

2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

Oulu Business School

September 2025

Table of Contents

1. About PRME	3
2. About SDGs	5
3. Getting Started	6
4. Purpose	11
5. Values	13
6. Teach	17
7. Research	21
8. Partner	27
9. Practice	31
10. Share	33

About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about Oulu Business School, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

The mission of Oulu Business School is threefold:

We excel in research as a part of the scientific community to generate business competencies.

We educate innovative and responsible future leaders and business experts with a global mindset.

We collaborate with our stakeholders to contribute to the well-being and sustainability of Northern Finland and society at large.

Vision

As an internationally established business school, Oulu Business School's vision is to make a positive impact on society through high quality research and education.

Strategy

Strategy_OuluBusinessSchool

View document  Download document 

Strategy Alignment

Strategy alignment

The University of Oulu and its faculties are committed in their strategy to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainability and responsibility are promoted through education, research, societal interaction and campus operations. Oulu Business School has a member in the working group for sustainability and responsibility that coordinates the multidisciplinary actions of the university. In addition, the University's working group for sustainability and responsibility in education is chaired by an OBS faculty member.

The themes of sustainable development and the common good cut across OBS' strategic priorities. For example, OBS' strategic focus themes in research include responsibility and sustainability in business relationships, digitalizing services, and brands, as well as sustainable accounting, economics, and finance.

Our multidisciplinary initiatives include circular economy and sustainable innovations in networks; resilience in networks and organizations; future energy business and green transition as well as renewable energy and energy markets. High-quality research also forms the base of quality of education in the faculty. To further develop our quality of education, we continue to utilize the AACSB Accreditation-related tools and methods, as stated in OBS' strategy.

Institutional History

Oulu Business School's path towards adopting RME and joining PRME

OBS joined EFMD in 2008 and AACSB International in 2010. Both organizations have had significant impact on OBS strategy and actions in the areas of ethics, sustainability and responsibility. These include redesigning the education portfolio and curricula, in research focus areas, as well as e.g., the faculty qualifications requirements, related to AACSB accreditation. Oulu Business School joined the GRLI in 2010 and in 2018, we officially became a signatory member of the United Nations-supported PRME initiative.

Through these international networks, we have found new partners to collaborate in responsibility and sustainability related research and education topics. This has also increased the amount of responsibility and sustainability related research in our school. We have integrated many GRLI activities into the normal operations of our school including degree programmes, as well as, e.g., organized the GRLI annual conference, a leadership forum, and GRLI innovation cohort activities in Oulu.

OBS has included the Globally Responsible Business (GRB) M.Sc. course as compulsory part of all M.Sc. programmes since 2015, being a pioneer in Finland in this area. Furthermore, OBS has developed the Sulitest.org regional questions concerning the Nordic countries, and the test is a mandatory part of the GRB course since 2015, respectively.

The number of responsibility and sustainability related journal articles has increased over the past five years at the Oulu Business School. Currently we conduct responsibility related research in all our research units, and in cooperation with other domestic and international institutions. A few examples of the current research projects are ethical aspects in corporate governance (led by Prof. Juha-Pekka Kallunki), carbon accounting issues related research (led by Prof. Janne Järvinen) as well as research on sustainable branding in the industrial markets (led by Prof. Saila Saraniemi).

Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	304
Faculty & Staff at the University	4100
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	127
Student Enrollment at the University	14400
Student Enrollment at the Institution	1722
Undergraduate Attendance	825
Masters-Level Postgraduate Attendance	715
Doctoral Student Attendance	97
Certificate, Professional Development, or Continuing Education Attendance	26

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)

Masters Programs

 Master of Science (M.Sc. or M.S.)

Doctoral Programs

 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Undergraduate Degree Programmes

-  Bachelor's in International Business Management
-  Bachelor's in Economics and Business Administration

Masters Degree Programmes

-  Master's in Business Analytics
-  Master's in Finance
-  Master's in Financial and Management Accounting
-  Master's in International Business Management
-  Master's in Responsible Economics and Finance
-  Master's in Sustainable Marketing
-  Master's in Accounting

Postgraduate Degree Programmes

-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (Finance)
-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (Economics)
-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (Management)
-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (International Business)
-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (Business analytics)
-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (Accounting)
-  Doctoral degree programme in economics and business administration (Marketing)

Certificates, Professional Development, or Associate Programmes

-  Executive MBA
-  EMBA in Safety Management
-  Master of Safety



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Letter of Commitment

26.9.2025



Oulu Business School

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University of Oulu

Letter of Commitment

As the Dean of Oulu Business School, I am pleased to reaffirm our institution's dedication to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Management Education. By embracing the PRME principles, we weave responsibility and sustainability into all our activities and aim to position ourselves as a leader in sustainable business education.

