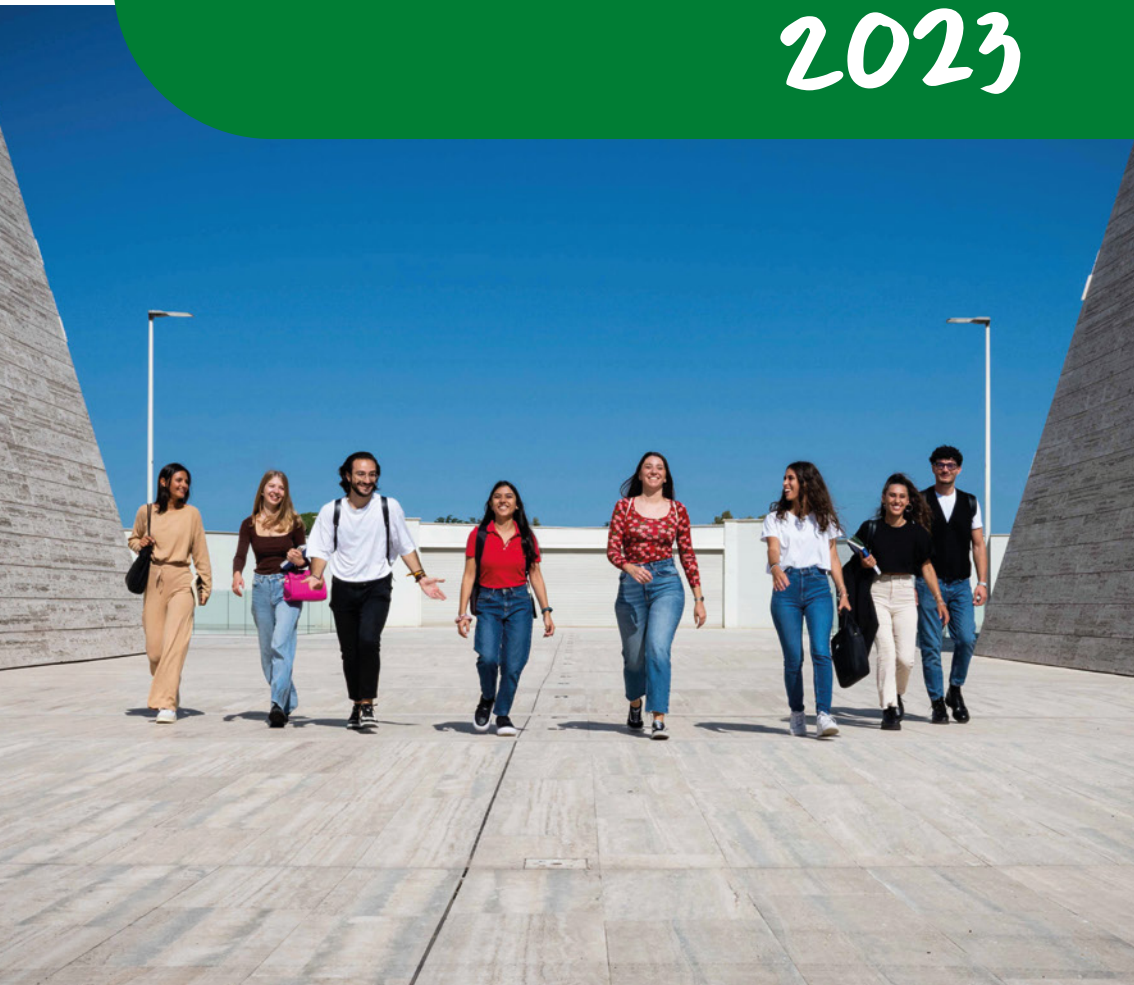




# Sustainability Report 2023



**TOR VERGATA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

# Letter to stakeholders

*The inauguration of the 2023/2024 academic year, the subject of reporting in this Sustainability Report, was dedicated to Sustainable Progress. The concept of sustainability includes themes related not only to environmental protection and the preservation of natural resources but also to equitable economic development and social progress that guarantees the fundamental rights of all citizens. Aspiring for environmental, social, and economic well-being means meeting the needs of current generations without compromising equal opportunities for future ones. I believe it is the duty of all institutions, especially universities, to provide concrete responses to the community's expectations, creating the conditions for a continuous improvement in quality of life. From the perspective of our university institution, we have a moral obligation to stand as a shining beacon that radiates and encourages sustainable practices. In the context of the economic dimension, sustainability is like a compass: the careful management of financial resources and the promotion of economic equity guide us toward the future. As a University, we are committed to ensuring that access to excellent higher education is a guaranteed right for all, regardless of socioeconomic background. This is our commitment to a world where talent and determination overcome financial barriers. In the social dimension, we face a moral imperative: University must educate responsible citizens who are capable of understanding and addressing current social challenges. Our University, through study programs that promote global citizenship and sustainable development, aims to prepare students to become actual agents of change. We want them to be ready to tackle social issues with empathy, perspicacity, and the freshness of innovation. However, our vision does not stop at the boundaries of the Campus. We must actively collaborate with local, national, and international communities, making our experience and knowledge available to solve global problems. Interdisciplinary research and international cooperation are essential to address our world's complex challenges. This commitment is coupled with a deep awareness of the need to carefully preserve the ecosystem, which is essential for collective well-being. We place particular emphasis on scientific research and training because we firmly believe that the experiences and knowledge acquired during the university career will shape the destinies of our students and their future choices, fuelling the flame of a better world for all. The principle of sustainability, in all its manifestations, guides our daily commitment, encouraging us to listen to the perspectives of others and to try to understand them. We must take responsibility for supporting others and respecting their different perspectives. Caring for others requires patience, willpower, consistency, continuity, and sometimes sacrifice. We want to be and will be by the side