



# Sustainability Report 2022

#zelenauniversita



# Content

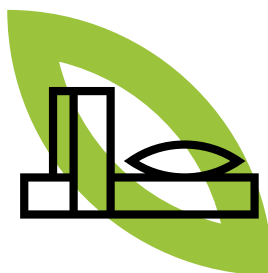
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## SUA at a glance



**SUA**  
Slovak University  
of Agriculture  
in Nitra

#zelenauniversita



ESTABLISHED IN:

**1952**

NUMBER  
OF EMPLOYEES:

**962**

NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS:

**4550**

♀ 2474 ♂ 2076



### STUDY

6 faculties  
6 fields of study

**399**

TEACHERS

← **67**

PROFESSORS

**6**

FIELDS  
OF STUDY:



Biology  
Biotechnologies  
Food Sciences  
Engineering  
Economy and Management  
Agriculture and Landscaping



HIGHLY CITED RESEARCHERS : prof. Ing. Marián Brestič, CSc.  
doc. Ing. Marek Živčák, PhD.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**222**

FOREIGN  
STUDENTS

**143**

outgoing  
students

**117**

incoming  
students



NUMBER OF  
COOPERATION  
AGREEMENTS:

**341**

Erasmus: 233  
Bilateral: 108

## INFRASTRUCTURE

AGROBIOTECH RESEARCH CENTRE

BOTANICAL GARDEN

SUA PUBLISHING HOUSE

UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE

SLOVAK AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

CENTRE OF LANGUAGES

PRIVATE KINDERGARDEN OF THE SUA IN NITRA (KLÁSOK)