Aligned with our mission we educate innovative and responsible future leaders and business experts with a global mindset. Through our high-quality research and education, we seek to be an internationally established business school that creates a positive impact on society.

The unstable global situation and growing polarization pose challenges to responsible management and education. This further highlights the importance of the PRME principles, and the Oulu Business School remains committed to advancing them.

Our commitment to ethics, responsibility, and sustainability is evident in our ongoing efforts to enhance teaching and research initiatives in these domains. For instance, our newly renewed master's programmes – the Master's in Sustainable Marketing and the Master's in Responsible Economics and Finance – offer training with a focus on the sustainability aspects of business, equipping future professionals with the skills to succeed in the future business life.

We eagerly anticipate advancing on this collective journey towards sustainability, fostering positive change within our institution and broader community.

Janne T. Järvinen

Professor of Management Accounting and Control
Dean
Oulu Business School



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Individual leader
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization

Student Voices

The following narrative demonstrates how Oulu Business School has influenced students' academic journey and personal growth.

Student value voice

Responsibility and sustainability at the University of Oulu from a student perspective

What makes the University of Oulu's approach to sustainability and responsibility outstanding is its holistic perspective, which emphasizes responsible choices and aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Personally, as a student, I profited from the University's close-knit, international community that fosters collaboration and multidisciplinary approaches. In my opinion the University's close collaborations with diverse stakeholders enables students to participate in different projects gaining hands-on experience and helps especially master students to find companies to collaborate with for their thesis. I remember several guest lectures such as from one of our doctorate students who presented his research on the use of blockchain technology in the automotive sector, that allowed me to not only understand current research trends but also to develop my own interest in research which led me to pursue a PhD.

As a student the University's overarching goal to educate future professionals equipped with the skills needed to contribute to building a more sustainable, intelligent, and humane world can be clearly seen in everyday teaching. The curriculum for International Business Masters students like many other programs places a high emphasize on sustainability and responsibility with lectures considering aspects of sustainability from different perspectives such as marketing, internationalization or business strategy. From my experience we are encouraged to think critically about existing theories as well as business practices, developing our own understanding of what ethical business looks like and how responsible leadership could be understood. Projects that were regularly embedded in our lectures challenge us to not only follow existing knowledge but based on our research to build our own tools to solve problems and innovate. Participating in the UNIC Summer School on Resilience and Sustainability we as representatives of the University of Oulu hosted students from Bochum, Germany and Lodz, Poland. During this exchange we learned what sustainability and resilience challenges each of the cities faces, how local companies develop their own solutions and got to present our sustainability related group project.

As one of the northernmost universities in the world, sustainability and responsibility are embedded in the University's culture and philosophy. The University places a strong emphasis on community and wellbeing, representing an inclusive, equal, and welcoming institution. I always felt that everyone is warmly welcomed and is encouraged to contribute to our vivid community by being for example well-being tutors, student tutors or participants in activities such as the festival of cultures. The University offers a wide range of different activities and actively informs about its sustainability endeavours to which everyone is encouraged to contribute to.

Theresa Viitanen (M.Sc. student in International Business Management), 4 September 2025

Values Voices

Feedback from the AACSB Board

As stated in the feedback from AACSB re-accreditation in 2023, OBS "provided excellent examples demonstrating the school's success in societal impact."

In addition, AACSB commended, e.g. the comparatively high proportion of female staff at the full professorial level and overall high representation of female faculty. In addition, the AACSB noted, that Oulu Business School (OBS) and University of Oulu (UO) have an excellent focus on and related set of initiatives in support of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. There is a strong set of values (Nordic values) that mean students have a strong sense of being able to approach their teachers who are responsive and engaged.

Celebrating Values

The following demonstrates a way in which our institution celebrates values in various specializations.

