



# Evaluation of the UNICA - Sustainability Survey



Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
8th UNICA Green Workshop  
*Implementation of SDGs in Higher Education*  
21-23 March 2018

# Agenda

## **UNICA Green**

- Members & workshops

## **UNICA Sustainability Survey**

- Questions & results

## **UNICA Sustainability Map**



# UNICA Green Members

**Vrije Universiteit Brussel**

**Université Libre de Bruxelles**

**Université de Lausanne**

**Universidade de Lisboa**

**Tor Vergata University Rome**

**University of Oslo**

**Tallinn University**

**University of Zagreb**

**Freie Universität Berlin**

**Affiliated Members:**

**Università degli Studi Genova**

**University of Gothenburg**

# Topics of Annual Workshops

- 2011 – University of Oslo - **Universities Committed and Connected Towards Environmental Sustainability**
- 2012 – Université de Lausanne - **Campus as Living Laboratory for Environmental Sustainability**
- 2013 – Universidade de Lisboa - **University-City Cooperation for Environmental Sustainability**
- 2014 – Université Libre de Bruxelles - **From Strategic Tools to Environmental Management Systems: How to Strengthen the Sustainability Policy of Your University?**
- 2015 – Freie Universität Berlin - **Sustainability at Universities: How to Combine Management and Participation?**
- 2016 – Università degli studi di Roma Tor Vergata - **Towards Carbon-Neutral Universities**
- 2017 – Tallinn University - **Learning Interfaces for Sustainable Development of Higher Education**
- 2018 – Vrije Universiteit Brussel - ***Implementation of SDGs in Higher Education***

# UNICA Sustainability Survey

- Survey was distributed to all UNICA members
- 10 questions were designed to better understand the scope of sustainability management within member universities
- Questions concern...
  - governance aspects of sustainability management  
(mission statement, management and reporting systems, duties & responsibilities)
  - key activities (research, teaching, transfer, campus)
  - best practice examples & potential benefits for UNICA members
  - memberships in other international networks
  - communication & participatory strategies

# Who responded to the UNICA Sustainability Survey?

## 24 responses

50 percent of UNICA

- Members of Sustainability Unit (10)
- Professors (5)
- Members of Management Board (4)
- Members of facility management or communication team (4)

**73% of respondents have a  
mission statement  
regarding its strategy for  
sustainability or  
environmental protection**