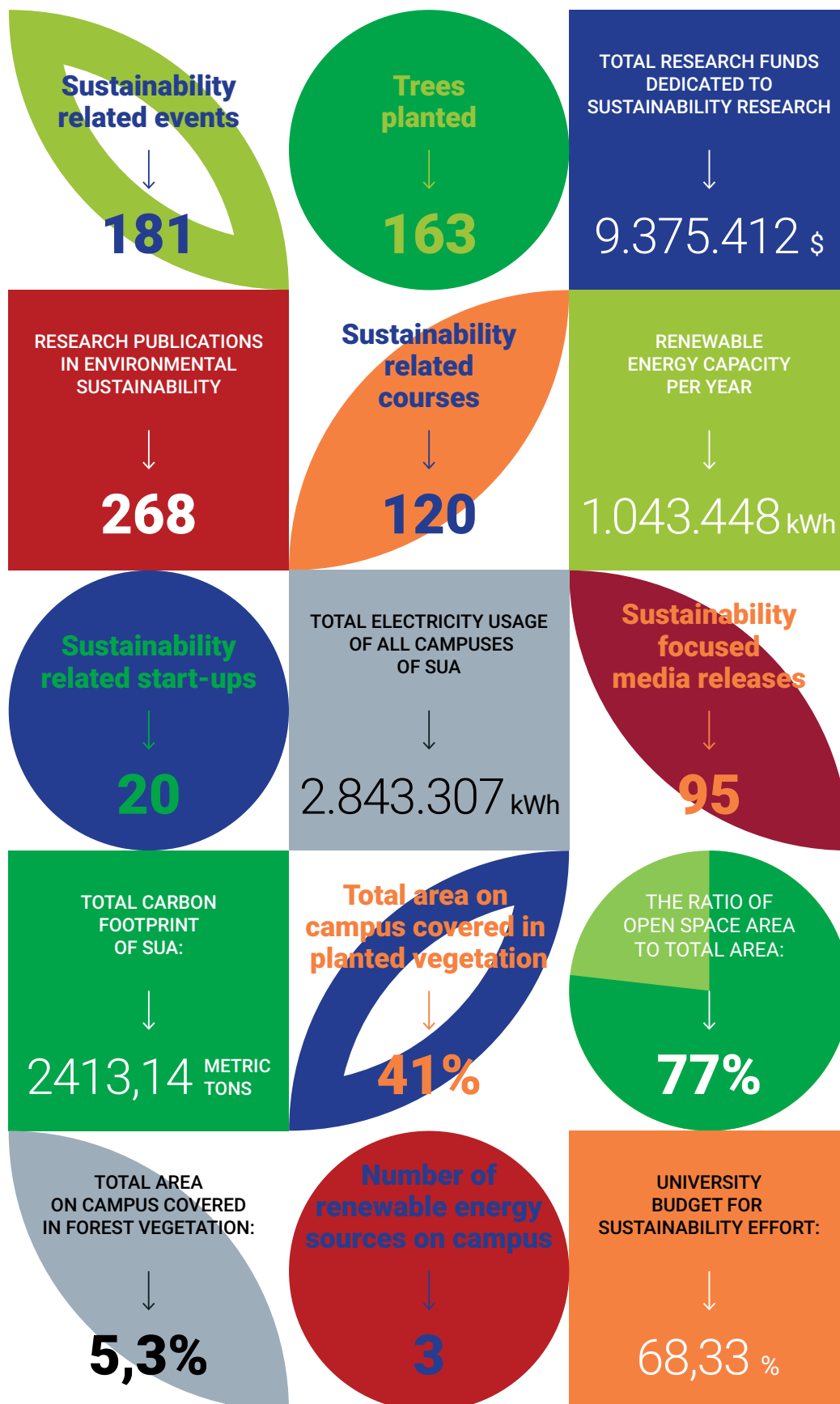
STUDENT HOMES AND CANTEENS

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

UNIVERSITY ADVISORY AND SUPPORT CENTRE

UNIVERSITY FARM


## 2022 by the numbers



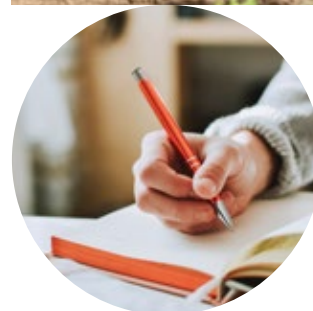
# Introduction

The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra offers a wide range of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral study programs and engages in various research and creative endeavors. As the only agricultural university in Slovakia, it possesses a unique profile with historical roots and a promising future. It serves as a knowledge source for the public, fostering partnerships with other scientific and educational institutions, the community, and companies to support the region.


The foundation of SUA's educational and scientific research activities is centered around sustainable development, environmental protection, the preservation of natural resources and biological diversity, as well as promoting human health through quality nutrition and safe food production. Additionally, it focuses on landscape design, climate change, engineering, and the effective development of agriculture and rural areas.

 SUA's mission is to contribute to the advancement of education, knowledge, science, and culture in line with the needs of society. It aims to foster knowledge, skills, wisdom, creativity, and human well-being, thus contributing to the development of a knowledge-based society. The main activity of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra is centered on fulfilling this mission with a primary focus on students.

Inspired by its history and driven by the pursuit of innovation, quality education and scientific integrity serve as the means to uphold its commitment to society. SUA continuously enhances the quality of its study programs and related creative activities in fields of study such as biology, biotechnology, economics and management, agriculture and landscape, and food science and engineering, at all levels and forms of education. The SUA is an integral part of the European Education Area and the Common European Research Area, with the aim of achieving a significant international level of creative activity. As a cohesive institution, SUA provides a comprehensive professional foundation for lifelong learning and practical experience.



# Global challenges

 With its unique focus on agriculture and life sciences, the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra plays a vital role in addressing the current challenges related to sustainability and dignified living on Earth.

In 2015, the United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda, a comprehensive framework that spans from 2015 to 2030 and sets ambitious targets for all countries worldwide. This document outlines 17 key global objectives aimed at transforming the existing status quo into a sustainable future. Sustainability encompasses political culture and regulations, economic practices and policies, and all related rules. The past decade has demonstrated that achieving global development goals related to food security, poverty reduction, education, health, and peace necessitates the promotion of good governance within society. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize not only achieving indicators but also their quality, taking a holistic approach to their accomplishment. Academic institutions play an essential role in this process.



