Living Labs (LL) Discussion Group led by WP 8

19th June 2024, ATU Sligo + online.

**Attendees:**

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**Key Themes**

Potential project themes to explore through LL based on expertise/ interest of participants (in no particular order):

* Biodiversity
* Energy
* Water
* Food/Food Waste
* Health & Wellbeing

**Discussion Notes**

General overview:

Don’t have full picture of our campus activity – mapping this is important. Mapping needs to be strategic so it does not become overly burdensome and to ensure we minimise overlap.

Important to consider how we capture data and communicate it to ensure it is readily accessible. Are we/ can we use common metrics/indices to enhance collaboration e.g. across energy, water, waste, weather, mobility etc.

How do we ensure work/projects are communicated and not siloed and how can we share best practices and failures so others can learn

Acknowledgement that some solutions will be applicable to all whereas others will be contextual. This is important to share to enhance learning/ understanding.

How we frame projects/solutions is important to enhance buy in e.g. can some outdoor spaces be called ‘outdoor classrooms’ to help change mindset (change perceptions of how spaces can be used)

Consider EU Green Fatigue – careful, clever communication is key: Targeted approach, using creative ways/other communication channels that just email to minimise ennui, confusion and mass emails

Trans/ multidisciplinary approach is very important.

Reflection important to enhance process in context of what we are doing individually or collaboratively to ensure we are moving forward/transitioning for sustainability. We must **research for impact**.

Actions:

Explore gamification/ (friendly!) competition to stimulate engagement, link research to behavioural change and increase engagement numbers.

Explore how monitoring is currently done within our universities, compare to how others monitor and share barriers/benefits. Also how do we expand existing monitoring towards creating sustainable change i.e. ensure we create impact.

LL projects – a lot of projects with potential currently just engaging students. Explore expansion of these to involve more internally (within campus) and externally (both across campuses/universities and communities)

Existing Projects with Potential to Collaborate

Parma currently engaged in biodiversity/‘no mow’ student research projects. Potential to expand across the Alliance.

Sligo Green Spaces project (linking for teaching, learning & belonging) may have potential to link with Parma project above.

Building & Estates Department – enhance linking to student/staff projects for resource management and decarbonisation for example.

Living Campus; Living People - case study from Evora where health and well being projects delivered externally were rolled out internally for staff/students with great success.

Botany Labs/ Biodiversity tracking, Invasive species, outdoor use of campus

Industrial design students – research projects exploring spaces for health and stress reduction

LEAN lab – industrial production

Projects exploring food waste & value of food.