



TOR VERGATA
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

Message from the Rector

*In a time marked by profound transitions and increasingly complex global challenges, our University firmly reaffirms its commitment to sustainable, fair, and inclusive growth. Sustainability, in its many dimensions, guides our daily actions as a driver of change, a responsibility toward society, and the education of a conscious citizenry. From this perspective, the university is a place of study and a laboratory for the future - a space where diversity coexists, critical thinking is nurtured, and collective responsibility is promoted. Tor Vergata University of Rome continues to interpret its role with increasing awareness and engagement, contributing to global challenges through concrete and consistent actions. In this spirit, the theme chosen for the inauguration of the 2024/2025 academic year is: **Interconnections and Global Challenges: The Role of Universities**. This choice fully reflects our approach: to be a vital hub in a network of academic, social, and cultural relationships, capable of addressing the complexities of the modern world with vision and responsibility. We are aware that today's social challenges are becoming ever more urgent: educational disadvantage, gender disparities, discrimination, migration crises, and psychological vulnerabilities. Social sustainability means educating students who can understand complexity and act with empathy. It means building inclusive communities grounded in listening and cohesion. It also means ensuring that every individual - regardless of their background - can find within this University the tools, connections, and trust needed to shape their future. Alongside this, our commitment to environmental and energy issues remains essential. The climate crisis, biodiversity protection, and a just energy transition are no longer distant scenarios but urgent realities to face with scientific rigor and institutional responsibility. This is why we continue to invest in research, innovation, and educational pathways oriented toward sustainability - so that our University can actively contribute to shaping a more resilient future. In 2024, the University also introduced a strategic tool of collective guidance and commitment: the **Green Plan of Tor Vergata**, which sets forth principles and guidelines for university action increasingly aligned with environmental and social sustainability goals. Within this vision lies one of the most significant innovations of the 2024/2025 academic year: the launch of the **Degree Program in Veterinary Medicine**. This new program expands our academic offerings and strengthens the University's commitment to an integrated approach to health. The One Health vision - which recognizes the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health - is now essential in addressing significant global challenges. The course represents a strategic investment aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda: Promoting health and well-being (Goal 3), Ensuring food security (Goal 2), Protecting biodiversity and ecosystems (Goal 15). It is a concrete sign of the University's commitment to building a future where the care of life, in all its forms, lies at the heart of sustainable development. By sharing its expertise, Tor Vergata University of Rome embraces both proximity and vision: to be part of the solution, building bridges between disciplines, regions, generations, and cultures. We believe in the value of international cooperation, the power of interdisciplinary research, and the individual's centrality. We believe that we can only build a more just, greener, and more conscious society by bringing together knowledge and action. This is our commitment. With transparency, with passion, with perseverance.*

