

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

Maastricht University School of
Business and Economics

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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 Maastricht University School of Business and Economics, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

SBE Mission

SBE combines a strong commitment to excellent research and research-based education with a focus on society. Our aim is to generate ideas that advance scientific knowledge and practice, and to educate and train undergraduates, graduates and professionals to function effectively and responsibly in careers in economics, international business, management, public policy, governance and sustainability. Through these objectives, SBE aims to add value to the society to which it belongs.

Vision

Vision for SBE in 2025

As part of Maastricht University, the European University of the Netherlands, the School of Business and Economics (SBE) contributes to a better world by addressing societal problems, by co-creating knowledge and developing team players and leaders for the future.

We are recognized as having a positive impact on the local, regional, national and global environment to which we belong.

Strategy

SBE Strategy

SBE Strategy

SBE aims to achieve its vision through three transformational initiatives that address the three main challenges:

1. Changes in higher education: technology-enhanced PBL (Problem Based Learning) / education;
2. Response to societal challenges: SBE's SDDG (Sustainable Development, Digitalisation and Globalisation) Challenge;
3. Organisational Development.

Strategy Alignment

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Alignment

SBE aims to achieve its vision through three transformational initiatives that address the three challenges.

1 Changes in higher education: technology-enhanced PBL/education

Higher education is changing around the globe. Worldwide, SBE competitors are responding to changing student and societal demands by rethinking educational models. COVID-10 has strongly accelerated the development of online and technology-enhanced learning. The increasing 'half-life' of skills affects our curricula as well as the demand for lifelong learning. In the Netherlands, demographic developments intensify the competition for a decreasing number of potential students. To face these challenges, SBE needs to modernise problem-based learning (PBL) building on the opportunities offered by learning technologies. We need to renew PBL's value as a unique selling point.

2 Response to societal challenges: SBE's SDDG Challenge

Both society and students are calling out to universities to respond to societal challenges, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The world has gone digital and that represents both opportunities and challenges to societies across the globe. Globalisation also poses challenges to societies. These challenges are interlinked: sustainable development can be supported by digitalisation. Climate change may affect migration globally. SBE will take up these challenges in its research, education and its own organisation. By combining existing knowledge at SBE in novel ways, we can co-create new knowledge in collaboration with non-academic stakeholders that will give SBE a distinct profile. We aim to provide a holistic view on Sustainable Development, Digitalisation and Globalisation. For this reason, we have launched the SBE-SDDG Challenge.

3 Organisational Development

SBE is organized in a matrix structure with institutes such as the Education Institute, the SBE Graduate School and the post-graduate schools of UMIO and MSM. Education, research and development are organized in the columns while the departments host the human resources needed for these activities in the rows. This matrix structure has not been fully implemented yet: responsibility and accountability have for example not always been clearly assigned, the financial allocation model is not ideal, and HR processes should be improved, for example to address the leaking pipeline. In addition, SBE is in the process of further integrating the new entities INSPIRE, the Maastricht Sustainability Institute (MSI) and the Maastricht School of Management (MSM). For these reasons, SBE's organisation is being further improved with a clear focus on our ambitions with regard to research, education and impact on society.

These transformational initiatives will allow SBE to transform from where we are today (2020) to where we want to be in 2025. In addition, we have a number of management quality essentials that we need to pay attention to in order to operate SBE more efficiently.

Institutional History

Institutional History

Introduction of the institution

Maastricht University (UM), including School of Business and Economics (SBE), is located in the heart of Europe, in the Euregion, where Germany and Belgium are just around the corner, and it is the most international university in the Netherlands. The university stands out for its innovative education model (Problem-Based Learning), international character and integrating research and education.

UM is the European pioneer of Problem-Based Learning (PBL), the education model it has been working with ever since the university was founded in 1976. Being small-scale and personal, PBL challenges students not only to learn about their subject matter, but also to actively develop soft skills such as self-reliance, teamwork, assertiveness, and problem-solving capacities. This, combined with a broad and unique range of internationally oriented programmes, is what makes UM stand out.

