

Green Campus Standard

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Standardisation process

This standard has been developed by the Green Campus Consortium, under the Erasmus+ programme whose goal is the development and active promotion of sustainable health and sport for all, and a network of over 10 renowned experts in the domain of standardisation and certification process, quality management systems, physical activity and sport, environment, sustainability and social responsibility.

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The following experts participated in the elaboration of this standardisation scheme

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Table of Contents

Copyright 2

Standardisation process 2

List of Experts 2

Table of Contents 3

1. Introduction 4

2. Green Campus scope 5

3. Green Campus domains 5

3.1 Green Campus management 6

3.2 Physical activity and sport 6

3.3 Nature, Environment and Sustainability 6

4. Terms and definitions 7

4.1 Campus community 7

4.2 Event 7

4.3 Facilities 7

4.4 Healthy activities 7

4.5 Inclusion 7

4.6 Network 7

4.7 Operational responsible person 8

4.8 Institutional responsible person 8

4.9 Service 8

4.10 Strategic goal 8

4.11 Strategic plan 8

4.12 Student 8

4.13 Well-being 8

5. Criteria 10

5.1 Green Campus management 10

5.2 Physical Activity and Sport 12

5.3 Nature, Environment and Sustainability 13

6. Green Campus regulations 14

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1. Introduction

The Green Campus project is an initiative aiming to enhance the University campus community's knowledge and understanding of sustainability in general, and in particular of the need to promote sport and physical activity initiatives for all, and the importance of protecting the environment.

The Green Campus project is an initiative dedicated to enriching the lives of students and the entire campus community by fostering a culture of inclusivity, recreation, and sustainability. This multifaceted concept seeks to create a dynamic and environmentally responsible campus where individuals can thrive physically, socially, and ecologically. This broad scope allows the approach to contribute to most of the Sustainable Development Goals[1] (SDGs) defined by the United Nations (UN).

Here are the key elements and objectives of The Green Campus project:

Promoting Sport for All:

Inclusive Programming: Organize a wide variety of competitive and non-competitive sports, wellness classes, and recreational activities that encourage participation from people of all backgrounds, skill levels, physical abilities and supports the emotional well-being of students and all campus community.

Diverse Sports and Recreation Facilities: Develop and maintain a comprehensive range of sports and recreation facilities, including sports fields, fitness and wellness centres , courts, and trails, catering to diverse interests and abilities within the campus community.

Sustainability Initiatives:

Eco-friendly Infrastructure: Implement sustainable construction practices and maintain energy-efficient buildings, promoting environmentally responsible architecture and design.

Resource Conservation: Develop and implement strategies to reduce water and energy consumption, manage waste effectively, and minimize the carbon footprint of campus operations.

Green Transportation: Promote sustainable commuting options such as biking, walking, carpooling, and public transportation while also investing in bike racks and pedestrian-friendly pathways.

Education and Awareness:

Integrated Curriculum: Integrate sustainability and environmental education across various academic disciplines related with sport and physical activity, ensuring that students are well-informed about global environmental challenges and solutions.

Outreach and Workshops: Organize educational campaigns, workshops, seminars, and guest lectures to raise awareness about sustainable living practices and the importance of physical activity.

Student Engagement: Encourage student-led sustainability clubs, environmental initiatives, and volunteer opportunities to empower individuals to actively participate in green projects.

Research and Innovation:

Interdisciplinary Research: Facilitate collaborative research among faculty and students, encouraging innovative solutions for environmental challenges and advancements in sports science and physical education.

Sustainable Campus Practices: Promote and Implement sustainable practices on campus, serving as a model for other institutions and demonstrating the benefits of eco-friendly initiatives.

[1] United Nations. Available here: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ Accessed on 1 October 2019.

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Community Building:

Social Inclusivity: Organize events, cultural exchanges, and social gatherings to foster inclusivity and a sense of belonging among students, faculty, and staff.

Recreation Spaces: Create and maintain green and blue spaces, communal areas, and recreational zones that encourage interaction and relaxation in a natural environment.

Continuous Improvement:

Assessment and Adaptation: Regularly assess the project's progress and impact through surveys, evaluations, and feedback from the campus community.

Expansion and Growth: Utilize feedback and data to adapt strategies and expand the Green Campus project to meet evolving needs, emerging sustainability trends, and new opportunities.

