



HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM EU GREEN WP3

Dear all,

This third edition is the occasion to wish you all a happy new year. May 2024 be filled with happiness and success for you and your loved ones.

We hope to keep building our partnership with you over the next year. At the end of 2023 we asked for your feedback regarding the work done in WP3: you will find the results of this survey detailed below. This feedback will help us to co-construct the next step of our Work Package with you, all the members from EU GREEN who bring the alliance and its values to life.

To help us achieve the best communication possible, the brand new EU GREEN teams has been set up. All the members are going to be progressively integrated into this new platform. **As of February 29th, the drive will be permanently shut down**, as decided in the Executive Committee. All documents will be moved to the Teams, but during this transition period, keep in mind to do additional back ups! If you haven't received the message to connect to the new Teams, please reply to this email.

Going from the virtual world to the real world, we hope to see you all this year **at the Research Week in Sligo, Ireland, from the 17th to 19th of June**. Just like the first Research Week that was held last June in Angers, this staff week will be the occasion to startup new connections, or to continue working on the existing ones. Dedicated times will be planned for each instance, as well as general plenary sessions.

As usual, our team remains at your disposal for any enquiry or idea so don't hesitate to reply to this email.

Thanks for reading,

Work Package 3 Team

CLUSTERS UPDATE

You will find below a recap of the first year of EU GREEN, with a focus on our work package. This allows us to estimate the work that has been achieved in the last 12 months.

WORK PACKAGE 3 Structuring excellence-based research 2023 Timeline

Official launch of
the alliance !

January

First steps

Launch of the Project **TECSKILL "Green and digital competences development for European engineering PhD candidates"**, coordinated by the University of Extremadura, with Evora, Gävle and Parma as partners.

March

First deliverable !

The research strategy is finalized and submitted on the European commission website

May

First in person meeting

Cluster 2, dedicated to "Agriculture, food and environmental sustainability" is the first to meet in person in Parma

October

Participation to the
WP2 Staff week

Work Package 2, dedicated to "An educational model centered on sustainability and the SDGs" hosts a Staff Week in Wroclaw, Poland to work on the definition of graduate attributes and on the Education strategy. This was specially relevant for the cluster 5, dedicated to Educational Sciences for Sustainable Development

June

First staff week for WP3

100 participants from WP3 (Joint Research Committee, taskforce, 6 clusters) meet in Angers, France for the first in person staff week of the WP3

November

New instance

Launch of the PhD council, that gathers the representatives of the 9 universities' doctoral schools.

Kick-off meeting

Kick off the project **Second Language Learning at School for Adolescents (SLS4TEENS)**, coordinated by the University of Angers, with Extremadura, Magdeburg and Parma as partners

December

Launch of the first projects

The 10 laureate projects for the seed funding 2023 call are selected by the Joint Research Committee, which gathers the Vice rectors for research from the alliance. The laureates of the first call for the Researcher Mobility program are also selected

And more to
come in 2024 !

CLUSTERS UPDATE

The satisfaction survey was sent to all members of the WP3. We want to thank all 25 respondents for their time and comprehensive feedback. Below are the main conclusions that can be drawn from this 1st survey.

- **General knowledge of EU GREEN**

Most respondents answered that they understood EU GREEN well, but that this understanding stemmed from **an early involvement** in the project, or from some current degree of **responsibility** (for instance leaders of co-leaders). **In-person meetings** have been identified as accelerators for understanding and getting involved in the project, especially the WP3 Staff week in Angers which is fondly quoted by many as efficient and as a pleasant way better connect and launch projects. **The lack of central communication strategy** as well as the **too frequent use of acronyms** as elements that hinder the understanding of the project. Many respondents are also unfamiliar with the **vocabulary of European projects**. Regarding the seed funding and researcher mobility program, a better **anticipation** has been requested.

Overall, most respondents felt more at ease with the actions of WP3, but **lacked information on the other WPs, and the potential links between WPs**. The **structure** of the alliance is described as **complex** by some.

- **Knowledge of EU GREEN within the 9 universities of the alliance**

The great majority of respondents appreciate the efforts to communicate about EU GREEN in the 9 institutions, but identify **a lack of awareness and knowledge about EU GREEN and its actions**. Overall, the staff knows what EU GREEN is at a general level, but is **unaware of its structure, instruments, and forms of participation**.

From UEx, one respondent feels that **unless people are involved in a specific project**, they have a limited knowledge of the alliance. This is linked to an answer from another respondent who argues that once projects/ publications/ visiting lecturer visits occur, the scope and outputs of EU GREEN will be clearer. This echoes the feedback received from one respondent who feels that EU GREEN does not feel totally **concrete** yet.