Living Nordic values and an international heart

"At Oulu Business School, we make our values visible in the way we teach, research and engage with our community. Nordic values of equal opportunities, low hierarchy, integrity, and respect for diversity are reflected in our daily practices. We foster open dialogue between students, staff and leadership, contributing towards transparent and inclusive decision-making. We embrace cultural diversity through international study programs, intercultural events and collaboration with our global partners, including individual academic cooperation and established networks such as UNIC. Integrity is celebrated through our strong commitment to ethical and sustainable business education, which is visible in the curriculum and our everyday academic practices.

Our sense of community is celebrated through shared traditions, such as monthly graduation ceremonies, meet-and-greet events with students, alumni events and unit-level development days where we come together to discuss research, teaching and wellbeing. At the university level, shared traditions are highlighted through different seasonal events such as the opening ceremony of the academic year, conferment ceremonies, inaugural lectures of new professors, equality week, bring your child to work day and events that engage broader public, like the researchers' night.

Through teaching and research, we collaborate closely with stakeholders in Northern Finland and celebrate expertise by encouraging scientific creativity and curiosity. For me, the development of expertise is grounded in academic freedom, which is increasingly under pressure in many parts of the world. At OBS, research and teaching that explore new ideas, challenge assumptions and engage with unconventional or emerging questions is supported."

- Anna-Liisa Kaasila-Pakanen (Postdoctoral researcher at Oulu Business School)



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Courses that support RME

Oulu Business School reports 2 courses in 2024 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

Business Ethics

| BO00AR22

The course is designed to introduce students to business ethics and moral philosophy as a crucial aspect of contemporary business. Throughout the course, students learn to apply normative and descriptive ethical theories to practical situations in management and marketing. By doing so, the course provides students with frameworks for understanding and evaluating moral dilemmas and guiding ethical decision-making. The course also offers insights into business ethics management tools (e.g. code of conduct, whistleblowing) and current ethical discussions (e.g. AI ethics, animal ethics, labor and human rights).

Upon completion of this course, the student is expected to be able to: - understand the role of ethics and moral philosophy in influencing business practices and decision-making across diverse organizational functions. - explain the relationship between ethics, the law, and the ideas of sustainability and responsible business - recognize and critically evaluate ethical issues within a global business context, considering multiple perspectives and potential solutions. - apply critical thinking through the application of ethical frameworks to real-world business cases in management and marketing. - critically assess the significance of business ethics in contemporary society, focusing on its implications for the well-being of people, nature, animals, and human flourishing.



Sustainable Banking and Financial Economics

| BO00AR11

After completing the course the student understands the main roles and functions of banks and financial markets in the financial transmission processes and recognizes the forms of Alternative Finance (AltFi) and the basic ideas and role of Decentralized Finance (DeFi) and cryptocurrencies, digital banking, disruption and financial intermediation. He/she is also familiar with the recent steps in the regulation of traditional banks, the role of direct and indirect financing channels in the value creation through sustainable finance, and differences in the function of stakeholder and shareholder banks. The student also recognizes the role of ESG and other sustainability related information and approaches to banking and other forms of financing real investments. In addition, the role of central banking and monetary policy and forms of conventional and unconventional monetary policy actions

are clear to him/her. The student also understands the idea of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and its role in monetary policy, and more generally the main principles of the role of central banks in green transition and fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.



Teaching Voices

The following statement demonstrates ways in which educators at Oulu Business School support sustainability and responsible management in their classrooms.

The Globally Responsible Business course at Oulu Business School

“The Globally Responsible Business (GRB) course is an advanced course where students deepen their previous learnings. We have six different disciplines at Oulu Business School that come together in this course: International Business Management, Sustainable Marketing, Finance, Economics, Accounting, and Business Analytics.

We use a variety of pedagogical tools to enhance students’ understanding of responsible business practices and widen their knowledge in the field. These include interdisciplinary group discussions, case studies, problem-solving activities related to responsible business, and critical analyses of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Students are asked to explore responsible dilemmas faced by case companies—first through an individual assignment in a local context, and later through a group assignment in a global context. The group assignment provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary discussion. In addition, students conduct peer reviews of each other’s assignments to foster responsibility in their relationships.

These pedagogical tools are designed to promote critical thinking, collaboration, and personal engagement with the topic of responsible business in both local and global contexts”.