2. Green Campus scope

This standard is essentially addressed to universities and tertiary education institutions in all countries and regions of the world. It has been conceived to be applicable irrespective of their size, population, social, cultural or economic situations. It specifies the criteria to implement, maintain and improve the Green Campus approach proposed by the Green Campus project and to gain the Green Campus Label.

The Green Campus initiative is dedicated to fostering a culture of well-being and sustainability among all students and the campus community in general. The primary objective is to cultivate a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle throughout the campus community. This project seeks to not only enhance students' physical health and overall well-being but also to instil a profound awareness of sustainability principles.

The mission extends beyond the confines of the university campus, as we aspire to empower students and the campus community with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead healthy and sustainable lives both personally and as responsible citizens in society. Through Green Campus, we aim to initiate a ripple effect that will endure long after their university studies have concluded, leaving a lasting positive impact on the world.

This standard includes a field of action related to the management of the Green Campus approach within the university as well as 3 fields of action and activities:

- Green Campus management
- Physical activity and sport
- Nature, Environment and Sustainability

3. Green Campus domains

The three domains of the Green Campus standard have been defined by considering the difficulties that may arise among the campus community. They are underpinned by and directly contribute to the SDGs 2030 established by the UN to build a better world for people and our planet. This standard also considered as essential

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the guidelines of the "Kazan Action Plan"[2], the "Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030"[3] and the handbook from the United Nations "Sports for Nature: Setting a Baseline"[4]

Through work in these areas, the university will have a positive impact on the lifestyle and physical literacy of students and the wider campus community.

Each university operates in its own way. The Green Campus approach aims at ensuring that universities develop strategies and activities through a transversal and collaborative approach using physical activity and sport, nature and sustainability, and utilising what already exists (in terms of organisational structure, distribution of resources and responsibilities, offer of activities in the field, etc.). To create synergies, it is necessary to create opportunities for cross-cutting work and collaborations between departments and professionals already in place.

3.1 Green Campus management

The Green Campus standard is a framework that allows stakeholders acting to promote and improve the health and well-being of the campus community, to strengthen their collaboration, and gradually involve an increasing proportion of people. Cross-cutting collaborations are therefore at the heart of the Green Campus approach, both at the level of the university leadership as well as the operational resources that offer programmes and activities in the field on a daily basis.

The ability of these stakeholders to organise themselves to plan, implement, evaluate and continuously improve the approach is an important lever for achieving successful results and impacts. The criteria relating to the management of the Green Campus approach have been developed with this perspective and contain the fundamental components that can support the university's leadership in this matter, while the more operational criteria, divided into 3 areas of action, contain the components that can be implemented by the stakeholders in the field.

3.2 Physical activity and sport

Physical activity and sport are all the practises of human movement, through organised participation or not, which aim to express or improve the physical and mental condition, the development of social relations or the achievement of results at all levels.

As defined in the "Global Active City" standard[5] (AWI 26102:2017):

Physical activity is defined as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure (WHO), and for the purposes of this standard, at a level required to maintain or improve biopsychosocial health and well-being.[6]

3.3 Nature, Environment and Sustainability

Nature and environment addresses all the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person, and all the related factors that have an impact on behaviours. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health[7].

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[2] UNESCO. Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) - Kazan, Russian Federation - 13-15 July 2017. Available here: https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan Accessed on 12 October 2019.

[3] World Health Organization. Available here: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf Accessed on 12 October 2019.

[4] United Nations Environment Programme. Available here: https://www.unep.org/resources/publication/sports-nature-setting-baseline-handbook Accessed on 9 November 2022.

[5] Global Active City Standard, AWI 26102:2017

[6] World Health Organization. Available here: https://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/pa/en/ Accessed on 1 October 2022.

[7] World Health Organization. Available here: https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/climate-change/who-global-strategy-on-health-environment-and-climate-change-a72-15.pdf?sfvrsn=20e72548_2 Accessed on 5 October 2022.

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Sustainability is most often defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It has three main pillars: economic, environmental and social. These three pillars are informally referred to as people, planet and profits[8].

4. Terms and definitions

4.1 Campus community

The campus community represents all the persons who contribute to the life of the campus and/or benefit from the campus activities, services and infrastructures.