# 60 percent of respondents are publishing **Sustainability Reports**





# Certificated management and reporting systems play an **important role**



The  
SUSTAINABILITY  
Code



**ISCN**  
International Sustainable Campus Network



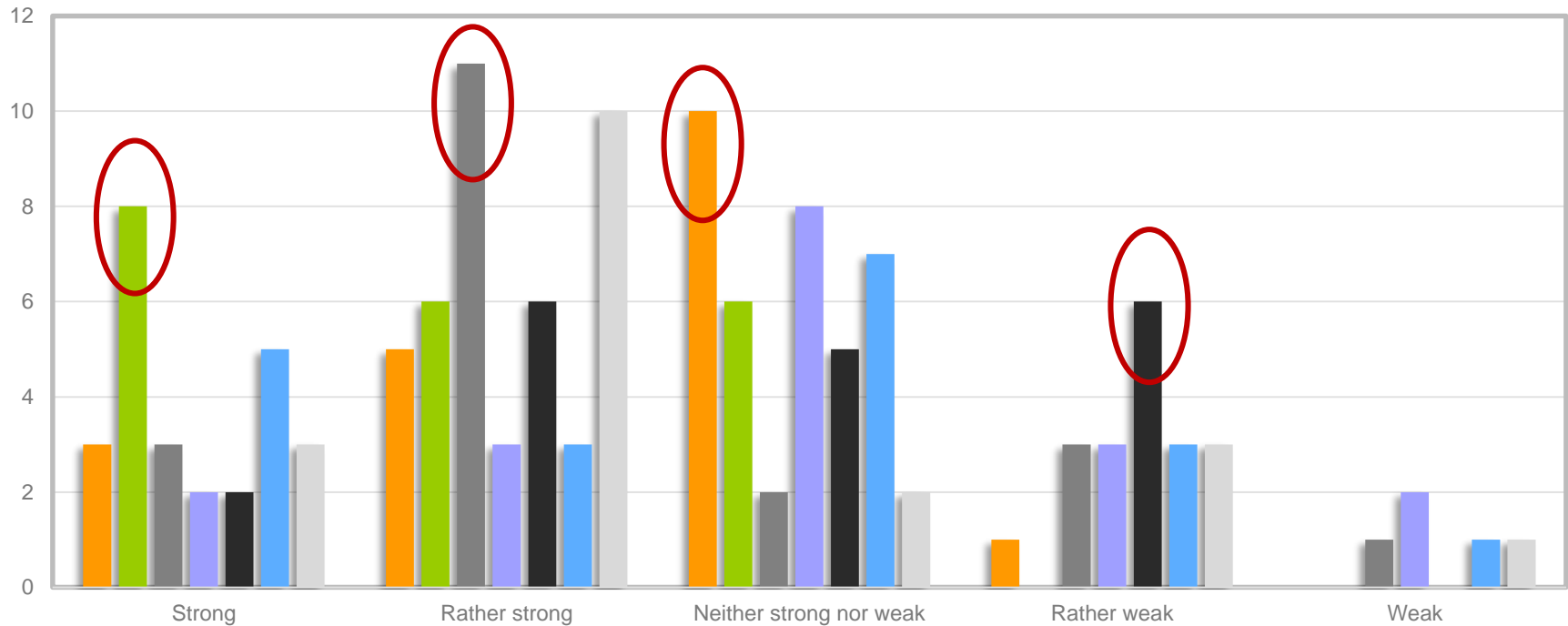
Performance,  
Credibility,  
Transparency

**Two thirds of respondents  
have a **designated unit**  
for sustainability  
management**

# Representing Sustainability The Outcome

Respondents indicated that sustainability in research and sustainability on campus are well represented. Sustainability in teaching and in international networking is neither strongly nor weakly represented, while outreach activities are rather weakly represented.

## Question 8: To what degree do you see the topic of sustainability represented in the following structures of your university?