The School of Business and Economics (SBE) combines a strong commitment to excellent research and research-based education with a focus on our impact on society. SBE has a broad scope with areas of expertise in economics, international business, management, public policy, governance and sustainability. The approach of SBE is challenge-driven, innovative, collaborative and inclusive. As a faculty of UM, the SBE vision is to contribute to a better world by addressing societal problems, co-creating knowledge and developing team players and leaders for the future. SBE's aim is to generate ideas that advance scientific knowledge and practice, and to educate and train undergraduates, graduates and professionals to function effectively and responsibly in their careers. Through these objectives, SBE aims to add value to the society to which it belongs.

SBE is a Triple Crown accredited business school (AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA). Only 1% of business schools worldwide can boast this honour, many of which are SBE partner institutes.


Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	1153
Faculty & Staff at the University	5000
Faculty & Staff at the Institution	750


2024 Statistics	Number
Student Enrollment at the University	22000
Student Enrollment at the Institution	6500

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.)



Purpose

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

Letter of Commitment



School of Business and Economics

TO:
PRME Secretariat
Foundation for the Global Compact
685 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10017
USA

Maastricht, December 2025

Letter of commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education

To our stakeholders,

Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (SBE) aims to further strengthen its education, research and valorisation by combining a central focus on international programmes, themes and learning outcomes, with Problem-Based Learning (PBL, where students collaborate actively in small tutorial groups) and Global Citizenship (education) for Sustainable Development.

More specifically, SBE will further develop by contributing to solving societal challenges in a globalizing world. SBE will do this with a clear focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a truly international School we defined four specific aims: 1) contribute to a united Europe and a global impact of European values, 2) make a major global footprint, 3) enhance the international classroom (internationalisation at home) and 4) strengthen the regional economy and the Meuse-Rhine Euregion which SBE is part of.

Therefore, I am pleased to confirm that Maastricht University School of Business and Economics reaffirms its support of the following Seven Principles for Responsible Management Education: Purpose, Values, Teach, Research, Partner, Practice and Share. In this annual Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) report, we disclose our continuous efforts to integrate the Seven Principles into our institutional strategy, culture, academic activities, and daily operations, and contribute to United Nations goals, particularly in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Mariëlle Heijltjes
Dean School of Business and Economics
Maastricht University School of Business and Economics



Visiting address

Tongersestraat 53
www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/sbe
Edin-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Postal address

P.O. Box 616
6200 MD Maastricht
The Netherlands

Bank Account

IBAN: NL05 INGB 0657 6187 05
BIC: INGBNL2A

VAT identifier EU

NL0034.75.268.B01





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

- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school
- ❖ Individual leader
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization
- ❖ Research or issue group, society, or club leading sustainability efforts



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



Research Funding

In 2024, Maastricht University School of Business and Economics was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**



Regional



National



International

Socializing Research

In 2024, Maastricht University School of Business and Economics contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ International media
- ❖ Local media
- ❖ National media
- ❖ Open-access platforms



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)
- ❖ AMBA (Association of MBAs)
- ❖ CEEMAN (Central and East European Management Development Association)
- ❖ EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- ❖ Financial Times
- ❖ Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC)
- ❖ GRLI (Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative)
- ❖ Positive Impact Rating (PIR)
- ❖ Times Higher Education (THE)
- ❖ University Councils
- ❖ Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ None



Practice


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


Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Accreditation body recommendation documents
- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Buildings/real estate
- ❖ Campus operations guides


Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability


Narrative - schools policy to implement RME

View document 


Download document 


Supply chain policies

View document 


Download document 


Use of Public Transport

View document 

Download document 

Environmental projects

View document 

Download document 



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

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

- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Publicly accessible sustainability data and dashboards
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

Maastricht University School of Business and Economics communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Accreditation bodies
- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Business and industry partners
- ❖ Faculty and staff

SIGNATORY

Maastricht University School of Business and Economics



Address

P.O. Box 616, Maastricht, Limburg, 6200MD
Netherlands



Website

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/about-um/faculties/school-business-and-economics>