One respondent argued that many people might they know about the alliance's existence, many projects exist : many people don't realise that EU GREEN is more than a project, or that it can and should be!

Only two respondents (from UO and ATU) had a **dissimilar feeling**, as they have presented the alliance many times and believe there is good general awareness of EU GREEN within their institutions.

- **Work of the clusters**

Some requests were made to establish **a clearer workplan** for the year within the clusters, and to work with more **anticipation**. The need for a **joint action to pursue as a cluster** was also requested as a way to provide a sense of achievement and clearer cooperation.

One point to review for all clusters is the **frequency of the meetings** as needs may have changed since last year. Overall, the respondents praised the work and progress done within the clusters.

- **Unexpected successes**

The top success that has been identified is the **growing number of participants** and the **connections with other clusters** leading to potential **projects**, either seed projects or European projects and Blended Intensive Programs (a hybrid form of mobility funded with Erasmus funding. For more information, contact anna.posadowska-malarz@upwr.edu.pl) The opportunities for **interdisciplinarity** have also been identified as a strong suit of the alliance, as well as the blossoming **connections with the other WPs**. The WP3 Staff week in Angers, France (June 2023) was identified several times as an accelerator for connections and an overall pleasant moment.

Another success that is mentioned is that despite the constraints of the process, the clusters managed to **pre-select** the 3 projects for submission.

- **Improve WP3 support in the future**

One of the points that was mentioned several times is the **need for more strategic communication** about EU GREEN to all staff in partner universities, as well as the development of a **dissemination network. Workshops** for clusters on EU GREEN calls to help discuss **potential European project applications** were requested.

A specific need in **networking between cluster 4 & 5** around architecture for teaching and learning about heritage values and their safeguard has been identified.

Someone pointed out that from their perspective and given the range and scope of successful seed-funding projects, they were not sure **how some align to stated EU GREEN objectives**.

Staff administrative support for project management was also requested, as well as a need for more anticipation and more funding. The WP3 team would like to underline that EU GREEN's vocation is not to replace other funding sources. The goal of Work Package 3 is to **structure research collaboration** between out 9 universities and not to fund research. **If you need assistance on a workpackage 3 issue, please reply to this email or contact the local referent from your institution.**

Regarding the existing tools, a respondent felt content enough with the current opportunities: seed fundings, mobility, Erasmus, and BIPs, the latter being a task led by WP6. The **newsletter** was also mentioned as a good means of keeping everyone up to date with the actions that take place.

- **Are some topics missing from the EU GREEN clusters?**

Below are the topics that were mentioned:

- **Arts for Sustainable Development** (urban challenges, involving built environment and calling for the role of the arts; NEB: living spaces and experiences; education for beautiful, sustainable, together).
- Some advocated for an easier inclusion of the transversal topics (**economics, law, arts**, etc.)
- **Communication**

During the Joint Research Committee meetings that took place in June, the vice rectors voted **against** opening new clusters. For the time being, the process is to facilitate the inclusion of these topics within existing clusters. **If you would like to integrate the existing clusters, or have a question, please reply to this email.**

PHD COUNCIL

The second meeting of the Phd Council, composed of representatives for the doctoral schools of the alliance took place on January 23rd 2024. It was decided to start working with four core groups:

- Redaction of a common glossary on PHD education (co-tutelle/co-supervision/courses/doctoral schools/graduate schools/joint doctorate/double doctorate/doctoral network/industrial phd etc. / transversal area of research / PHD courses) and Online transversal courses for PhD students on sustainability and/or on career development
- Redaction of a co-tutelle/codirection protocol
- Application to MSCA Doctoral Network or COFUND actions
- Organisation of events like "My thesis in 3min"

The next meeting will be on February 19th, from 4 pm to 6pm.

PHD ALLOWANCES

On January 8th, the UA internal selection committee for the doctoral allowances took place. As a reminder, this call offers funding for co-direction or co-tutelle PhDs with a French cosupervisor and is co-funded by the French Ministry of Research. 4 applications were received: 2 with Extramadura, one with Gävle and one with Parma. Only one of them is a cotutelle, which provides the PhD student with two diplomas.

