

SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES ROUNDTABLE: LEARNING TO LIVE BETTER AND LIGHTER

14-15 March 2024

Venue: Business and Technology University, Tbilisi, Georgia

Brief concept

Have you ever wondered if our daily decisions could make a difference? Our future depends on the decisions and actions taken today. By 2050, the world's population may reach a whopping 10 billion people. With more people comes more consumption – of food, fashion, travel, and related aspirations. Two to three billion of these will be urban, young consumers, who receive 90% of their information from social media. In a world stretched thin for resources and under threats of global climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, how can we enact change? We are all designers of our future – as individuals and in our roles in business or government and we have the power to effect positive change, no matter who we are, or where we live.

UNEP is accelerating action towards a healthy planet and prosperity of all, inter alia, by addressing and promoting sustainable lifestyles and consumption to enable us to live better and lighter in a 1.5-degree world. More precisely, the 1.5°C lifestyles are about how individuals, governments and business consume and how to change our consumption pattern. By reducing consumption and waste, reusing and recycling, we contribute to circular economy growth and carbon footprint minimization.

[The Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals \(GO4SDGs\)](#) takes an active stance to accelerate the progress necessary to meet the 2030 Agenda. The Initiative builds partnerships to connect global initiatives with regional needs and solutions by supporting GOVERNMENTS (to strengthen policy coherence), SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (access for financing innovation and circularity), and YOUTH (to empower them to embrace sustainable lifestyles). Thus, GO4SDGs is active in the region of Europe and Central Asia and supports activities to empower youth to embrace sustainable 1.5-degree lifestyles. To understand and embrace sustainable lifestyles thinking, pilot activities were launched in 2022, in close partnership with the Kazakh German University, to implement ‘Green Nudges’, and to develop research projects for universities to facilitate positive change through influencing behavioral pattern and decision-making.

The activities also targeted to sustain and expand the Universities interaction into the Sustainable Lifestyles University Network (SLUN) with an official launching during the festival, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in June 2023. As of now, the project engages some 25 Universities which have expressed an interest in becoming sustainable and promoting Sustainable Lifestyles on and beyond the campus. Most of them are from Central Asian countries. The Sustainable Lifestyles University Network is growing along with an increased demand to know more and develop capacities for sustainable living and lifestyles and related domains of food, mobility, housing, and leisure (which includes consumer goods and tourism). Universities play a pivotal role in shaping the leaders of tomorrow, so, join us for this educator-based festival on what should and can be done and what is already happening. Get motivated and get focused!

Objective of the Sustainable Lifestyles Roundtable is to share international and regional best practices and experience, engage in meaningful discussions, and explore innovative strategies for integrating sustainable lifestyles on campus in universities of Caucasus, ultimately contributing to the development of sustainable lifestyles in the region.

Expected outcomes:

- The universities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia improved understanding of sustainable lifestyles’ and “green nudges” concepts and its practical application;
- The universities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia learned and gave feedback on the results of green jobs market analysis and sustainability education needs and gaps analysis in Caucasus and Central Asia;
- Universities of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are motivated to join the Sustainable Lifestyles University Network and its Activity Plan till 2025.

Participants: Faculty members and Master and PhD students from universities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Central Asian universities, experts in sustainability, environmental studies, and education, NGOs and international organizations.

The event will be held in hybrid mode. Simultaneous Russian-English translation and recording will be provided.

