SDG 16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG[1]	DESCRIPTION[2]	UOC ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES
	**SDG 16** is composed of 12 targets to be achieved by 2030 and 23 indicators to monitor progress in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 aims to: - reducing all forms of violence (16.1); - protecting children against all forms of abuse (16.2); - promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice (16.3); - significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows (16.4); - significantly reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms (16.5); - developing effective, accountable, and transparent	**STUDY PROGRAMS** **Bachelor's Degree Programs:** - Law - Public Administration - Managerial and Administrative Assistance - Local Police **Master's Degree Programs:** - Maritime Law - Public Law - Private Law Judicial Procedures and Legal Professions - Criminal Sciences - European Administration. Institutions and Public Policies - Public Institution Management https://admitere.univ-ovidius.ro/home/cifre-de-scolarizare/ **16.2.1. Elected representation** In accordance with Article 88 of the University Charter, the members of the University Senate who are tenured teaching staff and researchers are elected, without exception, in the electoral constituencies established by the Senate in the Charter, by the direct, secret, universal vote of all tenured teaching staff and researchers in those constituencies. In addition, the members of the University Senate who are students are elected, without exception, in the electoral constituencies established in the Charter, by the universal, direct, and secret vote of the students in those constituencies. The Charter also states, in Article 109, that the Board of Administration is composed of the rector, the vice-rectors, the deans of the faculties, the general administrative director, the deputy general administrative director, and a student representative appointed by the legally constituted

	institutions at all levels (16.6); - ensuring responsive, inclusive, and representative decision-making (16.7); - broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance (16.8); - ensuring legal identity for all (16.9); - ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms (16.10). The means of implementation for the targets are: - strengthening national institutions to prevent violence and combat crime and terrorism (16.a); - promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development (16.b). At the national level, the specific targets under the 2030 Agenda are: - administering justice impartially and expeditiously, in accordance with established laws and procedures, while respecting the principle of the presumption of innocence;	student organizations of the university. A trade union representative attends the meetings of the Board of Administration as an observer. https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/images/-docs/regulamente/v9/CARTA%20UOC.pdf https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/uoc/organizare/alegeri **16.2.2 Student Union** Within Ovidius University of Constanța, student initiatives and activities are supported through the university-level recognition of several student unions, including: - League of Students of Ovidius University of Constanța https://web.facebook.com/LSUOC - Association of Ovidius Students in Mathematics and Computer Science https://web.facebook.com/p/Asocia%C8%9Bia-Studen%C8%9Bilor-Ovidius-la-Matematic%C4%83-%C8%99i-Informatic%C4%83-ASOMI-61573147096004/?_rdc=1&_rdr# - Association of Economics Students - Association of Students and Graduates in Theology - Association of Students and Civil Engineers https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/studenti/organizatii-studentesti/ligi-studentesti#asocia%C8%9Bia-studen%C8%9Bilor-economi%C8%99ti-din-universitatea-%E2%80%9Eovidius%E2%80%9D-aseuoc **16.2.3. Identification of and engagement with local stakeholders** https://univ-ovidius.ro/proiecte-parteneriate/parteneriate-nationale#parteneri-intersectoriali-2 **16.2.5. The university's principles on corruption and bribery** The university sanctions any form of corruption, including all types of attempted bribery, in accordance with Article 26(1) of the Code of Ethics and Academic Deontology of Ovidius University of Constanța. https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2025-2026/carta-si-regulamentele/5b/CODUL%20DE%20ETIC%C4%82%20%C5%9EI%20DEONTOLOGIE%20UNIVERSITAR%C4%82%202025.pdf

