DNU Sustainability Report 2025: Progress against the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Nov 3, 2026

In 2025 Oles Honchar Dnipro National University (DNU) worked towards all 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals through teaching, research, public engagement and partnerships, while operating in a frontline region under martial law. This report sets out the university's own activities and results for calendar year 2025 (academic year 2024-25 where stated), one section per SDG. It is published annually on the university website.

DNU's Development Strategy 2026-2030, approved by the Academic Council on 25 December 2025 (protocol No. 8, Rector's Order No. 407 of 26 December 2025), aligns the university's goals with the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine and the UN to 2030 and treats education for sustainable development as a cross-cutting competence.

DNU in 2025	Value
Students (all levels)	8,721
New students enrolled	2,514 (1,637 bachelor's, 792 master's, 85 PhD)
Graduates	2,201 (1,327 bachelor's, 840 master's, 34 PhD)
Employees (5 December 2025)	1,388
Joint research programmes with foreign partners	6 (incl. Simons Foundation, Horizon 2020, Erasmus+ CBHE, Charles University)
Founded	1918

Sources: Rector's report on 2025 performance; DNU summary of 2025 results; DNU news releases cited in each section.

SDG 1 - No poverty

In 2025 DNU housed 226 displaced families from Mariupol in one of its largest dormitories and kept student housing at 10% of the minimum wage.

- **Housing for displaced people.** Under the state programme "I am Mariupol", 226 families from Mariupol live in a DNU dormitory. Dormitory No. 4 is reserved for internally displaced students.

- **Affordable student housing.** A dormitory place costs students 800 UAH per month, 10% of Ukraine's 2025 minimum wage (8,000 UAH), under tariffs valid to 31 August 2026.
- **Repairs with humanitarian partners.** In October-November 2025 Global Empowerment Mission, the International Organization for Migration and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation installed 163 new windows in dormitories housing students and displaced people.
- **Support for displaced communities.** In summer 2025 DNU staff ran the children's playground "Growing Together 2025" for the displaced Sievierodonetsk community in Dnipro.
- **Reduced fees.** The Botanical Garden and the Aquarium complex charge reduced fees to internally displaced persons and combat veterans.
- **Research.** D. Furhalo published "Country strategies to address poverty and inequality as Sustainable Development Goals" (International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies, No. 4(24), 2025).

Sources: news 6534, student housing, news 6439, news 6503, news 6311.

SDG 2 - Zero hunger

In 2025 DNU started a state-funded project to restore the fertility of farmland damaged by the war and continued fish-stock research that supports food supply from Dnipro reservoirs.

- **Restoring war-damaged farmland.** Since January 2025 the Ministry of Education and Science has funded the DNU project "Agrobiotechnological approaches to restoring soil fertility of farmland affected by hostilities" (leader Dr V. Brygadyrenko, 2025-2027), DNU's top-scored project in the 2025 national competition.
- **Sustainable fisheries.** DNU hydrobiologists assessed commercial fish stocks and forecast the 2026 catch of Leuciscidae fish in the Dnipro Reservoir (Marenkov, Nesterenko and Borovyk, 2025).
- **Food security research.** Prof. V. Nikolenko proposed three indicators of household food insecurity and applied them to Ukraine (Folklore: Electronic Journal of Folklore, vol. 95, 2025).

Sources: news 6082, Nikolenko 2025.

SDG 3 - Good health and well-being

In 2025 DNU's free Psychological Service supported students and staff, and in December 2025 the Cabinet of Ministers' Coordination Centre for Mental Health gave DNU the regional "Power of Gratitude" award for its mental well-being system. In 2025, 51 students graduated in health professions, including psychology.