of our students in their university, human, cultural, and professional training; together with them, we will continue to work to contribute to building a more equitable and solidary world. In the wake of reflections on the crucial role of universities in the transition to a sustainable world, the convincing statement of the ecologist David Orr emerges: "No institution in modern society is better equipped than universities to catalyze the necessary transition to a sustainable world. Universities train tomorrow's leaders and today's leaders. What they do has an impact on society as a whole". This is the mission to which we dedicate ourselves with responsibility. United, we can shape a sustainable future for future generations, and in this way, Tor Vergata University of Rome can become the laboratory in which this vision will be realized.*

The Rector  
Prof. Nathan Levaldi Ghiron

# The vision and mission of Tor Vergata University of Rome

## The virtuous circle of sustainability

Tor Vergata University of Rome embraces sustainability in an integrated manner across all its functions and activities, to the point of defining its Vision and Mission in favour of sustainable development, with the aim of becoming, through continuous change, academic excellence in the European context. It is therefore committed to nurturing a virtuous circle that combines the principles of economic, social, environmental and institutional sustainability with the creation of public shared value and to supporting and applying the ten principles of the Global Compact in its sphere of influence. The cornerstones of this integrated system are: Providing quality education and cutting-edge research; Promoting the third mission; Attracting key players and developing partnerships at the national and international level, including through membership in the RUS (Network of Universities for Sustainable Development); Collaborating with other development agents in the territory and creating added value for the reference communities.



[Visit the website to read the University's Vision and Mission in full](#)

The principle of sustainability is therefore embodied in the Strategic Plan, a planning document helpful in defining the University's lines of development in favour of sustainable development. This document, together with the Integrated Plan of Activities and Organization (PIAO), the Performance Report and the Sustainability Report, contributes to the integration and synthesis of the Mission and Vision and the explanation and monitoring of the University's policies and strategies.



[Strategic Plan](#)



[Integrated Plan of Activities and Organization](#)



[Performance Report](#)

To give concrete form to the actions taken to pursue the strategic objectives of sustainability, Tor Vergata University of Rome has been using, since 2016, an Interdisciplinary Committee for the Implementation of the University's Mission and Vision in favour of Sustainable Development, which brings together the sustainability representatives appointed by the University's Departments, coordinated by Professor Gloria Fiorani since 2022.



