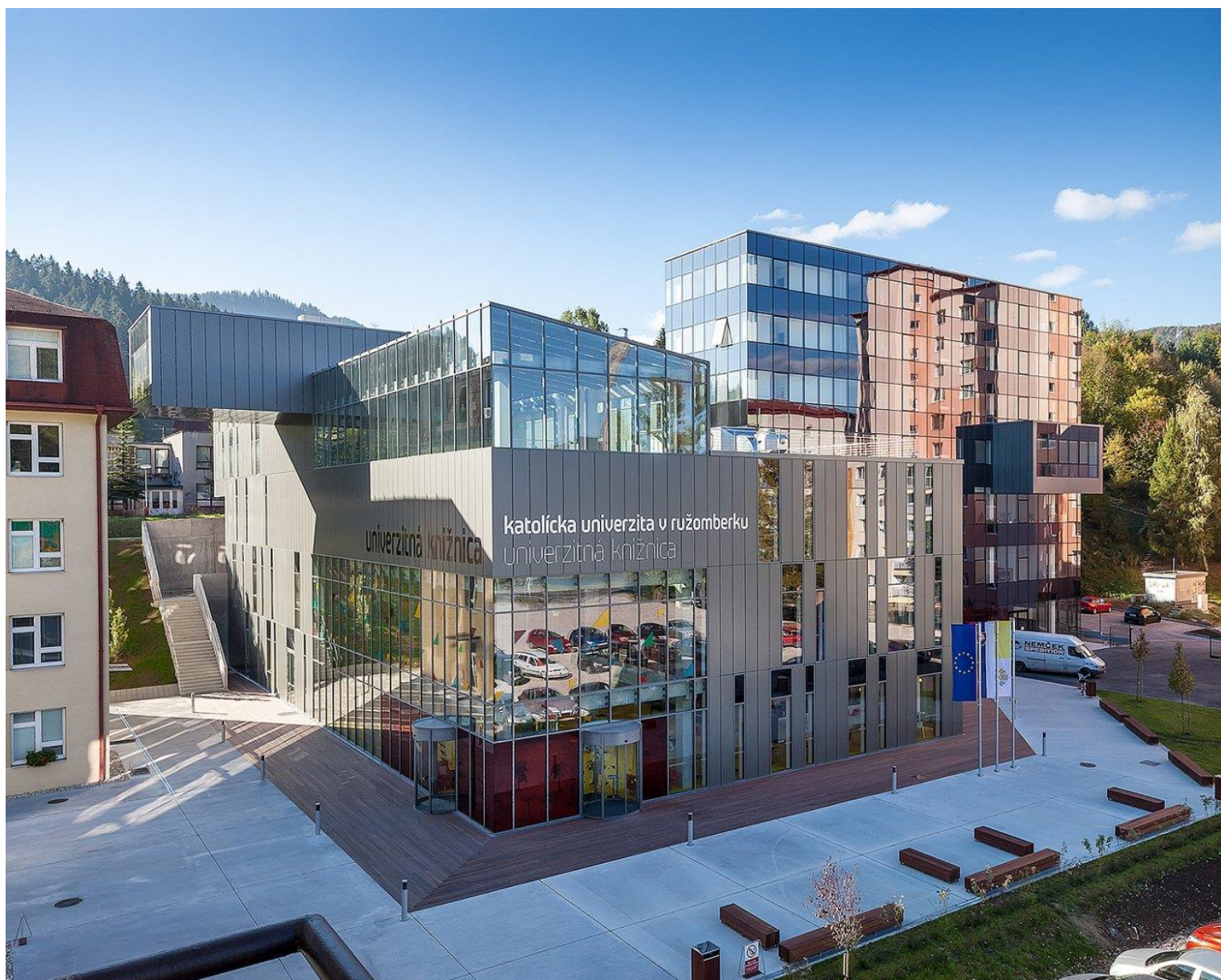




Catholic University in Ruzomberok



Annual report on the activities of the Global Campaign for Carbon Neutrality

Race to Zero - Race to Zero for 2022

Catholic University in Ruzomberok



Annual report
about activities within the global campaign
for carbon neutrality
Race to Zero – Race to Zero



The Catholic University in Ružomberok joined the global campaign for carbon neutrality Race to Zero and the Action Platform, which is based on the Encyclical of St. Father František - Praise be to you

(About caring for a common house). We subscribe to the above-mentioned activities aimed at integral ecology - to care for our common home. The creation and solution of the problem in the practical area is reflected in our Action Plan (AP) of the Laudatio Si Action Platform of the Green University of the Catholic University in Ružomberok (KU), which we prepared on the basis of signing up for the campaigns in question. The measures include the use of renewable energies, measures to ensure energy sufficiency, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity and ensuring the educational process at KU.

In one of its basic documents - the Long-Term Purpose of the KU - the Catholic University has directly included an area that supports and corresponds to the mentioned topic - Development of the Strategy for Building a Green/Sustainable KU for the years 2022-2027 (with a view to 2030), which takes into account the principles and

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the requirements of the Laudato Si' encyclical, as well as the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, the European Green Agreement and the SR 2030 Envirostrategy.