- **Mental health support.** Eight practical psychologists provide free, anonymous counselling, diagnostics, group trainings and psychoeducation to students, PhD students, teachers and staff.
- **Public mental health events.** Within the national programme "How are you?" DNU hosted the regional Day of Joint Action on mental health services (23 January 2025), an autism awareness event for families of children with disabilities (4 April 2025) and "Touches of Support" for World Mental Health Day (10 October 2025).
- **Health partnerships.** DNU students train at 19 partner health institutions under cooperation agreements, including Mechnikov Dnipropetrovsk Regional Clinical Hospital and the Regional Centre of Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery.
- **Student well-being research.** From 30 September 2025 DNU joined the Erasmus+ project BALANCE with seven European universities on the physical, mental and social well-being of young people.
- **Rehabilitation training.** In February 2025 the charity "Daruiemo mozhlyvist" equipped DNU's "Adaptive Space", where students learn to adapt homes for people with disabilities.
- **Smoke-free campus.** Rector's Order No. 26-g of 14 July 2022 bans smoking, including e-cigarettes and hookahs, in all buildings and on the whole university territory.
- **Health education.** The 2024-25 University Elective Catalogue, open to all students, includes "Psychology of health", "Psychological aspects of human sexuality", "Conscious parenthood" and "Basics of medical knowledge with pre-hospital first aid".

Sources: Psychological Service, news 6026, news 6422, news 6556, news 6413, news 6052.

SDG 4 - Quality education

In 2025 DNU taught 8,721 students, enrolled 2,514 new students, graduated 2,201 (1,327 bachelor's, 840 master's and 34 PhD graduates) and opened a shelter-coworking space so that teaching on campus could continue during air raids.

- **Safe in-person learning.** On 5 February 2025 DNU opened CLUST SPACE DNIPRO, a 550 m2 smart shelter and coworking space for about 350 people, funded by donors led by Freedom Holding Corp. It won the Red Dot Design Award 2025.

- **Open electives.** The 2025-26 University Elective Catalogue offers 220 courses that students of every programme can choose.
- **Lifelong learning.** From 11 to 22 August 2025 DNU's Centre for Postgraduate Education ran a 90-hour (3 ECTS) course for 30 veterans and their relatives; by December 2025, 25 graduates worked in local government. In 2025, 98 staff of other universities completed professional development at DNU.
- **Schools outreach.** The Faculty of Chemistry's Club of Young Researchers ran lectures and workshops for 152 pupils and 22 teachers from across the region. The Faculty of Biology and Ecology held bioquests for 40+ pupils (12 April) and 80+ pupils (28 October). DNU hosted a STEM MeetUP for school teachers on 4 March 2025.
- **Free access to resources.** The Scientific Library is open to all citizens with an identity document; its computer hall offers free internet.
- **Digital learning.** The Erasmus+ project DigiFLEd equipped DNU's Digital Language Hub (equipment worth over 1 million UAH, February 2025).
- **Learning from partners.** In November 2025, under Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs grant 25-PKVV-UM-004, DNU studied Charles University's lifelong-learning and micro-credential model to build retraining courses for veterans.

Sources: news 6042, news 6346, news 6568, news 6472, news 6083, library, news 6056, news 6481, news 6583.

SDG 5 - Gender equality

In 2025 DNU worked under its Gender Equality Policy 2023-2025, taught gender awareness to students of all programmes and published research on barriers to women's leadership.

- **Policy.** The Gender Equality Policy 2023-2025 (Rector's Order N-121 of 28 April 2023) was in force throughout 2025; it was followed by the Gender Equality Policy 2026-2030 (Order N-84 of 23 March 2026).
- **Equal rights in the Statute.** The DNU Statute (2024, art. 1.15) guarantees equal opportunities regardless of sex and gender identity and sets zero tolerance of harassment and discrimination.
- **Teaching.** The University Elective Catalogue offers all students "Formation of gender awareness of a modern student" and "History of gender relations".
- **Research.** Prof. T. Haltseva and O. Teliegina published "Psychological barriers to female leadership: the invisible dimension of the power labyrinth" (Journal of Psychology Research, vol. 31(14), 2025).

Sources: Statute 2024, University Elective Catalogue 2025-26.

SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation

In 2025 DNU's NAYADA station tracked 14 hydrochemical indicators of the Dnipro River with open public data, and DNU received new laboratory equipment for water and soil pollution analysis.

