UNIVERSITY OF OUM EL BOUAGHI

Report on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

ABSTRACT

This report illuminates the University of Oum El Bouaghi in Algeria's efforts to work towards the realization of SDG 11, which focuses on creating Sustainable Cities and Communities.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

1. Introduction:

Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) focuses on creating sustainable cities and communities. This goal emphasizes the importance of urban development that is inclusive, safe, resilient, and environmentally friendly. It aims to improve the quality of life for all residents while addressing the challenges posed by urbanization. In this report, we will examine the efforts of Oum El Bouaghi University in Algeria to contribute to SDG 11.

2. Support of Arts and Heritage:

2.1 Public Access to Cultural Significance:

Oum El Bouaghi University demonstrates a commitment to preserving and promoting cultural heritage. The university collaborates with the Provincial Museum to organize exhibitions that showcase historical photos and documents related to Algeria's national revolution. The university also maintains a private museum open to the public, featuring valuable revolutionary artifacts. Additionally, a memorial monument to the martyr Mohamed Larbi Ben M'hidi stands in the university's square, welcoming visitors to commemorate the nation's heroes.

2.2 Public Access to Libraries:

The university provides public access to its library, allowing external visitors to obtain user cards for accessing books and publications. The digital repository of Oum El Bouaghi University offers free access to a wide range of academic materials, contributing to knowledge dissemination.

2.3 Public Access to Museums and Exhibition Spaces:

The university's museum is open to the public during specified times, promoting cultural heritage and historical awareness. Exhibition spaces across the campus, including the library, are utilized for scientific and cultural events, facilitating interaction with the local community.

2.4 Free Public Access to Open Spaces and Green Spaces:

Oum El Bouaghi University provides free access to its green spaces, including central parks and gardens. Secure parking facilities are available for visitors, enhancing accessibility to the campus.

2.5 Contribution to Local Arts:

The university supports local arts by offering theater arts training workshops and hosting theatrical performances. It also collaborates with the Regional Theater to provide theater courses, showcasing a commitment to cultural expression.

2.6 Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage:

Oum El Bouaghi University collaborates with the Directorate of Tourism and Traditional Industries to record and preserve intangible cultural heritage. These efforts contribute to safeguarding cultural traditions, folklore, and knowledge.

3. Expenditure on Arts and Cultural Heritage:

The university's expenditure on arts and heritage is allocated to support various cultural initiatives, with a total expenditure of 6000000 Algerian dinars.

4. Sustainable Practices:

4.1 Sustainable Commuting:

The university encourages sustainable commuting within its campus by prioritizing pedestrian access, restricting vehicle access, and creating pedestrian pathways. This initiative aims to reduce pollution levels and promote environmental awareness.

4.2 Actions to Increase Sustainable Commuting:

The Algerian government provides free transportation services for university students, contributing to sustainable mobility. The university also participates in environmental events, such as the "Plogging Race," to raise awareness about environmental conservation.

4.3 Telecommuting for Employees:

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the university introduced distance education, allowing teachers to work remotely. Online courses are integrated into various programs, reducing the need for commuting.

4.4 Affordable Housing for Employees:

The Algerian government policy ensures affordable housing for teachers and their families, with accommodations located near the university campus. The university offers rental alternatives for teachers without access to government housing.

4.5 Affordable Housing for Students:

The government provides free housing for students enrolled in public higher education institutions. Student accommodation is considered a public service, and it includes residence halls across the nation.

4.6 Prioritization of Pedestrian Access:

The university prioritizes pedestrian access within its campus by restricting vehicle entry and creating covered pedestrian walkways, promoting a sustainable and environmentally friendly environment.

4.7 Collaboration with Local Authorities:

The university actively engages with local authorities, participating in the Provincial Council to address planning and development issues. This collaboration ensures that local residents can access affordable housing.

4.8 Sustainable Standards in New Buildings:

New university buildings adhere to sustainability standards, featuring glass facades for natural lighting, energy-efficient heating, and reforestation campaigns to enhance green areas.

5. Conclusion:

Oum El Bouaghi University's efforts align with the principles of SDG 11, promoting sustainable cities and communities. The university's commitment to preserving cultural heritage, providing public access to resources, and adopting sustainable practices contributes to the development of inclusive and environmentally friendly urban spaces. These initiatives help improve the quality of life for the university community and the broader local population, furthering progress toward SDG 11.