
Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05
Type of action: HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions
Granting Authority: European Research Executive Agency (REA)
Project name: "European Universities designing the horizons of sustainability"
Number of project: 101071300
Acronym: Sustainable Horizons

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Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05

Topic: HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-05-01

Type of action: HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions

Project starting date: fixed date: 1 September 2022

Project end date: 31 August 2024

Project duration: 24 months

Project summary: Sustainable Horizon Alliance will contribute to an inclusive society, supporting researchers/academics deeply thinking, respecting nature, practical problem-solving professionals, adapting to new challenges. We are six young HEIs, open to innovation, located in small cities within EU periphery, from South Extreme (Faro-Pt, Huelva-Es), Central (Zlin-Cz, Ludwigshafen-De), Eastern (Timisoara-Ro) to North (Lahti-Fi) carried out activities of co-production with relevant economic regional impact. The complementary strength in sustainability scientific fields aiming at inclusive institutional transformation and providing a platform as preferential partners collaborating with surrounding ecosystems. The goals are to support the Alliance created in 2019 and in especially the Widening Countries HEIs (UAlg, BUAS UTB) to, within the network and with the best practices, define road maps to effectively implement inclusive approaches to open science policies, gender balance plans, careers management, researcher's societal links. Our sustainability research approach will be anchors on traditional sciences (environmental, socioeconomics) but with strong interdisciplinarity innovation based on Artificial Intelligence, allowing Entrepreneurship and Employability to impact regional ecosystems. The Alliance will rely on a creative governance model with a balanced top-down and bottom-up approach with the academic/researcher clusters (Science & Technology, Health, Socio- Economics), the leadership (Rectors& Directors), to an effective institutional change that will achieve balance between careers and life, to foster a variety of joint research projects based on excellence and trustful collaboration to allow International competitiveness. Using our HEIs geographic proximity, historic, cultural and linguistic links, we aim to project the Alliance outside Europe (eg. Africa & South America) offering Distance learning PhD supporting locally at global level sustainability and a Healthy Planet.

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The partnership for the implementation of this project consists of:

1. UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE, Portugal – as Coordinator
2. UNIVERSIDAD DE HUELVA, Spain
3. UNIVERSITATEA DE ȘTIINȚELE VIETȚII "REGELE MIHAI I" DIN TIMȘOARA, Romania
4. LAB-AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU OY, Finland
5. HOCHSCHULE FÜR WIRTSCHAFT UND GESELLSCHAFT LUDWIGSHAFEN, Germany
6. UNIVERZITA TOMASE BATI VE ZLINE, Czech Republic
7. ACADEMIA DE PESCAS E CIÊNCIAS DO MAR DO NAMIBE, Angola
8. UNIVERSIDADE AGOSTINHO NETO, Angola
9. UNIVERSIDADE EDUARDO MONDLANE, Mozambic
10. UNIVERSIDAD ANDRES BELLO, Chile

Project objectives:

The European Research Area and European Education Area have a crucial role to play in addressing the actual societal challenges, from Climate change to COVID-19 crisis. Research and Development activities need to be strengthened in a deep cooperation at the European level, anchored on Higher Education Institution (HEIs) and in the European Universities Initiative (EUI). Nevertheless, European regions still face inequalities in terms of HEI offers and funds for sustainable applied research activities that benefit the surrounding ecosystems. Within this context to achieve effective societal impact in those regions effective network of HEIs and their researcher centres, from different regions of Europe sharing best practice and constitute formal Alliances with common institutional bodies are the solution to address inequalities. Therefore our objectives in this call as Sustainable Horizons Alliance are:

- a) Integrating Discovery-Based Research on sustainability since the Undergraduate Curriculum to PhD programmes
- b) Contributing to innovation in Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Employability of Early Stage Researchers
- c) Improving links with surrounding ecosystems (regional and international) and allowing distance learning doctoral program to impact SDG at a global level (intelligent tutoring)
- d) Developing institutional change and strengthen our network exchanging and adopting best practices - internal procedures to support researchers, and institutional plans of open science, research data management, Intellectual properties guidelines, based on the best case among Alliance partners or associated partners.