The Rector
Prof. Nathan Levialdi Ghiron

Message from the Pro-Rector for Sustainability

*With the eighth edition of the Sustainability Report, the University continues its commitment to monitoring its performance against the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, this document aims to provide students, staff, and the broader public with an integrated overview of the University's management, administrative, educational, research, and third mission activities, highlighting their impact through the lens of sustainable development. The 2024 Report offers a snapshot of a University increasingly committed to sustainability, marked by creating new networks and strengthening existing ones. Performance indicators portray a University that continues to show a steady trend of improvement in environmental, social, and economic sustainability, despite the effects of the international context. There has been a significant increase in research projects and publications on sustainability across various departments over the past two years. Additionally, the educational offering related to sustainability has grown, encompassing undergraduate and graduate degree programs, PhDs, and master's courses, as well as participation rates. The results of the University's commitment to environmental, social, and economic sustainability, as outlined in the Report, are confirmed by notable outcomes in international rankings. In the **QS Sustainability Rankings, Tor Vergata University of Rome has placed in the top 18% of universities worldwide**, improving from the top 20% the previous year. Furthermore, according to a report by *Il Sole 24 Ore*, Tor Vergata has been recognized among the Sustainability Leaders 2025, **the only university included among the 240 most sustainable companies in Italy**. Adopting strategic tools like the Green Plan has spurred a more substantial collective effort, leading to a key milestone: in 2024, the University recorded a 15% reduction in annual carbon emissions (tCO₂/eq) related to Scope 1 and 2, compared to 2023. This result is primarily due to the increase in the number of tree and shrub species in the Botanical Garden - approximately 30,000 specimens - and across the broader campus, representing some of the most valuable assets of our University. In 2024, activities to raise awareness and engage students, faculty, technical-administrative staff, and the wider community also increased. Some key initiatives include: **Green Food Week**, an initiative in collaboration with campus dining services, highlighting the need to reduce the environmental impact of the food supply chain by favoring ingredients that are local, seasonal, and low in water and energy consumption. The goal was to raise awareness within the academic community about making more informed and responsible food choices. The traditional **Sustainable Development Festival**: events focused on the "Green Plan" and were held at the Botanical Garden, with over 100 students in attendance. The topic of energy transition was also addressed. **Action for Climate - Climbing for Climate 2024**: an excursion to the Velino Springs, near Cittareale (RI), in collaboration with the Italian Alpine Club (CAI) of Rieti and the Alpine Rescue unit of the Finance Police. This immersive experience aimed to raise awareness among approximately 80 participants - including students, faculty, and administrative staff - about the significant reduction in the river's flow and the urgent need for sustainable policies to protect fragile ecosystems.*

Pro-Rector for Environment, Sustainability, and Energy Transition
Prof.ssa Antonella Canini

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 way across all its functions and activities, to the extent that it has defined its own Vision and Mission in support of sustainable development, aiming to become - through continuous change - an academic center of excellence within the European context. The University is therefore committed to fostering a virtuous cycle that combines the principles of economic, social, environmental, and institutional sustainability with the creation of public and shared value, while also upholding and applying within its sphere of influence the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. The pillars of this integrated system lie in the University's ability to offer high-quality education and conduct cutting-edge research, its commitment to promoting the third mission - engagement and societal impact - and its capacity to attract key stakeholders and build national and international partnerships, including through its membership in the RUS (Network of Universities for Sustainable Development). Equally important are its collaboration with other local development actors and its dedication to creating added value for the communities it serves.



[Visit the website to read the full Vision and Mission of the University](#)

The principle of sustainability is therefore embedded in the Strategic Plan, a planning document that outlines the University's development pathways in support of sustainable growth. Alongside the Integrated Plan of Activities and Organization (PIAO), the Performance Report, and the Sustainability Report, this document contributes to the integration and articulation of the University's Vision and Mission and the definition and monitoring of its strategies and policies.



[Strategic Plan](#)



[Integrated Plan of Activities
and Organization](#)



[Performance Report](#)

Since 2016, Tor Vergata University of Rome has relied on an interdisciplinary Committee to implement its Mission and Vision in support of Sustainable Development to give concrete form to the actions undertaken in pursuit of its strategic sustainability goals. This committee brings together sustainability representatives appointed by the University's Departments, and has been coordinated since 2022 by Professor Gloria Fiorani.

[University
Committee for
Sustainable
Development](#)



[University
Governance
Team](#)

The University's numbers



6 Macro-areas



18 Departments

Education and training offer divided into:

- > **118 degree courses**
- > **37 PhD courses**
- > **136 postgraduate master's programs**
- > **49 specialisation schools**



393rd among universities in the world and 12th at the national level, according to the **QS World University ranking 2025**, which measures the reputation, quality of education and research, and the employability of graduates of universities around the world, positioning itself among the "top 26"



315th globally, 149th in Europe, and 11th in Italy in the third edition of the **QS World University Rankings dedicated to Sustainability**, which measures the ability of universities to address the major environmental, social, and governance (ESG) challenges



12th among Italian universities and 1st among large state universities in the central-southern area in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking of the best universities in the world in the main academic missions