	- ensuring and supporting dialogue with national minorities in order to improve decision-making, through equal access for all citizens to respect and promote their culture, traditions, and mother tongue and to participate in economic, social, and political life, and to combat prejudices, stereotypes, and discrimination in all their forms, while promoting interethnic dialogue, common values, and cultural and linguistic diversity; - significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates; - ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children; - significantly reducing illicit financial and arms flows, strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets, and combating all forms of organized crime; - ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels; - developing effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels;	**16.2.6. Academic freedom policy** In accordance with Article 6 of the University Charter, Ovidius University of Constanța embraces and upholds the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education (1988), among others. Article 53, point 3 of the University Charter states that members of the university community are guaranteed academic freedom, as defined by law and by the University Charter. https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/images/-docs/regulamente/v9/CARTA%20UOC.pdf ***"A Life for Freedom. Adam Michnik in Dialogue with Daniel Citirigă"*** October 15 The event brought to Constanța, as part of the Veridica Conferences, one of the prominent voices of the Polish anti-communist dissidence. The dialogue addressed Michnik's experience of opposition to communism, as well as themes related to freedom, democracy, the memory of totalitarian regimes, and the post-communist transition. The event took place at the Constanța Casino, as part of a project carried out by the Faculty of History and Political Science in partnership with Veridica and the Constanța Casino, and offered the public the opportunity to engage in direct dialogue with the historian, journalist, and former Polish dissident. https://www.ziuaconstanta.ro/stiri/cultura/foto-video-jurnalistul-si-disidentul-anticomunist-adam-michnik-in-dialog-cu-istoricul-daniel-citiriga-la-cazinoul-din-constanta-914662.html **16.2.7. Publication of financial data** Every year, Ovidius University of Constanța makes financial information public (such as the drafting of the budget, the execution of the consolidated general budget of revenues and expenditures, the reflection of the patrimonial situation in the year-end balance sheet, and the calculation of indicators based on balance sheet data) by publishing the Rector's Report on the state of Ovidius University of Constanța. https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Raport-Rector_2025.pdf **16.3.1 Provision of specialized expertise to local, regional, or national authorities** ***The 4th edition of the National Conference "Vespasian Pella – Current Issues of Criminal Law at the National and International Level"*** September 5 The event was organized by the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, in collaboration with the Romanian Association of Criminal Sciences. The partners involved were:

	- professionalizing and improving the work of all central and local public administration institutions, especially the departments in direct contact with citizens, in order to provide prompt and civilized services; - expanding and generalizing services on the internet (online).	- The Romanian Academy of Legal Sciences; - The International Association of Criminal Law; - The Romanian Association of Business Criminal Law; - The Bucharest University of Economic Studies; - The Union of Jurists of Romania. Among the representatives of public institutions who opened the conference were the Rector and the Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences of Ovidius University of Constanța, the President of the Romanian Academy of Legal Sciences, the President of the Union of Jurists of Romania, and the President of the Constanța Court of Appeal. The conference papers were: - Algorithmic profiling and its impact on the right to a fair trial: a European perspective; - Criminal liability of legal entities for environmental offenses: the added value of Directive 2024/1203 (the Directive on offenses against the environment); - The protection of intellectual property through criminal law; - The protection of fundamental rights in criminal proceedings. The national and international perspective; - Some reflections on the possibility of explicitly criminalizing femicide in Romanian legislation; - Human trafficking – particular aspects of an offense with distinctive features; - The limitation period for criminal liability from a European and national perspective; - The application of the sentence in the case of recidivism; - The meaning of the term “accident” in the case of the offense provided for in Article 338 of the Criminal Code; - The primacy of European Union law – an (un)conditional principle and its European and national limits; - Resuming the preliminary chamber procedure; - Psychological expertise in criminal law. Ethical and legal aspects; - Human trafficking, new criminological and criminal aspects; - The principle of humanism and its reflection in the establishment, application, and execution of sentences in law; - Challenges for legislative authorities in implementing Directive No. 1203/2024 on the protection of the environment through criminal law; - The incidence of the new regulations on offenses against the sexual freedom and integrity of minors; - Femicide – a new criminal offense or an aggravating circumstance. The National Criminal Law Conference brought together current topics in the field of criminal law and criminal procedure, discussing the challenges generated by technological developments, European legislative changes, the protection of fundamental rights, and the need to adapt national legislation to

