

IntechOpen

2024 ESG REPORT

[intechopen.com](https://www.intechopen.com)



A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear Stakeholders,

I am proud to present our 2024 Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) report, highlighting our continued commitment to sustainability, integrity, and responsible business practices.

In 2024, we strengthened our environmental strategy by optimising operational efficiency and kept investing in digital solutions that reduced our resource consumption and carbon footprint. We remained committed to fostering circular practices within our publishing and research dissemination processes.

We have continued to prioritise the publication of high-quality, open access research aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our dedication to transparency and collaboration has remained at the heart of everything we do.

Our people and our stakeholders are at the core of our progress. We focused on consolidating our long-standing activities and initiatives into specialised hubs, each dedicated to key themes, values, and communities we have supported over the years, such as global SDG topics, women in science, young scientists, and open science.

I want to thank our employees, teams, authors, editors, reviewers, and partners who support our mission. Together, we are advancing science and sustainability—for today and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Sara Uhac
CEO



APPROACH

This ESG Report summarises the work of IN TECH d.o.o. (“IntechOpen” together with its subsidiaries, “we” or “the Company”) on ESG topics. The data and information in this report cover the period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

In 2024, an ESG Steering Committee and an ESG Program Team were appointed. We uphold transparency, accountability, and continuous learning by incorporating new metrics, industry standards, and key topics into our assessments and reports. By staying attentive to best practices and integrating relevant updates, we ensure our reporting remains clear, meaningful, and aligned with stakeholder expectations.

Independent third-party auditors at VitaProject conducted a thorough environmental assessment, ensuring objective evaluation and compliance with sustainability standards. The 2024 Environmental Due Diligence highlights the company’s consistent and expanding commitment to sustainable development in its internal operations and broader value chain. The environmental sustainability report complies with the European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Voluntary Sustainability Reporting standard for non-listed micro-, small—and medium-sized undertakings (VSME) published by EFRAG in December 2024. The reporting is aligned with the Basic module proposed by the VSME standard.

In 2024, we expanded our environmental impact analysis through collaborations with suppliers, including adding new methodologies to calculate parameters related to digital carbon footprint, to improve the accuracy of the assessments and enable us to set more precise goals.

Several areas of indirect impact were considered for Scope 3 emissions, and during the year under review, we incorporated key parameters that most accurately represent our operational practices, including remote work, in line with the UNFCCC GHG calculator.

This report presents both historical and forward-looking statements, reflecting evolving processes, standards, and assumptions that may be subject to change.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Resource Efficiency & Sustainable Sourcing

IntechOpen is a leading publisher of open access books. Alongside the digital option, our books are available in print and are printed and distributed on demand. We also publish a portfolio of interdisciplinary, technology - focused open science journals.

IntechOpen does not directly engage in production, construction, or packaging; these activities are managed within the downstream value chain. Our products, including digital formats and print-on-demand copies, are manufactured by multiple suppliers. Responsibility for resource efficiency and circularity primarily rests with our partners.



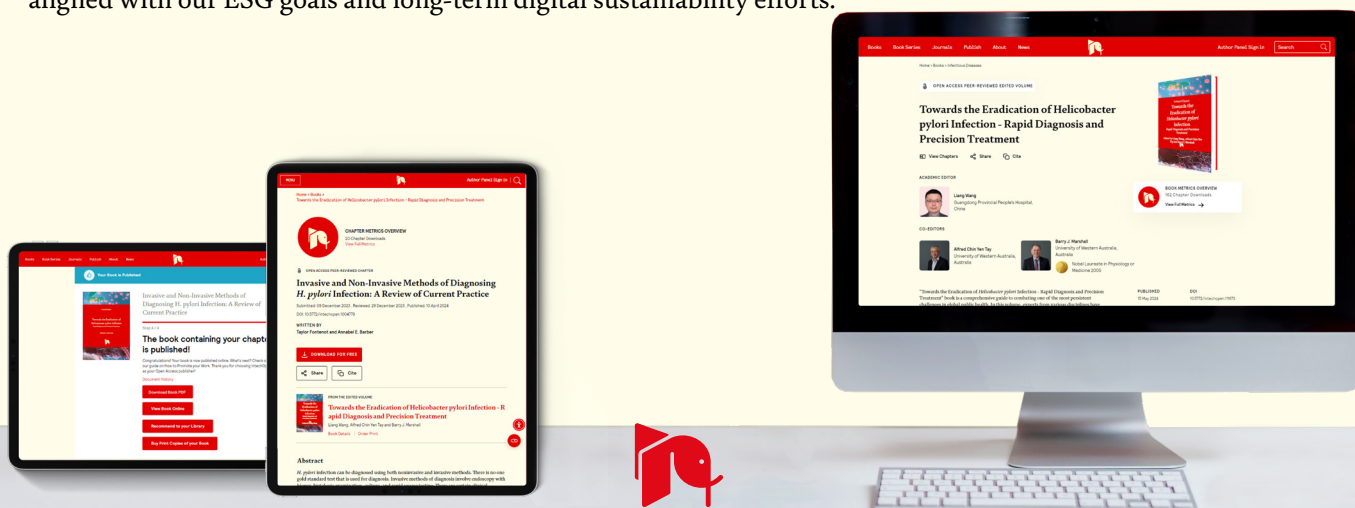
Digital Products - Production and Distribution

