



“The ERUA Protocol for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”

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The ERUA Alliance Protocol for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda¹

The “Aeiforia” Statement

We, the 5 Reform Universities of the ERUA Alliance, as a European Universities Initiative

- Share a vision of universities as creative spaces, an awareness of the power of experimental approaches, and an understanding of the promises of diversity. To address the challenges and problems of today and prepare for the challenges of the future.
- Wish to bring together academics from all areas of Europe and students from all socioeconomic deciles, rural and urban settings, local and global backgrounds.

Together we aim to contribute to shaping a fairer, more open and more inclusive society. As Reform Universities we continuously question and transform our institutions. We foster the critical function of the modern university by reflecting upon, assessing and advancing alternatives to current models. We do so by drawing upon the diverse experiences and backgrounds of the university community, which embody the diversity of the society around us, and encourage and allow all to participate in shaping the future of the university.

In seeking to be sustainable the ERUA Universities

- Are already being engaged with the SDGs (*in policies and strategies, in management, in teaching and research*). Sustainable campus management has become a very important common practice for all the ERUA universities, and is considered a part of the institution’s societal and/or environmental responsibility.
- Strive to be game-changers seeking solutions for the major sustainability challenges facing the world, while defending a model of a socially responsible society and aim to be ecologically committed, socially responsible and economically sustainable by spreading a culture of solidarity towards humanity and protecting the planet for future generations.
- Consider ourselves as reformists and pioneers of sustainability, spreading this culture to the global community, enabling staff and students to develop alternative forms of thinking and of practice and be active actors of sustainability, individually and collectively as a community.
- Aim to equip our students with the skills, knowledge and awareness to make a difference in their future careers and lives and be agents of change.
- Have the fundamental responsibility for training present and future generations to sustainability and civic engagement, through a transversal action that pervades education, training and curricula at all levels and from different theoretical and practical perspectives.
- Have the fundamental responsibility to operate in an efficient and solid manner in order to create and share sustainable values in research.
- Need to work together and coordinate efforts to ensure the achievement of the SDGs, despite barriers and differences, i.e., institutional typologies, the degree of students’ engagement in voluntary activities, social and political imperatives, geography, affiliation and status.

Together we can boost our actions for a greater and long-lasting impact on a local, a regional and a global scale.

Hereby,

We as ERUA Alliance, in our “Aeiforia Movement”, express our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Addressing the contemporary challenges of sustainability as a driver of change, realizing the transformative potential of the SDGs.
- Enhancing our joint efforts and embedding sustainability across our activities, operations, monitoring and evaluation.
- Articulating a shared vision and understanding for sustainability, deepening joint efforts in strategies and plans and fostering and promoting sustainable development on and off campus, through best practices paradigms.
- Upholding open science to facilitate sustainable strategic partnerships and problem-solving collaborations across borders.
- Supporting and encouraging interdisciplinary research, community-based participatory research on sustainability, social justice and the SDGs.
- Stressing the importance of access to inclusive and equitable quality education, training and lifelong learning for all.
- Communicating openly to engage the campuses and wider communities to create a culture shift, change norms, and fostering a “SDG culture” within the academic community by encouraging students, faculty and staff to adopt the SDGs targets.
- Making our cities, our islands and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and working in cooperation with local, regional, national and international organizations for a sustainable future.
- Fostering the dialogue for the New European Bauhaus Movement, with ecological aesthetics, design & digital technologies, through Arts and Culture for Social Change.

We as ERUA Alliance agree to develop a shared strategy for sustainable campuses, societies and regions for the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals

Share, transfer, transform and translate our knowledge in achieving SDGs

- Acknowledge that our activities and institutional expertise are associated with every SDG and therefore align our strategies to the SDGs, and the use of the SDG taxonomy for measuring social and environmental impact.
- Identify which SDGs are most pertinent to our alliance in terms of targets and indicators, while recognizing that there are differences across countries, regions and institutions.
- Assess how we engage with these goals, and address societal challenges; how we engage with our stakeholders; how we contribute to urban or regional development and achieve what we set out to do through our strategic plans.

Generate and scale up pilot activities, mainly based on circular economy principles, towards sustainable development and the New European Bauhaus strategy.

- Blue-Green mobility and transport initiatives and metrics.
- Voluntary initiatives and acts in reduction, reuse, and recycling (3Rs) of waste and alternative food movements.
- Begin retrofitting each university's energy supports to become carbon neutral by 2025-2030.
- Experimentation in the humanistic values of the Bauhaus using ecological aesthetics, design & digital technologies, through Arts & Culture for Social Change, and discovering an Aegean island as a laboratory for “Aeiforia” and the Bauhaus Movements in ERUA.

ⁱ Why “Aeiforia” for Sustainability?

“Aeiforia” is the ancient Greek word for Sustainability (English), “Nachhaltigkeit” (German), “Viabilité” (French), “Устойчивост” (Bulgarian), “Bæredygtighed” (Danish), “Βιωσιμότητα” (vi.osiˈmotita, Modern Greek). The ancient Greek prefix “aei-” signifies eternity, ageless, everlasting, and never-ending process” and the classical verb «φέρω» phérō refers to carry, bear, endure, and provide. “Sustainability is considerably associative with Aristotle’s concept of telos and eudaemonia. Unsurprisingly, the Greek word for sustainability is aeiforia” (Wirjomartono, 2012). This word denotes positive direction, an active perception of the environment, an ecological sensibility, of the future of the planet.” (Venizelos, 1997)

Bagoes Wirjomartono, “Rethinking Modernity and the Question of Future Development.” *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, vol. 26, no. 4, Penn State University Press, 2012, pp. 661–76, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/jspecphil.26.4.0661>

Venizelos, E., (1997), *International Conference on Environment and Society: Education and Public Awareness for Sustainability* (Thessaloniki, Greece)