- **Continuous water monitoring.** DNU and the Environmental Monitoring Centre of Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council run the automated NAYADA surface-water station at DNU's Aquarium complex on Monastyrskyi Island (memorandum of June 2022). Its data are open, so residents can check water safety; DNU scientists give recommendations when values deviate.
- **New equipment.** In February 2025 the Czech Development Agency, through the NGO Arnika, provided a spectrophotometer for water and soil pollutants and a microscope for plankton counts.
- **Published results.** O. Marenkov and five DNU colleagues, with the Environmental Monitoring Centre and Dnipro Polytechnic, published a year of NAYADA-2 data on the Zaporizke (Dniprovske) Reservoir (Journal of Chemistry and Technologies, 33(2), July 2025).
- **Public dialogue.** On the eve of World Water Day 2025 DNU held a round table on the state of water bodies during the war and the restoration of aquatic ecosystems. On 14-16 October 2025 DNU presented its two certified water laboratories at AQUA UKRAINE 2025 in Kyiv.
- **Recognition.** DNU young scientists received the Verkhovna Rada Prize for their work on hydroecological monitoring of water bodies in the Dnipro region.

Sources: news 6068, NAYADA-2 article, news 6126, news 6436, news 6207.

SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy

In 2025 DNU invested 11.2 million UAH in repairs and energy independence, including 3 million UAH from a Horizon 2020 grant for solar power stations, and put a 30 kW hybrid solar plant into operation.

- **Solar power on campus.** A 30 kW hybrid solar power plant, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (Order No. 1351 of 20 September 2024; equipment 1,554,000 UAH), supplies DNU's Centre for Collective Use of Scientific Equipment and can serve one more faculty.
- **Energy independence.** Of the 11.2 million UAH spent on infrastructure repair and energy independence in 2025, 8.2 million UAH came from the Ministry and 3 million UAH from the Horizon 2020 grant.

- **Degree programmes.** DNU teaches the Bachelor's programme "Renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies" and the Master's programme "Non-traditional and renewable energy sources".
- **Research.** V. Palchykov received a Fulbright grant (September 2025 - April 2026, Carnegie Mellon University) to develop molecular photoswitches for solar thermal energy storage. A. Siasiev and co-authors published new algorithms for managing hybrid solar-wind-battery systems (Sustainable Engineering and Innovation, 7(1), 2025).

Sources: news 6344, news 6583, news 6313, programmes 2025.

SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth

In 2025 DNU employed 1,388 people, raised its own revenue to 172.6 million UAH (up 73% since 2022) and helped veterans into work.

- **Employment of veterans.** On 30 October 2025 DNU co-organised the regional Career Day for Veterans with Lobby X, the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Military Administration, IREX and the NGO "Free People Employment Centre": free career counselling, a candidate database and employer training. Of the 30 veterans who completed DNU's August 2025 course, 25 were working in local government by December 2025.
- **Work with industry.** DNU carried out 22 contract research projects for companies and public bodies worth 2.43 million UAH.
- **Green growth dialogue.** On 22-23 May 2025 DNU hosted the international conference "Green economy and green growth - opportunities for sustainable development" (Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module EUGDProSED) and a round table with the regional administration and businesses including BASF-Chemetall and Oril-Leader on green modernisation and ESG.
- **Research.** Prof. V. Makedon co-authored a clustering of European countries by innovativeness, inclusiveness, sustainability and resilience of growth (Economy and Society, No. 72, 2025).

Sources: news 6467, news 6568, news 6583, news 6244, news 6246.

SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure

In 2025 DNU won a record 20.31 million UAH in state research funding and ranked first in Dnipropetrovsk region and eighth in Ukraine for Scopus publications.

- **Research funding.** State funding from Ministry of Education and Science competitions reached 20.31 million UAH; research grants brought a further 9.81 million UAH.

- **University-industry research.** O. Petrenko and V. Pererva (DNU) with Flight Control LLC tested a Hall-effect thruster with permanent magnets for low-power spacecraft propulsion (Eastern-European Journal of Enterprise Technologies, 1/5(133), 2025).
- **Innovation with local partners.** Since May 2025 DNU biologists and cybersecurity students have been developing remote tools to monitor tree health in the Botanical Garden, with support from Noosphere Engineering School Dnipro.
- **Research output.** In 2025 DNU was first in the region and eighth in Ukraine for Scopus publications, and second in the region for Scopus citations.