The process of creating and publishing books and journals involves publishing platforms and editorial workflow tools, peer review and misconduct detection tools, as well as supporting editorial staff activities, such as communication, coordination, and computing through email, online meetings, file sharing, and laptop, desktop, and cloud-based applications.

For the production of digital files, we implement, to a great extent, efficient automated workflows and collaborate with sustainability-focused vendors to minimise computational load and reduce the environmental impact of digital file production.

- ▶ We minimise environmental impact when distributing our digital products (online books and journals) via our platform by using resources responsibly throughout the digital content lifecycle.
- ▶ We distribute our digital products through third-party abstracting and indexing platforms, and ensure long-term hosting of files via third-party archiving servers.
- ▶ We have reduced the environmental footprint of our digital operations by optimising data centre energy consumption, implementing of efficient content delivery strategies, and minimising digital waste.

Our digital infrastructure relies on services certified to international environmental standards and committed to sustainability. Our providers use renewable energy, target net-zero emissions, and offer transparent reporting, aligned with our ESG goals and long-term digital sustainability efforts.



Physical Products - Production and Distribution

For the production and distribution of physical products, we minimise environmental impact through on-demand printing and sustainable shipping. Print-on-demand (POD) reduces waste by eliminating overproduction and inventory. We prioritise suppliers committed to continuous sustainability improvements, seeking innovative solutions to apply environmentally responsible practices.

We prioritise multi-certified paper with sustainability-focused features, ensuring responsible sourcing and minimising environmental impact (FSC_Co2o637, PEFC_053399, EU Ecolabel, ECF, EMAS, ISO 9706, 9001, 50001, C2C Bronze) and cardboard packaging (FSC® certified; bronze sustainability rating with EcoVadis). Our primary printing partner complies with ISO 14001, ISO 45001, ISO 9001, FOGRA ISO 12647 and FSC Chain of Custody standards. Since 2021, we have adopted DHL's GoGreen Program for the distribution of printed books.

This process applies to about 70% of the physical product produced in 2024. The remaining 30% was produced by opting for locally based POD production and distribution channels, which enhanced sustainability and efficiency by reducing transportation emissions and optimising resource use.

In 2024, we fully aligned our physical product with the EU General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR), which became law on 13 December 2024, ensuring compliance with its core objective: that only safe products are sold within the EU.

Other - Responsible Purchasing Guidelines

IntechOpen recognises responsible purchasing as a key element of its sustainability strategy. These guidelines support staff members in charge of purchasing in making informed and ethical procurement decisions that consider environmental, social, and economic impacts. Since 2024, IntechOpen has formalised its commitment to favouring products and services with reduced environmental footprints, provided they meet functional requirements and offer comparable value. Through responsible sourcing, we aim to minimise negative impacts while fulfilling operational needs.



Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

The categorisation of greenhouse gases (GHG) and the development of the GHG inventory were carried out in adherence to the GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard. This Standard covers the seven greenhouse gases regulated under the Kyoto Protocol, classified into three categories known as Scopes 1, 2, and 3. Reporting on GHG emissions includes activities over all three scopes. These categories distinguish between direct and indirect emissions:

- **SCOPE 1:** Direct GHG emissions from sources owned or controlled by the company.
- **SCOPE 2:** Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating, or cooling consumed by the company.
- **SCOPE 3:** All other indirect emissions that occur in the company's value chain, including upstream and downstream activities.