From the above, it follows that under the conditions of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, it is possible to solve the issue of introducing Laudatio Si for overall sustainability in the established 7-year time interval, within the framework of integral ecology, in the following goals and directions::

- *achieving carbon neutrality by eliminating our emissions,*
- *re-evaluating our curricula, with the aim of creating study programs that will contribute to the global goal of climate change (its recovery) and the sustainability of life in general,*
- *leveraging our research capabilities to empower those areas of human endeavor and individuals working for global eco-social change and align intellectual insight with the wisdom of religious traditions to create multidisciplinary research capable of transforming society around the most pressing ecological and social issues facing the world, such as . such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, inequality, etc.*
- *the effort to connect and integrate various scientific disciplines and faith traditions by drawing them into mutual dialogue,*
- *creation of a university and international platform for cooperation in the field of teaching, science and research in specified issues,*
- *the completion of the library fund in the areas and scope of our teaching programs, scientific tasks and our possibilities,*
- *establishment and construction (in terms of personnel and material) of new workplaces at KU (institutes, interdisciplinary programs...) copying the set goals.*

From the above, we can deduce that we, as humanity, cannot solve the issue in question in the long term, not even at the highest political levels of the world. That is

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why many projects and movements are being created all over the world in order to start making amends for the damage done and prevention step by step. These initiatives also include KU's involvement in the Laudato Si Action Platform project in the form of the Action Plan of the Laudatio Si Action Platform of the Catholic University in Ružomberok and the global campaign for carbon neutrality Race to Zero.

Our university joined the initiative in question immediately after the first call, namely in 2021. Subsequently, we set several goals, which can be divided into 3 possible groups: short-term (2022-2024), medium-term (2024-2030) and long-term (2030 -2050). The subject of the Annual Report, in addition to the implementation of the above-mentioned prepared documents, are short-term goals:

Our university succeeded in its short-term goals:

- a) according to the published detailed action plan, implement and introduce the sorting of secondary raw materials within the municipal waste within the entire university. The aforementioned activity was successfully put into practice, from basic collection units in offices, corridors, accommodation spaces, common areas to containers managed by the city of Ružomberok, which finalize the processing of the sorted commodities in question.
- b) As part of the construction of the new parking lot, we managed to introduce a surface water capture system against pollution and seepage into the protected groundwater or of the adjacent river Váh.
- c) Within all the premises of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, we proceeded to optimize the energy consumption of the lighting, by replacing the lighting fixtures with energy-saving LED bulbs.
- d) Measures were taken to shade the attacked premises from solar radiation in the summer, in order to reduce energy costs and requirements for air conditioning of the premises.

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- e) Measures were taken to save energy across the board by introducing more efficient electrical appliances, introducing new work procedures, saving programs, adjusting working hours, etc.
- f) f) The University also started the first part of the program for greening its campus, to reduce the warming of outdoor spaces, reduce emissions, etc.

Annual progress reports on achieving the higher stated targets of net zero emissions are published on the site <https://www.ku.sk/>.

Dear Rector,

after consultation with the director of OKM MŠVVaŠ SR M. Borz (who is also the author of the minister's letter), the reason for writing the letter was non-compliance and violation of discipline on the part of universities resulting from Act 404/2011 Coll. on the residence of foreigners and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended. At the moment, universities in the Slovak Republic do not comply with the obligation to report to the foreign police, mainly in the following areas: when foreign students are admitted to study, when a foreign student's studies are interrupted, when a foreign student is expelled from his studies and when a foreign student's studies are completed. These are mainly students from Ukraine, who then cause big problems in Slovakia. It is necessary to strictly observe the individual provisions of the law in question defined in § 115 and fulfill the obligations in accordance with the applicable legislation. This will contribute to preserving the security interests of the Slovak Republic. We are to draw the attention of the study departments to the mentioned fact so that they put things in order for the last two years. The director and his colleagues will gradually go through all the universities and perform an inspection in the mentioned area. Given the importance of the situation, if you agree, Mr. Rector, I will send the following notice to the

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management of KU, the study department of the rectorate, the deans, vice-deans and study departments of the faculties (see attachment).

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Dear colleagues,

rector of the Catholic University in Ružomberok doc. Ing. Jaroslav Demko CSc. received a letter from the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, Ján Horecký, dated 30.3.2023 (2023/8078: 19-A9001), in which he is alerted to the threat arising from the current security environment of the Slovak Republic.

Among the existing security challenges, the topic of illegal migration is still relevant. In order to prevent any attempts to abuse the institution of residence in the Slovak Republic and visas, through processes in the Ministry of Education, and thus preserve the credibility of universities operating in our territory, it is necessary to pay due attention to the issue in question.

The main reason for writing the letter was non-compliance and violation of discipline on the part of universities resulting from Act 404/2011 Coll. on the residence of foreigners and on the amendment of certain laws, as amended. At the moment, universities in the Slovak Republic do not comply with the obligation to report to the foreign police, mainly in the following areas: when foreign students are admitted to study, when a foreign student's studies are interrupted, when a foreign student is expelled from his studies and when a foreign student's studies are completed. These are mainly students from Ukraine, who then cause big problems in Slovakia. It is necessary to strictly observe the individual provisions of the law in question defined in § 115 and fulfill the obligations in accordance with the applicable legislation. This will contribute to preserving the security interests of the Slovak Republic. We draw the attention of the study departments to the mentioned fact so that they put things in order for the last two years. The director of OKM MŠVVaŠ SR (crisis management) with his colleagues will gradually go through all the universities and carry out an inspection in the mentioned area (§ 115 and especially paragraphs 4, 13, 14 and 15 - see attachment)



Surface water pipeline (drawn in detail in the construction project)



Indoor trash cans for sorted waste

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Large-capacity containers for separated waste



Planting greenery