- Akram Hatami (Postdoctoral researcher at Oulu Business School) and Anne Keränen (Senior research fellow at Oulu Business School)

Fostering Innovation



A lot

Our institution supports innovation significantly through teaching and learning.



Experiential Learning



Somewhat

Teaching and learning at our institution moderately support experiential learning.



Learning Mindset



Somewhat

Teaching and learning at our institution moderately support a lifelong learning mindset.



Method of Teaching and Learning



In person

Traditional classroom-based learning with face-to-face instruction.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development

92 Peer-reviewed articles were published by Oulu Business School from this past calendar year. **vs** **52** Peer-reviewed articles were published by Oulu Business School from this past calendar year in support of RME.

Research Funding

In 2024, Oulu Business School was awarded funding for research that is:



Local



Regional



National



International

Socializing Research

In 2024, Oulu Business School contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Research collaborations
- ❖ Social media and digital outreach

Research Projects

In 2024, Oulu Business School reported 2 research projects that implemented responsible or sustainable activities.

Nature Positive Northern Ostrobothnia

Period Covering: August, 2023 - October, 2025

Department: Management and International Business

The Nature Positive Northern Ostrobothnia project aims to create a evaluation model for businesses about their environmental footprints and handprints.

In the project, a county-level model for evaluating the effects of business activities on nature, especially nature-positivity, will be developed and launched by studying footprints and handprints. The nature positivity of business operations has not been systematically studied before even on a global level.

The evaluation model complements the provincial climate work by taking into account the economic effects of nature loss and the business opportunities of the topic. The model can be used to evaluate the multifaceted impacts of business operations and the needs for the development of operations. This multi-capital perspective includes issues such as: Financial, Production, Intellectual, Human, Social, and Nature.

The multi-capital perspective of the model will enable viewing an overall impact of the business in different areas and can be a basis of identifying how companies can achieve better outcomes on both financial and nature capitals.



UTAH2 - Vedyn tuotanto- ja käyttömahdollisuudet osana paikallista energiaratkaisua

Period Covering: August, 2023 - February, 2026

Department: Marketing, Management and International Business

Tutkimusprojektissa tutkitaan vedyn paikallista tuotantoa ja käyttöä erityisesti teollisuuden ja raskaan liikenteen tarpeisiin.

Vedyn tuotantoon käytetään paikallisesti tuotettua vihreää sähköä (aurinkopaneelit, tuulivoima). Hankkeessa tutkitaan myös aurinkovedyn, eli valokatalyyttisesti ilman sähköenergiaa tuotetun vedyn soveltuvuutta sekä kehitetään siihen pohjautuvia ratkaisuja paikalliseen vedyn tuotantoon Pohjois-Suomen olosuhteissa. Energia on hiilineutraalia energiaa, joka pienentää hiilijalanjälkeä. Pilotti on ensimmäinen askel Pohjois-Suomen siirtymisessä kohti tulevaisuuden vety-yhteiskuntaa.



Research Awards

In 2024, Oulu Business School was awarded 1 research award for responsibility- and/or sustainability-related research.

Young Scholar Award

Granter: Oulu Business School, University of Oulu

Grantee: Marika Iivari

Award Description:

Young Scholar Award was awarded to Marika Iivari for the paper "Defining Data-Driven Business Models in the Context of Sustainability" at Business Model Conference 2025.

Research Presentations Related to RME and/or Sustainability

In 2024, Oulu Business School gave 1 research presentation related to RME and/or sustainability.

IMP 2024 Presentation

Authors: Julia Autio, first author

Date of publication: August, 2024

Presented at: National or international issue or theme-specific conference

Department: Marketing

In this conceptual paper we combine institutionalization, sustainability work, and IMP literatures to understand how pathways to sustainable futures are created in business networks. Our focus is in understanding how individuals construct sustainability through sustainability work within business networks. 'Sustainability work' is a novel concept that could help IMP scholars pay more attention to processes through which individuals enact sustainability in networks. Our central argument is that business networks are actively created and reproduced through human activity. Therefore, their (un)sustainable futures are best understood through human enactment, and the interplay between individual and collective action.