Neither strong nor weak ■ Sustainability in teaching

Strong ■ Sustainability in research

Rather strong ■ Sustainability in campus management

■ Cooperation between the areas teaching, research and campus management

■ Outreach activities

■ International networking

■ Regional and national networking

# Where do respondents implement sustainability?

**Student Initiatives  
Research Projects  
Teaching**

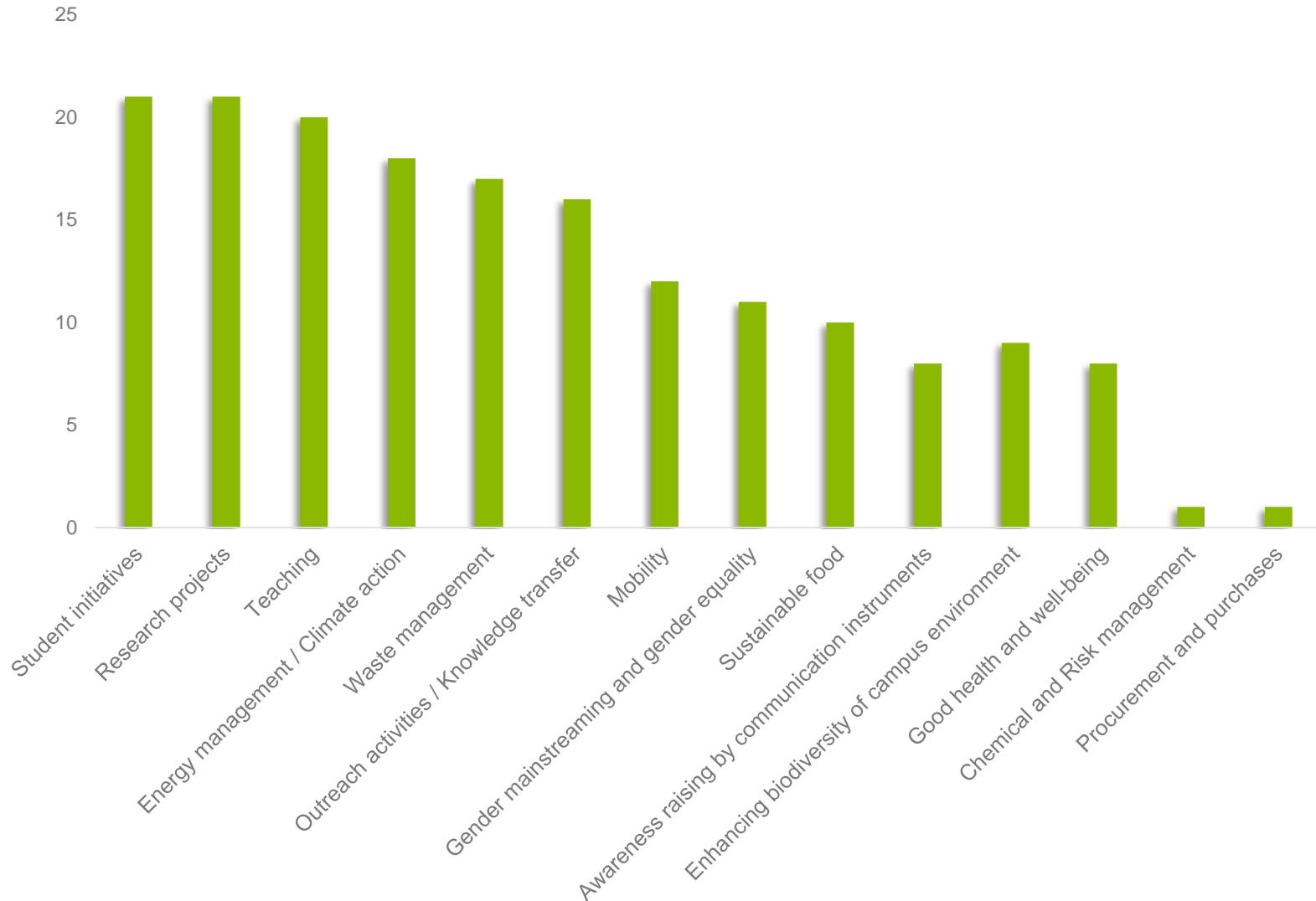
**Energy Management  
Waste Management  
Outreach Activities**