[University Sustainable Development Committee](#)



[University Proctors and Delegates](#)

# The University's numbers



**600 hectares**

of Campus area, 350 of which are green spaces. It also houses the **University Polyclinic and major research institutions**



## The academic program

is structured as follows:

- > **115 degree courses**
- > **37 doctoral programs**
- > **124 master's programs**
- > **49 specialisation schools**

The university facilities include:

**6 macroareas' libraries**, with evening and holiday opening hours

**29 computer laboratories**

**350 classrooms for teaching**



**6 Macroareas**



**18 Departments**



**489th in the world and 14th nationally** according to the **QS World University Ranking 2024**, which measures reputation, quality of education and research, and global graduate employability, placing it among the **"top 33"**



**277th globally, 130th in Europe and 10th in Italy**

in the second edition of the **QS World University Rankings dedicated to Sustainability**, which assesses universities' ability to address significant environmental, social and governance challenges



**14th among Italian universities and 1st among large state universities in the central-southern area**

in **The World University Ranking** of the best universities globally in the main academic missions

# Reading guide

Tor Vergata University of Rome publishes an annual Sustainability Report, which accounts for the activities carried out and the results achieved in terms of social, environmental, and economic sustainability, as well as in the context of the three missions, in order to monitor the objectives and commitments it has made in the field of sustainable development. The seventh edition of the Sustainability Report, approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting of June 25, 2024, describes the path that the University, thanks to the full and active involvement of all the components of its Community, is taking to make Tor Vergata University of Rome an attentive, efficient, responsible, and sustainable institution. The data reported below refer to the 2023-2024 academic year and the 2023 calendar year.

The Sustainability Report represents:

- A communication tool for the University's commitment to sustainable development and the conviction of the assumption of this responsibility by the University's governing bodies towards all stakeholders;
- A document that summarizes, for public institutions, companies, citizens, non-profit associations, and internal stakeholders (students, professors, TAB staff), the efforts made and the results achieved from a perspective of sustainable development and innovation;
- The result of the application of the GRI Standard guidelines (Core Option) and the RUS-GBS "Sustainability Report of Universities" Standard and Implementation Manual, the first standard for reporting the sustainability reports of Italian universities (drafted by RUS, the Network of Universities for Sustainable Development, and GBS, the Sustainability and Reporting Group, January 2023 edition);
- Evidence of how the University contributes to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Tor Vergata University of Rome, through the activities and projects it has implemented, is committed to pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, the action program for people, the planet, and prosperity, defined by the UN in 2015;
- A bridge for listening to and receiving the demands of stakeholders.



**What do you expect from a Sustainable University?  
Your opinion counts!**

In addition to the full version of the Sustainability Report, a concise brochure has been produced for the sixth year, which exhaustively but concisely explains all the management and sustainability aspects of the University for the year under review.



## Teaching and services offered to students and participants in first and second-level master's programs



Tor Vergata University of Rome sees students as the actual point of reference for teaching design and the management of its activities. For this reason, the University guarantees continuous improvement of the services offered. It ensures innovative and interdisciplinary educational paths aligned with sustainability themes, aiming to train responsible citizens prepared to face the professional world.



**33.502 students** enrolled in the 2023-2024 academic year  
43% male and 57% female students, (+8,61% compared to the last biennium)

**3,820 international students** mainly from Asia and Europe enrolled in the 2023-2024 academic year

**690 students** participated in Erasmus+, Student Traineeship, and Over Seas mobility programs

**5,436 graduates in 2023** (2,810 bachelor's, 2,105 master's, 521 single-cycle)



**76 participants** in postgraduate courses

**437 participants** in first-level masters

**1.260 participants** in second-level masters

**2,895 scholarships, prizes, and grants** awarded to deserving students, totaling €4,224 k



**62.3% of graduates find employment** within one year of graduation, compared to 56.5% national average

**46%** rate their university experience as decidedly positive

**73%** would re-enrol in the same degree program

### Inclusive Tor Vergata

- **653 students with disabilities and 469 students with learning disorders (SLD)** +46% increase in tutoring interventions for students with disabilities/learning disabilities compared to 2022
- **52 participants** in the main courses organized by CARIS (University Commission for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities and Specific Learning Disorders): Italian sign language (32), reading and writing (20)
- **73 incarcerated students** enrolled in the 2023-2024 academic year through the "University in Prison" program