Through its core activities, including education, science, research, and the implementation of the so-called Third Mission (Development), the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra aims to contribute directly or indirectly to nearly all SDGs. The university serves as a significant player in regional and social development, and over the last decade, it has transitioned from a passive stance to active and responsible engagement in integrated development and diversity.

The main three challenges in the context of the Global Sustainability Strategy:



## EDUCATION

The SUA's educational activities directly contribute to Objective 4, indirectly (by targeting study programmes and educational programmes of further education, educational projects) to Objectives 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 16



## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

By the means of Scientific research focus, R & D activities and domestic and international research projects the SUA contributes to Objectives 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17



## DEVELOPMENT

The SUA significantly participates in development activities not only in the regional context, but also in the whole social context, as it is the only university of this focus in Slovakia; it contributes in particular to Objectives 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 through its activities under the third mission.



## Learning and teaching

SUA students actively engage with sustainability issues during their time at the University, whether through participation in on-campus clubs and activities, integration of sustainability concepts in their coursework, or involvement in our leadership programs. SUA's ultimate goal is to equip every undergraduate and postgraduate student with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate, support, and accelerate the transition to a sustainable future.

Each faculty at SUA incorporates sustainability-focused content into their programs to ensure that every student has the opportunity to integrate sustainability into their studies. Moreover, in response to student demand, SUA is continuously expanding its offering of sustainability-focused qualifications.

Students are encouraged to develop a diverse range of skills and engage in experiences that complement their academic degrees and prepare them for life and work after leaving the University.

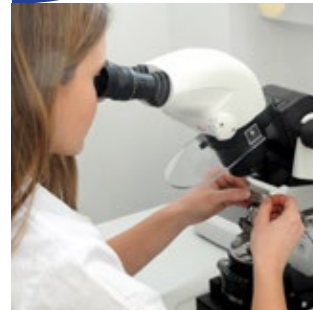
In the academic year 2022/2023, SUA offers a total of 120 courses/subjects related to the environment and sustainability.



# Research

The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (SUA) is actively engaged in a wide range of research activities spanning agriculture, food science, environmental science, and related fields:

- **Agriculture and Crop Science:** Research in this area includes the development of sustainable agricultural practices, crop breeding and genetics, soil management, and the study of pests and diseases affecting crops. Research also focuses on optimizing resource utilization in agriculture.
- **Animal Science:** This area encompasses research in animal nutrition, breeding, and management, with the goal of improving the quality and productivity of livestock while maintaining animal welfare and sustainability.
- **Food Science and Technology:** Research in this field involves food quality, safety, and processing. Topics include food chemistry, food microbiology, food preservation techniques, and the development of innovative food products.
- **Environmental Science:** Environmental research at SUA covers topics such as sustainable land use, environmental protection, and conservation. Researchers also investigate the impact of agriculture on the environment and seek solutions for minimizing negative effects.
- **Agroecology:** Agroecological research focuses on understanding and promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, including studying the relationships between ecosystems and agriculture.
- **Rural Development and Economics:** Research in this area explores policies and strategies for rural development, as well as the economic aspects of agriculture and rural communities.
- **Biotechnology:** The university engages in biotechnological research, especially in the context of agriculture and food production. This includes genetic engineering, bioprocessing, and bioremediation.
- **Waste Management and Environmental Engineering:** With a focus on sustainability, research in this area involves waste reduction, recycling, and the development of efficient waste management systems.
- **Climate Change and Adaptation:** Given the global concern for climate change, SUA's research focuses on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and strategies for adaptation and mitigation.





