

EU GREEN RESEARCH WEEK #2

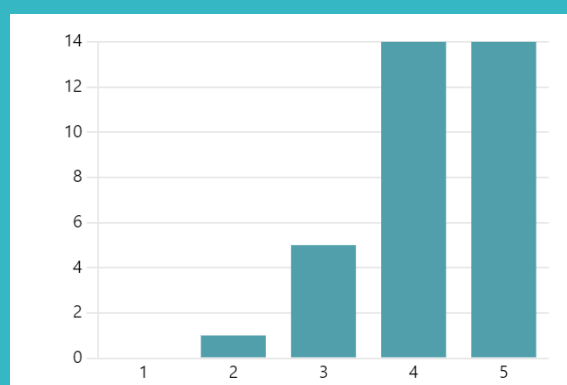
Bridging gaps: Advance Collaboration in
Research and Education

ATU, Sligo, Ireland
from June 17th to June 19th

RESULTS OF THE FEEDBACK SURVEY

4,2/5

OVERALL RATING OF
SATISFACTION



OVERALL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO
THE RESEARCH WEEK IN SLIGO

100

34

OVERALL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO
THE FEEDBACK SURVEY

DID YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR
INFORMAL EXCHANGES? (% OF
POSITIVE ANSWERS)

76%

94%

DID YOU MANAGE TO MEET PEOPLE FROM
OTHER CLUSTERS? (% of positive answers)

OVERALL RATING OF THE SOCIAL
TIME "IRISH STORYTELLING"

4/5

FEEDBACK ON THE CONTENT

1. IN YOUR OPINION, WAS THE RESEARCH WEEK SUCCESSFUL IN FOSTERING COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION?

YES (5)

Face-to-face meetings are more convenient than on line (3)

Yes, connections have been made with researchers I haven't met before and discuss future collaborations

Yes especially with the building of MSCA DN actions

Yes, we plan the next steps for seed funding projects and for next calls for Horizon Europe. The cluster meeting was productive.

Yes, very good disposition among participants

Yes, it was useful. In cluster 1 several decisions were made regarding future projects.

Yes! Some very good points. Staff very nice, motivated researchers. Some aspects were repetitive but minor point.

I think it was a great occasion and succeeded in its purpose by giving us as much space as possible to brainstorming and discussion panels

Absolutely yes. There were opportunities for meeting other people

Yes, the connection between Cluster 2 Agriculture, food and environmental sustainability and Cluster 3 Engineering and technology for sustainable development have a promising connection on wastewater research.

Yes, mainly for the connections with education

Yes, the participants definitely took advantage of the meeting days to make progress on concrete work proposals

Yes, met with old friends and created new ones and discussed about new projects and exchange of staff and students.

Yes, it was especially because possibility of face-to-face interaction. It is way easier to build connection with other participants and to feel the project flow after this kind of meeting.

Yes, both events where presentations of research activities and brainstorming sessions were very useful for deepening mutual knowledge both from an academic and personal point of view.

Yes, we had a lot of opportunities to discuss with the partner universities as well as in our own cluster as with the others.

Yes, we had time and concrete problems to solve.

Yes, especially education, because much focus has been on that in joint sessions and cluster meetings. No, regarding poor progress in research in my cluster, but more than previous.

Definitely.

Yes. We met in presence and there was sufficient time for discussion and idea exchange

Yes. Exchanging on a toilet paper publication (see recap of the Brainstorming session on Link with External partners – WP5) and a PhD to supervise

YES BUT....

Yes - by offering opportunities for discussion and networking. However, such opportunities were too few and the time too short so full potential for fostering collaboration was not reached.

I felt that the week was not particularly efficient in providing opportunity for fostering collaboration. Too much time spent in a lecture theatre and not enough opportunity for networking

In my experience it was a bit slow to happen, the first two days were presentation heavy and the first group discussion was dominated by people airing frustrations about the organisation of the clusters. It was difficult for those of us not in climate science research to really see the immediate relevance of our research to the climate science report. My cluster discussion was chaired online which meant there was no interaction within the room, which was really a shame to have basically an online meeting format when we were physically together in the same room. The most beneficial parts were the informal chatting opportunities over coffee, lunch etc, the smaller seed group meeting, and this led to day 3 being more interactive

The theme was very broad which made it hard to find relevance in a lot of it and as not everyone could attend often those with expertise or interests similar to mine weren't here and not sure if they even exist. It also felt like some cluster subgroups were closed off from including even those with relevant experience

FEEDBACK ON THE CONTENT

Were there any specific issues/obstacles that you encountered in your cluster?