4.2 Event

Adapted from the Global Active City standard[9] (AWI 26102:2017):

A social gathering which brings together the target audience arising from the analysis of the needs and expectations of the campus community, performed by the university or the campus community, as well as from the strategy subsequently adopted.

The event acts as a catalyst for the creation of a cross-sector alliance and the implementation of a strategy and action plans in the lead up to the event ("pregacy") and beyond the event ("legacy"). Additionally, it is used as one of the ways to positively affect behaviour change in participants.

The event can be private, only for the campus community, or public and open to all people.

4.3 Facilities

It corresponds to a place, amenity, or piece of equipment provided for a particular purpose related to Green Campus scope.

4.4 Healthy activities

This term is used in the broad sense and is meant to identify all actions related to Green Campus scope proposed by any type of professional or competent person.

4.5 Inclusion

United Nation definition: "An inclusive society is equipped with mechanisms which accommodate diversity and facilitate/enable people's active participation in their political, economic and social lives. As such, it overrides differences of race, gender, class, generation, and geography, and ensures equal opportunities for all to achieve full potential in life, regardless of origin. Such a society emanates from well-being of each individual, mutual trust, sense of belonging and inter-connectedness"[10].

4.6 Network

It corresponds to a network of professionals and external stakeholders that provides support and services to address the needs of the campus community.

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8 World Health Organization. https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability Accessed on 5 October 2019.

9 Global Active City Standard, AWI 26102:2017

10 United Nations. Available here: https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/issues/social-integration.html;https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/social-integration-social-policy-and-development-division.html Accessed on 12 November 2019.

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4.7 Operational responsible person

The operational responsible person is in charge of the Green Campus approach's implementation and continuous improvement. Part of their role is to liaise between services leaders, associations, internal and external stakeholders and, if applicable, the campus community of the university.

4.8 Institutional responsible person

The institutional responsible person is an appointed official of the university, that possesses the relevant skills and experience and whose primary role is to represent the university leadership and to supervise and support all the Green Campus approach related activities.

4.9 Service

A service is an entity which manages activities, events and products for a domain. A service can directly provide activities, advice, products, events on campus or can work with partners and stakeholders who will provide it.

4.10 Strategic goal

A strategic goal is an objective that the university aims to achieve through its Green Campus approach.

4.11 Strategic plan

It is the process in which university leaders determine their vision for the future as well as identify their goals and objectives for the organisation, and, in concrete terms, for the Green Campus Label.

4.12 Student

The student is the one who attends the university and tertiary education institutions in all levels of studies.

4.13 Well-being[11]

Simple definition

We define well-being as an optimal and dynamic state that allows people to achieve their full potential.

Expanded definition

We define well-being as an optimal and dynamic state that allows people to achieve their full potential. Our focus is on two interdependent types of well-being: 1) individual and 2) community. Individual well-being is defined by three interrelated components – subjective well-being, objective well-being, and civic well-being. Community well-being is defined by the systems and norms of an environment that contribute to an equitable infrastructure of opportunities, access, resources, conditions, and other socio-ecological supports that make it possible for all individuals to achieve their full potential. By focusing on the whole – the whole person, the whole educational experience, the whole institution, the whole community – well-being becomes a multifaceted goal and a shared responsibility for the entire campus.

Individual well-being

is defined by three interrelated components – subjective well-being, objective well-being, and civic well-being.

1. Subjective well-being is expressed when people feel good and think their lives are good; they would rank themselves high on measures of happiness and life satisfaction. The affective (e.g., feeling good) and cognitive (e.g., thinking life is good) aspects of subjective well-being can move independently from one another.

[11] Health and Well-being in Higher Education: A Commitment to Student Success, *NIRSA*. Available here: https://nirsa.net/nirsa/portfolio-items/health-wellbeing-in-higher-education/ Accessed on 12 March 2020.

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2. Objective well-being is realized when people have their basic human rights and needs met; this includes access to mental and physical care, and the right to life, liberty and security of person regardless of differences across individual identities.
3. Civic well-being is demonstrated by acting on community-supportive values and contributing to the communities in which they live. These communities may include campus, local, state, national, and global communities. Recognizing their own value and impact on the whole community, individuals reject biased and prejudicial beliefs, and they actively participate in at least one behaviour that benefits others. In other words, they act in support of the subjective and objective well-being of others, rather than detracting from it.

