

UNIVERSIDADE ABERTA

Sustainable Campus Working Group



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

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INTRODUCTION and OBJECTIVES | Sustainable Campus Working Group

The Universidade Aberta (UAb), as a public institution of distance higher education, is committed to contributing to a sustainable society and intending to promote several actions and practices in the area of sustainability, established the working group called “Campus Sustentável UAb”, under the Despacho N.º 58/R/2021, dated 12 July 2021.

Aligned with the objectives of the UAb Strategic Plan 2019-2023, namely that of promoting economic, social, and environmental responsibility and with the mission of promoting sustainability issues in UAb, the working group works under the direct dependency of the Rector of UAb and consists of 11 core members.

In pursuit of its mission, the working group has the following objectives:

- a) Promoting sustainability issues at UAb, contributing to a more sustainable society through the identification of measures and good practices for sustainability at UAb;
- b) Propose strategies and measures to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations 2030 Agenda;
- c) Present proposals to raise awareness aimed at the adoption of best environmental practices and sustainable consumption patterns at UAb;
- d) Promote and coordinate all actions necessary to fulfill the commitments undertaken by UAb in the scope of programs, initiatives, and digital tools for Higher Education Institutions in the area of sustainability;
- e) Evaluate the performance of sustainability and UAb through the use of applicable tools to Higher Education Institutions;
- f) Collect and systematize information from the various UAb services necessary for the development of the work;
- g) Propose the conclusion of partnerships and protocols with external entities in terms of sustainability.

Based on these objectives, from July 2021 to July 2022, UAb Sustainable Campus Working Group has collaborated on several activities to promote the sustainability at University, as listed in **TABLE 1**.

Also, the communications during this period are listed in **TABLE 2** and the future development activities for the next year (based on TABLE 1) are in **TABLE 3** respectively.

TABLE 1 - The main activities of the Sustainable Campus Working Group (2021-2022).

TABLE 1 - ACTIVITIES Sustainable Campus Working Group	
ACTIVITY 1 - Ranking by Time Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 2022	
Date: Oct-Nov 2021	Objectives: a, d, e
<p>Description</p> <p>UAb has been ranked by Time Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022, which measures universities' performance against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UAb's progress has been measured for 5 SDGs to demonstrate the commitment to a sustainable future: i) SDG 17- Partnerships for the Goals, ii) SDG 4- Quality Education, iii) SDG 5- Gender Equality, iv) SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth, and v) SDG 10- Reduced inequalities. The UAb Sustainable Campus Working Group handled the data collection and submitted the report with the collaboration of several departments at UAb.</p>	
ACTIVITY 2 - Development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Course	
Date: July 2021- In progress	Objectives: a, b, c
<p>Description</p> <p>In the scope of activities of the UAb Sustainable Campus Working Group, a curricular unit has been developed to address the objectives of Sustainable Development (SDG) within the five areas (5Ps) of critical importance for humanity and the planet of 5 Ps: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships, initially proposed by the United Nations Development Program in 2015. The curricular unit is designed based on 6 ECTS and 6 topics. The implementation phase is in progress and expected that this course teach bachelor's students in the 1st semester of 2022. This course is integrated with the UAb "Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência" as microcredenciais, and has being developed in cooperation of the Instructor Designers Marco Dias and Helena Manuela and SPD team.</p>	
ACTIVITY 3 - Applying the University Footprint Calculator at UAb	
Date: Dec 2021- July 2022	Objectives: a, d, e, f
<p>Description</p> <p>The UAb Ecological Footprint has been evaluated through the newly released, online University Footprint Calculator. The calculator is one of the main outcomes of the EUSTEPs Erasmus + project. To assess the UAb Ecological Footprint, several departments at UAb contributed to collecting the input data for the consumption of natural resources and ecosystem services within the direct and indirect responsibilities of the university. The usability of the calculator has been piloted from Dec 2021 to March 2022 based on the input data for both civil years 2019 and 2020. The data collection process for the year 2021 is also in progress. These calculations will be an important baseline for monitoring along the years and proposing recommendations.</p>	

TABLE 1 - ACTIVITIES | Sustainable Campus Working Group

ACTIVITY 4 - Training courses for both students and administrative staff on sustainability and SDGs

Date: March 2021- May 2022

Objectives: a, b, c

Description

On the scope of the EUSTEPs project, the Sustainability and Ecological Footprint has been taught to 75 bachelor students of UAb (2021- 2202) within the courses Working Field II and Introduction to Environmental Management of the Undergraduate program of Environmental Sciences. Also, 2-rounds short-term online joint training for administrative staff (jointly with the University of Aveiro) entitled “EUSTEPs Module: Sustainability Training for Universities Administrative Staff” has been held, targeting 19 administrative staff from UAb. The administrative staff learned about the sustainability and Ecological Footprint concepts and how to apply the calculator at UAb.