● SCOPE 1 EMISSIONS

Using the individual approach, Scope 1 emissions for 2024 amounted to 1.67 tCO₂e.

● SCOPE 2 EMISSIONS

The Scope 2 carbon footprint relates to electricity consumption from the power grid, which is produced outside of the Company's location. The calculation of GHG emissions from electricity consumption employs two distinct methods: the location-based method and the market-based method, as described under the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance.

- Location-based method: 0.53 tCO₂e
- Market-based method: 1.76 tCO₂e

The higher figure in the market-based method reflects the use of a higher residual-mix emission factor for electricity consumption.

● SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS

Scope 3 emissions account for indirect emissions in the value chain. For our 2024 reporting this consider several key categories: purchased goods and services (electronic equipment, cloud computing, digital production); business travel, downstream transportation of products; home office.

The total Scope 3 carbon footprint amounted to 97.82 tCO₂e. Participation in DHL's GoGreen Plus program in 2024 accounted for the offsetting 4.77 tCO₂e through certified initiatives.

Overall emissions from all three Scopes are shown in Table 1.

The total annual water withdrawal at the office location amounted to 12 m³. Due to the nature of water utilisation, consumption is considered close to zero.

Breakdown of emissions from all three scopes

SCOPE		tCO ₂ e
Scope 1		1.67
Scope 2	LB	0.53
	MB	1.76
Scope 3		97.82
Gross greenhouse gas emissions (LB) *		2.20
GHG intensity (gCO ₂ e/€) **		0.68

*Only Scope 1 and 2 emissions are taken into account

**Based on LB approach

Table 1. Breakdown of emissions from all three scopes

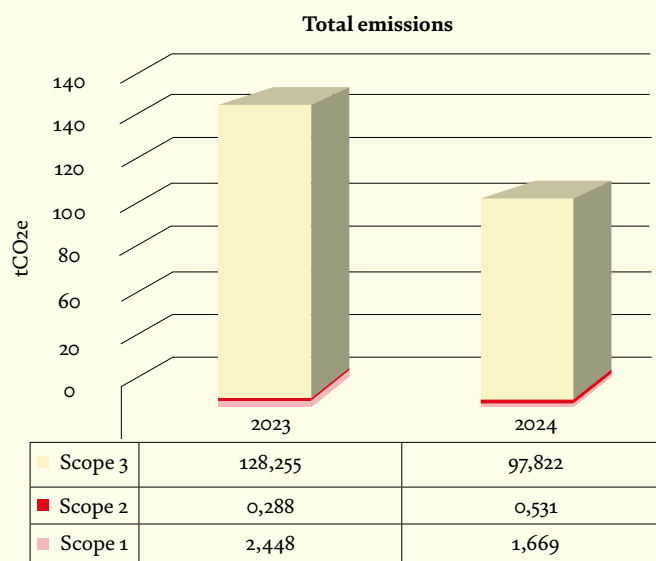


Figure 1. Total emissions of all three scopes




GOVERNANCE

Governance Framework

This section outlines the Company's governance framework, highlighting the roles of the Board of Directors, the ESG Steering Committee, and the Program Team in overseeing and advancing the ESG strategy.

3 BOARD MEMBERS - 1 FTE, TWO NON-EMPLOYEES

 66,6%




 33,3%

Board - distribution by gender

As of 2024, we have established a governance and sustainability committee and program team to ensure full compliance and accountability regarding ESG topics across all functions.

The ESG Steering Committee supports the Board by promoting sound corporate governance and overseeing ESG disclosures and reporting. It also provides strategic direction to ensure operations align with the Company's ESG goals and stakeholder interests.

The ESG Program Team supports the Steering Committee in preparing ESG and sustainability reports and implementing operational and product development activities that align with the company's ESG goals. Team members represent key areas of responsibility:

-  Editorial Development covering the publishing programme, research integrity, industry and production standards
-  Finance and Administrative Business, including HR and occupational safety
-  Logistics and Sales Operations, including sustainable print and delivery processes.

Conduct and Ethics Policy

The company appoints Authorised Persons who are not members of the Board to oversee specific areas of business ethics and ensure compliance with the conduct and policies.

During 2024, there were no reports or complaints related to the protection of worker dignity (Labour Law), occupational safety (Occupational Safety Law), no reports of irregularities (Whistleblowers), and no breaches of the worker code of conduct. There were no work-related injuries.