No difficulties (6)

Enjoyable as ever

Not really, we had a good discussion in our Cluster.

No, synergy within our cluster is increasing more and more, thanks to the commitment of all cluster members

Some difficulties :

Still there is a difference in cluster members interests but at least we found 2 common Horizon calls that we will try to work on.

Not all the colleagues from all the universities were present (2)

The large perimeter of thematics in the cluster 3

Not enough present researchers of same interest to exchange and build project

The leader being on Teams (hybrid meeting)

Lack of dynamism

If anything, lack of concretion in some topics, which is understandable given the initial steps we are in

Again, there were new members participating that were not previously informed about cluster work. More time would have been useful for cluster work.

Define the main focus

Difficulty to attend the sessions of interest as some meetings are parallel.

Difficult to involve new people

I am not a cluster member but a member of the support team. I suggest to be flexible, evaluate some of the clusters' aims and, eventually, end up their activity and create new ones. The approach on specific multidisciplinary concrete challenges could be nice to analyze.

Obstacles

Insufficient time only in our cluster. Too much inter-cluster time and too much time allotted to listening to presentations that could have been given in an on-line forum

Lack of actual time to network, lack of organised social interaction in the evenings which often provides the most fruitful relationship building

Hybrid meeting was not a good experience. As the group was quite large, i think smaller face to face discussions would have been more productive

Those who were invited to join at the start chose topics and started collecting data and never shared the information of EU GREEN with those they knew were working in that area. Some people have taken over topics

FEEDBACK ON THE CONTENT

PLEASE COMMENT ON THE INTERCONNECTION BETWEEN CLUSTERS: WAS IT SUCCESSFUL? HOW CAN WE FOSTER THOSE CONNECTIONS BETTER?

Positive aspects

- Brainstorming sessions
- The session activity after the report was quite good to do interconnection in a natural way, it was the opportunity to discover new researchers.
- Yes, we got to know researchers from other clusters and shared experiences and ideas for joint projects
- It was good but we more need occasions like that
- It was successful - but we also need time to develop our own projects....
- Yes it was successful
- I met other people interested in NBS for sustainable development and people experienced in citizen science what was a great outcome of the meeting.

Aspects to improve

the Monday morning session was unstructured
could be more successful: more mixing of WP3 members should be planned
I couldn't say, I did not interact with people from other clusters
Steps were taken, but they were limited.
believe it is increasing, and when opportunities to apply to projects those connections will appear

Ideas

- Having specific topic areas that those interested can attend regardless of cluster.
- use more transversal topics that link more clusters. presentation in the newsletter of progress of clusters would help us know what the other clusters work on.
- Inter connection needs to be fostered with meetings focused on moving forward specific application (ie the only goal of the meeting is to solidify the concept of a proposal to a EU call)
- More time to be together
- Successful. Push on the mixed brainstorming
- Working under a challenges bases approach
- Create round tables with a unique topic through the lense of each cluster (1-2 expert/cluster open discussion)
- Promoting the clusters and areas of interest rather than growing organically
- Put more time for cluster meetings
- Medium, sessions or groups only for 2 or 3 clusters, randomly combined (2). We need more mixed meetings and need to learn to work with interdisciplinarity. Connection among clusters is crucial. It allows more possibilities of collaborations also within the Horizon Europe project applications. On the other hand, someone felt that it would be possible once we are more secure in our within our cluster. After that, research partnership looking and inter cluster partnerships may be more viable and interesting. It felt too soon to put so much focus on interconnection between clusters
- Exchanges may be planned between research and education
- Do not have cluster meetings at the same time, it makes it impossible to attend other cluster meetings!
- Again poster session, matchmaking opportunities would be good, mote opportunities for short, smaller group discussions.
- Give funding to organize conference dedicated to 2-3 clusters. Please note that this is already possible through the new call for joint projects (formerly seed funding) and the initiative led by Federico Righi and Elena Maestri on a EU GREEN Conference cycle

FEEDBACK ON THE CONTENT

Please comment on Anna Pirani's Monday session on the report "The next frontier for climate change science" which was discussed in subgroups.