### Education for Sustainable Development



- **around 50 courses and over 20 masters** and external courses related to sustainable development, territorial governance, social innovation, sustainability reporting, quality of life, health and safety, and inclusion
- **314 certificates** (220 to students and 94 to teaching and administrative staff) issued in the last four years after completing the **ASviS e-learning course "Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals"**



## The value and impact of research

For Tor Vergata University of Rome, research represents the driving force for development and well-being, an engine capable of advancing society along a sustainable growth path. To this end, the University is committed to applying sustainable development across all disciplinary areas, promoting internal excellence, attracting talent at the national and international levels, stimulating joint and collaborative participatory projects, and creating interactions at the national and international levels.



**467 tenured researchers**, of which 196 women and 271 men

**423 research fellows**, of which 206 women and 217 men

**1,475 doctoral students**, of which 781 women and 694 men

**214 international doctoral students**, of which 109 women and 105 men

**4,446 scientific publications** in 2023, with a 3.5% increase compared to the previous year (4,296 in 2022)



**1.58 average citation impact**

**27.5% in the top ten of the most high-impact national and international journals**

**38 patents filed**, mainly in the scientific and engineering disciplines



**4,700 international collaborations** with other universities and companies in the 2020-2023 quadrennial

**3,127 research contracts** on commission

**€9,340k in revenue** generated from competitive and commissioned research in 2023

## Research in the Field of Sustainability

- **8% increase in the number of publications in the field of sustainability** compared to the previous biennium, for a total of 1,909 in 2023
- **42.9 publications out of 100 deal with issues related to sustainable development**
- **7 participations in entities operating in the field of sustainable development and social innovation**
- **4 projects in the "researchers" category** (LivGemini, PeptoShield, Clean-Meat, VEXOR) and **1 project in the "students" category** (Crickness) among the winners of the 9th edition of StartCup Lazio 2023





## Dissemination and sharing of knowledge. Initiatives on the environment and collaboration with various social and economic actors

Tor Vergata University of Rome carries out numerous non-profit initiatives with educational, cultural and social development value to communicate and share the activities and benefits of higher education and research.



8 events organized within the 2023 Festival of Sustainable Development promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)

70 participants in Climbing for Climate 5, an initiative to raise awareness on climate change, promoted by the RUS (Network of Universities for Sustainable Development) in collaboration with the CNR (National Research Council) and the CAI (Italian Alpine Club)

1 national event dedicated to social responsibility and sustainable development, the Salone della CSR e dell'Innovazione Sociale, with over 200 participants

994 students, from the 2014-2015 academic year, participating in the New Economy Laboratories "Designing and Innovating Sustainably" aimed at designing innovative and sustainable projects in response to the needs of the territory

215 projects presented during the 10 editions, mainly related to 6 thematic areas: circular economy, tourism and culture, agri-food and agriculture, urban regeneration, sport, health and well-being, sustainability challenges for the university

4 editions of the HackaTor "Together to Think Sustainable", promoted by the MARIS Master's program, in collaboration with the University Sports Centre Roma Tor Vergata, and aimed at students and graduates of the University to reward the best innovative ideas born within the Innovation Laboratories

6 assistance and healthcare services for students, including psychological counselling, sex counselling, listening and support, and primary health care

1 "Elena Gianini Belotti" Anti-Violence Centre with the aim of protecting women, ensuring reception and protection, psychological assistance and support, a path out of violence, legal advice, and work support; in 2023, 117 women (86 external to the University, 31 internal) requested assistance

5 initiatives promoted by the CUG (Joint Committee for Equal Opportunities), aimed at disseminating knowledge and protecting equal opportunities and anti-discrimination policies

1 fir tree planted in the Rectorate Garden to fight gender-based violence and decorated, during the Christmas holidays, with 108 red-coloured hands in memory of every woman victim of violence in 2023

