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JUNE 2023

NEWSLETTER 2

University cooperation for promoting the GREEN transition and sustainable practices in education and training



The U-GREEN Label

U-GREEN Result 2

The latest developments from our consortium are focused on the new U-GREEN Label to promote sustainability in European Higher Education Institutions (HEI). From October 2022 to May 2023, our U-GREEN consortium has been hard at work on Result ID 2 of the U-GREEN project, focused on the creation of a Green Label for HEI.

Get in touch with us:



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promoting the GREEN
transition and sustainable
practices in education and
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U-GREEN Label

Starter/Advanced/Master Level is awarded to

NAME OF THE HEI OR PHEI

Date, place

The U-Green Consortium



<http://www2.ual.es/u-green/>



[@ugreen.erasmus](https://www.facebook.com/ugreen.erasmus)



[@u_green_erasmus](https://www.instagram.com/u_green_erasmus)

Collaborating closely, our consortium partners have come together to define the standards to be maintained, consolidated, or modified based on the outcomes of Result ID 1 “U-GREEN Guidelines for Education and Training institutions”. Our collective efforts have culminated in the creation of the U-GREEN Label, an initiative that aims to recognize and certify universities committed to environmental responsibility and sustainability.

The U-GREEN Label sets a new benchmark for universities across Europe, encouraging them to adopt and implement eco-friendly practices that contribute to a greener future. By obtaining this prestigious certification, universities will showcase their dedication to sustainable practices, fostering positive change within their campuses and wider communities.





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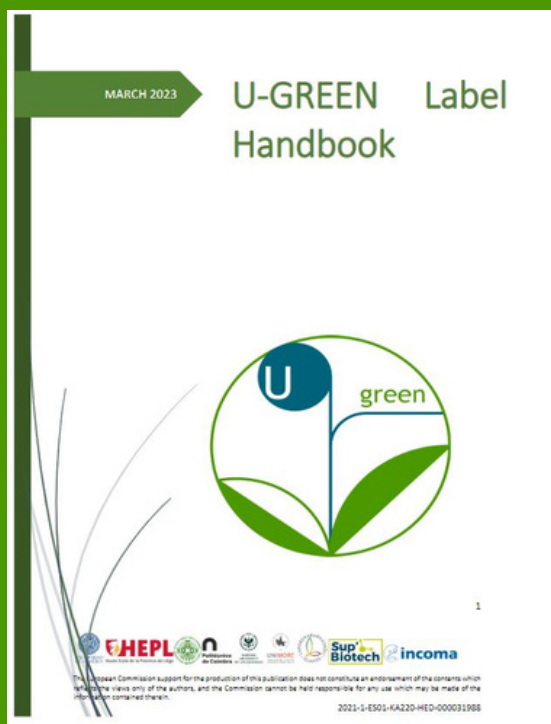


The U-GREEN Label encompasses a comprehensive framework covering various sustainability dimensions, including but not limited to energy consumption, waste management, water usage, transportation, curriculum integration, and community engagement.

Participating universities will have direct access to the U-GREEN Label Handbook on the European project's website (www2.ual.es/u-green/). The guide serves as a comprehensive resource, offering universities all the necessary information about the label, including detailed criteria, scoring systems, assigned levels, as well as instructions on how to complete the application form. It also includes examples of applications to assist universities in the process.

Additionally, also the Application Form will be available for download from the project's website. The application form is provided as an Excel file, allowing universities to input their data and determine their eligibility for the U-GREEN Label and the corresponding level (Starter, Advanced, or Master).

The U-GREEN Label will serve as a powerful tool to guide universities in their sustainability journey and to foster healthy competition for environmental excellence. Furthermore, it will provide students, faculty, and stakeholders with a clear understanding of a university's dedication to sustainability, allowing them to make informed choices when selecting educational institutions aligned with their values.



Technical description of the Label:

The U-GREEN Label is applicable to three areas:

- Infrastructure & Resources;
- Administrative management, Teaching & Learning;
- Community Engagement and Awareness

This labeling process is based on 2 assessment formats: self-assessment and peer-auditing.

The 3 progression levels with the respective assessment format of the U-GREEN Label are:

- Starter Level: it requires only a self-assessment format.
- Advanced Level: it requires only a self-assessment format.
- Master Level: it requires a peer-auditing from Consortium members.

While non-Consortium institutions can conduct a self-assessment on their own, the certification will be awarded after an expert from a Consortium institution corroborates the results, assesses compliance with the U-GREEN framework and based on results, awards the label.

The U-GREEN Label is awarded on the basis of the score achieved by the HEI (Higher Education Institution) or PHEI (Part of Higher Education Institution) after answering the U-GREEN Label Checklist.

The "Master Level Bonus" option gives to the compiler 1 Star and not additional points. It corresponds to the fifth option, available only for some indicators. These Stars are used only to reach the "Master Level" of the U-GREEN Label award process.





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Multiplier Events

On May 30, 2023 the Agricultural University - Plovdiv organised a Multiplier Event under the U-GREEN project. It was attended by 32 representatives of educational and training institutions, NGOs, companies and businesses related to the green transition.