Here are the topics tackled in these theses :

- Prescriptive maintenance: Concept, Modeling and applications within the energy-based decision optimization (Bruno Castanier, University of Angers & Niklas Björzell, University of Gävle)
- STRO-MIR: Identifying non-coding miRNA from tumor stroma to improve NSCLC anticancer treatment (Nicolas Clere , University of Angers & University of Extramadura)
- Water footprint in the food supply chain: a stakeholder-based economic evaluation (Marianne Lefebvre, University of Angers & Francisco J. Mesias, University of Extramadura)
- XENOGREEN: Invasive aquatic species & biodiversity management (Alain Pagano & Olivier Pays-Volard, University of Angers & Marco Bartoli, University of Parma)

Congratulations to the laureates!

A second call will be proposed.

WHAT ELSE?

- Procope is the French-German Hubert Curien Partnership. It is implemented in France by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, and in Germany by the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch dienst. **This yearly call will be published soon for projects starting in 2025.** The objective of this program is to enhance scientific and technological exchanges of excellence between French and German research laboratories, promoting new collaborations and the involvement of young researchers and doctoral students. **All scientific fields are covered by this program. The duration of the projects is two years.**

- The University of Parma has an Interdepartmental Centre on packaging, named CIPACK, whose mission is to carry out technology transfer activities **in the field of materials, equipment and processes in the field of packaging for food, cosmetic, and biomedical applications**. The university of Parma would like to create a network within EU Green with those scientists who are involved in the packaging field in order to foster our relationship and collaborate. You are kindly invited to contact the Director of the Centre, prof. Roberto Montanari, at the following email address: roberto.montanari@unipr.it
- Gävle is hosting a conference in **International Marketing Research in June and invites colleagues in EU GREEN to submit papers and/or participate**. This conference is a platform for scholars, researchers, and professionals to explore various aspects of sustainable international business in the face of evolving global realities. We encourage researchers to submit their work on the following topic areas, though other topics are also welcome:
 - Responsible and Sustainable International Business in the Post-pandemic World
 - Influence of Global Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility on Sustainable International Business
 - Digitalization Strategies for Sustainable International Business
 - The Reshaping of Global Value Chains: Resiliency, Geopolitics and Sustainability
 - MNEs Role in Achieving SDGs
 - Sustainable International B2C or B2B Marketing Strategies
 - Responsible International Marketing in a Geopolitical context
 - Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable International Marketing in Emerging Markets
 - Sustainable International Marketing Practices influencing SDGs
 - Strategies Related to Sustainable Global Corporate Branding

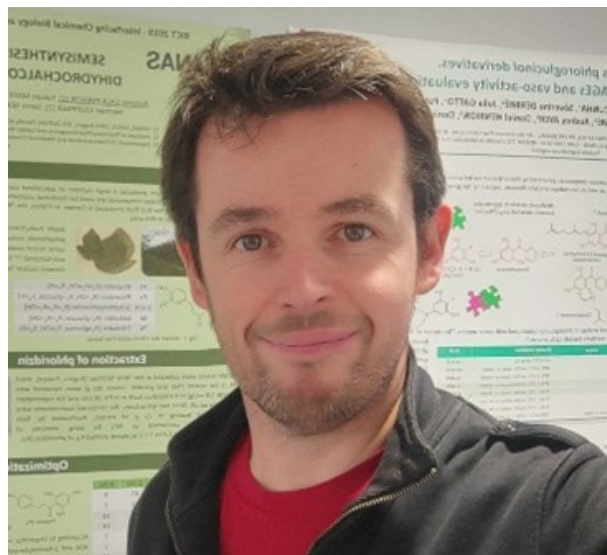
For more information, [please click here.](#)

- Ewa Burszta Adamiak, co-leader of cluster 3, is looking for partnerships. Her field of work is related to sustainable stormwater management in urban areas, with particular attention to quantitative and qualitative aspects of functioning of green-blue infrastructure solutions (or Nature Based Solutions), including:
 - Hydrological performance assessment of green roofs and rain gardens;
 - Technical feasibility analysis of rainwater harvesting system;
 - A study of stormwater runoff quality;
 - Blue-Green Infrastructure for water quality management.

Please reach out by replying to this email to be connected with her !

- Are you interested in working on **Ecofiction, literature and climate change**? A subgroup on this topic has emerged within cluster 5. Reply to be connected with this group !

MEET A RESEARCHER



This month's researcher is Jean-Jacques HELESBEUX from the University of Angers. He is an associate professor of organic chemistry at the Faculty of Health Sciences – Pharmacy Department. He's running his research activities at SONAS, a lab focusing on natural products chemistry and valorization. Jean-Jacques is particularly involved in projects combining natural products extraction-purification (particularly from renewable resources) and semisynthesis of analogues with expected optimized pharmacological or biological profile and/or improved physico-chemical properties. Thus, depending on the project and the molecular scaffolds, the corresponding derivatives are then evaluated in different domains, as anti-inflammatory agents modulating the arachidonic cascade, anti-tumoral agents or as biocontrol solutions in the field of alternative crop protection through local and european collaborations.