Publications Related to RME and/or Sustainability

Blockchain for the circular economy, implications for public governance | [DOI](#)

Authors: Eduardo Acosta Llano, Dr., Oulu Business School | Pia Hurmelinna-Laukkanen, Prof., Oulu Business School | Lauri Haapanen, Dr., Oulu Business School

Date of publication: September, 2025

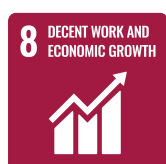
Department: Management

Purpose: This study examines the intricate interplay of blockchain, public governance and the circular economy (CE), aiming to assess the potential of blockchain technology (BT) in addressing challenges associated with the adoption of CE principles, particularly in the public sector.

Design/methodology/approach: Focused on public governance, the research employs in-depth interviews with Finnish policymakers actively engaged in CE initiatives. Qualitative analysis is applied to derive insights and patterns from the gathered data, providing a nuanced understanding of blockchain's transformative role.

Findings: The study uncovers key dimensions for leveraging blockchain in the CE within the public sector. Notable findings include the significance of contextual transparency, the use of incentivization as a regulatory tool, the role of standardization through strategic autonomy and the importance of public engagement and participation.

Originality/value: This research contributes a unique framework that illuminates the transformative potential of blockchain within the CE, emphasizing its relevance to public governance. The identified dimensions offer practical insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to navigate the complexities of circular transitions in the public sector.



Research Voices

The following statement demonstrates a way in which researchers at Oulu Business School bring sustainability and responsible management into their research.

Endorsement from University of Oulu's Working Group for Sustainability and Responsibility

On behalf of the University of Oulu's Working Group for Sustainability and Responsibility, we are pleased to offer our strong endorsement of Oulu Business School (OBS) in recognition of their contributions to advancing sustainability and responsibility in research. Over the past few years, OBS has been consistently increasing their research output on sustainability and responsibility topics. More than half of their publications are directly connected to one or several UN Sustainable Development Goals.

OBS has also increased awareness and activities of sustainability and responsibility in research. In 2024 they organized a conference on Sustainable Industrial Marketing (IMP2024) at the University of Oulu with around 170 participants from around the world. A large number of OBS' research projects is aiming to contribute to one or several SDGs. Researchers of OBS have also been actively engaging in the organizational development towards sustainability and responsibility of the University of Oulu, and in the activities of the Working Group for Sustainability and Responsibility.

5.9.2025

Anni Huovinen

Sustainability Specialist

Secretary of the Working Group for Sustainability and Responsibility



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- ❖ GRLI (Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative)

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ None

Partnerships

The following provides more details on 8 key partnerships at Oulu Business School.

AACSB

As an AACSB accredited school, Oulu Business School continues to work with the AACSB organization to continually develop the school's teaching, research, and societal impact activities.

Oulu Region

Oulu Business School works with the Oulu Region, for example, by collaborating on research that benefits the region, offering educational programmes that respond to local needs, and supporting collaboration between academics, businesses and the wider community.

University of Oulu is part of the Oulu Innovation Alliance, which is a strategic consortium of significant research, development and innovation operators in the Oulu region. Its goal is to strengthen the innovation capability in the region along with the global competitiveness of Northern Finland.

City of Oulu

Oulu Business School works with the City of Oulu by collaborating in research projects and fostering partnerships between the business school, local companies and the municipality.

Oulu Chamber of Commerce

Examples of Oulu Business School's and Oulu Chamber of Commerce's cooperation include business school representatives serving on chambers of commerce committees, networking and inviting corporate guests to courses and governing bodies, gathering business insights to inform the school's development, promoting the school and its graduates to companies – especially by fostering internship and employment opportunities for international master's students – and contributing to the refinement of the school's strategy.

Research Council of Finland

The Research Council of Finland grants research funding based on open competition and independent evaluation. It is a significant funder of research at Oulu Business School.

European Regional Development Fund

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) provides funding to public and private bodies in all EU regions to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities. The Fund supports investments through dedicated national or regional programmes. ERDF is a significant funder of research at Oulu Business School.

Oulu University Hospital

Oulu Business School collaborates in research with University of Oulu's Faculty of Medicine and the Oulu University Hospital in themes such as digital health and how digitalisation and digital tools – e.g. mobile health apps, telemedicine platforms, wearable devices, and AI-driven diagnostics – are transforming the healthcare landscape.