Sources: news 6583, Petrenko et al. 2025, news 6386.

SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities

In 2025 DNU ran special admission routes for applicants from occupied territories and with disabilities, adopted a procedure for accompanying people with disabilities and hosted the regional Accessibility Council.

- **Equal rights.** The DNU Statute (2024) guarantees equal opportunities regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender identity, age or religion, with zero tolerance of harassment and discrimination (art. 1.15), and requires accessible buildings or reasonable accommodation (art. 8.6).
- **Access to admission.** Under the Admission Rules 2025 (Order No. 78 of 27 March 2025), Quota-1 reserves state-funded places for applicants with disabilities and other entitled groups, and Quota-2 for applicants from occupied and frontline territories. The "Donbas-Ukraine" and "Crimea-Ukraine" centres at DNU admitted applicants from occupied territories in person or remotely from 1 June to 30 September.
- **Accessible campus.** Ramps serve building No. 14 and dormitory No. 5, lifts serve buildings No. 1 and No. 11, and dormitory No. 5 has ground-floor rooms adapted for wheelchair users. In 2025 DNU adopted a Procedure for accompanying persons with disabilities and persons with temporary physical impairments.
- **Regional leadership on accessibility.** On 29 May 2025 DNU hosted the Accessibility Council of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Military Administration and published an accessibility guide; on 21 August 2025 it hosted a forum on barrier-free communication.
- **Research.** L. Nikolenko reviewed how Ukrainian universities organise inclusive education (Exceptional Child: Education and Upbringing, 117(1), 2025).

Sources: Statute 2024, Admission Rules 2025, admission from occupied territories, Inclusive Space, news 6255, news 6339.

SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

In 2025 DNU kept its nationally protected Botanical Garden, museum, library and cultural venues open to the city, with about 10,000 visitors a year to the Garden alone.

- **Green space for the city.** The DNU Botanical Garden (founded 1930, protected territory of national significance since 1963) covers 27.5 ha, of which 10.5 ha is a free-access recreation zone. On 4 October 2025 it celebrated its 95th anniversary with an open festival for residents, and on 3 May 2025 it hosted its first open-air charity concert.
- **Museums and library.** The Zoological Museum displays 921 species and 7,623 items, including 165 Red List species, and runs guided excursions. The Scientific Library is free to use; external readers register with a passport.
- **Culture.** The Palace of Students' Culture, a listed building of 1787-1790, hosts six creative collectives, four with the state title "People's", and about 200 cultural and educational events in the two years to May 2025. The theatre studio "Masky" premiered a new production on 29 March 2025.
- **Heritage.** In 2024-25 journalism students created the "Literary Map of Dnipro" on streets named after writers. On 6-7 November 2025 DNU held the 5th Yavornytskyi Readings with regional heritage institutions (66 papers).
- **Housing.** DNU's seven dormitories offer 2,355 places in dormitories No. 2-7 at 800 UAH per month for students.
- **Urban health research.** T. Rusakova and DNU colleagues mapped dust pollution and health risks along a quarry access road, where PM10 reached 6.2 times the limit (Eastern-European Journal of Enterprise Technologies, 5/10(137), 2025).

Sources: Botanical Garden, news 6417, Zoological Museum, Library rules, news 6196, news 6320, news 6491.

SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production

In 2025 DNU managed its waste under the new national waste law, taught sustainability and ESG to students of all fields and researched the global plastic waste trade.

- **Waste management.** For 2025 DNU contracted municipal solid waste management services (4,962.1 m3) with delivery to designated waste facilities, in line with the Law of Ukraine "On Waste Management" No. 2320-IX of 20 June 2022.
- **Campus clean-ups.** DNU students and staff cleaned campus green areas from 15 to 23 April 2025 and joined the regional "Clean Oblast" campaign in June 2025.