6 initiatives carried out at the Botanical Garden aimed at promoting the culture of environmental sustainability, biodiversity protection, land care, and promoting a culture of social integration

30 average users involved daily in green therapy workshops in collaboration with ASL Roma2, social cooperatives, foster homes, and day centers in the area

over 1,000 presences/users, including students and citizens, involved in laboratories and days dedicated to environmental education

30 trees planted as part of the "Adopt a Tree" initiative

67 sports and cultural events organized by CUS Tor Vergata for 3,351 participants

310 Paths for Transversal Skills and Orientation (PCTO) activated in collaboration with 89 institutes for a total of 6,537 students involved





## Enhancing and engaging human resources

Working for Tor Vergata University of Rome means becoming part of an organisation where everyone can contribute to the achievement of common goals and to express their talent and professionalism. Human capital is the true strength and competitive advantage of the University for the high quality of three of its key areas: the services provided, teaching, and research.

**2,351 employees working in various areas of the University**, with a 2.6% increase compared to 2022



**1,341 professors** (490 women and 851 men)

**1,010 managers and technical, administrative, and library staff** (644 women and 366 men)

**27% of total working hours performed in agile mode**, used by 69% of female employees and 31% of male employees

**+7% improvement in the Glass Ceiling Index** (equal opportunities index) of the teaching staff compared to 2022



**7,563 hours of professional training** provided to technical, administrative, and library staff in foreign languages, IT, and interdisciplinary areas

**510 participants in specialized training** and professional development courses



**100% of employees benefit** from the health surveillance activity of the Tor Vergata University Polyclinic ("health path")

**7 initiatives for the psycho-physical well-being of the staff** with the provision of welfare assistance services, sports, cultural, and recreational services, such as insurance policy, Metrebus travel passes, reimbursement for nursery/childcare, etc.

## University Gender Budget

Tor Vergata University of Rome promotes the affirmation of equal opportunities through measures to prevent and contrast gender-based violence. Since 2020, the University has been preparing the Gender Budget report, which identifies the University's strengths and areas for improvement in terms of gender equality so that these elements become an input for the planning of actions aimed at achieving specific gender equality objectives. Since 2021, the University has also published the Gender Equality Plan, a strategic document that defines the University's strategy to promote gender equality and equal opportunities within it.

For more information, please consult the three editions of the University Gender Budget and the two editions of the Gender Equality Plan.





## Environmental respect and protection



Environmental protection, efficient resource management, and land care are priorities for Tor Vergata University of Rome.



**100% renewable energy** through the Guarantee of Origin (GO) issued by GSE

**18,839 MWh total electricity consumption** (-6.7% compared to 2022, also thanks to relamping activity in the Humanities and Engineering Macroareas)

**93,727 m<sup>3</sup> total water consumption** (-9% compared to the volumes of the last biennium)



**3 projects\* to improve the environmental sustainability of the Campus:**

**"SEDIA" project**, to create outdoor rest and gathering spaces by installing solar charging modules with outdoor benches. Since 2021: 18 eco-sustainable educational and recreational stations present among the Faculties, Macroareas, and the Rectorate

**"CARTA" project**, of circular economy to raise awareness in the academic community on the recovery and reuse of paper: 8 paper collection bins installed in the campus spaces

**"GOCCIA" project**, to significantly reduce the use of single-use plastic within the University through the promotion of reusable bottles and the installation of 25 water dispensers in the Faculties and Macroareas



**83 hectares of Botanical Garden** available to the university community and the public, which hosts:

**1 research centre** active at the Botanical Garden for the conservation of germplasm with the aim of:

- preserving the genetic resources of tree, shrub, and herbaceous plant species native in the Lazio region, ensuring the survival of threatened species and protecting endemic species to conserve the local flora
- recovering and safeguarding ancient and modern cultivars that have economic importance (food, medicinal, etc.)