Community well-being

is defined by the systems and norms of an environment that contribute to an equitable infrastructure of opportunities, resources, conditions, and other socio-ecological supports that make it possible for all individuals to achieve their full potential. Individuals striving for well-being need communities of well-being to engage fully in this pursuit.

Furthermore, intentionally creating a community environment that supports well-being creates opportunities for the well-being of everyone in the community to be improved. It's also important to recognize that colleges and college students are embedded in a society and the structure of that society has a profound influence on their well-being.

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245

5. Criteria

For each criteria, verifiable evidence must be provided. Examples of evidence are available for each criterion.



5.1 Green Campus management

Leadership		
1	The university leadership shall ensure that the Green Campus policy and objectives are established and compatible with the strategic direction of the university.	Initial plan , activity plan, strategic plan, report, official website
Vision, strategy and action plan		
2	The university shall define the long-term vision of Green Campus.	Initial plan , activity plan, strategic plan, report, official website
Role, responsibilities		
3	The university shall implement and maintain a cross-cutting and multidisciplinary steering committee responsible for the implementation and improvement of the Green Campus approach. The steering committee shall include at least a representative of students, staff, faculties and board of the university. The representatives shall attend at least one meeting a year.	Job description, organisational chart, initial plan , activity plan, strategic plan, report, official website
Resources		
4	The university leadership shall ensure the availability of resources for the Green Campus approach (human resources, financial resources).	Activity plan, strategic plan, report, accounting report
Communication		
5	The university shall conduct at least one communication campaign per year for each domain of the Green Campus scope.	Communication plan, activity plan, strategic plan, report, official website, official social media
Stakeholders and network		
6	The university collaborates with the students' associations, the faculties' associations and staff's associations that respectively represent the students, faculties and staff in projects regarding the Green Campus scope.	Activity plan, strategic plan, organisational chart, report, official website, official social media, news, film, photos
Events, programmes and activities		
7	The university organises for the campus community, at least one annual event, to bring together different areas of the Green Campus.	Activity plan, strategic plan, report, agenda, official website, official social media, news, film, photos

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	The event shall involve experts and professionals from different fields, offer educational and informative content, and propose specific activities.	
8	The university proposes a minimum number of free of charge activities or at an affordable price for each area of the Green Campus scope.	
Evaluation and improvement		
9	The university monitors participation in the Green Campus and related programmes and activities. This should include as a minimum: participant numbers from the campus community in activities, organised events, workshops, conferences, seminars and/or trainings; how often they are carried out (frequency); number of internal and external stakeholders involved.	Report, activity plan, strategic plan, official website, news
10	The university evaluates the satisfaction of the campus community regarding the Green Campus approach and responds to the suggestions or remarks.	

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5.2 Physical Activity and Sport

	Criteria	Evidences
11	The university shall determine its own vision, mission and values of physical activity and sport service.	Activity plan Strategic plan Report Official website Official social network Programmes Physical Activity and Sport Plan Official document Marketing plan Organisational chart, Job description Management system, Software, App Map of university infrastructure, location, contact, regulations Annual planning with dates of preventive maintenance and curative interventions of sports equipment Check list of inspection steps for each infrastructure List of first aid equipment to be made available in the facilities Candidature plan Regulations News Film/Photo
12	The university offers activities and/or events that allow the campus community to conduct an evaluation of an individual's personal situation in terms of physical activity participation.	
13	The university supports or organises programmes for gender equality promotion in physical activity and sport.	
14	The university supports or organises programmes of physical activity and sport for people with disabilities.	
15	The university supports or organises programmes of physical activity and sport for non-active people of the campus community.	
16	The university promotes and organises activities within the scope of International Day of University Sport (IDUS).	
17	The university promotes and organises activities within the scope of "Fit for Life" initiative from UNESCO	
18	The university disseminates information about physical, mental and social health to the campus community.	
19	The university disseminates information on how to take care of oneself and manage stress, promoting and offering physical and relaxation activities to the campus community.	
20	Before and during the exam season, the university proposes or organises adapted activities related to the student well-being and relaxation.	