		new social and legal realities. The approaches presented highlighted the importance of harmonizing national criminal law norms with European and international standards, as well as the need to maintain a balance between the effectiveness of crime control and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms. Overall, the conference topics reflected the dynamic and interdisciplinary nature of contemporary criminal law, situated at the intersection of legislative developments, technological transformations, the requirements of European cooperation, and the need to protect the fundamental values of society. The diversity of subjects addressed highlighted the importance of a rigorous and coherent interpretation of criminal norms, of adapting the legislative framework to new forms of crime, and of consolidating procedural safeguards. At the same time, the discussions underscored the need for a balance between preventing and combating crime, on the one hand, and respecting legality, proportionality, humanism, and human dignity, on the other. Through the issues it addressed, the conference contributed to shaping a current perspective on the challenges of national and European criminal law, highlighting the role of scientific and professional dialogue in identifying appropriate legislative and judicial solutions capable of responding both to the needs of protecting society and to the requirements of the rule of law. https://drept.univ-ovidius.ro/images/2024-2025/Anunturi/Conferin%C8%9Ba%20na%C8%9Bional%C4%83%20de%20drept%20penal%20%E2%80%9EVespasian%20Pella%E2%80%9D,%20edi%C8%9Bia%20a%20IV-a%20(5%20septembrie%202025)/Program_EN.pdf https://drept.univ-ovidius.ro/manifestari-stiintifice/conferinta-nationala-de-drept-penal-vespasian-pella-editia-a-iv-a-5-septembrie-2025/ **16.3.2 Awareness-raising and information activities for policymakers and legislators** ***The international conference "Good Faith and Equity – the Foundations of Law in the Current Context of Globalization"*** June 6 This scientific event aimed to analyze the role of good faith and equity, two of the most important principles of law, in relation to the challenges brought about by the phenomenon of globalization. Topics addressed included the standardization of legal norms, conflicts of jurisdiction and examples of inconsistent practice, fundamental rights, and the application of these principles in different judicial systems. The event was addressed to university faculty, legal practitioners (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, notaries public, bailiffs), law students, and all those interested in the impact of globalization on the fundamental principles of law.

		At the same time, the conference created various networking opportunities with the professionals in attendance, and the papers will be published in a volume by a prestigious publishing house in the field of legal sciences, indexed in international databases. https://drept.univ-ovidius.ro/evenimente/conferinta-internationala-buna-credinta-si-echitatea-fundamentele-dreptului-in-contextul-actual-al-globalizarii-6-iunie-2025/ ***The national colloquium "The Need to Develop a Romanian Business Code and a Romanian Maritime Code in the Perspective of Romania's Accession to the OECD – a Country Project"*** June 13 Papers and summaries: - The status and prospects of Romania's accession to the OECD; - Ethics and integrity in business, from the perspective of commercial arbitration; - On the need to recognize commercial law in the current socio-economic and legal conditions. The relationship between commercial law and business law; - Imminent premises and necessities regarding the development of the Romanian Business Code and the Romanian Maritime Code, in line with the standards of the OECD Member States; - A comparative look at business law in the OECD and EU Member States; - Some problems and principles in the commercial and maritime case law of the High Court of Cassation and Justice; - Considerations on legal liability for marine pollution; - Selected case law of the Constanța Court of Appeal in maritime and port matters regarding: (a) The scope of the notion of "civil navigation and port activity", with consequences for the admissibility of an appeal, in relation to Article 485(2) of the Code of Civil Procedure; (b) The institution of detaining a ship by court order until the application for precautionary seizure is obtained, in relation to Articles 997, 968, and 969 of the Code of Civil Procedure; - The reception and application of international maritime conventions in domestic maritime case law; - Some considerations on the case law of the Maritime and Commercial Arbitration Court of CCINA Constanța; - Convex S.A. Port – an example of the business of a "champion" operator among the maritime ports bordering the Black Sea; - Some theoretical and practical problems relating to enforcement against commercial ships. A series of scientific papers were presented at the conference, addressing current topics in commercial law, business law, and maritime law, with an emphasis on legislative and case-law developments, as well as on the alignment of the Romanian legal framework with European and international standards.