**1 CO<sub>2</sub> garden** for the reduction of greenhouse gas or climate-altering emissions, which in its current structure, at full capacity, will be able to absorb about 2 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year



**1 photovoltaic system** of 6 kW that, since November 2020, allows the University to produce electricity from renewable sources autonomously

\* carried out by the Office for Sustainable Development and the Technical Office as part of the MARIS Master's program



## Ethical and transparent management and economic sustainability



Tor Vergata University of Rome plays a leading role in the local economy, interpreted by the entire University community according to principles of ethics, transparency, responsibility, and efficiency.

**2,286 hours of training** on anti-corruption measures provided to 73 university employees



**254,669 total accesses** to the "Transparent Administration" website around **50% of the University's suppliers** come from the local reference territory



**€328,802,000** in economic value attracted by the University (+4.5% compared to 2022)

**€310,434,000** in economic value distributed among internal stakeholders (professors and TAB staff), institutional stakeholders (PA), and external stakeholders (financial intermediaries, partners, and suppliers)

## Future prospects



WHAT...



### ADDRESSING THE GREEN CHALLENGE

The University wants to introduce green solutions on Campus to reduce environmental impacts significantly.

### RAISING AWARENESS IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The University intends to promote a culture of sustainability in the ordinary activities of teaching, research, and third mission.

### MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE UNIVERSITY'S MISSION AND STRATEGY

The University aims to translate its mission and strategy into clear and measurable objectives, evaluating the contribution of its activities to the creation of public value, including research, teaching, and service to the community.

### IMPROVING THE ESG SCORE IN RANKINGS

The University wants to improve its positioning in international rankings that assess social, environmental, and governance sustainability performance in universities.

HOW...

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Implement a Green Charter, containing actions, objectives and indicators on sustainability issues.

### TRAINING AND ENGAGEMENT

Develop university programs aimed at increasing knowledge on sustainability issues and contributing to the adoption of correct lifestyles within the Campus.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS SYSTEMS

Use the "Tor Vergata Public Value" Balanced Scorecard to introduce an integrated performance measurement system, developing key indicators for each strategic area, in order to constantly evaluate progress and make improvements based on the data.

### MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING OF KPIs

Adequately measure and monitor sustainable performance to respond effectively to the evaluation indicators.

The 2023 Sustainability Report brochure of Tor Vergata University of Rome was created by:

**Coordination:** Prof. Gloria Fiorani

**Executive Design:** Dr. Chiara Di Gerio

**English Translation by:** Dr. Luisa Matilde Lopez

In collaboration with the Sustainable Development Office

Dr. Carola Gasparri, Head of the Budget and Sustainability Reporting Office of the University, curated the preparation of the contents of the University's Sustainability Report with the support of a working group led by a coordination team composed of Prof. Gloria Fiorani, Prof. Marco Meneguzzo and Eng. Domenico Genovese. The Budget and Sustainability Reporting Office curated the data collection, made possible thanks to a targeted involvement process of the various University structures, and the indicators' formulation, with the support of the University's Statistical Office and the Sustainable Development Office.



[www.web.uniroma2.it](http://www.web.uniroma2.it)  
[www.sostenibile.uniroma2.it](http://www.sostenibile.uniroma2.it)

To consult the full version of the 2023 Sustainability Report:



### Useful Contacts

#### Sustainable Development Office

+39 06 7259 3303

[info@sostenibile.uniroma2.it](mailto:info@sostenibile.uniroma2.it)

#### CARIS Secretariat

+39 06 7259 7483

[segreteria@caris.uniroma2.it](mailto:segreteria@caris.uniroma2.it)

#### "Elena Gianini Belotti" Anti-Violence Centre

+39 06 7259 5184; +39 3478547714

[centroantiviolenza@uniroma2.it](mailto:centroantiviolenza@uniroma2.it)

#### Joint Committee for Equal Opportunities (CUG)

[cug@uniroma2.it](mailto:cug@uniroma2.it)

#### Psychological Wellbeing Desks

CUG Listening Desk:  
[ascolto@cug.uniroma2.it](mailto:ascolto@cug.uniroma2.it)

Student psychological counselling:  
[sportellostudentiptv@gmail.com](mailto:sportellostudentiptv@gmail.com)

Employee psychological counselling:  
[livigni@med.uniroma2.it](mailto:livigni@med.uniroma2.it)