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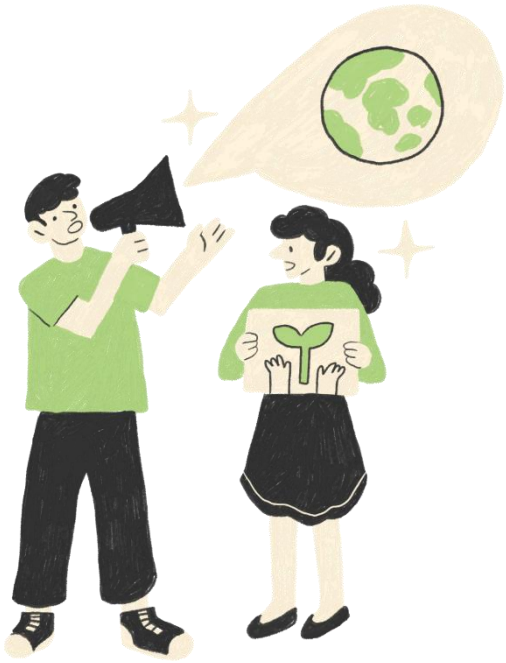
PLACES



Environmental Sustainability Policy

PLACES. Promoting Landscape, Accessibility and Culture for Experiential and Sustainable Tourism

lapiccionaia centro di produzione teatrale

independent VITA INDIPENDENTE E MOBILITÀ SELBSTBESTIMMTES LEBEN UND MOBILITÄT

il Tarvisiano

Città di Vicenza

LANDES MUSEUM KÄRNTEN

KÄRNTEN Werbung

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1. Introduction

This Environmental Sustainability Policy outlines the principles and commitments of the PLACES project partnership to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices. It is guided by the environmental sustainability commitments outlined in the PLACES project framework.

This Policy aims to provide a series of useful indications for the minimization of the environmental impact of project activities, for the promotion of sustainable practices across all project operations, for the integration of environmental sustainability considerations into decision-making and project implementation.

2. Values and Commitments

The PLACES project recognizes that sustainable tourism and cultural development require a balance between economic growth, environmental preservation, and social inclusion. The partnership is committed to reducing its environmental impact through responsible practices, encouraging eco-friendly behaviors, and ensuring that project activities contribute positively to the environment in both the short and long term.

The project respects the 'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle: the project activities do not involve interventions of an invasive nature at a structural level or that could cause damage to the surrounding environment. On the contrary, the project encourages good usability practices in the sites involved, while promoting soft mobility and encouraging healthy lifestyles and the maintenance of a cleaner and more livable environment.

The PLACES project is based on key values and commitments aimed at protecting natural ecosystems, promoting environmental justice, and reducing environmental degradation. The actions taken prioritize sustainable and regenerative methods with the goal of restoring and enhancing ecosystems. Additionally, the project is committed to reducing the consumption of energy, water, and other natural resources by adopting principles of sufficiency and efficiency. A strong focus is also placed on reducing carbon emissions, encouraging the use of low-carbon or renewable energy sources, and promoting climate adaptation strategies. Finally, the project implements measures to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials, following the principles of the circular economy to minimize waste production.

3. Tools and Methods

To achieve these objectives, the PLACES partnership will adopt the following practical measures:

- Prioritise virtual meetings and the use of sustainable transport and low-emission vehicles to reduce the carbon footprint of project-related travel.

- Organise project events and workshops using environmentally responsible practices. This includes minimizing single-use plastics, using recycled and/or compostable materials, and offering plant-based (and possibly local and seasonal) catering options to promote food sovereignty and sustainable consumption.
- Implement energy-efficient solutions, reducing water consumption, and adopting environmentally friendly purchasing considerations in all project-related activities. This includes reducing the use of printed materials, using digital formats where possible, and ensuring that printed materials are environmentally friendly.
- Engage suppliers who adhere to environmentally sustainable practices to ensure responsible supply chains. This applies to external services, giving preference to local, socially responsible suppliers and those engaged in the circular economy.
- Encourage waste separation and recycling. Where applicable, leftover resources from project activities, including food and materials, will be redistributed or donated to prevent waste.
- With regard to fittings or furnishings, favour the use of sustainable or recycled materials, and observe the principle of design for disassembly.
- Regularly assess the implementation of environmental sustainability concerns through feedback exchange during TPMs.

4. Duration and Application

This policy is effective for the entire duration of the PLACES project and applies to all individuals and organizations involved.

The PLACES partnership remains committed to continuous improvement and the active promotion of environmental sustainability throughout all project phases.

5. Definitions

- *Sustainability*: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, while actively regenerating ecosystems and natural resources.
- *Carbon Footprint*: The total amount of greenhouse gases produced directly or indirectly by project activities, measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e).
- *Circular Economy*: An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and promoting the continual use of resources through recycling, reuse, and designing for durability.
- *Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) Principle*: Ensuring that all project activities do not cause significant environmental degradation or contribute to the exacerbation of social inequities.

- *Design for disassembly:* a design approach that aims to make products easily repairable, upgradeable or disassembled. In this way, materials can be recycled and the environmental impact reduced.

6. References and resources

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goals 11 https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11 and 13 https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13
- European Commission's "Green Deal" framework https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
- The "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) Principle https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/glossary-item/do-no-significant-harm_en
- EUSALP (EU Strategy for the Alpine Region) environmental guidelines https://alpine-region.eu/about/strategy
- Asud Ecologist Glossary https://asud.net/glossarioecologista/
- Calculation of the carbon footprint of an event or activity https://co2.myclimate.org/it/calculate_emissions
- Julie's Bicycle (resources on mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate, nature and justice crisis) https://juliesbicycle.com/

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