Most people felt that Anna's presentation was very clear and incisive. This session showed that EU Green should pay more attention to the science of climate change. A lot of ideas were discussed in the subgroup, and it was very interesting to have a scientific intervention in which many researchers can relate to (2) and the discussion that followed together with other colleagues granted better understanding of the different perspectives of the topic. Some wrote that it was a chance to focus on the document and having an expert highlighting the key take home messages was key

Someone else felt that this is a very worrying report which led to a discussion in the subgroup about education of the people in order to raise the awareness about how serious is that problem and how important it will be for everybody to act, but the feasibility of implementing these actions before it's too late was also raised.

One felt that detailing the challenges might have been more helpful for the sessions as the follow up discussion in their subgroup was not constructive and remained vague. Some also felt that the topic was too far away from their field of expertise to really get a grasp of it (2) Some give more mixed feedback, saying it was interesting, but it could have been better organized: we could have listened to her talk or read the report on our way to the conference and used the time more effectively in the subgroups, as not all groups managed to do inter-cluster brainstorming. This feeling is shared by another respondent who agree that the presentation was great, and the info was very important - but we could have read or listened to the presentation in advance, then we could have had more time to discuss.

Further, while they understand the need for climate change research, if that is going to be a necessary part of all EU GREEN projects, that aim should be clear. Otherwise, it was not completely for all researchers in their cluster. In their discussion group we managed to come up with many ideas, however this felt somewhat forced and even if we came up with theoretical ideas that matched many of the sections of the report, the ideas are not representative of the projects currently being developed in our cluster. This opinion is contradicted by another respondent who answered that to them, climate change is a transversal subject to all clusters; and more concrete actions are needed to provide real impact.

One person felt strongly that this session was not relevant and was unconvinced by the report, feeling that we shouldn't rely on it too much. This feeling is joined by another person who felt that this report was not so important and felt confused about the presentation.

Although they understood the report as an important backdrop to the overall landscape, another respondent underlined that the follow up session was not particularly well structured and that stronger and clearer leadership was needed to drive the discussion group more effectively.

Note: The report was sent in advance to all participants and made available on the website, with the request to read it beforehand. Cluster leaders gave this information in the meeting. The report that was presented was not meant to impose a topic and a direction for EU GREEN, but was chosen given the overlap between sustainability (which is at the core of EU GREEN) and climate change. The report was meant to be food for discussion in the first inter-cluster meetings held in WP3.

FEEDBACK ON THE CONTENT

Feedback on the brainstorming sessions

Find all contents here 

How to do a Blended Intensive Program from scratch?

- it was very useful, congrats to the host of the presentation

CONFERENCE

- Great ideas were kickstarted

LIVING LAB

- Create links and connections with other research groups involved in similar topics.
- This session was strongly organized and led
- It was a good session I found out about the activities of other universities concerning this subject and I found some similar preoccupations and possibilities to collaborate.
- Interesting. We need more brainstorming like this. A specific meeting with more results. Maybe some funding to prepare projects
- Really well managed. Everyone could talk and share about their work and think about collaborative ideas. It would be great to communicate better with WP8

CITIZEN SCIENCE & EXTERNAL PARTNERS

- Good to understand more about citizen Science, less about stakeholders involvement
- I think it works pretty well, with people interested on the theme
- Good discussion
- Exchange of experience and some critical comments let me better understand the clue of citizen science. After brainstorm we came up with 2 ideas of projects for citizen engagement.

Erasmus+ KA2 action : Strategic Partnership - How can clusters take advantage of this tool ?

- It was more a presentation than a brainstorming session, but an interesting presentation
 - It helped me to understand better the Erasmus+ program and the opportunities related to developing educational courses
- It was more a presentation ... we missed real exchanges with all present people on what we could build (2)
 - A bit vague
 - Useful.
- The presenter, Juanita Blue, was exceptional. She gave a good idea of what to expect when applying for one of these projects
 - Useful ideas regarding other project opportunities emerged.
 - Inspiring

Joint research commission and PhD council joint session

- Some useful conversations but a lot of work to be done to meet some of the delivery timescales
- It was great and very creative and open discussions, very positive discussions.
- We have to be both pragmatic and idealistic
- Some good proposal arose
- Sometimes political but inspiring

FEEDBACK

Do you have any specific projects that stemmed from the exchanges during the Research Week?

