



7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia

An Inclusive University for an Inclusive Society

Prof. Carmen Sammut, Pro-Rector for Student and Staff Affairs & Outreach, University of Malta

13/05/2019, Bucharest





L-Università
ta' Malta

Community of:

11,500 students,
1,500 academic staff,
1,500 administrative staff

72 student organisations





7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia



Two main campuses

Valletta Campus



Tal-Qroqq Campus





7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia



SDGs through education

- Malta is the 9th highest spender on education (per capita) among the EU 28.
- Education bill amounts to 14% of total public spending.
- Tertiary education is free (to achieve social mobility). Free education and stipends are also granted to refugees and asylum seekers.
- The population will reach 425,000 by the end of 2019 but the density is 1,354 / Km². The Increase in Malta's population more than 15 times that of the EU.
- This has social and environmental challenges.





7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia



Strategic objectives

L-Università ta' Malta
STUDY
ABOUT
RESEARCH

Vision, mission and values

Home | About | Strategic planning | Vision, mission and values

The vision, mission and values of the University of Malta are driven by our community's desire to move forward and embrace new challenges.

Vision

The University of Malta aims to be among the leading institutions in higher education in the region and to provide world-class research and education. The university community endeavours to strive for the benefit of the country in the context of social and economic well-being. Over the coming years we will continue to build on the university's long tradition of developing the knowledge required to help Malta flourish as a small island nation and a member state of the European Union.

Mission

The mission of the University of Malta is to serve the aspirations of the people of these islands through locally and globally significant research and the provision of quality higher education in the arts, sciences and the humanities as required for Malta's economic, social and cultural development, via the scholarship of discovery, teaching and service to the community. These functions shall be delivered in a **sustainable manner** that is responsive to this country's present and emergent needs.

Strategic objectives 2020-2025:

- Sustainability;
- Societal impact;
- Learning and Teaching;
- Research and knowledge Transfer;
- Enterprise and Industry;
- National Impact;
- International Outlook.



Societal Impact: An Inclusive University for an Inclusive Society

- Encourages a participative society where public intellectuals maintain a significant role in the country's social, political, economic and cultural life.
- Strives to support our community, both within university and in the wider society, with the involvement of students and staff.
- Stimulates public responsibility and inspires public service.
- Actively identifies opportunities to lead by example.
- Strives to improve the well-being of this academic and student community.
- Consolidates, develops and synergizes the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, disability and other spheres of diversity.



Disabilities

- Facilitate access and ensure that those with a disability stand a good chance of succeeding in their studies.
- Regular accessibility audits (minimum every 5 years) and immediate subsequent action where required.
- The Office Professional Academic Development (OPAD) to prepare members of the administrative and academic staff to interact with students with disability or learning difficulties (including students on the autism spectrum or with dyslexia).
- Design new buildings that consider the needs of students on the autism spectrum. The availability of more 'quiet rooms' on campus etc.



Gender

Committed to the advancement of gender rights that include women and LGBTIQ:

- A regular gender audit of the University;
- Gender mainstreaming in the curriculum.
- Sexual Harassment Policy promoted as an example for sexual harassment policies in other sectors outside the University.
- Identify specific gender-related challenges that impinge on promotion;
- Address the gender gap in subjects such as Education, Engineering and Health Care;
- A Depository that archives historical documents related to the advancement of gender-related rights.



Race and Ethnicity

The University is a multi-cultural community where international students and staff are on the increase and many pertain to diverse cultures (currently 1/10 of the student population).

The *Committee for Race and Ethnic Affairs* was set up to create awareness, ensure access and integration; to safeguard students and members of staff and to advise the rectorate.

The University commits to:

- Promote the benefits of diversity;
- Ensure that there are adequate inter-faith facilities;
- Support a “buddy system” for international students and staff;

It will continue to monitor and evaluate the implications of migration on the educational sector.

The University contributes to national integration efforts through courses, outreach and collaboration with other relevant entities.



Health promotion and well-being

- Best-practice diversity and inclusion policies acknowledge mental health and well-being as diversity issues.
- An inclusive campus enhances well-being and accommodates the unique needs of different individuals.
- The Health and Wellness Centre offers Counselling Services, Mental Health support, together with healthy lifestyle programmes.
- The University will be developed into a Health Promoting University, as recognized by the World Health Organisation.
- *First Aid and Mental Health First Aid* courses are organised on a regular basis for both staff and students.
- Guidelines for members of staff to support suicidal and/or highly distressed individuals will soon be followed up by training for members of the administrative and academic staff.



Outreach

An inclusive environment promotes positive student and staff recruitment practices, social mobility initiatives and outreach programmes to attract participants from all parts of society. Ex:

- A communication strategy with measurable key performance indicators (KPIs) needs to be put in place.
- Recognized student societies (currently 72 in number) to be further supported by ensuring adequate resources are available.
- Establishing mentoring schemes on campus;



7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia



Outreach



- The University of the Third Age continues to expand.
- Open more centres to bridge between the underprivileged communities and the University of Malta.
- More resources to communicate with the community not merely online. Re-evaluate University Radio and the role of *Think* magazine
- Improve collaboration with non-state actors: namely civil society and industry.
- Set up a *Visitor's Centre* at the Valletta Campus to highlight its legacy and promote projects from within the heart of the capital.



7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia

THANK YOU

