

UNICA GREEN & SDGs WEBINAR

Approaches to Greening Academic Travel

3 March 2022, 13:00 – 14:45 pm CET

Promoted by University of Oslo and Freie Universität Berlin

Please note that participation is free but registration is mandatory via the form available at:

<https://www.unica-network.eu/event/approaches-to-greening-academic-travel/>

Introduction

More and more universities are setting ambitious goals in the areas of sustainability and climate change mitigation. These commitments are reflected in measures that affect all areas of the university. One area of particular importance for the carbon footprint of the institutions is **international mobility of researchers and students**. This area is clearly part of university's DNA - international exchange strengthens science and creates important opportunities for intercultural encounters for researchers, managers and students alike. The **challenge is to reconcile these goals with the demands of mitigating climate change**. While some universities already publish policies and recommendations in this regard, this area is largely dependent on the guidelines of national, European and international funding programs. Fortunately, funding agencies are also becoming increasingly committed to sustainability and climate change performance and are taking this into account in their calls for proposals.

This webinar will highlight the approach of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions' Green Charter of the European Commission. It will provide an opportunity to learn about the MSCA Green Charter and to discuss the role and value of sustainable travel policies in the higher education context.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are the European Union's flagship programme for the mobility and training of researchers, as well as the development of doctoral programmes, with a strong structuring effect on participating institutions. Following the European Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges, the MSCA Green Charter lays down a set of general principles and objectives that promote the sustainable implementation of research activities in line with the [European Green Deal](#), the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The MSCA Green Charter constitutes a code of good practice for all recipients of MSCA funding – both individuals and institutions – and promotes the mainstreaming of environmental considerations in all aspects of project implementation. In so doing, the Charter seeks to reduce the environmental footprint of MSCA-funded projects, to raise awareness of environmental sustainability, and to serve as a catalyst in promoting best practice in sustainable research management.

>>> Find out more about the EC MSCA Green Charter [here](#) | Download the [MSCA Green Charter](#)

AGENDA

Moderators: **Katinka Elisabeth Grønli**, Deputy Director/Senior Adviser at UiO Energy, University of Oslo and **Katrin Schweigel**, Coordinator University Alliance for Sustainability, Freie Universität Berlin

13:00-13:05	Welcome words by UNICA
13:05 – 13:20	Welcome and introduction to the webinar , by Katrin Schweigel , Freie Universität Berlin
13:20 – 13:25	Mentimeter poll
13:25 – 13:55	Talk by Marléne Bartés , Policy Officer, Directorate General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC), European Commission (15') <i>The speaker will present the approach of the MSCA Green Charter, report on the strategic considerations behind it, and share first experiences with the implementation of the Charter.</i> Q&A (15')
13:55 – 14:05	Reporting on the involvement and experiences from the expert group in the process of establishing the MSCA Green Charter, by Katinka Elisabeth Grønli , University of Oslo
14:05 – 14:15	Presentation by Marit Eldholm , Senior Advisor at the ARENA Center for European Studies, University of Oslo <i>The speaker will share her experiences with the application process for a doctoral network in the new framework of the MSCA Green Charter and thus also provide the crucial user perspective.</i>
14:15 – 14:35	Q&A session with all speakers and open discussion
14:35-14:45	Wrap up and closing