# Campus

## Green Campus

SUA's campuses are adorned with lush greenery, which includes extensive vegetation in the form of forests, vertical greenery, as well as lawns, bushes, flower beds, field flowers, vegetable patches, and agricultural crops and fields. For example, within the Main Campus area, you'll find the Botanical Garden, featuring a forested area with a variety of large trees and a diverse range of biodiversity, along with a picturesque lake. Trees are strategically planted throughout the campus, in front of the university entrance, between campus buildings, in the fruit orchard behind the Main Campus, on our rural campuses, and along the banks of the Nitra River, creating a unique and environmentally vibrant setting. The total area covered by planted vegetation in 2022 is 156,699 m<sup>2</sup>. Given that the total campus area encompasses 381,506 m<sup>2</sup>, the planted vegetation accounts for 41% of the total, and the forested area covers 20,340 m<sup>2</sup> (5.33%).

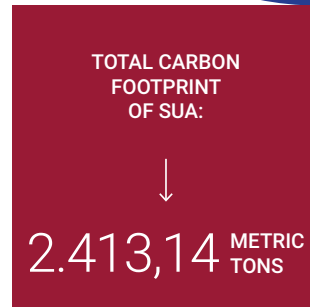
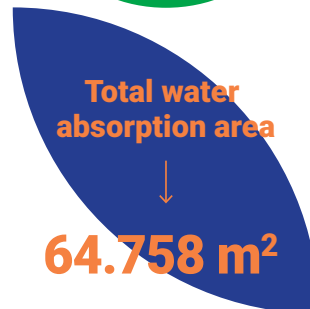
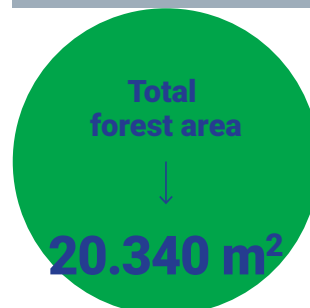
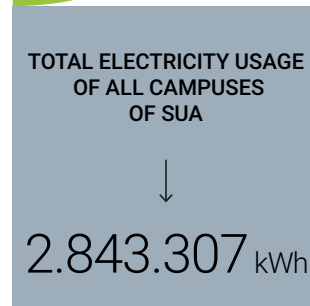
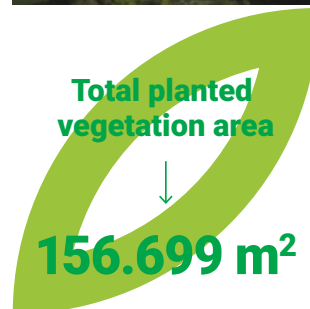
In addition, there are pathways constructed from blocks that facilitate water absorption in front of the campuses and dormitories. These footpaths are made of gravel or left as soil with closely cut grass. Water absorption areas have been integrated into the AgroBioTech Research Centre and throughout the entire Botanical Garden. Parking areas consist of small concrete blocks that enable water to flow, thus creating larger water absorption areas. University outdoor relaxation zones, complete with benches and tables, are nestled in grassy areas rather than on concrete surfaces. Through the „Green Infrastructure on Green University“ project, part of the ITMS 302041M467 initiative, the university has invested 402,000 EUR into the reconstruction of greenery and pathways that connect the Main Campus with the Congress Centre and Anton Bernolak Dormitories. The total water absorption area, including communications and parking areas designed for water absorption, encompasses 64,758 m<sup>2</sup>, which accounts for 16.97% of the total campus area.

## Waste management

As the University of Agriculture, we ensure that all organic waste produced at SUA Campuses is reused on University premises. None of this type of waste leaves our campuses. We are committed to the proper management of organic waste, which is essential for environmental sustainability. Organic waste is composted, allowing it to decompose into nutrient-rich compost used to enhance soil quality for gardening and agriculture. Manure feeds the biogas station at Campus Kolíňany, generating energy. By diverting organic waste from landfills and incinerators, we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize the environmental impact of waste disposal.

We provide special boxes on each SUA campus for separating used batteries. Twice a year, SUA rents bulk containers to collect scrap and used electronic devices such as computers, electronic scales, and printers. Large electro batteries are individually collected and handed over to companies like NKS or EnviGeos for environmentally friendly decomposition or recycling. Used oil is stored in plastic containers and handed over to companies NKS or EnviGeos four times a year for environmentally friendly decomposition or recycling.