The Multiplier Event was divided into four sessions. The first session focused on the U-GREEN project ideas, the main objectives and the green transitions priorities. The relevance of the topic was addressed. The session observed the link of the U-GREEN project with the Green Deal and other ambitious goals of the EU directed to transforming towards a resource-efficient, circular, digitized and climate-neutral economy.

The second session presented the U-GREEN guidelines for Education and Training institutions. The presentation described the standards, practices and approaches adopted by U-GREEN to support the green transition in Education and Training institutions in 3 main areas.

The third session presented the U-GREEN Label and its Handbook, including the principles, methodology, criteria, and labelling process. The main standards and implementation of the handbook were highlighted. In the end, there was a broad discussion to have feedback related to the U-GREEN project. The last session encouraged a debate on green readiness and green transition of Education and Training institutions.

It can be summarized that most participants were interested in the project objectives and principles. They find the Guidelines and Handbook helpful and the first step toward green education and training. The participants shared their experiences and pointed out that resource and energy efficiency, not only for educational but also for other institutions, is crucial for achieving Green Deal goals. Some of the representatives of the businesses highlight the importance of embedding green and sustainability principles in curricula and developing green skills.

The main recommendation was strict control for receiving evidence to obtain a Green label. Some insisted that the trained expert should have broad knowledge and experience in the field. Some participants recommended that the business and Educational Institutions work together and create a network to achieve Green Deal goals.





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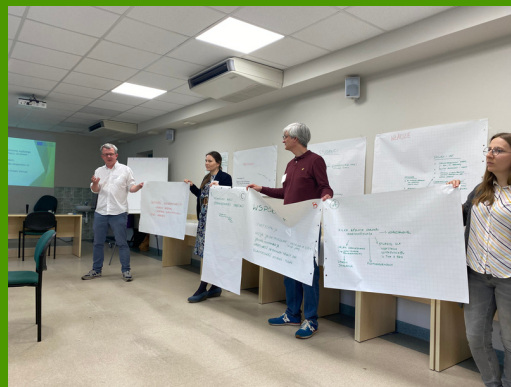
Multiplier Events



On May 19, 2023 Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) organized a workshop called “Green Transition of European Universities” as a Multiplier Event of the U-GREEN Project. The main objective of the event was to disseminate the outcomes of the first two project results, that is the guidelines for green transformation and the U-GREEN label. Additionally, the Multiplier Event was a part of the 2-day SGGW Days festival.

The event was divided into information and workshop sessions. We started with a short information session about the U-GREEN project and also the UNIgreen alliance and followed with a workshop on green transition. As an ice-breaker task, we created a stakeholders’ matrix analysis to find out the abilities and interests in the green transition of different stakeholders, namely university authorities, university staff and faculties, students, and last, but not the campus users (e.g. residents who live nearby). Next, in 3 workshop sessions, we worked together on expectations, demands, and potentials of green transition of higher education institutions. The workshop sessions were summed up by a detailed information session on the U-GREEN project’s outcomes. The last session was dedicated to Q&A and we ended up with a lively discussion in which the participants of the meeting drew attention to the special role of universities in raising awareness on the issues of the green transition.

The event was attended by 30 guests representing as many as 24 different institutions, including other universities, schools, NGOs, and businesses, which was a great success. Among participants there were members of Climatic Boards or other bodies involved in the green transitions of several Warsaw universities (e.g. University of Warsaw, Warsaw University of Technology, Warsaw School of Economics, Maria Grzegorzewska University, Kozminski Academy, etc.).



Another important group of stakeholders was representatives of Warsaw’s local authorities, namely officials from the Warsaw Green Areas Management Board, and the Bureau of Air Protection and Climatic Policy of Warsaw.

Also, it’s worth mentioning that all other participants representing NGOs and businesses were involved in the green transition issues of their institutions, and green practices are crucial in their daily practice.





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The UNIGreen Alliance

All the 8 European Higher Education Institutions that cooperate in the U-GREEN project recently established a European Universities Initiative with funding from the European Commission. The partnership is called the UNIGreen Alliance and is composed of:

- University of Almería – Spain (Coordinator)
- Agricultural University of Plovdiv – Bulgaria
- Agricultural University of Iceland – Iceland
- Haute Ecole de la Province de Liège – Belgium
- Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra – Portugal
- Paris Sup'Biotech – France
- Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia – Italy
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences - Poland

Kick-off Meeting in Modena, Italy

The Italian city of Modena hosted the 3-day Annual Summit - Kick off Meeting of UNIGreen from 6th to 9th of March 2023. It was organized by Unimore - Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia and included an extensive program of meetings.

It was the launching event of the alliance, which is the first European university in the field of Sustainable Agriculture, Green Biotechnology and Environmental and Life Sciences.

The UNIGreen vision

To be the leading European University in the field of Sustainable Agriculture, Green Biotechnology and Environmental and Life Sciences, where students and the entire Academic Community develop the values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and competences to become agents for the transition towards a climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy, supported by an ecosystem that connects education, research, innovation and society to promote sustainable development.



UNIGreen

 <https://unigreen-alliance.eu/>

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