PReventing Incident of Sexual Cyberbullying in Intellectual disability

2023-2-RO01-KA220-YOU-000174271

Green strategy

Green practices incorporated across the different phases of the project

Environmental sustainability represented a cross-cutting principle throughout the whole implementation process of the project. From the outset, the partnership sought to minimise the environmental impact typically associated with international cooperation projects by integrating green practices into project planning, coordination, implementation, procurement and dissemination. The overall approach aimed to reduce the project's carbon footprint while maintaining the quality of cooperation, mobility and learning activities.

1. Sustainable travel arrangements

In order to reduce the environmental impact associated with partner mobility, the number of in-person transnational meetings was limited and carefully planned. Rather than organising meetings on a more frequent basis, the partnership reduced the number of physical meetings to approximately one every eleven months, thereby striking a balance between the added value of face-to-face cooperation and the need to limit pollution caused by transport. When travel was necessary, partners were encouraged to choose the most sustainable transport options available, including rail travel whenever feasible, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions linked to project mobility.

2. Sustainable event organization and online events

Environmental sustainability considerations were integrated into the organisation of project meetings and events and the selection of accommodation.

When selecting accommodation providers, partners were encouraged to give preference to hotels and venues that adopted environmentally responsible practices. Similar considerations applied to restaurants and catering services used during project meetings and events (see 3. Green

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.
Project number: 2023-2-RO01-KA220-YOU-000174271

Co-funded by the European Union

procurement practices). In addition, efforts were made to reduce the use of disposable items, particularly single-use flatware and other consumables during coffee breaks, buffets and similar occasions, with a view to minimising waste generation.

In addition to the Transnational Project Meetings (TPMs) held in person, the partnership made extensive use of online meetings for project coordination, planning, monitoring and follow-up activities. Since face-to-face meetings were limited to the minimum essential, virtual meetings were systematically organised, reducing the need for travelling and consequently lowering the environmental impact associated with transport. This approach also enabled efficient project management while supporting the project's sustainability objectives.

→ Whenever possible, environmentally friendly means of transport were prioritised. For example, face-to-face project events organised by ASSOC with beneficiaries at a local school and at ASSOC Disability Daycare Centre were reached on foot. Walking to these venues helped reduce the project's carbon footprint and reflected the commitment of promoting sustainable mobility practices throughout the project implementation.

3. Green procurement practices

Environmental sustainability was integrated into procurement processes wherever products or services had to be purchased for project implementation. In selecting suppliers and service providers, the partnership took into account not only price and quality considerations, but also the extent to which providers demonstrated environmentally sustainable practices. Green criteria were therefore considered as part of the evaluation process for procurement decisions, contributing to a more responsible use of project resources.

For example, green considerations were reflected in the organisation and subsistence of the Transnational Project Meetings:

- During the TPM held in Spain, catering services were provided by a local social enterprise employing persons with disabilities and mental health issues and prioritising locally sourced products.
- During the last TPM, held in Romania, catering was organised through ASSOC Social Restaurant, further reflecting the partnership’s commitment to sustainable and socially responsible event organization, as ASSOC has strong ecology and inclusive policies.

4. Digitalisation and paper reduction

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.
Project number: 2023-2-RO01-KA220-YOU-000174271

Co-funded by the European Union

A key strategy for reducing the project's environmental footprint consisted in the extensive use of digital tools and paperless working methods.

To the greatest extent possible, documents produced, exchanged and archived within the project — including administrative and coordination-related documentation — were managed in digital format. This approach reduced paper consumption and supported more efficient project management processes.

- In fact, all official documents concerning the PR.I.S.C.I.LLA project were signed using digital signatures whenever possible, eliminating the need for printing.
- In addition, all project-related documents were shared and managed through a dedicated Google Drive workspace accessible to the entire consortium. This digital approach reduced the need for printed materials and facilitated efficient document management / collaboration among partners: all project resources were centrally stored and easily accessible throughout the implementation of the project.

Digital tools were widely used for communication, coordination, learning and collaboration among project partners and participants. Beyond supporting the digital dimension of the project, this approach also contributed to reducing the number of in-person meetings required for implementation and coordination, thereby limiting travel-related emissions, as already mentioned. When selecting digital tools, preference was given, where possible, to solutions that promoted energy efficiency or that demonstrated environmentally responsible practices, including compensation or sustainability-oriented policies.

Similarly, for all activities conducted at national level and internally to each partner organisation, all consortium members systematically applied paperless working practices throughout the project by relying on digital documentation, online collaboration platforms and electronic communication for the coordination of activities with participants and stakeholders. Training materials, participant information and evaluation tools were shared electronically whenever possible, significantly reducing the need for printed materials.

5. Recycling and waste reduction

The project also promoted recycling and responsible waste management practices throughout its activities. Where disposable materials and supplies were used, partners ensured that recycling arrangements were in place whenever possible. This applied particularly during meetings, events and dissemination activities involving printed or consumable materials. The partnership sought to minimise waste and to encourage more responsible consumption habits among all those involved in project implementation.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.
Project number: 2023-2-RO01-KA220-YOU-000174271

Co-funded by the European Union

- In practice, when printed documents were no longer needed, they were either reused by project partners for notes and reminders, or responsibly disposed of in dedicated paper recycling bins.
- All documents were printed in black and white (printed only when necessary), and using double-sided printing to minimise paper consumption.

During local activities conducted by each partner organisation, participants were also encouraged to use reusable water bottles and minimise the use of single-use plastics, while recycling facilities available at the hosting venues were actively used to support responsible waste management.

6. Awareness-raising and promotion of sustainable practices

In addition to applying all the previous green measures internally, the partnership actively promoted awareness of environmental sustainability importance among the participants at events, stakeholders and wider audiences reached by the project. Individuals involved in project activities were informed of the sustainable practices adopted by the consortium and were encouraged to reflect on how similar approaches could be integrated into their own organisations and daily routines.

As part of this collective effort, the PR.I.S.C.I.LLA consortium produced and disseminated informative materials summarising the green strategies adopted throughout the project. In this regard, even the present document is a practical resource to promote the transferability of environmentally sustainable practices beyond the immediate scope of the project.

Sustainability goals

Overall, the PR.I.S.C.I.LLA project incorporated green practices across its different phases to the greatest extent possible. Sustainability goals were achieved through a combination of reduced travel, sustainable event organisation, environmentally conscious procurement, digitalisation, recycling and awareness-raising measures. Through this integrated approach, the partnership sought to ensure that project implementation remained aligned with the Erasmus+ sustainability principles, by reducing the environmental impact that transnational cooperation activities may generate.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.
Project number: 2023-2-RO01-KA220-YOU-000174271

Co-funded by the European Union