**Mobility  
Gender Equality  
Sustainable Food**

**Enhancing Biodiversity  
Communication campaigns  
Good health and well-being**

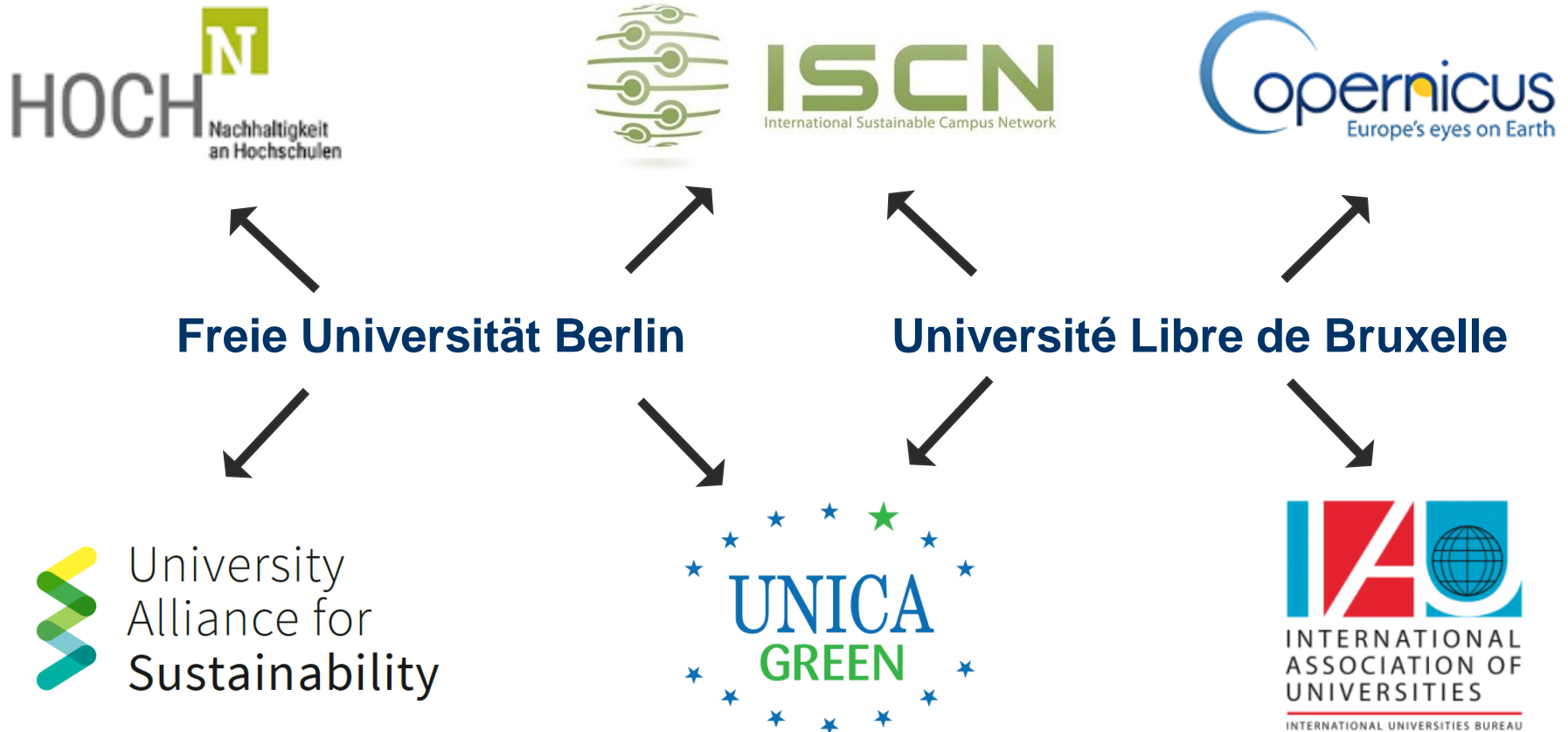
Chemical and Risk Management  
Procurement

