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1FUTURE

JOINED For sUsTainability - bUilding climate REsilient communities in WB and EU



LAUNCH OF THE 1FUTURE PROJECT

By 1Future Project Management Team

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Marking the start to the 1FUTURE project, the kickoff meeting brought together EU institutions, stakeholders, and HEIs staff and students, paving the way for a transformative journey towards building climate-resilient communities in the Western Balkans (WB) and the European Union (EU).

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In June, participants from eight countries gathered at Lund University, engaging in discussions on sustainability in academia. This collaborative spirit extended into October at Eberswalde University, where we further explored integrating sustainable practices in university settings.



SUSTAINABILITY AT LUND AND EBERSWALDE: WBC HEIS INSIGHTS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Sustainability and climate change practices in the WBC HEIs
- 1Future Project Spotlight: Diving into EU and Associated Third-Countries' Best Practices"



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PROJECT KICKOFF MEETING: 3RD - 4TH MAY 2023

A NEW DAWN IN SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PRACTICES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

➤➤➤ 1FUTURE PROJECT: PIONEERING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Highlighting the role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Western Balkan Region, the 1Future project bridges academia with diverse stakeholders to create climate-resilient communities. Amidst the pressing challenges of climate change, this initiative, in line with the EU's "Green Deal" and Erasmus+ Program's CBHE action, underscores the transformative power of higher education in fostering sustainability and resilience.

1FUTURE'S VISION IN ACTION:

- SO1: Establish Knowledge Hubs for Climate and Sustainability (KHCS) within each WBC HEIs
- SO2: Mainstream climate and sustainability culture within WBC HEIs
- SO3: Raise awareness of staff and student community on the need for climate action within HEIs
- SO4: Increase Synergies between academia, business sector, and government for implementing joint initiatives for climate and sustainability
- SO5: Reinforcement of networking and collaboration between staff and student communities of WBC and EU about climate and sustainability actions

➤➤➤ SPOTLIGHT ON THE 1FUTURE CONSORTIUM

Established in 2019, the 1FUTURE project network is a robust collaboration bringing together Higher Education Institutions from both the EU and the WB region. This dynamic consortium, enriched by the involvement of business associations, non-profit organizations, and supported by government institutions as associated partners, embodies the quadruple helix model, ensuring a multidisciplinary and diverse collaboration and a robust stakeholder engagement



Event Highlights:

- **Warm Reception:** Lund University's Division of Risk Management and Societal Safety set the stage for immersive learning.
- **Lund's Green Approach:** An insight into Lund's dedication to sustainability across research, teaching, and services.
- **LU's Sustainable Practices:** 20+ LU reps demonstrated the university's integrated approach to sustainability.
- **Project Review:** A focused look into the 1Future project's current progress and alignment with objectives.



A Warm Welcome

Henrik Hassel, head of the Division of Risk Management and Societal Safety, offered an introductory address encapsulating the forthcoming collaborative academic exploration. The first session commenced with Claes Nihlén and Maria Nilsson providing an enlightening tour. They demonstrated Lund's integration of sustainability, evidenced by innovative infrastructure and environmentally conscious spaces across the campus.

Merging Sustainability and Student-Centric Approaches

Jenny Hansson, Terese Thoni, and Ylva van Meeningen elucidated Lund's commitment to sustainability through the Sustainability Forum and the Agenda 2030 Graduate School. Sofia Ritthammer's presentation on "H+Forest - The Campus of the Future" proffered a confluence of student-centric and sustainable visions. This perspective was fortified by Nicolas Ariagada and Peter Frank, highlighting Lund's strategic orientation towards sustainability.

Resilient Futures: Lund's Master's in Disaster Risk Management

During the study visit, Per Becker and Magnus Hagelsteen showcased the MSc in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation at Lund University as a contemporary program tailored for addressing today's multifaceted environmental challenges. They highlighted its robust curriculum, which ingrains practical skills in societal resilience and climate-smart risk reduction. The program was described as a blend of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practice, emphasizing critical thinking for future leaders in disaster risk management and climate adaptation.

Pedagogical Innovations: Evolving Methods for Sustainability Education at Lund University

Ann Åkerman presented a methodological exploration of teaching sustainability, emphasizing its importance in shaping future thought leaders. Mirjam Glessmer showcased innovative strategies for sustainability curriculum integration at LTH, and Lea Levy's use of serious games for imparting sustainability concepts epitomized Lund's novel pedagogical approaches.

Concluding reflections, facilitated by Mirjam Glessmer and Henrik Hassel, provided a space for participants to consolidate their takeaways.

Overall, this academic visit explored Lund University's steadfast dedication to sustainability. Attendees departed with enriched perspectives, inspired to further embed sustainability in their work.

1Future Project Update: Assessing Achievements and Goals Alignment

On June 15th and 16th, 2023, stakeholders gathered at LTH Studiecetrum in Lund to discuss EU and Balkan climate and sustainability initiatives. The first day showcased sustainability frameworks from leading universities, fostering deep academic discussions, which will feed the drafting of the climate and sustainability plan in WBC HEIs. After these sessions, attendees participated in a team-building activity at Vattenhallen Science Center. The next day focused on project management, quality assurance, and dissemination strategies, concluding with talks on creating a Climate and Sustainability Journal.



SPOTLIGHT: WBC PATH TOWARDS DEVELOPING THE PLAN FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION

Project partners are working together to identify opportunities that can arise from the legal, economic, and societal framework, as well as to be prepared for the next phase of the project. Partners are identifying current action in the climate and sustainability field and working with EU partners to draft the Plan for Climate action for implementation in each WBC HEI. Partners will review the identified gaps and synergies between climate action in EU and WBC and will develop an action plan for implementing a climate agenda in the future in WBC HEIs.