		Some of the papers presented focused on aspects relating to the modernization of the national legal framework, the development of business law, the promotion of ethics and integrity in the business environment, and the adaptation of Romanian legislation to international standards. Other papers addressed the comparative and case-law dimension through the interpretation and application of legal norms in commercial and maritime matters, as well as the relationship between national legislation and international regulations. Specific issues of legal liability in the maritime field, the resolution of disputes through arbitration, and enforcement against commercial ships were also discussed. The economic and practical component was also illustrated through the presentation of an example of economic activity in the port sector and its relevance in the context of regional competitiveness. Through the diversity of topics addressed, the papers presented at the conference provided a framework for interdisciplinary debate on current issues in commercial and maritime law, highlighting the importance of legal research, the exchange of academic and professional experience, and the identification of solutions for the development and modernization of the Romanian regulatory framework. https://drept.univ-ovidius.ro/evenimente/colocviul-national-necesitatea-elaborarii-unui-cod-roman-al-afacerilor-si-a-unui-cod-maritim-roman-in-perspectiva-aderarii-romaniei-la-ocde-proiect-de-tara-2026-13-iunie-2025/ **16.3.3 Policy-focused research activities in collaboration with ministries** ***The "AD. AUGUSTA – Southeast Regional Center for Research Career Guidance" project*** May 2023 – June 2026 The project is implemented by Ovidius University of Constanța and aims to establish and operationalize a regional center for research career guidance, integrated into the national network of centers and into the European ERA TALENT platform. The project's main objectives are: - increasing access to quality information, guidance, and counseling services for the research career, for 220 researchers, 650 students, 150 doctoral students, and 30 postdoctoral researchers who will benefit from the center's services; - providing personalized research career counseling services, educational programs focused on science for society, and the promotion of Romanian research and of the research profession, so that at least 95% of the center's beneficiaries will declare themselves satisfied with the quality of the services offered; - promoting science, the field of research, and the results of Romanian research, through citizen science actions, with target groups also represented by school students and the general population (50 schoolchildren or high school students, 100 members of the community in the Southeast Region).

		The project's purpose is to promote scientific research and to develop interest in Romanian research, including by establishing and operationalizing the Southeast Regional Center for Research Career Guidance. The center offers career information, counseling, and mentoring services, technical assistance for writing projects and articles, workshops (including on artificial intelligence), and "citizen science" activities — public debates, science cafés, and interactive exhibitions. The project is funded through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR). https://www.info-sud-est.ro/universitatea-ovidius-lanseaza-proiectul-pentru-dezvoltarea-unui-centru-regional-de-cercetare-cu-aproximativ-1-milion-de-euro-bani-din-pnrr/ https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/stiri/comunicat-de-presa-dezbatere-despre-impactul-noilor-tehnologii-asupra-cercetarii-academice-in-domeniul-medical-la-universitatea-ovidius-din-constanta/ **16.3.4 Neutral platform for debating existing challenges** ***Debate "Europe and America – a Complicated Relationship"*** March 14 The debate "Europe and America – a Complicated Relationship", organized by the Faculty of History and Political Science, featured Professor Ioan Stanomir as special guest, alongside faculty members of Ovidius University of Constanța. The discussions analyzed the historical and political relations between Europe and the United States, from the First World War and the Cold War to the contemporary international context. An important emphasis was placed on the transatlantic partnership, the role of NATO, and the security challenges generated by the war in Ukraine, in an interdisciplinary dialogue intended for students and the academic community. https://www.univ-ovidius.ro/stiri/comunicat-de-presa-dezbatere-despre-relatiile-politice-dintre-europa-si-america-la-universitatea-ovidius-din-constanta/ **Relevant national legislation in force:** ***Law No. 544/2001 on free access to information of public interest*** The law is one of the fundamental pillars of institutional transparency. Basic principles - free and unhindered access: any person has the right to request and obtain information of public interest from public authorities and institutions, as well as from other entities that use public funds or administer public assets;