ACTIVITY 5 - EUSTEPs MOOC on Sustainability and Ecological Footprint

Date: May 16- July 3, 2022

Objectives: a, c

Description

Based on the educational materials of the EUSTEPs project, a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled “Sustainability and Ecological Footprint: From Theory to Practice” was developed in AulaAberta platform according to a hybrid pedagogical model (iMOOC) with new collaborative features drawn from UAb's experience with online learning. The first edition of the MOOC has been piloted from May 16 to July 3, 2022, targeting all HEI communities and the public in general. 190 participants from 27 countries with different educational backgrounds participated in this MOOC. The MOOC is currently open in a self-study mode, however, the group plans to open the next edition of the MOOC with a tutoring system soon.

ACTIVITY 6 - Finalization of the Guia "Ser Sustentável"

Date: 2021-2022

Objectives: a, b, c

Description

Sustainable Campus Working Group has developed an educational resource on how to live, work and study sustainably at UAb under the “Guia Ser Sustentável”. The guide covers five sections, each dedicated to a sustainability action area at University, with important suggestions accompanied by a campus icon and elaborated based on UAb's commitment to sustainability. Also, a pre-self-assessment survey about sustainability actions at the University has been enclosed in the guide. To ensure the guideline is applicable and understandable for students, a pre-test has been carried out in 2 undergraduate programs: Environmental Science and Humanities. The feedback was positive and only suggestions for graphical improvements were given. The guide will be integrated into activity 2 (SDG Course).

TABLE 1 - ACTIVITIES | Sustainable Campus Working Group

ACTIVITY 7 - Assessment of UAb sustainability performance through the STARS tool of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)	
Date: 2022	Objectives: a, d, e, f, g
<p>Description</p> <p>Since the earlier assessment of UAb sustainability assessment through STARS already finished in 2021, the collection of new data was started integrated with the data collected for Activity 3. In 2022, the membership of UAb in AASHE has been extended to make sustainability networking more productive. By renovating the membership, UAb gained premium access to a cadre of resources and like-minded professionals who are setting the standard in revolutionizing higher education sustainability and a discount for submission of the University STARS report.</p>	
ACTIVITY 8 - Participation in the group of ISQ about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	
Date: 2022	Objectives: a, b, d
<p>Description</p> <p>UAb has participated in the theme group for the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Higher Education and Training Institutions, created by the Portuguese Institute for Quality (IPQ). The group integrates members from schools, universities, training centers, and similar institutions and was created to contribute to the “Integration of SDG in Education and Training Institutions” through reflection and sharing of experiences on this topic. In 2022, the group compiled in the form of an e-book the actions and best practices that have been taking place within each institution.</p>	
ACTIVITY 9 - ECO.ap 2030 - Public Administration Resource Efficiency Programme	
Date: October 2021 - July 2022	Objectives: a, b, d, e
<p>Description</p> <p>The sustainable Campus Working Group has participated in the ECO.ap 2030 - Public Administration Resource Efficiency Programme in 2022. This program is mandatory for all public administration entities and intends to promote the efficient and effective management of state resources, in line with the ROTEIRO towards carbon neutrality 2050 Resolução de Conselho de Ministros (RCM) no. 107/2019 of 1 July; PNEC 2030 - National Plan for Energy and Climate 2030 - RCM no. 53/2020 of 10 July, and ELPRE 2030 - Long Term Strategy for Building Renewal - RCM n.º 8-A of the 3rd February. UAb is currently developing the program’s implementation and monitoring structure phase, which means collecting and organizing information and characterizing the reference scenario/baseline concept. Data needs to be collected with the collaboration of the different services at UAb.</p>	
ACTIVITY 10 - Database for collecting information	
Date: October 2021- July 2022	Objectives: a, d, f

TABLE 1 - ACTIVITIES | Sustainable Campus Working Group

Description

Basic matrices for the data collection of the various UAb services were conducted, promoting standardization of their typology in their various areas of activity so that they can be integrated into the applications for national, European, and international projects. The group has started the data collection with information about which natural resources and consumptions are necessary for UAb to carry out the teaching and research activities in higher education. Several departments have been involved in providing the data for each year, starting with the calendar year 2019 (academic year 2018-2019). To optimise the metrics, it was necessary to take into consideration not only the different demands of each project but also the training of the actors providing the data to implement routines and rigor in obtaining them since the final results of each project may be influenced by the quality of the data. To continue the monitoring of the UAb's resource use and consumption, the input data for the calendar year 2020 (the academic year 2019-2020) was also collected. The data collection for the calendar year 2021 (the academic year 2020-2021) is underway.

