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# GREEN DECALOGUE



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## SELF – GREEN DECALOGUE

### Environmental Sustainability Foundations for the SELF Green Decalogue

Project: **SELF – Solo Entrepreneurship in Post-pandemic Europe**

Project Ref.: **2023-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000157310**

Prepared for: **SELF Consortium**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The SELF project promotes solo entrepreneurship as a pathway not only for economic empowerment, but also for **responsible and environmentally conscious innovation**. Sustainability is recognised as a core dimension of contemporary entrepreneurship and higher education, and it is therefore embedded across the project’s pedagogical, digital, and organisational activities.

This Green Document establishes the **environmental foundations** that guide SELF, aligns with:

- the **European Green Deal**,
- the **Erasmus+ environmental and climate action priorities**,
- and sustainability strategies across partner institutions.

It also forms the basis for the creation of the **SELF Green Decalogue**, which articulates the consortium’s ten core environmental commitments.

## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT OF THE SELF PROJECT

The SELF partners share a unified environmental commitment and agree to:

- **Embed sustainability principles** into training, project implementation, and dissemination.
- **Minimise the environmental footprint** of project activities, particularly travel and event organisation.
- **Promote digital-first approaches** to reduce waste and use of physical resources.
- **Encourage sustainable behaviours** among learners, trainers, and stakeholders.
- **Integrate environmental awareness** into entrepreneurship learning pathways.
- Uphold these principles **beyond the project’s duration**, contributing to long-term green skills and attitudes.

## 3. INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATIONS

This Green Document builds upon sustainability principles that are shared across the consortium’s institutions and organisations. These include:



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### 3.1 OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

Partners integrate organisational practices such as:

- paperless workflows,
- responsible procurement,
- energy-efficient workplace habits,
- waste minimisation and recycling,
- sustainable mobility for staff,
- digital administration and cloud collaboration.

These practices serve as a practical foundation for project-level sustainability.

### 3.2 UNIVERSITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORKS

Several partners operate within **environmentally accredited** or **strategically developed** sustainability frameworks that reinforce a culture of responsible resource use. These include elements such as:

- structured **Environmental Management Systems**,
- energy-saving strategies,
- water efficiency policies,
- waste reduction and recycling infrastructures,
- elimination of single-use materials,
- sustainable mobility initiatives,
- biodiversity and green campus enhancements,
- smart-campus systems for energy monitoring and environmental optimisation,
- environmental awareness training and student engagement.

These institutional foundations enrich the SELF project's sustainability ethos.

### 3.3 COLLECTIVE SUSTAINABILITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Across the consortium, partners contribute additional strengths such as:

- campus sustainability policies,
- low-emission mobility frameworks,
- digital education strategies,
- environmental awareness activities for students and staff,
- expertise in sustainable entrepreneurship,
- practices in waste reduction and energy efficiency.

Together, these collective experiences shape a comprehensive and robust environmental foundation.

## 4. GREEN PRACTICES IN SELF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Self adopts concrete environmentally responsible practices throughout its activities.

### 4.1. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL & MOBILITY

- Prioritise **virtual meetings** wherever feasible.
- Use **low-emission transport modes** (trains, public transport, shared mobility).
- Encourage **walking, cycling**, and local transport during meetings and events.
- Plan essential travel efficiently and responsibly.

### 4.2. DIGITAL-FIRST STRATEGY

- Prefer **digital documentation** and electronic signatures.
- Avoid printing unless strictly necessary.
- Use cloud-based tools for collaboration and dissemination.
- Promote reusable, open, and accessible digital formats.

### 4.3. RESOURCE & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Reduce electricity, heating/cooling, and water usage during project activities.
- Turn off or unplug devices when not in use.
- Use energy-efficient appliances and lighting.
- Avoid single-use plastics and minimise packaging.
- Promote reusable drinking containers and centralised water dispensers.

### 4.4. GREEN TEACHING & AWARENESS

- Integrate sustainability insights into entrepreneurship training modules.
- Highlight the environmental impact of business decisions.
- Encourage reflection on green business models and circular economy strategies.
- Make sustainability visible in case studies and examples used in training.

### 4.5. ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE EVENTS

- Use eco-friendly venues.
- Provide local and seasonal catering, with vegetarian options when appropriate.
- Avoid printed agendas or manuals—use QR codes and digital access.
- Prefer reusable or compostable serving materials.
- Minimise energy and material consumption.