Recent publications:

- 1) T. Charpentier, G. Viault, A.-M. Le Ray, N. Bataillé-Simoneau, J.-J. Helesbeux, N. Blon, F. Bastide, M. Marchi, S. Aligon, A. Bruguière, C.-P. Dinh, Z. Benbelkacem, J.-F. Dallery, P. Simoneau, P. Richomme, T. Guillemette, Natural products targeting the fungal unfolded protein response as an alternative crop protection strategy, *J. Agric. Food Chem.*, 2023, 71, 13706-13716. DOI: 10.1021/acs.jafc.3c03602.
- 2) J. Courtial, J.-J. Helesbeux, H. Oudart, S. Aligon, M. Bahut, B. Hamon, G. N'Guyen, S. Pigné, A. G. Hussain, C. Pascouau, N. Bataillé-Simoneau, J. Collemare, R. Berruyer, P. Poupard, Characterization of NRPS and PKS genes involved in the biosynthesis of SMs in *Alternaria dauci* including the phytotoxic polyketide aldaulactone. *Sci. Rep.*, 2022, 12, 8155. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-022-11896-0.
- 3) G. Möller, V. Temml, A. Cala Peralta, O. Gruet, P. Richomme, D. Séraphin, G. Viault, L. Kraus, P. Huber-Cantonati, E. Schopfhauser, J. Pachmayr, J. Tokarz, D. Schuster, J.-J. Helesbeux, K. A. Dyar, Analogues of natural chalcones as efficient inhibitors of AKR1C3, *Metabolites*, 2022, 12, 99. DOI: 10.3390/metabo12020099.
- 4) K. Neukirch, K. Alsabil, C.-P. Dinh, R. Bilancia, M. Raasch, A. Ville, I. Cerqua, G. Viault, D. Bréard, S. Pace, Veronika Temml, E. Brunner, P. Jordan, M. Marques, K. Loeser, A. Gollowitzer, S. Permann, J. Gerstmeier, S. Lorkowski, H. Stuppner, U. Garscha, T. Rodrigues, G. Bernardes, D. Schuster, D. Séraphin, P. Richomme, A. Rossi, A. Mosig, F. Roviezzo, O. Werz, J.-J. Helesbeux, A. Koeberle, Exploration of long-chain vitamin E metabolites for the discovery of a highly potent, orally effective, and metabolically stable 5-LOX inhibitor that limits inflammation. *J. Med. Chem.*, 2021, 64, 11496-11526. DOI: 10.1021/acs.jmedchem.1c00806.

If you would like to introduce yourself or someone from your university, please reply to this email.

JOINT RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Joint Research committee, composed of all the vice rectors for Research from the alliance, will meet on February 1st 2024.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Here are some next steps and challenges for 2024 :

- The **taskforce** will work on determining the big categories for the GREENWORK (the alliance's share network) Following the WP9 Staff week in Magdeburg, work has begun on the way to connect our universities together and the first step is to identify common categories to work with.
- The **taskforce** will also keep providing webinars on European calls:
 - **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Post doctoral Fellowships: "introduction to the call" and "how to write a competitive proposal"** in April 2024If you would like to see a topic proposed in those webinars, please reply to this email.
- The **Joint Research Committee** will work on renewing the bill of specifications for the seed funding and the researcher mobility program.
 - The **next seed funding** call will open on September 1st and close on November 2nd. The funding provided is up to 30 000€.
 - The **next Researcher Mobility program will open on March 1st and close on May 2nd.** The funding provided is up to 2000€ per applicant and per mobility.
 - A second **call for doctoral allowances** for PhDs with a co-supervisor from the University of Angers will open. Date to be determined.
- The **PhD council** will work on the harmonization of our practices at the level of PhD.
- **Write it down: as of February 29th, the EU GREEN Google Drive will be permanently shut down**, as decided in the Executive Committee. All documents have been moved to the Teams. All (known) members of the WP3 have been invited to the Teams, if you haven't please reply to this email !
- Save the date! **The next Researchers' week (WP3 Staff week) will take place in ATU, Sligo campus from the 17th to the 19th June 2024 for all WP3 members.**

Thank you for reading this 3rd edition of EU GREEN's Work Package 3 information email.

Kind regards,
Work Package 3 Team