  
UN General Assembly, New York



### TEACHING & LEARNING

Through teaching, UAIG supports and promotes efforts to significantly increase the understanding of ongoing natural and anthropogenic changes, and to plan mitigation and adaptation strategies, with a particular focus on capacity building in the Algarve region, in Europa but also in developing countries. The University of the Algarve (UAIG) is an institution of higher education that is committed, both individually and through its contribution to its partnerships, to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment affirms UAIG as an institution that is dedicated to social responsibility and sustainable development.

The educational offer at UAIG is diverse, comprising a range of options, from short-term open courses and lifelong

training initiatives to university degrees. These have become increasingly conscious of the need to accommodate pedagogical innovation and improve the quality and inclusiveness of teaching and learning processes.

In 2023, at the national level, UAIG collaborated with two other higher education institutions, NOVA University and the University of Évora, to develop a joint bachelor's degree in Ocean Studies. Additionally, the university continued to advance the Campus Sul initiative, which aims to foster a more sustainable future for the region. At the European level, within the framework of the European University of the Seas (SEA-EU), three new degree joint programmes were developed: a Bachelor's in Sea Sustainable Economy (SSE), a Master's in Port Sustainable Management (MIPMAL), and a PhD programme in



Percentage of Curricular Units classified under a certain SDG



Marine and Maritime Technologies (EA). These programmes are designed to align with the European Approach (EA) and are intended to receive the European Degree Label in the future. Additionally, a European degree programme in Sustainability Sciences was presented within the same approach – EA – within the Sustainable Horizon Project SHES. These programmes will be aligned with SDG 4, as demonstrated in the percentage of current UAIG courses classified under SDG 4. However, our aspiration is to make a more significant contribution to all SDGs through our educational methodology. This will ensure that our entire academic community is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve sustainability and to advance the SDGs.

In 2023, our international consortia developed the My Sustainable Future platform, which now offers a carbon footprint calculator to our students. This initiative aims to enhance students' understanding of sustainability and SDGs, while also

fostering entrepreneurial skills to address sustainability challenges. The platform provides a comprehensive range of courses and resources, equipping students with the knowledge and expertise to pursue careers in a sustainable future.



<https://carbonfootprint.widera.education/>  
<https://carbonfootprint.widera.education/quiz>



Main page – My Sustainable Future ([my-sustainable-future.com](https://my-sustainable-future.com))

GOAL  
17

## RESEARCH

### The Relative Activity Index (RAI) of UAIG for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Relative Activity Index (RAI) of UAIG by SDG was calculated by dividing the total number of publications of UAIG (2019–2023) pertaining to an SDG by the total number of publications for UAIG. This resulted in a percentage value. The same methodology is employed for each SDG in the context of World

Affiliations. The index for the entity is calculated by dividing the percentage of UAIG by that of the World. Analogous calculations were conducted within the context of Portuguese Affiliations. It can be concluded that UAIG is demonstrating a proclivity towards greater involvement in the advancement of SDG 14, exhibiting a level of engagement that is 12 times greater than the global average. Additionally, UAIG's contributions to

SDG 12, 13 and 14 are noteworthy, exceeding the global average by a factor of 2–3. Furthermore, the Portugal SDG RAI (highlighted in red in the RAI plot) demonstrates a similar pattern for the same period, indicating a notable contribution to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

### SDG Relative Activity Index 2019–2023

- University of Algarve
- Portugal
- - - World

The figure depicts RAI for SDGs 1–16, illustrating the extent of UAIG. It should be noted that Scopus does not map research keywords against SDG 17. The UAIG Relative Activity Index (RAI) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1–16) is defined as the proportion of an entity's publications in a subject area, expressed as a percentage of the global share of publications in the same subject. A value of 1.0 indicates that the entity's research activity in a field is equivalent to the global activity in that field. A value higher than 1.0 implies a greater emphasis, whereas a value lower than 1.0 suggests a lesser focus.