### 4.6. GREEN WORKPLACE & WELLBEING PRACTICES



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- Incorporate indoor plants and natural elements that improve air quality and wellbeing.
- Encourage collaborative sustainability initiatives among teams.
- Promote flexible work arrangements that reduce commuting and energy consumption.
- Create positive environmental habits through shared guidelines and awareness.

## 5. SUSTAINABILITY IN THE SELF DIGITAL WAREHOUSE

The SELF Digital Warehouse is designed following **digital sustainability and accessibility principles** to minimise environmental impact and maximise long-term usability.

### 5.1. SUSTAINABLE OER CONTENT

- Use **lightweight, efficient** digital formats.
- Avoid unnecessary large images or data-heavy media.
- Prefer open, editable formats that enable reuse and adaptation.
- Ensure long-term accessibility and usability of resources.

### 5.2. GREEN WEB DESIGN & PROGRAMMING PRACTICES

The platform integrates environmentally responsible digital design, including:

#### ENERGY-EFFICIENT WEB DESIGN

- Reduced use of animations and heavy media.
- Clean, simple layout structures.
- Optimised caching, server responses, and loading times.
- Semantic and efficient code.

#### FILE SIZE & RESOURCE OPTIMISATION

- Image and video compression.
- Removal of unnecessary scripts.
- Reusable components to avoid code duplication.

#### LIGHTWEIGHT CODING

- Minimalist HTML/CSS and modular JavaScript.
- Reduced number of HTTP requests.
- Faster loading and lower energy use across devices.

These practices ensure that the platform remains **fast, lightweight, accessible, and environmentally responsible**.

## 6. MONITORING & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Partners commit to monitoring:

- travel-related emissions,
- resource use during events and meetings,
- digital resource efficiency,
- the environmental performance of project activities.

The SELF Green Decalogue will serve as the benchmark for internal monitoring and reporting. Improvements are incorporated whenever relevant.

## 7. SELF GREEN DECALOGUE

The SELF Green Decalogue summarises the consortium's environmental commitments in ten principles.

### 1. COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sustainability is integrated into all activities, materials, and organisational decisions.

### 2. DIGITAL-BY-DEFAULT POLICY

Paperless administration, electronic documentation, and digital-first teaching materials.

### 3. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Virtual meetings when possible; preference for low-emission travel and local sustainable mobility.

### 4. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Reduce electricity and heating/cooling consumption; turn off devices and use efficient equipment.

### 5. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY & WASTE REDUCTION

Avoid single-use materials; minimise packaging; reuse and recycle resources.

### 6. GREEN LEARNING & AWARENESS

Embed sustainability in training, case studies, and entrepreneurial thinking.

### 7. SUSTAINABLE MEETINGS & EVENTS

Eco-friendly venues, local catering, digital agendas, and minimal material use.

## 8. SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL CONTENT

Green programming, lightweight, reusable, accessible, and environmentally responsible digital resources.

## 9. PARTICIPATORY SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE

Encourage collaborative ideas, green habits, and employee/student engagement in sustainability.

## 10. LONG-TERM GREEN LEGACY

Ensure sustainability values continue beyond the project through integration into institutional practices.

### SELF: Green Decalogue

#### 1. Environmental Responsibility

Sustainability embedded into all activities and decisions.

#### 2. Digital-by-default

Paperless workflows, digital materials and online collaboration

#### 3. Sustainable Mobility

Virtual meetings, low-emission transport, walking and cycling.

#### 4. Energy Efficiency

Reduce electricity and heating/cooling usage; switch off devices.

#### 5. Resource & Waste Reduction

Avoid single-use materials; minimise waste; recycle and reuse.

#### 6. Green Learning

Integrate sustainability into training and entrepreneurial thinking.

#### 7. Sustainable Events

Eco-friendly venues, local catering, digital agendas, minimal materials.

#### 8. Sustainable Digital Content

Lightweight, reusable, accessible and energy-efficient digital design.

#### 9. Participatory Green Culture

Engage teams and learners in sustainability actions and ideas.

#### 10. Long-Term Green Legacy

Ensure lasting sustainability beyond the project lifecycle.



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## 8. CONCLUSION

The SELF Green Document provides the foundations for the consortium's environmental commitments and guides the development of the SELF Green Decalogue.

Through shared principles, practical green practices, and digitally sustainable design, the project contributes to environmentally responsible entrepreneurship and higher education.



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