PEOPLE

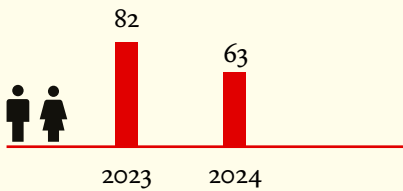
Recruiting and Managing a Global, Diverse, and Skilled Workforce

The combined knowledge and experience of our team members form the backbone of our company. Over 50% of our employees have been with the company for between six and over 10 years, bringing deep expertise, remarkable dedication, and continuity. Their long-standing commitment reflects a strong sense of loyalty and an alignment with our company values and mission.

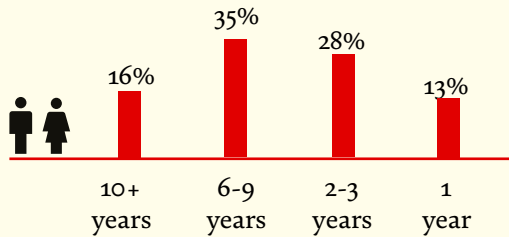
This stability allows us to build long-term strategies, maintain trusted relationships, and ensure consistency across all areas of our business.

Over 50% of our employees have been with the company for between six and over 10 years

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES




TENURE



Data recorded for December 2024

GENDER REPRESENTATION

 81%

 19%

Employees - distribution by gender



TECHNOLOGY

Managing Systemic Risks from Technology Disruptions

As a pioneer in open access, IntechOpen has evolved into a technology-driven publisher, developing digital platforms and software tools that support the global dissemination of scientific knowledge.

We continuously monitor the availability and performance of our core infrastructure using automated observability tools. In 2024, we achieved over 99.96% service uptime, reflecting our commitment to maintaining high availability and ensuring rapid response and resolution of incidents.

Our business continuity and incident response protocols are regularly reviewed and tested to mitigate systemic risk and enhance platform resilience, ensuring uninterrupted access for our global user base.

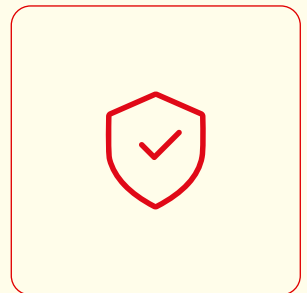
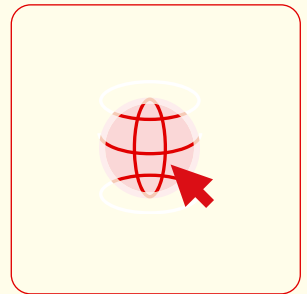
Data Security

We take data security seriously and follow strict policies to protect our systems and user information. Our measures include multi-factor authentication, role-based access control, secure data storage, encrypted communications, and regular vulnerability assessments. We regularly inform our staff of potential threats and run phishing simulations. During 2024, there were no reported security incidents.

Accessibility

Since 2023, our website and open access platform have been accessible to all and comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, level AA, ADA and Section 508 standards. In 2024, the Company actively aligned its priorities and network of partners and suppliers with the requirements of the European Accessibility Act (EAA), which will take effect on June 28, 2025, fostering inclusivity by ensuring that digital products (PDF formats of books/chapters and journals/articles, and marketing materials) meet the EAA's accessibility standards.

In 2024, we achieved over 99.96% service uptime



OPEN ACCESS & RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Advancing Open Access and Open Science

This section gives an overview of the company's efforts to support open access and open science by promoting innovation, key values, and transparent and inclusive research publishing.

Open Science Hub

In 2024, we expanded our commitment to open access and open science when the IntechOpen Journals launched the Open Science Hub, a centralised platform dedicated to advancing openness and accessibility in scientific research. It was created to serve the community with open science resources - webinars on open science practices, expert discussions on the role of open science across various disciplines, and curated resources that help create a more inclusive and equitable scientific ecosystem. The hub provides resources for researchers, academics, and the wider community, enabling them to incorporate these principles into their work.

Sponsorship and Active Participation in the OA Switchboard Books Pilot

In 2023, we announced our sponsorship and active participation in the OA Switchboard Books pilot initiative in collaboration with other key industry partners. Our involvement continued throughout 2024, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to supporting this cross-stakeholder initiative and the open access books ecosystem and community.

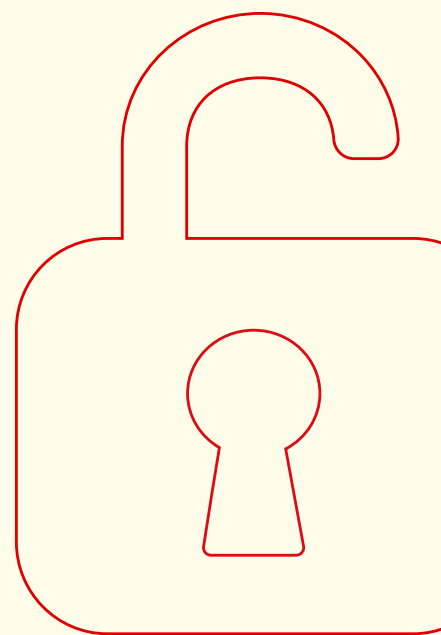


Commitment to Support Authors

In 2024, IntechOpen signed an Open Access Institutional Agreement with Iowa State University to support open access by covering open access publishing fees for their faculty.

CISIC reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the existing Institutional Agreement, enabling CSIC-affiliated academics and research centres to continue to benefit from significantly discounted publication fees.

To increase transparency, IntechOpen has also released a central web page that aggregates information for [Authors, Editors, and Institutions](#) providing the community with a consolidated information hub.

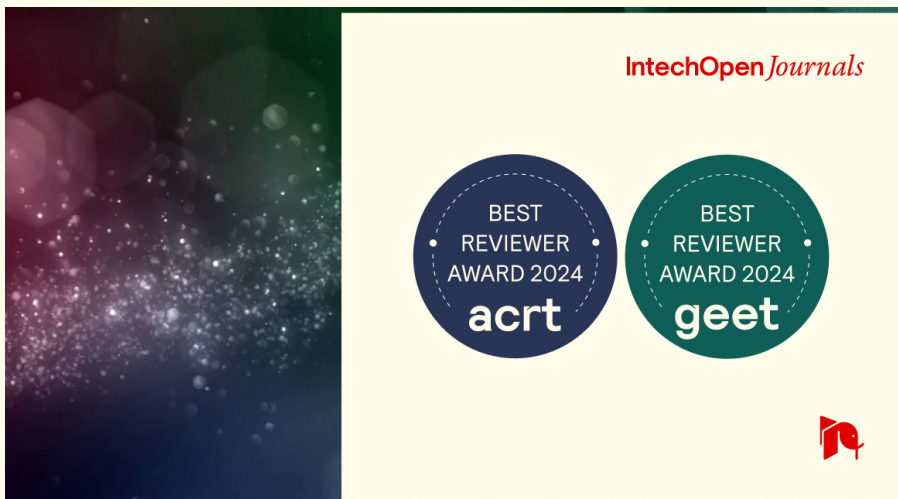


Safeguarding Research Integrity & Publication Ethics

IntechOpen is dedicated to upholding the highest ethical standards in scientific publishing by adhering to best practices, fostering education and training, and actively engaging with the publishing community. Through transparency and collaboration with researchers and their expertise, we strengthen trust and safeguard the integrity of published scientific research.

Inaugural Best Reviewer Award for 2024 - IntechOpen Journals

IntechOpen Journals presented the inaugural Best Reviewer Award to members of our community who demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and constructive feedback throughout the review process. Awardees were selected based on the quality, constructiveness, and comprehensiveness of the review forms, the relevance of the comments and for scientific rigour and the upholding of the highest academic standards.



Peer Review Week Spotlight

To mark Peer Review Week 2024, we interviewed the co-founder of Global Campus, an IntechOpen partner, to discuss the platform's inception and views on AI's role in the future of peer review. Global Campus provides AI-powered solutions for universities, funders, and publishers to enhance academic and research activities.

STM Research Integrity Master Class

In 2024, we participated for the third time in the STM Conference Day: Trust Beyond the Manuscript 2025 as part of the STM's Innovation & Integrity Days, which enabled comprehensive discussions on critical research integrity issues.



UNITED NATIONS SDGs

Key Impact Projects of 2024

IntechOpen is dedicated to accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through our initiatives and publications, we aim to inform and drive sustainable practices, ensuring that the content published in our books and journals contributes to global discussions and meaningful change (Figure 2).

SDGs in Focus



Figure 2. Contribution Areas to Accelerating Solutions to the SDGs

IntechOpen’s SDG Hub

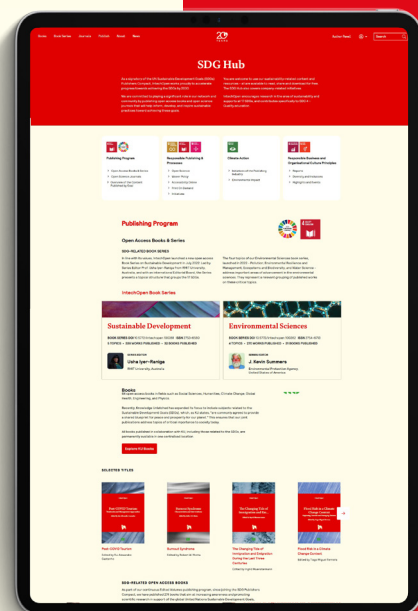
Launched in 2024, IntechOpen’s [SDG Hub](#) aggregates free sustainability content and resources, including company initiatives, and highlights SDG-focused open access books and open science journal content. These materials aim to inform, inspire, and support sustainable practices toward achieving the SDGs.

Women in Science Hub

For many years, IntechOpen has actively promoted the research of female scientists. The [Women in Science Hub](#) initiative, launched in 2024, builds on the successful foundations of the previous Women in Science programmes. The aim is to publish and spotlight award-winning female authors, editors, and scientists worldwide, providing a platform to connect and showcase their work and the inclusivity initiatives they carry on. By celebrating women in STEM, we inspire future generations and remain committed to fostering diversity and empowering women in science.

Rising Stars - A Resource Hub for Young Scientists

In 2024, IntechOpen launched [Rising Stars Hub](#), a curated space with resources for young scientists. For the occasion, a series of inspirational interviews was released. “Conversations with science’s leading minds” gathered some of today’s leading scientists, ranging from a Nobel laureate to pioneers and innovators in various fields, including pharmacogenomics, pharmaceutical leadership, and academia. Other initiatives dedicated to supporting young researchers are also available at the Rising Stars Hub.



SDG Publishers Compact

Since 2021, IntechOpen has been a committed signatory of the SDG Publishers Compact, actively implementing measures to align with its objectives and advance sustainable publishing practices.



Portfolio of Products: Journals, Books and Commissioning of Content Focused on the Topics Covered by the SDGs

Since joining the SDG Publishers Compact, IntechOpen has published over 260 open access books that raise awareness of the United Nations Global Goals and promote scientific research in related areas. It also has more than 100 upcoming titles in the pipeline.

In 2024, IntechOpen published 91 SDG-related open access books (comprising 917 chapters). A diverse team of academic editors from more than 40 countries, comprising approximately 27% women scientists, led the publication of these titles, which aim to raise awareness and promote scientific research that supports the global UN SDGs (Figure 3). Additionally, 45% of these titles were published as part of the Sustainable Development (ISSN 2753-6580) and Environmental Sciences (ISSN 2754-6713) book series. SDG-related works represent 20% of the overall publications in 2024.

Data retrieved in April 2025

Over 260 published open access books raise awareness of the United Nations Global Goals

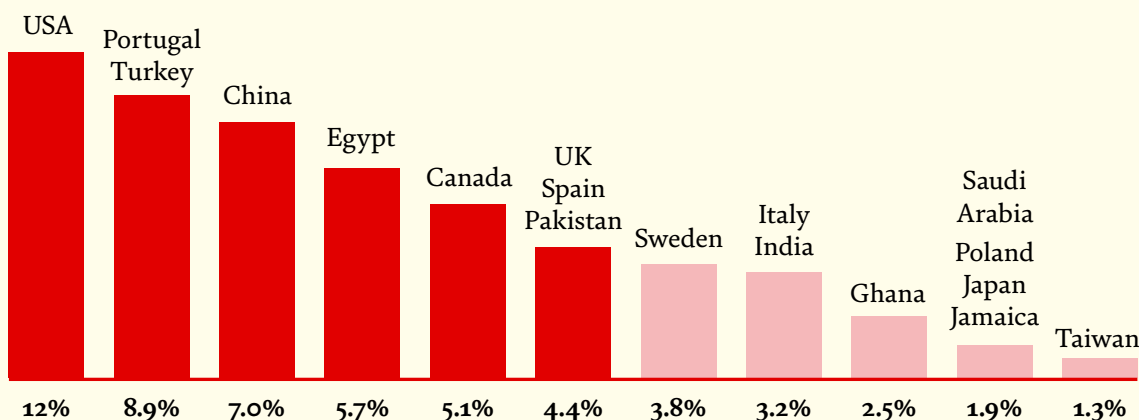


Figure 3. Geographic diversity of Academic Editors guiding UN SDG-aligned book projects – Top 20 countries

New Milestone: 7,000 Books Open for All

IntechOpen has achieved a significant milestone in its mission to democratise scientific knowledge by announcing the publication of its 7,000th open access book. Guided by the expertise of Dr Liang Wang, Dr Alfred Chin Yen Tay, and 2005 Nobel Prize Laureate Prof. Barry J. Marshall, the milestone book offers insightful research and novel approaches, contributing to the continuous discourse on *Helicobacter pylori*-related research.

Books From the Knowledge Unlatched Select 2024 Programme

In 2024, IntechOpen released new books covering Social Sciences, Public Health, Occupational Safety, Inequality, and Climate Change topics, supported by the KU Select 2024 Programme.

To provide easier access to this premium content published in collaboration with KU, during 2024, we established a centralised location where all books will remain permanently available.



Green Energy and Environmental Technology Journal: Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The commitment to supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals is reflected in the scope of our Green Energy and Environmental Technology (GEET) journal, which focuses on renewable energies, environmental engineering, and sustainable technologies. By 2024, nearly 70% of the journal's publications directly contribute to key SDGs (Figure 4), including Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).

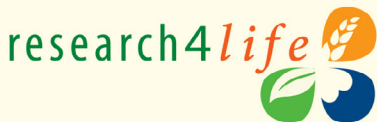
Other initiatives dedicated to supporting young researchers are also available at the Rising Stars Hub.



Figure 4. Key SDGs directly supported by 70% of the journal's publications

IntechOpen Signs Research4Life Publishers Recommitment

During 2024, as a signatory of the United Nations SDG Publishers Compact and an open access publisher, IntechOpen proudly reaffirmed its commitment to Research4Life, emphasising our shared mission to foster a diverse, inclusive, and equitable research ecosystem. Since 2019, our collaboration with Research4Life has aimed to boost worldwide participation in research and scholarly communications, particularly from lower-income countries, thereby ensuring that all researchers have an equitable platform to harness knowledge, broaden publishing participation, and address societal challenges.



Books Now Indexed in EBSCO's Open Access Collection

Since 2024, a selection of IntechOpen's books has been made available through EBSCO's Open Access Collection, a multidisciplinary collection of eBooks offering access to titles across various topics, created in cooperation with university presses and scholarly publishers.

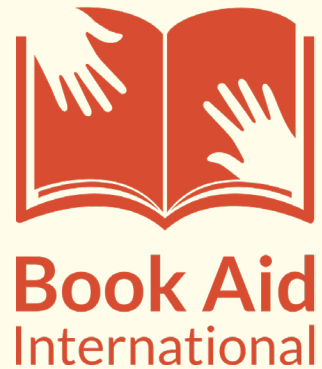


Initiatives

This section highlights socially responsible initiatives undertaken last year.

Donation to Book Aid International, Making Books Available to Education-Disrupted Countries in Africa and Beyond

In 2024, IntechOpen continued its partnership with Book Aid International with its latest book donation. This is a second contribution to the UK's leading book donation and library support charity, which envisions a world where everyone can access books to enrich, improve, and change their lives. Book Aid International focuses its work on low-income countries in Africa and beyond, often in areas where conflict has disrupted education or university faculties face a scarcity of new books.



Socially Responsible Christmas Initiative

IntechOpen engages in a meaningful, socially responsible Christmas initiative each year, reinforcing our commitment to community support and positive social impact. In 2024, we have chosen to donate to an association dedicated to supporting and alleviating the hardships faced by children with malignant diseases and their families. The mission is to ensure every child has access to the best possible treatment, psychological support, and a family environment that provides safety and hope.



GET IN TOUCH



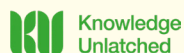
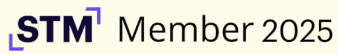
General Inquiries

info@intechopen.com

IntechOpen Limited
167-169 Great Portland Street,
London, W1W 5PF, UK
Phone: +44 20 8089 5702

IN TECH d.o.o.
Prolaz Marije Krucifikse Kozulić 2
51000 Rijeka, Croatia
Phone: +385 (0) 51 770 447

MEMBERSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS



intechopen.com