## Question 6: What are key areas regarding the implementation of sustainability at your university?



# Sustainability Networks

## UNICA members are well connected

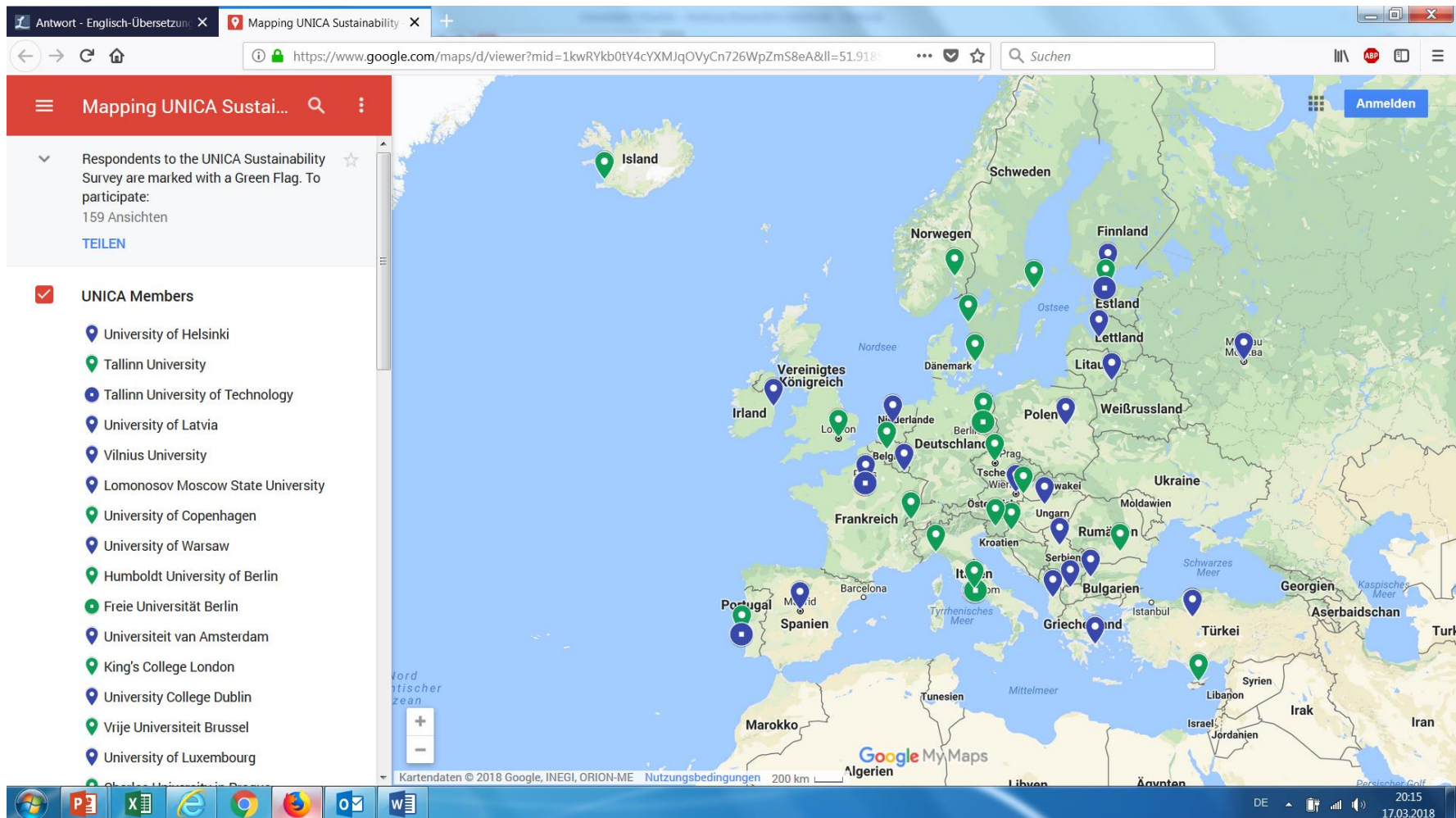




# Sustainability Networks



# Mapping Sustainability at UNICA Members



Antwort - Englisch-Übersetzung x Mapping UNICA Sustainability x

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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