- **Teaching.** The 2025-26 University Elective Catalogue offers "Sustainable development and environmental strategy" to bachelor's students of all fields and "Corporate governance in the context of sustainable development and ESG transformations" to master's students of all fields. The Jean Monnet Module on the European Green Deal teaches green investment and eco-startups.
- **Research.** N. Krasnikova, O. Krupskyi and DNU colleagues analysed how plastic-waste exporting countries adapted after China's 2018 import ban (Journal of Chemistry and Technologies, 33(3), 2025).

Sources: waste services 2025, news 6181, news 6265, University Elective Catalogue 2025-26, Jean Monnet, Krasnikova et al. 2025.

SDG 13 - Climate action

In 2025 DNU assessed forest carbon sequestration for the state forestry enterprise, monitored Antarctic ecosystems under a warming climate and held an international round table on AI for climate neutrality.

- **Forest carbon.** Under 2025 contracts with the state enterprise "Forests of Ukraine", DNU assessed land for afforestation in the steppe zone and the carbon sequestration potential of forest stands.
- **Climate monitoring.** DNU researcher S. Yermolenko monitored terrestrial ecosystems at the Ukrainian Antarctic station "Akademik Vernadsky" (29th Ukrainian Antarctic Expedition) as temperatures rise.
- **International dialogue.** On 17 October 2025 DNU held the international round table "Artificial intelligence for a green future" with Prof. E. Krah of TH Koln (Germany), within DNU's state-funded project on AI strategies for sustainable development and EU and Ukrainian climate-neutrality goals.
- **Campus engagement.** DNU marked Earth Day on 22 April 2025 across its buildings.
- **Research.** K. Heti (DNU) and co-authors from Ukraine and the USA reviewed engineering strategies for climate adaptation, energy storage and greener buildings (Sustainable Engineering and Innovation, 7(1), 2025).

Sources: contracts list, news 6130, news 6452, news 6181, Heti et al. 2025.

SDG 14 - Life below water

In 2025 DNU's research on war-damaged rivers and reservoirs fed into the rules for fishing in the Zaporizke (Dnipro) Reservoir basin, and DNU monitored rivers for industry and city councils.

- **Science for fisheries regulation.** In the 2025 stage of the state-funded project "Assessment of damage, restoration and rehabilitation of water and coastal ecosystems" (reg. No. 0124U000254, supervisor O. Marenkov), DNU studied the biology, chemistry and radioecology of Dnipro region water bodies and proposed a method to calculate ecological damage. The results were used in regulatory documents on the use of aquatic bioresources in the Zaporizke Reservoir basin.
- **Rivers monitored for operators and communities.** 2025 contracts covered fish and biocenosis monitoring of the Saksahan River for JSC Kryvbaszalizrudkom, biomonitoring of the Styr River for the Rivne Nuclear Power Plant, and bio-ameliorative works on the Vovcha River for Pavlohrad City Council.
- **Species conservation.** DNU's Aquarium complex conserves and breeds rare and valuable freshwater species and runs an educational aquaculture laboratory. In March 2025 DNU presented a WWF-Ukraine guide, co-authored by its hydrobiologists, on artificial spawning grounds for sturgeon.
- **Research.** O. Kunakh (DNU) and partners from Aarhus University and Ukrainian institutions showed how remote sensing detects the effects of eutrophication and warming on fish communities (Fishes, 10(7):338, 2025).

Sources: UkrINTEI report 0226U003012, contracts list, Aquarium, news 6126, Kunakh et al. 2025.

SDG 15 - Life on land

In 2025 DNU began a state-funded project to bring native plants and animals back to land damaged by the war and hosted the 13th international conference ZOOCENOSIS on biodiversity.

- **Restoring war-damaged land.** Since January 2025 the Ministry of Education and Science has funded the DNU young scientists' project led by Dr T. Lykholat on reintroducing native flora and fauna to territories destroyed or damaged by military and human activity (one of 82 projects selected from 168).
- **Biodiversity conference.** On 13-15 November 2025 DNU hosted "ZOOCENOSIS-2025. Biodiversity and the role of animals in ecosystems" with the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (57 papers), covering protected areas, invasive species, Red Book species and the effects of war on ecosystems.
- **Plant conservation.** The Botanical Garden holds more than 3,500 plant species, varieties and cultivars and is a member of Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Since May 2025 DNU has been developing remote tools to monitor the health of its trees.