ACTIVITY 11 - Evaluation of the best practices for the waste separation

Date: May - June 2022

Objectives: b, g

Description

The study and evaluation of a monitoring system for the collection and selection of waste have started to be implemented in the UAb buildings located in Lisbon, Porto, and Coimbra (it was one of the improvements needed according to STARS evaluation – Activity 7). Due to COVID19, this task was only started recently, namely:

- Collection and analysis of the quantities and characteristics of the external containers for solid waste collection;
- To develop the matrix of the daily record sheet of the quantities of waste produced by the UAb, in each building;
- Prepare specific guidelines for the cleaning teams and for the building surveillance teams (who place and collect the external containers of each building)
- Select and prepare the awareness signs to be placed in the indoor recycling points
- Prepare the selective separation signs to be placed in the waste collection points
- Determine the spaces for placing recycling points in each building
- Characterize the recycling points for the collection and sorting of waste.

ACTIVITY 12 - Training and Monitoring of the SGD publishing in repository Aberto

Date: 2021-2022

Objectives: a, b, d

Description

Since 2019 the UAb Documentation Center (DC) has been identifying, monitoring, and analysis of the SDGs report on the contents of the institutional repository of UAb – Open Repository, in the different collections. The Sustainability group has been working in collaboration with DC on this analysis and awareness training for the auto-report of the authors on the repository.

TABLE 2 - The main communications of the group members (2021-2022) (alphabetic order).

TABLE 2 - COMMUNICATIONS | Sustainable Campus Working Group

1. Bacelar Nicolau, P. (2022). Campus Sustentável. Erasmus + Staff Week. Universidade Aberta Lisbon 27 June - 1 July 2021.
2. Bacelar-Nicolau, P., Caeiro, S., Moreno Pires, S., Mapar, M., Nicolau, M., Gomes, A., Nadais, H., Ferreira Dias. M., Lopes M., and Malandrakis G. (2021). Empowering non-academic staff for Universities' sustainability implementation: Learning outcomes of the EUSTEPs training course. Abstract accepted to the 3rd Conference on Sustainable Campus (CCS 2021), October 28 and 29, 2021, Lisbon, Portugal (online).
3. Caeiro, S. Carvalho, M. (2022). Objetivos do Desenvolvimento Sustentável. A UAb e o compromisso com a Agenda 2030. Formação da Direção de Serviços de Documentação. Universidade Aberta. Webseminar 4 de abril. Slides disponíveis em <http://hdl.handle.net/10400.2/10676>.
4. Carvalho, M., Caeiro, S. (2021). Contribuição da UAb para a Implementação dos Objetivos do Desenvolvimento Sustentável: O papel do Repositório Institucional. In 12.ª conferencia Luso-Brasileira de Ciência Aberta CONFOA 2021. 6 a 8 de outubro. 1 – 7 pag. Online, Portugal. Artigo disponível em <http://hdl.handle.net/10400.2/11346>.
5. Instituto Português da Qualidade (2022). Sustentabilidade - Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS) nas práticas das Instituições de Ensino e Formação - Volume II. Edição 1. http://www1.ipq.pt/PT/SPQ/ComissoesSectoriais/CS11/Documents/E_book_Sustentabilidade_CS11_2vol/Ebook_Sustentabilidade_CS11_Vol2.pdf (UAb collaborate as authors of 2 chapters).
6. Malandrakis, G, Papadopoulou, A., Moreno Pires, S. Pulselli, F.M., Patrizi, N., Caeiro, S., Bacelar-Nicolau, P., Galli, A., Theodosiou, N., Zachos, D., Mapar, M., and Nicolau, M. (2021). Improving student's understanding of ecological footprint within the context of everyday life. Paper presented at the 14th European Science Education Research Association (ESERA), August 30 - September 3, 2021, Braga, Portugal (Virtual Conference).
7. Mapar, M. (2022). EUSTEPs MOOC: Lesson learned and the lifelong pathway. 4th EUSTEPs Multiplier Event "Sustainability in Action: Enhancing Universities' Sustainability Teaching and Practices through Ecological Footprint". Partners of the ERASMUS+-funded EUSTEPs project in partnership with Sustainable Development Solution Network Black Sea and Mediterranean. 13 July. <https://www.eusteps.eu/event/4th-multiplier-event/>.
8. Mapar, M., Bacelar Nicolau, P., Caeiro, S. (2022). Sustainability Assessment Tools in Higher Education Institutions. Comprehensive Analysis of the Indicators and Outlook. Chapter 8 in "The Wiley Handbook of Sustainability in Higher Education Learning and Teaching". Edited by Gamage K.A.A, Gunawardhana, N. 496 pages. ISBN 9781119852827. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/9781119852858.ch8>.
9. Mapar, M., Caeiro, S., Bacelar-Nicolau, A., Galli, A., Mancini, S., Patrizi, N., Moreno Pires, S., Pulselli, F.M., Malandrakis, G.A. (2022) A successful experience in enhancing Universities sustainability teaching and practices. Meeting of LE@D-Investigation and Invocation Researchers (Meet.UP22), Universidade Aberta.

