EUSTEPs PROJECT:
ENHANCING UNIVERSITIES’ SUSTAINABILITY TEACHING AND PRACTICES THROUGH ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

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In the last decade, an increasing number of studies (e.g., Barnosky et al., 2016; Moore et al., 2012; Steffen et al., 2018) has pointed out the role in altering the dynamics of the planet that humans have played, are playing, and will still play, if the unsustainable trends of economies and societies around the world are not inverted. Meanwhile, the education system has gained a central role in easing the transition to a sustainable world and, with the adoption of the UN Agenda 2030 in 2015, it has been linked with 16 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while sustainable, equitable education has become a core target of SDG 4.7 (Collins et al., 2018).

As EDUCATION can influence our societies in many ways, the main objective of this study is to present a NEW SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION PROJECT: Enhancing Universities’ Sustainability Teaching and Practices through Ecological Footprint (EUSTEPs).

REDUCE the impact of EU Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on the planet’s ecosystems and CREATE a future generation of environmentally-aware and sustainability-minded European citizens.

These goals cannot be achieved by universities working in isolation; rather, to ensure EU-wide relevance and applicability of the project outputs, the specific needs of different geographical and cultural contexts need to be taken into consideration from the onset, thus requiring the activities of the EUSTEPs project to be carried out transnationally.

INTERWEAVE conceptual knowledge of environmental, economic and social PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY, with popular digital tools and innovative teaching and learning practices.

LEVERAGE the long acknowledged role of the Ecological Footprint concept in COMMUNICATING the scale and significance of humanity’s overuse of the planet’s natural resources in simple and powerful terms.

CONTRIBUTE to creating a NEW GENERATION OF SUSTAINABLE CITIZENS, aware of the implications of personal behaviour and trained on climate change, sustainability and digital tools, and introducing new professional expertise in the society, and in the future labour market.

WHO?

EUSTEPs: Enhancing Universities’ Sustainability Teaching and Practices through Ecological Footprint*, KA 201, Strategic Partnership in Higher Education 2019-2022, Agreement No. 2019-1-EL01-KA201-082941

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