AGENDA

Thursday, 14 March 2024	
11:00 - 18:30 Tbilisi time (GMT+4), 08:00 - 15:30 CET	
Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83643777933?pwd=jnZk6CPLjaOCy4Q4actgZQiJ29LS1j.1	
<i>10.30 – 11.00 Welcome coffee and registration of participants</i>	
Moderator:	Ms. Madina Ibrasheva , UNEP GO4SDGs Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia
11:00 – 11:20	Welcome and Opening Remarks
11:00 – 11:05	Dr. Nino Enukidze , Rector of Business and Technology University, Georgia
11:05 – 11:10	Ms. Sarah Zielonka , Head of Economic and Press Department at the German Embassy
11:10 – 11:15	Ms. Adriana Zacarias Farah , Head and Global Coordinator of “Global Opportunities for SDGs” (GO4SDGs), Deputy Head of 10YFP, UNEP (online)
11:15 – 11:20	Dr. Wolrad Rommel , President of Kazakh-German University (online) (TBC)
SESSION I. Introduction to Sustainable Lifestyles	
11:20 – 11:35	<i>Behavioral economy: strive towards sustainability</i> (online) Dr. Magnus Bengtsson , Hot or Cool Institute, Berlin
11:35 – 11:50	<i>UNEP approaches to Sustainable Lifestyles</i> Ms. Garrette E. Clark , Sustainable Lifestyles Programme Officer, UNEP (online)
11:50– 12:10	Q&A
SESSION II. Green Nudges: Nuts & Bolts of Implementing Sustainable Lifestyles	
<i>Interactive exercises based on The Little Book of Green Nudges</i>	
12.10 – 12.20	<i>Short story of “Sustainable Lifestyles at the Universities of Central Asia and Caucasus” UNEP-DKU project with the focus on Sustainable University GRID</i> Ms. Inna Matveenko , Head of sustainable business and social innovations lab, DKU
12.20 – 12.55	<i>Group exercises on main aspects of successful “green nudges”</i> UN Environment, DKU team
12.55 – 13.00	Group photo
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.30	<i>Group presentations and joint discussion</i>

SESSION III. ENHANCING NETWORKING AND COOPERATION <i>Presentations and discussion sessions</i>	
14.30 – 14.50	<i>Leveraging the power of universities in advancing sustainability</i> Dr. Aline Laucke , TUM International GmbH, Technical University of Munich
14.50 – 15.00	Q&A
15.00 – 15.30	<i>Asia and the Pacific Green Nudges on Campus</i> Mr. Korb Limsuwan , Head of Environmental Management Workgroup, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
15:45 – 16:00	Q&A
16:00 – 16:20	Coffee – break
16.20 – 16.40	Presentations of Central Asia Universities
16.20 – 16.30	- TIIAME National Research University (Uzbekistan) (TBC)
16.30 – 16.40	- Narxoz University (Kazakhstan) (TBC)
16.40 – 17.00	Sustainable Lifestyles Best Practices in universities of Caucasus
16.40 – 16.50	- Mr. Harut Alpetyan , Program Manager and Lecturer, AUA Acopian Center for the Environment, American University of Armenia (AUA);
16.50 – 17.00	- Dr. Otar Antia , Business and Technology University, Georgia;
	- Mr. Asiman Ilyasov , Advisor to the Rector on Quality Assurance, Baku State University, Azerbaijan
	- Ilia State University (TBC)
17:00 – 17.50	Q&A <i>Open dialogue on the challenges and opportunities in promoting sustainable practices in higher education of Caucasus. Possible collaborative solutions with Central Asian universities.</i>
17:50 – 18:00	Closing Remarks Business and Technology University DKU UNEP
18.00 – 18.30	Business and Technology University campus tour (TBC)

Friday, 15 March 2024 09:00 - 14:00 Tbilisi time (GMT+4) Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81009143036?pwd=MVce1cS9rWa0YaOudt1HrFdkHZw1NL.1	
Session IV. GREEN JOBS VERSUS CURRICULAR NEEDS <i>Presenting and discussing the results of expert assessment</i>	
09:00 – 09.30	Welcome coffee and informal networking
09.30 – 09.40	Dr. Barbara Janusz – Pawletta , Vice - president of the international cooperation and sustainability, Kazakh-German University
09:40 – 10:10	<i>Green jobs market analysis in Caucasus and Central Asia</i> <i>Sustainability education needs and gaps analysis in Central Asia and Caucasus</i> Mr. Alberto Frigerio , project expert

10:10 – 10:30	Q&A session
Session V. SLUN and developing action plan on sustainability in universities of Caucasus <i>Small-groups workshop</i>	
10:30 – 10.45	<i>Overview of Sustainable Lifestyles University Network (SLUN) goals and perspectives</i> Ms. Mariya Genina - “Sustainable Lifestyles at the Universities of Central Asia and Caucasus” Project Manager, DKU
10.45 – 10.55	Q&A session
10.50 – 11.05	<i>Coffee-break</i>
11.05 – 11.45	Group work on Sustainable University gaps and solutions in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Education programs • Research
11:45 – 12:15	Presentations of group results and joint discussion (10 mins per group)
12.15 – 12.45	Activity Plan on Sustainable Lifestyles in Universities of Caucasus till 2025
12:45 – 13:00	Closing Remarks DKU UNEP
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch