



Environmental Policy

KA203 – Strategic Partnerships for higher education

LEAD PARTNER: FernUniversität in Hagen

Authors: FeU
Start date of project: 01 December 2020
Duration: 24 months
Project number: 2020 1 DE01 KA203 005676

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND & SCOPE.....	3
Partner list	4
Background information.....	4
Scope of the document.....	4
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES	5
Measures on project level	6
Energy savings.....	6
Resource-efficient virtual collaboration	6
Guidelines for Multiplier Events	6
Measures on institutional level	7

Document History

Version	Date	Author(s)	Comment
1.1	10.03.2021	FeU/DS	First internal draft version
1.2	16.03.2021	FeU/EC-MZ-DS	First internal draft version - revised
1.3	25.05.2021	UNIMIB/UOC	Added content about UNIMIB and UOC
1.4	31.05.2021	FeU/DS	Draft document finalised

Where any discrepancy or conflict arises between this document and the Erasmus+ Standard Grant Agreement for this project including associated Annexes and requirements from the National Agency, the latter will take precedence.

Section 1

BACKGROUND & SCOPE



PARTNER LIST

Partner	Country
FernUniversität in Hagen (FeU)	Germany
University of Jyväskylä (JYU)	Finland
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)	Spain
Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB)	Italy
Canice Consulting Ltd (CCL)	United Kingdom
Momentum (MMS)	Ireland
European university continuing education network (eucen)	Belgium

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The rapid growth of communications technologies, the lowering costs of travel, increasing multilingualism and open borders have enabled greater transnational collaboration. Nobody has supported collaboration more than the European Union through projects and mobility grants. Yet as the scale of the climate crisis becomes evident and EU and national governments adopt more ambitious environmental goals towards a climate neutral EU by 2050, we can no longer ignore the environmental impact of our European project work. Moreover, the recent epidemic of Covid-19 has cancelled hundreds of events and shows that we need to find alternatives for face-to-face meetings.

The ONE project conceived as a direct response to these challenges and opportunities. The objective of ONE is to strengthen the ability to engage in productive virtual collaboration within strategic and structured international projects, so as to reduce the travel and related environmental impact, and to increase the environmental knowledge and virtual collaboration competences of HE leaders and staff, to carry out multi-national projects successfully with only ONE transnational partner meeting. We will show it by achieving it ourselves and sharing the lessons.

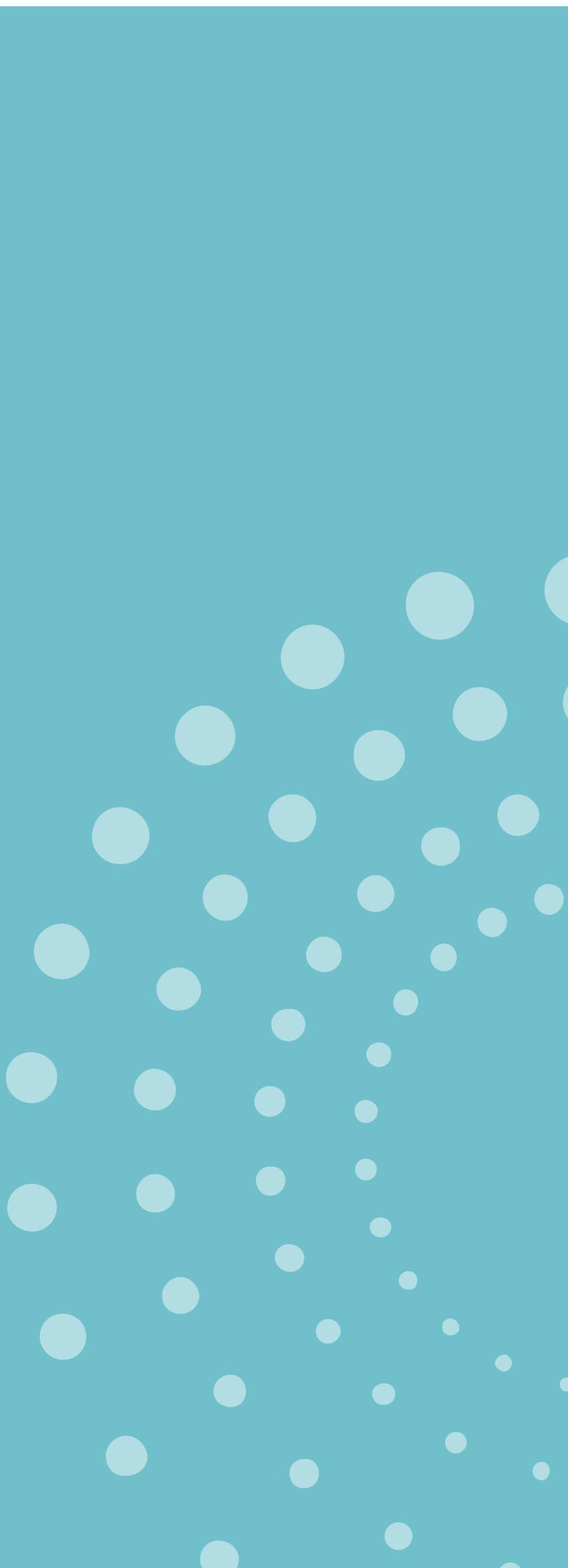
SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

Even though much of our project work in ONE takes place in a virtual context, we are well aware that virtual work also takes up physical resources. Increasing internet use leads to rising energy consumption and already causes about the same amount of carbon dioxide as air travel.

The objective of this document is to present opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of our project work by creating it as resource-efficient and environmental-friendly as possible. The environmental policy pins down the measures on different levels of our project work as well as on partners' institutional level that will ensure an environmentally conscious project management.

Section 2

ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES



MEASURES ON PROJECT LEVEL

Energy savings

In response to environmental issues of our project work we try to make our virtual collaboration as energy-conscious as possible. We especially do this by the following measures:

- We are keeping data volumes as small as possible.
- We primarily store files virtually in their latest version and do not additionally attach them to emails.
- In our virtual meetings, we try to avoid video streaming as far as possible and agree to mostly use voice connections.
- We prefer digital files and only print out when really necessary.
- We make sure to do most of our internet searches through ecological search engines such as Ecosia that donates 80 per cent of its surplus revenue to non-profit conservation organisations.

Resource-efficient virtual collaboration

We already reduced the number of physical transnational meetings to an absolute minimum of only ONE transnational partner meeting (TPM) during project planning and the project application. We planned the ONE TPM with a maximum of two participants per partner organisation in order to keep the travel activity and related environmental impact small.

We recognise that in trans-national projects the TPM is often used as a milestone in the development or completion of an individual output. Therefore, we introduced specific measures for the ONE project with regard to project management, organisation of meetings and communication to ensure that deliverables are shared on time and that we communicate efficiently and save resources. These following measures are in line with our approach to agile project management and the corresponding agile principles (see: ONE-Manifesto for Agile Project Management):

- A clear work plan as defined on our online project management platform with key dates agreed mutually and established as firm commitments;
- the use of a tool for tasks tracking on the project management platform with shared access by all partners to visualise progress towards key dates and deliverables;
- the use of a file sharing tool on the project management platform to enable transparent access to documents and materials in progress so that the degree of progress is visible to all partners;
- virtual monthly partner meetings, so as to boost person-to-person accountability for delivering materials on time and review of key commitments and dates in each monthly partner meetings;
- the effective use of communication tools on the project management platform, such as announcement and chat function, as well as email notifications where necessary.

Guidelines for Multiplier Events

Each partner will coordinate a Multiplier Event (ME) in their own country and carry out follow-up meetings. The MEs are held in hybrid mode or face-to-face, with hybrid being preferred. The respective follow up meetings with participants of the MEs will preferably be carried out as online meetings (webinars). The events will be coordinated according to the ME guidelines developed by eucen (Dissemination lead) that will help to ensure that the events are carried out to high quality standards and are effective in achieving their objectives. The guidelines will also define regulations for an environmentally conscious implementation of the MEs with regard to the specifications for catering/menus, material and energy consumption as well as travel guidelines. These guidelines will be developed jointly at the TPM (month 15).

MEASURES ON INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

The ONE project partners have different structural and organisational possibilities to implement environmental measures beyond the project management.

Partners' contributions cover the following measures:

Partner	Measures
FeU	<p>Sustainability is already anchored in many areas of the FeU. In addition to creating space for the topic of sustainability in research, teaching and transfer, the FeU systematically takes the idea of sustainability into account in the university's structures and processes.</p> <p>This is reflected in various projects and measures, including the area of "Building, Energy, Mobility" through the creation of an infrastructure that contributes to energy-efficient building management. These measures include conversion of the lighting in the campus buildings, planning of a combined heat and power plant, consideration of installing photovoltaics on the roofs of the campus buildings, energy-efficient small projects, such as intelligent heating thermostats, presence detectors for ventilation and lighting as well as charging points on campus (e-mobility).</p> <p>In the area of "research and teaching", the "interdisciplinary distance learning programme in environmental sciences" (infernium) not only brings together the expertise of the FeU, but is also supported as a cooperation project together with the Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety and Energy Technology (UMSICHT). The interdisciplinary research initiative "Management of Energy-Flexible Factories" (MaxFab) aims to expand the state of knowledge on the strategic planning and operational management of energy-flexible factories. With the project "Smart mobility system for energy-efficient traffic control" (STREAM), the FeU is helping to reduce the volume of traffic jams at peak commuting times and the associated ecological, economic and health problems of cities and commuters. In addition, climate policies are being examined in a research project using the tools of economics. General equilibrium models are being used to analyse which contributions the policies can help to avoid serious climate damage.</p>
JYU	<p>The campus of JYU combines world-class architecture with a rich cultural history to offer an attractive environment for a thriving and dynamic academic community. Our park-like campus is open for all, barrier-free and easy to reach. Campus development is based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).</p> <p>Our university has had WWF's Green Office certification since 2013 https://wwf.fi/greenoffice/en/. As a Green Office, we are committed to adhering to the Green Office criteria, as well as planning, reporting, and implementing the university's annual environmental work. Annual reporting includes updating the university's environmental program, a climate calculator and a consumption monitor. In addition, the JYU is audited by WWF every three years. The most recent inspection happened 2019.</p> <p>The JYU, student union JYY and campus student restaurants are committed to promoting Fair Trade and using Fairtrade products. Fair trade is the certification system for products manufactured in emerging countries. The JYU was first awarded the title of School of Fair Trade in 2014.</p> <p>The JYU is committed to promoting the principles, objectives and policies defined by the Council of Rectors of the Universities of Finland in order to promote sustainable development and accountability as defined by the Council of Rectors of the Universities of Finland. In 2020, the JYU rose to the top of the world in the field of ecological sustainability when it reached rank 92</p>

	<p>in its work against climate change.</p> <p>The university is heading towards a resource-wise future and the campus is carbon neutral by 2030. A planetary welfare road map is underway to the JYU, which is currently calculating the starting level of emissions and wildlife harm at the university, as well as creating monitoring methods and metrics to achieve the objectives fairly. The investment activities of the JYU are also part of the emission calculation and the carbon neutrality target.</p>
UOC	<p>Environmental policy is one of the UOC's priorities. For years, actions have been introduced, derived from the institutional strategic plans, consisting of the reduction of waste and the use of resources. The UOC has incorporated the development of the UN's SDGs as an institutional strategy. It has also assumed responsibility for the implementation of the SDGs and their indications in the development of the university's educational programmes.</p> <p>We can highlight internal programmes dedicated to the control of the environmental impact of the university's activity as well as specific training programmes for employees to make better use of resources. The UOC is an online university but has a workforce of more than 1,000 people working in separate buildings. Policies have been implemented to avoid movement between campuses and to facilitate online work. In addition, two three buildings in the same sector have recently been acquired and will become the UOC's single campus, which will end travel between campuses.</p> <p>We would also like to highlight the new <i>University Digital Transformation Project</i> that will be implemented throughout 2021 and 2022. This project consists of improving all the university's processes and digitalising them to promote teleworking and efficiency while reducing their environmental impact. The new campus is part of the project, in addition to the new design of the spaces, of the facilities given to workers to telework and to reconcile with family life. All of this will reduce the UOC's environmental impact.</p>
UNIMIB	<p>There are 35 thousand people at Bicocca: a small city on the road to sustainability. The university has an internal entity called <i>BASE: Bicocca Ambiente, Società, Economia</i> (Bicocca Environment, Society, Economy) that proposes, plans and implements the university sustainability plan through management and structural actions, with educational and training activities designed to change the behaviour of users. This includes training and social inclusion, the protection of global resources and the reduction of waste, promoting energy efficiency and sustainable mobility to reduce the environmental impact of our footprint on the planet.</p> <p>Together with a number of other Italian universities UNIMIB has participated in the creation of the <i>Network of Italian Universities for Sustainable Development</i> (RUS) is also a member of the <i>Network of Sustainable Campuses</i> (ISCN).</p>
CCL	<p>CCL offices are located in a modern new build with the highest levels of insulation and efficient heating, powered by on-site solar energy panels. Resource use is kept to an absolute minimum with no photocopier, use of recycled printer and toner for printing and a limit of 1 ream of paper per month strongly encourages judicious printing and maximises paper reuse. For local and international travel, use of public transport is prioritised. We endeavour to minimise international travel as part of our project delivery and are trialling a unique "one meeting" project approach, which if successful will be rolled out on a widescale basis. We are working towards being carbon neutral in our website servers. Our main data centre is iomart.com in London and they are not Carbon Neutral but they do have a strong environmental policy as a stock market listed company. They have hot/cold aisles in the data centre so hot air from the servers is recycled to heat offices in winter and help extract hot air to save on cooling in summer. Servers in our fleet are all less than 2 years old so have power supplies that are intelligent and ramp up power when needed and ramp down to minimum when not needed. Our 3 month</p>

	<p>roadmap for our new local data centre has us installing solar panels on the roof so we can have 6 months of day running from the panels (late spring, all summer and early Autumn) and we enhancing our UPS batteries to charge from the excess power from the cells to give overnight runtime from stored solar energy. We have not and will not buy, trade or accept Bitcoin until such times as its exorbitant energy consumption is curtailed.</p> <p>As an organisation, we calculate our carbon footprint using Leading Online Carbon Calculation Tools to measure our Greenhouse Gas emissions and are implementing a variety of measures to offset this at 110% by investing in high quality international carbon reduction projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Planting reducing deforestation in Brazil and an • Efficient household cookstove project in Kenya
<p>MMS</p>	<p>At MMS we understand that a strong environmental agenda is essential for us to play our role in combatting climate change and to use our influence to encourage a sustainable future for all.</p> <p>SUPPORTING LOCAL: We are increasingly aware of the impact that many products and supply chains have on the environment. We are very passionate about supporting small- and medium-sized local businesses as we know that investing in local produce and regional suppliers not only has environmental benefits but it strengthens the local economy too. Where possible, we source ethical, socially responsible or environmentally friendly products and services that give back to the local community in some way.</p> <p>REDUCING WASTE AND TRAVEL: We make a conscious effort to source and use organic materials and products and to recycle. We purchase recycled office supplies such as paper, napkins, recycled soft furnishings and other materials. We minimise company travel where possible and have embraced the principle of remote work. We are motivated by the environmental benefits of remote working which has the ability to reduce traffic congestion, lower fuel consumption, minimize construction, curtail pollution emissions, reduce the strain on transportation systems and improve air quality. Where travel is necessary, we choose train/buses instead of air travel. When hiring, we choose eco-friendly cars and when opting for accommodation, we choose eco-friendly or green certified providers where possible. When hosting meeting, we provide information about local public transportation and/or arrange carpooling shuttles between the airport, hotel and meeting venue.</p> <p>SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER: Momentum have recently appointed a sustainability officer who is responsible for providing an ongoing evaluation of the company’s ecological outlook, and other factors that affect company performance on sustainability and environmental issues.</p>
<p>euцен</p>	<p>The euцен Secretariat has reduced its printed archives to the minimum in the last years. All the official and working documents are stored online in a professional Dropbox account. Euцен recycles old paper that is used for taking notes – this is a policy applied since always. The office also reduces to half the printed paper by always doing double-siding printing.</p> <p>The building where the euцен Secretariat is located has a policy to collect and dispose of plastic, paper and ink cartridges: our offices have a recycling box for plastic and another for paper that is collected every week. In each floor there are similar disposing boxes for visitors. The building also has a thermostat heating/cooling system that stops when the optimal temperature is reached. This temperature is set up centrally with a max in summer and a min in winter. The windows are double-glassing, to help keeping the temperature.</p> <p>Some members of staff walk from home to work others use the city’s electric biking systems. The rest use public transport.</p> <p>In terms of managerial energy savings, euцен has always avoided organising meetings of the Steering Committee without being connected to at least one other event (conference, seminar or an activity organised by the EC). This has saved throughout the years quite a lot of CO2 of</p>

trips. During Covid-19 all trips have been cancelled, but the objective for the future is to maintain this approach and maybe even improve it and reduce the number of face-to-face events offered.

In addition, sustainable development has been integrated into all areas of eucen's work. Over the past few years, eucen has been exploring how Lifelong Learning and University Lifelong Learning can contribute to address political, social, economic and environmental issues affecting many countries.

All these approaches are eucen's small contribution to energy saving and carbon footprint reduction.