Plan for climate and sustainability action:



- teaching and staff resources and needs for further training for delivering innovative climate and sustainability courses in WBC HEIs;
- proposed curriculum development of Bachelor and Master programs where innovative climate and sustainability agenda could be developed;



- paths and means of collaboration between stakeholders (business, academia, and government), including digital instruments, platforms, hubs, and knowledge innovation centers;
- opportunities and benefits of establishing a formal collaboration network between WBC and EU HEIs for implementing green deal goals;
- PhD research topics related to green deals that WBC HEIs can develop.

Highlights and Recommendations from EU experience

- Establish formal organizational units (coordination, support, and action)
- Focus on following up effects rather than activities
- Address all types of activities of the university in the sustainability plan
- Use multiple parallel strategies to push for sustainability – bottom-up and top-down
- Use teaching strategies well-suited for sustainability issues
- Serious games and strategies that cover heads/hearts/hands
- Exploit what you already have (e.g., in teaching) – strengthen the connection to sustainability
- Resources need to be allocated, and incentives need to be created
- Educate and empower the teachers
- Work with several levels of abstraction: policy, strategies, and plan



Stay tuned for more updates on the 1Future Project as we continue our endeavors in championing sustainability in the academic sector

Event Highlights:

- **Operational sustainability management, highlighting practical sustainability:** highlighting practical sustainability aspects.
- **Eberswalde sustainability in education:** discussions on coordinating sustainability efforts at Brandenburg universities and showcasing HNEE's study programs
- **Project Review:** A focused look into the 1Future project's current progress and alignment with objectives.
- **Memorandum of Understanding:** Official start of the MoU signing



Sustainable practices at HNEE

The day commenced with an introduction with the host institution, HNEE (Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development), emphasizing its commitment to sustainability and climate action. A detailed exploration of operational sustainability management, including a guided campus tour led by Tanita Sohr was performed. A session on practical sustainability, featuring insights into the university's sustainable canteen and initiatives, was held by Şaziye Aksungur. Engaging project workshops conducted by students for students, with a specific focus on gender and climate justice, guided by Vincent Ruge followed.

The afternoon sessions were dedicated to research at HNEE under the umbrella of sustainability principles. These included presentations on the Sustainability-Transformation-Transfer Research Centre by Verena Graf, the REGION. Innovativ project on the circular economy was introduced by Katja Searles and the InnoSupport initiative for research, start-up, and transfer, were presented by Kerstin Lehmann.



Sustainability in Education

The second day focused on sustainability in education at HNEE. It began with a presentation on the Coordination Office Sustainability at Brandenburg Universities, delivered by Jennifer Krah. Insights into sustainability in education continued with a discussion of the study model for highlighting sustainability competencies at HNEE, presented by Alexandra Wolf.

Participants then dived into the study programs at HNEE, starting with an exploration of the M.Sc. program in Global Change Management, presented by Christoph Nowicki. The M.A. in Education-Sustainability-Transformation, a part-time study, was introduced by Prof. Dr. Heike Molitor and emphasized higher education for development and innovative learning methods.

Following a lunch break, the focus shifted to the M.Sc. in Biosphere Reserve Management and Biosphere Reserve Institute, presented by Dr. Ana Filipa Ferreira, highlighting biosphere reserves as models for sustainable development. The final academic program discussed was the M.A. in Sustainable Tourism Development and the ZENAT research projects, focusing on the journey toward sustainable and climate-friendly travel led by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Strasdas. The study visit concluded with a wrap-up session summarizing the key takeaways and experiences.

1Future project meetings

Together, these days offered a comprehensive exploration of sustainability, research, and educational programs at HNEE, fostering meaningful insights and connections for participants. The study visit was followed by two intensive days of project management meetings. Project partners followed up on work for WP2, WP5, and WP6. Timelines, milestones, and deliverables status were tracked and confirmed.

SPOTLIGHT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - OFFICIAL START OF THE MOU SIGNING

A very important event featured the Fachhochschule Eberswalde study visit within the 1Future project. A Memorandum of Understanding was formally initiated during the meeting between 18 project partners. The MoU will circulate among all partners to have signatures from all institutions part of the project. The President of Fachhochschule Eberswalde, Prof. Matthias Barth attended the event which officially marked the start of the process.



The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the partners of the 1Future Project marked a significant moment in the project's development. With each partner putting pen to paper, the MoU formalized their commitment to working together to address global challenges.



Reflecting the partners' dedication to achieving their shared goals, this moment marked the commitment into future collaboration and joint initiatives. This event signified the start of a coordinated effort to make a positive impact on the challenges ahead.



MoU focus and goals

The aim of the MoU is to ensure the continued collaboration between project partners and to reinforce the network of participants in the project within the following aspects:

- The exchange of scholars and scientists to conduct research of mutual interest;
- The exchange of professors for lectures and short term visits;
- Invitations to scholars for participation in conferences, symposia and instruction;
- Exchange of information, academic materials and publications in fields of mutual interest;
- Facilitating the mobility of students, through exchange and visits, between the parties;
- Establishment of joint degree programs;
- Foster exploitation of 1Future project results and future cooperation;
- Ensure sustainability of the 1FUTURE project results;
- Carry out activities after the implementation of 1FUTURE project;
- Promote communication and cooperation related with 1FUTURE project outputs.



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1future.feut.edu.al

1future@feut.edu.al

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