- **Nature education.** The Faculty of Biology and Ecology ran bioquests on wild animals and aquatic organisms for school pupils on 12 April and 28 October 2025.
- **Research.** O. Lisovets and O. Kunakh tracked how vegetation on Khortytsia Island changed after the destruction of the Kakhovka Reservoir (PeerJ 13:e19607, 2025).

Sources: news 5992, ZOOCENOSIS-2025 proceedings, Botanical Garden, news 6386, news 6472, Lisovets et al. 2025.

SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

In 2025 DNU hosted a Verkhovna Rada committee round table, 22 of its scientists served on Ministry of Education and Science expert commissions, and the university adopted a new Anti-Corruption Programme for 2026-2028. In 2025, 134 students graduated in law.

- **Neutral platform for policy dialogue.** On 30 July 2025 DNU hosted the off-site round table "Veteran policy. Honour and respect!" of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Social Policy and Protection of Veterans' Rights, with three ministries, three regional military administrations, the Ombudsman's office and veterans' NGOs. DNU also hosted the public discussion "Voice of Crimea" (February 2025) and a forum on religious freedom (August 2025).
- **Expert advice to government.** 22 DNU scientists on the Ministry of Education and Science expert commissions reviewed 80 research project proposals and 79 research reports.
- **Participatory governance.** Elected students make up 10% and elected non-academic staff 10% of the 80-member Academic Council (Regulation of 26 September 2024). Student self-government is independent of the administration and receives at least 0.5% of the university's own revenue.
- **Integrity.** DNU's Anti-Corruption Compliance Concept sets zero tolerance of corruption; DNU published its 2025 anti-corruption plan and report and in December 2025 adopted the Anti-Corruption Programme 2026-2028 (Order No. 414).
- **Justice partnerships.** DNU signed memoranda with the Dnipropetrovsk District Administrative Court (January 2025) and the Southern Interregional Department of the Ministry of Justice (September 2025).
- **Research.** Prof. O. Sokolenko, Dean of the Faculty of Law, analysed how Ukrainian courts apply European Court of Human Rights case law (Analytical and Comparative Jurisprudence, No. 4, 2025).

Sources: news 6329, news 6079, news 6349, news 6082, Academic Council Regulation, Student Self-Government Regulation, Compliance Concept, news 6016, news 6381.

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals

In 2025 DNU signed 21 new international agreements (90 in total), ran six joint international programmes and sent 64 staff and 35 students abroad under partner programmes.

- **International projects.** Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Module EUGDProSED on the European Green Deal; Erasmus+ BALANCE on youth well-being with Charles University and six other European universities (from September 2025); Erasmus+ CBHE DigiFLEd on digital language teaching; Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs grants with Charles University.
- **New alliances.** On 7 July 2025 DNU signed a memorandum with the University Alliance Ruhr (Bochum, Dortmund, Duisburg-Essen) for the DniPRONrw project, funded by North Rhine-Westphalia: digital courses, credit recognition and summer schools.
- **Environmental data with international partners.** With the Czech Development Agency, the NGO Arnika and the regional Environmental Monitoring Centre, DNU expanded open monitoring of Dnipro water quality.
- **Regional policy partnerships.** On 27 November 2025 the Council of Rectors of Dnipropetrovsk region, chaired by DNU's Rector, signed a three-year memorandum with the Regional Military Administration's education department and the charity "Children of the New Generation" on resilient education.
- **NGO partnerships.** In February 2025 DNU signed a memorandum with the youth NGO "Unit" on joint research, volunteering and young people's mental health; in August 2025 it trained 30 veterans with UNDP-linked and veterans' NGOs.
- **Research.** O. Marchenko, I. Paterylo and D. Stavchenko (Faculty of Law) analysed how international partnerships with the USA and the EBRD support environmental recovery in Ukraine (Analytical and Comparative Jurisprudence, No. 3, 2025).

Sources: news 6583, news 6244, news 6413, news 6303, news 6068, news 6534, news 6063, news 6346.