- MSCA COFUND on health from Sweeden
- Within cluster 1 we took large forward steps in planning a new project in the occupational health sub-group. The project will involve Gävle, Anger and ATU and will focus on physical activity, nutrition and health among academics using the EU GREEN universities as a test population. We are aiming to apply for seed funding and work towards two co-tutelle PhDs.
- Outdoor learning (ATU, UE)
- Mainly follow up from existing collaborations from Research Week 1 in Angers
- A project on zero pollution in collaboration with Extremadura
- Ongoing work in PhD council
- Plans for a new subcluster-or change of subcluster of WP3 in Modelling/Computation

Do you have any other remark regarding the content of this 2nd Research Week?

POSITIVE ELEMENTS	SUGGESTIONS	NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS
It was more productive than the first one (2)	We should have some meetings in the outdoors, in line with sustainability values; the food should be healthier (there was no fruit and much bread); it would be great to have time to work on the greencomp (eg workshop on interdisciplinarity; on collaborative work; etc	I felt that it was not as useful as it could have been and too much time was spent on presentations that added little value to the opportunity to build collaboration.
It was absolutely interesting and rewarding... It was really good to meet people in person!	Sustainability involves also the wellbeing of the persons. Travel on Sunday loosing the possibility to stay with the family is not sustainability	Taking advantage of digital tools to help speed up the process of discussions for joint projects, especially regarding the report that was presented.
More time within clusters would have been desirable. We discussed that an own cluster meeting is therefore necessary. Still, I felt that many of the clusters expressed still needing to build up partnerships within cluster across universities before venturing over cluster lines.	More informal activities where spontaneous meetings can occur would have been nice - for example an organized hike or activity.	It was too broad in general. The last session was very hard to follow also.
		Positive Guiding Methods of productive meetings should be shared

FEEDBACK ORGANISATION

Feedback on lunches & coffee breaks

POSITIVE ELEMENTS	SUGGESTIONS	NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS
• the lunch was very good and rich • Excellent, thank you very much!:) • Good! • Perfect (2) • Ok (2) • Great • coffee breaks were perfect, the big room was perfect to discuss projects in the meantime. • The food was abundant (I hope that there haven't been to much waste) • Good and suitable for a work occasion. • Very good opportunity for mixing	• Labels that help recognising vegetarian option would have been nice (but not necessary of course) • Some kind of warm food would be better during the lunch and juice or other drinks during the breaks. • Coffee breaks were ok, but lunch not so great, maybe some salads or pasta (even if cold) can be included in the future. • The food should be healthier (more vegetables; more fruit; more water) • Soup would be great for lunch, not only sandwiches	• Sandwiches at every lunch was quite too much and not healthy • Not healthy enough (3), I missed fruits and vegetables (10). Lacked variety (4). The room to have breaks were very comfortable. • Some more variety in the food would be welcome • it would have been better to have at least in some days warm lunch (2). • It wasn't satisfying and unhealthy.I cannot eat sugar and no other alternatives was offered.

Did you encounter practical issues regarding the journey to and from Sligo? How could we help with that in the future? (trips, hotel, etc.)

- No (16)
- A map of the building would have been useful. And adaptors for plugs
- Easy to come to Sligo. Maybe could be easier to book a hotel
- No special issues beside the need for more social activities together
- I had to share my hotel with a colleague...
- The Code for reduced prizes in the hotel could have been distributed earlier
- The travel was long, but pass smoothly. I appreciated the suggestion for flights and hotel accomodation. It was also nice that a big part of the participant could stay at the same location
- No, everything went smooth as all useful instructions had been given by the organizers
- I did get good assistance from my university so no worries!
- it was good !
- Maybe a short (one afternoon) trip with the participants can be included in the program.
- Just a very long trip from our town, nothing one can do about it (4)
- We had administrative problems at our university