Reading guide

Tor Vergata University of Rome prepares its Sustainability Report annually, in accordance with the GRI Standards and the RUS-GBS Standard and Implementation Manual. This current edition, approved by the Board of Directors during the June 24, 2025 meeting, presents data referring to the 2024/2025 academic year and the 2024 calendar year. It illustrates the journey the University is undertaking - thanks to the full and active involvement of every part of its community - to establish itself as an institution that is attentive, efficient, responsible, and committed to sustainability. To highlight the impact of the actions undertaken, the activities and results described in the following sections are visually marked with icons representing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the four thematic areas of the United Nations Global Compact's Ten Principles (human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption). This visual system allows each area to clearly reflect the University's specific contribution to the global sustainability goals promoted by the UN.



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



Education and student services



At Tor Vergata University of Rome, students are at the heart of educational design and operational planning. This is why the University is committed to continuously improving the services it provides, guaranteeing innovative, interdisciplinary academic programs aligned with the principles of sustainability. The goal is to prepare responsible citizens ready to meet the challenges of the professional world.



33,747 enrolled students for the 2024/2025 academic year
42% male and 58% female (+3,76% compared to previous academic year)

3,874 international students mainly from Asia and Europe enrolled in the 2024/2025 academic year

1,505 students participated in mobility programs such as Erasmus+, Student Traineeship, and OverSeas, with 755 incoming and 750 outgoing



5,949 graduates in 2024, including 3,246 bachelor's degrees, 2,140 master's degrees, and 563 single-cycle degrees

47 participants in postgraduate courses

590 participants in first-level masters

1,208 participants in second-level masters

3,535 scholarships, prizes, and grants awarded to high-achieving students, totalling € 4.78 million



61.8% of graduates find employment within one year of graduation, outperforming the national average of 55.3%
45% of graduates rate their university experience very positively
72% would choose the same degree program again at Tor Vergata University of Rome

Inclusive Tor Vergata

- **725 students with disabilities and 608 with specific learning disabilities (SLDs)**
- **1 reasonable accommodation strategy**, developed by CARIS - the University Committee for the Inclusion of Students with Disabilities and SLDs -, involving tutoring interventions, aids, educational adaptations, and dedicated financial measures such as exemptions and concessions
- **71 incarcerated students** were enrolled in the 2024/2025 academic year through the "University in Prison" program

Education for sustainable development



- **Around 160 courses and over 20 master's and external programs** related to sustainable development, territorial governance, social innovation, sustainability reporting, quality of life, health and safety, and social inclusion
- **326 certificates** have been issued - 227 to students and 99 to faculty and staff - following completion of the **ASviS e-learning course "Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals"** in the last five years



Research value and impact

For Tor Vergata University of Rome, research represents the driving force for development and well-being, an engine capable of advancing society along a path of sustainable growth. 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, fostering joint and collaborative participatory projects, and creating strategic partnerships both nationally and internationally.



455 tenured researchers (191 women and 264 men)

571 research fellows (296 women and 275 men)

1,354 PhD students (711 women and 643 men)

161 international PhD students (90 women and 71 men)

4,871 scientific publications were produced in 2024 - an increase of 10% over the previous year - with an average citation impact of 2.06 (4,446 in 2023)



2.06 average citation impact

22.6% were published in top-tier national and international journals

35 patent families were active, mainly in science and engineering



5,864 international collaborations with universities and companies in the 2021-2024 quadrennial, mostly in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region

2,421 research contracts on commission

€6.28 million in revenue generated from competitive and commissioned research in 2024

Research in the Field of Sustainability

- **14% increase in the number of publications in the field of sustainability** compared to the previous biennium, totalling 2,125 in 2024
- **43.6 publications out of 100 addressed topics related to sustainable development**
- **6 participations in entities operating in the field of sustainable development and social innovation**
- **3 projects - two by researchers** (Salus Vision Mobile - SAVIMO, FERT - Cleantech & Energy) and **one by students** (HALA) - were winners at the 10th edition of StartCup Lazio 2024





Dissemination and knowledge sharing. Initiatives on the environment and collaboration with multiple social and economic actors

The University carries out numerous non-profit initiatives with educational, cultural, and social value, aimed at sharing the benefits of higher education and research.



