



## “European network in D-flexible teaching (ENID-Teach)”

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## Green Footprint Strategy Version 2.0



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## Versioning and Contribution History

Version	Date	Main contributions and revisions	Contribution by
v.0.1	05 May 2022	Elaboration the document with the basic information	UNED
v.0.2	28 June 2022	Completing the final version for the Paris transnational meeting	UNED

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## “Green Footprint Strategy”

### Context and therefore justification

As you all most surely know, the European Commission’s strategic long-term vision for Europe is to lead the transition towards a climate-neutral economy by 2050, that is, an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This objective is at the heart of the so called “European Green Deal”, but also in line with the EU’s commitment to global climate action under the Paris Agreement. This represents, of course, a general but still mandatory framework, since all EU Member States have been required to develop national long-term strategies in order to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and EU objectives. So, as we speak, this fundamental vision is orientating political, economical and social actions on all European levels, and, more importantly for our project, it also affects strategic educational and cultural policies and programs such as Erasmus +, and therefore those respective National Agencies, universities or institutions involved in it.

### Objectives

From this general context, the main idea that we should keep in mind while developing a “Green Footprint Strategy” and its internal guidelines for all partners of the project is this: we need to achieve and raise a higher level of awareness regarding environmental issues, global warming, climate change and their consequences and impact on the environment. The question, therefore, is to specify concrete actions in our project that can promote good practices regarding environmental issues and sustainable development. **Open to new and creative actions by the partners! They are gladly welcome, specially if have some past experience in this area.**

Of course there are many ways for us to minimize negative effects on the environment, thus further contributing to minimizing climate change. One might argue that these



aspects will have a small scale impact, but that's not the point: we need to promote the idea of sustainability among all partners and also teachers, learners involved in our project in a way that we can think these aspects of sustainability further, even translating them in our own schools, universities, etc. Concrete actions can evolve into experiences that produce new habits. Therefore, the first step should be starting changing our mindset towards sustainability by ourselves, reinforcing a sustainable use of resources among all partners.

### **Internal Guidelines: a first proposal in five points**

Due to the nature of our project, which brings together researchers from five different countries, maybe a good starting point of this internal guidelines would be to stress the importance of promoting, on an ideal basis, zero waste movement and green transport modes. Although there are many ways of implementing this general idea, I thought about at least six concrete actions that could define ideally our “ecological philosophy” during the next three years:

1.– **The reduction of the number of project meetings.** Instead of holding 6 transnational meetings, which was the original plan, we have reduced it to five in order to avoid increasing CO2. Of course this doesn't mean that this meeting has been erased from the calendar, since it will be replaced by two virtual meetings (starting, in fact, with the Kickoff meeting which was held online on March 11<sup>th</sup>).

2.– **The reduction of the number of participants.** This reduction will apply only to the five transnational meetings that will be organized physically, with the idea of limiting it to one representative per partner. **Of course, as we have already shown, the are alternatives via management budget.**

3.– **Green travel policy.** As a general rule, all trips to the five transnational meetings should be ideally organized using those transportation systems that are less contaminating. In order to achieve this goal, and of course only if communications are possible, train should be prioritized over plane, with the exception of the Bulgarian partners which, due to its geographical distance, should use air travel. Of course we know this is quite difficult



in some cases, due to the pricing, time aspects. There is at least a way to compensate it: while staying in the respective European cities, local public transport (bus, metro, etc.) should be generally prioritized over private vehicles, taxis or similar.

4.– **Virtual multiplier events.** In order to reinforce our “Green Footprint Strategy”, both multiplier events, organized by Bulgaria in November 2022 (ME1) and Italy in October 2024 (ME2), respectively, will take place completely virtual.

5.– **The production of physical materials.** The production of print materials, such as project brochures, flyers, and roll-up banners, among others, will be designed so that all partners can translate them and print them locally if needed only for strict dissemination purposes. But, as a general rule for all partners, a “No-Paper Policy” should be achieved, since the project has not foreseen the need to produce physical materials and, more importantly, its digital philosophy has been clear from the start: all materials produced will be shared openly and digitally over the consortium’s website and via the EPALE platform, social networks and UNED channels, among others; furthermore, by using a Creative Commons License, the content of these specific materials will be available in a way that its printing and commercial distribution won’t be necessary.

6.– **Specific training programmes.** In order to raise a higher awareness regarding a sustainable use of resources among partners and participating teachers, the project will develop at least one accessible and inclusive training activity that focuses thematically on the production of e-learning didactic materials that promote good practices regarding environmental issues and sustainable development.

Any idea in this direction will be therefore welcomed.