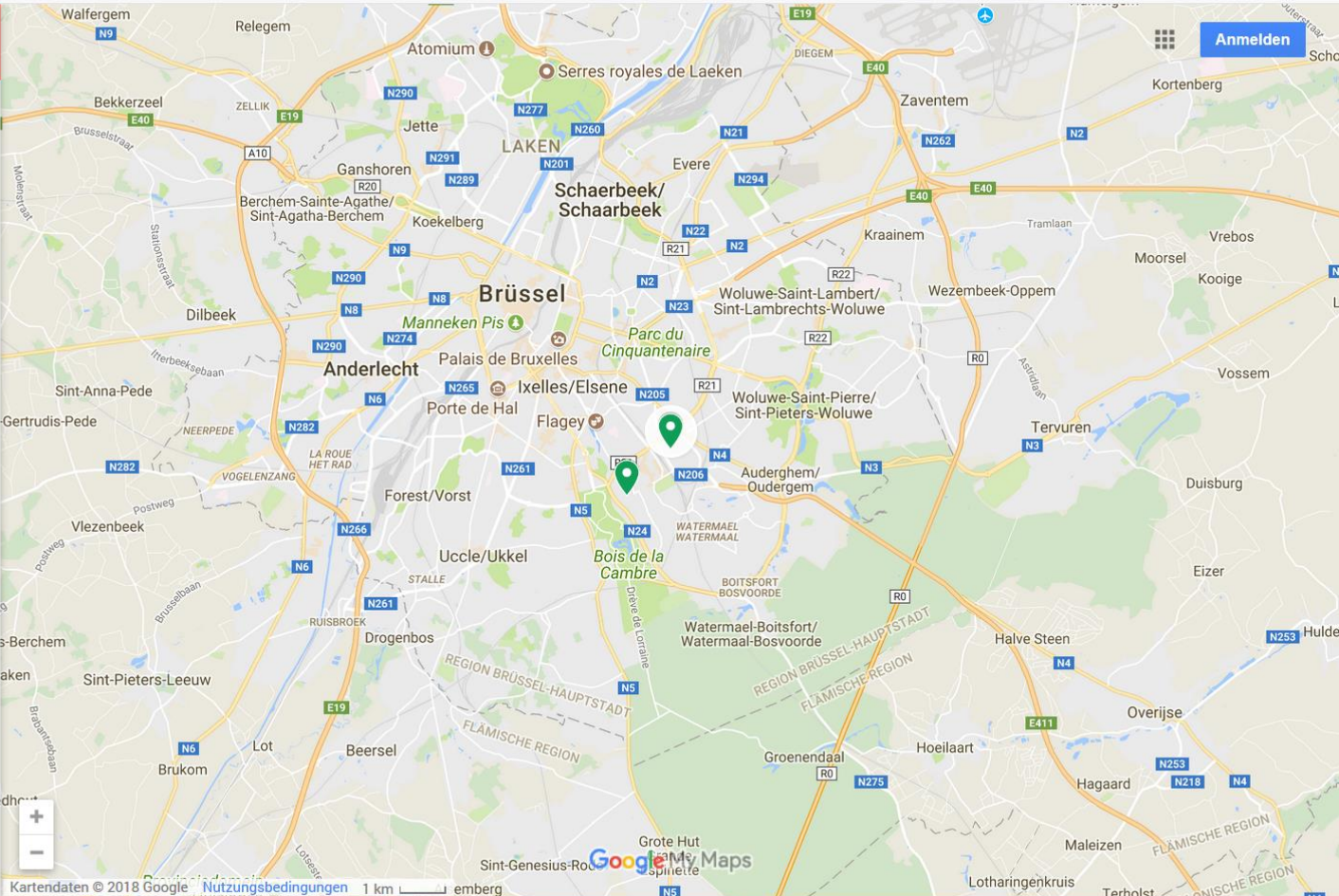
name  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

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Sustainability VUB email: [duurzaam@vub.ac.be](mailto:duurzaam@vub.ac.be)

Governance  
Duurzaam VUB (Sustainability VUB), Steering Committee (comprised of the general manager, 2 professors, the environmental/mobility coordinator and a policy officer) <http://www.vub.ac.be/duurzaamheid/#beleid>

Key Activities  
Education (<https://www.vub.ac.be/duurzaamheid/#onderwijs>), Research (<https://www.vub.ac.be/duurzaamheid/#onderzoek>), Management (<https://www.vub.ac.be/duurzaamheid/#bedrijfsvoering>), Outreach (<https://www.vub.ac.be/duurzaamheid/#outreach>)

Other Sustainability Networks  
International Network: UNICA Green, Copernicus, Ecocampus Group of WC2 National Network: The Shift



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# Conclusion

- Amongst other key areas, the implementation for sustainability is varied, and focuses on student initiatives, research projects, and teaching
- Structural and procedural heterogeneity amongst respondents shows a broad range of pathways to achieving sustainability
- Transparency with regard to key activities opens up new opportunities for UNICA members to benefit from each other

# Thank you very much!



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