Plastic waste is collected in bulky MOLOK bins, which are emptied once a week by NKS or EnviGeos for recycling. Large pieces of paper, such as paper cartons, are also collected in bulky MOLOK bins and sent for recycling once a week. The same process applies to scrap glass, with one MOLOK bulky bin designated for glass disposal. Our recycling of inorganic waste accounts for more than 75% of all waste generated.



## 8. Engagement

### Events

The Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra is the only university in Slovakia dedicated to agriculture and environmental engineering, and, as a result, most of the events on our campus are focused on sustainable solutions and environmental issues.

The university hosts and organizes conferences, workshops, and practical training sessions related to environmental concerns, sustainability, climate change, renewable energy, and waste management. As part of international consortia, such as the Baltic University Programs, we are also responsible for organizing evenings dedicated to sustainability and climate issues. Additionally, the Slovak University of Agriculture is a member of the international food network EITFood.

The university has undertaken several cultural and social initiatives to raise awareness among its employees, students, local residents, and the public about environmental and climate change issues. Two major annual cultural events, 'Nitrianske univerzitné dni 2022' in the spring and 'Študentské dni nitrianskych univerzít 2022' in the autumn, educate the public in a friendly manner, covering a blend of cultural, sports, and festival events.

The SUA Botanical Garden hosts several green cultural exhibitions to inform the public about the green facilities accessible to the public, including the Botanical Garden, greenhouses, a demonstration garden, and a virtual botanical garden. The Botanical Garden also holds an annual event, 'Oslavy svetového dňa cestovného ruchu,' which includes a guided walking tour of the Botanical Garden, a bike tour 'On a bike through the green Nitra from the Botanical Garden,' presentations about the future direction of the SUA Botanical Garden in Nitra with public discussions, workshops on plant propagation, flower arranging, learning about medicinal plants and their effects, growing vegetables, designing flower beds, and planting containers, among other activities.

SUA also organizes sports events, an annual public wine tour called 'VÍNO SPU,' Christmas collections for families in unfavorable life situations, Christmas concerts for all interested, and an Oktoberfest as a cultural event primarily focused on students. In 2022, a significant cultural event was prepared to celebrate the 70th year since the establishment of the university.

### Student Organisations

At SUA in Nitra, there are five student organizations dedicated to sustainability:

- Student Association Pasteur, which focuses on sustainability in food and food consumption.
- Student Cynological Association, aimed at fostering the right attitude toward cynology values and providing information through seminars and training presentations on various cynology topics, including the practical use of dogs.
- Falconry Student Association, which advises on the handling of predators and owls, offers lectures on owl and predator-related topics, and works on expanding falconry facilities.
- Student Hunting Association BUTEO, responsible for maintaining the university hunting area, including feeding wild animals, habitat management, and the construction of facilities. They also care for wild animals on the main campus.
- Academic Bees, which maintain beehives on the campus rooftops and in the Botanical Garden.



NUMBER OF STUDENT ORGANISATIONS RELATED TO SUSTAINABILITY



5

**Sustainability focused media releases**



95

**Sustainability related events**



181

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AT SUSTAINABILITY RELATED EVENTS

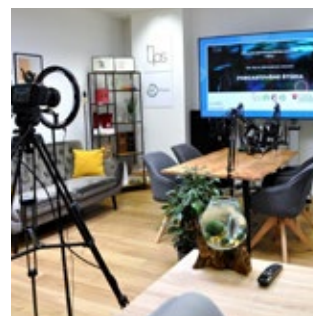


1510

In 2022, these student organizations organized more than 10 activities related to sustainability.

### Community Services

The university and students have initiated both local and international initiatives to raise awareness of environmental and climate change issues. These green activities span various fields, including education, climate protection, recycling, agri-food industry, energy-efficient lighting, energy and climate change, waste reduction, water protection, and sustainable transportation habits.





## Sustainability Report 2022

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