5 events organised within the **2024 Festival of Sustainable Development** promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS)

around 80 participants in **Action for Climate - Climbing for Climate 6**, an initiative to raise awareness on climate change, promoted by the RUS (Network of Universities for Sustainable Development), in collaboration with the CAI (Italian Alpine Club) of Rieti

1 clean-up national event dedicated to social environmental responsibility, sustainable development and reinforcement of collective responsible engagement through the cleaning of an adjacent area to the campus.

30 volunteers engaged including students, staff, and citizens
186 kg of waste collected

1,056 students, from the 2014/2015 academic year, participating in the "New Economy Laboratories - Designing and Innovating Sustainably", aimed at developing innovative solutions to local needs of the territory

231 projects were submitted, across **11 editions**, mainly related to **6 thematic areas**: circular economy, tourism and culture, agri-food and agriculture, urban regeneration, sports, and well-being

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

6 assistance and healthcare services for students, including psychological counseling, sexual health advice, and general healthcare

1 "Elena Gianini Belotti" Anti-Violence Centre with the aim of offering women support, protection, legal assistance, psychological assistance and support, a path out of violence, and guidance

11 initiatives promoted by the University's **Equal Opportunities Committee (CUG)**, supported gender equality and anti-discrimination efforts protecting women

20 theses on gender issues were recognized with the "Giulia Cecchetti" Thesis Award in its first edition - **12** at the bachelor's level and **8** at the master's level

6 educational initiatives were held at the Botanical Garden to promote environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and social integration.

30 users in average involved in daily green therapy and inclusion activities in collaboration with ASL Roma2 local health services, social cooperatives, foster homes, and day centres in the area

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

32 sports and cultural events organised by CUS Tor Vergata with **3,678 participants**

313 pathways for transversal skills and orientation (PCTO) were activated with **89 schools**, involving **6,588 students**



Enhancing and engaging human resources

Working at Tor Vergata University of Rome means being part of an organization where everyone is empowered to contribute to shared goals and express their talent and professionalism. Human capital is the University's greatest strength and competitive advantage in delivering quality services, teaching, and research.

2,348 employees working in various areas of the University, with a 2.5% increase compared to 2022



1,330 faculty members (495 women and 835 men)

1,018 technical, administrative, managerial, and library staff (641 women and 377 men)

26% of total working hours performed in agile mode, used by 63% of female employees and 31% of male employees

+6% improvement in the Glass Ceiling Index (equal opportunities index) of the teaching staff compared to 2023



7,345 hours of professional training provided to technical, administrative, and library staff in foreign languages, IT, and interdisciplinary areas

630 participants in specialised 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 plans, public transport subsidies, Metrebus travel passes, nursery reimbursements, etc.

University Gender Budgeting and Equality

Tor Vergata University of Rome promotes the affirmation of equal opportunities through measures for the prevention and contrast of gender-based violence. Since 2020, the University has promoted gender equality through the publication of a Gender Budget, which identifies strengths and areas for improvement in achieving gender parity. These insights inform targeted actions. Since 2021, the University has also published a Gender Equality Plan, outlining its internal strategy to foster gender equality and equal opportunities.

For more information, refer to the four editions of the Gender Budget and the three editions of the Gender Equality Plan available on the University website.





Environmental respect and protection

Environmental protection, efficient resource management, and land stewardship are core priorities at Tor Vergata University of Rome.