		- the definition of public information: any information resulting from the activity of a public authority or institution, regardless of its form or medium; Legal response deadlines - 10 business days: the standard deadline for communicating the requested information; - 30 business days: the extended deadline, applicable in cases where the information is complex (with notification of the applicant within 10 days); - 5 business days: the deadline within which the institution must communicate a reasoned refusal; - 24 hours: the time limit for responses to requests made by journalists (verbally or in writing). Exceptions to free access Information concerning the following is not accessible to the public: - National defense, security, and public order; - the deliberations of the authorities or commercial/financial secrets, if their publication would harm fair competition; - personal data (in accordance with data protection legislation); - information from ongoing criminal or disciplinary investigations, if the outcome of the investigation would be jeopardized. Remedies in case of refusal - administrative complaint: may be filed within 30 days with the head of the respective institution, who has 15 days to respond; - court action: the complaint to the Administrative Litigation Section of the tribunal may be filed within 30 days and is exempt from the stamp duty. https://legislatie.just.ro/public/detaliidocument/31413 ***Law No. 52/2003 on decisional transparency in public administration*** The law's purpose - increasing the accountability of public administration toward citizens; - stimulating the active participation of citizens and legally constituted associations in the decision-making process and in the drafting of normative acts. The main obligations of public authorities - prior announcement: publishing a notice concerning the drafting of a normative act at least 30 business days before submitting it for approval; - the consultation period: granting at least 10 calendar days for the formulation of written proposals, suggestions, or recommendations by citizens and associations; - public meetings: announcing the organization of public meetings at least 3 business days in advance (or within the specific legal deadline) and publishing any minutes/decisions;

		- the reasoning of recommendations: the obligation to justify in writing the non-adoption of proposals put forward by citizens; - the annual report: preparing and publishing an annual transparency report (usually by April 30); - archiving and records: archiving the minutes of public meetings and making them available in accordance with the law. https://legislatie.just.ro/public/detaliidocument/41571 ***Law No. 78/2000 on the prevention, detection, and sanctioning of acts of corruption*** The law establishes measures for the prevention, detection, and sanctioning of acts of corruption in Romania, applying to public officials, administrators, political and trade union leaders, and economic operators. Scope and categories of offenses - corruption offenses: bribe-taking and bribe-giving, influence peddling and influence buying (regulated in the Criminal Code, with special provisions in the law); - offenses assimilated to corruption (Articles 10–13): acts such as the undervaluation of state assets, abuse of trust, or the use of confidential information; a) penalties under Article 10: between 3 and 10 years of imprisonment; b) penalties under Articles 11–13: between 1 and 5 years of imprisonment. - fraud affecting the financial interests of the EU (Articles 18^1 – 18^3): the bad-faith use or presentation of false documents to wrongfully obtain European funds; c) penalties: between 2 and 7 years of imprisonment (increased by half if they have particularly serious consequences). Procedure and investigation - criminal investigation: the criminal investigation must be carried out by a prosecutor (according to Article 22), the activity being closely linked to the competence of specialized structures such as the National Anticorruption Directorate (National Anticorruption Directorate – Legislation). https://legislatie.just.ro/public/detaliidocument/22361
	General Sustainable Development label	

1 Images taken from the website: https://knowODDs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/.
2 The descriptions were prepared on the basis of the following: https://knowODDs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/, https://sdg-tracker.org/; https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals, https://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/.