Healthcare association of Oulu Region

Oulu Business School works with the Healthcare association of Oulu Region in research. At Oulu Business School's Martti Ahtisaari Institute, one research theme is Digital Health and Entrepreneurship, which explores the intersection of technology, healthcare, and business model innovation in collaboration with regional healthcare providers.

Partner Voices

The following statement from our partners demonstrates ways in which our collaborations at Oulu Business School support sustainability and responsible management education.

GRLI Membership

Being a long-term member of the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative (GRLI) has offered us a valuable platform to contribute to advancing global responsibility. Through GRLI, we have deepened our understanding of current global responsibility challenges, as the initiative serves as a shared knowledge hub for its partners. GRLI has also connected us to a vibrant, collaborative network where diverse individuals and organizations come together to explore and promote a humanistic, fair, and sustainable world. Within this network, various initiatives foster innovation in teaching and research related to global responsibility. One example is the development of Sulitest (Sustainability Literacy Test), in which our business school actively participated.

Moreover, GRLI members regularly share their own practices for example in teaching, creating opportunities for benchmarking and mutual learning. This exchange has enriched our own educational approaches and strengthened our commitment to responsible leadership as future business leader's educator.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Action Plan on Sustainability and Responsibility
- ❖ Equality and Diversity Action Plan
- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

UniversityOfOuluActionPlanOnSustainabilityAndResponsibility document  Download document 

Practice Voices

The following statement from stakeholders at Oulu Business School demonstrates our commitment to sustainable and responsible practices.

Minimizing UniOulu's carbon footprint

Minimizing UniOulu's carbon footprint

University's Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions have decreased remarkably compared to our reference year 2019: Scope 1 emissions decreased 25 % and Scope 2 emissions decreased for almost 100% in 2024 calculation. The Scope 2 reduction is mainly calculational and attributable to the phasing out of fossil fuels and the transition towards the use of renewable energy sources with guarantees of origin. In the future we still need to put effort into reducing our actual energy consumption with new energy-efficiency solutions and by improving the utilization rate of our premises. Also, work still needs to be done in our Scope 3 emissions category in which our emissions increased by 3% in 2024 compared to 2019. Procurements are the largest emission category representing about 51% of our total carbon footprint. Due to our chosen calculation method, basically the only way to reduce procurements emissions would be to make less procurements and encourage more to re-use and repair, when reasonable, and co-use of e.g. expensive research equipment. Business travel is the second largest emissions category in Scope 3, representing about 15% of the total carbon footprint. Currently we travel mostly by plane. It could be suggested that the university would update the travel guidelines towards more sustainable ways to travel.

Reference: Hosseinian, A. (2022): University of Oulu carbon neutrality roadmap 2023-2030

Meeri Hilli, Environmental Specialist
University of Oulu



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



Engagement Opportunities

Oulu Business School offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards
- ❖ Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Annual reports

Communication Audiences

Oulu Business School communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Research and academic networks

Sharing Voices

The following statement from stakeholders at Oulu Business School demonstrates our commitment to sharing and learning from sustainability and responsible management practices.

Oulu Business School's communication measures

Oulu Business School communicates its sustainability objectives actions across multiple channels, including the official website, internal newsletter, and various social media channels. Sustainability goals are integrated throughout the school's operations, which means that communication on these topics is consistent, visible, and cross-cutting.

For example, the 2024 annual report highlighted several initiatives aligned with these objectives. For example, the International Master's Programme in Economics is now Master's in Responsible Economics and Finance, reflecting a stronger emphasis on responsibility and sustainability in education. The UNIC Summer School focused on resilience and sustainable development, encouraging students and staff to engage in discussions on global sustainability challenges. In addition, the annual report highlighted one of OBS' research projects, which investigates the production and use of hydrogen in industry and heavy transport, demonstrating the school's

contribution to advancing knowledge on sustainable energy solutions. The annual report is distributed to key stakeholders in both digital and printed format, further ensuring accessibility and broad visibility.

Through these activities and their communication, OBS seeks to demonstrate concrete measures taken to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The aim is not only to inform stakeholders but also to showcase our commitment to embedding responsibility and sustainability into research, teaching, and collaboration.

Emilia Raudaskoski
Solution Designer, Communications
Oulu Business School

SIGNATORY

Oulu Business School



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