TABLE 2 - COMMUNICATIONS | Sustainable Campus Working Group

10. Mapar, M., Caeiro, S., Bacelar-Nicolau, P., Moreno Pires, S., Nicolau, M., Galli, A., Patrizi, N., Pulselli, F.M., Niccolucci, V., Theodosiou, N., and Malandrakis, G. (2021). Sustainability in Action: Lessons from the EUSTEPs Online Educators Training on Sustainability and Ecological Footprint. Paper presented at 27th International Sustainable Development Research Society Conference (ISDRS 2021), July 13-15, 2021, Mid Sweden University, Sweden (Virtual Conference). <https://2021.isdrsconferences.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Book-of-Abstracts.pdf> (Page 50).
11. Mapar, M., Caeiro, S., Bacelar-Nicolau, P., Teixeira, A., Galli, A., Moreno Pires, S., Patrizi, N., Pulselli, F.M., Malandrakis, G. (2022). EUSTEPs MOOC: Leveraging Ecological Footprint for Lifelong Sustainability Learning. Paper presented at 28th International Sustainable Development Research Society Conference (ISDRS 2022), June 15-17, 2022, Stockholm.
12. Mapar, M., Fernandes, A.P.; Martinho, A.P.; Ferreira, C.D.; Simão, J.; Trindade, J.; Bacelar-Nicolau, P.; Caeiro, S. (2021). Guia ser sustentável: sugestões para viver de forma sustentável no campus ...e fora dele... Universidade Aberta. ISBN 978-972-674-892-2. <http://hdl.handle.net/10400.2/10676>.
13. Oliveira, C. (2022). A path towards a more sustainable University: Evidence from Universidade Aberta. 3rd EUSTEPs multiplier event “Sustainability in Action: How to Reduce the Ecological Footprint of Higher Education Institutions” partners of the ERASMUS+-funded EUSTEPs project in partnership with Rede Campus Sustentável. Hybrid event. 1 abril. Slides disponíveis em <https://www.eusteps.eu/event/3rd-multiplier-event/>.

TABLE 3 - Future development activities of the Sustainable Campus Working Group, besides

TABLE 3 - FUTURE ACTIVITIES Sustainable Campus Working Group	
Actions	Estimated time
1. THE 2023- Participating in the Time Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking System for 2023 (following Activity 1)	Oct-Nov 2022
2. The pilot phase of teaching “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) course” to the sample group of bachelor’s students, its assessment and final proposal of its integration in the UAb training offer (following Activity 2)	Oct 2022 to July 2023
3. Monitoring the University Footprint Calculator at UAb and suggesting recommendations (following Activity 3)	Until July 2023
4. 2nd edition of EUSTEPs MOOC on Sustainability and Ecological Footprint (following Activity 5)	Until the end of 2022

TABLE 3 - FUTURE ACTIVITIES | Sustainable Campus Working Group

Actions	Estimated time
5. STARS- Renovation of Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System (STARS) for UAb (following Activity 7)	Aug-Dec 2022
6. Participation in the group of ISQ about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (following Activity 8)	Until July 2023
7. Continuing the implementation of the Public Administration Resource Efficiency Programme – ECO.AP 2030, triennium 2022 - 2024 (following Activity 9)	Until Dec2023
8. Optimizing the Database for collecting information integrated with the UAb Services, in collaboration with the Computer Services, to continue annual monitoring and analysis to support policy decisions. (following Activity 10)	Until July 2023
9. Implementing the UAb Waste Management Plan and awareness campaigns for waste separation (following Activity 11)	Sep 2022-July 2023
10. Implementing bicycles parks and awareness campaigns for smooth mobility of UAb staff (academic and non-academic)	Sep 2022-July 2023
11. Evaluation of submission to the Eco-Universities program	Until July 2023

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