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5.3 Nature, Environment and Sustainability

	Criteria	Evidences
21	The university offers outdoor activities (mountain, forest, river, beach, parks).	
22	The university evaluates air quality on campus.	
23	The university shall adopt and implement a policy and information to ensure the campus environment is accessible to the whole campus community (including users of wheelchairs, bicycles, scooters, skates, roller skates).	Activity plan Strategic plan Report Official website Official social network Mobility plan Stakeholders list Social responsibility plan Sustainability plan Map of locations Photo Film News
24	The university shall develop partnership plans with external stakeholders to implement social responsibility activities, promote social inclusion and cohesion, and sustainability.	
25	The university should implement a communication policy for the campus community promoting environmental travel from home to the university and the mobility inside the campus.	
26	The university shall plan, implement, evaluate and improve specific actions to reduce its environmental impact and increase the attractive green spaces (parks and sports fields as well as woods and natural meadows) and blue spaces (campus design for visible water: lakes and ponds, fountains, swimming pools) of its campus.	
27	The university shall plan, implement and evaluate specific actions to improve the sustainability and use of infrastructure and resources.	
28	The university shall plan, implement, evaluate and improve specific actions to reduce the energy consumption of facilities and avoid waste as much as possible.	
29	The university supports the Campus community to raise its level of happiness.	
30	The university is a signatory to the Sports for Climate Action of the United Nations	

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6. Green Campus regulations

Article 1 - Conditions of access

1. These regulations lay down the conditions of access to the “Green Campus Label” to all universities and tertiary education institutions of the world.
2. Access information and registration to the “Green Campus Label” Digital Platform may be requested by any university officially recognised by the Ministry of Education or Higher Education of each country.
3. The access to the digital platform “Green Campus Label” is done through the address http://greencampus.com

Article 2 - Confidentiality and equal treatment

1. The labelling process is confidential.
2. Confidentiality covers all documents and facts which the administrative services, technical teams, and the Client Manager designated by Green Campus project using the platform, communication and all the assistance needed for the labelling process.
3. All data provided by the universities have as unique goal the evaluation for labelling process, and in case of communication or benchmarking purpose, must be subject to express consent by each university.
4. Equal treatment is guaranteed during the labelling process to all universities.

Article 3 – Minimum requirements and labelling criteria

1. University labelling depends on the overall score obtained in the established criteria, being framed by the minimum access requirements and the fulfilment of the mandatory criteria.
2. The Green Campus areas and scope for labelling are:
   2.1. Green Campus management (10 criteria)
      2.1.1. Leadership (1 criteria);
      2.1.2. Vision strategy and action plan (1 criteria);
      2.1.3. Role and responsibilities (1 criteria);
      2.1.4. Resources (1 criteria);
      2.1.5. Communication (1 criteria);
      2.1.6. Stakeholders and network (1 criteria);
      2.1.7. Events, programmes and services (2 criteria);
      2.1.8. Evaluation and improvement (2 criteria);
   2.2. Physical activity and sport (10 criteria);
   2.3. Nature, Environment and Sustainability (10 criteria).
3. The universities will be ranked according to their score with respect to the criteria, which will be called “Label Status”:
   3.1. Each year of joining the project, the university receives the status of Certified if it has more than 10 validated criteria:
      3.1.1. Certified Bronze: 10-15 criteria validated;
      3.1.2. Certified Silver: 16-25 criteria validated; and at least 1 for each of the domains;
      3.1.3. Certified Gold: 26-30 criteria validated; and at least 2 for each of the domains;

Article 4 – Labelling Committee

1. The FISU Labelling Committee is the competent group to assign and cancel the labelling of each university;
2. The Labelling Committee is composed of Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire, European Network of Academic Sports Services, Universidad Pablo Olavide, Sport Evolution Alliance, European Network for Innovation and Knowledge.

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Article 5 - Labelling cycles and calendar

1. Labelling cycles occur each year;
2. Each correspond to a self-assessment/improvement exercise by the university with Green Campus team of evaluators, report and attribution of the label on the first year;
3. Each year the university has twelve (12) months to reply and work on the criteria in the Geen Campus platform.

Article 6 - Gap integration and review

1. The gaps and any situation not foreseen in these regulations will be reviewed and amended by the Green Campus Consortium.
2. The revision of the standard document and regulations shall be undertaken in five years.

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