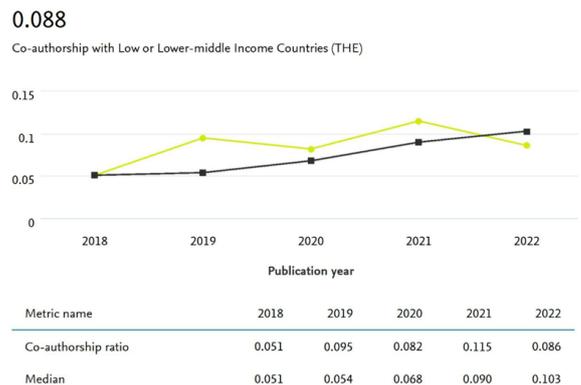
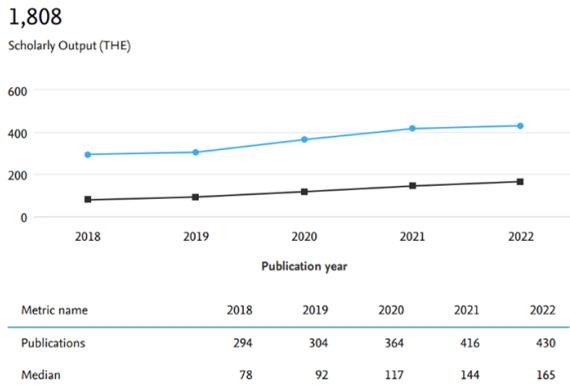
**Table University of Algarve Within:  
All subject areas (ASJC) by SDG**

Year range: 2019 to 2023  
Data source: Scopus, 12 Aug 2024

SDG	Scholarly Output	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Citation Count
SDG 1: No Poverty	11	0.62	70
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	115	1.24	1,391
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	493	1.37	8,638
SDG 4: Quality Education	88	1.98	901
SDG 5: Gender Equality	17	1.53	177
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	182	1.32	3,106
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	139	1.28	1,761
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	221	1.30	2,532
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	173	1.39	2,787
SDG 10: Reduced Inequality	50	1.14	347
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	176	0.99	1,973
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	266	1.24	3,392
SDG 13: Climate Action	217	1.53	4,158
SDG 14: Life Below Water	652	1.39	10,893
SDG 15: Life on Land	191	1.35	2,607
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	56	1.02	687



GOAL  
17



**Research metric details for SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**

THE Impact Rankings 2024, University of Algarve, Data source: Scopus, 12 Aug 2024

401–600  
SDG Rank (THE)  
67.5–75.3



Research metric ⓘ	Weight (%)	Value	Metric rank percentile ⓘ
Scholarly Output (THE)	13.55%	1,808	75th
Co-authorship with Low or Lower-middle Income Countries (THE)	13.55%	0.088	59th

**COMMUNITY**

**SEA-EU Alliance**

The results of 1st Future Leadership Forum, in October 2023, highlight contributions of the young generation that had the most impact on the Global Gateway Declaration document. A commitment to involve all external partners with representatives from the younger generations, students but also researchers or professors, in the next events of the annual SEA-EU Future Leadership Forum was also

achieved to further consolidate the Global Gateway Declaration. In SEA-EU UAlg has effective regional partners: Algarve Regional Coordination and Development Commission; Algarve Intermunicipal Community; Docapesca-Ports; Portuguese Institute of Sea and Atmosphere, Association for a Sustainable and Intelligent Aquaculture; Algarve Science Center, NGO - SCIAENA, Águas do Algarve; and Algarve Tourism Region.

## GOVERNANCE

The achievements of the University of Algarve (UALg) in the previous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1-16 were supported by an extensive and diversified scientific production achieved through global partnerships across all continents.

These partnerships were primarily with other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), but also with non-academic institutions. A mapping of scientific publications and co-authorships with international partners, based on SCOPUS data

(upper map), government institutions (middle map) and corporate entities only (lower map), enables an analysis of the diversified relationships of UALg across all continents and with different types of organisations from 2019 to 2023.

**Map 1**  
Number of collaborating institutions per region

Year range: 2019 to 2023  
Data source: Scopus,  
up to 12 Aug 2024



**Map 2**  
Number of collaborating institutions per region (Corporate)

Year range: 2019 to 2023  
Data source: Scopus,  
up to 12 Aug 2024



**Map 3**  
Number of collaborating institutions per region (Government)

Year range: 2019 to 2023  
Data source: Scopus,  
up to 12 Aug 2024



One of the strategic priorities of UALg is to establish partnerships with a view to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In order to achieve this priority, UALg offers its staff and faculties and schools encouragement and support in the implementation of:

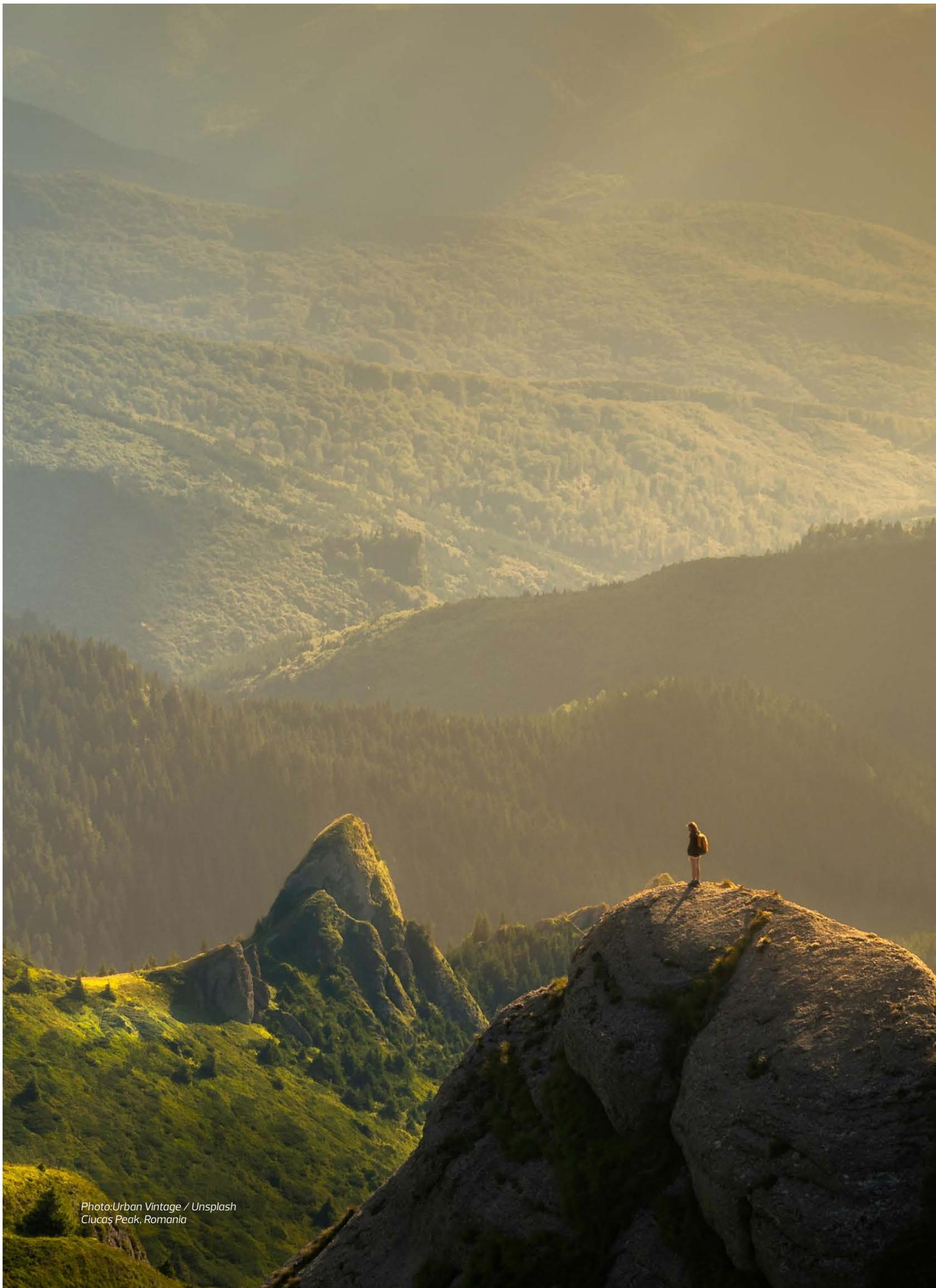
- Outreach and social engagement

activities developed by its Research Centres.

- Collaborations with NGOs.
- Consultancy for regional, national, and international stakeholders.
- *Volunteering* actions with local institutions.
- Gathering several institutional certifications related to the SDG,

such as the FISU "HEALTHY CAMPUS" certification.

Partnerships with industry continued to be fostered in 2023 in different areas, especially through UALg's participation in the different collaborative laboratories and the *UALG TEC CAMPUS - Business Accelerator*.



*Photo:Urban Vintage / Unsplash  
Ciucas Peak, Romania*

## ABBREVIATIONS

AMAL – Algarve Municipalities Association

AULP – Association of Universities of Portuguese Speaking Countries

CCMAR – Centre of Marine Sciences

CEAD – Centre of Adult education and communitarian Intervention

CENSE-UAAlg – Pole of Environmental and Sustainability Centre

CIMA – Centre of Marine and Environmental Sciences

CINTURS – Centre for Research in Tourism, Sustainability and Well Being

EU – European Union

HEI – Higher Educations Institutions

NGO – Non-Governmental organization

MED-UAAlg – Pole of the Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development

R&D U – Research and Development Units

SDG – Sustainable development Goals

UAAlg – University of Algarve

UN – United Nations

November 2024

The monitoring developed of SDG in tis reports have been done partially within the Sustainable Horizon project-SHEs



Funded by  
the European Union



Photo: Adobe Stock  
Amazon Rainforest, Peru