100% of electricity came from renewable sources, certified by Guarantees of Origin (GO) from GSE

18,761 kWh total electricity consumption (-7.12% compared to 2022, partly due to relamping projects in the Humanities, Engineering, and Economics macro-areas)

1 national inventory of CO₂ emissions, prepared according to the RUS Climate Change guidelines for Italian universities, with 2024 data on Scope 1 and Scope 2, calculated using ISPRA and UNFCCC factors

5,847 tCO₂eq total emissions, of which 1,442 tCO₂eq from direct emissions (Scope 1) and 4,405 tCO₂eq from electricity consumption (Scope 2)

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

- **"SEDIA" project** introduced **18 eco-friendly (solar charging modules) outdoor benches**, which since 2021 are **learning and gathering stations** across the campus (macro-areas and rectorate)
- **"CARTA" project**, an initiative born to promote paper recycling and circular economy awareness with **8 collection points** across the campus.
- **"GOCCIA" project**, an initiative aimed to significantly reduce single-use plastic by encouraging reusable bottles and installing **26 water dispensers** across macro-areas in the campus

5 days, during the **2024 Green Food Week**, all faculties and macro-areas offered sustainable menus with low environmental impact, inspired by FoodInsider guidelines

83-hectare Botanical Garden available to the university community and the public, which hosts:

- **1 research center active at the Botanical Garden** for germplasm conservation aimed at protecting the plant biodiversity of Lazio, safeguarding threatened and endemic species, and preserving ancient and modern cultivars of nutritional and medicinal value
- **1 CO₂ garden** for the reduction of greenhouse gas or climate-altering emissions, which, once fully operational, will be able to absorb about 2 tons of CO₂ per year
- **1 research line on phytoremediation** for the natural remediation of contaminated soils and waters, using plant species selected in vitro capable of absorbing, retaining, and degrading pollutants
- **1 photovoltaic system** of 6 kW that, since November 2020, allows the University to autonomously produce electricity from renewable sources

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

Green Plan

Approved in March 2024, the Green Plan is the University's strategic document for ecological transition. Aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the European Green Deal, it defines guidelines, commitments, and operational actions across key areas such as energy, water, mobility, waste, green procurement, food, and environmental education. Its main goal is to integrate environmental sustainability into all management and organizational decisions through a systemic, measurable, and participatory approach.

Detailed action plans and environmental targets are available on the Green Plan webpage.





Ethical and transparent management, economic sustainability, and performance improvement



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

2,090 hours of anti-corruption training were delivered to 95 staff members

281,949 total accesses to the "Transparent Administration" website, with over 30,000 in 2024 alone



around 50% of the University's suppliers come from the local reference territory

361,487,000 € in economic value attracted by the University (+9.9% compared to 2023)



342,060,000 € in economic value distributed among internal stakeholders (professors and TAB staff), institutional stakeholders (PA), and external stakeholders (financial intermediaries, partners, and suppliers)

Strategic Performance and "Tor Vergata Public Value" BSC

Since 2022, the University has implemented the "Tor Vergata Public Value" Balanced Scorecard (BSC), a strategic planning and evaluation tool designed to measure the integrated impact of teaching, research, and third mission activities in terms of value generation for the community. Comprising over 50 indicators, the "Tor Vergata Public Value" BSC monitors resources, efficiency, service quality, and the social, economic, and environmental outcomes of University initiatives, constantly evaluating its progress and impact while guiding its continuous improvement.

Further details on the indicators and results of the "Tor Vergata Public Value" BSC are available on the University website.



Future outlook

WHAT...



RAISE AWARENESS WITHIN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The University aims to promote a culture of sustainability within its core activities -education, research, and third mission.

FOSTER ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

The University seeks to encourage student academic reflection on the principles and goals of the 2030 Agenda.

IMPROVE ESG SCORE IN RANKINGS

The University is committed to enhancing its position in international rankings that assess social, environmental, and governance sustainability performance in higher education.

HOW...



EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Develop academic programs to deepen knowledge on sustainability issues and support the adoption of sustainable lifestyles on campus.

LAUNCH OF GRADUATION THESIS AWARDS

Reward academic thesis works that address sustainability topics from multidisciplinary and applied perspectives.

KPI MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING

Accurately measure and monitor sustainability performance to respond effectively to evaluation indicators.

The 2024 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

Cover: Luca Toscano

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 Professor Gloria Fiorani 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.



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To consult the full version of the 2024 Sustainability Report:



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